

wheezy Rider

Newsletter of the Fremantle group

Nov 2012
No 136

Newsletter of the Fremantle Branch of the Ulysses Club of Australia Inc

Price
\$1.00

Teacher to a student: "Can you think of a solution to end unemployment?"

"Yes, sir! I'd put all the men on one island and the women on another."

"And what would they be doing then?"

"Building boats!"

Greetings Troops!

Unfortunately, I've been away a lot of the past month for work so I'm not up to speed with all the ride happenings. I'm looking forward to hearing the stories on Wednesday night! One ride I did go on was Eric's to Bunbury for the miniature engineering event last Saturday. The level of detail those guys build into traction engines, let alone the expertise required to operate them, is amazing. Very educational, Eric – thank you for organizing.

Sadly, Robin Bosse has had to resign from the Branch Committee due to personal reasons but Mike Smith has agreed to fill the casual vacancy thus created. Thank you Robin for your work and Mike for stepping up.

As it's the end of the year I have some seasonal stuff to share this month.

Firstly: Don't forget our Christmas Party this year is on December 15th at the Zaretsky's from 6pm. As usual Santa will attend to distribute your Secret Santa Gifts. Please bring a gift to a maximum value of \$10 and if you can make it humorous all the better! Please wrap appropriately and mark the package as to Boy, Girl or indifferent as you determine it! Catering will be in the form of a roast (probably lamb and pork) with salads and a seasonal dessert. Entertainment will be by Juke Box – probably with a karaoke facility (if past years are anything to go by – should be a hoot)! Please plan around getting home legally, responsibly and safely. If you'd prefer to bring a swag, tent or similar I'm sure the "Z"s would be happy to have you camp somewhere!

Next: UCARF. The Club will again be running a raffle in support of our main fund-raising initiative – the Ulysses Club Arthritis Research Fund. Funds are raised by branches selling books of tickets. Twenty tickets to a book and \$2 each – no volume discount. As always there are great prizes – details elsewhere in the Wheezy. The hope of the Club is that very member will sell at least one book of tickets. I'll be looking for an indication from the membership at Wednesday night's meeting so that we can guesstimate the quantity to order. If you won't be at the meeting but would like to assist this worthy venture – please let me know.

Annual Jurien Bay venture is this coming week-end with rides departing Ginger's on both Friday and Saturday mornings – check the Calendar for details.

2012 Motorcycle Safety Week will launch on November 25th – also see Calendar for details – including the annual Jo-Rider Promotion where members who ride frequently are asked to wear a branded hi-viz vest. See Eric for a vest at the Wednesday meeting – but remember they are only for loan and must be returned.

The annual Charity Run by Mandurah/Murray Branch is on December 8th if you're interested – again see calendar for details.

That's it from me for this month apart from the usual plea for Ride Leader's – there are far too many green sections instead of red sections on the coming Sundays.

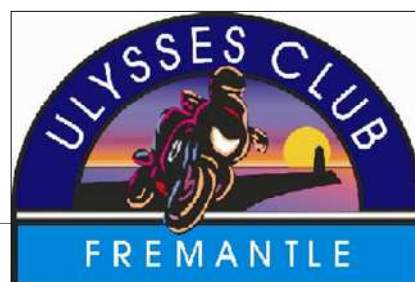
I hope you have a great couple of months before we – formally at least – meet up again in January.

Keep the paint up and the rubber down!

Spence (53780)



We don't care....We ride



FREMANTLE BRANCH MEETING

2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH AT SWAN YACHT CLUB.

The committee is the servant of the Group, not the Master

2011/2012 COMMITTEE:

President Ron Spencer (Spence) Member 53780
President@ulyssesfremantle.com

Secretary/Treasurer Eric Ilett Member 40021
SecTreas@ulyssesfremantle.com

Committee Andy Gibb Member 53603
Wil Duncan Member 20116
Steve Zeretzky Member 42121
Robin Bosse Member 34615

Ride Coordinator Anthony Collins Member 34687
RideCo@ulyssesfremantle.com

Wheezy Rider Editor Mick Katarski Member 55306
Editor@ulyssesfremantle.com

Web Master Ron Spencer Member 53780
Webmaster@ulyssesfremantle.com

Quartermaster Eric Ilett Member 40021
Qm@ulyssesfremantle.com

AROUND THE BRANCHES

ARMADALE BRANCH

Richard Peddel 93908764

BUNBURY BRANCH

Trevor Rose 0407998872 trevrose@westnet.com.au

ESPERANCE BRANCH

Steve Smith (Homer) homers@westnet.com.au

GERALDTON BRANCH

Bruce Ralph 08-99642392 0427-642-392

Bruce Ralph ralphy@wn.com.au

JOONDALUP GROUP

Ken Eaton 0893012727 ken@eatondesign.com.au

MANDURAH BRANCH

President mmugpres@hotmail.com

Secretary mmugsec@hotmail.com

PERTH BRANCH

John Gliddon 93320440 0417-945-789

WARNBRO SOUND WANDERERS

Lee Mannering, Branch President, 0411 097 128

Sandra Dix, Branch Secretary, 0413 513 039

GREAT SOUTHERN BRANCH

Ray Prior 0898429293 guzzirider@aapt.net.au

KALGOORLIE

Andrew Mason 0890914220 0419922860

WEB ADDRESSES

National Ulysses site: www.ulyssesclub.org

Fremantle Ulysses site: www.ulyssesfremantle.com

Note: Next meeting, Wed 14th November 2012

And as always

Wednesday morning Plods from South beach kiosk assemble at 9:00am for a 9:30am start. If you're an early riser, some members meet for breakfast at 8:00am before the Plod.

The group will meet at the Ill Capriccio Café Bar corner of South Terrace and Commercial Street South Fremantle. There is 2 hour parking across the road and also behind the Indian restaurant on the opposite corner of Commercial Street.

The Saturday morning coffee get togethers commence at 10:00am. at the Victoria Café. This café is located at the eastern end of the Fremantle 'E' Shed Markets. Great Coffee, come and give it a try.



DISCLAIMER. All expressions of opinion are published on the basis that they are not to be regarded as expressing the official opinion of the Ulysses Club but are included for general interest only. The Ulysses Club Fremantle Branch accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any of the opinions or information contained in the Wheezy Rider and readers should rely on their own enquiries in making any decisions touching their own interest. Errors and omissions excepted. Publication of articles at Editor's discretion.

Quartermasters Ramblings

Dec 2012



New!



Looks like a plain Pink or Black mug..... until you add hot water!!!



Same pattern as the stubby holder.

Amazing Colour changing mugs
\$15.00



Luggage Tag great for travellers. Has Old Man Logo on the front and room for Name, Address & Phone number on rear.
\$8.00



**ORDERS CAN BE MADE ON LINE
OR PHONE THE
NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE ON 1300 134 123**



Ulysses Denim Shirt

Available in short sleeve **\$39.00** or long sleeve **\$41.00**
(very limited sizes)

Reversible Vest **\$40.50** is just perfect for those spring rides.



Ulysses Black Jacket
sizes S – 4XL
\$40.00



Ugly Fish Sunnies.

Regular and slim size available.

\$55.00



Teddy Bears in cream or brown wearing Ulysses t-shirt and jacket
\$35.00





Number Plate Frame for motorbikes.
Comes in black **or** chrome, top or bottom display. 2 plate sizes available, 185mm x 100mm, or 220mm x 100mm.
\$9.00



Number Plate Frame for car or trailer.
Black only with "Grow Old Disgracefully"
on the bottom **\$9.00**
Fits plate size 375mm x 135mm .



Ulysses Backpack. Has front strap to prevent slipping when riding. Carry your phone, wallet, keys, camera etc. Comes with weather proof cover which tucks away in its own pocket when not needed. **\$28.00**



Wine Opener **\$11.00**
& Hip Flask **\$26.00** Great for picnic in the park or a Day on the Green concerts. Also good for stocking fillers for Christmas.



Stubby Holders in Pink or Black **\$7.00**
Bottle Holder also in Pink or Black
\$7.50 Has a detachable neck strap. Fits Ulysses water bottle and most bottles up to 600ml.



Some exciting news this month is that Ulysses Club has had the opportunity to purchase some leather vests and leather jackets that will be available for sale at the Fraser Coast 2013 AGM Event. These have the Old Man Logo embroidered on the back and are stock from XDC who had a licence agreement with us but is now closing his business.



The Office Staff have asked me to remind you about your Christmas orders. The office will be open up to & including 21st December 2012, but to guarantee delivery before Christmas, the cut off date will be 30th November 2012. Orders will still be processed after this date but may not be delivered in time.



Have very Merry Christmas!

*Chris Glover
National Purchasing Officer*



A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU

AT THE YERECOA TAVERN
GREAT HOME COOKED MEALS

COLDEST BEER FOR MILES

**B B Q FACILITIES. LIMITED
OVER NIGHT ACCOMMODATION
DISCOUNT ON ADVANCE GROUP
BOOKINGS**

SECURE PARKING FOR BIKES

**CONTACT YOUR HOSTS CHARLIE
& DI CLARKE [Ulysses members]**

PHONE 9654 6032 E MAIL

check.point@bigpond.com

Willetton Exhausts
(Proud Web Sponsor)

Working to offer you the best quality in service repairs, replacement and modifications to your automobile's exhaust, Willetton Exhaust remain leaders in the industry.

Everyday cars to high performance vehicles are helped along in performance and economy through Willetton Exhaust, where the team fit and adjust exhausts for all makes and model vehicles.

Come down and visit Wayne at Willetton Exhaust who, with 25 years experience supplying and fitting exhausts for all automobile work, will be able to advise you on the best possible needs for your exhaust problems.

21 Augusta Street, Willetton, 6155
Western Australia

Phone: 9354 5004
Fax: 9259 5401

<http://www.willettonexhaust.com.au/>

**WA Companies who support The Ulysses
Club**

American Motorcycles, 211 Albany
Highway Victoria Park WA 6100 Tel: (08)9361 4884
10% Discount on most
after market parts and workshop

Five Star Yamaha, 54 Rockingham Rd
Hamilton Hill WA 6163 Tel: 08 9430 4090 Up to
20% Discount on parts
and accessories

Honda Country, 59 Dixon Road Rocking-
ham WA 6168 Tel: (08) 9527 5093 Special Ulysses
price on Application

Hoon's Workshop U5/4 Malcolm St, Mad-
dington WA 6109 Tel: Vince 0417 956 523 Trailer,
Towbars, Bike Modifications & Custom Parts painted
or chromed & more..... By a Ulyssian for Ulyssians

**In City Used Motorcycles Pty
Ltd,** 614 Albany Highway Victoria Park WA
6100 Tel: 08 9470 4446 Special Ulysses discount

Kim Britton Kawasaki,
2/91 Dickson Road
Rockingham WA 6168 Tel: 08 9592 1113
Special Ulysses price on Application

Mack 1 Motorcycles,
237 Great Eastern Highway Midland WA 6056 Tel:
(08) 9250 2522

15% Discount on access 5% Disc plus free
tyre Fitting

Motomax
Motorcycle sales, service and parts. 1291 Albany
Highway, Cannington , W.A. 6107. Ph. 9258 8299 or
Ric Steele 0417 977 937. 15% discount.

Motorcycles Plus, 126 Kewdale Road,
Kewdale WA 6105 Tel: (08) 9353 4567 10% dis-
count on parts, labour and repairs and tyres

Southern Cross Caravan Park,
Great Eastern Highway Southern Cross W.A. Tel:
(08) 9049 1212

Discount to Ulysses members

Total Motorcycle Accessories,
1028 Albany Highway East Victoria Park WA Tel:
(08) 9472 3030

Special Ulysses price on Application

Tyres for Bikes
621 Albany Highway, Victoria Park, WA 6100 Tel:
08 9362 6262 10 % Discount

Witch Cycles Suzuki,
109 Day Rd Rockingham WA 6168 Tel: (08) 9527
2398 10% Discount

Safety Zone

Tommy Can You Hear Me? NO! **Ear Protection - The Sound Investment For Riders**

It's not hard in this country to lose your hearing. In the 60s everyone blamed it on the [Vietnam war](#). I had two brothers there and indeed they lost a substantial amount of hearing while in the service. I however was younger and missed the draft - but not the ability to lose over half my hearing. Playing in bands and attending an average of two concerts a week during my 20s did irreparable damage to my ears and audiologists want to put me in the Smithsonian when I die because many of my symptoms amaze them.



I have perfect pitch, but actually hear notes differently depending on which ear they are entering. Due to a correctional ability in my brain it all works out as long as I can hear the note coming into each ear. My brain also recreates lost frequencies in music as long as it has enough to go on either side of the range. But, when it comes to the human voice this is surely not the case.

Then there's the traffic differential. The frequency that traffic din is at is one that I hear well. The frequency range of the human voice is another story as I only hear it half as well. Which basically means my brain processes traffic at twice the level of sound as I hear the human voice! And what about high pitched sounds like birds? Forget it. Luckily I can still see them and as I age they become more interesting to me, but only visually unfortunately. Basically my hearing is pretty screwed up and I live with the handicap for which there is no cure and no insurance coverage.



If you're riding a motorcycle and not protecting your ears with proper plugs you'll be on the road to my world in no time. Constant wind turbulence around your helmet and the general flow of traffic is enough to get you started. If you've ever driven through the Graham Farmer Freeway tunnel at peak hour with a half helmet on, you are asking for real trouble. The sound level in those spots is so loud it's one that can easily tilt your equilibrium and potentially cause you to lose balance along with a percentage of hearing.

Rule of the thumb is that anything over 65 decibels for more than just a couple of minutes will begin to tear away at your hearing ability. Many Australians have already had plenty of this battering and many are already 25% deaf or better just from everyday life in the city.

The solution is simple. No matter how much hearing you have left, beam yourself over to the nearest drug store and invest in a few sets of plugs. Three bucks gets you about 25 pair when you buy them in bulk. Use them each time you ride and you'll be doing yourself a great service. Go through my handbag and riding jacket

There is no law against using ear protection when operating a motor vehicle. The fact is, once you put your plugs in, you will be able to hear most of the same sounds you would hear if you were driving a car with the windows rolled up. Your visual perception will be stronger because your senses won't be processing so much audio information. It's really quite a treat once you get your plugs in and start riding and you will no doubt be able to ride longer because you'll be less tired mentally. I call it tune out and turn on.

Here's a little etiquette for when you're riding with someone else. Speaking to each other with helmets and earplugs on offers you little or no chance to get your point across. If you need to speak to other person about something important set up a hand signal system for requesting a stop. Once you stop, get your helmets off, your plugs out and then speak. Of coarse you'll try communicating with the plugs in and the helmets on and I'll be sitting across the street watching your frustration, but I won't hear a thing.

TM/July 99

Tiger Prowling by Wendy



WANDIN posted 11 Nov 2012

Just lazed around yesterday and went for a couple of rides around the property on the Tiger. Hit a log hidden in the long grass and bent my brake lever but managed to straightened that out in no time. [Lucky](#) it wasn't my foot that got hit. Also had a few rides of a BMW Sertao G650 which is built for paddock bashing. That was fun, a bit lighter than the Tiger, knobby tyres and a 21" front wheel makes a big



Today we went out for a ride around the Dandenongs. Such a beautiful day. We rode thru Mt Evelyn, Silvan, Monbulk, Olinda for lunch then Sassafrass, Callista, Belgrave, Selby, Clematis, Emerld, Avonslea, Maccasfield, Seville and back home to Wandin. Had dinner over at my brothers place which was great. Dragged out the old family [photos](#) and had a bit of a laugh as you do. So good to see him & the family.



Port Fairy to Wandin posted 10 Nov 2012

Left Port Fairy after packing up the tent in the rain. I think this must be the wettest November right across Australia. I was heading to Apollo Bay via the Great Ocean Road to explore the Otways area for a couple of days and set up camp in a National Park. I stopped at all the lookouts and took the standard tourists photos of the Bay of Isles, The Grotto, etc.

After riding along for a couple of hours and getting almost blown away, the rain got heavier, the crappy Victorian roads got even more slippery and the temperature dropped even further, down to 8 degrees. I looked at the gravel road into the N.P and it looked very wet and slippery. Don't think the Tiger would adapt to well to mud.

Again I decided I was a bit over the weather so made the decision to ride onto Wandin to stay with Dad for a few days. Missed my exit on the M1 and ended up riding thru the heart of Melbourne in peak hour traffic on a Friday evening. I must say riding in peak hour, rain and with tram lines was interesting. I have heard people have died riding across tram lines on a bike. Took me ages before I built up the courage to do so. Very scary experience. Good move Wendy.

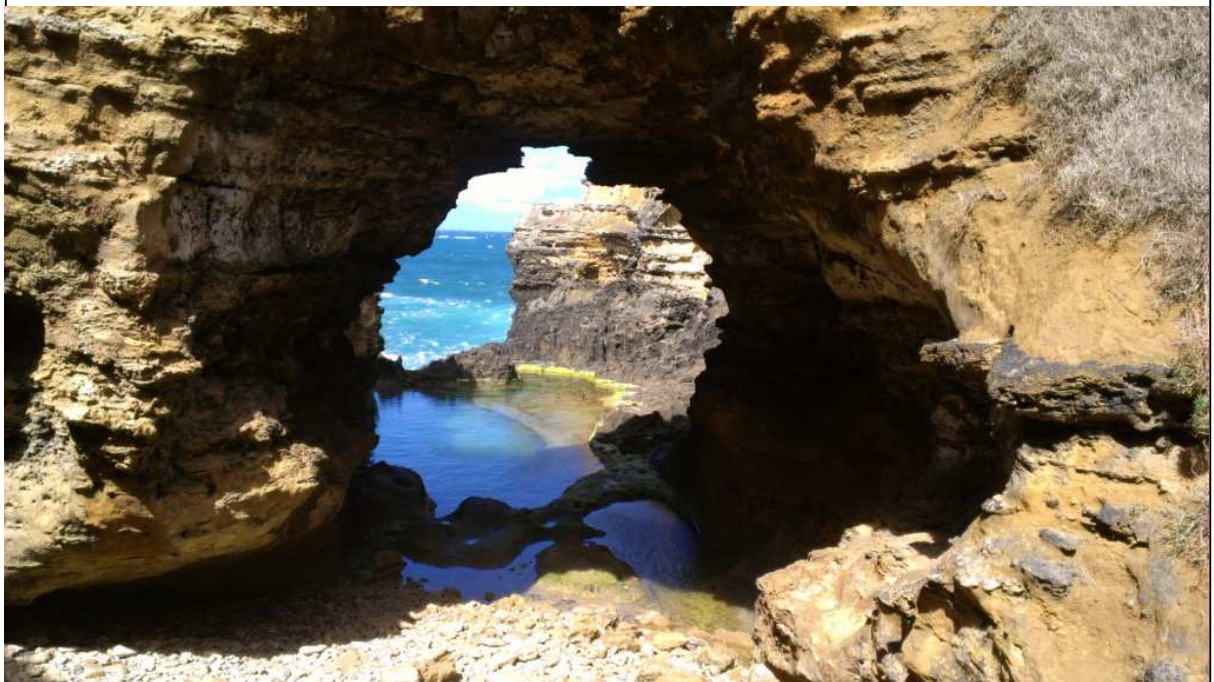
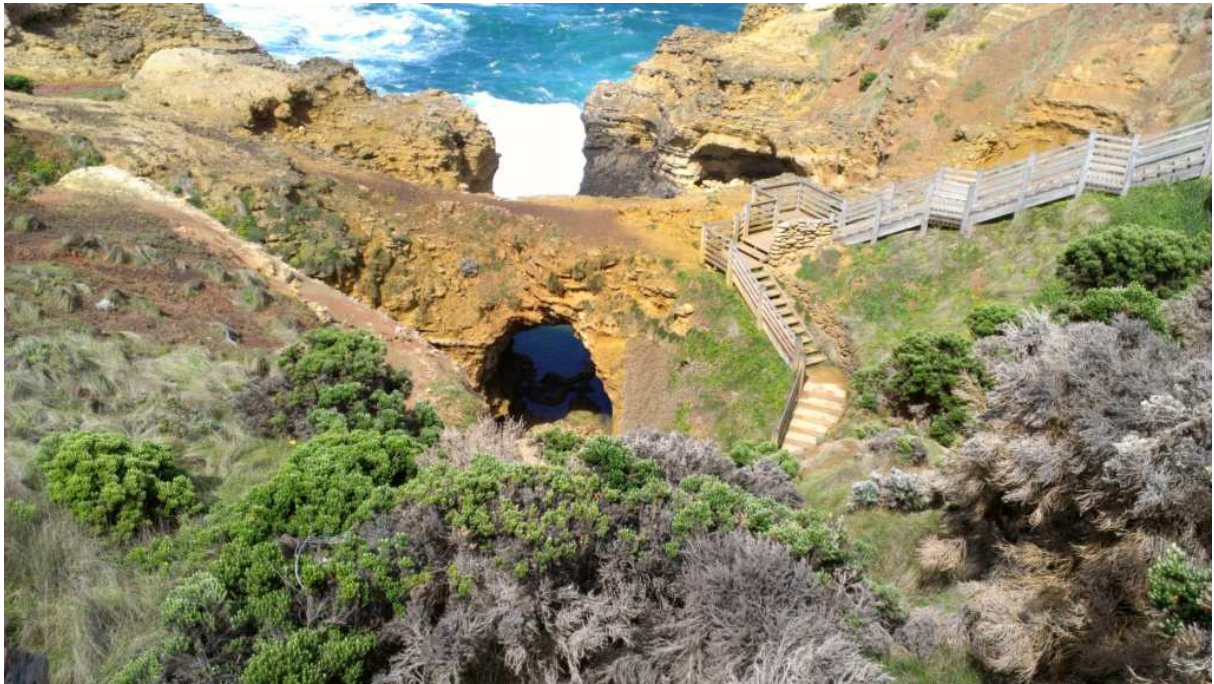
Got to Dad's at about 6.30pm and was relieved to be out of the rain. Was so good to catch up with the family.

London Bridge



The Grotto





Portland and Fairy posted 8 Nov 2012

Left the Grampians this morning although I could have spent another day there exploring. Such a beautiful place, but I had to move on. Rode thru Hamilton, Heywood and ended up in Portland. Rode the Tiger out along a long jetty, so now he's been to sea. No picture proof as it was a bit windy and I didn't want him swimming. Took the tourist drive out to Cape Nelson.



Rode around to Cape Bridgewater which had pretty beaches, blowholes and a petrified forest, which are interesting rock formations made by acid water cementing sand together underneath the surface, then over thousands of years the sand has eroded away leaving these tube like structures sticking up in the air. The whole area looked like something from Mars.



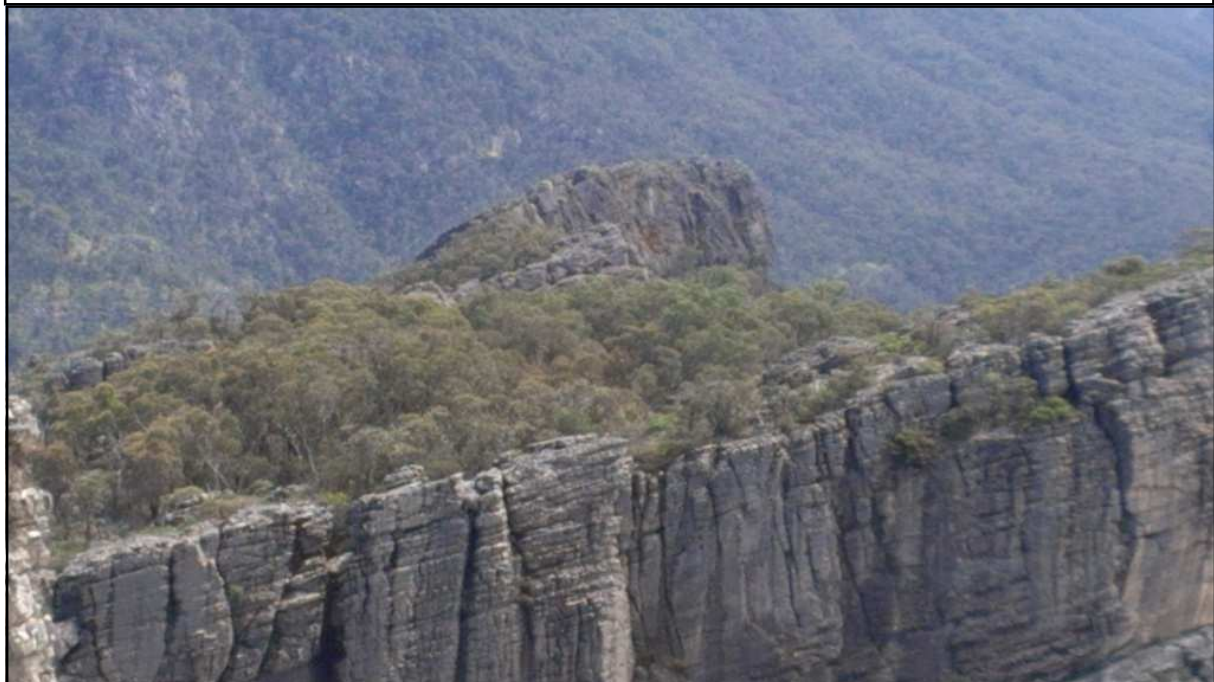
From Portland I was back on the highway for 75kms to Port Fairy. Highlight of the ride was I saw a koala up in a tree by the side of the road. How exciting. Port Fairy is such a pretty town with it's little cottages and old stone buildings scattered around the town. Took a walk along the Moyne River and the wharf in which



Rode out along Ocean Drive to view the towns beaches then headed back for a walk around Griffiths Island. The island supports a small mob of swamp Wallabies and is also the breeding grounds for thousands of Shearwaters or Mutton-Birds. I also found another lighthouse and the walk is scattered with informative boards about the history of the area.



Decided to stay another night in The Grampians as I wanted to go for a walk up to the Pinnacle. What a view which made the 4.4km trek up the rocks worth it. On such a nice day too. Lots of wildflowers and little lizards sunning themselves. Called into Halls Gap again to give the Tiger a drink and stock up on supplies. The Tiger gets thirsty when I keep going up & back Mt Victory Rd. Such a cool bike road.



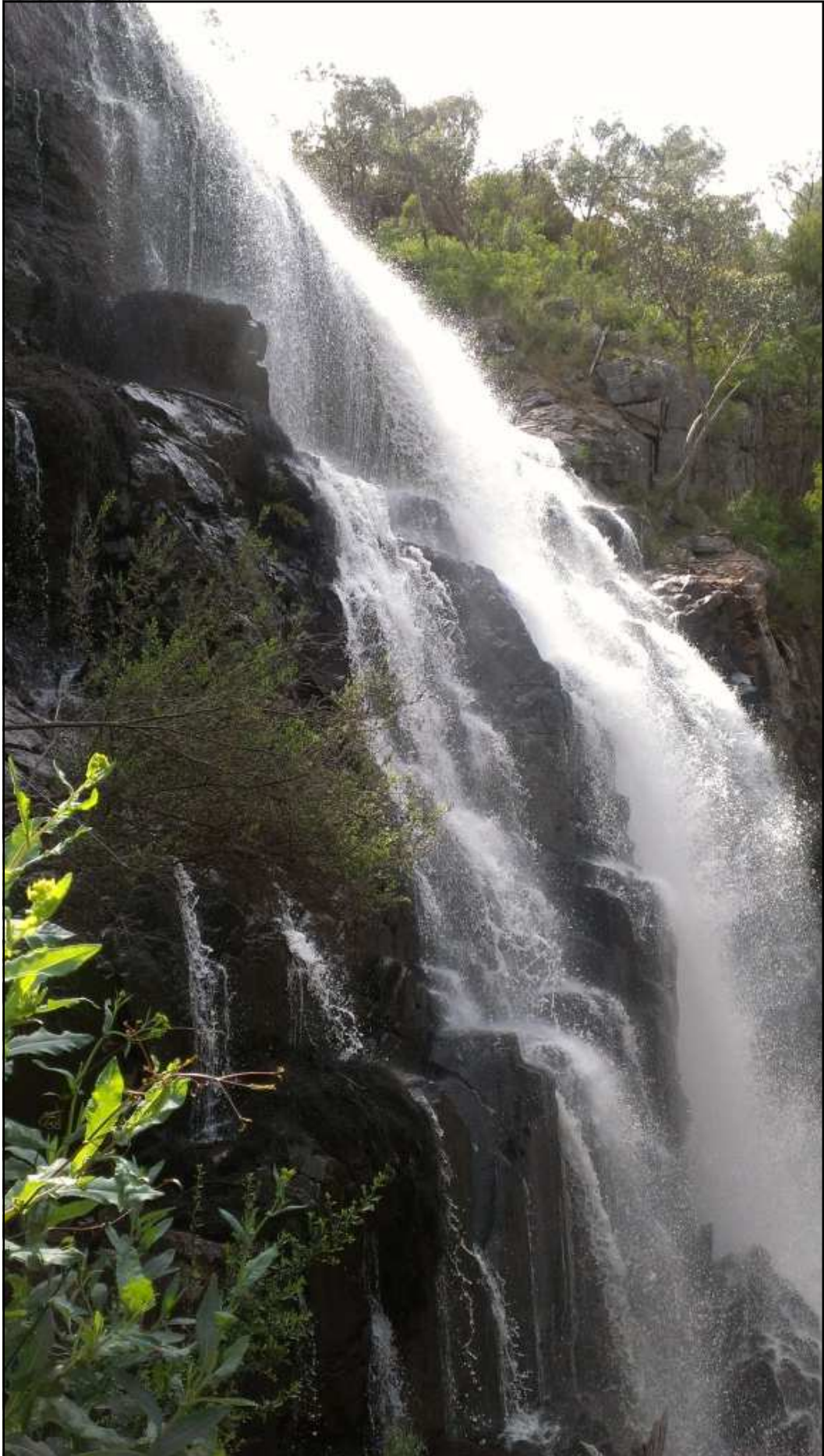


Horsham to the Grampians posted 8 Nov 2012

What an awesome day, weather wise and adventure wise. Not in a hurry to leave Horsham as I only had about 75kms to ride to Halls Gap, which is the heart of the Grampians. Left the highway at Northern Grampians Rd which in turn lead into Mt Victory Rd. What an awesome road. The bike was in 2nd or 3rd nearly all the way as the road is so challenging and bendy, you really wouldn't want to go any faster,



I stopped off at Mackenzie Falls and did the walk to the base of the falls. Pretty spectacular and a long way down. The walk back up was no fun especially with bike gear on. After a short recovery under the shady trees, I was off again this time stopping at Reed Lookout. Again the views were outstanding. Thought I'd better cease stopping at all these places and find a campsite in the National Park. Decided to camp at Jimmy Creek which provided me with a nice grassey spot, clean pit toilet and even a outdoor shower. What more does a girl need?



Still had half the day to explore so I rode back to Halls Gap, wandered around the cute little shops and then rode back up that awesome bendy road to Boroka Lookout.



A few more stop offs on the way back to camp and one was for a photo of 3 deers grazing in the wild just on the fringe of town. I got within about 10mts of them. Cheeky little deers. Next stop was for a Black Wallaby sitting on the side of the road.



Got back to camp and met 3 lovely couples in caravans and whose hubbies all ride motor bikes, so guess what the topic around the campfire was all about? Had such a good night toasting marshmallows, sharing red wine and chatting to these people, I didn't get to bed till after midnight. Last night I wanted to pack up and go home because of the crappy weather I had endured the last 4 days. Today, a bit of sunshine and somewhere interesting to visit and I'm staying. Victoria lookout, Wendy's on the prowl.

Gawler to Horsham posted 5 Nov 2012

Managed to pack up the tent with no wind and no rain this morning. Got the GPS out for the first time to get myself out of Gawler. I had the nicest ride thru the Adelaide hills to get onto Dukes Hwy. Thru Lyndoch, Williamstown, Mannum, Murray Bridge and onto Tailem Bend. Lots of hills and bends. Thought it would make a great Ulysses ride thru there. I've done the reccy, lets go Freo.....

Had lunch at Bordertown which I seemed to attract some attention. Chick on a bike thing. No joke, guys were milling around for a chance to talk to me and Tiger. I got one guys' whole life story and saw pictures of all his bikes on his phone, then I got an invite to Ballarat. Funny really but I thought I was never going to escape him. Very friendly in Bordertown.

Then the wind started. Think it caught up to me from Gawler . Massive cross wind for about 100 kms. At times I was worried about being blown across the road in front of on coming trucks. It was that strong. All I seemed to do was hang on and ride that bike to the white line on the left side of the road. I thought if I pull over I would have got blown off the bike anyway. Then, up ahead it all went dark. A huge dust storm crossing the road. It seemed to go on forever. Poor Tiger, he's filthy. Didn't make it to the Grampians today as it started raining and I was well and truley over the wind. I'm staying in a cottage at the Wimmera Lakes Caravan Resort which is very nice. It gave me a chance to do some food shopping, washing and re-organise my bags. Tomorrow the Grampians.

I've had some pretty extreme weather since leaving Perth last Thursday, surely it has to get better soon. It's November. What's the bet it snows when I get up to Kosciuszko. Just my luck.

Streaky Bay to Gawler SA posted 5 Nov 2012

Didn't really want to leave Streaky Bay but thought I must push on. Such a relaxing place. People say the Nullarbor is boring to cross. I tend to think between Kimba and Port Augusta is the boring part of the journey. It seems to go on forever. Crossing the bridge in Port Augusta I saw a nice looking park by the water and thought that would make my perfect lunch stop. Hopped off the bike, made a nice chicken wrap and no sooner than I took my first bite, an aboriginal bloke approached me. We introduced ourselves then he asked me for \$10. When I said no, he insisted I give him my lunch. I offered him a wrap with no chicken as I had used the last of the chicken, then he handed it back and said he wanted mine with the chicken. As we argued over my lunch, I kept eating it and was down to about half. I made a deal with him, if I had one more bite and give him the rest, would he leave me alone and walk away. He agreed to this and I had to give up my bloody lunch. Not fair, I was starving. With that I packed up and left my cheery little lunch time river spot.

Couldn't decide where to go after Port Augusta. My travel plan said I should have gone across to Burra, Renmark and then onto Mildura. For some reason I decided to go to Gawler and from there I would do the Grampians and the bottom half of Victoria, then go up to the Mountains and go back home across the top of the state. Keep in mind, I made this decision on a half empty stomach and when I'm hungry, I'm angry, so who knows whether I made the right decision or not. Stayed at Gawler Caravan Park for the night. Thought I was going to get blown away. The wind sprung up at about 11.30pm and didn't die down till about 4.00am. I had visions of tree branches falling on my tent or my bike blowing over, the wind was that strong. I survived so that's the main thing.

Eucla to Streaky Bay posted 5 Nov 2012

What a beautiful day for riding. It was warm enough to take the liner out of my jacket and drink about 3 litres of water. Thirsty work this bike riding across the Nullarbor. Stopped off at 'Head of the Bight' for some camera shots but I think it's too late in the season for whales. None today.

I was heading towards Port Augusta today but I've lost a bit of time weathering the storms the last two days and don't think I would have had enough time to get there before dusk.

After speaking to a couple at Penong who mentioned they were going thru to Streaky Bay, I change my route and decided that sounded nice. So glad I did as Streaky Bay is lovely and peaceful. My campsite is right on the beach with one of the best views. Not bad for \$24 a night.

Head of the Bight



Pelicans waiting for fish scraps at Streaky Bay SA



Norseman to Eucla posted 2 Nov 2012

Big day today. Started off nice and sunny and just because I was finally all dried out from yesterday and taking the weather for granted, a huge thunderstorm tracked me down just outside of Madura. There was lightening all around and the rain was so heavy at times I was forced to slow down to about 40km/hr so I could see what was in front of me. I managed to out ride the storm and just watched it follow behind me all the way to Eucla.

Booked a room at the Eucla Motel as there was no way I wanted to remain wet all night. Had to slow down for about 6 roos on the road this afternoon. Lucky I have been practicing those emergency stops at 110km/hr. Came in handy today. They are everywhere. Dead ones everywhere too. Saw an emu. Lucky he was just strolling along cause I didn't see him till the last minute and I also saw 3 huge eagles taking off from a road side feast as I rode by. Massive wing spans.

Pulled into Eucla at about 4pm and decided to call it a day after 702kms. Met up with 3 guys coming back from Phillip Island and we stood around and talked bikes for a while. Most expensive fuel price I paid today was \$2.11/ ltr and that wasn't premium fuel. Apart from the thunderstorm and the degree of difficulty with the wild-life on the road, I had a super ride. The Nullabor is not all open plains of nothing as the vegetation is forever changing and there is always something to look at.



Perth to Norseman posted 1 Nov 2012

Left home at 7am in the sunshine. One hour later it starts raining. It followed me all the way to Norseman. Consistently wet and at times heavy. That wasn't meant to happen. Good ride thou with lots of trucks going backwards and forwards to Kalgoorlie and heaps of motorbikes heading towards Perth. They are all returning from Phillip Island, from the race last weekend.

After a quick lunch and a chat with the Sulfur Crested Cockatoo at Southern Cross, I was on the road again. I noticed little rivers starting to form along the sides of the road, then water across the road. Oh dear. It was getting quite dangerous and the fact I was freezing cold and soaked right thru, I thought it would be best to stop for the night in Norseman. I was also worried the road into Fraser Range Station, were I was heading, would be a red river by now.

The weatherman says tomorrow will be a nicer day for riding. Lets see if he's right. Hope so, I need to dry all this stuff out.

My Trip itinerary posted 27 Oct 2012

I have been planning my trip itinerary for about 6 mths now, although I keep changing it to try and cram more stuff in. Who knows where I'll end up once I leave Perth.

This is the plan anyway:

Fraser Range Station

Nullarbor RH

Pandurra Station

Berri

Mildura

Benalla

Bright

Kosciuszko NP

Omeo

Dargo

Phillip Island

Wandin/Melbourne

Apollo Bay

Port Fairy

Grampians

Adelaide

Clare Valley

Flinders Ranges

Fowlers Bay

Fraser Range Station

Home



One week to go posted 23 Oct 2012

With one week to go, the days are just flying by. The Tiger is off to JCS Motorcycles tomorrow for a pre-trip service. He is also getting a rear tyre fitted and new chain & sprockets, just to be sure. Today I received a new throttle lock which should work a treat on the Nullarbor. It's a 'Go Cruise' which seems to be very simple in design and has been highly recommended.

I'm taking the Android tablet to post my daily blogs & keep in touch with family & friends. My Sony Action Camera will be mounted on my helmet along the more interesting roads & tracks so hopefully I will be able to post up a video or two. My tent is a MSR Hubba Hubba, mattress is an Exped which is the best camping mattress I have ever slept on and of course I have a Jetboil to keep up the daily coffee intake. All in all I'm pretty well organised and the packing is just about done apart from those last minute things.

How it all started posted 21 Oct 2012

After many sleepless nights and coming to terms that owning a Dressage horse was getting too expensive, I had to look for a new hobby. One that would give me the satisfaction of achieving personal goals, one that makes me feel great to be alive and of course one that could provide the odd adrenaline rush. And, a hobby with horsepower.

So I turned to Motorbikes.

My first motorcycle lesson was a week after I sold my horse. I figured if I didn't like it I would try something else. I had ridden the odd mini bike & quad bike when I was a kid but that was many moons ago. I still remember the fun we had and how exhilarated I would feel after a ride.

I bought a Suzuki Intruder 250cc cruiser while I was still having lessons. It was only 8 weeks before I was out on the road with my licence. I kept the bike for 7 weeks and realised I needed something bigger to accommodate my longer legs. That thing nearly crippled me.



After sitting on the Triumph Tiger 800 in the dealership showroom, I went home to figure out a way how I could have that bike. One week later, he was mine.



In the first year of owning the Tiger, I have clocked up 47,500 kms and loved every minute. I have perfected the bike weekend camping trip, been on a Numbat Bike Rally, two Ulysses Rallies and have also done a week-long trip up thru the Gascoyne to Mt Augustus, 2,700kms mainly on gravel, with 2 other Tiger riders. Had a blast of a time I must say.



Which brings me to the start of this blog. I am about to embark on a month long solo adventure across Australia, from Perth to Victoria. Planning to travel across the Nullarbor to Mildura, onto the Victorian Highlands, up to Mt Kosciuzsko, down thru the Snowy Mountains, Melbourne, The Otways, the Grampians, up thru Adelaide, on to the Flinders Ranges and back across the Nullarbor. All up about 12,000kms.

The plan is to camp along the way in National Parks & Caravan Parks. I hope to fit in lots of walks, climb a few mountains and enjoy a trip up the Murray River on a Paddle Steamer. Main objective is too enjoy that sense of freedom even if it is just for 30 days.

Here are some good Motorcycle web sites. Just move your mouse pointer over the item and it will show web address, then CTL Click to go to the site. (For some reason this doesn't work on the printed version.)

[Asian M/C Tours](#)
[Aussie Bike Tours QLD](#)
[Bad Boy Biker Jewellery](#)
[Bad Penny Customs](#)

[Bike Links](#)

[Bike Movies](#)

[Bikes+](#)

[BMW Club WA](#)

[Cameron Simpson's Links](#)

[CBX6 Owners Club of Australia](#)

[Cruise Controls](#)

[Draggin' Jeans & Jackets](#)

[Ducati Motorcycles](#)

[Ducati Owners Club - WA](#)

[Ferris Wheels Bike Safaris](#)

[Fox-Com Australia](#)

[Gippsland Tourism](#)

[Great Ocean Road](#)

[Harley Owners Group](#)

[Harley Owners Group - Perth](#)

[Honda Motorcycles](#)

[Honda Shop](#)

[Isle of Man TT and other Bike Shipping](#)

[Kawasaki](#)

[Lakes and Wilderness](#)

[Mack 1 Motorcycles](#)

[Map Works](#)

[Moto Guzzi](#)

[Motorcycle Network](#)

[MRA WA](#)

[MRA Australia](#)

[Motorcycle Mart on-line shopping](#)

[Motorcycle News Magazine](#)

[Net Bikes](#)

[Net Rider](#)

[Open Road Motorcycle Touring Club](#)

[Phillip Island Circuit](#)

[Protec Hearing Protection](#)

[Rain-off overgloves](#)

[Reviews of Motorcycles](#)

[Select Cycle Supplies](#)

[Stay Upright Training Courses](#)

[Super Cycles - Custom Motorcycles in Perth](#)

[Swag-in-a-bag](#)

[TAC Motorcycle News \(Spokes.com.au\)](#)

[TOTAL Motorcycle Accessories](#)

[Travelling Australia](#)

[Triumph Motorcycles](#)

[Two Wheels Magazine](#)

[Ventura Bike Pack System](#)

[Vintage Motorcycle Jackets](#)

[Walden Miller Leathers](#)

[Women's International M/C Assn.](#)

[Yamaha Bikes](#)

INTERESTING MOTORCYCLE FACTS (DID YOU KNOW)

When Valentino Rossi was five, his dad Graziano built him a go-cart to discourage him from getting into bikes.

Jim Moodie and Sean Emmett have both worn sanitary towels inside their helmets to stop sweat dripping in their eyes in hot conditions.

Joey Dunlop was once a passenger on a fishing boat that sank on the way to the Isle of Man TT.

Brands Hatch started life as a grass track circuit.

“See God. Then back off” Kevin Schwantz on his late braking technique.

“I did not come here to (make love to) spiders. Rob Phillis , when asked about his ambition of a podium finish.

“You can only piss with the cock you’ve got” Neil Hodgson.

“If anyone can go faster on that Aprillia, I’ll give them a blow job” Colin Edwards.

The con-rod of a sports bike engine at full chat is enduring alternate compression and tensile forces of 10 tons, 500 times a second.

The foot-operated sequential gear change was invented by Velocette’s Harold Willis in 1927.

Shoei helmets have been known to withstand bullets.

The most technically complex production motorcycle ever was the Honda NR750 of 1992, with its oval pistons, eight valves per cylinder and two con rods per piston.

When torque in ft/lb. and power in bhp are plotted on the same scale, the curves always cross at 5252rpm.

In 10,000 miles, the average four-cylinder bike engine will have done 100,000,000 revs.

Hell’s angels’ founder Sonny Barger says in his autobiography that he prefers Japanese bikes to Harley Davidson!

Gatso speed cameras were invented by Dutch rally driver Maurice Gatsonides.

The front page picture of the first ever MCN shows six tweed-suited gents drinking coffee together.



THE UCARF STORY

Ulyssians have always been generous people and right from the start have opened their hearts to worthy causes. At the Wagga AGM in 1997 it was decided that in the absence of a specific alternative, the Ulysses Club would designate research into arthritis as its own preferred charity. The impetus for the choice came from the death at only 72 the previous year of Jo Dearnley who finally lost a 20-year battle against rheumatoid arthritis. Because arthritis is so slow, insidious, painful and debilitating it does not attract the same publicity as the more obvious and 'dramatic' diseases, yet not only is it by far the most common cause of painful and severe handicap in this country, it can also be deadly. In its various forms it affects nearly five million Australians and accounts for more deaths than AIDS or MS, yet because the disease is so diffuse it does not attract a lot of media attention.

In the beginning with funds were passed to the Arthritis Foundation but after some internal problems and the discovery that only a minute portion was directed to research, it was decided that the Ulysses Club would channel donations directly to the front line. Consequently the club has given significant support to a number of post-graduate students in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne and supplied their laboratories with expensive items of equipment. As the Ulysses Club Arthritis Fund we have had progress reports from the researchers themselves and direct evidence of where our contributions are being applied.

For 2011 NatCom has agreed to take this a step further by offering a full fellowship to a brilliant research scientist, Kelly McKelvie, from Otago University in Dunedin. This calls for UCARF to commit \$80,000 over the next twelve months and in return Kelly will be providing the Club with regular progress reports and updates. I hope members will have the opportunity meeting her personally at the Newcastle AGM in March. With research now moving to the forefront of genetic and molecular biology I would like to feel that the Ulysses Club was taking a lead in unlocking the secret of auto-immune diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis; in looking for a cure, not just another palliative measure.

Stephen #1

The fund raising continues in 2012-13 with the Annual Raffle and all members are asked to sell at least one book each. Tickets are \$2 each with a book containing 20 tickets.

Each branch will ask its respective members to nominate how many books they'll sell and will then order the required quantity from Head office administration.

So come on fellow Ulyssians – get behind our own worthwhile cause and let's try and top all previous records for the amount of funds raised. You never know the research may lead to the ease of the suffering of one of your loved ones in the future.

This year there is a fantastic set of prizes:

- 1st prize - Honda VT750S including ORC (Value \$9500)
- 2nd prize - A trip for 2 people to the Australian Superbike Championship at Phillip Island in 2013 including 3 night's accommodation, car hire and 2 tickets to the VIP area. Value \$3300 (conditions apply) Sponsored by QBE.
- 3rd Prize - 12/240V Cooler / Warmer with cover from Classic Industries- Value \$425

The Raffle will be drawn during the AGM Event at Fraser Coast

Spence # 53780

MASTER PUMPKIN CARVER, RAY VILLAFANE

RAY VILLAFANE



Ray Villafane was born in Queens, New York. He spent his childhood on Long Island and at a very young age Ray showed a knack for art; a passion that his mother approvingly encouraged him to pursue. Ray graduated from the School of Visual Arts in New York City in 1991. However, also having a passion for children, he elected for a career in teaching. From 1993 to 2006 Ray taught Art for students grade K-12. It was during his teaching tenure that Ray began “dabbling” in pumpkin sculpting, initially as projects with his students. After several custom-carved requests from students’ parents, Ray realized he was on to something with his pumpkins and started offering them to local hotels and restaurants. It became his fall hobby for several years. <http://villafanestudios.com/welcome>

More Classics from The Pumpkin Master...
Ray Villafane





