

# BUSHWACKER

Official newsletter of the Central Victoria Ulysses Branch

## Return To The Country (Too)



Like Sue and Bruce, both Jane and I were born in country Victoria, Jane in Murchison and myself in Castlemaine, we had both lived in various country towns throughout Victoria during our childhood years before ending up in Melbourne in our teens. We met in the early 1970's and married in 1976, purchased a house in Ferntree Gully at the foot of the Dandenong's, a small 'country' town at that time. I remember my father commenting at the time saying "what do you want to live way out there for".....basically it was all we could afford at the time with loan interest rates at 17.5%. In the following 37 years we raised our children and the 'city' engulfed the small town of Ferntree Gully.

We had never lost our desire to return to country life, now in our late 50's we felt it was time to make the move. My lunch times at work were spent trolling through Realestate.com.au and emailing various properties that I liked home. We spent many weekends exploring various country towns and properties, initially wanted to live in the Myrtleford area, but the properties were more expensive than Melbourne. While looking at one of my email links for a house in Euroa, Jane noticed on the side bar a house in Maryborough. We made a trip up and were surprised by the town's facilities, rail, four supermarkets, etc.

After a few weekend trips, we found a house and made an offer, but missed out, a couple of weekends later we found a developer's new

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## COMMITTEE

President	Michael Hennessy	0437 662 799
Treasurer	Bruce Jones	0413 670 125
Secretary	Sue Jones	0418 237 070
Ride Co-ordinator	Ron Jarmyn	0419 323 178
Social & Welfare Officer	Mel Owen	0499 766 470
Subscriptions Officer	Sheryl Street	0407 508 010
Editor	Bruce Jones	0413 670 125

**Bushwacker** contributions to [bjtourer@gmail.com](mailto:bjtourer@gmail.com)

## RIDES & MEETINGS

**ALL ACTIVITIES ARE SUBJECT TO SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES AT THE TIME**

### RIDES

Monthly ride on 2nd Sunday of the month. Depart Rotary Park, Kangaroo Flat, 10am sharp with full tanks.

Casual day ride 3rd Thursday of the month. Depart Rotary Park, Kangaroo Flat 10am sharp with full tanks.

Weekend social rides every Friday far enough to clean the pipes, leaving KFC car park, Kangaroo Flat at 1pm. All rides will be free.

### WEEKLY GET-TOGETHERS

Thursdays 8am, Segafredo's Bakery, 96A High Street, Heathcote.

Thursdays 1—2.30pm, Bendigo General Store (by the (Deef) Café, 145 Bridge Street, Bendigo.

Saturdays 10am—12noon, Bendigo General Store, 145 Bridge Street, Bendigo

### MONTHLY SOCIAL MEETINGS

See 'rides & events' for details.

### BRANCH'S BUSINESS

The Branch's Committee meet regularly to process the Branch's business. 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 January



[cvub.org.au](http://cvub.org.au)

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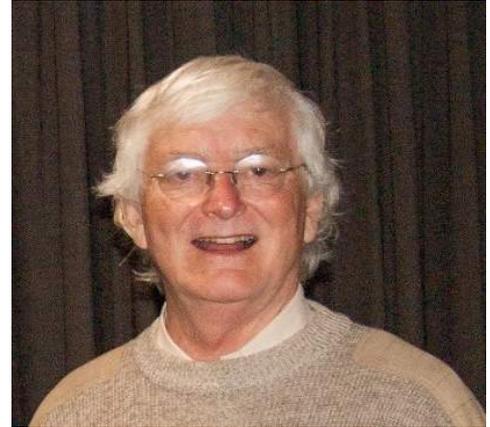


CVUB sends a regular email and has a Facebook page with up-to-date info on events.

## From the Branch President

### Telemachus

Congratulations to Reg Loe on receiving the Telemachus Award for service to the branch. Well deserved and thanks from all of us for contributions made over many years.



### Back to Basics

At its last meeting, the committee decided that the Back-to-Basics event, which was to replace the GDR, was not possible and it should be cancelled. There seems little prospect that the Tarnagulla reserve will be open for camping by the beginning of October or that anything can be organised. By cancelling our booking now, we can take advantage of the Reserve Committee's offer to have the money we paid for use of the reserve deferred to 2021.

### Events

Of course, all our riding and social events are on hold until the restrictions are eased enough to resume. I note that the Friday Fabio ride is cancelled until further notice also. This is not an official Ulysses ride but it is one that many Ulysseans enjoy each week, come rain, shine or even hail (ask me about that one).

### Social welfare

I have noted before that even though we are a motorcycle club, social welfare has become an important part of our role. At this time, when we are not meeting face-to-face as much, it is important to keep in touch with members and their families to support those in need. I know that much of this goes on without any prompting from anyone else and we can be proud of the assistance members give each other.

### Contact

Apart from the social welfare aspect of keeping in touch, it is important to maintain our contacts within the club. I have received many telephone calls from members just ringing to say hello. There is also Facebook to keep us all in touch. Such things will maintain our comradery until we go riding together again.

I will see you all around.

Best Regards

Michael Hennessy



(Continued from page 1)

display home in the Whirrakee Estate, our offer was accepted and our life changed for the better. We sold the Ferntree Gully home and the move was on, contacting a local Maryborough removalist, on his first visit to our home he walked around the house, saying "lots of boxes, lots and lots of boxes". Some weeks later he dropped off 100 boxes, we'll never use all of them, we said!!! We didn't, the two with bird poo on them we didn't use and we purchased five more!!! We'd spent numerous trips to various charity shops, friends and the tip disposing of many things we didn't want to take with us. We had also rented a storage space and made many trips with a van to bring some things up here. Well you can accumulate a lot of things staying in one place for 37 years, plus the various furniture and other items that belong to your children that you somehow volunteered to store for them.



We told our children we were moving to Maryborough, they both now lived and worked in the Prahran area, our son thought it was great, our daughter who thought travelling back home to Ferntree Gully was too far, said well it's been nice knowing you!!!

We moved here in January 2015 and haven't looked back, I rented an apartment in Spencer Street for 12 months, a kilometre from where I was working in Docklands and travelled home on Friday nights for the weekend, before retiring at the end of 2015. We have been warmly welcomed by the people here, which has made the move so much easier than we thought it would be. Being half way between Bendigo and Ballarat it allows us to enjoy what these large country towns/cities have to offer, as well as places like Castlemaine, Maldon, Avoca and other nearby towns within easy reach. Maryborough is a town with many activities such as the HPV (Human Powered Vehicle) and Highland Games events that attract many visitors to the town. There also a number of motorcycle events held here as well as the All British Rally at nearby Newstead.

Sometimes you take a leap of faith, things just feel right and it all works out well in the end. Our son met a lovely young lady in Melbourne and she is a Bendigo girl, they married and we have also become good friends with her parents and catch up for lunch and coffee from time to time. Our daughter quite enjoys escaping up here away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

I miss motorcycling through the Dandenong ranges, which were at my door step in Ferntree Gully, the straight roads up here can't always be avoided but I do my best to seek out other roads. The TomTom GPS has helped with this, just push the icon for a 'thrill ride' and you discover places and roads you wouldn't have thought of going too. I regularly go across to Yea, where Jane's mum lives to do any maintenance and other things around the house for her. Originally, I went across there via Bendigo, Heathcote and Seymour, but have found that going via Newstead, Tylden, Woodend, Lancefield, around the back of Broadford, Strath Creek, Flowerdale and then Yea. It's only 10 klms further and way more fun on the bike.



I have attended the Ulysses Victorian Breakfast get togethers at Kyabram and Stawell and enjoyed the concept, I have also attended a Thursday ride and hope to do many more of these rides when life returns to some normality in the future.

Take care, stay safe during these strange times.

- Danny Johnson  
#67212

# The Ride We Didn't Have

On Saturday morning, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, there was already a sense of inevitability of stage 3 lockdown for regional Victoria. And it happened before the following weekend of the August ride when stage 3 came in to effect on the Thursday. But as we talked with other Central Vic. Ulyssians at Tyson's that Saturday, Sue and I already planned to ride the route after our liquid refreshments.

We joined the route at Lockwood Road and continued to Newstead via Maldon. This is a familiar start for many rides. But we were keen to check that Newstead would cope with a small ride under covid rules. That sounds unnecessary. But Sue and I did a ride the previous Sunday where we stopped at Dunolly for a cuppa and then later at Bridgewater Bakehouse for a bite. We found the Dunolly Bakery was struggling with about six customers. Bridgewater handled larger numbers better.

That earlier ride was where the idea of having a barbie for lunch came from. We knew many of our usual stops would find it hard to handle, say ten riders, as well as other customers. I have no doubt they would have got there. But long waits rarely make for a good ride. We also thought that as our 'Ziggie' barbie was highly transportable and capable of cooking for around ten, it opened options about where we could ride for a lunch. We raised it at the Social/Info night at the Huntly Pub before the test ride, and Mel, Betty and Trevor volunteered to help with the 'advance party' in setting the barbie, etc., up.

Back at Newstead, we bought cuppas at the general store and service was quick. There are two other watering holes that would also be open, and parking is easy there even if others were stopping there. Morning brew was a tick.

We continued around to the western side of Cairn Curran reservoir and rode towards Melville Caves Picnic Grounds. The day was beautiful, we mostly had roads to ourselves and outside the country road thing of the odd pothole, etc., we were pleased with the proposed route.

Part of the fun for me was a byproduct of the new Nolan flipface helmets we recently bought. The N-1005 flips have more stops for the visor and internal sunvisor. But what I was enjoying was the latest generation N-com (Nolan's Bluetooth helmet device). The previous version had good range between helmets and could take phone calls. The new units also receive audio from my phone, including google maps. That may not sound like such a big thing but I don't have a mount on my bike for a phone or a GPS. I basically knew the route but wasn't sure about some of the turns.

So, I had my phone in a pocket and a sweet female voice in my ears telling me where to go. Anyway, it mostly worked and when I had to override Ms Google, she quickly recalculated to fill in the gaps of my navigating knowledge to Melville Caves. We ended up riding on inevitably a few straight stretches. But we also enjoyed some nice curves in some of the beaut country in that part of our neighbourhood.

We were in for a shock though when we arrived at the Melville Caves Picnic Ground. The good news is there are lots of tables and places where you can set up with spots where a hungry biker or ten do not have to remain standing or squatting but can sit. On that particular day though, we have NEVER seen so many cars 'n' people at the picnic grounds! Many were in family groups and we spoke with a few different ones. All the ones we spoke to all had the same idea, being that stage three was inevitable and they were out for a last hurrah in the Aussie bush, subsequently creating a very large crowd.

We didn't stay there as we didn't come prepared for lunch, and so we continued back to the Calder, joining it at Inglewood for the ride home. For what it's worth, Sue and I had a ball! The good news is we haven't canned the idea; only filed it for a future ride. It's the ride we as a branch didn't do ... but we will ride it, together.

- Bruce



# Motorcycling Is Like Meditation

The following article written by Dylan Ruddy appeared on [bikesales.com.au](http://bikesales.com.au) on 19th August

We're betting you already knew, but motorcycling makes you happy, according to an new study



A new study by ING has uncovered the therapeutic benefits of motorcycling, with riders reportedly 27% happier than the average motorist. According to ING, 82% of riders agree that riding makes them happy, compared to just 55% of motorists. The study used a sample of 1006 Australians aged 18 or over, and coincides with ING's new motorcycle insurance product.

More than half of the motorcyclists said mental health effects was the top reason for choosing a motorcycle lifestyle. Many riders suggested that riding a motorcycle is a form of mindfulness that helps them de-stress, and that the sense of freedom and link with nature are attractive benefits too.

## Riding is like yoga

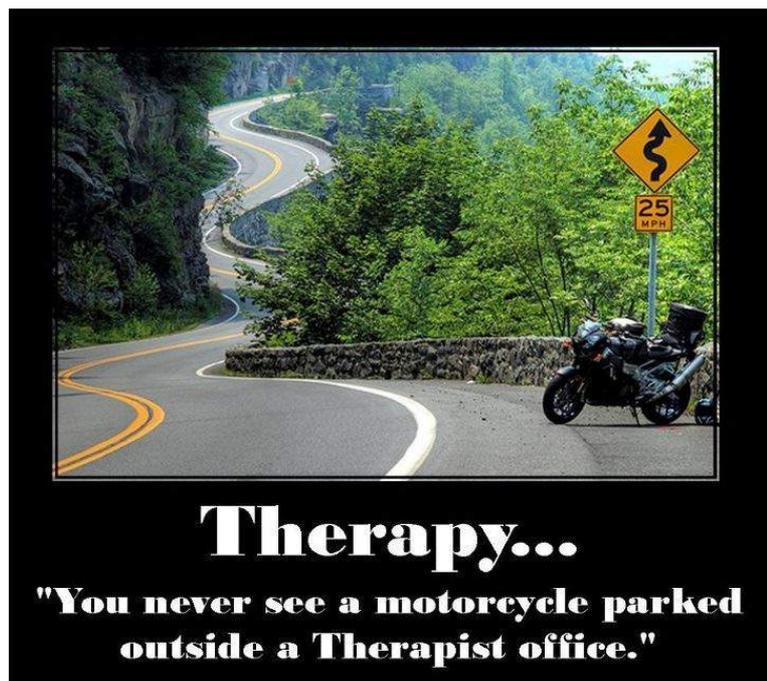
ING's Head of Wealth, Cathy Duncan, said: "The research indicates that riding a motorcycle could be providing many with some of the same benefits of practices like yoga and meditation."

The study revealed riders enjoy the practical perks of motorcycling too. One in three riders said they love riding for the convenience of getting around, ease of finding a parking spot, and saving money.

## Family affair

Another point made by the study is that 35% of riders got into riding because of friends or family. Nearly a quarter of riders vowed to keep motorcycling in the family, and to teach their kids how to ride. Meanwhile, 43% of riders wanted to share the activity with friends or partners. ING's research comes after a significant increase in motorcycle sales during the pandemic. There has also been a large increase in people undergoing motorcycle training.

"The research suggests the pandemic has many reassessing their daily commute and how they get around," said Duncan. "With price and convenience benefits, along with mental health and well-being perks, why wouldn't you consider it?"



# General Chain And Sprocket Service

The chain on motorcycles has been around for over one hundred years and has seen a few changes. Chain development has come along way with many other improvements to the motorcycle, most of these improvements have come out of racing technology. The days where you removed the joining clip and link then removed the chain give it a wash, soaked it in gear oil or placed it in an old frying pan and heated it up in some form of a cocktail of lubricant, drain it off put it back on have long gone thank goodness. Todays high tech chains now have rollers with sealing o rings and are much more stronger and reliable also last longer providing that they are maintained.

The issues that causes excessive wear on chain and sprockets are road grime, water, not adjusting, poor adjustment, not lubing, or cleaning.



To clean the chain the rear wheel should either be off the ground or placed on a **roller stand** so it can be turned ,when you have achieved this place old rags or news papers under the bike to soak up the mess and wear gloves.

I myself use kero only and an old tooth brush to clean the chain and sprockets , if the front sprocket has a cover over it remove the cover and give that area a good clean as road grime and old lube can build up and cause the gear box output shaft seal to fail it does happen. Ok now you have everything washed dry it off with a rag Not Air and slowly roll

the wheel around checking the chain and sprockets , now check the chain slack if it needs adjusting the information will be in the hand book or just google it.

Chain adjustment is not hard as most swing arms have adjustment marks on them, just be aware that you adjust each side even and only a little at a time then measure the slack, once this is done you can retighten everything and put the front sprocket cover back on if removed . To lube the chain I use the good old toothbrush again spraying the bush and lubing the rollers only you may ask why well it is the rollers that generate the most heat, to me spraying the chain all over is a waist and causes mess, the more lube around the more road grime is attracted to the chain meaning more wear. ok the last thing to do is a quick double check over everything and ride.

One tip after a long ride or riding in the rain I give the chain a light lube a little bit of TLC on the old chain will make it reliable. enjoy the ride

Rob Walder

*History of the roller stand Vic Muller developed the roller stand it is a simple design but effective and sold in Aus and overseas, Vic is a Ulysses member from Central Vic .*



# Tips For Using Occy Straps

*The following was posted by Mark Hinchliffe in motorbikewriter.com on 13th August. Please note that a number of the comments on the article directed others to Andy Strapz as an alternative to occy straps; a recommendation we endorse from our experience*

## Occy straps

Have you ever seen a motorcycle with luggage tied down with a mass of Occy straps? You try not to ride too close behind because you never know when something will fall off right in front of you. The ubiquitous Occy strap has been used for years. If you don't know what an Occy strap is, it's a stretchy strap or bungee cord with a hook on each end. There is a wide range of types and they do the job ... usually.



However, they can also fail with catastrophic consequences. I think there are many other alternatives out there that are far better than ancient Occy straps and shopping bags such as a convenient Nelson-Rigg tailbag. But if you are going to use Occy straps to hold your luggage to your rear rack or pillion seat, there are some simple guidelines you should follow.

## Frayed Occy straps

The first is to replace them when they start to look frayed. You never quite know when a fray will turn into a snap and your luggage spills across the highway. An Occy strap can easily fray from use and also from rubbing against a sharp object such as a bolt or frame weld.



## By hook or by crook

Make sure the hook has a decent bend and hasn't straightened out from being hooked and unhooked hundreds of times. If the plastic coating around the hook is cracked, the hook may also be rusted, so replace the strap. Also, check that the knot inside the hook is secure. This is usually one of the first points of failure on an Occy strap. Make sure you attach the hook to a solid, unmovable part of the bike where it won't scratch paintwork or chrome, or interfere with any working parts such as the chain.

Keep straps away from hot engine parts and exhausts. Try to pass the strap through some sort of loop on the luggage. Be careful when pulling really tight. If it slips out of your hand it can whack you in the face!



## CENTRAL VICTORIA ULYSSES BRANCH COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 4 August, 2020, 7.30 pm

2 Kennewell Street, White Hills

### MINUTES

#### 1. Attendance

Michael Hennessy – President  
Sue Jones – Secretary  
Bruce Jones – Treasurer/Editor  
Ron Jarmyn – Ride Co-ordinator  
Sheryl Street – Subscriptions Officer

#### Apologies

Mel Moyle – Social Welfare Co-ordinator

#### 2. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting

**Motion:** That the minutes of the meeting held 28 May 2020 be accepted. Carried.

#### 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

Sue hasn't contacted NATCOM about possible first aid courses in the area. Probably not a good time to hold a course due to COVID-19.

#### 4. Social Night Held at Huntly Hotel

Committee members were pleased with the way the social info night went. There was a good open atmosphere and casual questions from the floor were good.

It was a delight to present Reg with his Telemachus medal. Sharyn Nankervis travelled from Ballarat to make the presentation on behalf of Natcom.

It was also pleasing to have one of our newer members and his partner come along.

#### 5. Reports

##### a. Secretary

Very quiet – there has been no correspondence.

##### b. Treasurer.

Opening balance - \$8132. Closing balance - \$7986. Not much spending.

##### c. Editor

Bushwacker all going well.

##### d. Ride Co-ordinator

August and September rides cancelled due to reintroduction of Level 3 COVID lockdown. Mike volunteered to lead October ride if we are out of lockdown.

**e. Social Welfare**

- Danny is at Golden Oaks for rehab.
- Whiskers is still improving.
- Les Watt is also recovering well.
- Jock has been turning up each Saturday and has been receiving lots of meals.

**6. Back to Basics Weekend (scaled down GDR)**

In light of the return to Level 3 COVID lockdown the committee made the decision to cancel the proposed Back to Basics weekend at Tarnagulla. Mel to talk to Tarnagulla and have our deposit moved to next year.

Mel has been talking to badge people to get costs on "COVID stole my GDR" badges. Quite a bit of interest has been shown by members in the idea of the badge.

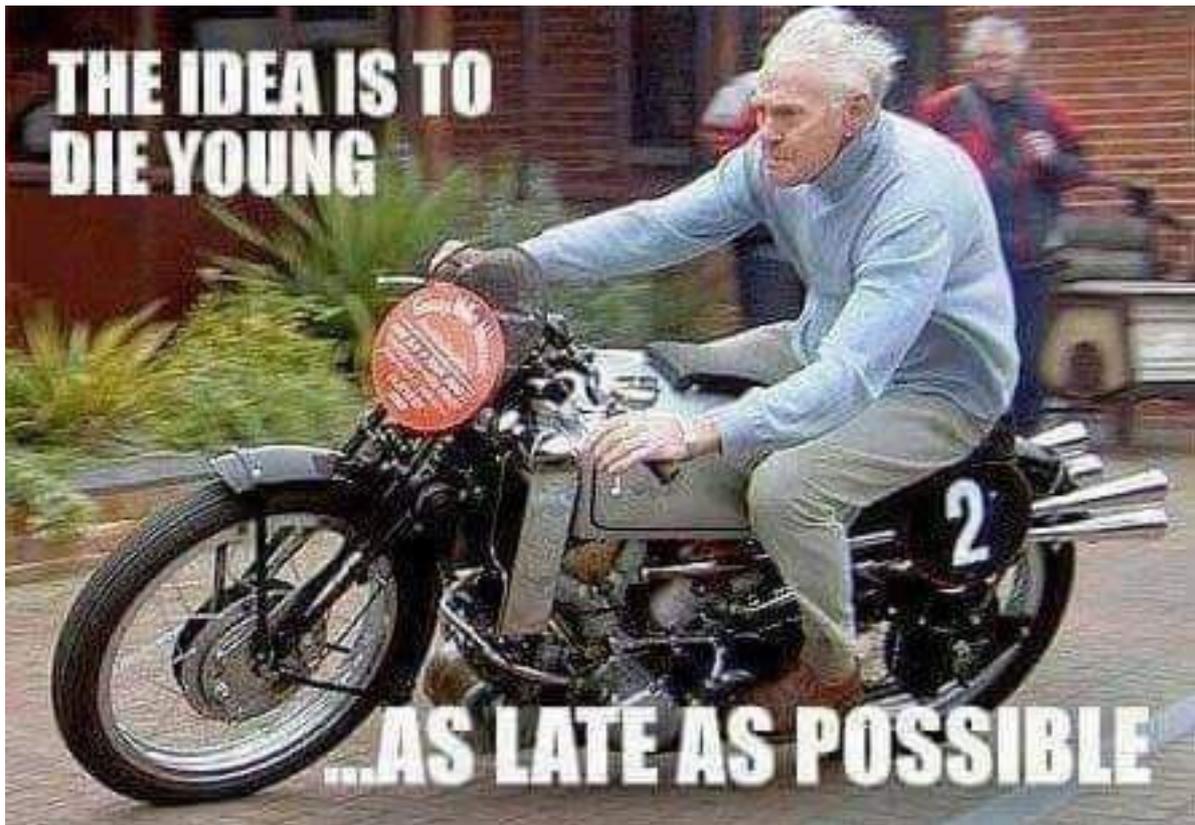
**7. COVID Crappiness and Happiness**

Club-wise we can't meet while shutdown is on, but we need to remember to keep in touch with and check on each other. As a committee we will endeavour to ensure members are being contacted. Look after each other 😊

Next meeting 10 November. 7pm

Meeting closed 7.45pm





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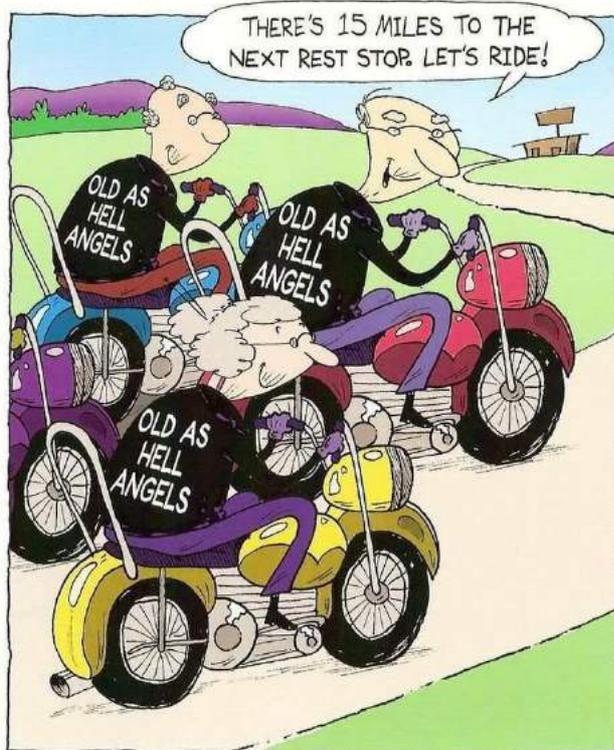


## **RIDES & EVENTS**

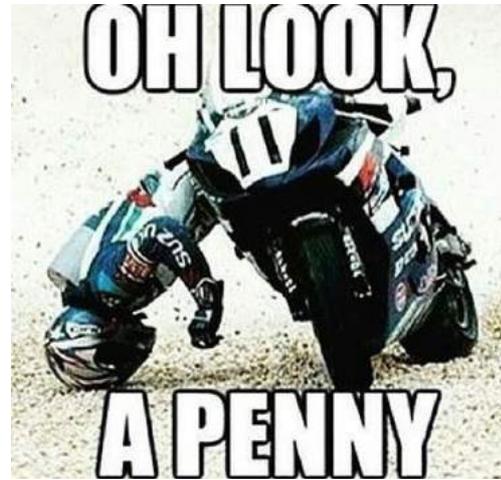
Due to the uncertainty of any gatherings of any description in the immediate future because of the corona virus, this segment of the Bushwacker is not going to run UNTIL we can schedule rides and social activities with reasonable certainty they won't negatively impact the health and wellbeing of participants under normal circumstances.

# The Last La-HA-HA-ugh!

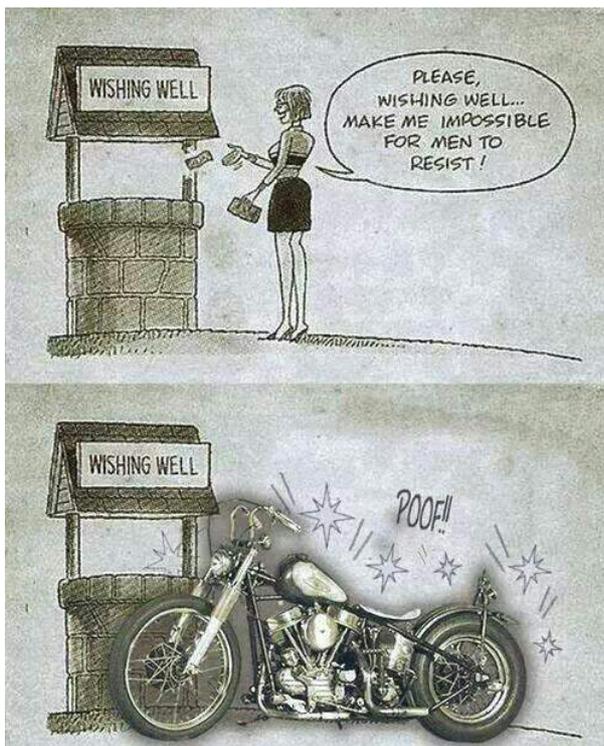
## A Laugh At Ourselves



SENIOR BIKE GANGS



*"I'm looking to buy a motorcycle that makes me look cool, young, attractive, thinner and lowers my cholesterol."*



# CAUTION

Sometimes even the people at the Department of Public Safety have a sense of humor