

# BUSHWACKER

Official newsletter of the Central Victoria Ulysses Branch

## Returning to the Road



I was working the weekend following lockdown restrictions in Victoria being eased to Stage 1. Sue wasn't, and accepted an invite for a ride with Paul and Mel, starting through Bendigo's answer to the Dandenongs and with an initial stop at the Harcourt General Store.

The three of them enjoyed their cuppas on the edge of the balcony, and Sue said there was a lot of motorbikes there with a lot of bikers standing and sitting around enjoying the day. I was fairly jealous at work as I saw a lot of other riders around Bendigo dusting off their tyres.

I know a number of Central Vic riders have done ring-arounds and gone for rides in small groups as well.

Aaah .... Freedom!

We all know there hasn't been some mystical wave of the wand and the corona virus has disappeared from Oz, much less the rest of the world. Social distancing, etc., is still in place and will be in some form for awhile. But we also all know that getting on a powered set of 2 or 3 wheels is very, very good for the soul.

Our Branch returns to our regular rides in June, commencing with a monthly ride being organised for Sunday, 14th of June.

**We're back!**

- Bruce

**Also in this issue:**

|  |      |
|--|------|
| <i>Committee &amp; Info</i>                    | 2    |
| <i>From the President</i>                      | 3    |
| <i>Ingenuity in action<br/>From the editor</i> | 4    |
| <i>Op Shopping</i>                             | 5    |
| <i>A borrowed chuckle</i>                      | 6    |
| <i>And one on me</i>                           | 7    |
| <i>7 reasons to buy a bike</i>                 | 8-10 |
| <i>Rides &amp; events<br/>For the diary</i>    | 11   |
| <i>The Last La-Ha-Ha-augh!</i>                 | 12   |

## 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.

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

See 'rides & events' for details.

### 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



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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

We are slowly emerging from our corona virus lockdown. Last week a few of us went on a short ride, about one hundred kilometers by the time we got home. It was not our regular second Sunday of the month ride but we just wanted to have a ride and could not wait.

Members have been keeping contact with each other over the past weeks. I have received a few phone calls. Facebook is moderately active.

I note that those with social welfare concerns have continued to look after members. I have bumped into a few people when going for my take away coffee at Tyson's Reef. The Bushwacker continues and we thank Bruce for his efforts with that.

We look forward to the day – and it is fast approaching – when we can get back to normal and continue our Ulyssean life. The committee will try to keep you all informed of our progress to normality using e-mail and Facebook.



### DVDs

When the Rodders club rooms were about to be bulldozed, a few members salvaged our possessions which were there and they ended up in my shed. Among them is our DVD collection including such titles as *Easy Rider* and *Stone*. Anyone who would like to borrow a DVD or who is interested in what is in the collection can contact me.

### Golden Dragon Rally

As I write this piece, we are about to meet again to decide the future of the GDR. Our last meeting brought no conclusion because we thought the regulatory landscape was changing too fast and any decision made then would be irrelevant under new conditions. This proved to be correct and as I write, we are looking forward to freer times in the future. At the same time, there is a threat of a second wave and a new lockdown. It is up to the committee, but I believe our plans for the GDR should be flexible ones to allow us to do whatever is possible at the time, at a moment's notice. We will see what the committee thinks.

Contributions of members on the subject have been helpful and you are invited to contact the committee with your thoughts.

I look forward to meeting with you all soon.

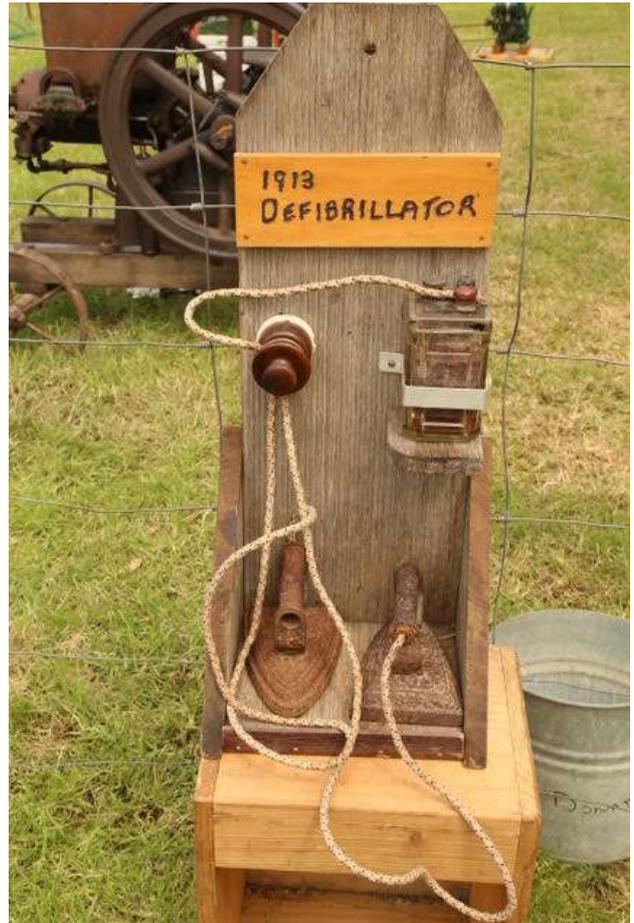
Best Regards

Michael Hennessy

### POSTSCRIPT

The GDR Committee and Branch Committee met on Thursday, 28th May. The Golden Dragon Rally will be replaced by a **'Back-To-Basics' Rally** similar to the Tree Tops Weekend at Cohuna; only this will be at Tarnagulla if the Recreation Reserve is available by then. More details will come as we have them. - Editor

## Ingenuity In Action



## From the Editor

You might notice we've got a few more laughs than normal in this month's issue. Let's face it, when you're going in to winter, a couple of chuckles don't go astray. We're also coming out of lockdown. I had to include the images on the last page Ron Jarmyn sent me as some people's stupidity certainly keep a balance of humour when the world is going through a pandemic and the twin whammy of recession/depression is noisily waiting in the wings. We're Aussies. Isn't laughing at ourselves in particular a characteristic of our nationality? Bob and I have contributed on that point.

As I stated in the introduction, we're also returning to the road. Our ride calendar is resuming, with no doubt allowances for keeping all our members hale and healthy in the face of the potential threat. With the return to cuppas at cafes, social gatherings aren't far away.

I for one don't want to in any way contribute to another person, much less a fellow Ulyssian, coming down with the corona virus. But, life is full of risks. Our favoured pastime of riding has inherent risks. One thing about being older bikers, we didn't get here by ignoring risks but have learnt to understand the risk, do what is necessary, and live life anyway. As Ulyssians, that can be doing so disgracefully, and read into that what you like. Like riding, we take necessary precautions around the pandemic, and pursue what we enjoy; getting together around our common enjoyment of motorbikes and riding.

I hope you enjoy this issue's read and hopefully June's issue will be rich with stories of riding together.

- Bruce

# Op Shopping

Traveling through Long Gully, I noticed that the Salvos had opened after stage 1 restrictions were lifted. Having no resistance to Op shops, in I go. At the back section where the men's wear is, ladies were sorting a large number of single bed mattresses. When I inquired as to what was going on, stores had cleared a lot of stock of singles and the Salvo's were selling all off at \$20 each. For Op shoppers, it is a golden chance not to be missed. For months I had been looking to improve the quality of mattress on my bed. Some time ago I eliminated a queen bed for a single. Do I hear some sniggers out there *(or maybe identification – editor)*.

On examining the collection, the ladies recommended this Slumberland that only had a small shop soil mark on the side. It was 400mm deep with 300mm quite solid on the lower section, with 100mm like a concertina with quilting on top.

As I always do as I am told, I paid the \$20 and they took it out the back for me to load on to the roof racks. Finding a clean spot on the driveway, I heaved it on to the roof and strapped it down. Going back in feeling quite pleased with my purchase, one of the ladies asked if I had sheets for it. Looking in the sheet there was an IKEA set for \$7. She said that as it had a yellow docket, it was half price at \$3.50. Ah, a happy man indeed!

On arriving home, the gravel drive was overcome with a sheet of plywood so down it came without taking out the mirror. Describing my situation, the bedroom is up a very steep staircase with deep treads and a small landing at the bottom. Access is through the workshop which is carpeted and though the back door opposite the staircase landing.

Nothing ventured, nothing gained; so in I go. At the landing of course the bed does not bend. So up it goes on end, just missing the ceiling, and around the corner. I then lowered it with a thump on to the stairs on edge. The mattress is now called the bastard as it has no handles and at 400mm thick requires the arms of a giant.

Halfway up with my body screaming foul abuse at the feeble mind, the mind says just push the bastard up from behind. Easing my way back down to the bottom, I stepped out to the land, whoops, two steps up. I crash landed in to the wall taking a sizable chunk of skin off my elbow, bruised my left forearm, and wrenched my wrist.

Meanwhile the bastard slid down slowly with a vain attempt to pin me to the wall. I have not mentioned the 15 paintings on the walls that should have been removed but weren't. Four of them crashed with me but luckily none were damaged. Now blind rage is an amazing thing, not good on sentient beings, but ruthless on inanimate objects. A big 'S' appears on your chest and 40 years of muscle wastage disappears. So trying not to bleed all over

*(Continued on page 6)*



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the virginal white quilted top, with my newfound strength, I hauled the bastard up to the top landing.

The old mattress was soon tossed aside and the bastard mounted on its base.

Having forgotten that the base is 400mm high plus castors, feeble mind is lapsing in to hysterical laughter with the thought that, "Mate, you will need a stepladder."

I looked like a great slab of lamington with just enough bed head showing to hold a pillow in place. The \$3.50 sheet set didn't fit of course, and now covers motorbikes; much more fitting

With a good deal of heaving the queen size sheets, I still had fitted okay. So, now I am sure you can think of a number of moral teachings from this tale. Here are some:

I remember the fairer sex complaining of how hard it is to change sheets on a heavy mattress

Wisdom is supposed to be gained with age. But men dive in without fear when actually they should ask for help

Now motorbike riders can learn a lesson here. The biggest, the heaviest, bright coloured maximum bling object or bike may not be the most suitable one's needs.

P.S. Thank-you for asking, my elbow and hip have healed well.

I am just able to get my skinny bum on to the bed and while the bastard looks quite ridiculous, quality counts with a good night's sleep

Bob Waterhouse (64782)

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## A Borrowed Chuckle

My first bike was a Honda 50 at age 15 that I traded for a 305 Superhawk the following year. I grew up in a small town in southern Ontario in the 1960s, a town with two traffic lights and its own small constabulary and the climate was mild enough to ride most of the year.

At 16 I was invited to a motorcycle club's New Years Eve party - not a "hard core" club, just a bunch of young motorcyclists who were meeting on the other side of town to ring in the New Year. The Age of Majority was then 21 and I had never had much to drink other than the odd sip but I felt I was ready to enter the adult world. After arriving at the party on my 305, I was offered a beer, which I drank, then another one. By 11 p.m. I had had 3 beer and I wasn't feeling too good. I was feeling pretty sick!

Realizing this wasn't going to get better any time soon, I decided to go home so I got on the Superhawk and slowly started making my way across town. There was only one traffic light that I had to pass through on the way home and as I approached the light I saw the town police cruiser sitting in a parking lot right on the corner.

Luck wasn't with me - the light was just turning red. I knew the police would be watching (since there was nothing else moving) and thought to myself "I have to do this



*(Continued on page 7)*

PERFECTLY so they don't know I have been drinking!". I came up to the stop line in a perfectly straight line, stopped with my front wheel right at the stop line, and was feeling pretty smug having done a perfect stop.

Then the world started to tilt to the right and DOWN I WENT! I had forgotten to put my foot down! As nonchalantly as is humanly possible, I got up from the road, stood the bike up, and got back on.

That damned light stayed red for a LONG time and I kept watching out of the corner of my eye for the police car to move .... but it didn't. The light eventually turned green and I proceeded the remaining few block to home.

A few days later I ran into one of the police officers down town. He said "Did you have a good time New Years Eve?" and broke into fits of laughter! I realize why the police cruiser didn't move after my remarkable stop - they were probably laughing too hard to drive!

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## And One On Me

The first bike I owned was a Honda CB450. I decided to modify it along café racer lines and put on drop



bars and a plexi screen, as well as change the sprocket ratio for better road speed. I was a member of a Christian Motorcycle Club at the time and we were having a weekend at a farm the other side of Stratford. So what do you do when you're bikies on a farm? Go spotlighting with your bikes through the paddocks of course!

As I rode, I saw a bunny and headed off after it (remember I've changed the final gear ratio), changing up through the gears and closing rapidly in on the varmint .... When all of a sudden; the varmint vanished!

I knew immediately that meant only one thing; it had gone down a burrow and I was closing in on it without any hope of swerving! Next thing, the bike came to an abrupt halt as the front wheel tried to follow the rabbit, and I was flying through the air with the greatest of ease, landing square on the butt of my originals in front of the bike, which was still propped up in the burrow!

Others came quickly because they thought I was in agony. The truth is I was laughing so much, I sounded like I was writhing in pain!

It didn't end there though. My mate Joe had his girlfriend on the back of his XS650 that he had chopped and he was facing me when he saw my somersault. He was laughing so much, he dropped his bike; girlfriend still seated as it found its horizontal orientation!

- Bruce



# Seven Reasons Why You Should Buy (another?) Motorbike

Seven reasons why you should buy a motorcycle

*The following article was written by Dylan Ruddy for bikesales.com.au on 14<sup>th</sup> May. I thought it might be a good inclusion our readers can use to perhaps help them persuade their other half to agree to buying 'yet another bike', or to share with those who may not get it. In either case, it's a good read*

Some people ride motorcycles for fun, others ride for work and to commute. Whatever your purpose, there are loads of reasons why you should buy a motorcycle. Motorcycling is often used as a punching bag in modern society. According to the haters, motorcycling is too dangerous, too expensive, too obnoxious, too noisy and bad for the environment. The reality is, motorcycling is greatly misunderstood. Bikes can open up a world of practical and emotional possibilities. And stop watching Sons of Anarchy – we're not all outlaws and criminals. Now is the perfect time to buy a motorcycle (well, pandemic aside).

Here are seven reasons why you should get into motorcycling.

## 1. It's cheaper than driving a car

The best-selling motorcycle in Australia so far in 2020 is the Yamaha Tenere 700. It carries a price tag of \$17,149 ride away and has an average fuel efficiency of around 5.2l/100km. Australia's best-selling car, the Toyota HiLux SR5, will set you back around \$52,850 driveaway and has a claimed fuel economy of 8.4l/100km in automatic trim. See where I'm going with this?

Motorcycles are cheaper to service (partly because you can do it yourself), parts are easier to obtain and bikes will generally last longer than cars. If you need a car, then fine – buy a cheap daily driver and spend the rest of your moolah on a motorcycle. Feel free to quote this article in the next argument with your significant other.



## 2. Motorcycles take up less space



Growing up in a family of six, we always had two cars. But once my three siblings and I started driving, our fleet suddenly grew to six. It's fair to say our neighbours weren't stoked. But what if we sold our cars and rode bikes instead? Imagine the space on the street and in the driveway?

That's an extreme example, but for many, especially inner-city dwellers, space is a valuable commodity – even one car can be a squeeze. Stop playing automobile Tetris and buy a motorcycle. It will fit just about anywhere – even your bedroom if you so desire. Bikes can be legally parked on the sidewalk too, so you'll never

struggle to find a carpark.

*(Continued on page 9)*

### 3. You'll get places quicker



Here is a scenario – you're in your car and stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic. You're already late for work, and no amount of Google Maps wizardry will get you there quicker. The car next to you is trying to push in, and then Nickleback comes on the radio. As you slowly build up into a volcanic rage, a motorcyclist zips up the middle of the two lanes, all the way to the front of the line. If you don't know what this feels like, go find a wall and bang your head against it. Although, by the time you find a wall, that motorcyclist will be already at his desk and onto his second coffee.

### 4. It is the ultimate form of social distancing

In the post-COVID world, social distancing will become a competitive sport. But motorcyclists have been social distancing since motorcycling began. One of the great joys of riding a motorcycle is getting away from the Rat-Race and getting lost in your own company. With a helmet, gloves, jacket, pants and boots, you are well protected from any germs or viruses, and the 1.5m rule is a given – if anyone gets any closer, COVID is the least of their worries.



### 5. It will make you cooler (and more attractive)

At the risk of sounding superficial, motorcycling does make you cooler. Okay, so cool-factor is subjective, and I have no data to prove it. But why do you think they call Steve McQueen the 'King of Cool'? What about James Dean? Model and TV presenter Kate Peck rides motorcycles – she's cool too, right? Yeah, motorcycling makes you cool. And attractiveness? Well, believe it or not, someone has actually done a study on this. Carole Nash Insurance once asked 1000 adults to rate the looks of the opposite sex when dressed in motorcycle clothing. The study found that, five out of six



*(Continued on page 10)*



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times, motorcyclists were more attractive than drivers.

Motorcyclists were also found to be 'adventurous', 'daring' and 'fun'. So, motorcyclists are cool, attractive and adventurous – pretty decent incentive, right? I think chess players are cool though, so maybe don't take my word for it.

## 6. Riding is good for the body and soul



Riding a motorcycle is much better for your health than driving a car. When riding, your body is naturally more active than it is in a car. Riding is also good for mental health – there is nothing like two-wheels and an open road to soothe the soul. And science has proved it. In 2019, Harley-Davidson funded a study by UCLA that yielded the following results:

Riding a motorcycle decreased hormonal biomarkers of stress by 28%

On average, riding a motorcycle for 20 minutes increased participants' heart rates by 11 percent and adrenaline levels by 27

percent—similar to light exercise

Sensory focus was enhanced while riding a motorcycle versus driving a car, an effect also observed in experienced meditators vs non-meditators

Changes in study participants' brain activity while riding suggested an increase in alertness similar to drinking a cup of coffee

If you still think motorcycling can't give you a good workout, go ride 30 minutes on a motocross track and get back to me. I'll get the ice bath ready.

## 7. It's safer than you think

Some people love to hate motorcycling, and one of the biggest reasons is safety. How many times have you been told by your parents, friends, partner or Barbara from across the road, that motorcycling is dangerous? The truth is, motorcycling is dangerous. But it's safer than many might think – assuming you do the right things. Safety technology on motorcycles has progressed at light speed in recent years. Things like ABS, traction control and stability control are now commonplace and are designed especially for motorcycling.



Protective clothing has also come a long way, and a good set of safety gear cannot be underestimated. The biggest danger on the road is other motorists. But with a good dose of common sense, and situational awareness, you can reduce the risks. Never jump on a motorcycle without the proper training, education and qualifications, and always ride within the rules and your own limits.



## RIDES & EVENTS

|      |      |   |
|------|------|---|
| June | 14th | Central Vic Monthly Ride.<br>Leave Rotary Park, Kangaroo Flat 10am with full tanks  |
|      | 18th | Central Vic Mid-Week Ride.<br>Leave Rotary Park, Kangaroo Flat 10am with full tanks |
| July | 12th | Central Vic Monthly Ride.<br>Leave Rotary Park, Kangaroo Flat 10am with full tanks  |
|      | 16th | Central Vic Mid-Week Ride.<br>Leave Rotary Park, Kangaroo Flat 10am with full tanks |



Central Victoria Ulysses Branch

~~23rd GOLDEN DRAGON RALLY~~

Friday 25—Sunday 27 SEPTEMBER 2020



## FOR THE DIARY

|          |       |  |
|----------|-------|--|
| Sep      | 26    | Ulysses Club Annual General Meeting @ Sydney, NSW. Postal voting for President's position is currently available via <a href="mailto:administration@ulysses.org.au">administration@ulysses.org.au</a> . Completed forms need to be returned to the Returning Officer no later than Friday 11th September |
| Sep      | 26-27 | Back-To-Basics Rally @ Tarnagulla. Further details will come as they are available   |
| Mar 2021 | 22-28 | Ulysses National Rally @ Mandurah, WA. Further details at <a href="http://www.ulyssesrally2021.com">www.ulyssesrally2021.com</a>   |

# The Last La-HA-HA-augh!

You Just Can't Make This Up!

