

BUSHWACKER

Official newsletter of the Central Victoria Ulysses Branch

Social/Info Night Returns



Member of the Ulysses National Committee (Natcom), Sharryn Nankervis, and her husband, Paul, came over for the evening. They live in Ballarat and Sharryn was Pres of the Central Highlands Branch there for I believe she said 13 years. She was born and bred in Bendigo and was happy to join us for the night, for a reason.

Most of us know Reg Loe was a founding member of our Central Vic. Branch and has been active in various roles and ways in the branch since its inception, including stints as Pres. He has backed off official positions in more recent times. However he has continued to support the branch in many ways such as organising the Tree Tops weekend enjoyed each year, making trophies for the Golden Dragon

Also in this issue:

<i>Committee & Info</i>	2
<i>From the President</i>	3
<i>From the Editor</i> <i>July's ride report</i>	4
<i>Mid-week ride report</i>	5
<i>Pics from social/info night</i>	6
<i>American's view of Oz</i>	7-8
<i>Return to the country</i>	9-10
<i>Rides & events</i> <i>For the diary</i>	11
<i>The Last La-Ha-Ha-augh!</i>	12

First, it has to be said that having a cap on numbers at pubs, etc., is a drag. Not that the twenty who gathered over dinner at the Huntly pub, were bad or boring. Its that a lot of other

of our members and friends weren't there that would have been great to have there as well. Nevertheless, our Pres. Michael did a good job on bringing people up to date on what is (and because of corona virus, isn't) happening and gave opportunity for people to ask questions or raise anything they thought would benefit our branch. Sheryl Street had her birthday that day and Jill Hennessy a few days earlier. Our social sleuth, Mel, found out about their birthdays and had a birthday cake for each of them so, Happy birthday girls from all of us!



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

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.

Fabio's short, social rides every Friday far enough to clear the pipes, leaving KFC car park, Kangaroo Flat at 1pm. All riders welcome.

WEEKLY GET-TOGETHERS

Thursdays 10am, Segafredo's Bakery, 96A High Street, Heathcote.

Thursdays 1—2.30pm, Bendigo General Store (Tyson's Reef) Café, 145 Bridge Street, Bendigo

Saturday 9.30am—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

(currently under re-construction)



PO Box 736, Bendigo Central VIC 3552



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

From the Branch President

Corona

As I write this piece, Melbourne is experiencing lockdown. It is touch-and-go whether that situation spreads to the Bendigo district and we must be prepared and flexible in our club arrangements. For instance, the social/info night scheduled for 29th July was to be at the Borough Club. But they are now not able to take enough people for us to hold our function there. Hence the switch to the Huntly Pub on this occasion. We might be changing arrangements in the future and members will need to check Facebook and their e-mails to know what is happening.



Golden Dragon Rally

The uncertainty applies to the substitute for the GDR. We must be prepared for anything including the possibility of nothing. It is possible that the Tarnagulla Reserve will be closed to camping until after the proposed GDR dates. We may not be let in.

I would not like to be organising the 2021 National Rally in Mandurah.

Social & Welfare

We have had a few members sick or with other unfortunate situations lately. It has been nice to see the way club members have supported them. We have a social welfare officer who sends the best wishes of the branch but it is members, particularly those who are close to a person, who can see what is happening and give the appropriate support.

But...

Oh s%*t!! It all seems doom and gloom. Not really. Rides have resumed and are being well attended. Our coffee mornings and afternoons are continuing, and we are seeing a few new faces on those occasions.

As I write this piece (arvo of 29th July) I am looking forward to our first social/info night and I understand there will be a big announcement then.

I will see you all around.

Best Regards

Michael Hennessy



From the Editor

June's issue had an article titled 'Alzheimers or Old Timers' as the lead article. Echuca Branch have contacted me since and asked to run that as a lead article for their newsletter. The article came from Razzle who is now living in the Sunshine State. Razzle later sent me an article by an American on what is right with Australia, which I have included in this issue. That got me thinking about what we have found right with living in Bendigo, and I've added a few thoughts in an article of my own on that line.



The Bushwacker is OUR newsletter and it's most interesting when we get a variety of inputs, especially with high definition photos. If you are considering a contribution, I normally aim to produce the magazine in the last week of the month.

This changes a bit for August and September though. I actually begin my Leave at home for the week beginning 24th August. As we plan to leave Bendigo on that Friday (that's a big 'IF' at the time of writing), I'm aiming to have the Bushwacker out that week. So please get your contributions in by the 24th.

We return late September and I have another week at home commencing 21st September. I'm aiming to have September's Bushwacker out that week before I return to work so, you've guessed it; I'd appreciate your contributions by 21st September.

I hope you enjoy July's issue and look forward to seeing you around the traps.

- Bruce

Monthly Ride Report

July 13th weather report:

Showers predicted, doesn't sound good for a ride so didn't expect as many to turn up for 10am start, got the bike out at 9.15 and it started to sprinkle rain. So took my time to put the gear on and have a stern word to the weather gods so by 9.30 it had stopped.

I arrived at Rotary park about 9.45 to see Michael and Reg raring to go, and by 10am we had Ray and Trevor so not too bad. We took it easy on the wet roads and soon we arrived at Dunolly. We ambled over the road to inspect some sculptures made from spoons, knives and forks which I thought were quite clever.

We then went and ordered our cuppa. While we were enjoying our cuppa, Alan rocks up on his nice little Yamaha. He was nearly going to pull the pin on coming but the weather cleared for him and he knew where we would be so all good.

The country certainly looks great after the autumn rains and Moliagul is no different as we turned right to head for Tarnagulla the roads were starting to dry off a bit.

We arrived right at 12 noon at the cafe (information centre) where we all enjoyed a nice meal and the great company. Joan and Martin came to say g'day to us and all the Ulyssians. They looked well and it was good to see them. So after a leisurely meal we decided to head home which was a good idea as it started to sprinkle rain just as we got to Bendigo and as I rode into the shed we had a sharp shower.

Thanks to all that came and made the day very enjoyable

Till next time Ron

Mid-Week Ride Report

I jumped (okay maybe not jumped; staggered might be closer to it) out of bed, looked out the window, yep ice on the bird bath, it had certainly been a cold night. Well, it should be a nice sunny if cold day. I'll take that in the middle of winter. Brekky done and dusted, on with the gear out the door (gee, it is cold out here) and down to the shed. Fired the bike up, while it warmed up I put on the helmet and gloves and then I was away.

Mike was already at the park when I arrived. Soon Bob, Robbie, Kylie and Griffio rolled up, a goodly number for a mid-week ride these days. So where to go? What with the temperature still in single figures, after a brief discussion it was decided Harcourt general store would be far enough. Away we went with your gentle scribe leading the way. Down Diamond Hill Road, Nankervis Road, Sedgewick Road then on to North Harcourt Road we went. Kylie had a problem with the rear brake on her Kawasaki, so the pace was kept to a fairly moderate rate, and soon enough we were in Harcourt.

It was good to pull up, the cold was certainly having an effect on my fingers and toes, let's get a coffee and thaw out. No tables and chairs of course, so we stood around outside or sat on the edge of the verandah. The sun was shining, the company was pleasant and life could have been much worse. A nice eclectic selection of bikes too. A Harley Dyna, Kawasaki turbo, Triumph Bonneville, BMW RS1000, Kawasaki 250 and my venerable Yamaha TDM 900. Then a couple pulled up on another HD, nice people too, we had a yarn with the rider while they waited for their coffee.

How quickly the time can pass over a coffee yarning about bikes, music, covid restrictions, life, and anything else that comes to mind! But some had things to do and places to go, so after about an hour we moved on. Straight back up the Calder to Bendigo this time. Riders turned off to go their separate ways leaving Mike and me to ride on to Tyson's to catch up with the regular Thursday afternoon oracles.

Another mid-week ride done and dusted. May there be many more of them.

Reg.

(Continued from page 1)

Rallies and other activities on occasion, contributing to the Bushwacker (thanks Reg), and being involved in rides. That list is not exhaustive.

The sitting committee wanted to acknowledge Reg's contribution over the life of our branch in a meaningful way, and nominated him for the Telemachus ("tell -em-a-kus") award.

As was stated when Evan was a recipient of the Telemachus award in April last year, it is awarded to those who a sitting committee unanimously consider to have given notable support for a branch, fitting Reg's support to a tee. The committee then communicate with Natcom who consider and approve the application. Sharryn came as representative to present Reg with his Telemachus award.

Congratulations Reg and thank you for all you have done and continue to do for our branch.

- Bruce

Pics from Huntly Pub's Social/Info Night



An American's view of Australia

This is just one man's view, and he put it into print more than three years ago from the context he explains. How good to hear positive comments? David Mason is a Writer, a Professor, and a Poet Laureate from Colorado, USA

'There's a lot to admire about Australia, especially if you're a visiting American,' says David Mason. 'More often than you might expect, Australian friends patiently listening to me enthuse about their country have said, We need outsiders like you to remind us what we have.'

So here it is - a small presumptuous list of what one foreigner admires in Oz.'

1. Health care.

I know the controversies, but basic national health care is a gift. In America, medical expenses are a leading cause of bankruptcy. The drug companies dominate politics and advertising. Obama is being crucified for taking halting baby steps towards sanity. You can't turn on the telly without hours of drug advertisements - something I have never yet seen here. And your emphasis on prevention - making cigarettes less accessible, for one - is a model.

2. Food.

Yes, we have great food in America too, especially in the big cities. But your bread is less sweet, your lamb is cheaper, and your supermarket vegetables and fruits are fresher than ours. Too often in my country, America, an apple is a ball of pulp as big as your face. The dainty Pink Lady apples of Oz are the juiciest I've had. And don't get me started on coffee. In American smalltowns it tastes like water flavoured with burnt dirt, but the smallest shop in the smallest town in Oz can make a first-rate latte. I love your ubiquitous bakeries, and your hot-cross buns. Shall I go on?



3. Language.

How do you do it? The rhyming slang and Aboriginal place names are like magic spells. Words that seem vaguely English yet also resemble an argot from another planet. I love the way institutional names get turned into diminutives - Vinnie's and Salvos - and absolutely nothing's sacred. Everything is an opportunity for word games and everyone has a nickname. Lingo makes the world go round. It's the spontaneous wit of the people that tickles me most. Late one night at a barbie my new mate Suds remarked: "Nothing's the same since 24-7." Amen to that.

4. Free-to-air TV.

In Oz, you buy a TV, plug it in and watch some of the best programming I've ever seen - uncensored. In America, you can't get diddly-squat without paying a cable or satellite company heavy fees. In Oz a few channels make it hard to choose. In America, you've got 400 channels and nothing to watch.

5. Small shops.

Outside the big cities in America corporations have nearly erased them. Identical malls with identical restaurants

(Continued on page 8)

serving inferior food. Except for geography, it's hard to tell one American town from another. The "take-away" culture here in Australia is wonderful. The human encounters are real - people love to stir, and stories get told. The curries here are to die for. And you don't have to tip!

6. Free camping.

We used to have this too, and I guess it's still free when you backpack miles away from the roads. But I love the fact that in Oz everyone owns the shoreline and in many places you can pull up a camper van and stare at the sea for weeks. I love the "primitive" and independent camp-grounds, the life out-of-doors. The few idiots who leave their stubbies and rubbish behind in these pristine places ought to be transported in chains to the penal colonies.

7. Religion.

In America , it's everywhere - especially where it's not supposed to be, like politics.

I imagine you have your Pharisees too, making a big public show of devotion, but I have yet to meet one here.

8. Roads.



Peak hour aside, I've found travel on your roads pure heaven. My country's "Freeways" are crowded, crumbling, insanely knotted with looping overpasses - it's like racing homicidal maniacs on fraying spaghetti! I've driven the Hume Highway without stress, and I love the Princes Highway when it's two lanes. Ninety minutes south of Bateman's Bay I was sorry to see one billboard for a McDonald's. It's blocking a lovely paddock view. Someone should remove the MacDonald's Billboard.

9. Real multiculturalism.

I know there are tensions, just like anywhere else, but I love the distinctiveness of your communities and the way you publicly acknowledge the Aboriginal past. Recently, too, I spent quality time with the Melbourne Greeks, and was gratified both by their devotion to their own great language and culture and their openness to an Afghan lunch.

10. Fewer guns.

You had Port Arthur in 1996 and got real in response. America replicates such massacres several times a year and nothing changes. Why? Our religion of individual rights makes the good of the community an impossible dream. Instead of mateship we have, "It's mine and nobody else's". We talk a great game about freedom, but too often live in fear.

There's more to say - your kaleidoscopic birds, your perfumed bush in springtime, your vast beaches. These are just a few of the blessings that make Australia a rarity. Of course, it's not paradise - nowhere is - but I love it here. No need to wave flags like the Americans, and add to the world's windiness.

Just value what you have here in Australia and don't give it away!

Return to the Country

I was born and grew up in Yallourn, with Sue growing up mostly in nearby Yallourn North. Yallourn, although belonging to the SECV, had good facilities and there were many similarities to what it must have been like growing up in Bendigo with its ongoing mining and rail hub until recent years. We married and started our adult lives in the Latrobe Valley before accepting a work change to Shepparton with its predominantly agricultural feel. We loved it. A short stint followed in nearby Albury/Wodonga and our circles mainly involved small business owners. That was a good time of life as well, except for lack of satisfactory work for me.



An eighteen-year stint followed in Melbourne's eastern suburbs. Sue and I were talking one day in 2015 about where we would most want to live. We both agreed regional cities suited us best and Bendigo was on the short-list. In October that year, both of us independently were told that our positions were to be redundant at the end of the year, resulting in my starting with my current employer in the first week of 2016, and Sue working initially for Helen and Rod a few months later. Bendigo was now our home and the Central Vic. Branch was now our Ulysses Club.

Our history was in country Victoria but I often wondered prior to our move here how 'city-fied' we had become. Eighteen years was a long time to be in the city. How different was it really going to be to move back to the country?

Traffic was the first and most obvious difference upon our return. Boronia is at the foot of the Dandenongs with lots of mountainous, and therefore bike-worthy, roads at our doorstep. However, it would still take up to an hour in often heavy traffic to get to and from

many of those wonderful roads. Often those roads were loaded with tourists on especially weekends and the 'Safety Police' certainly were quick to remove any fun with speed limits and cheese cutters.

Bendigo has great roads to get around on with broad shoulders. It takes about twenty minutes to get from one side to the other and there are nature corridors that can take you virtually in to the city centre. Although there are plenty of straight roads out of Bendigo, we do have what I have nicknamed 'Bendigo's answer to the Dandenongs' on roads such as Diamond Hill Road through to the other side of Mt Alexander. Although there aren't as many tightly twisting roads, it isn't that hard to find roads with sweeping bends and little or no traffic to contend with.

Weather is an often overlooked and welcome difference. Yes, Bendigo has more extreme weather. It is colder in winter and hotter in summer. It is also sunnier more often and although we have our share of drizzle, it is nowhere near as much as what Melbournians come to accept as normal. Days with low temperature and clear, sunny skies is a lot more enjoyable than weeks of weary, overcast, dull grey.

There are other advantages but my question to myself was how much I had become city-fied. I certainly didn't feel particularly city-fied in Melbourne and it took a bit of time before I saw a couple of areas where I had become city-fied and where a return to country values has been welcome for both my wife and I.

Probably the key change to country Victoria for me has been in the 'hands on' area. Country folk are more likely to entertain at home and do their own work maybe with a mate who is willing and able to help. It isn't that there aren't competent people in Melbourne. The lifestyle tends to lean against doing it yourself though, where you do your job and you're more willing to pay somebody else to do what's left over that needs to be done.

An example is key celebrations. We hired halls or restaurants with rooms for special events for many of our family celebrations. Catering was provided or brought in. Providing covid-19 restrictions have backed off a bit by summer this year, we intend to host a Christmas celebration for my sisters and their families. We intend to stretch a few tables under the carport, fire up the barbie; and host them all in our back yard. Food will be brought by all participants, with some extra cooking by us. We didn't do that when in the city.

I am also planning on brushing up on my toolkit and motorcycle repair skills (I have a workshop manual for the Trophy and already use software I've obtained). I have found a couple of places I can take the bikes in Bendigo, so lack of mechanics is not an issue. Our jobs pay well, but I'm not averse to using time instead of dollars to keep both bikes in good nick.

Guys like Bob, Rod and Paul in our branch have helped me rethink how I keep our bikes on the road, particularly as both our bikes are over the 100,000kms mark. I used to work on my bikes when I started riding in the 70's, including making a few mods. But I found when I lived in the city that time and space was at a premium and it was easier to pay somebody else.

Now, we've returned to the country and we like the difference.

- Bruce Jones



The Australian sense of humour, and attitude to women, shines through?! 😊

The missus isn't talking to me. She said I ruined her birthday. I'm not sure how...I didn't even know it was her birthday!

My mate is thinking about asking his ex-missus to re-marry him, but he's worried she'll think he is just after her for his money.

Two guys in a health club, one is putting on a pair of women's lace knickers. 1st guy: "Since when do you wear women's underwear?" 2nd guy: "Since the missus found 'em in the glove box."

My missus left a note on the fridge: "It's not working. I can't take it anymore, I'm going to live with my mum." I opened the fridge door, the light came on, the beer was cold. What the hell is she on about?"

The missus said she's leaving me because I invade her privacy too often. At least that's what it says in her diary.





RIDES & EVENTS

Aug	9th	Central Vic Monthly Ride. Leave Rotary Park, Kangaroo Flat 10am with full tanks. We will provide a barbie lunch (snags, rissoles, bread, salad, cuppa) at Melville Caves. Cost will be \$5 each with any profit going in to branch funds. You are free to bring your own lunch if you prefer.
	20th	Central Vic Mid-Week Ride. Leave Rotary Park, Kangaroo Flat 10am with full tanks
	26th	Social Night Watch CVUB facebook page, emails, and/or texts.
Sep	9th	Central Vic Monthly Ride. Leave Rotary Park, Kangaroo Flat 10am with full tanks
	20th	Central Vic Mid-Week Ride. Leave Rotary Park, Kangaroo Flat 10am with full tanks
	26-27	Back-To-Basics Rally @ Tarnagulla. Further details will come as they are available. This may still not be able to proceed because of the covid-19 pandemic.
	30th	Social/Info Night Watch CVUB facebook page, emails, and/or texts.



Motorcycle and Light Engines
Servicing & Repairs Engine Rebuilds

Quality Trusted Service

Bowan Thomas

36 Chrysler Drive Epsom. Ph 0409 433 809

bowan.thomas@bigpond.com



FOR THE DIARY

Sep	26	Ulysses Club Annual General Meeting @ Sydney, NSW. Postal voting for President's position is currently available via administration@ulysses.org.au . Completed forms need to be returned to the Returning Officer no later than Friday 11th September
Mar 2021	22-28	Ulysses National Rally @ Mandurah, WA. Further details at www.ulyssesrally2021.com

The Last La-HA-HA-ugh!

Thanks Ron ...



Accidentally went grocery shopping on an empty stomach and now I'm the proud owner of aisle 4.

Arguing with a women is like reading the Software License Agreement.

In the end, you ignore everything and click "I agree".

Should I tell him...

