

February 2018

ISSUE No 74

**SOME CONTENTS OF THIS
NEWSLETTER MAY OFFEND
SOME PEOPLE**

**PLEASE BE AWARE OF THIS AND
READ THE INFO ON PAGE
TWO**

Macedon Ranges Newsletter

Social Nights are held on the Third Monday of each month at the Sunbury Football Club Rooms “Clark Oval Riddel Rd Sunbury from 6.00 pm onwards. Come along and enjoy a great nights chat and a nice meal.

Saturday Morning Coffee’s are at the “Jolly Miller” in the Gisborne shopping centre, Brantome St Gisborne from approx 10AM onward till about 12.00 noon. Just look for the Bikes and Foxy’s happy smile or even Michaels (yet I doubt it)

Midweek rides are from the Caltex Servo in Station Rd Gisborne on each Wednesday Morning at 10 AM. (Gentlemans hours) Usually arranged on the day

Calendar Rides Sunday rides leave from Mac Donalds Horne St Sunbury at 9.30 AM unless otherwise organised. see ride calender on www.mrug.net for dates
Saturday rides leave from Jolley Miller about 11-ish

Please read this

Some jokes may be deemed to be offensive to some people. However, it should be recognised that most jokes, if not all jokes, would be deemed to be offensive to some people. Let's face it; just about every joke ever told contains something offensive that will get right up the nose of someone.

Just because jokes offend some people it is no case for censorship. Humour, of all varieties, exists for those who enjoy it.

Never forget how to laugh!

COVER If you need to ask your not a member..... Lovely shot Mark, guess Vickies on the job again hey.....

Your Committee

Position	Name	Nickname	Phone
President	Michael Bevan	Donald or Zippo	0431 495 673
Secretary	Mark Behan	Fluffy	0412 078 098
Treasurer	Richard Bouchier		0418 639 555
Quartermaster	Sylvia Behan		0413 188 894
Editor	Jim Alley	The Cat	0414 871 927
Welfare officer	Moira Burgess	Foxy Lady	0413 269 022
Events Co ordinator	John Barrie	Stud	0447 083 590
Committee	Ian Cowie	Moose	0419 587 208
	Vicky Cronin	Papparazzi	0409 434 101

A Word from your President.....



President's Report

Hi, It seems like I blinked and another year has passed us by and we are already into the second month in the next year. I suppose it won't be long and it will be Christmas.

Rides

Since my last report, we have had a couple of Saturday and Sunday rides planned and executed. The first one was the 2017 Toy Run, This year we gathered at Gisborne and rode as a group to the designated starting point at Kyneton. From Kyneton we traveled down the freeway to Gisborne and on to Tabcorp Park where we joined the masses and enjoyed the day. Its always good to see so many bikes in the one place and my hat goes off to the organisers.

The second ride was to Westmeadows Tavern with Hey Yu as the ride leader.

This ride was a great local ride with a complete lap of Mt Macedon before heading to Westmeadows for lunch. Ken planned this ride well and there was a bit of every thing for all the riders and for those who took part in the ride helped Ken celebrate his birthday. It would have been nice to see more from the club on the ride as we had a total of 7 bikes. The only bad point we the bastards that helped themselves to some of our riders' helmets.

The third ride was planned for Nagambie last Sunday (25 January) for a BBQ but because of the predicted forecast of 40 Deg I thought it would be a better idea to cancel this ride, as it would have been way too hot and uncomfortable for some (me included).

Rides this month, February.

A Saturday lunch ride that will be a BBQ lunch at Clonbinane. This is planned for 10/2/17. Departs from Gisborne at 11:00 am.

The Sunday ride this month (25/2/17) is Hey Yu's "End of Summer" ride to Alexandra, via Yea, Flowerdale, Whittlesea, Donnybrook. Return: via Euroa, Creighton Creek, Highlands, Seymour. Stops only at Alexandra and Seymour, this is a big ride of about 400 km so it will be a long day. (Leave at 9:30, back around 4:00pm.)

Halls Gap Trip 2018, is from March 10th to 12th, the Long Weekend. This trip will be leaving Gisborne on Saturday morning and going through Maryborough, Avoca and Ararat and on to Halls Gap. Sunday I have planned a lap of the Grampians to fill in the day with lunch at Dunkeld. The trip home will be decided by the group on the day.

Ride Differences

Contrary to some opinions and misinformation there are only a few differences among the Saturday Lunch ride, The Sunday Ride and the Wednesday rides.

The Saturday ride is called the Saturday Lunch ride because it leaves Gisborne at 11.00 am and you should arrive at the destination by 12.30 pm for lunch at a bakery, a café or a pub. Because these rides are designed to be a short ride the after lunch ride is normally 30 to 45 min before reaching home.

The Sunday ride departs from McDonald's Sunbury at 9:30am and is normally a 3 to 5 hour ride and takes a good part of the day and has a coffee break, a lunch break at a bakery, a café or a pub, and may also have an afternoon break. Because these rides are designed to be a relatively short, the ride home is normally 60 to 90 minutes. The ride home may include a coffee break somewhere.

The Wednesday rides departs from the Caltex Station in Gisborne at 10 am. The major difference of this ride is: arrive at the starting point, discuss and solve the problems of the world, then the riders pick a destination and leave by 10, hence it is a mystery ride! Whereas, the Saturday and Sunday rides are planned in advance.

All of the rides stop for lunch or a bite to eat and this break is the same regardless of what day the ride is. You can see by these descriptions there is no ride that includes a 3 hour lunch break at a pub! That said, if a ride leader organises a ride with a 3 hour lunch break, then so be it!

More Words from your President.....

Branch's AGM

This month is the Branch's AGM to be held on our February Social Night 19/2/18.

The nominations are in and closed. It's no secret that most of the committee will be standing again. As there is only 1 nomination for each position we will not need to have an election. I certainly hope that you are all happy with the current committee. I am sure you will let us know if you are not.

We do need someone at the club to put his or her hand up to be the Ride Coordinator as no one has nominated for this position. As I have mentioned before, this is not a difficult role, it doesn't require hundreds of hours of your time to do. You just need to simply coordinate the rides and who will be leading them. It does not mean you have to lead every ride. After all, if we don't have a ride leader then we simply don't ride that day, or it can be a mystery ride.

Branch Members

Well, it's that time of the year when the administration fee is due (1 January) and now overdue. It has been emphasised before that the money raised from this fee goes to the cost of running the branch with things like our web hosting, flowers for the sick, our Christmas lunch and some subsidised social events, it does not go towards the cost of running my bike or long lunches. We have made some changes with the newsletter this year as it will no longer be posted out, instead we will have a few copies printed and will available at the social night for those who would normally have them posted. The newsletter will also be emailed out to all those on the members email list as well as made available to download from the club's website.

You probably have noticed some faces are missing from the branch or it has been a long time since you last saw them. This happens within every club as people come and go, change where they live or focus on some different aspect in their life.

We all need to work on getting new people to the club and the committee are working on some flyers to put at places where motorcyclists gather and a welcome pack for new prospective members. If you have some ideas of what should be in the flyer or the welcome pack then, by all means, drop me a line. If you have a friend or acquaintance who is into bikes why not invite them to one of the Saturday morning tyre kicks or a social night. They will be more than welcome just remember that the minimum age to be a Ulysses member is 40.

Lastly, for those who are planning on going to this year's Riverland AGM (The last AGM) you need to be registering and looking for accommodation because you are very rapidly running out of time. If you are attending the AGM, I ask you to send to me an email to let me know so we can plan a couple of branch events while we are there. For those who want to know why this is the last AGM, from next year it will be called the Ulysses Rally.

Michael Bevan
President
#50364





A Word from our Secretary

Well where does the time go? Another year has rolled around and we find ourselves again in the throes of another A.G.M. At the time of writing this we have filled all but one position on the committee (Ride Co-ordinator) and that will, with luck, be filled on the actual night of the A.G.M. The situation did however get me to thinking about how we as a branch operate and the positions (read jobs) we have filled.

The President. Our exalted leader has several jobs but is essentially all things to all people. He runs Committee meetings, hosts club nights, goes to state and regional meetings, has the oversight on all aspects of the branch and simply does much and many of the day to day tasks that make the branch tick.

Secretary. Takes the minutes at Committee meetings, keeps the branch membership records up to date and is often the main contact for new members.

Treasurer. Basically looks after the branch books, pays bills, oversees any aspect of the branches spending or payments coming in, does reports for National quarterly and lets everyone know where the branch sits financially.

Newsletter Editor. With the advent of technology the editor is now more the communications director putting together the information and making sure all members of the branch know what's going on.

Quartermaster. This is the retail arm of the branch. They are responsible for sales of Ulysses and other "gear" ranging from members donations through to anything you can find in the Riding On magazine. You want it they'll get it for you... at a reasonable cost of course.

Welfare Officer. Who looks out for you when you're sick? The Welfare Officer is who. They arrange flowers cards etc. when you're sick injured or grieving and remind you that you're remembered and cared about. Our current officer also organises a mean raffle every month.

2 Ordinary Committee Members. Well usually not so ordinary. They're not just there to make up numbers. They offer balance, ideas and input at committee meetings and rise to the occasion to fill all those other vital roles such as paparazzi, events co-ordinator and pitching in on a huge range of activities (the Xmas function just doesn't organise itself).

Of course all these jobs are voluntary and people put in what they can. Some weeks not much is required, other weeks it's all go. I hear the occasional mutter about this or that the committee has or hasn't done but I don't really take it to heart. I figure if they were genuinely concerned or they thought they could do better then they'd be volunteering to either help or join the committee. That's not to say the committee doesn't want to hear from its branch members. They'd be the first to admit they are "not the suppository of all knowledge" (with apologies to Tony Abbott) so if you have suggestions let us know!

So that leaves us with just one major job to fill on the 19th - Ride Co-ordinator! For what is primarily a motorbike organisation having somewhere to ride to is a priority. Anyone interested?

Cheers

Mark



From Your Friendly Editor.....



And so it's going to be a new world we look at in the future. The newsletter if I can have my way will be totally revamped and will only have the committee reports plus anything that the committee or members want to have seen. eg, Advertisements from, or members and supporters businesses, flyers for up and coming events, and things members may have for sale. There wont be anymore mailing out of letters as the letter will be email only. There will be though, a few hard copy available at the monthly meeting at the footy club for those who attend and don't have internet access. It will also be Bi monthly which means that committee will be producing reports six times a year and should be able to keep you all better and more up to date informed This will no doubt be discussed further at the committee meetings, and as I have been asked to stand once again for editor, anyone who disagrees with my thoughts on the new format is more than welcome to take over the position.

That said.....

Xmas party: And what a top day it was. Weather was perfect and those that chose not to attend really did miss out on a GREAT DAY. Food was of top standard and everyone had more than there fill. We had to postpone the event for one week as the weather on the allotted date was storms and 200mm of rain. God was on our side as he really did produce, We also were relocated to a different area which turned out to be far superior to what we had originally has booked. Needless to say we have booked the same area for 2018. Foxys' raffle was great and music flowed all day via our PA. Michael gave a great speech and then proposed marriage to Moose. Real good laugh.

Our new venue at the footy club seems to be working ok but if the crowds increase at our monthly nights we may have to renegotiate as members are really packing in at present and I personally am finding it a little hard to get around between tables to mix. Must admit the meals are really nice.

And so here we are 2018. Where has 2017 gone hey.

So looking forward to the AGM and our trip to and from. Lets hope Michaels new trailer can fit his clothes and **server** in.....

Lets all have a great year, keep safe, stay upright,

Until next letter

Meow





Word from your Events Co-ordinator

Some of the events we have participated in 2017 were
Night out at Galli Restaurant attended by 18
members and guests.

Xmas in July with 41 meeting at the Pig & Whistle
Hotel

Ten Pin bowling at AMF in Highpoint after a lunch at
Plume Chinese restaurant

A total of ten enjoying the meal and antics at the
bowling alley after where Vicki
Managed to get herself a "Cheer Squad"

Our Xmas picnic at Hanging Rock was moved from the
3rd of December to the 10th due to bad weather. The
Macedon Ranges Council staff were excellent in
rearranging this and placed us in their best "Petanque
Shelter" We had 37 attend and all agreed that this
was the best location so we have reserved this same
site for 2018.

Cheers

John

A Word from our Paparazzi



Hi, everyone.

The committee are seeking ideas for the year:

We need to find several guest speakers for our
Social nights to impart their expertise on a subject.
As always, we are looking for ideas for events and
activities to enrich club life. Hopefully someone will
have suggestions that will entice the members to
attend.

Please don't forget to send in the ride reports and
photographs on the clubs ride. Cat needs these
reports for the newsletter.

Kindest regards... Vicki.

***Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world at
once, but of stretching out to mend the part of
the world that is within our reach... Clarissa
Pinkola Estes.***





A Word from our Quatermaster

Being part of the Ulysses Club is something I'm happy to show the world and I know many of you are too. Just look at our jackets and vests at the tyre kick, showing the old man logo with the motto "Grow old disgracefully", as well as our branch patches. People everywhere stop and start up conversations about where we are from and what the club is all about.

I've also enjoyed that sense of belonging when we all turn up to events like the Memorial Ride or the Toy Run, with so many branch members wearing the green and black polo tops. Even better when we get together for a branch photo!

Then there's the very reasonably priced merchandise that Ulysses uses to promote our common interest. Popular items sold last year included the canvas wallet, eyeglasses case, stubby holders, caps and bandanas, badges and patches, as well as stickers for your bike or car. I like that motorcyclists can see that I'm an aware driver!

Last, but not least, some new items have been on display recently, like the Ulysses flags to attach to your bike. Probably not a bad idea for those attending the upcoming national AGM. If you're not sure what else is on offer, come see my display at the monthly meetings, or check out the Gear Shop in the Riding On magazine and let me know what you want. If I haven't got it, I will get it!

Cheers
Sylvia
Your friendly Quatermaster



2019 AGM Event Mornington

Although 2019 sounds a long way off it will be here sooner than you realise. Plans for the forthcoming AGM Event are proceeding nicely. A recent meeting at Mornington outlined several ideas including themes and ideas for the Tuesday meet and greet and the Saturday night dinner. Colours and design of the memorabilia were also discussed. Managers and coordinators are currently putting together the first draft of their expected budget requirements and, although various aspects of the event are yet to be finalised, this is a NATCOM requirement as they have final say on everything to do with the event.

The current structure for the 2019 event involves 37 positions of which 9 still need to be filled. We are now looking to recruit for the following positions:

MANAGER 4	Team leader of portfolios: Meetings, Catering, Grand Parade, Function & Ceremonies, Decorations and Organised Rides. Coordination of various portfolios reporting to AEC Executive and NAGMEC.
Event HQ	Coordination and administration of the event including providing members support for information desk, phone charging, event awards and lost & found.
Parcels & Laundry	Coordination and delivery of parcels including event PO Box, parcels collection, release to members and re-postal service. Laundry service drop-off and pickup (laundry service provided by willing local laundry service).
Check In	Coordination and support of check in registration requirements
Volunteers	Responsible for recruiting general volunteers and design & management of effective work rosters.
Training	Responsible for ensuring that site and OH&S training has been provided for volunteers and coordinators.
Media & PR	Responsible for ensuring that the event receives a steady and effective level of positive, current and informative publicity and promotion before, during and after the AGM Event. The purpose of this Portfolio is to ensure that the forthcoming Ulysses Club AGM Event is publicised and promoted appropriately and adequately to all relevant audiences.
Functions & Ceremonies	Responsible for coordinating five (5) official Club functions and ceremonies during the AGM Event week. Functions are: Meet N Greet evening, Official Welcome Ceremony, Formal Dinner, Church Service, and Closing Ceremony.

We are also looking for some for following:

Website Administrator	Liaison with National Website Coordinator for the establishment and currency of AGM event website. Liaison with Media & PR Coordinator and AEC on information to submitted to AGM event website.
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If you feel that you could fill one of these roles or, If uncertain, would like to ask some questions please give me a call on 0407 058 058

Stephen Draper #36741
AGM 2019 Event
Manager 3



Saturday Ride to Gordon Pub.

Mark & Sylvia Behan

Saturday December 9th dawned a wonderful sunny day. Well ok, it was a bit overcast... a fair bit really... well ok it was heavily overcast and pretty cool. That said it was the first ride Sylvia and I had organised, and the first I'd actually led with Sylvia doing her first impression as tail end Charlie. Still we were hoping for a reasonable turn out and in that at least we weren't disappointed. After morning coffee we took note of the names who were coming and were pleased to find some thirteen people coming to Gordon Pub for lunch.

We took off just after eleven and took an immediate left towards Bacchus Marsh. Yes there were a few showers but they were so light and so passing it never actually wet anything. So over the "razor back" and into the Marsh. As leader I tried to count bikes but the numbers were too difficult to follow. Luckily Sylvia had her hi visibility vest on (orange to my yellow) so I contented myself that our riders were all accounted for. This was actually a slight mistake with both Andy and Pete not gearing up in time and not managing to catch up to us during the leg to Bacchus. But more of that in a minute.

We did a slight wait to bunch us up as we went through the traffic in the Marsh but were soon on our way up the hill to Darley then onto the freeway at Underbank. As we came off the freeway at the next exit (Pentland Hills) I pointed to the corner to set our first and only corner marker. I didn't bother with any others as I figured if I could see Sylvia then all the riders could see me. However I found out the next day that this was not the only corner marker set. Apparently in the absence of my instructions the experienced riders just naturally marked each corner so I'm able to report that no-one got lost. We went the long way through Myrniong, Greendale and Ballan which made for a fun little run.

All went smoothly until we were some two or three kilometres from Gordon when we hit road works. Well to be precise it was a bridge widening but there it was and of course it meant two things. First of all a red light that just refused to change (why they set such a long delay between changes on what was maybe three hundred meters of single lane is beyond me) and the second was we now had to transverse maybe a hundred meters of loose, thick gravel over a slippery base. That said we all made it across without incident but I've no doubt many of our number were flashing back to the recent 'gravel' experience in Echuca!

As we pulled up to the pub there parked out front was two very familiar bikes. Apparently Andy and Pete couldn't catch us so opted to blast straight up the freeway and directly to the pub. Once we were all inside it was fair to say we were well looked after with good food and nothing seemed too much trouble. All in all a really nice ride. On behalf of Sylvia and myself I'd just like to thank all the riders for making the day a success and our first ride as leaders so easy. So again thanks to Andy and Louise, Richard, Rod, Vicki and Paul, Ken, Nick, Shorty, and of course Andy and Pete for their company on the day.



IT CAN BE HARD KEEPING A STRAIGHT FACE AS A COURT REPORTER.

These are from a book called *Disorder in the American Courts* and are things people actually said in court, word for word, taken down and published by court reporters that had the torment of staying calm while the exchanges were taking place:

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said, 'Where am I, Cathy?'

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Susan!

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: Are you sexually active?

WITNESS: No, I just lie there.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: How old is your son, the one living with you?

WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

ATTORNEY: How long has he lived with you?

WITNESS: Forty-five years.

ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

WITNESS: I forget..

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: He's 20, much like your IQ.

ATTORNEY: Were you present when your picture was taken?

WITNESS: Are you shitting me?

ATTORNEY: So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And what were you doing at that time?

WITNESS: Getting laid

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

WITNESS: Your Honor, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?

WITNESS: By death..

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?

WITNESS: Take a guess.

ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?

WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard

ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?

WITNESS: Unless the Circus was in town I'm going with male.



Did you know?



Line dancing was started by women waiting to use the bathroom.

My Living Will

Last night, my kids and I were sitting in the living room and I said to them,

'I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug.'

They got up, unplugged the computer and threw out my wine!!

The little bastards.

Geezer Planet



Caught in the Headlight

Hi,

I have been riding bikes from the age of 16 until now and I'm almost 60. I have owned a few different bikes over the years but my current ride is a 2011, 1600 Triumph Thunderbird.

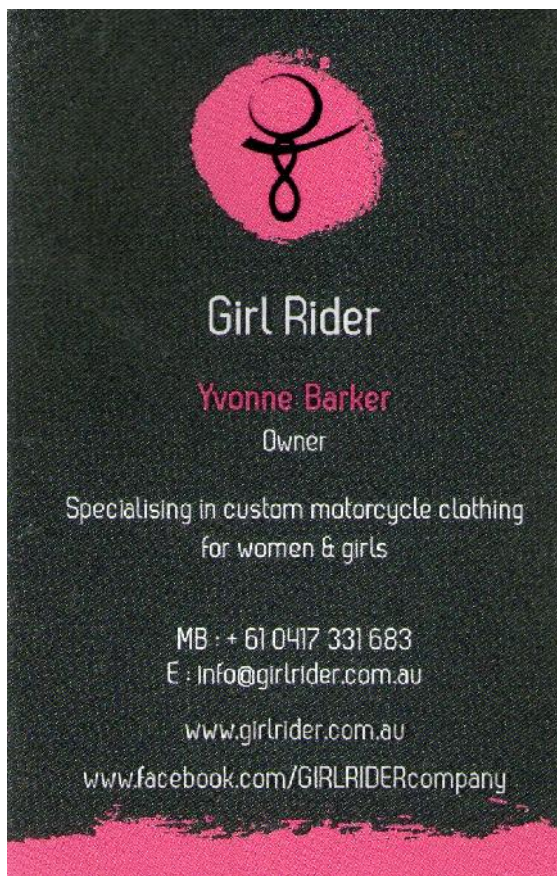
My wife Suzi and I met through mutual friends. We both have grown up children from previous marriages. Suzi had never been on a bike before. After her first ride on the back to Greendale for lunch, mostly with her eyes shut, she fell in love with the freedom and was hooked. We sold up and moved to Bacchus Marsh together in 2000.

I joined HOG in 2006. Enjoyed many HOG rallies including Nuriootpa, Philip Island, Launceston and weekends away to Kookaburra and Red Back. Loved camping on site but got sick of trying to pack all our things into saddle bags so I built a trailer to tow behind the Harley. What a difference it made. A big 2 room tent, cooker, air bed, spare clothes, esky, and sun shade.

We joined Ulysses in 2008. I went to the Newcastle AGM in 2011 and upon returning, sold the HOG and repainted the trailer to match the T-Bird and off we went again. We attended the Mildura, Maryborough, Wodonga and Launceston AGM's and had a ball. Great people and a lot of fun. I joined MRUB in December 2016 and have had a great time on Sunday rides and the recent Echuca weekend. Now footy season is over (go Tigers) we look forward to meeting more of the crew.

Cheers,

Mal Livesay #49876



After 10 years, the wife starts to think their child looks kind of strange so she decides to do a DNA test. She finds out that the child is actually from completely different parents.

Wife: Honey, I have something very serious to tell you

Husband: What's up?

Wife: According to DNA test results, this is not our kid

Husband: Well you don't remember, do you?? When we were leaving the hospital, we noticed that our baby had pooped. Then you said: - Please go change the baby, I'll wait for you here. So I went inside, got a clean one and left the dirty one there

One day a 12-year old boy was walking down the street when a Indian Chief motorcycle pulled up beside him

"I'll give you a bag of lollies if you get on the back," said the male rider.

"No way, get stuffed", replied the boy.

How about a bag of lollies and \$10?" asked the rider?

"No way", replied the irritated youngster.

"What about a bag of lollies and FIFTY Dollars, eh"? quizzed the rider ,still rolling slowly to keep up with the walking boy.

"No, I'm not getting on the back!" answered the boy

"OK, I know what you want - I'll give you \$100 and a bag of lollies" the rider offered.

"NO," screamed the boy.

What will it take to get on the Bike"? asked the rider sighing.

The boy replied: "Listen Dad, you bought a frigging Indian - YOU live with it!"

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Satnav

A new poem by

Pam Ayres

I have a little Satnav, it sits there in my car.
A Satnav is a driver's friend it tells you where you are.
I have a little Satnav, I've had it all my life.
It's better than the normal ones, my Satnav is my wife.
It gives me full instructions, especially how to drive
"It's sixty miles an hour", it says, "You're doing sixty five".
It tells me when to stop and start, and when to use the brake
And tells me that it's never ever, safe to overtake.
It tells me when a light is red, and when it goes to green
It seems to know instinctively, just when to intervene.
It lists the vehicles just in front, and all those to the rear
And taking this into account, it specifies my gear.
I'm sure no other driver, has so helpful a device.
For when we leave and lock the car, it still gives its advice.
It fills me up with counseling, each journey's pretty fraught.
So why don't I exchange it, and get a quieter sort?
Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly
fed.
It washes all my shirts and things, and keeps me warm in bed!
Despite all these advantages, and my tendency to scoff,
I only wish that now and then, I could turn the bugger off.

AIRHEADS I HAVE KNOWN AND LOVED

In early 1985, while I was based in Sydney, but working in Melbourne without my own transport for three months, Mal Percy's brother Andrew loaned me his R65LS. Having lusted after BMWs in my youth, I liked this bike so much, I ended up buying a used 1984 model of my own in Sydney later that year and rode it back to Melbourne for another three month work stint. I put proper BMW hard luggage on it while I was in Melbourne. It was a great little bike to ride, small and nimble enough to cut through the traffic like a knife and big enough to ride between the western suburbs of Melbourne and the western suburbs of Sydney with only two fuel stops (if there was a servo between Holbrook and Tarcutta it would have been one). I did 10 000 kms in the first 10 weeks I owned it, mainly riding between Sydney and Melbourne, with a few side trips with Andrew and a run to Dalgety in October 1985. I rode it two up to two Alpine Rallies at Brindabella: from Sydney with my sister Sharyn (now a member of the Hills Branch) in 1986; and from Melbourne with my son Ross in 1996. I grew so attached to this bike that, against all advice from people who knew bikes, I stored it for four years while I went to the US to work for four years. When I came home in early 1995, a quick clean up, new battery and some fresh fuel it started and idled, despite cracked diaphragms in the carbies. A trip to Melbourne Suzuki for a service and tune and it was as good as new. I would still have it if I hadn't had to make a choice in 1997 between it and My Laverda RGS1000, which got to stay in the garage. I did manage to talk my daughter Lou into buying one a few years later. If you have a new rider in the household and one or both of you have a penchant for classics, you couldn't go past an R65LS (or its ugly duckling sibling, the R65) as a starter bike.



Speaking of ugly duckling siblings, my second and current BMW airhead is the R90/6. The less glamorous version of the iconic R90S. This bike is one of the reasons I believe in love at first sight. When I first saw it, it belonged to a friend of Lou's. I said to Lou, "if Michael ever wants to sell that bike, tell him I'm interested. I probably won't be able to afford it, but I'd like the chance to buy it". Needless to say, when I was told the asking price was only \$500 I couldn't get the money to Michael fast enough. It was a bit sad and sorry at the time, registered, but not roadworthy. With a broken headlight and a puddle of brake fluid below the master cylinder. My intention was to restore it, but apart from making necessary repairs and some minor enhancements like crash bars, hard luggage and an R90S style fairing I haven't done any real work to it. It runs too well and looks too good to do too much just yet, so it will probably end up being one of those 'fix things as they need it and prettify other things as the mood takes me' kind of restorations.

The motor needs some work, particularly noticeable since I replaced the pretty much baffle-less mufflers that were on it when I bought it with some nice after market, original looking ones, but it still runs OK. The only thing that has given me grief is the points ignition. I really hate points and will understand rocket science before I can adjust points properly, so it now has a nice Boyer-Brandsen electronic ignition. Timing set once, then forget. It's a pleasure to ride, in a sedate sort of way and is reliable. The longest ride I've done on it was the 2009 Snowy Ride, when the left hand muffler fell off. It still made it home under its own steam, albeit with the muffler attached courtesy of some duct tape, hose clamps, cable ties and a Coke can. They don't make BMWs or Coke cans like they used to.

Post Script: Since I wrote this, I've decided to bitten the bullet and the R90 is now in Tatura for the missing horses to be rounded up and put back in harness.



AND THEN IT IS WINTER

You know. . . Time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years.

It seems just yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on my new life. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is... The winter of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go?

I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like. But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey - or gone...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me...but, I see the great change....Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! 'Cause if I don't on my own free will...I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!

But, at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last...this I know - that when it's over on this earth...it's NOT over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done...things - I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!

Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!

"Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

LIVE IT WELL! ENJOY TODAY! DO SOMETHING FUN! BE HAPPY! HAVE A GREAT DAY!

REMEMBER:.... "It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver.

Yesterday my daughter again asked why I didn't do something useful with my time.

Talking about my "doing something useful" seemed to be her favorite topic of conversation.

She was "only thinking of me" and suggested I go down to the senior center and hang out with the guys.

I did this and when I got home last night I decided to teach her a lesson about staying out of my business.

I told her that I had joined a parachute club.

She said, "Are you nuts? You're almost 79 years old and you're going to start jumping out of airplanes?" I proudly showed her that I even got a membership card.

She said to me, "Good grief, where are your glasses! This is a membership to a Prostitute Club, not a Parachute Club."

"I'm in trouble again, and I don't know what to do... I signed up for five jumps a week," I told her. She fainted.

Life as a senior citizen is not getting any easier but sometimes it can be fun.

**THANKS TO THESE MEMBERS THAT MADE THE LETTER
WHAT IT IS.....**

Dennis (Dutchy) Holland (Great Jokes)

Bruce Howlett (top article mate)

Ken (Hey – you) Hager (Always puts in)

Vicky (Pappa) (Ms Reliable)

Marian (A Good Mate-ess)

*Not that many out of a club of 200 plus
So.....Where the hell are you ALL*

So what about it.....

Where's your bit.....

E MAIL TO ME AND SEE YOUR NAME IN LIGHTS

Or are you just like the rest and do Bugger all.....

Dear Santa,
Please send me a baby brother.



Santa wrote back:
'Send me your mother...'