



# Macedon Ranges Ulysses Branch

Newsletter – Issue No. 90 October 2020

[www.mrub.org.au](http://www.mrub.org.au)

Issued bi-monthly – February, April, June, August, October, December  
Contributions to Editor by 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of month of issue – [editor@mrub.org.au](mailto:editor@mrub.org.au)



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## SPONSORS



**Girl Rider**

## COMMITTEE

President	Sylvia Behan	0413 188 894
Secretary	Mark Behan	0412 078 098
Treasurer	Deb Stuckey	0408 611 963
Events Coordinator	Vicki Cronin	0409 434 101
Newsletter Editor	Nicholas Pantelis	0408 502 665
Quartermaster	Heidi Frankl	0418 304 593
Ride Coordinator	Andy Brady	0418 229 338
Welfare Officer	Moira Burgess	0413 269 022
Committee Member	Yvonne Barker	0417 331 683
Committee Member	Mark Freestone	0437 674 642

## RIDES AND MEETINGS

RIDES	<p><b>Sunday – 3rd of month</b>, leaving McDonalds, 7-11 Horne Street, Sunbury at 9.30am sharp with full tanks. Refer ride calendar.</p> <p><b>Wednesday – weekly</b>. Leaving from Caltex Station, 4 Station Road, Gisborne at 10am with full tanks. Destination to be advised on the day.</p> <p><b>Saturday – 1<sup>st</sup> of month</b>, leaving Brantome Street, Gisborne (near Jolly Miller Bakery, approximately 11am following tyre kick). Usually a short ride to a prearranged location for lunch.</p>
WEEKLY GET-TOGETHER “TYRE KICK”	<b>Saturday 10am</b> – Brantome Street, Gisborne – Jolly Miller Bakery and Food Court, Shopping Centre.
MONTHLY SOCIAL MEETING	<p><b>Monday – 3<sup>rd</sup> of month</b> Sunbury Football Social Club, 47 Riddell Road, Sunbury. From 6pm for dinner. Meeting commences at 7pm.</p> <p><b>Opportunity for all members to get together, join in the raffle, on occasion listen to visiting speakers and hear what’s going on in the club.</b></p>
COMMITTEE MEETINGS	<p><b>Monday – April, June, August, October, December</b> Meetings are held prior to monthly social meeting and input from all branch members is welcome and can be directed to any committee member. Members can also see either the President or Secretary if they wish to address the committee. Elections are held annually, usually in February.</p>



## From your Branch President ....

Welcome to our October edition of our branch newsletter. I hope you are continuing to stay well and riding where and when you can. As they say, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Those of us in metropolitan Melbourne are hoping for a lifting of the five kilometer rule and by Monday night when I record our October meeting, things might be looking up. I'd even be happy to stay in the metropolitan area with no kilometer restrictions, so that we can do a longer ride to revisit other areas, like Melbourne CBD or Sunbury. A night ride to Williamstown would be fabulous! Those of you in regional Victoria of course, have been envied by us with your unrestricted rides, but gives us hope that soon we will be able to join you. If only we had a crystal ball to tell us how things will look in the future. I'm envisioning holding our first outdoor monthly meeting in a park with all the bells and whistles, well, at least the raffle. Always the fun part of the evening.

That's not overlooking how much we have all missed seeing each other and catching up with how we have fared in the last seven months since the March meeting. That's why I'm pleased that members share their stories in this newsletter. So this month, we have an interesting account of the journey Nick Pantelis took after he was hit and came off his bike last September. His recovery of not only himself, but the drama he faced with his bike is an eye opener. We also have two new members, Frank Godressi and Jorge Covarrubias tell us about themselves and their riding. Please welcome them when you see them at the tyre kick or if they join for a ride. Let us know if other prospective members are about and we will endeavour to catch up with them for a chat and interview them for the next newsletter.

You will see in the minutes that the memorial ride this year will be very different, limited to numbers and who can attend. We are resolute that it goes ahead as planned and will keep you updated as to the arrangements closer to the date. The same goes for our Christmas party. So keep an eye on your email and our Facebook site for more information as I get it.

In the meantime, take care and look after each other. Send your kind thoughts and best wishes to Mark Freestone on his recent surgery and to Paul Arumets for his scheduled surgery on Monday the 19<sup>th</sup>. They both have big hearts and we wish them a steady but speedy recovery. I for one, am looking forward to riding with them again and know you are too.

Cheers from your friendly president,  
Sylvia

## RIDE & EVENTS CALENDAR

Macedon Ranges Ulysses Branch Rides 2020 As at 3 June 2020			
Date	Ride Leader	Destination	Details
Sunday, 15 November 2020	Mark Freestone	Healesville	
<b>Sunday, 6 December 2020</b>		<b>Christmas Party</b>	

All of the above are subject to change

## MEMBER BUY SWAP OR SELL

## For Sale

Givi Xstream Range 60Lt seat bag  
As new, never been used  
\$150  
Contact: Deb 0408 611 963



Got something to sell or buy?  
Send in details to [editor@mrub.org.au](mailto:editor@mrub.org.au)

# MINUTES OF LAST COMMITTEE MEETING

## MINUTES

MRUB Committee Meeting 21/09/2020

On-Line Zoom 6.05 pm

**On-Line:** Sylvia Behan, Mark Behan, Moira Burgess, Deb Stuckey, Mark Freestone, Andy Brady, Yvonne Barker, Heidi Frankl

**Apologies:** Nick Pantelis, Vicki Cronin

- The memorial ride for our branch is still up in the air although the ride has been officially cancelled. Smokey has perhaps a smaller ride (under 50 people) under consideration for our branch. It was also noted that the W.A. National Rally is still viable, and we are waiting to see when border restrictions will be dropped.
- In regard the Xmas function, Ken Hager is keen to put out a survey as to where it should be held and who would be willing to come. Considering that the current rules would not allow a gathering of more than twenty people at a private residence this would leave us with a public outdoor space of fifty people. Sylvia has booked a tentative booking for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Dec at Hanging Rock. After discussion and input by all members of the committee it was agreed that no-one was that keen on Hanging Rock as it was expensive (hire of facility then \$10 exit fee) and not the most ideal date. Rather it was agreed that we aim for a “public place” (a park yet to be decided upon with mention of Hanna Watts Park, the Willows and Gisborne) with the option / preference of Mark Freestones as advertised if restrictions allow it at the time (N.B. the date of 6<sup>th</sup> December is a week after final restrictions are lifted so considering current trends is a good possibility). Consequently, Sylvia will cancel Hanging Rock and we will run a survey to give us a working number along the lines of - *Who would anticipate attending the Xmas function in an outdoor venue in line with the Victorian Government road map.*
- Even though some members are now able to ride distance and gather, it was agreed the ride calendar should remain blank. Those members keen to ride can for the time being use the Wednesday ride model of impromptu rides organised by members who wish to participate. Andy and Mark have several rides “unused” so will be able to publish a calendar at fairly short notice when / if required.
- Treasurers report – as per copy emailed prior to meeting. Only action was a single payment for website hosting leaving a balance of \$3,973.49 in the account. National have asked, via the Treasurer, that with a lack of fund raising could branches consider a donation to UCARF. It was agreed by all that a donation was a good idea and the amount will be discussed at the December meeting.
- The October newsletter is looking a bit thin. Michael Bevan is penning an article about his accident, recovery, and other aspects of his experience with the whole episode. Sylvia is very keen to get and introduction to new members in future editions so any one is welcome to talk about background / experience of new members and pass it on to Nick (perhaps with a photo). Mark F. will also pass on to Nick information he has in regard the ‘Blood Bikes’ (co-vid 19) volunteer program. Any appropriate / funny photos are also needed as Nick is light on pictures (guess we haven’t been riding)!
- Photographer from ‘Lost’ magazine (apparently in Daylesford, NOT Ballarat as per the previous minutes) has contacted Sylvia and she has put him off until November when hopefully we’ll be able to gather.
- In consideration of 2021 committee Andy has indicated that he will be stepping down from his position as Ride Co-ordinator due to pressures of time. Mark F has indicated that he would be willing to take on the role. All other committee members anticipate that they will endeavour to continue in their roles.

Meeting closed approx. 6.45 p.m.

**MRUB Treasurer's Report as at 21/09/20**

Bank balance b/f from previous meeting	\$4,083.49
<b>ADD Receipts</b>	0.00
<b>LESS Expenses</b>	
Roggle Solutions Pty Ltd ( annual website hosting )	110.00
Bank balance as at 21/09/20	<u>\$3,973.49</u>
<b><i>Represented by:</i></b>	
YTD GST liability to NatCom (year end)	156.14
Funds available	<u>3,817.35</u>
	<u>\$3,973.49</u>





## OUT & ABOUT WITH OUR MEMBERS .....

Gisborne Gazette August 2020

### Ulysses riders take us back to beginning



As the Macedon Ranges Ulysses Branch (MRUB) enjoys its 21st year, albeit in challenging circumstances,

we take the opportunity to revisit where it all began.

MRUB came into being when a current member, Richard Prigrove, obtained a list of Ulyssians who resided in and around Sunbury and Gisborne. The intention was to form a splinter group from the Melbourne Ulysses Branch, and to gather for local rides.

A small group of local riders led by Richard and including another current member, Terry Duggan, concluded that there would be roughly 20-40 riders for a local group.

The first newsletter was sent out in February 1999 inviting around 25 people to an inaugural ride in March.

"Splinters", as it was then known, continued to grow until September when Ulysses Natcom, the national organisation, was advised that Splinters would become a formal group within the network.

It had its first official meeting in October 1999 then at a special



MRUB's first five presidents, pictured at July 2007 "Xmas in July" function.

L-R: Stephen Draper, John Petschauer, Cliff Yeo (who now resides in UK), Trevor Barnard and the late Ron Weste (founding president).  
Photo: MRUB

meeting in November 2000, attended by 35 to 40 members, the first structured committee was elected. The committee was comprised of six members including the late Ron Weste, the founding president.

And as they say, the rest is history...

With many of our members living in 'locked down' local government areas, numbers at our events will of course be lower than normal.

However, you can catch limited numbers of socially distancing members at weekly Tyre Kicks from 10am Saturday mornings on Brantome Street, Gisborne. Or check out our active online presence on Facebook or the website [www.mrub.org.au](http://www.mrub.org.au) for newsletters and updates on planned activities. Our regular newsletters contain great stories

and pictures, a growing Buy and Sell section plus news and views on all things motorcycling.

Please stay well and safe until you can join us sometime for a ride, coffee, meal or just great company.

Cherry Cole



The first meeting of Macedon Ranges Ulysses Branch in 1999. L-R, standing: Brian and Eleanor Dixon, Jim Ferrie and Judith Gellies, Terry Duggan, Colleen and Ron Weste, John Kidd, Richard Prigrove.

Seated, back: John and Helena Glover and their two children (one hidden), David Barnes, Dave Barnes' sister-in-law, Judith Barnes, Fran Kidd (peeking through), and Ron and Terry Lawrence. Seated, front: Jim and Lisa Arnold, Ella Prigrove.  
Photo: MRUB



# Adjusting to another normal?



Members of the Macedon Ranges Ulysses Branch (MRUB) continue to be busy and active within restriction requirements.

With our wide catchment of members living under various levels of lockdown, official events are on hold until later in September, although some local members have taken the opportunity to exercise their bikes on short "essential" shopping runs in Gisborne on Saturdays.

**Top Hint:** Take care when packing fragile grocery items such as eggs into backpacks and panniers, or suffer the consequences!

In a great initiative, several members have joined with other Victorian and interstate Ulyssians as volunteer riders for Bloodbikes Australia. Volunteers transport blood, blood products and COVID-19 tests when all other methods have been exhausted and time is critical. Demand for their services has ramped up with the second wave of infections and expanded testing facilities. Well done to our volunteer members including John Eacott, current member living in Queensland.

MRUB's President and Committee have been planning out activities over September and October



*Riding's new little essentials, complete with animal print mask. (Photo: Cherry Cole)*

in anticipation of restrictions easing. Check out our Ride Calendar at the website [www.mrub.org.au](http://www.mrub.org.au). This also contains our regular new-look newsletter with great stories and pictures, a Buy and Sell section plus news and views on all things motorcycling. Or join us on Facebook.

Stay well and safe until you can ride with us sometime for a coffee, meal or just great company!

*Cherry Cole*

"Gisborne Gazette" Sept '2020.

From Malcolm Percy a Ulysses member from Philip Island.



Here at Phillip Island I am part of a group known as the Phillip Island Senior Delinquents (PISD) and with the easing of restrictions in regional Victoria we are back to Saturday morning coffees and local rides. Our first Saturday back I had a bit of fun with our Covid safe restrictions.



Please welcome our new member Frank Godressi.

I was more or less brought up with motorcycles, my dad never owned a car, just a Moto Guzzi that he rode every day to and from work. I remember as a young lad, he would pick me up and sit me down on the fuel tank, tell me to hold onto the handlebars as we went shopping. Also remember him laughing to himself through his open face helmet on the odd occasion that he wore one, at all, every time my leg slipped and touched the hot valve covers. I was always under his feet when he serviced or did repairs to his bike. I loved seeing him off in the morning and always waited at the start of our driveway for his return, just for him to pick me up onto the petrol tank for the short ride into the garage.

I think that's where my passion for motorcycles started, and still hasn't finished. I had several motorcycles that I rode to and from work in Broadmeadows every day. The very first bike was a Honda CD175, then a Suzuki X7 250, Honda CB 400 SS, Yamaha XS 750 triple, Suzuki GS 850 G, Honda CB 900, Honda CB 1100. My ride at the moment is my 2011 Harley Davidson Road King, that I have been on several runs with the group MRUB including fund raisers. I also have a Honda ST1100 that I ride every day to work up until my retirement and several Ulysses AGMs. I also own a couple club plate classic bikes, 75 Honda CB 750 F1, 78 Honda CB 750 F2, 82 Suzuki GS 650 G Katana. Thank you for your correspondence.

I downloaded some pictures of my bikes.

Ulysses Member No 15313

Kind Regards

Frank Godressi







Please also welcome a new member Jorge Covarrubias

I moved to Australia from Chile in 1992. I also speak Spanish. I work for the “Australian Wool Testing Authority” from 1996, in the technical department . Married to Claudia and 4 children.

I always have motorbikes and I enjoy riding with my son and meeting new people.

My favourite motorcycle is my “BMW LT 1200”.

I joined MRUB because I like the area and it’s convenient to me.





Tyre Kick At Gisborne





**On the road (& trail) again!**

With our increasingly gorgeous weather and for those of us who can, day rides through our wonderful region beckon. The Macedon Ranges is blessed with picturesque and interesting local rides on both bitumen roads and dirt trails.

Many Macedon Ranges Ulysses Branch (MRUB) members get out into the deep bush regularly whilst others enjoy less frequent visits to well-known haunts such as the Wombat Forest and the network of bush tracks around Gisborne, Riddell and Macedon. In the bustle of busy lives it's easy to forget how pristine our area is with colorful seasonal wildflowers and fresh clean air. For those who can, it's time to get your bike out and enjoy our wonderful natural environment.

Top Tip: Always ride responsibly, particularly on dirt tracks. They are generally shared carriageways used by walkers, other vehicles and horse riders too. Plus remember, there are mobile phone black spots in our hills, so don't fall off or take unnecessary risks. Help may be difficult to call!

So until you can share a coffee, meal or just great company with our wider MRUB family, please stay well and keep safe! But remember, club get-togethers won't happen if our community and beyond don't do the right thing and stay vigilant in fighting this pandemic!

Stay in touch by checking out our Ride Calendar at [www.mrub.org.au](http://www.mrub.org.au) or join us for a chat and club news via Facebook. See you on the dirt sometime!

Cherry Cole

Prepared by Cherry Cole on behalf of MRUB committee



Tony and friends enjoying some good times together

## **My Recovery**

It's being over a year since I had my accident on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 in Gisborne.

I still remember that moment very clearly, as if it was yesterday. I believe at the time that I did serious injury when I tried to get up from the ground and I could not. I could not move my legs. So I waited until someone came to help. Help came quickly as an off duty female police officer came to my aid. I knew the ambulance was not far away as the depot was just around the corner as were the police. The person who hit me stopped but did not render any assistance what so ever. All I remember is that he was standing on the footpath looking on. To this day I do not know who he is. The police did not want to share this information with me.

The ambulance officers came and took over. They put a brace around my neck and asked the standard questions about drugs and drink, allergies to drugs etc. I could not take standard pain killers because I'm allergic to morphine. I don't know what they gave me because it did not reduce the pain I was suffering.

At the Royal Melbourne hospital I did not have to wait too long at all to be attended to. I was x-rayed head to toe and sent up to a ward very quickly. I could not lie down flat on the bed because of the severe pain I was in. The doctors came later once the x-ray results were in. They told me I had six broken ribs and my collar bone was broken. Then they tried all sorts of drugs to reduce the pain. I lost the taste for eating, I had no energy to get up and I felt horrible.

After the third day, the pain management team came in to speak with me. I told them that the drugs they were giving me made me feel ill, my head was not clear, I lost my appetite to eat and I had no energy to get up and walk around. I asked them do they have any drugs that are not opiate type for people like me who are allergic to morphine. They said no there isn't any and I said that's bad luck for me, I'll have to take Panadol only. They walked away because they had no answers for me.

On the fourth day I told the doctors I'll be leaving the next day, because by then I was walking around and got my appetite back. They reluctantly agreed. My experience in that hospital was not good at all. I could not sleep because of the noise. The staff did not care even when I brought it to their attention. I was glad to get out of there. The pain management team were useless and several of the doctors have no people skills. Another enemy of recovering injured people are the TAC to some respect. They sent a representative to advise and assist me. Sounded good but they did not deliver.

Because I could not lie down flat on my back I had to sleep for nine days on my recliner chair. Thanks to my wife Rosy she persisted with the TAC to come out and assess my needs at home. Otherwise by the time they decided to come out I would have been back in my normal bed to sleep. A representative of the TAC from Gisborne came out and helped me a lot. She organised a hospital bed and other things to help my recovery which I used for one month.

The first six weeks were touch and go regarding my shoulder because the bones did not fuse. The doctors at Royal Melbourne said to me if the shoulder bones do not start to fuse an operation might be needed to aid in that process. It wasn't until the tenth week that doctors could see that the shoulder bones were starting to fuse. That result made me very happy.

The other major hurdle mentally was with Harley Davidson itself. Head office in Sydney could not help, so we contacted Milwaukee America and spoke to them to get the ball rolling to get my Harley fixed. Very quickly things started to happen. But it took until Good Friday eve 2020 to get my Harley back. When I got on the bike for the first time since the accident I felt so good, as if I had not had an

accident ever. I was not afraid or had the nerves, I was excited. This was my first motorbike accident in 46 years of riding. I was very lucky that my injuries were not that bad that I could not ride again. Someone was looking after me. Harley did a good job of putting the bike back together again. It was all cosmetic, no major damage, thank goodness.

Then COVID took hold and after so many months in lock down we are all desperate for a ride.

Mentally it has affected all of us, but hopefully soon we will enjoy a ride and enjoy each other company once again.

I only have a couple of pictures.



Nicholas



**“When someone tries to trigger you  
by insulting you or by doing  
or saying something that irritates you,  
take a deep breath  
and switch off your ego.  
Remember that if you’re easily offended,  
you are easily manipulated.”**

**And**

**“Every time you spend money  
you’re casting a vote  
for the kind of world you want.”**



## Guess Who Segment



After finally reading August's Newsletter I was inspired by the 'Guess Who Segment' to submit the attached photo of me with my 1974 Laverda SF2 750, fitted with a John Player Norton fairing (which did nothing good for the bike's handling). The photo was taken sometime in 1978 or 1979.

I can only think of one member of MRUB who knew me (and the bike) then, so he'll probably pick me straight off. As a mostly Wednesday rider, any of the usual Wednesday suspects who recognise me should get a laugh out of the t-shirt if they can read it. It says "I'd rather eat worms than ride a Honda". The bike I ride most Wednesdays that I manage to get there is a 2006 Honda Firestorm.

Please send an old picture of yourself and your bike to the editor.