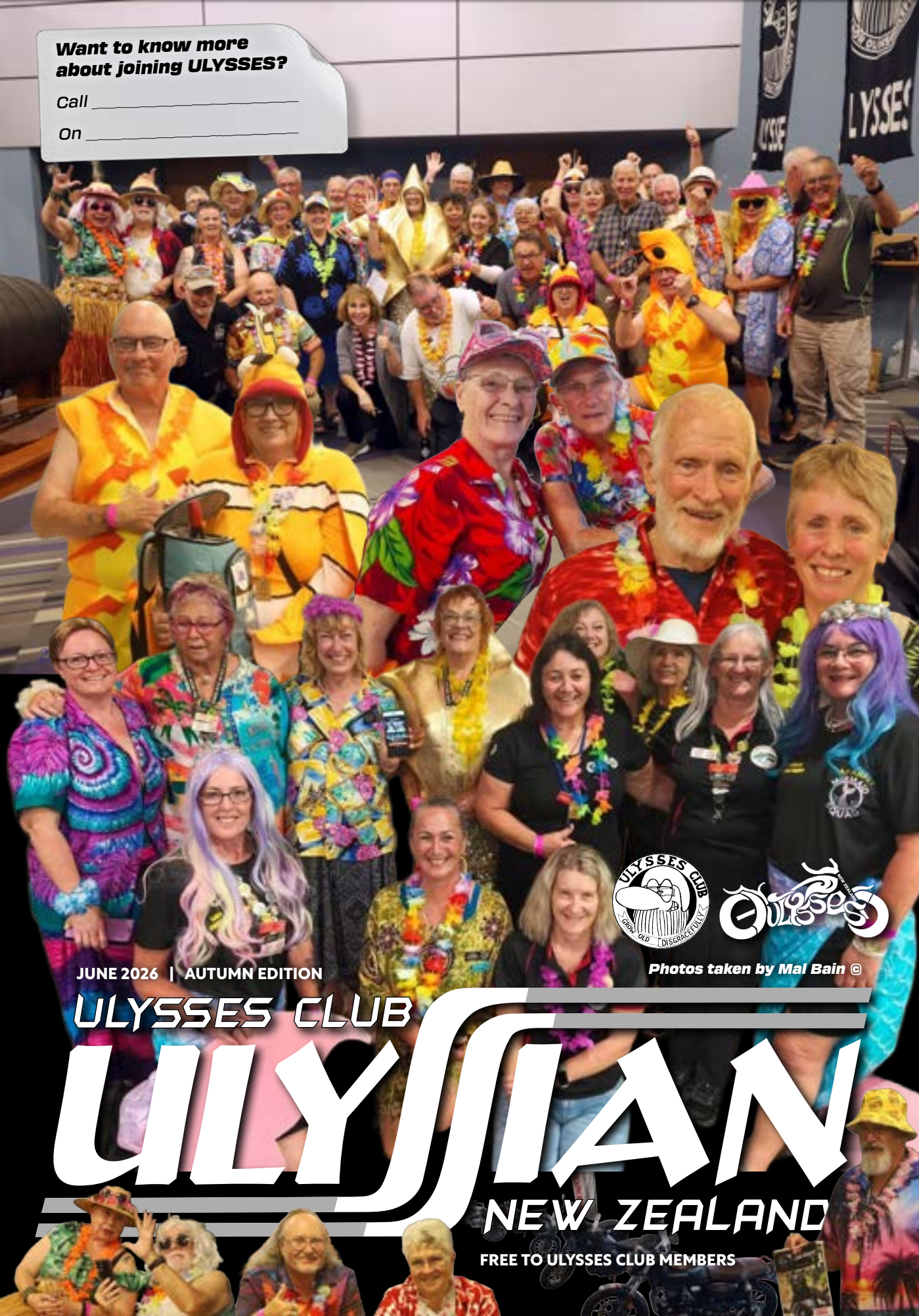


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Ulysses Club of New Zealand Inc.
National Committee members

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Vice President: Craig Moodie #8602
Mobile: 021 797 487
Email: vice.p@ulysses.org.nz

Treasurer: Chris Groube #7925
Mobile: 027 201 1213
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Secretary: Tony Hickmott #10416
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Email: secretary@ulysses.org.nz

COMMITTEE:

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MAM & Inter-branch Engagement:
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PR & Marketing, New Members
John Macdonald #7528
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ULYSIAN SUBMISSIONS

SPRING | SEPTEMBER 2026
Booking/Copy (editorial) Deadline |
Saturday, August 1st, 2026
Advertising Material Deadline |
Wednesday, August 12th, 2026

Please ensure all images are high resolution and sent as an attachment. Advertising requirements are 200dpi, CMYK.



COVER PHOTOS:
A mixture of photos from the successful National Rally in Nelson. You all looked amazing, good effort!
Photos taken by Mal Bain ©

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Advertising Email: advertising@ulysses.org.nz
Design: Beacon Production
Printing: Beacon Print



NATCOM MEET THE TEAM

Our National Executive (aka NatCom) oversees the running of the Club at a national level. This National Executive is also elected by the current members each year at the National AGM. The Club is run at the local regional level by the local regional committees who organise all meetings, bike runs and other social events. The local committees are elected by the current members on an annual basis at a local AGM.



President:
Suzie Pentelow #8532

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Email: president@ulysses.org.nz



Vice President:
Craig Moodie #8602

Mobile: 021 797 487
Email: vice.p@ulysses.org.nz



Treasurer:
Chris Groube #7925

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Secretary:
Tony Hickmott #10416

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PR & Marketing, New Members
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Discounts & Facebook:
Vicky Chapman #9990

Mobile: 027 684 2590
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President - Suzie
Vice President - Craig
Treasurer - Chris
Secretary - Tony
Committee - Karen
Committee - Vicky

Committee - Leigh-Ann
Committee - John
Strategic plan - Suzie
Quartermaster - Karen
Rider Safety/Training - Craig
Bike Raffle - Craig/Vicky

Discounts - Vicky
MAM Ride - Leigh-Ann
International - Suzie
Website - John
Facebook - Vicky
Wellbeing (Staying connected) - Suzie

PR & Marketing - John
MAOTY - Tony
New Members - John
Interbranch engagement - Leigh-Ann
App - Suzie

List of Branch Communication

Auckland: Vicky
Buller: John
Canterbury: Karen
Far North: Craig
Gisborne: Tony
Hawkes Bay: Suzie
Kapiti Coast: Suzie
Manawatu: Suzie
Marlborough: Chris

Nelson: Suzie
North Harbour: Craig
North Otago: John
Otago: Karen
Rotorua: Vicky
Southland: Tony
South Canterbury: Chris
Taranaki: John
Taumarunui: Leigh-Ann

Taupo: Craig
Tauranga: Craig
Waihi Thames Valley: Leigh-Ann
Waikato: Vicky
Wairarapa: Karen
Wellington: Tony
Westland: Chris
Whakatane: Leigh-Ann

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

SUZIE
PENTELOW
#8532



It is both an honour and a privilege to present my first Ulyssian report as National President. Having spent the past five years on the National Committee, I've long known that our club is about far more than motorcycles—it's about the people, the camaraderie, and the shared experiences that keep us all coming back for more.

Our recent National Rally and AGM, expertly hosted by the Nelson branch, was a perfect example of what makes this organisation so special. From the outstanding hospitality and top-notch catering to the laughter and (plentiful!) raffles, it was an event that truly captured the spirit of our club. Events like these are where friendships are strengthened, new connections are made, and the long remembered 'disgraceful' stories begin.

The 18 members of the Taranaki branch I travelled with thoroughly enjoyed the rally, with winning the 'Best Dressed Branch' competition being—of course—a definite highlight. From Nelson, many of us continued our journey through the South Island, heading to Hokitika, down to Haast, across to Christchurch, and eventually making our way home a week or so later.

Along the way, fines were handed out left, right, and centre—some questionable, others downright disgraceful and entirely deserved! Perhaps the most memorable moment involved Graeme attempting a U-turn on his trike directly in front of a police car, which was forced to brake to let him complete the manoeuvre. The rest of us watched on in a mix of bemusement and confusion, while Harry found himself pulled over alongside the officer and receiving Graeme's telling-off!

At the National AGM, we had the privilege of honouring recipients of our very special Ulyssian national awards—the Odyssey Medal and the Life Membership Award. The recipients are featured elsewhere in this magazine, and I encourage you

to take the time to read about their contributions to their local branches and to our Club as a whole. It was so inspiring reading the nomination forms and hearing people speak about the nominees at the coordinators meeting. We are truly lucky to have people like these in our Club.

Congratulations to Odyssey Medal recipients: Couple award Andy #7169 and Karen #7787 Wilson, Blair Campbell #2772, Lee White #5925, Pat Lithgow #6515.

Special congratulations to Life Membership Award recipient: Maurie Bridges #18.

Congratulations to National Bike Raffle winner - Ron McColl # 9235 (Taranaki).

At the National AGM, we welcomed new Natcom committee members Leigh-Ann Crane #10243 (Rotorua) and John MacDonald #7528 (Nelson). We also farewelled Andy Wilson and Debbie Macfarlane. As a Club, we owe you both a sincere debt of gratitude for the hard work and commitment you have given to Natcom. I have personally enjoyed working with you both over the past few years and greatly appreciate the contribution you have made.

At the Coordinators' Meeting held at the Nelson national rally, it was agreed and voted upon that returning members may retain their original membership numbers rather than being issued new ones. Historically, this proposal has not been adopted, largely due to the significance placed on lower membership numbers and the mana and honour associated with long-standing, continuous membership.

To help preserve this sense of mana, I believe that it will be generally understood and accepted that where a returning member is stating their number—for example, at a meeting for the record, or when asked by a newer member—it would be appropriate for them to acknowledge that their membership has not been continuous.

Two other long running member

suggestions have also been recently approved. Natcom has agreed to fully fund the national long service medals and is introducing annualised membership - Meaning if you join in May, you renew in May. Please talk to your coordinator for more detailed information.

Your new Natcom has already held our first very productive meeting. Amongst the many agenda items, we allocated roles and responsibilities. Craig has taken on the massive job of the National Bike Raffle. We are currently looking at revamping this, to remove some of the legwork and make it more inviting for members. He will be supported by Vicky, Chris and of course Andy and Karen as they hand over the raffle to him. I've also included the list of Natcom roles and 'portfolios'. As well as the usual roles, there are a few new ones, which will be developed over the year.

Also at this first meeting, I initiated a new branch communication system. During my time on Natcom, we have often received feedback that branches would like more communication from us. This initiative has been developed in response to that feedback. Following each Natcom meeting, we will phone branch coordinators to share important updates and information. The intention is that this will ensure all branch coordinators have the most up-to-date information available to share with their members. Initial feedback on this approach has been very positive.

Natcom has also put out the draft 'Staying Connected' toolkit. Because I have been strongly encouraging branches to get out in their communities and promote our Club, I want to be clear that I also believe we need to look after our current members too. We all need to be recognising the value of the people who make Ulysses what it is, so the 'Staying Connected toolkit' is all about keeping members connected and reducing the number who quietly drift away, without anyone noticing.

Branch AGM's will have been held by

now so thank you to those members who have finished their 'stint' and thank you and welcome to those continuing or stepping up for the first time. If you have taken over the role of coordinator at your branch AGM, please make sure you get the light green coordinators folder from the past one. If you haven't already, I also suggest you read your branch copy of the 'GOD (Growing Old Disgracefully) Book'. This provides so much detail about the history of the Club. Please also make sure you sort out the transfer of the ulysses.org.nz branch email accounts ASAP.

In October this year we are holding the biennial Coordinators meeting in Lower Hutt. With several new branch coordinators now in place, this is a chance for them to get together with more seasoned leaders to learn about the Club, share ideas, solve problems and generally help each other out. It's been about 5 years since I left the position of Taranaki branch president, but I found my first coordinators meeting informative and I left feeling very enthusiastic about strengthening my branch. It made a great deal of difference to me as a new Branch President.

I cannot complete my first report without acknowledging our National Administrator, Gemma Peyerl. Gemma is approaching the anniversary of her first year in this vital role for our Club, and I have had the privilege of watching her take up the reins and truly make the role her own. We are very fortunate to have someone as dedicated and detail-oriented as Gemma in this position, along with her eye for problem-solving and innovation. On behalf of Natcom, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the work she continues to do in

support of the Club and its members. I would apologise for the length of my first report, but I'm not going to, as there have been many really special things happening in your Club recently and they all deserve to be shared. I'm looking forward to working with you all over my time as your National President, and lets get on with steering our 'tanker' in the right direction together.

And remember—what happens on tour... often ends up in the President's report!

SUZIE PENTELOW #8532



Photo by Mai Bain ©

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

CRAIG MOODIE #8602



Greetings everyone. What a great time we all had at the AGM and a big thank you Nelson branch for an outstanding event! I am happy to be a part of the National Committee again and to support Suzy in her new role as president.

My first task on re-election as Vice President is to look at the annual bike raffle. This past year it was a struggle for some branches to sell tickets. We also have the difficulty of dealers not knowing ahead of time what bikes may be worth, and this has only got worse with the current economic climate, shipping uncertainties, etc. Last year we could not apply for a licence to run the raffle until all the details had been confirmed. Then there was also a big delay in getting the licence approved, and the tickets

could not be printed until the licence was approved. All this resulted in tickets arriving later than hoped for, which made selling them more difficult.

To avoid all this tight scheduling we are proposing a couple of changes to the Rider Safety Annual Bike raffle for this coming year.

Firstly, we are looking at making the first prize a fixed monetary amount toward the bike of your choice from any authorized dealer in the country, rather than specifying a list of bikes which could be won.

This has the added advantage of you having the option to purchase the bike that really suits you. You will also have an opportunity to upgrade to a top end bike of your dreams. If this is more than the first prize amount, you have

the option to trade in your current bike and/or add you own cash amount to make up the difference. which gives a great boost toward what you really want.

We are also looking at adding a 2nd prize of \$1500 for a new helmet and a 3rd prize of \$1000 toward bike gear.

I'm keen to know if this idea is more appealing and would make it easier for you to sell tickets, as our Rider safety fund is very important to us as a club. I would really value your feedback on these ideas so please drop me a line on what you think about this or if you have any other suggestions I would also appreciate it. Email vice.p@ulysses.org.nz

Cheers,
CRAIG MOODIE #8602

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

TONY HICKMOTT #10416



Hello to all Ulyssians. The recent AGM held in Nelson was a huge success. Congratulations to the Nelson team for organising such a well-run and enjoyable event.

The minutes from the National Committee meeting, the NatCom and Coordinators meeting, and the Ulysses 2026 AGM have been circulated via email, these will also be available on the National website.

Your new National Committee has been elected as follows:

President: Suzie Pentelow
Vice President: Craig Mooiey
Treasurer: Chris Groube
Secretary: Tony Hickmott

Committee Members:

Karen Wilson
Vicky Chapman
Leigh-Ann Crane
John Macdonald

You will no doubt be hearing from the Committee soon with information on upcoming national rides and ideas to continue driving our club forward. Congratulations to the new Committee, and especially to Suzie Pentelow on becoming the first female President of Ulysses New Zealand.

The three remits, as advertised in the *Ulyssian* magazine, were voted on and all were passed:

Remit 1: To amend the Club Rules to extend the date range for holding Annual General Meetings.

Remit 2: To amend the Club Rules to remove the default requirement for accounts to be audited, with audits only required if approved by member resolution at an AGM.

Remit 3: To simplify the Nomination Form for the election of Branch Committee members, recognising that branch committees do not need to meet the same requirements as the National Committee.

This year's recipients for the Odyssey medals were:

Pat Lithgow #6515 – Nelson
Leigh White #5925 – Tauranga
Blair Campbell #2772 – Taranaki
Andy & Karen Wilson #7169, #7787 – Manawatu. In addition,

Life Membership was awarded to:
Maurice Bridge #18 – Hawke's Bay
Congratulations to all award recipients. These honours recognise members who have dedicated themselves to the

club over many years, contributing in numerous roles and truly exemplifying what it means to be a Ulyssian.

We also received a presentation from a Taupō member for the upcoming AGM to be held 19–21 February 2027. The presentation was well received, and I have already booked my accommodation and look forward to the event.

Thank you to the four branches that have submitted their 2026 AGM results and financial reports. I kindly remind all Branch Secretaries to send this information through following your AGM, along with updated committee contact details. This ensures accurate updates in the *Ulyssian* magazine.

I look forward to my new role as National Secretary with a mix of excitement and a healthy sense of responsibility. I hope to continue the excellent work of my predecessors in supporting our members and the wider club.

Once again, thank you to Nelson—it was a pleasure attending your rally and National AGM.

TONY HICKMOTT #10416
National Secretary

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

#11002 Paul Baker	Taranaki	#10992 Laura Hamilton.....	Waikato
#11000 Graeme Brickell	Taranaki	#10991 Garry Barker.....	Taranaki
#11001 Marianna Brickell.....	Taranaki	#10988 Lee Gilmour.....	Waihi-Thames Valley
#10999 Marjeat Freeman	Waihi-Thames Valley	#10989 Yvonne Gilmour	Waihi-Thames Valley
#11003 Neil Brown.....	Gisborne	#10990 Kelly Wilkings	North Harbour
#10997 Hayden Joyce	Far North	#10987 Alain Douylliez	Hawkes Bay
#10998 Neil Langford	Marlborough	#10982 Mary Hewett	Kapiti Coast
#10996 Matthew Down.....	Kapiti Coast	#10984 Peter Jessop.....	Wellington
#10995 Edwin Mcvicar	Waikato	#10983 Barry Leslie	Taupo
#10994 Michael Young.....	Taranaki	#10986 Mark Going	Far North
#10993 Donald Clark.....	Marlborough	#10985 Stuart Willson.....	Taupo

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT



GEMMA PEYERL

Hi All,

We have the following "Tribal" (motorbike) sample stock items on sale. These tops have the Bike Logo top left pocket area, Bike Logo on the back and Old Man Logo on right sleeve. We only have one of each listed hereunder:

	Cost	Colour	Sizes	
Ladies' Polo	\$25 ea	Red	8	20
Ladies' Polo	\$25 ea	Black	16	22
Ladies' Polo	\$25 ea	Silver/Grey	14	
Men's T-Shirt	\$20 ea	Black	3XL	
Men's Polo	\$25 ea	Black	5XL	

If you'd like one of the above, please email me. First in, best dressed ... (figuratively and literally!).

If you'd like some other branded gear, why not head to our website ... <https://ulysses.org.nz/shop/>

Hi Viz Vests (\$65 ea) are still available in the following

sizes: XL 4XL 5XL. If you would like to order one, please email me with the size you want. We are getting in supplies of M L 2XL and 3XL in the near future!

We have embroidered **Merino Beanies** that easily fit under a helmet ... just perfect to keep your head warm on those chilly winter rides! Again, if you would like one, please email me.

Please remember to update me of **any changes** to your details – address / phone numbers / email address.

When making any **deposits into our accounts** please use your name (or the name of the person you are paying for) and the relevant membership number or Invoice Number.

I hope you have a great next quarter and please reach out to me if I can help you with anything.

GEMMA

Email: Admin@ulysses.org.nz

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NATIONAL TREASURER'S

REPORT

CHRIS GROUBE
#7925



A big thank you to our Nelson Branch for a wonderful AGM weekend. This was my first AGM as treasurer and there was a lot going on. Nat Com meeting Friday am, Coordinators meeting Friday pm and all the time the venue is being set up for the weekend. Function Friday pm, AGM Saturday am with the Saturday evening function and raffle draw. Top it off with breakfast Sunday morning then back to Christchurch.

There were several decisions made which will result in change. Some of these were in the pipeline before the weekend but were ratified, or in the 3 remits which were all passed. Those impacting our financial and reporting functions:

1. The requirement for the Performance Report to be subject to audit or review will be voted on at each AGM. For the 2026 year an Audit or Review is not required. An audit would cost upwards of \$3,000.
2. New memberships will commence from either the 12 months or 36-month subscription option selected, from the date of approval of the new members application. This will do away with the apportioned joining fee structure we had depending on what quarter of the year the new member joined. Existing members will be offered the opportunity to move their renewal date from the existing 31

December to their joining Anniversary Date at their next renewal. One of the benefits of these changes is spreading the administration involved with renewals over the whole year rather than the current concentration at the end of each year. Re-joining members can now retain their original membership number.

3. Milestone badges will now be funded by the National Committee. We have also designed a certificate which can be printed by branches for award to members in recognition of achievement.

4. We are renewing our Trade Mark of the Old Man logo. The first 10 year period expires May 2026. The cost of a further 10 years is \$2,600. At the Co-ordinators meeting it was agreed to also progress the trade mark of our Tribal logo which is becoming as much an integral part of our branding as the Old Man logo. Trade Mark registration gives us the exclusive right to use the trade marked logo in NZ, and to stop others from using identical or confusingly similar marks. It provides enforceable legal rights against unauthorised use.

5. A Statement of Service Performance spreadsheet with a column for each

month, has been sent to branches so they can be completed as they go through the year. There was some disappointment voiced at the AGM at the poor response rate to the request for figures for our initial report. I'm sure as everyone becomes familiar with what this information is being used for, we will get more engagement.

Changes being made require a reasonable amount of change to our documentation and handbooks. Bear with us as we work through this.

Report on accounts to 31/03/2026

- Our surplus for the 3 months to 31/3/2026 is \$20,699 (same period last year \$19,549)

- The healthy surplus is due to raffle income \$24,101 less expenses \$1,669, which doesn't yet include the cost of the motorcycle to be acquired for the winner.

- Gear sales resulted in a loss for the period \$(1,991) (same period last year a surplus \$173). This result is due to a sizeable order for samples which are held by the quartermaster. It's too hard to keep a track of these samples as inventory or stock on hand so we are expensing them at the time of purchase. If there are any subsequent sales, they will be recorded as such.

- Subscriptions year to date are \$25,043 (\$24,158). Despite concerns over falling membership, our subscription income still

seems to be holding up.

- Other income, mainly interest, sponsorship and Ulyssian advertising, totaled \$5,526 (\$5,151).

- Total income for the period was \$51,010 (45,355).

- Total expenditure for the period, before depreciation, was \$21,444 (\$20,294). Notable variances are higher AGM travel and other costs and Life & Odyssey Medals. There were 5 Odyssey and 1 life medals awarded this year compared with only 1 last year.

- Our Equity on 31/3/26 (Assets less Liabilities) was \$190,676 (\$184,000). We had cash in the bank \$170,837 (this period last year \$94,702) and Term Deposits \$110,000 (this period last year \$175,000). We are currently holding a high amount in our OnCall Account waiting for a \$25,000 Kiwi bank Term Deposit to mature 27/4/2026 when it will be transferred to BNZ and we can make a sizeable Term Deposit.

Everything appears to be tracking quite well. No red flags.

CHRIS GROUBE #7925
National Treasurer
10/04/2026

Balance Sheet

Ulysses Club of New Zealand Incorporated
As at 31 March 2026

	31 MAR 2026	31 MAR 2025	31 MAR 2024
Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank			
BNZ - Bus First Oncall Account	133,025	32,203	59,870
BNZ - Bike Raffle Account	28,767	19,882	27,431
BNZ - Non Profit Org Account	7,058	8,288	7,789
KiwiBank - Now Account	1,987	34,294	1,391
Paypal Account	-	35	35
Total Bank	170,837	94,702	96,516
Accounts Receivable	1,556	10,486	250
Interest Receivable	2,055	2,871	4,132
National Rally/AGM - Branch Loan	60	2,000	2,000
Payments in Advance			
Payments in Advance	4,859	5,000	7,674
Payments in Advance - Insurance	971	-	-
Payments in Advance - ACC Grant paid to Branches	360	-	-
Stationery Stock, Envelops, Bags & Tags on hand	6,946	-	-
Total Payments in Advance	13,137	5,000	7,674
Inventory			
Life & Odyssey Medals On Hand	1,310	3,260	1,470
Inventory - Bumper Stickers	-	-	293
Inventory (Xero perpetual account)	10,176	11,720	8,356
Total Inventory	11,486	14,980	10,119
Total Current Assets	199,130	130,038	120,691
Non-current Assets			
Fixed Assets	8,644	9,182	3,523
Total Non-current Assets	8,644	9,182	3,523
Investments			
BNZ Term Deposits	60,000	-	-
KiwiBank Term Deposits	50,000	175,000	200,000
Total Investments	110,000	175,000	200,000
Total Assets	317,774	314,220	324,213
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable & Receipts in Advance			
Accounts Payable	3,736	3,710	16,289
Sponsorship in Advance	6,875	6,875	3,125
Total Accounts Payable & Receipts in Advance	10,611	10,585	19,414
BNZ Visa account	1,220	785	380
GST Payable	4,530	4,241	5,325
Funds Held for Branches in Recess	5,460	5,460	5,710
Rounding	-	-	-
Suspense Account	380	476	254
Member Subscriptions in Advance	105,061	41,648	46,592
Current Year Subscriptions Received	-	67,025	69,197
Total Current Liabilities	127,262	130,220	146,873
Total Liabilities	127,262	130,220	146,873
Net Assets	190,512	184,000	177,341
Equity			
Retained Earnings	152,608	145,044	138,952
AGM Equalisation Reserve	18,155	18,125	16,861
Rider Safety Reserve	19,750	20,831	21,528
Total Equity	190,512	184,000	177,341

Profit and Loss

Ulysses Club of New Zealand Incorporated
For the 3 months ended 31 March 2026

	JAN-MAR 2026	JAN-MAR 2025	JAN-MAR 2024
Income			
Gear Income			
Gear			
Sales			
Sales - Gear	2,102	2,580	1,154
Branch Gear Sales Discounts	-	(51)	(36)
Freight Recovered	126	742	109
Total Sales	2,228	3,271	1,227
Cost of Goods Sold			
Gear - Costs of Goods Sold	(1,493)	(3,006)	(982)
Gear Purchases - Samples and Other Costs	(2,624)	-	22
Freight & Packaging on Stock Purchases	-	(92)	(32)
Stock on Hand Adjustments and write offs	(101)	-	-
Total Cost of Goods Sold	(4,219)	(3,098)	(993)
Surplus/(Deficit) on Gear	(1,991)	173	234
Total Gear Income	(1,991)	173	234
Fees from Members			
Subscriptions	24,040	22,810	23,063
Late Fees	165	-	-
Joining Fees	783	1,348	913
Total Fees from Members	24,988	24,158	23,976
Raffle			
Raffle Income	24,101	17,322	23,913
Raffle Expenses	(1,669)	(1,449)	(1,301)
Surplus/(Deficit)	22,432	15,873	22,612
Other Income			
Badges & Medals Income	321	-	-
Donations and Gifts	-	-	10
Interest Received	1,589	2,536	3,432
Sponsorship	1,875	625	1,875
Ulyssian Advertising	1,740	1,090	3,196
Total Other Income	5,526	5,151	8,513
Total Income	50,954	45,355	55,336
Less: Expenditure			
Administration Expenses			
Administration Fees	9,213	8,944	9,122
Computing & Internet	382	382	493
Accounting - Xero Fee	12	12	158
Database Hosting & Modifications	258	120	120
Mail Chimp	301	333	304
Rent - Office	300	913	913
Post & Courier	138	1,565	889
Stationery & Photocopy	598	317	612
Telephone	60	83	43
Website	590	178	267
Total Administration Expenses	12,404	12,847	12,922
Financial Expenses			
Audit Fee	-	-	(50)
Bank Fees	24	24	25
Total Financial Expenses	24	24	(25)
Meeting Expenses			
AGM - Travel, Accom, Nat Com costs	5,000	854	1,466
Total Meeting Expenses	5,000	854	1,466
Membership Expenses			
Badges & Medals Purchases	103	771	933
Service Badges & Freight	133	-	-
New Member Packs - costs	906	-	-
Life & Odyssey Medals Awarded	2,140	160	1,230
Magazine	8,773	8,192	9,621
Magazine Advertising Costs	-	623	727
Sponsorship Expenditure	-	-	2,080
Total Membership Expenses	12,054	9,746	14,991
Other Expenses			
Publicity & Advertising	104	310	310
General Expenses	-	140	-
Insurance Natural Disaster	88	1,140	1,136
Total Other Expenses	192	1,590	1,466
Total Expenditure	29,673	25,061	30,399
Surplus/(Deficit) Before Depreciation	21,281	20,294	24,937
Depreciation			
Depreciation	746	746	-
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	20,535	19,549	24,937

HOKA HEY MOTORCYCLE CHALLENGE 2024



Smoky Mountains

PART TWO

You got a set of written instructions at each of the 4 checkpoints for a pre determined route you must stick to, so although you knew the checkpoint locations, you did not know how you were going to get there. Navigation proved tricky, imagine getting a set of written instructions (no maps) in Wellington, knowing you will end up in Whangarei but then having to use street by street instructions to get you there via the East cape, Taranaki and the Coromandel but on back roads, not highway.

My mate Kepa already had a Victory Cross Country in Denver so he rode to Tennessee and we spent a couple of days riding the Smokey Mountains and Blueridge Parkway as well as Dragons Tail, Moonshiner and the Cherochala Skyway, awesome motorcycling roads with scenery that reminded us of home. This was critical bike time for me to learn how to ride the bike comfortably at pace, I've never had a

feet forward cruiser before (and only ridden a Vision for 20 minutes on the Auckland motorway previously) and fully loaded would have been nearly 600kg all up, 150% of the on road weight of me and my GSA! One glitch was I had my left mirror glass drop out at 75mph on the interstate so had to fashion a replacement out of a mirror blank from NAPA auto parts store and bodge up a repair using a glass cutter

and bits of a foam stubbie holder, lasted most of the trip, yay for double sided VHB tape.

So our shakedown run of nearly 2000kms over 4 days took us to Eddie Morse Harley Davidson in Daytona where the challenge started and after registration, getting GPS trackers fitted (so they could ensure we kept on route and find us if it all went bad)



Dragons Tail



Start Park

and final set up we caught up with the other riders. I estimate out of 236 riders, maybe 10 on Victory's, 40 to 50 on Indians, the rest on Harleys. There were 6 non North Americans entered and only 1 New Zealander had done the challenge previously. I joined the Facebook group the year before which was a great source of information and connected with a number of Hoka Hey "friends" as well as a couple of experienced Victory riders who proved invaluable for set up and support during and after the event. One guy Robert is a retired Bison rancher from Missouri, he has 6 Visions in his barn and has done multiple events including the Iron Butt Rally, literally hundreds of thousands of miles on them. A practical (as farm types are) endurance rider with a passion for the long distance capabilities of the Victory Vision. Really helpful guy.



Briefing



Start Flag



Smudging

The event started 6am 5 August and we were given the honour of the opening blessing, Kepa performed a karakia tawhito (traditional prayer) and then Larry a Lakota tribal member and fellow rider performed a smudging ceremony with sage for the riders, before we departed. The field did not spread out until probably mid morning and we managed to get lost by lunchtime but stopping to ask locals eventually got us there. Rolled south through Florida along waterlogged roads and rode through Alligator alley where a rider had hit a gator, bit freaky seeing alligator roadkill - they are big! The rider was ok, his bike not so much. Tent camping is rare in the USA and the RV parks would not take us (they are not insured for tents!) so free camped at the start of the Florida keys on the porch of a state park toilet block, class. 540 miles on day 1, a good pace.

Next day we made it to Key West, got a photo then turned round, Alaska bound, rode back up through Florida and free camped next to a mower under the carport of a rural church in Georgia. We had been told churches were good options for stealth camping, usually safe and quiet, we normally rode until about 9pm and left by 6am so we pretty well arrived in the dark and were gone by daylight.



Carpark Camp



Key West



Dinner

For breakfast I would have a tetrapack fruit juice and a chocolate milk or Up n Go type drink plus a breakfast baked muesli bar. We normally tried to grab a healthier option service station lunch (tuna sandwich or Walmart salads were great), a "decent" meal around 6pm (although that was mostly burgers or steak/chicken) and carried high protein low carb/low sugar options like trail mix, beef jerky and protein bars. And prunes, got to keep regular on a high protein diet. For hydration I ran 1 litre of water in one Stanley cup, 1 litre of coconut water in the other, with another 3 litres of water and 3 litres of coconut water on board to refill, we would top up our supplies at Walmart or a service station every 3 days. I drank 3 to 4 litres a day when the temps were in the high 30s/early 40s. My flip front helmet meant I could drink and snack while moving. I used a cooling scarf and took to completely soaking my t-shirt at service stations along with a buff headcover and riding in that under my mesh jacket and helmet, letting the wind blast through to cool me down, looked well tasty, old man rocking a wet t-shirt and a Polynesian BMI. I used my electrically adjustable windscreen and wind deflectors to direct wind onto me in the heat, block wind and rain in the cold. We would normally try to be as

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE...

HOKA HEY CONTINUED...

efficient as possible at fuel stops and ride the daylight hours, the mantra was the 4 R's, if you were not Riding, Refuelling (us and bike) Relieving (toilet) or Resting (sleep), you were wasting time.

For three days we continued along back roads through Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee and Mississippi to the first checkpoint in Arkansas. The whole route went through 33 Native American reservations and 5 national parks so was not the most direct but great to travel backroads and see small town and back country USA. My TPMS picked up a rapid deflation on my rear tire just before Arkansas and after we checked into Pig Trail Harley Davidson which was the 1st checkpoint, I found out Harley dealers not only do not work on other bikes but they don't even have metric tools. So I went to the local Indian dealer where the guys stayed late (it was after 6pm) to change my rear tire, I had picked up a nail and they do not plug tires over there. Left by 7pm after my first shower in 5 days (they had set up a camper behind the dealership for riders) and headed through Missouri to Oklahoma and onto Route 66.



The next day was one of mixed emotions, away early and travelled a good portion of Historic Route 66 in Oklahoma which was cool. Not so cool was we missed a turn somewhere and travelled far more of it than we were meant to, ended up over 100 miles off course. Found our way back onto course with help from locals but lost a lot of time even though we did over 600 miles that day. Heavy storms coming into New Mexico that night but we caught up with Rick - a veteran Hoka Hey rider at the service station in Clayton New Mexico - who invited us and 2 other riders, a husband/wife team, to shelter from the storm under a laundromat drive through he found on Main St. So 5 of us camped up under a drive through, in a storm, next to the train line, on the main road. That was actually my favourite stealth camp of the event, quite an unreal experience.

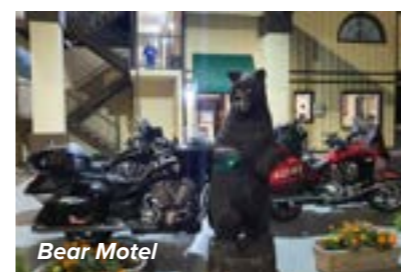


When we left the next morning we had ridden past the turn off and misread the instructions so turned right, rather than left, another 90 miles off course and took most of the morning to get back. Without Google Maps or a GPS, it was easy to take a wrong turn and paper maps are no longer sold at service stations so frequent navigation errors proved to be our undoing. The instructions did not have city or town names, just the road number so quite easy to be on the right road but going the wrong way!

The following day we rode through New Mexico with a mix of very long straights and twisty canyon roads then stopped for a break in Taos, a lovely tourist town with Pueblo inspired architecture. However I picked up an email from the organisers that our detour and getting lost in Oklahoma meant we missed part of the route. To go back and redo it would take too long (we were over 1200 miles away by then) so unfortunately we were disqualified. Disappointing to say the least after so much effort but trying to navigate by written instructions using no technology, with a roading network, signage, road numbering conventions and geography we were unfamiliar with, over vast distances, had proven to be difficult. I had even mounted a compass on my brake reservoir but that really only helped with general direction, not specific roads to take.

So after considering options we decided to complete the ride up to Homer Alaska but could now use my Garmin GPS and Google Maps to help us stay on track. So I swapped out my routeholder for my Garmin, switched on Google Maps and we got back into it. Treated ourselves to a motel and a bison steak dinner with a cold beer that night in Poncha Springs Colorado. As we no longer had to abide by the rules of no electronic navigation and sleeping outdoors, we were able to make good time and rode through Colorado and Utah to get to the 2nd

Hoka Hey checkpoint in Green River Wyoming. Big scenery in all 3 states, and high as well, one pass was over 10,000ft. Only spoiler was I misjudged the road angle outside our motel and dropped Matakite on her side, breaking the mirror housing, upper fairing, speaker grill, end of the clutch lever and scraping the pannier lid. Luckily Jerry an ex-marine sergeant saw it happen, popped out of the motel to help pick her up and with the use of the drill and toolbox from his pickup, we managed to secure it all with cable ties and duct tape, biker essentials. It held together for over 500 miles the next day so I figured it was all good to get me to Alaska, another 3,000 miles away. Jerry even supplied a couple of beers out of his cooler while we repaired the bike, him sitting on his tailgate chatting, top bloke.



We then headed North East to ride Wild River Canyon, Ten Sleeps Canyon, Cutler hill, Baldy Pass and the Medicine Wheel Passage before entering Montana where we stayed in Red Lodge. Majestic scenery with wonderful flowing mountain roads, big expanses as well, Montana is called the 'big sky state' for good reason. Lots of bikes on the road as the

Sturgis Motorcycle Rally was on in the neighbouring state of South Dakota. Speed limit was 80mph (130kph) and we still got passed by big rigs and soccer mom people movers.

Next day we rode the Beartooth Pass between Montana and Wyoming - stunning mountain road with spectacular scenery. Then exited via Yellowstone National Park and got a visit from some bison including 1 big fella that walked past me no more than 2 metres away, casual as, along the side of the road, they are massive... all of a sudden sitting on a motorcycle rather than in a car did not seem that bright an idea. On this trip we saw deer, elk, bison, wolves, eagles and bears on the side of the road (or bison standing on the road, because they can) and you realise why you don't ride those roads at night unless you really need to. We continued to Missoula in Montana for the 3rd checkpoint at Grizzly Harley Davidson where we did an oil and filter change in their carpark using our own tools and the spare oil filters we carried with Shell Rotella T6 purchased from the local Walmart, oil drain pans from the volunteers (ex riders) who manned the checkpoint. That evening we shared dinner in the carpark with the volunteers and other riders as the dealership closed at 5pm. Bikes serviced, us fed and a motel sorted for the night so all set for our run tomorrow for the border.

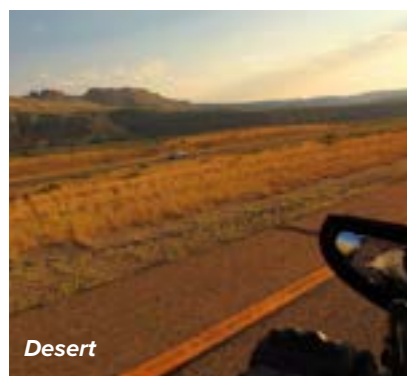
The next day was 15 August so 10 days on the road and we got to the Canadian border at lunchtime, Matakite that afternoon was cruising at Warp 8 for 9 hours and we were still in Alberta! This place is vast, quite freaky with the smoke haze from the forest fires over 200 miles away (you could smell it) but we made good time with 696 miles for the day. I had a first nations friend in Calgary check the highway and wildfire reports and she confirmed we were far enough away from the wildfires to continue safely.

In the morning after a hearty breakfast at our truckstop motel in Whitecloud Alberta we rode up to Dawson Creek in British Columbia, the start of the Alaskan highway. Last night I had noticed Matakite's right lower fairing mount had cracked with the panel flapping, we were on quite rough roads riding at pace in all weathers so hard on the bikes. Luckily I was able to bore a hole in the fairing using the awl out of the puncture repair kit and secure it

with, you guessed it, another cable tie. 690miles cranked today.



You know you're remote when you have to carry a spare tire and fuel cans, services are there but they close early with big distances between them more suited for trucks and pick-ups. My bike has a 420km range, Kepa's about 370km. Our run from Dawson Creek to Fort Nelson was 394km, with 1 gas station at the 90km point in between that may or may not be open. A bit of a stretch for Kepa's bike which has a smaller tank than mine so he got a 10L fuel can, I got a 5L which I strapped onto the topbox rack. Nice to have the reserve supply and Kepa had picked up a spare front tire in Montana as his front was wearing faster than expected. This place is vast, mostly long straights but some lovely mountain passes with twisties to keep us entertained and that night we stayed in an alpine fishing



HOKA HEY CONTINUED...

lodge as there are not many options available out there. 1st world issue. Next day we left BC and rode through the Yukon to the Alaskan border. We were stopped by a herd of bison on the road with the alpha male blocking an RV, not knowing what to do we tucked in behind a truck and snuck past him. Actually went through the border early evening but I stuffed up regarding fuel availability. There was a town on my GPS with a service station just over the American border but the GPS did not know it had burnt down earlier that year so we had to ride back into Canada and stay the night to wait for the fuel pumps to open in the morning. Big day, we did 770 miles, left some Te Arawa and Waiariki Woman's Refuge stickers in the Watson Lake sign forest in the Yukon. We were making good progress until the last 100 miles of the Alaskan highway in the Yukon which was very rough due to being built on permafrost, lots of potholes, savage bumps and gravel sections. We met a rider who had broken the front wheel

of his Indian Challenger Pursuit on that section of road, the only Indian dealer in Alaska was 500 miles away so that's an expensive tow. Kepa got a rear puncture that we fixed on the side of the road with my repair kit, got to bed about 10pm with the finish line in sight. 18 Aug 2024, Haerenga kua mutu, Kepa and I rolled into Homer Alaska and crossed the finish line at 9pm, 14 days and 8404 miles (13,670km) after leaving Daytona Florida. Started our day in Beaver Creek, Canada waiting for the petrol pumps to open, tanked up then crossed into Alaska and rode to Anchorage where we tried to get a new rear tire for Kepa. No joy but the repair we did rather surprisingly worked well, with the FOBO tire pressure monitors fitted we could see there was no loss of air so decided to push on to the finish. An amazing feeling

of accomplishment to be one of the 172 that crossed the finish line of the Hoka Hey Motorcycle Challenge and see the Gulf of Alaska, after seeing the Gulf of Mexico in Key West at the start of our journey. We started the ride with karakia so finished with karakia and threw in Te Arawa E and Ka Mate haka for good measure. After having a late dinner with the organisers at the finish line, we found our B & B and grabbed showers, after 2 weeks on the road everything was filthy, ourselves included.

The next day was my last in North America, after a great home cooked pancake breakfast from our B & B host, Kepa and I bid the Hoka Hey team goodbye (they wait until the



Bugs



Finish Line!

last rider got in, I think 28 days) then rode back to Anchorage in more wind and rain. Kepa then continued as he had to ride down to Vancouver Island to catch up with his wife who had flown over so I left him in Anchorage, checked into my motel and gave Matakite a well earned wash. Repacked the camping gear/tools/spares etc into the panniers/topbox then dropped her off to House of Harley Davidson Anchorage where I had arranged storage until the next year

when I planned to return and ride her back to LA to ship home. That night after a fried chicken dinner at a local diner I packed my bags for the trip home and was on the morning flight homeward bound the next day. Although it was disappointing to be disqualified, I had set out to ride from Florida to Alaska in 14 days and achieved that, saw awesome scenery, majestic animals, challenged myself riding the back end of a hurricane through wind, rain, cold and heat, met

great people along the way, averaged nearly 1000km a day and did not get eaten by a bear. The bike was rock solid, my gear performed well and I got to explore the back roads of North America, a memorable experience I will never forget. Now I just needed to get the bike back to LA, that's the next story.

EUGENE BERRYMAN-KAMP #9353

Ulysses Rotorua



Finish night

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My husbands Indian

The Two MAD Macs TT10000

While all the iron butt riders were riding around doing their 2000kms and doing it in 48hrs. Dean and I were doing a much more relaxed, smaller version.

48hrs to do 1000kms. We thought why not? Our fundraiser says 1000kms over 48hrs, excellent idea! Why not start Friday afternoon and finish Sunday afternoon. We had to leave after I got home from work, got changed and finished packing.

All done and set to go at 4pm, through Arthurs Pass with our accommodation in Moana. Yay – let's ride!! We left home, turned from Pound Rd onto Yaldhurst Rd and bugga me, the big sign said "Crash, Arthurs Pass CLOSED" Crap! What do we do now? We pulled over and had a wee conflag, and I decided to take the gamble and carry on with our planned route. We had planned to top up with fuel in Springfield and in doing so I asked if they had heard if the Pass was open and YES, it was, with traffic lights. So off we set, us two fun loving, motorcycle riding Ulyssians. Ain't life

great!

We had a good ride through to Moana, topped up with fuel/drinks and found our

accommodation, a lovely home away from neighbours, man it was quiet. You could have heard a pin drop. It was amazing, just perfect. Today's ride 206.7kms.

Dean organised overnight parking for the bikes and we settled in to have a couple of coldies and cook dinner.

The next day was to be our bigger day for riding. We packed food to take with us and set off on our journey. Route was – Greymouth – Westport - Karamea – Westport – Reefton then back to Moana. Dean had not been to Karamea and I had been once, many moons ago so let's tick it off the list for Dean. What a tight windy road it was. The Karamea Bluff was a technical ride but we both enjoyed the ride. We found the walking tree and stopped for an obligatory photo. We found a picnic table to sit at and have our lunch

while listening to a young man playing a electric acoustic guitar. The sun was out, what a perfect day. Lunch was eaten and chats were had with a couple of locals. We got back on the bikes and headed off; nest stop for liquid refreshments at Berlin. It was too hot to sit inside with our bike gear on, but Dean did have to go and get the bug spray as the

sandflies were trying to carry us away. Next stop Reefton, we had seen a very nice red For Torino at Berlins and we went past it just before Reefton and it also pulled into the Dawson's Hotel. How fortuitous. We ended up having a great chat to the lovely couple who line in Reefton.

We then caught up with a friend and had a chat (how unusual for us) our lovely friend,

Pippa. All good things must come to an end though and we had to continue our ride back to Moana. What a fantastic day, 495.6kms.

In good West Coast style, the rain poured down overnight.

After the rain overnight we woke to a beautiful day. We cleaned up after ourselves and hit the road. Route today was to Reefton – Springs Junction – Lewis Pass and home. First stop is for brunch in Reefton. The sun was shining and there were plenty of people out and about. We sat outside the café and enjoyed our food while talking to other motorcycle riders that had stopped at the café as well. The rest of the ride was intermingled with lots of traffic, and at times very frustrating traffic, it made me think that maybe I had missed a major announcement changing the open road speed from 100km to 80km!! After a stop at Culverden where we had a chat with other riders who had brought their

bikes over from Australia and were enjoying riding around the Sth Island. We had seen them ride through Reefton, on older triumphs. Then we were homeward bound. 341.4kms.

Total kms 1043.7kms. These kms were on our Relive App. What was interesting, my bike said 1060, Dean's said 1020 with the Relive APP in the middle.

Overall, we had a blast. Time away together, doing what we love, riding motorcycles. Talking to people we meet along the way. Beautiful scenery, awesome roads. Life is Good.

DEBBIE



Myself holding up the palm tree



Both bikes parked in the Buller Gorge



Walking tree at Karamea



My Honda with premier parking

Congratulations to these AWARD WINNERS

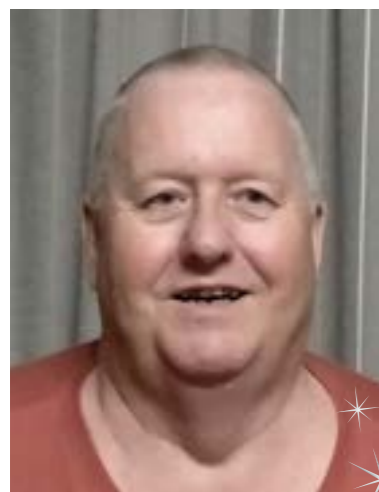


June 2026

Odyssey Medal

Awarded for valued and meritorious service to the Ulysses Club, primarily at Branch level, but which may also include contributions at National level. Recipients demonstrate a strong commitment of time and energy to the Club's core values, including supporting fellow members and the wider community. Their dedication and service are deeply appreciated and recognised as making a meaningful difference to their branch and the Club. A maximum of four (4) individual or couple awards may be presented each year.

2026 ODYSSEY MEDAL WINNERS



LEE WHITE #5925

With 22 years of dedicated service, beginning in Auckland and continuing at the Tauranga branch, Lee has made a lasting impact through his commitment and leadership.



BLAIR CAMPBELL #2772

With 32 years of dedicated service, all within the Taranaki branch, Blair has been a longstanding and valued contributor to the club. Blair has consistently demonstrated the enthusiasm and qualities that define

a Ulysses Club member. He remains actively involved in all aspects of branch activities and events.

Over the years, he has held a number of branch roles, including Coordinator and Energy Rally Organiser. He is currently the highly successful organiser of the Friday Coffee mornings and serves as the branch Welfare Officer.

Nomination comments: 'Blair has consistently displayed the enthusiasm and attributes of a Ulysses Club member. He continues to be involved in all aspects of branch activities and events.' 'His current role as branch Welfare Officer epitomises his support for all branch members, particularly those in need'. 'Every branch needs a Blair Campbell'.



ANDY WILSON #7169

KAREN WILSON #7787

Andy joined in 2007, with Karen following in 2009, and together they became valued and dedicated members of the Wairarapa branch. They are currently members of the Manawatu branch.

Both have contributed their time and

skills through a range of committee roles. Andy has served as a committee member and Treasurer, while Karen has taken on the roles of committee member, Treasurer, and Coordinator.

They were also heavily involved in organising the 2017 Masterton National Rally, demonstrating their commitment to supporting major branch and national events.

Nomination comments: 'Consistently the driving force behind numerous branch activities and inter-branch events. Their approach has always been to volunteer first - They are the members who consistently put their hands up to organise or assist others with activities'.

'Their combined expertise continues to benefit the broader Ulysses community across NZ'. 'They both exemplify the spirit of the Ulysses Club through their sustained commitment, exceptional service and genuine passion for motorcycling fellowship'.



PAT LITHGOW #6515

With 20 years of dedicated service, all within the Nelson branch, Pat

has made a significant and lasting contribution to the branch.

Over this time, he has held a wide range of committee and support roles, including Safety Officer, Rides Coordinator, Welfare Officer, Toy Run Organiser, Rider Mentor, Motor Show Organiser, and 1,000km Ride helper. He is also well known for his enthusiastic support at the branch Christmas Party—particularly in his famous elf costume.

Pat also introduced the branch's highly popular texting system, strengthening communication and connection among members.

During his time working with the Nelson City Council, he played a key role in increasing the number of motorcycle parking areas in the city and helped establish the Nelson Motorcycle Safety Group.

Nomination comments: "An all round good guy who can be relied upon to volunteer to help with pretty much every event planned during the year". 'He is so well respected by past members too - they will come back and help with branch events if he asks them to'. 'Pat is very much a people person, always looking out for other members'.

Life Membership Award

Awarded for valued and meritorious service to the Ulysses Club at National level. Recipients demonstrate a significant and sustained commitment of time and energy to the Club's core values, including supporting fellow members and the wider community. Their exceptional contribution at National level is highly valued, and Life Membership represents the Club's sincere appreciation and recognition of their lasting impact to the Club and its branches. The Club may have no more than fifteen (15) living Life Members at any one time.

2026 LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD WINNER



MAURIE BRIDGE #18 (Australian number #1124)

Maurie joined in 1998 and was instrumental in helping establish the fledgling New Zealand branch of the Ulysses Club, becoming a foundation member.

He is currently a member of the Hawke's Bay branch and has previously been part of the Taranaki and Tauranga branches, contributing his experience and enthusiasm across multiple regions.

Over the years, Maurie has held a variety of committee roles, including Coordinator and Runs Coordinator, reflecting his ongoing commitment to branch activities.

He remains actively involved in organising events, including the annual 10-pin bowling challenge between the Hawke's Bay branch and the Hawke's Bay British and European Car Club—an initiative he originally established.

Nomination comments: 'Maurie is the epitome of what a Ulyssian is, not only because he is a foundation member, but also because he will give himself selflessly to help any other members if ever help is asked for still to this day'. 'He is held in very high regard'.

First TT2000

The anticipation of the web site being open for this year's TT2000. That day came and the new route was set Memorial was the theme and the 20 checkpoints were all had to do with memorials around the South Island. With our starting point being Yaldhurst hotel just on the outskirts of Christchurch.

Easy start to the day with final packing before leaving home in Hororata to head to the starting point. Turned up and while parking my horn went off as it hit my tank bag. One way for everyone to look at me oh Bugger. Strolled into the general Marshall area to collect my starting card and shirt. So, the search begun all the shirts were placed around and with one sweep could not find it. Oh well maybe missed it so back I went again and again and one more time before I got the organisers to start to have a look. No not found. Ok register checked shirt checked so should be there. Maybe one of the other Gavin picked it up. So, they gave me another non-starters card to do the odd reading so Stu Leslie on a VFR800 was I to be.



The anticipation was building with a couple of familiar faces of Euan, Jason & Bevan wondering around so a selfie taken to mark the start. The weather was hot while waiting to be released from the briefing which held a surprise for those who started before the release an extra photo with your finger over this year's picture in the top corner. All done and it was off we all went over 200 bikes most doing the prescribed route a short wait while getting out of the carpark.



The prescribed route lead us west wards, first was the Hororata war memorial at St John's church. This was where I would do a personal memorial.



While I slipped in behind a couple of bikes I knew the route home as I have done this many times, pulling into the gravel driveway at the church saw people parked on the side of the road in the driveway all doing there photo of the checkpoint with their shirt somewhere on their bike so I pull my helmet off and take a selfie with me wearing the shirt and the church, then the next was on the bike for the memorial shot.

Photo checked, shirt in tank bag helmet on and off to the next checkpoint Jackson's hotel. The sun was beating down on us and was glad to get moving as I slipped into my own ride bikes passing me but I was happy with my ride through Springfield a number of bikes stopping there at the Springfield Hall, thinking about it could have done one there as well. As I settled down after the hype of the whole thing music playing through my Cardo unit, headed for the hills and what an awesome

day it was through the pass, castle hill and the alpine roads are wonderful to ride long corners and straights to open it up for a bit. Arthurs Pass Up over the pass and down the other side always like riding through the viaduct. I saw a pink shirt on the side of the road, thought was to stop and collect it but with a number of bikes behind that may have not gone down well.



Jackson's Hotel a fellow Uly member Nick mentioned he dropped his shirt so should have collect it an offer to use mine he had it sorted. Thought i would take 5 at Moana and empty the bladder might be a while before i can do that again. Bikes pull up and leave just like clockwork no time for chatting it was still early in the day and had to ensure my check points were on time. So off I went to the next checkpoint past Stillwater for the miner's memorial well this check point was a small carpark

and 20 odd bikes there to pose for a picture, it made a spot to park without being too far from it and not in anyone's way.



Got it off to first fuel up at Hokitika. Woodstock food stop helmet off take 5 minutes already ahead of time. Off to Knights point before a comfort stop at Fox and another bite to eat. A phone call to Katherine as all is well, while on the phone the fire and ambulance went past and I could only imagine what was the outcome was (this will be mentioned later on), well food down more energy drink and off again. The ride to knights point was awesome bit of road well the whole west coast while sunny was an awesome road to ride.

Knights points down of to my abode for the evening at Lake Hawea The Camp. While riding checking fuel to get me there, was not due for a fill until Lake Hawea but the readings did not say I would make it and who wants to run out this late in the day so a quick splash and dash to get me through. Riding through Haast was awesome would love to come back and take my time to take some photos of the area.



Riding up over into Lake Hawea came down to the lake and while the sun was setting on the hills lake was calm and still and birds flying over, 5 minutes to take it in. I decided to top up again as it was my compulsory stop. Only 5 litres used, better to be safe than sorry. Back up the road to The Camp to find my bed for the night, while ridding into the Camp dirt rutted roads lead to the main office complex where the envelope and diagram to get me to my bed as it turned out it was just behind the main office. So bags unpacked head down for a shower and see how to heat my precooked tuna pasta & cheese and off to sleep before a 5am wake up call.



Day one done. 726kms, in at 2030

Sleep was not my friend as the thought of over sleeping was on my mind, up, feed and fuelled up for the day ahead of me, I was off on time 5.25am of to Lindas Pass a couple of bikes left before me and caught them up at the Red deer monument, still to dark to pin point who it was but recognised the black ST1300 of Bevan's. Down the road to Omarama for a comfort stop a snack and a chat to Bevan who filled me in on the cappers of

Arthurs Pass hold up for 2 hours not getting in till midnight at Lake Hawea from a motorcycle accident, the first of 4 that I heard of during the event this weekend. We rode together to Benmore dam and the Te Akatarawa boat ramp & camping area for the next check point, car play unit with maps was acting flawlessly pinpointing the exact location as others slowed looking for the spot while others come up from the south to the check point odd way to come.



Off to find a couple of mystery points the first was through Alexandra and the landscape changed again to rocky landscape Gorge Creek Miners Monument, the thought was to catch up with Katherine for another progress report but this had no reception so it was back over the lovely old Alexandra bridge to catch up and a chance to eat being lunch time.

The next mystery was near Frankton the horse trough memorial. This is where things got interesting NPD Frankton what a rat race to get in and out off. Jason while on a different route saw me at some point while filling up (one of the few times he had to on a 600km tank). Traffic to get to the next checkpoint of Glenorchy was ridiculous through Queenstown Never again will I go through there during lunch time. Bumper to bumper traffic and no short cuts to take, while lane splitting the best I could managed to get my way through the other side and then the wind picked up and we past Wilson bay reserve. I enjoyed this road being windy as anything plenty to take in while keeping my eye on the tourists just pulling over with no thought who is behind them. Glenorchy done will



We were to part each others company till the finish point at Milton. Nagahara Flour Mill was the next check point down the road which I knew from previous rides to the Old Bones Weekend we have had in Oamaru over the past few years, Five forks hall was next before joining up to highway one down to Palmerston to head the Macraes, always a stunning ride as the landscape full of mossy rocks scattered over the land.

Turnoff to the Macraes checkpoint in front of a small digger. So during the morning I caught up with my loved one Katherine to check in, she then told me during the morning that the accident before fox was one of our Canterbury Ulysses members, Nick. as the emotions going through my head as I went towards the next check point Chatto Creek and regular weekend for Nick for the Chatto Creek 800.

continued over the page

First TT2000 continued...

heading back I came to a halt with an ambulance just unloading the stretcher to attend the next accident of the weekend. So while being stationary for about 30 minutes while numerous fire trucks and ambulances turned up, the rescue helicopter was also in the area to air lift, yes another TT rider came to grief side swiping a car and coming to a spot on the side of the road. I later found out the Police shut the road for further riders from gaining this checkpoint, extra kms and checkpoints were then to be made up as they went along.

Back through the rat race of Queenstown's filtering between cars parked cars anything to get out of there.



Stag in Mossburn was next 160km away time to stretch the legs and settle in to some highway kms the wind I spoke about then continued with me for the rest of the day. Minnie Dean at the cemetery was next 65 kms away, Switzer's, strange checkpoint to find hidden behind the trees lined the road, a bottle made from bottles lying on their side, this is where I meet up with Captain Chris a long time TT enthusiast of many TT rides. He told me about the

Glenorchy closure while they entered Queenstown. Riversdale for next fuel up and off to Mandeville war memorial.



Coming up to the war memorial was the old steam train which I have seen in old TT gone past, beautiful old train.

Well that was done off to the last stop of the day Glencoe Memorial while going to this check point the weather did not look to good do Invercargill way so a quick stop to put on the rain jacket, don't want to get caught in the rain not really knowing which direction I was heading, Who should come up but Chris again, so rode with him to the last stop and he was riding with Pete who took me for one of my bike tests back in the day when he was with Dan Ornsby Motorcycle Training, who I recommend to anyone starting out or returning to riding after a life gets in the road, the ride to Glencoe was hard to follow with the setting sun in your eyes and the road being shinny as lucky Captain Chris was leading the way, A chat with these two at the last checkpoint, they were off to a local for the night, so parted ways and headed for my accommodation in Invercargill. Just I got onto Tay st close to the comfort Inn rain drops on the visor, thought thank goodness it just started now. During the day I had this strange call from an unknown number and thought it was a scam call but it was the owner of The Comfort inn confirming time of arrival and room number to leave

the door open and key on the table once inside the rain came down heavy and organised myself in for the evening. Another dinner of Tuna pasta cheese to heat up and a wee dram of the whisky to relax me after the day.

Day Two done and dusted in by 2030 and 1126 kms.

Day Three started at 0500,with the sound of heavy rain on the roof and the wind was gusty to say the least. After another good breaky of soaked oats with protein powder it was load up and move out. 0530 on time for the third day, not feeling tired at all or saddle sore this LAMMS aftermarket seat is superb and comfy not to soft and not to hard just right really. The road to Footrose Cafe in the dark wild sideways rain was interesting with speeds up to 90km, not really ideal but not knowing the roads and my car play unit showing me the road I reached the Cafe now how do I set my shirt for the checkpoint photo while the wind in howling. Done as I set off some more riders turned up.

101 km to the Kelso Monument for me next check point so settled into another stint of highway ridding. The weather was windy as, and the rain now intermitted, welcome to Gore, fuel average was a bit off, the wind might have had something to do with that, a quick splash now being about to see the landscape, 4 other riders there topping up about as soddened as I was but dry and warm under the wet weather gear. As I settle in for another haul to Kelso rain now almost gone but the wind was still strong, next mystery found before the memorial photo done.



After not really looking at social media during the trip I found out someone with the same initials as Katherine and I had left their mark on the side of the Kelso old factory. Awesome. Dunerobin mystery was next well was not expecting a gravel road to get there, when i pulled up to the memorial this farm ute pulled up to me and asked what was going on, I had motorbikes turn up at 1 in the morning, was close to calling the police as we have had some robberies on the farm of a late. I explained about a bunch of mad bastards are doing an endurance ride over 48hours of 2000kms. He just looked at me thinking yes, you guys are mad. Photo done of the Gabrielles Gully for the last mystery 38km away. Again, over the gravel road the wind not being kind while up the top of the ridge but views were lovely. A short ride to Lawrence to find the last Mystery Point and the weekend was nearly done,50km to go, as I reflected on my last 3 days, the highs and lows of emotions started to come over me as I thought of the others who did not make it to the finish line. I hope they have recovered and are looking for the next two wheel adventure. As I got closer to Milton bikes heading back down south either finished and heading home or still making up the last of their 2000kms. As i pull into the school the coloured sticker on the card and the final Odometer reading 2157km, done for my first TT2000.

Day Three 306km finished by 10.00 half an hour

outside my schedule due to a wrong turn. As I grab a coffee and a sausage and soak up the finish line chatting to others hearing of their rides, weather and incidents. Rosie performed flawlessly and the prep work was done to ensure a fault free weekend. Entrants came and went catching up again with Bevan from Nelson, he did not start the day till later 7.30 am as they had a late night getting into Lake Camp after midnight due to the accident on Arthur's Pass which held up a lot of riders, what worked what didn't, changes already for TT2000 2027 afoot. Jason rolled in during this time and a commemorative photo of the finish was in order, it was time to catch up with

Euan who had finished last night but Jason still had to make up some kms as his speedo did not read the same distance as Euan's. At this point I'll say typical BMW. After a catch up with Euan in Milton happily waiting for Jason, we organised a refuelling point at Palmerston and we were off home after stopping at Noosh roadside cafe, we all had to remove some of our layers from down south as the sun was beating down on us some still in wets and layers of merino's thermals were removed before a bit of lunch talking about tails of the weekend. As we took the inland route as no one likes going through Ashburton and it was a lot easier for me living out west, a total of 2600km was

achieved, arriving at around 4. A well-earned beer and cups of tea for the other 2 still to get to the east side and Kaiapoi. Over the next couple of days the mind was still a bit gaga with what we had done and the lack of sleep over the 2 nights, caught up on, time to wait for the email to send all photos evidence though to TT headquarters. If you are thinking of doing one of these preparations is the key and when you think you have done your research for the ride and your bike is ready go, do it again. I lived on One square meals and a bag of the food company snakes for the day, energy drink in a bottle and my 2lt, water bladder in my vest which

was refilled each day surprising how much you can drink when its readily available, Hydration is the key and if your able to snack during the day, take your helmet off and smell the roses no pun really you will feel refreshed for the next leg. Be prepared for every weather condition of clothing required to keep me warm and dry. Looking forward to 2027.



GAVIN BAKER #10213



Letters TO THE EDITOR

Lift your game

In every issue of the Ulyssian there is an account of members North or South Island, road trips. New Zealand is a fantastic country to tour through and these articles could be a lot better than they are (magazine editor take note). **We don't want to hear about your trip.....** unless of course, you can make it an entertaining read. Writing a good travel log is much more than just a record of connecting the dots. Avoid the mundane - stuff like "The rain hit us just before we got to Reefton, but we had a great meal that evening. We had an early start the next day, and after filling up, made good time to Greymouth." Try and put a bit of style and panache into your writing. A bit of humour helps. Your first-hand experience should also give the reader a grounding as to the historical, geographical and geological aspects of the landscape through which you are travelling. Include any scientific facts or absurdities and any philosophical musings. Describe periods of suffering and any moments of sheer joy. A bit of romantic intrigue is good, even if it is about your relationship with your bike.

— Ryan Lock

Natcom replies: Appreciate the call to lift the bar, Ryan — fair points. That said, part of the charm of the ride reports is their authenticity; not everyone's a budding novelist, but everyone's got a story (even if it occasionally involves rain, pies, and petrol stops), and we love showcasing them in the Ulyssian. A mix of styles — from simple trip logs to more colourful storytelling — reflects the diversity of our members just as much as the roads we ride. We want to also acknowledge and appreciate the great work our editor Erin does in pulling it all together each issue — no easy task when wrangling a pack of motorcyclists!

Peoples Choice

Here's another couple photos that are not AGM related but from an event a few weeks before.

Nelson annual Motorshow always invite us to set up a stand for Ulysses alongside 500 Supercars .

People's choice went to two of our members from Nelson Ulysses.

Merv with his beautiful Spyder and Shelley with her little scooter.

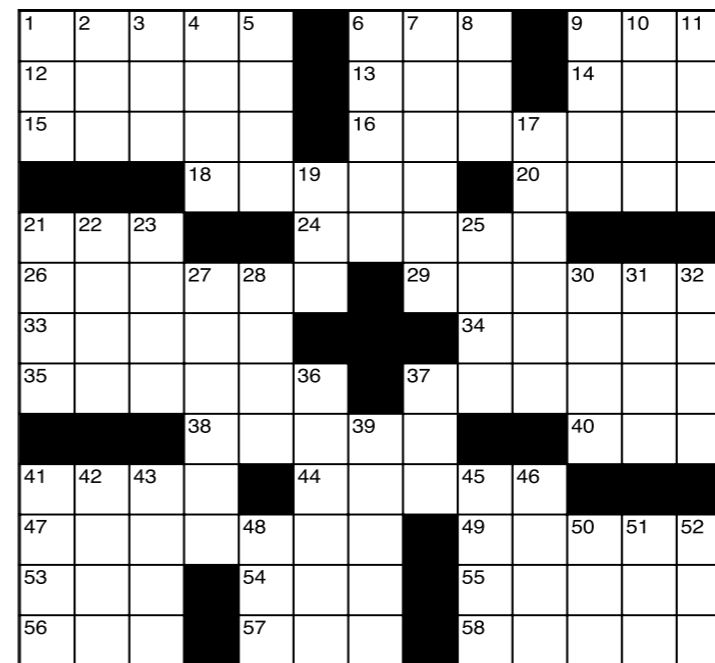
LEGEND



AWESOME

COFFEE BREAK

PUZZLE NO. 165



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ACROSS

- 1. Trophy, e.g.
- 6. Fireplace dust
- 9. Specialist
- 12. Cowboy show
- 13. Couple
- 14. Congressional act
- 15. Prepare to propose
- 16. Perform surgery
- 18. Signal light
- 20. Watches carefully
- 21. Not on
- 24. Geeks
- 26. Of formal attire
- 29. Sheets of wood
- 33. Passed out cards
- 34. Winter forecast
- 35. Weekly TV show
- 37. Sewing implement
- 38. "Hamlet," e.g.
- 40. Drink daintily
- 41. Out of danger
- 44. Stationer's item
- 47. ____ of Paris
- 49. Tub soakings
- 53. Kind of tree
- 54. BPOE member
- 55. Grill
- 56. Pigment

- 57. Racetrack feature
- 58. Filthy

DOWN

- 1. Biblical ship
- 2. Succeeded
- 3. Popular thirst- quencher
- 4. Great Barrier ____
- 5. Raggedy Ann, e.g.
- 6. Love a lot
- 7. Excellent
- 8. Work in the garden
- 9. Have fun
- 10. Rank
- 11. Is indebted to

- 17. Secondhand
- 19. At least one
- 21. Bettor's numbers
- 22. Independent
- 23. Have cold feet
- 25. Medicine amount
- 27. Pool chutes
- 28. Night light
- 30. Maroon and ruby
- 31. Sandwich spot
- 32. Dance movement
- 36. Suit features
- 37. Short rest
- 39. Brands
- 41. Went very fast
- 42. Friendly nation
- 43. Reputation
- 45. Declines
- 46. Seldom seen
- 48. Casual top
- 50. Boot tip
- 51. Stashed
- 52. Sneaky

SUDOKU

HOW TO PLAY:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once. Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column or 3x3 box.

Puzzle 1039

						2		
3		7						
4	6	8		5	1			
6	4			8		5		
	9					4		
		1		7				
1		6	4				2	
	5					9		
					8			6

Answers to these puzzles are on page 53

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Nelson nibblings

LORRAINE LINDSAY #1117

Hi Everyone. We did it!! After a year of planning, we are ever so relieved it's over, and that you all had a great time. A huge thank you to all of you who could attend despite some of the ferry crossing challenges. I hear that some of you had to wait for days, but you didn't give up.

Our reward was to see all of you having a great time and participating in our disgraceful activities.

The venue looked amazing with all the bright colours you were all wearing.

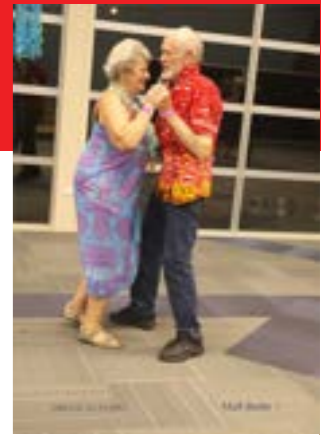
I don't need to say much more and will let the photos tell the story.

For those of you who want to see more photos, (and there is probably some of yourselves) we have loaded them all onto https://pbase.com/ulyssesnelson/260328national_agm_and_rally

On another note, another significant event we took part in just before the AGM was the Nelson Motor Show. This is primarily a show for cars (around 400-500 of them) BUT our Ulysses Branch has been invited to hold a stand there each year.

This year two of our members did us proud and got voted as "Peoples Choice". Merv on his beautifully detailed Spyder RT LTD and Shelley on her beautiful little Vespa - see photos on this page.

Stay safe everyone
LORRAINE #1117



Kapiti Kapers

PETE WHITTINGTON #9311

To steal a quote from Lord Flashheart, "Where have I been? Where haven't I been! Woof!". Well a number of us didn't make it to the AGM, thanks Bluebridge. On this we won't dwell. Thank you Simon Margrett #10098 for standing in for me at extremely short notice at the co-ordinators meeting. That's enough of that one sad event in many weeks of fun. What have we been up to?

Lets start with a glorious ride to Marton for lunch on a scorching hot day. Some of us went to Mansfield for the Classic Bikes. A ride out to Ngawi. A presentation from Conrad Petersen #10718 on his holidays in India and Iceland at our February meeting. The old favourite loop ride over the Rimutakas. Coffee morning in February at The Olive Grove Waikanae where I got to catch up with Kathy Ellis #4189 and Gary Randall #44 talking about the early days of the Club and the development of our Kapiti

branch. Then off to the pub at Apiti for lunch. Then the big 2 night over nighter the "Soak and Ride" meeting up with Leigh-Ann Crane and ride leader Mark from the Rotorua branch for some fun. While some of us were away on that trip others went to the Gathering of the Clans at the Tui brewery. Our March coffee morning was back to Reds in Otaki for the first time in a few years, very nice and welcoming so we are going back in April. We have had another ride around the Wellington Bays. JB's serviced my motorcycle. If a Ulysses member is in the Kapiti area and needs a bit of spannering James at JB's is the man to see. The branch has a great relationship with JB's and are highly recommended. While the AGM was on the branch had a ride out to Martinborough. Our April general meeting and ride up the Blue Mountains, lovely country. Enough waffle let the photo's tell the story.



Mark (Rotorua) led an amazing Saturday Ride (Soak and Ride)



Paul spent 10 minutes trying to get his leg in an arm hole of his wets (Soak and Ride)



At the Dam with Rotorua Branch (Soak and Ride)



Breakfast on the way home (Soak and Ride)



JB's Kapiti's own metric bike specialist



Martin chews the fat with the future of motorcycling



You meet Ulyssians all over!



Taupo Shaken. But not stirred!

STEVE #9232

As you can imagine it's been all go here, getting ourselves organised for the upcoming National AGM.

It all seems a bit daunting when you start out on the journey but once you start, it sort of gets a rhythm. Venue, tick. Food tick, Band tick. Theme tick and so it goes on. We are a small and somewhat eclectic group, but I am pleased to report that we are ticking (excuse the pun) along quite well and looking forward to greeting you all in Taupo next year. Just love the AGM polo shirts.

We still have our weekly Saturday morning coffee meet at the Pub and Grub on Saturday morning if you are passing through. Parking down the side of the pub (for bikes) and our monthly dinner at the Cosmopolitan club, average food but great company.

Its not always about the food.

Talking the other day to some guys about riding and how long we have been at it and I made the comment that "I have been riding for 60 years" like its some sort of achievement, but have I been riding that long? If you consider, several wives (some mine) several countries and life in general. How long have you been riding Steve? Well maybe not so much. One thing I have learned is that you there is always something new to learn. Never more so than these days with computers



running your bike and fuel injection. Gone are the old days of "set the points" and "tune the carb". Takes a bit of the fun out of it but it does help with the flow of the journey. Anyway, until next time. Steve #9232

Marlborough Musings

JOHN (JR) RODGER #10125

Greetings from Marlborough.

Not so sunny at the beginning of 2026. We had six weeks on the trot of rain every Thursday to start the year, there was talk of renaming us the Ulysses Car Club! Thankfully all has come right and we are back exploring once more.

We were fortunate to retain almost all of last year's committee members and recruited one new lady replacement, this has seen a resurgence in the branch of Women's Activities, Lady's Rides, and Silver Upskilling. Great to see.

Hats off to Member Mike Brash for organizing Sunday rides, these are a wee bit longer for those that want it, it's also provides a chance for members who still work 8 to 5 during the week to participate, these are proving popular.

Our coordinator has also been hard at it organizing an overnigher to the West Coast with a sleepover at the Blackball Hilton and a further chance to spread our wings.

Our members and visitors have done a Poker Run Fundraiser for St John's Ambulance, this was a huge

success with a huge amount presented to Hato Hone St John. They responded with a framed thank you which is now hanging at our headquarters The Runway Café at Woodbourne.

We have been fortunate to host the Nelson Ulysses on our westerly rides, a chance for them to do the round-the-block thing and for us to enjoy their banter.

That being said, a number of us will be attending the National AGM and festivities, in Nelson, at the end of March.

We are chugging along and are in the throes of organizing our Mid-winter dinner, what a great group of people we have.

JR #10125



Waihi-Thames Valley WAFFLINGS

CHRIS BROWN #4797

I was away overseas for the month of March and came back to rain & cyclones. But the Branch kept going nicely as if I wasn't there. Well I wasn't! Am I even necessary?

I missed the National Rally & AGM in Nelson but had some members there to represent the Branch. Sounded like a great time was had. Our Lower Loop Rallye went well on the 28th February. Close to 30 bikes turned up for a Helipad hunt around the Coromandel region. Raised some money for our Air Ambulance, the Auckland Rescue Helicopter. So that was our Ambulance Run. Next I suppose we need to do a MAM event for September. Last years one went well. Can we repeat it? Our Branch has never been a great organiser of events but we are trying.

Our monthly meetings, Thursday rides, Brains Trust coffee group and Bike Nights are well attended and

new members are joining us which is really nice. There's a range of machinery turning up. A big yellow trike, Spydys, Chinese bikes, Classics, Vintage, Adventure, Tourers and even 4 Harleys. Scooters sometimes make their presence known as well. No one on an electric yet but it's bound to happen. We have a beautiful region to ride around in that suits all.

That's all I can think of for now. I'll let the pictures do the talking and see you out there.

Cheers,

CHRIS BROWN #4797



Coroglen



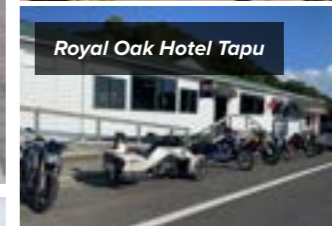
Kuaotunu



Thursday gathering place



Our 2 newest members ride this



Royal Oak Hotel Tapu



Waioimu



Kaiaua



Tahuna



from the **MALCOLM PERRY #10115** **Far North**

Hi all Ulyssians and greetings from the Far North. It seems that I regularly prepare these reports following a bout of grotty weather and, yes, yes, it's happened again. Although those of us at the "top of the country" managed to duck in time, our thoughts are with those of you further down the country who were not so fortunate. Here's hoping you are recovering OK.

Also in our thoughts are the changes at National Committee level. Thanks, and best wishes to those of you who have decided not to stand for committee again and welcome (and welcome back for some) to those of you who have stood this year. We look forward to working with you (that's the butt suck out the way).

Like the rest of you, we are busy preparing for our AGM and planning our ambulance ride at the moment. This year we are going to Kawakawa ambulance station on May 3rd. We did manage to get our annual

spud dig in with Steve Gray who many of you will know, taking top honours with a yield of 1,460 g from a single spud. As I got nothing from 2 spuds I am a little suspicious but, I guess, he just talked to his and that helped them grow.

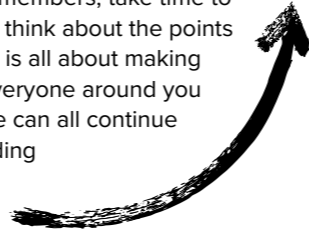
It was noted that the raffled bike didn't make its way North (again) but well done to the lucky winner.

As always, riding is the main part of our branches activities and that hasn't changed this period. We are still clocking up the ks twice a week on both tarseal and gravel although I am pleased to say that we have managed to break the habit of hurting ourselves (hope that's not tempting fate). It's nice to say that the majority of our walking wounded are recovering well but we do still have a couple of members to keep our eyes on.

On this subject, our vice-coordinator, George Swanepole put together an excellent article for our local newsletter "the farcall" and I have decided to share it with you. It does

make this report a tad long, but it is full of good, sound advice and comments that are relevant to all of us members. Sadly, we are losing George as he and his wife head down to Ashburton (yes, Southerners, that's a heads up). Anyway, hope you find it useful and best wishes. As always, if anyone is in the area and fancies joining us for a ride get in touch or just rock up to BK Whangarei for a 10.00 (sharp) departure any Wednesday or Sunday (unless there's a cyclone).

Rider Safety - George Swanepole
This has been a subject giving us some concerns in recent months and George has put the following article together which I think is excellent. Please, all members, take time to read it and think about the points raised. this is all about making you and everyone around you safer so we can all continue to enjoy riding in the Far North.



Staying **SHARP** on Two Wheels: Safety Considerations for the Older Rider in the North



Motorcycling has always had a strong heartbeat in the Far North. From the sweeping bends of Groves highway(Twin Bridges) to the coastal runs around Old Russel Road, riding here is more than transport — it's identity, freedom, and community. Many of us have been on two wheels for decades, and the experience we've built is something younger riders simply can't replicate.

But as the years roll on, the way we ride — and what we need to do to ride safely — naturally evolves. Acknowledging that isn't a sign of slowing down. It's a sign of wisdom, and it's how we keep enjoying the roads we love.

This article attempts to offer practical, respectful guidance for us older riders who want to stay confident, capable, and safe on every ride.

1. Reaction Time: Giving Yourself the Space You Need

Northland roads can be unpredictable — livestock on rural straights, tourists braking suddenly, gravel where you don't expect it. As we age, reaction times lengthen slightly, even in riders with excellent roadcraft.

What helps

Increase following distances, especially on SH10 and SH1 where traffic behaviour varies
Practise emergency braking in a safe, empty carpark
Ride with a mindset of anticipation, not reaction — assume the unexpected

2. Vision and Hearing: Staying Fully Aware

Bright coastal glare, sudden shade under bush canopies, and long twilight hours can challenge even the best eyes. Age adds another layer.

Consider

- Annual eye checks — especially important for night riding
- Avoiding dusk and dawn rides when visibility is lowest
- Using high-contrast visors or

photochromic shields

- Getting hearing tested if sirens or approaching vehicles are harder to pick up

3. Strength, Balance, and Flexibility: Riding Comfortably and Confidently

Northland's roads often demand slow-speed manoeuvring — tight turnarounds at beaches, uneven gravel driveways, soft verges. These are the moments when strength and balance matter most.

Practical adjustments

- Light strength and flexibility exercises a few times a week
- Lowering seat height or adjusting handlebars for comfort
- Choosing bikes with lower centres of gravity or lighter frames
- Considering crash bars or grab handles to reduce strain when moving the bike

4. Medications: Quiet Factors That Can Affect Riding

Many riders in their 50s, 60s, and 70s take medications that can subtly affect alertness or balance. It's not about judgement — it's about awareness.

Good practice

- Check whether prescriptions cause drowsiness or dizziness
- Avoid riding if you feel even slightly "off"
- Talk to your GP or pharmacist about timing doses around riding days

5. Fatigue: Knowing When to Rest

Long rides up to Cape Reinga or down to Auckland can be demanding. Fatigue creeps in faster with age, and it's one of the biggest contributors to motorcycle incidents.

Smart habits:

- Take breaks more often than you used to
- Hydrate regularly — Northland

summers are unforgiving

- Ride earlier in the day when energy levels are higher
- Break long trips into manageable segments

6. Protective Gear: Modern Tech Makes a Difference

Many long-time riders still wear gear bought years ago. But modern helmets, jackets, and armour offer dramatically improved protection — and often more comfort.

Why upgrading is worth it:

- New helmets are lighter, quieter, and safer
- Modern armour absorbs more impact
- Ventilated jackets reduce fatigue in summer heat
- High-visibility gear helps on rural roads with mixed lighting

7. Bike Choice: Matching the Machine to the Rider You Are Today

A bike that felt effortless at 40 may feel heavy at 70 — and that's perfectly normal. The key is choosing a machine that supports your riding style now.

Options

- Switching to a lighter bike or a model with better balance
- Adjusting suspension for stability on uneven rural roads
- Choosing tyres that improve low-speed handling
- Using electronic aids like ABS, traction control, and hill-start assist

Final Thoughts

Us Older riders bring something special to the road: judgement, patience, and decades of experience. By recognising how age subtly influences riding — and by making thoughtful adjustments — we can keep enjoying riding these roads for a few more years with confidence and pride.

Kind regards, George

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Canterbury Capers

DEBBIE MACFARLANE #9634



Firstly I would like to congratulate the Nelson Branch on their organisation of the recent National Rally and AGM. A number of Cantabrians attended the event and personally I thought that everything went really well. I had a great time.

Canterbury has just held their annual St John fundraiser on Anzac Day. This is our main event to raise money for St John. We had just over 90 people register for the event and with selling badges we raised approximately \$1500. I would like to thank those Ulyssians that attended the event, also a huge THANKS to Gavin Baker who put the dice run together, Ray and Barbara Hunton for handling the money. Thank you also to Dean Macfarlane, Craig and Angela Grundy, Doug Lawson, Andy Burdett-Clark who helped out as corner markers and Jason who brought the Ulysses flags. All in

all a great day and the weather turned on a beautiful day. Canterbury is ticking along quite nicely, we have a great committee, we work well together and I look forward to the year to come, as the new Canterbury Coordinator. Our committee members are: Secretary - Jason Batchelor, Treasurer - Katherine Baker, New member liaison officer - Gavin Baker, Editor and Chief - Chris Carey, Welfare Officer and Sheriff - Chrissie Binnema, Beverley Cash - speakers for monthly meetings and Dean Macfarlane (my other half) inter branch liaison. Over the warmer months we had a monthly Fish n Chip ride where one of our members would organise a small ride, approx 1hr long and we then bought our dinner and dined at that members home. It was always a good night. Canterbury has their annual mid-

winter dinner in July where we celebrate members' long service achievements along with some trophies we present for various reasons. The Remembrance Service is held in September at the Top Ten Holiday Park in Kaikoura. A lot of Ulyssians go up for the weekend, not just for the day. This year we are hoping to change the evening program for those who are staying so keep an eye out for the details to follow. A few cantabrians will be journeying to Murchison in July to attend "The Gathering" organised by Kerry Chapman from the Westland Branch. It was a good night last year so I look forward to it this year. Our Wednesday Knitters riding group seems to be going from strength to strength. There seems to be a great camaraderie amongst the members. If you are ever in Christchurch, pack a lunch and meet them from 9.30am at Casbolts where there is always a free hot drink courtesy of Casbolts, just ask for Richard Horne (ride coordinator). Sunday rides meet at Spitfire Square from 10am and depart at 10.30am, shorter rides in the winter and longer rides in the summer. There is always great friendship on these rides, good banter and a lot of joking around. Our rides are sorted by Euan Quaid - rides coordinator. All in all, in my opinion, the Canterbury Branch is doing great and I look forward to the year ahead. Safe riding everyone.

DEBBIE #9634



Southland "Scribbles"

ROSS L #1177

Hi all, In the time since our last report Branch activities have included a mix of social and ride events. A quick review of our Branch program has shown that our monthly dine-outs have provided members with the opportunity to try out Turkish, Indian and good old Kiwi cuisine. Numbers attending have been pretty good and feed-back regarding the chosen options positive, much to the relief of the organiser.

We have also continued to promote our regular coffee morning meet-ups and while numbers have varied, they continue to provide another good opportunity for members to get together. Looking back at our ride events, the February ride was to Waikaia, a small village located inland from Gore. It was an excellent ride on some of Southlands very scenic and enjoyable riding roads. The group had lunch at the local hotel before making their own way home. Disappointingly, the rides that had been setup for March and April had to be cancelled due to the weather on the day. Although the rides were cancelled, some members did arrive at the meeting place and after a quick chat adjourned to a local café for refreshments and quality social time.

As we move into winter our event program will definitely have a more indoor social theme. We will continue to include dates for possible rides for members who have decided not to place their bike registration on hold, so here's hoping that the "weather gods" decide to play ball on the chosen dates.

In closing, we send our very best wishes to Club members and their extended families who may have been impacted by the significant weather events experienced around New Zealand in recent times. Our thoughts are with you.

That's all for now from the Deep South.

ROSS L #1177

Taranaki Tales

BILL KIDNEY #7217

The past few months have brought a real mix of weather conditions, which had no real effect on our Ulysses Taranaki events.



Friday morning coffee.

Our club has been delighted to welcome prospective members during our rides and social gatherings. Over the past four months, eight new members have joined our branch. Each new member has been warmly welcomed at one of our gatherings and presented with their welcome packages.

Our Taranaki Branch AGM, was well attended with both Executive and committee accepted, followed by presentations of 10yr badges to Martin and Gemma Peyerl and 30yr badge to John Newport.



Martin and Gemma Peyerl 10yr Badges.



John Newport 30yr Badge.

The monthly Club night continues to be a great success, drawing larger numbers each time. These gatherings provide an excellent opportunity to share notes from meetings, enjoy the usual banter, and introduce our new members to the group.

In true Ulysses spirit, our Sherrif never misses a chance to issue fines and publicly recount the various indiscretions of members—including his own. A memorable moment occurred recently when the Sherrif performed a U-turn

on the open road right in front of a blue and white Skoda. Although he managed to get away with it, the rider following him was stopped with a horn blast and lights flashing, then was sternly reprimanded by the driver. Poor Harry!

The National AGM trip started with a level of trepidation, Taranaki branch attendance was twenty-two persons, most riding with a small group travelling by car. It all started with an early start mustering at a set location (chilly, dark) ready to go. Then the texts started to come, ferry delay 4hrs. In good spirit we headed south in no hurry stopping for a coffee and then later lunch making the ferry on time. Next day, Picton to Nelson and preparation for the AGM to which Hobby horses were fed and ready for the night's performance. However, the ferry trip was too much for the nags and their performance was well below par. Riders and Stable crew enjoyed the catchup with friends with a few drinks.



Saturday started with the Annual General Meeting, which was a great highlight for the Taranaki Branch with the new National President being Suzi Pentelow taking the reins of the club, the recumbent president then presented the Odessey Medals for which our own #2772 Blair Campbell – Taranaki was a recipient. Blair has been a current member for 32years and supportive in each role he is involved with.

Both Suzi and Blair celebrated in the evening function with all attendees in good form.. To top the evening off was the Motorcycle Raffle draw, everyone hanging on to their ticket with the suspense they might win the draw. Then it happened for the second year 'Taranaki' had the winning ticket held by #9235 Ron McColl. He genuinely thought it was a scam when notified by phone. Ron has yet to make his choice of motorcycle.

Our evening apparel was mermaids for the ladies who were

escorted by the Mermaid Security team, which warranted the Taranaki Branch achieving the best dressed for the event. A great evening enjoyed by all.



Taranaki Mermaids with Security.



Terrence, Auctioneer from Taranaki.

The post event ride down the West Coast, overnight at Hokitika and Haast then through the Haast past and back up the scenic route (SH79/72) fourteen members completed the next few days of riding. True to form the weather was varied, but in whole the trip remained an excellent way to finish time away.



Murchison Smoko Break

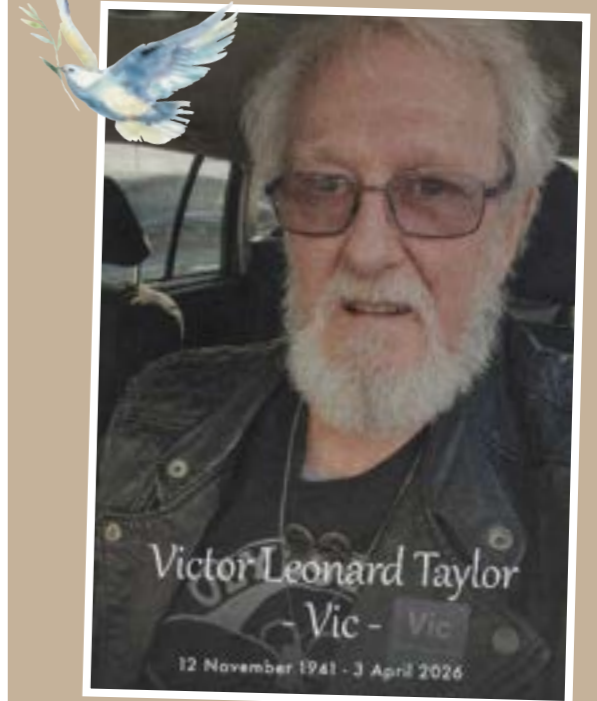


Benny Ruapere, Monteiths, double shot.



Another shower at Fox, Lunch to dry out.

Its with deep regret we acknowledge the passing of #418 Victor Taylor, a member of the Taranaki Branch in his 40th year of membership. Vic had personal health issues in the past few years restricting him from his attendance to events. Condolences were passed on to his wife and family. RIP Vic.



BILL KIDNEY #7217

Rotorua RAMBLIN'

EUGENE BERRYMAN-KAMP #9353

**Kia ora from Rotorua,
At our branch AGM 19 April where we had around 20 members attend we set up our new committee.**

Myself as co-ordinator, Paddy moved from secretary to treasurer and Maryann took on the secretary role, Mal and Robert sharing the rides co ordinator role, with 8 of us on the committee. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Leigh-a-Ann for her 5 years as co ordinator, she certainly injected new life and vigor into the club and established a great base for me to inherit, its great to see you move to NatCom and look forward to supporting your mahi there. Also thanks to Cameron our treasurer for keeping our finances in check, we donated over \$9k to various groups in the year. We had an officers meeting and handover with Leigh-Ann a week later and are looking to ensure we have a full year of events and activities planned plus increase our visibility locally and attract new members.

12 Rotorua Ulyssians attended the National AGM with 7 enduring a nightmare ferry experience getting caught in the ferry cancellations saga, what a way to start a trip, arriving on the day of the AGM! By all accounts a great time was had by all at the AGM and Mark, Daz, Sean and Liz took the

opportunity for a 4000km South Island tour, while Hartley, Mal and Lynda cranked a 2400km ride. Leigh-Ann, Robert, Paddy, Graham and Sandy also attended. Thanks to the Nelson branch for a great event. The AGM and subsequent south island tour has certainly made our branch members keen to go back down south, it really is a great place to tour, you mainlanders are spoilt!

I had ridden my Victory down to the Burt earlier in the month, saw a few Ulyssians there and along the way and again wonderful riding and great people along the way. We had a number of organised rides over the last couple of months. 5 bikes did a run to the Waihi RSA and back via Te Poi on 8 Feb, Sean, Mark and Daz went over to support the Ulysses Waihi/Thames charity ride 28 Feb and ended up with the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes, I'm sure that made them popular!

On 22 Feb 10 bikes did a Dambusters ride to each of the Hydro Dams on the Waikato river with a couple of new members along for the experience, followed by a catch up with Ulysses Kapiti on 7 March for a group ride and a refreshment at the Matata pub. Speaking of that a few of us popped over to support the Matata bike week event

11 April, a new event looking to have a regular biker focused event in Matata. We also did our ANZAC day ride, starting with attending the parade then riding a number of checkpoints to spell out ANZAC, finishing with lunch at Maketu.

Finally preparations are well underway for our Rock 'n Roll'n Rally at Lake Okataina 18 to 20 September, we hope to see you there for another great rally. Ride safe.

EUGENE #9353



Wellington

Witterings

JIM F #2098

While a few rides were cancelled due to bad weather in February, there has still been a variety of Branch activities over the last few months, besides our members supporting at least four charity rides for other groups in that time.

In March we held a quiz as one of our fundraisers for Wellington Free Ambulance. The quiz is run in conjunction with the Upper Hutt CWL who run several other fund-raising quizzes throughout the year. We worked with them to raise funds for WFA a couple of years ago, and that quiz night had their biggest ever turnout with 160 people. This year the turnout was bigger again with over 170 people participating as well as the team running the quiz, so the hall was almost at maximum capacity.

There was a good turnout from Branch members, *Cafe Riders of Wellington* and our various friends and neighbours, as well as a good turnout from the CWL quiz regulars. The winning team, made up of Branch members, was not so cerebrally challenged as their name - *Quizzically Challenged* - suggested. As usual there was a great supper which included platters of Big Kev's cream horns.

We had amazing feedback, with many of the participants keen to take part in the next quiz run for our Branch. After a koha each to CWL and St Brendan's School, the Branch netted just over \$2,000 to add to our WFA donation.

Several of members of the Branch rode up to the Tui Brewery for the annual Gathering of the Clans where it was great to catch up with members of the other Branches from around the Lower North Island. Murray, the Whanganui-Manawatu Coordinator passed the baton on to Wellington to organise next year's event.

On 22 March the Branch ride was out to Lake Ferry after a coffee and briefing at MC3 Collection & Café in Upper Hutt. It was a beautiful day with a great turnout of 17 bikes (plus two pillions). Ross inadvertently gave a lift to a wasp. The nasty little beggar (the wasp, not Ross) stung a few times. While initially a tad sore and slightly reddened (Ross, not the wasp) looked as though his head had been pummelled by George Foreman. Even the expression "head like a well-chewed Mintie" doesn't adequately describe the horror. I haven't provided the photographic evidence so as not to scare any ladies of a delicate disposition.

It was also a great day On ANZAC Day when we held our Ambulance Ride. While the weather was fine, turnout was



well down on last year – perhaps many riders had taken advantage of the long weekend that comes with ANZAC Day being a Saturday, but there were still over 50 bikes on the ride.

However, our RIC Mike was not one of them. Unfortunately, he was rear-ended on his way to the starting point. While Mike suffered a few grazes and bruises, his pillion unfortunately suffered a broken pelvis, and his beautiful mint condition FJR is now not much more than an oversized boat anchor.

Many thanks to Richard, Tosh, Steve and Andrew for stepping up to take the ride, and I was able to advise the riders and Wellington Free Ambulance that a donation of \$4,000 had been raised from the quiz, a film fund-raiser and Branch funds.

Editor Erin kindly gave me a couple of extra days to send in this report as the day after close-off was a Branch Ride to Hood Aerodrome in Masterton for an airshow. That was another glorious day with not a cloud in the sky by the time we arrived. Twelve of us left from the ride starting point and a couple of others turned up at event.

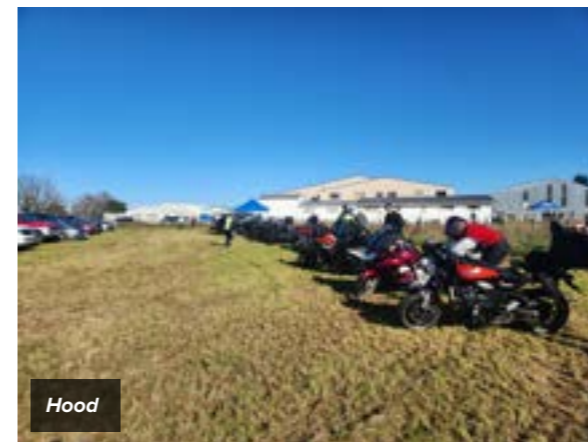
Adrian gave our April meeting a talk on his recent travels in Rajasthan which was very interesting.

Some sad news – Cars Inc, a local car museum that runs a monthly Biker Breakfast as well as supporting *Motorcycle Awareness Month* will be closed by the time you read this.

Four of our Branch members, aka Beefy, Chunky, Meaty and Porky, will have taken part in the 2026 TransAlpine Scooter Safari as Team *We Ate ALL the Pies!* ably supported by the *Brollie Dollies*, aka Cherry, Peachy, Apple and Gooseberry, and at the time of writing had raised over \$3,900 for The Southern Cancer Society. I'll provide a write up for the next edition... stay tuned.

Till then safe riding.

JIM F #2098



Tauranga

TITBITS

MEL T #7873

The National AGM in Nelson was an exciting trip for many ... and that was just getting there and home again. Those on Blue-Bridge had some tricky moments. Thankfully I was on Inter-Islander, so no hassles (this time). It was a well organised weekend and great times with fellow members.

When the call was put out for nominations last year for National awards I received an overwhelming response for one person. Great news from the AGM when our nomination from Tauranga was awarded the Odessey Medal. The Odessey Medal award well it was an open secret. No one who had been there mentioned it but the nominee was contacted multiple time by people wanting to congratulate them. So well deserved Lee White. Eventually (two weeks later) the medal was presented at our April Branch AGM meeting by Leigh-Anne our newest and almost local Nat comm member. Thank you Leigh-Anne for coming to Introduce yourself tour members and making the Presentation. It was much appreciated.

I'm writing this from the lounge of Tauranga's Waihi Beach Rally as many are now starting to arrive for the weekend to catch up with old friends. It's great to see so many members staying in touch. I'm looking forward to another weekend of socialising with a bit of formality thrown in as there will also be a badge presentation of two 15 year membership badges. Wayne and Ally Carson give so much of their time helping with the running of this event so this is the ideal time to recognise their time and contribution.

Runs continue from a dedicated few from our coffee meeting place on Sundays and any other day posted on out fb page. A Rest home visit was made by 11 tri/bikes and 13 members to the Bethlehem Shores retirement village, with a mix of the curious and memory inciting conversations from residents and by standers. It seems that more of our members are moving to these type of places so its great to keep the connections.

Sad news to hear of the recent passing of George Stirling, a member of the Tauranga branch since 1990.

For any Badge collectors out there, we still have a few surplus Rescue Ride 2025 badges. These are available to those who didn't do the rides but would like to help with our donation to St John. Feel free to contact our secretary if you'd like one for your collection.

Keep warm and upright out there.

MEL T #7873

North Harbour News

JOHN SHEARER #9242

NEIL SHEERIN- REST IN PEACE

It is with a heavy heart that we say goodbye to Neil. As our club's sheriff, he commanded respect not through shouting, but through honor, loyalty, and the quiet strength of a man who always had our backs but was looking for a fine. During his life he didn't just ride motorcycles; he built trikes with a passion that showed in every custom detail, turning metal into art. And now every time I see Faye's trike I'll think of Neil. More than his leather-clad presence, he was a genuinely good man and a loving partner to Faye. With his leathers he could look a bit of a tough biker on the outside but he had a gentle heart. To Faye, his family and to all who knew Neil during his long association with the club you have our deepest sympathy and condolences.



to crank the throttle and explore. We live in such a beautiful country. From eating cake and refueling in Blenheim to Lake Rotoiti, it was just stunning. Lake Rotoiti was dramatic, under sullen skies, and brooding giant black eels circling the dock. Another run to Farewell Spit, such an empty place with an endless beach going to the horizon with the crashing surf and cry of sea birds as my only company. As I have said before, ride while you can get out and see our place. Millions of overseas visitors pay a fortune for a few days in our back yard.

We had our second Ronald Mc Donald House Charities BBQ on Easter Monday at Bunnings Silverdale.

The first BBQ as I mentioned previously was back in Dec 2025 where we made around \$260 and the second BBQ made a profit of around \$750. That means we have



raised around \$1,000 for RMcD house charities. Brilliant start to building this year's total and a special thank you to Karl Hughes and Steph Phillips



who organised this. We still have a long way to go to reach \$10,000 like last year but it is a marvellous start. Remember to keep Sunday 1st November free and join us on the 2026 Ronnie Run.



Our treasure hunt was a great success and a real tour de force of the North West. Greg Norton, our RIC, did a magnificent job. With my team the Muppets' stellar navigation skills and our own 'stunning' good looks, we made the perfect, picturesque team against the scenery. Driven by a shared vision—and the promise of shared loot—we didn't just meet expectations; we absolutely crushed them. Standing together (especially for the photos), we achieved a remarkable victory. We won in the best photographs section!



JOHN SHEARER #9242

Westland CO-ORDINATOR'S DISCOURSE



KERRY CHAPMAN #3443

What a great summer on the coast compared to a lot of places around the country, if on tank water it was a bit tight when the family came to stay. But we will survive.

We are slowly gaining members and inquiries about the club; I must say thanks to the members that supported the club AGM in Nelson. A very entertaining events schedule made possible by a lot of practice, or a lot of baffle. I was never a good horse rider so opted out of making a horse's ass of myself. On the other side of things, our branch was represented by seven members, which must be a trend in the right direction. These new Rego fees are a bit of a worry, if like me you will be thinking do I put it on hold and hope for the best or do I just pay for one and alternate the bikes on monthly roster. Either way I will not give up riding until I see wood all around me. We have a couple of events coming up that I think will grow as the years pass, The Murchison Overnighter being the next, then the Bottom of the South I will report on these later.

Off for another ride keep the shiny side up.

KERRY CHAPMAN #3443,

Wairarapa KEVIN MORGAN #6559 Whisperings

Hello from the now sunny Wairarapa. Like many clubs around the country, we have suffered from the wet and unpredictable weather. But hopefully that is passed us.

Due to the not nice weather, scheduled rides have had to be cancelled.

Not good when there have been quite a few slips and washouts on our already substandard roads.

We have had an influx of about 6 new members so far this year with a couple in the pipeline.

We had the Wellington ANZAC Wellington Free Ambulance run on Saturday 25th April with about 8 bikes from our club turn out which is the best we have had for a few years. Also it was a good fine day for a bike ride. A few turned out on their older bikes, Suzuki 750 kettle, Yamaha 750, BMW R100 (I think).

In a few weeks, we have The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride, which starts in Martinborough this year. There are a few members from our club that will be going along. I am not sure about the distinguished gentleman part, but a good cause.

We have our AGM this month. Hopefully we will get a couple new members on the committee as well as a change in offices.

KEVIN MORGAN #6559

Manawatu Murmurs

The Manawatu Branch has been active in several different ways over the summer months. The big event was the group attending the National AGM in Nelson. Several branch members joined Andy and Karen Wilson in a tour of the South Island before attending the AGM. Others came independently but all came together to act disgracefully at a well-run event. The main topic of conversation was ferry cancellations, which affected a lot of the North Islanders.

The sad news is that the branch lost a long serving member with the passing of Stephen Drysdale in February. Stephen had suffered some health issues but looked to be coming right before a sudden downturn. The funeral service was attended by a good number of branch members and Murray Cross spoke on behalf of the branch. His wife, Rosie, remains a determined Ulyssian and attended the National AGM. She enjoys the support of the Ulysses community to help her through this tough time.

We have had a couple of members making hospital visits. Gary Muir had an unfortunate spill off his mighty 250cc machine during a Pie & Pint ride. It appears he saved damage to the bike by cushioning the blows with his 86+ year old body. Unfortunately, the bike can be rebuilt, but Gary is taking a while longer to recover. Branch members visited him in both Palmerston North and Wellington hospitals. Malcolm Bowling had a fall from a ladder which resulted in a broken femur and a new hip replacement. Thankfully he managed to escape hospital after a couple of days. The February branch ride had to

be replanned due to the Bason Gardens in Whanganui being closed with storm damage. The alternate venue became the Awastone café in Mangaweka. The group enjoyed a great ride including a debrief at Murray's Irish Bar in Feilding. At the end of the month branch members acted as corner marshals for a Rotary charity ride from the Coach House Museum in Feilding to the Halcombe tavern. The attendance from the general motorcycle community was disappointing but those that took part had a great time.

March began with the Gathering of the Clans at Tui HQ in Mangatinoka. There was a large group of Ulyssians from all parts of the Lower North Island in attendance. Manawatu passed the baton and the Wellington Branch accepted the responsibility of running the next event in March 2027. The branch ride later in the month was a trip over the Gentle Annie from Hawkes Bay to Taihape. A couple of new members joined in and enjoyed the weather and a ride on a great twisty backroad.

The April ride was postponed initially due to weather, but a large group enjoyed a back road route to the Apiti Tavern on Sunday 26th. Julianne had feared no one would come as it was a long weekend (ANZAC) but 15 bikes enjoyed the sunshine. Pity it took an hour and half to get the lunch meals out. Everyone bomb shelled away on a variety of routes once the tasty food was consumed.

Howard Asplin and Gavin Croad have been leading a number of weekday Retreads Rides for those retired members with time on their

MURRAY CROSS #7908



Sam and Sue dusted off the Commando for the coffee morning at Foxton



Kerry introducing his new Vespa GT300 on the recent branch ride

hands. They have ranged over lower North Island, causing some mayhem and consuming a lot of pies and cups of tea. These rides are generally shorter and slower paced than the normal branch rides. This enables new or returning riders to find their feet without the pressure of keeping up in a larger group.

The branch AGM will be held on 6th May with most of the committee staying on for another term. A big thanks to the committee members for all their efforts to make our branch relevant and an enjoyable organisation to belong to.

Be safe on the roads.

MURRAY CROSS #7908



Pukekos Nest at Westmere Whanganui a favourite eating spot with good opening hours and food



Waihi Falls near Pongatoa for a scenic toilet stop on a mid-week ride



Gary Muir getting into training on two wheels



Ready to go on another mid-week ride



Another great coffee morning at Robert Harris Foxton



Apiti Eatery and Bar on the recent branch ride



The Gentle Annie on another great ride

Gizzy News CHRISSY #5993

Where has the year gone.

We have had a fantastic one, many great day rides, get togethers and fun lively meetings.

This is my final chairpersons report, after many good, rewarding, fantastic years at the helm. Lol, to many to count.

Its time for change, which is the best way for the branch to grow and move forward.

I take this time to thank everyone for the friendship support and willingness to get involved, in all things for the branch.

I leave the branch in good hands, with people who are positive about growing the branch to the future.

I will be there, to help, support and give cheek, as required!

Keep being an amazing group to belong too.

We held our Ambulance Run on the 25th April, First time, in a long while.

We were blessed with a magic, day weather wise, which helped us have a fabulous turnout. With a ride to Tolaga Bay for a BBQ, which added to our funds. We had two rides have a mishap, but thankfully no ambulance required.

CHRISSY #5993

Branch President



Auckland's Answer

GRANT JOHNSTONE #10807

Two months into taking over from Clive at the helm of Auckland Branch and I'm thankful for the experience of the committee. The Auckland Branch has a number of long standing members and an interesting history.

One thing I am impressed with is the level of activity, from our "Newbies and Oldies rides, every second Saturday, providing a leisurely pace, to the Tuesday rides providing a more spirited pace and longer distance. We also have a regular catchup on a Saturday at a local café, which several of our members who don't ride anymore, also attend.

Some of the ideas coming forward, like re-establishing moonlight rides and an overnight ride have been scheduled. The first moonlight run, done by the time you read this and an overnight ride to Stratford has been scheduled for October.

There are a few that head to gravel roads and forestry tracks for more adventurous riding. Hopefully, next edition I'll have some photos of events as well.

I recently headed south to go to the National AGM in Nelson. However, Bluebridge was cancelled, so fronted up to the Interislander on the Thursday morning, but every sailing was book. I tried again at 6.30am, Friday but no go. The bike was pointed north and headed over the Rimutaka road and had breakfast at Auntie Ginger's. Rode through to Napier, staying the night and then over the Napier Taupo and then home. Perhaps next year.

One of the things I want to encourage is some joint events with our North Harbour neighbours and I'm talking with John Shearer and Vicky Chapman. We worked well together last year to organize a successful MAM event and we have another under way for this coming September. One event put forward is a quiz evening. More to follow on this and other events and personalities and hopefully some photographic evidence.

Safe riding

GRANT JOHNSTONE #10807

GEAR UP

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Monimoto 9 offers the ultimate defense against theft without the technical headache. This discreet, wireless GPS tracker requires no hardwiring, meaning no battery drain and no complicated installation. Simply hide the compact device on your bike, and if it's moved without your key fob nearby, it calls your phone directly in under a minute. With a rechargeable battery that lasts up to a year and a rugged, waterproof design, it's a straightforward, reliable way to ensure your pride and joy stays exactly where you left it.

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SUDOKU

ANSWER TO PUZZLE NO. 1039

9	5	8	2	1	4	7	6
6	3	8	2	1	4	7	9
4	1	8	9	7	3	5	2
7	9	2	5	3	4	6	1
2	6	9	4	7	5	1	3
3	8	4	2	6	1	5	7
1	7	3	5	8	9	2	4
9	3	7	5	1	2	8	6
5	4	6	9	8	7	2	3
8	2	7	8	9	6	1	4
6	2	7	6	3	4	7	8



CO-ORDINATORS' CONTACT DETAILS

To update your branch's information, please email the updated information to administration@ulysses.org.nz
Any website queries or changes, please email com.2@ulysses.org.nz and administration@ulysses.org.nz

ADMINISTRATION:

P O Box 55,
INGLEWOOD, 4330
Gemma Peyerl
021 072 3636
administration@ulysses.org.nz

AUCKLAND

Manukau Cruising Club,
Orpheus Drive, Onehunga,
First Wednesday every
month, 7.30pm
GRANT JOHNSTONE
auckland@ulysses.org.nz

AUCKLAND N.HARBOUR

1st Thurs of the month,
5.30-9pm, Hobsonville
RSA, 114 Hobsonville Road,
Hobsonville.
JOHN SHEARER
n.harbour@ulysses.org.nz
Ph 027 482 2565

BULLER

Contact for
next meeting details.
PETE GRAHAM
buller@ulysses.org.nz
021 271 2846

CANTERBURY

Cashmere Club, 520 Colombo
St, Cashmere, Christchurch.
Third Thurs every month. 7pm
DEBBIE MACFARLANE
canterbury@ulysses.org.nz
021 025 19147

FAR NORTH

Rides every Wednesday and
Sunday mornings. Depart
10am from Burger King,
Whangarei.
MALCOLM PERRY
far.north@ulysses.org.nz
027 438 0052

GISBORNE

1st Tuesday of the month.
Bushmere Arms Public Bar,
7.30pm
**CHRISTINE (CHRIS)
CAMERON**
06 868 9661 / 027 460 2430
gisborne@ulysses.org.nz

HAWKE'S BAY

Taradale RSA, 1st Wednesday
of the month at 7.30pm
TREVOR WYLIE
hawkes.bay@ulysses.org.nz
0275 226 830

KAPITI COAST

2nd Tuesday each month,
7.30pm. Manakau Bowling
Club. 10 Mokena Kohere St,
Levin.
PETER WHITTINGTON
kapiti@ulysses.org.nz
020 4058 4552

MANAWATU

1st Wednesday each month
(except January) at the
Bunnythorpe Tavern
at 7.30pm.
MURRAY CROSS
manawatu@ulysses.org.nz
06 323 2660 / 027 702 4455

MARLBOROUGH

3rd Wednesday monthly,
Portacom A&P Park. Coffee
morning Runway Café, SH6
every Saturday 10am.
JOHN SINCLAIR
marlborough@ulysses.org.nz
027 314 2151

NELSON

Coffee morning, every
Saturday 10am-12noon.
Alioke Eatery, 4A Central Park
Lane, Appleby, Richmond. All
welcome, with space to park
your bike or car.
JOHN JOHNSTONE - Secretary
nelson.sec@ulysses.org.nz
027 416 4666

NORTH OTAGO

Various venues.
3rd Wednesday of each
month. Contact Glenda
GLENDAG HAGENSON
n.otago@ulysses.org.nz
021 162 8110

OTAGO

First Tuesday of each month,
7pm at the Otago M/C Club
(OMCC) rooms, 3 Clark St
NEIL GRIFFIN
otago@ulysses.org.nz
027 211 5037

ROTORUA

Mcds room, Fenton Street,
Rotorua, 7pm last
Sunday of the month
LEIGH-ANN CRANE
rotorua@ulysses.org.nz
021 0266 0528

SOUTHLAND

Contact co-ordinator for next
meeting and ride details
ROSS LAWRY
southland@ulysses.org.nz
03 218 2900 / 027 227 2522

SOUTH CANTERBURY

Contact co-ordinator for next
meeting and ride details
GAVIN BARKER
s.canterbury@ulysses.org.nz
021 468 979 (evenings)

TARANAKI

New Plymouth Club,
49-55 Gill Street,
New Plymouth. 6pm,
3rd Wednesday monthly
BILL KIDNEY
taranaki@ulysses.org.nz
021 264 9598

TAUMARUNUI

RSA, 1st Wednesday each
month. 7pm. Rides 10am,
Mobil, Sundays
TONY RITCHIE
taumarunui@ulysses.org.nz
027 475 0428

TAUPO

Taupō Cosmopolitan Club,
Taniwha Street, 7:30pm.
2nd Thursday each month.
IAN PILBROW
taupo@ulysses.org.nz

TAURANGA

Tauranga Citizen Club,
13th Ave; Upstairs at 7.30,
3rd Tues monthly.
MEL THOMPSON
Ph 027 646 3084

WAIHI-THAMES VALLEY

2nd Sunday monthly
2pm at the Paeroa RSA
CHRIS BROWN
waihi.tv@ulysses.org.nz
027 257 6602

WAIKATO

The Hamilton Working Mens
Club, 45 Commerce Street,
Frankton, Hamilton 3240.
First Tuesday of every month
except Jan.
ALLAN BRUNSKILL
waikato@ulysses.org.nz
022 438 0627

WAIRARAPA

Club Carterton (RSA), 35
Broadway Street, Carterton.
3rd Monday monthly, 7:30pm
TONY ALLEN
wairarapa@ulysses.org.nz
027 432 5075

WELLINGTON

Petone Workingmen's Club,
Udy Street, Petone, 7.30pm,
2nd Tuesday monthly
JIM FURNEAUX
021 244 2091
wellington@ulysses.org.nz

WESTLAND

Coffee every Sat, 1000hrs at
the Honey Café, Kumara.
KERRY CHAPMAN
westland@ulysses.org.nz
027 472 8289

WHAKATANE

Ohope Chartered Club,
Ohope, 7.30pm,
2nd Wednesday monthly
JEREMY NEWELL
Ph 021 192 3608

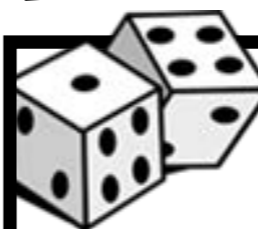
NORTH HARBOUR RONNIE RUN 1st November 2026

Enabling children in Starship Hospital
to have parents &/or caregivers stay in
Ronald McDonald House free of charge.

The Ronnie Run is held on the first Sunday
in November each year. Save the date!

WITH YOUR SUPPORT IN 2024, WE COLLECTIVELY
MADE THE FOLLOWING DIFFERENCE TO FAMILIES WHO
USED ROOM 503 IN RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE AT
GRAFTON MEWS:

- 80 FAMILIES USED ROOM 503 THAT YOU HELPED SPONSOR.
- THIS ROOM PROVIDED 271 NIGHTS' SLEEP FOR FAMILIES WITH A CHILD IN STARSHIP.
- YOUR SPONSORSHIP HELPED SAVE THE FAMILIES \$63,414 IN ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD COSTS.



ULYSSES TAUPO DICE RUN 2026

Wairakei BP Service Station, Wairakei Drive
Sunday 25th October
Departing 11.00am

Registrations from 9.30am

Entry \$20

Cash Prizes – Highest, Second, and Lowest
Breakfast available at Wild Bean Café

Enquiries: Phone Steve 021 795 645





**Kaikoura Top 10 Holiday Park, 34 Beach Road, Kaikoura
1pm, Saturday, September 12, 2026**

We have the use of the conference facilities. Afternoon tea and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided after the reading of names.

Canterbury are working on an evening function to be held in the Conference Room on Saturday evening. Details to follow.

But as always an after match function to recovery and rehydration will be held in the Conference Room. Members are asked to BYO whatever type of plonk 'tickles ya fancy', to put the world to rights whilst striving as best we can to get back to core values by behaving disgracefully.

Those whose names have been read out would expect nothing less of us. Punters are urged to book accommodation, tent sites, etc at the Top 10 sooner rather than later. For bookings: 03 319 5362, or email: reception.2kk@hnp.nz Ride badges are \$20 and must be paid for online. Email Jason Batchelor at canterbury.sec@ulysses.org.nz and he will take your order.

**Online payment to:
Westpac 03-1594-0041946-00.**

Please include your name and 'Rembadge' in reference fields.



North Island Remembrance Service

Saturday, August 8, 2026
at Lake Taupo Rotary Club, 12 Story Place Taupō
****note the change of venue****

Ulysses, Auckland Branch, in association with Taupō Branch, invite all Ulyssians to come together at our annual Remembrance Service and remember members who have passed away.

If you intend to stay in Taupō, please make your own accommodation arrangements.

An organized social event is intended for Saturday evening. Once planning is finalized, details will be available on the Auckland Ulysses website.

Badges and embroidered cloth badges this year will need to be 'pre-ordered' and collected at the event, to place your order please email: Auckland.sec@ulysses.org.nz or phone 021 844040.

Hot drinks and biscuits will be available in the main foyer on your arrival in the afternoon. A donation will be appreciated.

The Remembrance Service starts at 2pm, please be early so you can be seated in the hall before that time.

A formal ride of respect through Taupō will be held on the day of the service. All ride details will be available in the Branch Newsletters and websites closer to the event.

Any questions, please contact: Auckland Branch President, or Peggy O'Neal at remembrance@ulysses.org.nz.

Please also keep visiting our website: www.ulyssesauckland.org.nz



ROTORUA OKATAINA RALLY 2026

**MAKE MEMORIES • RECONNECT
18TH - 20TH SEPTEMBER FROM 3PM ONWARDS**

- Spring Dates this time round!**
Another weekend off the grid to catch up with members. Friday night catchups, Saturday day ride and then an evening with an awesome band playing 60's themed music.
- Bar available - bar tickets can be purchased on the day
 - Sunday clean up and move out.
 - Accm: Bed Included - Just bring your sleeping bag
 - Meals: Includes Friday night, Saturday cooked breakfast, light lunch if you don't ride. Evening meal yummo defo worth it, Sunday cooked breakfast
 - No Dogs allowed
 - Dietary Req: No special needs catered for
 - Price: \$120 Per person inc patch

REGISTRATION: BNZ Rotorua Branch 02-0412-0032076-01
With your name and Ulysses number.
Last day for registration is August 21st, 2026

Please email registration form to:
malandyndabain@gmail.co.nz



NAME:.....
PARTNER
ULYSSES No.....

EMAIL:.....
ADDRESS.....

MOB:.....
ENTRY FEE PAID: \$.....



Confirmation email will be sent once registration & pymt received.
No REFUNDS after close off date.
I agree to abide by the rules & regulations for the rally and will hold blameless all organizers and officials associated with the rally, for any injury or damage while participating at the event including travelling to or from the event. Please NO BYO!

Signed:..... Partner.....

CONTACT: Lynda Bain MOB: 021 580 770

Taranaki Branch, Ulysses Club, Energy Rally 2026.

6th to 8th November 2026



Back to Basics style of rally.

Venue TSB TOPEC, Hydro Road, State Highway 3 Junction Road New Plymouth.

Name Ulysses #

Address Phone #

Pillion Ulysses #

E-mail

Cabins available for at least 80 people, first in first served. **Bring Sleeping Bag and Pillow.** Room to bring the Motor Home, Caravan or Tent.

Cost	Number	Total	
Friday night BBQ	\$12.00 p/p	-----	\$-----
Saturday Breakfast	\$8.00 p/p	-----	\$-----
Sunday Breakfast	\$8.00 p/p	-----	\$-----
Saturday evening meal	\$30.00 p/p	-----	\$-----
Friday accommodation	\$20.00 P/P	-----	\$-----
Saturday accommodation	\$20.00 P/P	-----	\$-----

Tea and coffee available all weekend.

Cut-off Date, 18th October 2026.

Total \$-----

The Taranaki Branch Ulysses Club will have a liquor licence for alcohol sales, so there will be no BYO, the prices will be very reasonable. Thank you. Also we will have Eftpos machine available.

Camp will be open for arrivals after 4.00 pm on Friday.

In signing this form I/We agree to abide by all rules and regulations for the event and will hold blameless all organizers and officials connected with the event for injury or damage while traveling or participating in the event.

Signed Date

Please forward this form to harrybayliss@xtra.co.nz
with your remittance to

Ac Name: Ulysses Club Taranaki

Internet banking Bank Ac 15-3949-0289502-00

Use your Name as Code and Ulysses number as reference.

Contact Harry Bayliss on 0274705300 with any queries.

Add this to your calendar now!

**NOV 8TH
2026**

ULYSSES WHAKATANE MOUNTAIN TO SEA *Charity Ride*



**Hato Hone
St John**

**All money raised will be donated to
Local St John Ambulance Service**

Registration from 10am, Ride briefing 10.55am, Stands-up 11am

ENTRY FEE \$20

Coffee, tea and cake for a small fee at registration

**Ride starts at Kawerau New World Carpark and concludes at
Thornton Beach Holiday Park with BBQ, Raffles and Prizegiving.**

Ride length between 100 and 120km



**Enquiries to Tricky Cunningham 027 629 3317
or Theo Duyvestyn 027 492 2280**

Announcements will be made on social media prior to
8am in case of extreme weather.

Sunshine Coast Hinterland

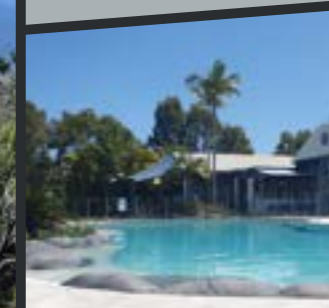


April 2027



One moment you're carving flowing S-bends along a ridgeline with distant ocean glimpses. The next, you're descending into cool green valleys where the temperature drops a few degrees.

This is a real "riders ride" with Karel & Howard as your Tour guides.



magicmotorcycling

"Howard and Karel are fantastic tour guides, everything about our trip was well organised with amazing roads and locations." - Irene, NZ

www.magicmotorcycletours.com



**38th Waikato Branch
Annual Rally**

13 - 15 November 2026

**Entry Fee - \$25.00 per person, Tea, Coffee, Hot water, Gas rings,
Breakfast. BYO food, utensils, refreshments & accommodation.**

Tin tops and caravans OK.

The Ulysses Club's first Back to Nature Rally and still going after 37 years.
No bands. No organised entertainment.

Directions - From Whakamaru, travel south on SH32 (Western Access) for approx 24kms.
Turn right into Kakaho Road (Look for Ulysses sign) then 3km to campsite.

**Enquiries to N Tyler 078288230, 0274943506, nevtlyer@xtra.co.nz.
Registration and payment (cash) on site please.**

Ulysses Members. Family & Dearest Friends only.

I agree to hold the organizers blameless for any injury or accidental damage
while attending or travelling to or from this event.

NATIONAL AGM TAUPO 2027



Leaving late morning Saturday.

Our merchandise (Polo shirts and caps) have been designed without bad taste in mind and I feel that they are quite a smart addition to the wardrobe and reasonably priced.

We are all excited to have you visit us and we hope that we can match up to previous AGMs.



Well, it is less than a year away now and it seems to have a lot to live up to given the success of this year's AGM in Nelson. Well done, Whakatu.

Next year we have booked the premium site in Taupo, this being the Great Lake centre. Many of you will remember it as the venue for the remembrance ride weekend. We have booked the main hall which a good size for our needs.

As you will see from the REG form, our dates are mid-February 19/20, so booking accommodation at least should be priority as this is a popular destination. There are however a lot of options for accommodation.

We have kept costs to a minimum to kept expenses for us all, at a reasonable level.

We have requested permission for Self-contained campers to park adjacent to the venue, but still waiting for a reply and a deadline to meet for the Mag.

The theme this year is Bad Taste which does conjure up some wonderful ideas but then again, a lot of us could come as we are LOL. We have a 5-piece band booked

who do some great covers so bring your dancing shoe. Could even be a bit of line dancing, so brush up on those moves.

You will see we are planning to offer finger food and nibbles in the early Friday evening as there are many wonderful venues in town if you want a meal.

Registration pick ups will be from mid-day Friday to 4pm and 9am Saturday to 4pm. If you are later than that, not a problem, just find an official looking body.

Taupo has a lot to offer and is a great springboard for a bit of a trip around our island. Great time of year as well. There is a lot to do here, and you will see that we will be doing a boat ride out to our famous Maori carvings across the lake, which quite a fun trip with drinks on board. The shops here are quite popular for the ladies with a few different items for sale. We have a strong cultural identity here being the Waikato region so a visit to our Museum (adjacent to the venue), is worth a visit.

We will of course have a group ride around the lake (160km) with a lunch stop in Turangi

ULYSSES CLUB NZ at GREAT LAKE CENTRE TAUPO 2027 NATIONAL RALLY & AGM 19-20 FEBRUARY 2027



NAME		ADDRESS	
ULYSSES No	COORDINATOR		
	NATCOM		
PHONE No		Email add	

PARTNER	PARTNER ULYSSES No
---------	--------------------

FEES - please note cut-off dates	NUMBER	PER PERSON	COST
RALLY REGISTRATION FEE - (cut-off 15/01/2027)		\$ 45.00	
TAUPO CLOTH CAP - (cut-off 15/12/2026)		\$ 25.00	
TAUPO METAL RALLY BADGE - (cut-off 15/12/2026)		\$ 10.00	
TAUPO POLO SHIRT - (cut-off 15/12/2026)		\$ 50.00	
NATIONAL METAL BADGE - (cut-off 15/12/2026)		\$ 10.00	

EVENTS

FRIDAY EVENING LIGHT SNACKS - 6pm to 8pm	Great lake centre	Complimentary
SATURDAY EVENING MEAL - 6pm to late	Great lake centre	\$ 56.00
SATURDAY Afternoon ride round the lake / lunch stop		Own expense
SATURDAY Afternoon boat on the lake - (cut-off 15/12/2026)		\$ 75.00
	TOTAL	

RALLY THEME : BAD TASTE

SPOT PRIZES FOR BEST "BAD" DRESSED AND WORST TASTE

POLO SHIRT SIZING. PLEASE CIRCLE SIZE REQUIRED.

MEN	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4xl
LADIES	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
						22	24

PAYMENT to Taupo Ulysses Club, Bank account number: 02-0428-0262773-025

Please include your Ulysses Number and your surname.

USE QR CODE OR REGISTER ONLINE AT: <https://sites.google.com/view/taupoagm27/home>

OR EMAIL AND SCAN TO taupoagm27@gmail.com

Acknowledgement will be sent by E mail

ENQUIRIES : STEVE 021795645

POSTAL ADDRESS: 40 Tui Street, Taupo, 3330

Email : taupoagm27@gmail.com

Cancellation policy: In the event of another pandemic situation or natural event and or warfare, every effort will be made to refund.



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PREMIUM MODULAR SMART HELMET ENGINEERED FOR THE LONG HAUL



Mesh Intercom 3.0



2nd Generation
Harman Kardon

WAVE
INTERCOM

Wave Intercom



Automatic Power
On/Off



P/J Homologation



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