



*So? You coming.....?*

## **Telemachus Medal Presentation**

**Geoff Ball (46425) and Jill Ball (48805)**

**October 9, 2013**

Most of you will know that the Ulysses Club honours members who make a significant contribution to the good of the Club over an extended period by awarding them a Dearnley Medal (named after our founder).

Considering that our most recent member has been allocated a number in excess of 62,000 and that the honour has only been bestowed less than 45 times you will appreciate the significance of the award.

We are honoured that one of our members is a Dearnley recipient - Mike Smith.

Some of you may not be aware but there is also an honour bestowed at a level below the Dearnley called a Telemachus (named after the son of Odysseus and Penelope, and a central character in Homer's Odyssey from which we get "Ulysses").

This is awarded to a person considered by any branch to have contributed to that branch in a significant way over a period of time.

Nominations must be submitted in writing by the branch committee to NatCom and, whilst the selection process is not as onerous as is that for a Dearnley, it is subject to extensive scrutiny and unless the case is well presented and deserved it could be rejected.

Last year I proposed a nomination from our Branch to our committee for this honour but, unfortunately, due to other pressures we couldn't make it happen.

I'm very pleased to confirm that this year's Committee was able to keep the ball rolling and NatCom have approved our application.

This marks a significant milestone for our Branch as, to date, there are very few Telemachus Medal holders in WA – none at Fremantle!

Geoff & Jill Ball – will you join me here on stage, please?

Fremantle Branch, visitors and guests – may I present to you the latest Telemachus Medal recipients – Geoff & Jill Ball!

I'd like share a section of our nomination proposal to NatCom with you.

Geoff and Jill joined the Ulysses Club in 2007 – Geoff in February and Jill in October (the 15th in fact so almost an anniversary) and quickly aligned themselves with Fremantle Branch. Geoff and Jill brought with them a wealth of experience and stories from their lives, particularly as coach tour operators, and have often regaled us with many hilarious stories on club nights about the different characters they have encountered along the way.

Geoff has easily adapted this humour into life within Fremantle Branch and gives a monthly review of the previous month's rides with his regular "Blast from the Rear" spot and this year as the M.U.G. 'sergeant'.

Geoff has a wonderful ability to entertain and has members in stitches with his energy and wit when recounting events that have occurred on these rides. Nobody is safe from involvement in these stories and the Branch always waits in eager anticipation to hear what he has unearthed!

At every social meeting Geoff and Jill partake in the activities of the evening. They undertook the responsibility of drawing the raffle, which is how Jill received her "Barrel Girl" title. Interestingly, other local branches know Jill by this name as well; such is the level of their 'notoriety'.

They are also responsible for heads and tails which they do with much drama and flourish. If you are the lucky winner the Barrel Girl gives you a kiss as well as your small prize, this causes much laughter along with Geoff's constant hilarious commentary.

Geoff leads the social meeting members in a rendition of Happy Birthday – often off key but with lots of passion nonetheless.

Geoff and Jill are also consistent attendees on rides and invariably take the role of "Tail End Charlie" (TEC) which is done seriously, complete with First Aid training and equipment thus ensuring the safety of all members participating.

Geoff and Jill are highly valued branch members who are well liked and respected by everyone in Fremantle. They are caring, compassionate, funny, reliable and relate well to all members. They are much loved and their contribution to Fremantle Branch is widely recognised and commended.

We, the Committee, strongly recommend both Geoff and Jill are awarded the Telemachus Medal for their contribution to Fremantle Branch which is above and beyond what one would expect.

They truly are wonderful people who are actively engaged in every facet of Fremantle Branch life and live the motto of "Growing Old Disgracefully".

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