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ULYSIAN SUBMISSIONS

WINTER EDITION | JUNE 2026

Booking/Copy (editorial) Deadline |

Saturday, May 2nd, 2026

Advertising Material Deadline |

Thursday, May 14th, 2026

**Please ensure all images are high resolution
 and sent as an attachment. Advertising
 requirements are 200dpi, CMYK.**



Cover photo supplied by Dean #9633 & Debbie #9634. Read about their adventure on the Canterbury Helicopter Hunt - pages 26 & 27

Contents

President's Report..... 5
 Quartermaster's Report 5
 National Secretary Report..... 6
 Administrator's Report.....7
 Welcome New Members 8
 National Treasurers Report..... 8
 Strategic Planning Update10
 Hoka Hey Motorcycle Challenge 2024.....12
 Motorcycle Raffle.....15
 Chatto Creek Long Distance Motorbike Rally16
 Letter to the editor20
 Mentors Mumbings - Motorcycling is all about attitude 21
 Absolute Beginners & the 2026 Helicopter Hunt 22
 Coffee Break Puzzles.....25
 Canterbury Helicopter Hunt26
 Upcoming Events28
 Branch News30
 Co-ordinators Contact Details46
 Gear Up.....47
 Just for Fun & Coffee Break Solutions48
 Upcoming Rallies.....49
 National AGM Agenda, Remits, Branch Notices etc56

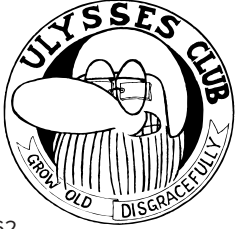
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Ulyssian Magazine Production:
Publisher/Editor: editor@ulysses.org.nz
Advertising Email: advertising@ulysses.org.nz
Design: Beacon Production
Printing: Beacon Print



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ANDY WILSON #7169
National President



These reports seem to come around quicker and quicker – March already, and only a couple of weeks until the AGM in Nelson. I am sure it will be a great weekend and lots of fun for all those attending.

As many of you know already, this will be my last Presidents report. I have decided that after 8 years on Branch Committees, then 6 years on the National Committee, 3 years as President and 2 as Vice President, its time to have a break and just enjoy all that this club has to offer.

Over the last few years, we have completed the New Constitution work and registered the document to retain our Incorporated Society standing. Lowered the joining age, we actually have 1 Branch that has now 3 generations as members. New Hi Viz vests have been sourced. A whole new range of gear will be on show at the AGM and orders taken. New initiatives, for funding new members have been happening with more to come.

We are in the process of making a new complete website which should also link to a New Ulysses app (more to come at the AGM meetings) New Banners have gone to all branches. In the pipeline we are looking at pay for service badges for all members and also trying (if possible, in the rules) to look at subs being on enrolment dates.

The Strategic Plan has been put into place to increase membership and is going ahead with more events to come.

A change of National Administrator has been put in place, due to the retirement of Debby Morgan. Gemma Peyerl is doing a fantastic job as her replacement.

AON Insurance also ceased their Sponsorship of the Ulysses Club, and a new sponsor had to be found. AA Insurance came on board as our major Sponsors whose

values are aligned with ours with regards to Road Safety and Community Support and Events.

We have also run the Motor Bike raffles yearly as well. All of this work is being done by a group of 8 people (most of them still working full-time), who give up their time to keep this Club moving forward. Thanks to every one of you for making my time on the National committee so enjoyable and rewarding.

Out in the Branches, you also have Committees working to put together rides, meetings, and Social Events, please support them.

I still have trouble understanding why some members would split and damage a branch just to get their own way, or constantly causing issues or threatening members, this does nothing to create a Branch members want to be a part of or join. Rides can be Road: Gravel: Fast or Slow; new Member rides or overnights and even a couple of ride types at the same time.

All Motorcyclists should be welcome and catered for in all Branches, if we want to grow our membership.

The National Committee is constantly planning and working on Succession streams, and I am totally confident, that the new President Suzie Pentelow will continue to strive to grow the Club. With innovative ideas and energy with the new committee. So exciting times ahead for all members, creating another chapter in this great institution of Ours.

So how would I sum up 6 years on NatCom. Extremely rewarding, very frustrating, seeing the best and worst in people. Challenging and forging some of the best friendships ever. Would I do it again? In a heartbeat. We have a great Club and Lifelong friends.

See you on the road somewhere.

ANDY WILSON #7169
National President

QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT

KAREN WILSON #7787

Just a quick report from me.

We have now a new Gear range including T shirts, Both Long and Short sleeve, Polo shirts, Zipped Hoodies, and a Heavy Long sleeve T Shirt. These are really good quality fabrics. I will be taking these down to the AGM in Nelson. Again, we will have a sample item of each top available.

This means that the previous style sample will be available to purchase at the AGM.

I hope all Branches attending have practiced for the Hobby horse competition. Natcom are entering a team so look out. Hope to catch up with you in Nelson

KAREN WILSON #7787

National Quartermaster



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NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

DEBBIE MACFARLANE #9634



This is my last report as National Secretary, for personal reasons I am stepping down and Tony Hickmott is taking over the reins.

I have enjoyed holding this National Committee role, and working with the other members of the National Committee. I have been on the National Committee for two years and have made some good friends. I have learnt a lot about what it takes to keep the Ulysses Club running. The time, dedication and hard work that the National Committee members put in on a volunteer basis is huge. I have to thank Andy Wilson for his guidance and numerous phone calls to answer my questions and Suzie Pentelow for her vast knowledge regarding policies and procedures. I wish Suzie all the best in her new role as President, she has boundless energy and passion for Ulysses and I'm sure she will do her best to steer the club into the future.

NELSON 2026 RALLY AND AGM - THE HEADINGLY CENTRE, RICHMOND, NELSON

I hope many of you are registered to attend our annual Ulysses National Rally being hosted by Nelson, starting on Friday the 27th of March and finishing on Sunday the 29th.

I'm looking forward to seeing how each branch has interpreted the dress-up theme for this year - 'Life's a Beach' and it will be interesting to see how many branches welcome the challenge from Nelson in putting together a dance routine with hobby horses.

In this edition of the *Ulyssian* you will again find the Agenda for the National AGM to be held on Saturday the 28th of March 2026 at 10am at The Headingly Centre in Richmond, Nelson.

ODYSSEY AND LIFE MEMBER MEDALS

Thanks to those who have spent the time to put forward members as nominees. We look forward to branch members sharing stories about these special Ulyssians at the Coordinators meeting and the presentations (if any) at the AGM.

BRANCH AGMS

There are two changes to the list. One change is the addition of a date for Whakatane and one is a change of date and venue for Canterbury. So please check it to make sure you have the right date on your calendar. Could all branch secretaries PLEASE make sure that you add to your agenda 'Choose the date, time, venue etc for your 2027 branch AGM'. This way, once you have sent Tony your 2026 AGM minutes (plus coordinators and financial report) he will be able to see and record this information immediately, instead of having to chase you all up in November for the December Ulyssian.

Also - if you have a change of officers, please send Tony and Gemma (our National Administrator) their contact details for our records - Thank you :).

See you all at the Nelson Rally and AGM!!

DEBBIE MACFARLANE #9634
National Secretary

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ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

GEMMA PEYERL



Hi everyone! Follow this link ulysses.org.nz/shop/ to the website to check out our newly branded **TShirts, Polos, Long Sleeved** (Summer or Winter) **Tops and Hoodies**. There's some really nice stuff there and lots to choose from...and so far, the new range has been very popular! Go on – you know you want to pick your favourite and step out in style! Have a look at the **Merino Beanie** - with Autumn's closely followed by Winter's chilly weather on the way, this could be useful to riders. Also have a look at the lovely, large, smart-looking **Chilly Bins**...a 'must have' for carting drinks and nibbles to your social events! You can also check out the "Sales" page too. Please remember to update me of any changes to your details – address / phone numbers / email address. Send the changes to me at admin@ulysses.org.nz or head to the webpage here <https://ulysses.org.nz/members-change-address/> to get the updates to me.

When making any **deposits into our accounts**

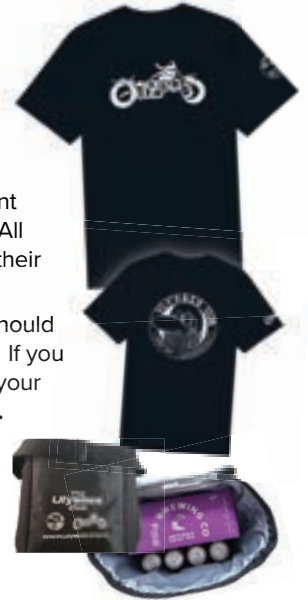
please use your name (or the name of the person you are paying for) and the relevant membership number or Invoice Number. We've had a lot of fun over the last couple of months trying to figure out who has given us money. Please note that Nelson AGM account number is NOT a National Account number. All **AGM related payments** should be made to their account: **NBS: 03-1354-0222852-01**

By now, everyone who has paid their subs should have received their new **Membership Card**. If you have paid your subs and have not received your card, please let me know at admin@ulysses.org.nz. I'll happily follow it up for you.

I hope you have a great next quarter and please reach out to me if I can help you with anything.

GEMMA

admin@ulysses.org.nz / 021 072 3636



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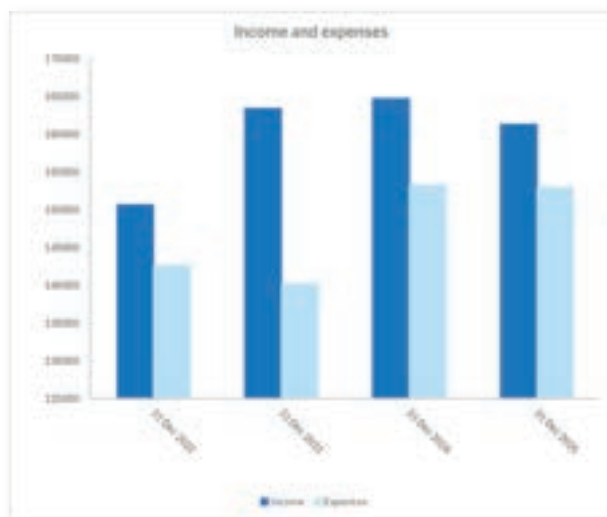
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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

#10927	Alan Willis	Canterbury
#10928	Jan Willis	Canterbury
#10929	Michael Goodin	Kapiti Coast
#10930	Alan Bates	Auckland
#10931	Sean Tomlinson	Rotorua
#10932	Leo Harris	Canterbury
#10933	Steve Kirby	Auckland
#10934	Julia Kelly	North Harbour
#10935	Andrew Kelly	North Harbour
#10936	Bridget Millar	Waikato
#10937	Ian Biddick	Auckland
#10938	Geoffrey Shaw	Taupo
#10939	Daniel Maley	Canterbury
#10940	Mark Hayman	Hawkes Bay
#10941	Ian Fox	Canterbury
#10942	Yvonne Fox	Canterbury
#10943	Graeme Cliff	Westland
#10944	Wayne McLean	Nelson
#10945	Reid Mossman	Waikato
#10946	Terence Costello	Taranaki
#10947	Johan Alberts	Nelson
#10948	Elsabie Alberts	Nelson
#10949	Mike Ferris	Rotorua
#10950	Marcian Thomas	Waihi-Thames Valley
#10951	Louis Lemmens	Waihi-Thames Valley
#10952	Malcolm Baird	Canterbury
#10953	Steve Kendall	Westland
#10954	Shelley Lill	Nelson
#10955	Terry White	Whakatane
#10956	Diane Stanley	Hawkes Bay
#10957	Benny Rupapera	Taranaki
#10958	Kevin Steele	Taranaki
#10959	Violeta Williams	Canterbury
#10960	Dave Reynolds	Nelson
#10961	Shaughan Campbell	Auckland
#10962	David Collett	Waihi-Thames Valley
#10963	Warwick Dahlberg	Far North
#10964	Hugh McParland	Wairarapa
#10965	Karen Vincent	Westland
#10966	Neil Macdonald	Manawatu
#10967	Colin Macfarlane	Taranaki
#10968	Barry May	Taranaki
#10969	Ailie Cooper-May	Taranaki
#10970	Hamish Nops	Far North
#10971	Carol Taylor	Marlborough
#10972	Steve Clarke	Rotorua
#10973	Graziella Cafatsakis	Rotorua
#10974	Eion Makela	Waikato
#10975	Nicky Kirby	Nelson
#10976	Cherie Scott	Taupo
#10977	Rach Raphael	Wairarapa
#10978	Grant Cochrane	Far North
#10979	Marina Whalen	Taranaki
#10980	Joseph Cairns	Rotorua
#10981	Michael Weeds	Waikato

Snapshot of 2025 financial result



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We can't finalise the Financial Statements until after 31 January 2026 which is the final cut off date for the payment of 2025 subscriptions. Subscriptions unpaid then are deemed to have lapsed. Only at that point will we be able to crystallise the collection of 2025 subscription invoices sent out 6th October 2025.

Membership Fees

The timeline for the payment of membership fees is detailed in Section 5 of the Branch Committee Handbook:

5. Membership

- g) Membership Fees- Subscriptions must be paid on or before the 31 December in the year they expire. i.e. Current membership expires December 2025, anyone who has not paid by 31 January 2026 will be deemed to have lapsed.

- However, if membership is renewed throughout any time in 2026, they will not lose their original membership number.

- Should payment not be received until 2027, they will have to complete a new member application form, and will receive a new member number.

- h) The Membership subscription year runs from 1 January – 31 December. It is often commented that

the subscription due date, being due 31 December, is a time when there is a lot of pressure on family budgets. Acknowledged. This year subscriptions were sent between 2nd and 6th October with a due date for payment 31 December. This provided a 3 month window to manage payment and members are welcome to drip feeding payments over the 3 months. Providing your payments are accompanied by your name and invoice number, the Xero accounting software will find your invoice ready for Gemma to apply the payment to it.

1298 Invoices were sent for members whose subscriptions were expiring 31/12/2025. As of 31 December, 218 were unpaid. Thanks to the hard working Co-ordinators and helpers for following these members up to ascertain their intentions. As of the time of writing, we have 97 unpaid members.

NEW CONSTITUTION

This was a big job and all those involved are to be commended on getting our new constitution registered in such a timely manner.

NZ has approximately 24,000 incorporated societies and nearly half of those have not yet re-registered. They have until 5 April 2026 to meet the requirements or be dissolved.

NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT



CHRIS GROUBE #7925

Societies could decide not to re-register, but in that case must go through the separate process of winding up or becoming a different kind of entity. There's likely to be a shake up of the current list of Incorporated Societies post 5 April 2026.

REMIT REMINDERS

There are some changes we would like to make to our constitution to streamline the running of the club. These were detailed in the last Ulyssian, but to refresh your memory ahead of our AGM:

1. Amend the Club Rules to increase the date range for holding Annual General Meetings of the club.
2. Simplify the Nomination Form for the election of Branch Committee members.
3. Remove the requirement for our accounts to be audited

ASSETS

We don't require a lot of equipment to operate the club. Currently we hold about \$20,000 in assets comprising \$9,000 of equipment and \$10,000 of stock available for purchase by members. The accounting definition of an asset is an unexpired expense. It is an expense when you acquire the item, but it is going to wear out over time (expire) in the case of equipment, or be sold in the case of stock. The wearing out of equipment is reflected as Depreciation expense in the accounts. Sale of stock is reflected by the cost of that stock being expensed in the Cost of Sales expense account.

Equipment we currently have - See Asset Schedule below.

Stock on Hand, or Inventory

This is forever changing but we currently hold 79 lines with our stock count totalling 1,180 items, or \$10,000

worth, at cost. You can check out our website if you want to order. Check through our stock take at the end of December. You might find something that interests you.

See Inventory Items on right of this page.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

We continue to explore the different perspectives of members on how things can be improved or what the National Committee can do to make membership more attractive. Because we are governed by legislation and a Constitution, some changes require planning and time. Where there is a financial impact, the Committee needs to be satisfied the impact isn't going to impair the Club's viability. Even though we have a comfortable level of cash reserves, no Committee wants to be responsible for squandering what has been accumulated over years of careful and prudent management.

Some suggestions currently on the radar:

- Provision of Certificates to recognise membership milestones and the cost of milestone badges being met out of subscription income.
- Making the payment of subscriptions easier and less painful. This will probably involve offering different invoicing and payment options.
- Replacing our current membership cards with an electronic version.
- A different option for membership when long-standing members are no longer able to be active in Cub affairs or ride, yet still want to be Ulysses members until the day they ride on.

Catch up at the AGM

CHRIS GROUBE #7925

National Treasurer

Inventory Item Summary

31/12/2025

Item Name	Stock Count
#1 Stephen Dearnley Badge	1
25 Anniversary Badge-1988-2015	9
Badge Age - 70 Years	3
Badge Age - 80 Years	4
Badge Age - 90 Years	3
Badge Bike - Gold	26
Badge Bike - Silver	12
Badge Lapel - Gold	6
Badge Rider Mentor	22
Badge Round Cloth - 85mm	18
Badge Round Cloth - NZ 100mm	21
Badge Service - 30 Year	17
Badge Service - 10 Year	31
Badge Service - 15 Year	25
Badge Service - 20 Year	33
Badge Service - 25 Year	17
Badge Service - 35 Years	16
Badge Service - 5 Year	57
BBQ Apron	5
Beanie	7
Beanie - Merino Embroidered Logo	23
Belt Buckle - Large Brass	4
Belt Buckle - Large Silver	9
Belt Buckle - Small Brass	13
Belt Buckle - Small Silver	2
Bottle Opener - Old Man Logo	3
Bottle Opener - Tribal Logo	3
Cap Black - White Embroidery	5
Cap Black - With Fern	2
Cooler Bag - Large	35
Flag - Bike 200mmx300mm	10
Flag- Med 660mmx350mm (750mm x 380mm)	1
Flag Pole - Bike 39cm Chrome	1
Hi Viz Vest	59
Hoodie - Tribal Design	2
Key Ring Black Leather-Silver	31
Lanyard	259
Mens Tee Shirt - Tribal Design	
Neck Warmer	1
Number Plate Surround-Bike	37
Number Plate Surround-Car	66
Patch - Hi Viz Vest	49
Patch-Black Denim	8
Polo Shirt - B/R Embroider-M	1
Polo Shirt - B/R Embroider-S	2
Polo Shirt Long Sleeve-M	1
Polo Shirt Long Sleeve-S	1
Riding Shirt-M	1
Singlet Black- Small Logo-S	1
Singlet Black- Small Logo-XL	3
Singlet Black-Small Logo-3XL	2
Singlet Black-Small Logo-L	2
Singlet Black-Small Logo-M	4
Sticker- Round Vinyl 60mm	20
Sticker Strip- 5 Reflective	10
Sweatshirt Blk-Small Logo-S	2
T Shirt Blk-Large Logo-2XL	1
T Shirt Blk-Large Logo-3XL	1
T Shirt Blk-Large Logo-L	1
T Shirt Blk-Large Logo-M	1
T Shirt Blk-Large Logo-S	1
T Shirt Blk-Small Logo-2XL	1
T Shirt Blk-Small Logo-3XL	1
T Shirt Blk-Small Logo-L	2
T Shirt Blk-Small Logo-M	1
T Shirt Blk-Small Logo-S	1
T Shirt Long-Lg Logo-3XL	2
T Shirt Long-Lg Logo-M	1
T Shirt Long-Lg Logo-S	3
T Shirt Long-Sml Logo-2XL	1
T Shirt Long-Sml Logo-3XL	1
T Shirt Long-Sml Logo-L	1
T Shirt Long-Sml Logo-M	1
T Shirt Long-Sml Logo-S	1
Tote Bag	4
Vest Cloth Badge-Red/Black	11
Vest Cloth Bage-White/Black	8
Window Decal -Inside	31
Window Decal-Outside	36
Wine Cooler	9
Life Member Cloth Badges	19
Odyssey Member Cloth Badges	10

Asset Schedule

For the year ended 31 December 2025

Name	Purchased	Cost	Closing Value
18 Club Logo Banners	01 Apr 2020	1,545	265
Branch Banners including poles, stakes, base (19)	22 Jan 2025	5,188	3,891
HP Laserjet Pro M426FDW Printer	01 Apr 2018	575	27
HP Z Book Computer & Workstation (Nat Manager)	26 Feb 2024	2,046	819
Laptop Dell Latitude 5000 Series (Nat Secretary)	27 May 2025	2,764	1,843
Membership Card printer	07 May 2024	2,940	1,040
Pull Up Banners	01 Jul 2019	1,535	544
Raffle Barrel	01 Apr 2013	200	65
Shelving for Gear	04 Jun 2025	391	346
Welcome Banners 2400 x 1200 (2)	06 Oct 2025	505	492
Total Equipment		#####	9,331

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

PAST MEMBER SURVEY

Thank you to the members who asked about the promised survey results. Gemma now has these and will be including them in her next Administrator newsletter.

Branch boundaries map update

Natcom currently has a very old map of branch boundaries. Our goal is to update this and have the final 'seal of approval' of updated boundaries done at the October Coordinators meeting in Lower Hutt. Gemma will be working with coordinators to confirm current boundaries between branches and redefine those who have absorbed defunct ones.

NEW BRANCH COMMITTEE ROLES

As part of our national push to attract (and retain) new members, branches were asked in late 2025 to create two new roles:

PR & Marketing – focused on creating opportunities to recruit new members

New Member Support – focused

on supporting members who have recently joined

Gemma is currently setting up dedicated email addresses for each role, and initial job descriptions have been sent to branches. If you are considering volunteering for either role, please ask your Coordinator, Treasurer, or Secretary for a copy of the job description, or email me directly at com.4@ulysses.org.nz. I've heard that some branches have got members who have put their hands up for one of these roles, but don't want to do it 'officially' - That's perfectly fine! Having someone who is putting some time and thought into these areas is what we want - labels don't matter.

Another recent suggestion is the need for a role like a Welfare Officer in each branch that follows up with members who have been around for a while (i.e. no longer "new"), but then slip off the radar and stop attending events. Does your branch have someone who monitors this and proactively checks

in with those members to see if they're OK and encourage them back? If so, I'd love to hear how your branch manages this.

'FONE A FRIEND' RIDE – FEBRUARY REMINDER

As part of the National Rides initiative, your Branch Rides Coordinator should ideally have the following on their 2026 run schedule (even if dates aren't set yet):

- **February: Fone a Friend Ride**
- **April: Ambulance Ride**
- **September: Motorcycle Awareness Month (MAM)**

If your branch didn't participate in any of these events in 2025, please ask your Coordinator or committee why not – they may need your help! Lets get out there and share the Ulysses brand with everyone!

NEW CHILLY COOLER BAGS

Have you seen the new Ulysses cooler bags now available in the Ulysses Shop? I have two and they're fantastic!

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**VICKY
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They're big enough to take food and drinks to a BBQ or potluck dinner, and I have to admit, I love seeing the Ulysses logo at work, and at friends' and family gatherings.

ULYSSEAN TRIAL

Thank you to the branches and members who trialled this initiative for NatCom. As part of our review of costs, we explored whether postage savings could be made by delivering all magazines to a branch coordinator, who would then distribute them at events.

While this worked in that magazines were received in a timely manner, the main challenge was that many members don't regularly attend events. This meant undelivered magazines had to be hand-delivered by car, which took additional time and petrol. Although there were some positives — including reconnecting with disengaged members — the process would have been onerous for branches to manage four times a year.

FACEBOOK & PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS COMPETITION

This is underway at the moment!! We are looking forward to announcing the winner at the National Rally and AGM in Nelson. Don't forget - the branch with the most new members (percentage wise) will receive one of the new Ulysses cooler bags to do with as they please.

ULYSSES BRANDED NUMBER PLATE SURROUND TRIAL

At the end of 2025, we trialled including a number plate surround in each new member pack for two main reasons: to thank new members for joining, and to increase Ulysses visibility nationwide.

To help Natcom decide whether to continue this permanently, we contacted a selection of recipients in early February to see whether they had used theirs. All but two had — and those two planned to return them to their branches for other members. Some had already installed them,

others were planning to do so, and one member even sold their bike with the surround still attached — meaning Ulysses now has an "honorary member" riding somewhere out there. Perfect!

These number plate surrounds are available from the Ulysses Shop if you'd like one for your own bike.

2026 ANNUAL PLAN

Zoom meetings have been held with members who offered their expertise following Andy's State of the Nation letter. These sessions are helping shape the 2026 Annual Plan, which we hope to share with you all before this edition of the magazine arrives in your letterbox.

Natcom is looking forward to working with you all in 2026!

SUZIE PENTELOW #8352
VICKY CHAPMAN #9990

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PART ONE

HOKA HEY

MOTORCYCLE CHALLENGE 2024

Lets Roll!

In August of 2024 alongside my riding mate Kepa Morgan and 234 other riders, I took on the Hoka Hey Motorcycle Challenge, riding from Florida to Alaska, nearly 14,000 kms in 14 days. The Hoka Hey Motorcycle Challenge was created in 2010 by Jim Red Cloud, a Lakota Sioux tribal member, intended to be a Physical, Mental, Emotional and Spiritual long distance motorcycle riding challenge from the most South Western rideable point in the USA, Key West Florida, to the most North Eastern point, Homer Alaska. Rules were straightforward, must be on an American V Twin, no electronic navigation aids, must stay on the set route, no interstates, no speeding tickets and no sleeping indoors, you sleep next to your bike. My understanding is Hoka Hey is

a Lakota Sioux term meaning "Lets Go!" or "Lets Roll!" said in the face of overwhelming odds, apparently used by the warrior Chief Crazy Horse in battle. Seemed appropriate.

What attracted me to the Hoka Hey was I enjoy long distance riding (I'm a member of NZ Distance Riders, done a number of 1KC, NI800 and NI 1600 rides, Iron Butt and TT2000 rides plus a couple of decent USA rides including Sturgis) and toured Europe with my wife back in the day for 5 months on a BMW R100GS so I enjoy motorcycle camping as well. Also, being Maori, the kaupapa of the ride attracted me as it is based on the Lakota Sioux principal of Wolakota which celebrates all that is pure and powerful in the warrior spirit. They stress that a warrior isn't just a soldier who protects and defends. They are mentors, guides, teachers, set the example for others and lend strength to the people, attributes which

resonated for myself and Kepa. Our people were Polynesian voyagers so in a motorcycling context the challenge was about exploring and travelling new lands at pace, being self sufficient and embracing the challenges of the road.

Part of the challenge included fundraising for a charity, I chose Waiariki Womens Refuge and between a charity ride and Givealittle page raised \$2159 which paid for 54 nights secure accommodation for those escaping domestic violence. The challenge raised US\$1,171,695 for various charities in total.

Entries were limited to 100 new riders and the event is held every 2 years with different routes but 2024 was a re run of the original 2010 route. You had to apply 16 months before the event, we had 2 online interviews, paid a non refundable US\$750 entry fee, then set about working out what bikes to ride. I usually ride BMWs and have an

R1200 GS Adventure but for the Hoka Hey it had to be American so Harley, Indian or Victory. Eaglerider rentals do not have a depot in Alaska so renting would not only have cost me nearly US\$8k for 3 weeks (peak season/1 way rental) but after finishing in Alaska I'd have to ride it back to Vancouver in Canada, another 3,882km. I had a limited window of 3 weeks all up for the trip and could not really spare the time, plus another 4 x 1000km days under time pressure straight after 14 time pressured 1000km days would have increased the risk profile too much for me.

So buying a bike it was, I'm a decent sized chap at 193cm and 120kg so a big all day comfortable bike, capable of maintaining a respectable touring speed with good fuel range (no Auxiliary tanks allowed), reasonable ride and handling, secure luggage capacity as you had to carry everything you need with you, along with ABS, cruise control and wind/weather protection were the purchase requirements. I'm not a Harley guy and they don't exactly have the best reputation for reliability, (we met 3 riders who had to buy new Harleys to replace their broken down ones at the checkpoints to complete the challenge!) although I did look at Electraglides and Roadglides. I like the look, build quality and performance of Indians so a Chieftain or Roadmaster were options, my budget would not stretch to a new bike or the Indian Challenger models so via Cycletrader.com I started bike hunting. Turned out to be a bit of a mission as a number of enquiries went unanswered, it seemed all a bit too hard for most dealers as I was an overseas buyer of a lower value used bike and each state has different registration, mechanical check and insurance rules so quite complicated to work through. However I found the bike I wanted in May 2024 at Flip My Cycle in Fayetteville North Carolina, who could not have been more helpful as I needed the bike set up before I arrived. Sales process support so I had the correct documents for shipping home, registration (you need a US address to register a bike, they let me use theirs), insurance (via Progressive on a monthly payment plan) fitted Clearwater LED driving lights, TPX radar, Garmin GPS (to get to the start line), USB charger for heated gear/

intercom, RAM Wireless phone charger (for the FOBO Tire Pressure Monitoring System (TPMS) App and to play music to my Sena 10C intercom via my spare phone), 2 RAM XL cup holders for 1litre Stanley cups, full service, new Dunlop Elite 4 tires etc.

I ended up purchasing a 2013 Victory Vision with 23,000 miles on the clock for US\$9k, which my middle boy called "Matakite" which is Maori for someone with second sight or who sees visions. On researching the Victory Vision, they are big bikes that suit big guys, very comfortable and actually handle better than a 410kg wet bike should. 106 cubic inch (1731cc) fuel injected V twin, 6 speed belt drive, hydraulic lifters and self adjusting cams so low maintenance, rear air shock, ABS, cruise control, stereo with aux input, on board trip computer, electronically adjustable windscreen, wind deflectors, HID driving light, heated grips and seats, 110 litres of lockable storage, 400km range and styling straight out of the Jetsons. Although Polaris discontinued Victory in 2017 they hold parts until 2027 with aftermarket parts also available online, plus my ego loved the out there styling so the deal was done. Obviously you need to prepare for such a ride, as well as medical and dental checks I had a training and nutrition plan to try to be reasonably fit, organised travel insurance (1Cover) including Medivac and deceased



remains repatriation (that focuses the mind) and cranked a number of ride/camp training runs including an Iron Butt 1600km.

So 26 July 2024 I flew from Auckland to Fayetteville North Carolina to pick up my bike, using a packable main cargo bag, my 20L drybag as take on and my helmet bag for electronics packed inside the helmet. I spent 2 days setting the bike up including fitting my homemade lower wind deflectors, packing the tent/airbed/

CONTINUED OVER THE PAGE...

XL sleeping bag/camp stove/camping fly I bought from a local Walmart (pre order), emergency food, tool kit, spares, clothes etc, applying stickers and my rider number (#1241) as well as covering the front of the bike badly with paint protection film as I knew it was going to be run hard for the next 3 weeks.

I used a Saddleman BR4100 60 litre D shaped seatbag designed for American tourers with my drybag on top for camping gear/clothes/jandals/toilet bag and rain gear, snack food and spare water in the pouches. The

left pannier for tools, jump start pack, battery tire inflator and repair kit, fire extinguisher, shock pump, spares. The right pannier was for spare clothes, with no washing/drying time on the road I needed 14 pairs of undies and sox, 5 T shirts, 2 sets of merino thermals plus my flight clothes and a large deodorant (shower in a can). I used the topbox for a decent 1st aid kit, cooler bag with food, thermal liners and heated jacket, winter waterproof gloves, balaclava, silk glove liners, Rain overmitts, spare glasses plus powerbanks as it had a 12v socket to charge while riding so I could charge up my phone (I took 2 phones both with US Sim cards) and the Sena intercom at night while I slept in the tent. We would be riding in up to 40 degrees

Celsius in Florida/New Mexico down to 2 degrees in the mornings in the Yukon/Alaska and no hotels meant no drying gear out overnight so needed flexible layering options along with good wet weather gear. I feel the heat so opted for Klim Induction full mesh riding jacket and pants in light grey to reflect the sun, Gore-Tex GTX Adventure ankle boots, Induction mesh gloves and back support, my GMAX flip front helmet with the Sena Intercom/helmet cam and Scott wet weather jacket and pants, along with waterproof breathable liners so I had multiple layers to stay dry. Which was handy as the first 4 days we were following Hurricane Debby and it rained pretty much non stop. I had 3 Visa cards with separate accounts, a Wise card and a Cash Passport Mastercard along with cash so again had options if some pumps would not take certain cards. Cable tied my Leatherman, personal locator beacon and a can of bear spray to the belt loops of my riding pants and I was ready to roll. **Hoka.Hey.**



TO BE CONTINUED IN THE NEXT EDITION...



2026 MOTORBIKE RAFFLE

Drawn on Saturday, March 28th, 2026

At: The Headingly Centre, 2 Headingly Lane, Richmond 7020.

PRIZE New Motorcycle, of Winner's Choice!*

Value from \$12,300 to \$24,495

Lottery Starts: 27 Dec, 2025 **Lottery Closes:** 20 Mar, 2026

Lottery Drawn: Between 7.30 pm and 9.30pm on Saturday 28 March 2026

Method of Draw: Ticket drawn at random from barrel under Police supervision

Results Published: NZ Herald & The Press, 10 April, 2026 & Ulyssian, June 2026

In the event of cancellation: This will be published in the NZ Herald and The Press

LOTTERY

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ORGANISER

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10⁰⁰
per ticket

2026 Motorcycle Raffle - Prize Listing

*Raffle Winner to select ONE from the following list of NEW Motorcycles

Make & Model	RRP
HONDA	
CB500F	\$12,295
CBX500X	\$11,500
CRF450R	\$16,495
TRX420FA2	\$20,694
CRF300L X2	\$21,590

BSA X2 BIKES

GOLDSTAR 650 LEGACY	\$12,990
BANTAM	\$6,990

MOTO GUZZI

V7 SPORT	\$19,990
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TRIUMPH

DAYTONA 660 LAMS	\$14,490
DAYTONA 660 FP	\$15,190
TRIDENT 660 TRIBUTE FP	\$15,990
TIGER 800 SPORT	\$17,995

VESPA X2 BIKES

GTS CLASSIC 300	\$10,790
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BMW

G 310 R	\$6,990
G 310 GS	\$8,990

C 400 X	\$15,490
C 400 GT	\$17,490
CE02	\$16,990
F 800 GS	\$21,990

SUZUKI

GSX800FR	\$15,999
GSX800R	\$15,999
GSX800T	\$16,999
GSX800TT	\$17,999
DL800DE	\$18,999
DL1050RJ	\$23,999

KAWASAKI

Z650RS (LAMS) 2025	\$14,699
NINJA 650 FP	\$13,399
Z900 ZR900FRFBN 2024	\$15,999
NINJA ZX-6R 2026	\$19,358
MULE SX 4X4	\$18,099

INDIAN

SCOUT 101	\$24,495
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YAMAHA

MT07HOA 24	\$15,299
MT09A 25	\$18,049
XTZ690 25	\$20,199
YZF-R6 22	\$22,499
YZF-R7HO 23	\$16,149

10 Manufacturers - 36 bikes to choose from

Note: All prices exclude on road costs. Prize winner accepts prize on condition that they will cooperate with publicity for the Ulysses Club (NZ) Inc and prize sponsors. All Bike prices include GST and unless stated RRP is our cost as suppliers cant hold pricing as far out as March next year. We may also have to wait for stock to arrive in country .

All proceeds to Ulysses Club (NZ) Inc Rider Safety & Training Programme



NICK BENFELL #9873

CHATTO CREEK

LONG DISTANCE MOTORBIKE RALLY

The Chatto Creek Long Distance Rally for Motorbike riders is organised by Ross and Louise Calder of the Chatto Creek Motorcycle Club. While a comparatively small event with twenty five plus entrants this year it is extremely well run and planned. It has a dedicated group of riders who return year after year among them some heavy hitters in the long distance motorbike riders scene.

Ross has constantly tweaked the format of the event based on the feedback he gets from riders.

This year 2025 the format was simple enough utilising the same 800+ kilometre route or loop as follows:

Loop 1, the hotels loop started at 0600 hours on Saturday morning.

Loop 2, the fire stations loop started at 1800 hours on Saturday evening - but in reverse.

Loop 3, the loopys (loopy being the

Otago/Southland name for tourists) loop began at 0600 hours on Sunday morning.

Riders could choose which loops they would ride.

I chose to ride loops 1 and 3. (However this combination does not qualify for the '1600' as it was not completed within 24 hours)

Gerry chose to ride loop 1 only.

A group of other riders chose to ride loop 3 only.

The most popular combination was loop1 and loop 2 thus completing the '1600'.

A small group of riders elected to ride all three loops within 48 hours. As Ross pointed out it is near impossible to complete 2,400 kilometres without a sleep break - and don't try!!

While the route was the same each loop had different photographic checkpoints. For this you were presented with a list of checkpoints

to be photographed and a numbered card that had to be visible in the photographs. To top it all off everything was colour coded.

Of course most will be aware that 800 kilometres and 1,600 kilometres approximates 500 and 1,000 miles. This has ramifications, the details of which I am not fully conversant with, for the Iron Butt Association based in the USA.

While the above sounds complicated in explanation it is very simple in execution.

Day One Friday the 14th November.

Pegasus to Chatto Creek via Waimate, Trotters Gorge, McCraes and through the Ida Valley is 514 kilometres.

There is always a start to these adventures and our start began at the Rolleston BP or for me my home in Pegasus. Gerry and I decided to ride down together and also invited

anyone who wanted to accompany us for however far they liked.

At the prescribed time of 8.30 I arrived at the Rolleston BP to find Jeff Ross waiting for us. He quietly asked if we minded him riding with us. Jeff you were more than welcome. Basically there are two ways to head south, SH1 or the inland scenic route. We chose SH1. So off we went Gerry leading for much of the way. Ashburton, Temuka, Timaru, St Andrews, before we turned right and headed to Waimate. And at Waimate is the Waimate Bakery an excellent place to stop for lunch.

Gerry's BMW 900, Jeff beside his BMW K1200 and my Triumph Tiger 1050 outside the Waimate Bakery.

Back on the bikes and this time it was Jerry's turn to make a route change. After going over the Waitaki Bridge, through Oamaru, past or through the ridiculously named Herbert - who the hell would want to live in a place called 'erbert - and

Moeraki famous for its boulders we turned right into Trotters Gorge.

Riding through Trotters Gorge did not fill my mind with glee. Last time I rode through it was wet with the road surface covered in leaves and grit. However no such issues this time.

Onto Palmerston and the Pig Route with Jeff leading the way as he wanted to ride through Macraes. I thought I had ridden this way before but I had not. And what a spectacular road it was, fantastic. And whatever your thoughts are of open cast mining it was impressive. We stopped for a drink at the Macraes Pub and carried on. Morrisons, Kyeburn and Wedderburn quickly passed.

As we turned into the Ida Valley Jeff pulled over and shortly afterwards Gerry and I lost sight of him. We turned back to find Jeff and his bike with a several centimetres long split in the front tyre parked outside the Oturehua Store. A couple of kind ladies helped. First of all they directed Jeff to ring Graeme(?) at Alexandra's motorbike shop. As it happened Graeme was just heading out to the briefing for the rally at the Chatto Creek Tavern and would bring his trailer along to pick up Jeff and the BMW. Long story short the BMW was loaded onto a trailer and we met up with Jeff at the Tavern in time for the briefing. At this point Jeff began to regret he had not entered the rally.

I quote from an email Jeff sent me.

Hi Nick,

Got away from Alex about 8:30pm and home just after 01:30am. Struck rain, cold, hail, but no snow. I know I have to be a starter next year, that's for sure.

Jeff.

Adventures start before the adventure begins.

Day 2

The Hotel Loop.

I elected to stay at the Omakau Motorcamp in my little tent and had an uncomfortable first night's sleep. Gerry stayed at a BnB in Alexandra. At 5.15am my phone alarm went off, I struggled into wakefulness and staggered first to the toilets then to the kitchen where I had left my riding gear. A cunning move. A quick breakfast of muesli before I headed off to the Chatto Creek Tavern 10 kilometres away.



Waiting for the 6.00am start.



At 6.00am we were on our way first stop the Luggate Hotel with an old truck parked outside. Photo taken with my 'card' - I was number 16 - in the photo. It was cold really cold and I was glad I put my puffer jacket on. It was onto the second checkpoint the Fiordland Hotel. A search on Google Maps reveals the Fiordland Hotel is in Te Anau some 236 kilometres away and over the Crown Range. I don't plan my fuel stops but wait until the tank is half empty and fill up at the next gas station. Don't knock it, it works for me. Yes I know others plan their fuel stops to the 'nth' degree.

Thirty years ago I lived in Queenstown

and just loved my time there. But now with its incredible growth, traffic lights and roundabouts its horrible. However it does have a replacement Kawarau River Bridge to Kelvin Heights and an NPD station. I suspect I see Gerry and a few others ride past but it is not the case. Once out of the Queenstown metropolis its head down and a wild ride passing slow traffic on the way to Kingston on the twisty road following Lake Wakatipu's shoreline. I say unheard hello's to my sister in Kelvin Heights and my niece in Kingston.



Checkpoint 2 Fiordland Hotel and my number 16 card.

At Five Rivers I turn off for Mossburn and the Fiordland Hotel in Te Anau checkpoint 2 and another quick fuel up mainly because I needed to use the bog - big time. The Triumph fully fuelled and me mightily relieved we head for one of my favourite bits of road in the country the Blackmount Road to Tuatapere with its twist and turns and long straights. Tuatapere is a typical Southland town with its claim to fame being it straddles the mighty Waiau River (not to be confused with the piddly little creek not far from here). I like Tuatapere and have camped there on occasion. Check point 3 the Orepuke Tavern is not far away.

I have not mentioned the weather but it was windy with occasional rain showers but along the coast it became spectacular and wild. The wind howled and out to sea were majestic storm clouds full of fury. Clouds not to be trifled with. At Orepuke it was raining and just after Orepuke I ran into a ferocious hail storm - did I sign up for this? As I rode over Round Hill the hail eased and by the time I reached Colac

Continued over the page...

Chatto Creek Long Distance Motorbike Rally Continued...

Bay it was a beautiful sunny day - Southland at its best.

To reach checkpoint 4 the Tokanui Tavern the route bypassed Invercargill through Myross Bush to rejoin SH1. From there it was a bit of a wiggle to get onto the Rimu Road and through the settlements of Ashers and Gorge Road to Fortrose. Then it was over the hills to the Tokanui Tavern. Fortunately here the dire needs of the bike (fuel) and me were met. Checkpoint 4 ticked off it was time to head to Checkpoint 5 the Catlins Inn at Owaka.

And of course it was time to call into the Catlins Cafe.

Several years ago I called into the Catlin's Cafe when it was

a struggling poor business. Nowadays it is a deservedly thriving and popular cafe. If you ever go there I suggest you wander around as it has some outstanding wood work panels. I tarried too long.

The last leg of the journey Chatto Creek Tavern. Around the Roxburgh area I caught up with a group of four riders who must have passed me while I dawdled at the Catlins Cafe. Etiquette determined I should not pass them when we were all so close to Chatto Creek. I completed the ride in about ten hours and sat down with Ross to await the arrival of Jerry and others who were yet to finish. Six o'clock Jerry had not arrived and I decided to head back to my little tent in Omakau.

When I got home I received this email.

Hi Nick,

Well, it was certainly an interesting ride.

I was last out the gate at Chatto Creek, but I wasn't wanting to make a race of it and I was aiming to be back just before 1800 hrs.

All went well to start with, although I was starting to feel the cold by the top of the Crown Range with light snow swirling in the wind. By the time I was descending the Zig-Zag I was in desperate need of a toilet stop. As Ross later explained to me, if you need to go, just stop at the side of the road.

However, Queenstown at that hour of the morning was very public, so I decided to stop at the first toilet sign, which was at Arrowtown. Only 5 minutes off the main road so no problem, so I thought.

Then the nightmare began. The marathon was getting underway and I rode into a horrendous mix of road closures, buses, cars and people holding "Stop" signs. Not knowing the area well didn't help. I relied on the satnav to get me out of there, but every road it sent me down was met with a 'Road Closed' sign.

The bladder had had enough by this stage and I had to go on someone's posh berm, behind a tree, fortunately.

Next plan was to go out the way I had come in, but I was met with a queue of cars several hundred metres long. I rode to the front of the queue to be met by a vestie holding a stop sign. We had meaningful dialogue.

The road was being used as a bus stop to drop off runners and regular traffic was being stopped in both directions. Some of the worst traffic management I have ever seen.

So I had to U-turn and ride into Queenstown via Arthur's Point and back out to Frankton. Checking my satnav record later, the whole episode cost me 90 minutes!

Once back on track, the rest of the ride went according to plan. The ride from The Key to Tuatapere was great - empty road and some sunshine. Then the squally shower clouds rolled in and the southerly wind really started to pick up. Luckily I dodged the rain until just after Tokonui, then it really poured all the way to Owaka.

I rolled into Chatto Creek at 1840 hrs. If the Arrowtown fiasco had not happened, I would have arrived just after 1710 hrs so I still consider myself a 'finisher'.

Luckily Ross, who was heading back to Alex, saw me arrive and we managed a quick chat. Unfortunately I did not have his phone number to tell him I was going to be late, but that is sorted now.

I admire you tackling another 800km the next day. No wonder you felt stuffed by the time you got home. I had quite a sore neck and shoulders by the end of the day. After a solid night's sleep I felt better on Sunday, and had a very enjoyable ride home, especially from Alex to Palmerston - empty road and blazing sunshine.

Do it again next year?

Cheers,
Gerry

Day 3

The Loopy's Loop



You head thataway young man. Early morning view from the Chatto Creek Tavern carpark.

If I thought the previous morning was bloody freezing. The 'fly' of my tent was covered in frost and my poor Triumph Tiger 1050 was iced all over. Same routine and off on the bike to greet Ross and the other riders at the Chatto Creek Tavern. I started a little more aggressively. From Chatto Creek it is a short blast to the shortcut to Clyde.

The ride from The Clyde Dam lookout alongside lake Dunstan to Cromwell in the early morning is heaven on earth. Yes it is cold but the road sweeps around its bends, the road surface is excellent and there is little traffic. I could not have asked for more. While the route is the same the checkpoints are different and the first checkpoint is the National Transport and Toy Museum just past Luggate at the Wanaka Airport famed for its 'Warbirds' Air show.

Next was the 232 kilometre ride to checkpoint 2 the Alpine Centre Cafe and Bar in Te Anau which means of course a ride over the Crown Range. It is another breathtaking ride and in the now earliest morning I enjoy swooping through its valleys and navigating its tight turns the new Michelin Road 6's showing their true worth. The ride is less harsh than some other tyres I have used. The last few kilometres of the Crown Range road are steep and the corners sharp like 10kph sharp. The hustle of Frankton navigated, was the NPD visited I can't remember, and onto the Queenstown Kingston highway. It is a bumpy road with a lot of traffic and a lot of fun. Cars, busses and the inevitable ute make it easy to pass. You know the route.

At Te Anau I decide to call in to call my

old friends Ebel and Maxine but alas they are not home. This little diversion takes me twenty minutes and when I reach the Alpine Centre I meet the four riders who are riding the Loopys Loop only. Queues of tourists from what seems like dozens of tourist busses deter us from having a coffee stop. An Australian tourist approaches me, he has noticed my Ulysses badge and we chat briefly about the rally before I ride off for checkpoint 3 at McCrackens Rest.

Where the hell is McCrackens Rest? I know this area of the country well but I had not heard of McCrackens Rest.



Views from and of McCrackens rest.



Out of Te Anau, turn right after 12 kilometres, bypass the Manapouri township and onto the Blackmount Road for a too short 100 kilometre ride and I arrive at McCrackens Rest. Like Orepuki, McCrackens Rest lookout overlooks Te Waewae Bay and unlike yesterday the ocean is calm and the sky blue. I make a further stop at the Orepuki Beach Cafe where I join three Invercargill bikers out for a Sunday Ride. While I am chatting to them the group of four rides by. I hop on the Tiger and determine to catch them before Fortrose. I zoom past Colac Bay and ride over the hill where on a sunny day like this you are greeted by the sparkling waters of the Aparima River Estuary.



The group of four at Chatto Creek Tavern.

I round a corner and am immediately super hard on the brakes. A red car is stopped in the middle of the road,

no effort to pull over to the side, smack against the centreline and with oncoming traffic nowhere for me to pass.

I stop in time and shake my fist furiously. Damn tourists.

On other rides I have visited the checkpoint 4 Fortrose Cafe. It has a wonderful view over Toetoes Harbour (Mataura River Mouth estuary). In my youth I raced Zeddie and I.A. class sailing dinghies on the wide expanses of the estuary. I have not caught the group of four.



I am no.10 on the Loopys Loop. Stainless steel waka at Owaka.

So it is onto Checkpoint 5 the Owaka Stainless Steel Waka (look up Stainless in Google Maps). Amazing how you can go somewhere and not 'notice' something as obvious as the Waka. It is an impressive and realistic structure. Balclutha, Tuapeka Mouth, Beaumont, Millers Flat, Ettrick, Roxburgh and Alexandra roll by then it is the finish at Chatto Creek. The group of four roll in shortly afterwards and we determine I must have passed them at Owaka. I eat a meal at the tavern then head back to my little tent.

Day 4

Homeward Bound.

I have a warm and cosy sleep in my tent, the night not so cold, the morning overcast as I dismantle my tent and pack my bike. I take my time and enjoy the experience. I see Chris one of the other riders who is also tenting has not ridden off. A different character. I fuel up at the local Gas Gas Station and they accept one of my fuel cards.

It is 175 kilometres from Omakau to my brothers home in Outram and much of the route as far as Middlemarch follows the Otago Rail Trail. Many of the rides/roads in the Otago/Southland area are just - words are a little inadequate - and this is true of

Continued over the page...

Chatto Creek Long Distance Motorbike Rally Continued...

the ride to Outram with its steep climbs, twisty bends and unusual rock formations. I briefly stop in Ranfurly for coffee.

My brother and his wife have recently bought a villa on a large section in the old part of Outram. The property has a large five bay shed - the previous owner had a car collection - and extensive gardens. The shed I would like but a gardener I am not. But they both seem happy and feed me a large sandwich made with homemade bread. It is good to see them.



You can bypass most of Dunedin by going over 'Three Mile Hill' but I elect to ride through the city. I was born in Dunedin and even though it is several decades since I lived there Dunedin remains my 'soul' city. It is time to 'mile munch' and head home. I pat the tank of the Triumph it has been a wonderful companion on many rides.

Many thanks to Ross and Louise Calder for organising such a great event.



NICK BENFELL #9873

Letter to the Editor

Me again, heckling from the back row...

There's been a lot of posts and comments on Facebook from a group calling themselves MAGNZ, or Motorcycle Advocacy Group NZ asking people to put their regos on hold as a protest against the perceived unfair cost motorcyclists have to pay.

Yes, it is unfair when cyclists, mountain bikers especially competition and down hill cyclists, E-scooters etc only pay through wages. But so do I, and fuel.

However, playing the devil's advocate here. I've led tours around NZ for many years and when asked about the rego on a bike and why I complain about the ACC component of it, almost 100% of replies from the punters are "what are you complaining about? I'm paying thousands a year for cover like that back home."

Yes, and I repeat it's unfair when compared to other two wheelers, or other road users for that matter, but do we really want to go down the path and have a system like the US? Sue and counter sue, the costs of litigation and thousands paid in cover? I don't and I couldn't afford it anyway.

Like my client said, "Dude that's f* *ken cheap medical insurance Pal. Be careful what you wish for."

Regards

Chris

Coordinator

Ulysses Canterbury Branch.

www.ulysses.org.nz/canterbury

Motorcycling is all about ATTITUDE

TONY ALLEN #08420
tony.allen@callplus.net.nz

Here are some words of wisdom from much wiser heads than mine....

Most motorcycle problems are caused by the nut that connects the handlebars to the saddle.

Life may begin at 30, but it doesn't get really interesting until about 160.

Keep thy eye on the tach, thine ears on the engine least thy whirlybits seek communion with the sun

You start the game with a full pot o' luck and an empty pot o'experience... The object is to fill the pot of experience before you empty the pot of luck.

Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in one pretty and well preserved piece, but to skid across the line broadside, thoroughly used up, worn out, leaking oil, shouting YAHOO!

Insisting on perfect safety is for people who don't have the balls to live in the real world.

Never trade the thrills of living for the security of existence.

If you wait, all that happens is that you get older.

Saddlebags can never hold everything you want, but they CAN hold everything you need.

NEVER argue with a woman holding a torque wrench.

Never try to race an old geezer; he may have one more gear than you.

It takes more love to share the saddle than it does to share the bed.

The only good view of a thunderstorm is in your rearview mirror.

Never be afraid to slow down.

Pie and coffee are as important as petrol.

Sometimes it takes a whole tankful of fuel before you can think straight.

Never hesitate to ride past the last streetlight at the edge of town.

Never mistake horsepower for staying power.

If you don't ride in the rain you don't ride.

Sometimes the fastest way to get there is to stop for the night.

Whatever it is, it's better in the wind.

Two lane black top isn't a highway, it's an attitude.

A motorcycle can't sing on the streets of a city.

Keep your bike in good repair: Motorcycle boots are NOT made for walking.

If the bike isn't braking properly, you don't start by rebuilding the engine.

Well trained reflexes are quicker than luck.

Learn to do counterintuitive things that may someday save your butt.

The twisties separate real the riders from the squids.

If the person in the next lane at the stoplight rolls up the window and locks the door, support their view of life by snarling at them.

Beware the rider who says the bike never breaks down.

Don't argue with an 18wheeler.

Never be ashamed to unlearn an old habit.

Maintenance is as much art as it is a science.

A good long ride can clear your mind, restore your faith, and use up a lot of fuel.

If you can't get it going with bungee cords and electrician's tape it's serious.

If you ride like there's no tomorrow, there won't be.

Gray haired riders don't get that way from pure luck.

Always replace the cheapest parts first.

You can forget what you do for a living when your knees are in the breeze.

No matter what marquee you ride, it's all the same wind.

Tony is a Club Mentor and recently "volunteered" co-ordinator of the Wairarapa branch. He is also a full IAM member and one of the NZ Distance Rider nutters.



Absolute Beginners

and the 2026 Helicopter Hunt

CAPTAIN CAREFREE #3497

If Hawkeye Parr et moi were going to do this, we were going to do it over within 48 hours in good weather; while we don't mind riding in rain, there's no point in getting wet if you don't have to. Beside and if one overlooks the boring as bat shit ride south to Dunedin on SH1, the Helicopter Hunt route took in some pretty good riding country across Otago and Southland.

We met at 0500 Monday morning at the Wild Bean Café in Rolleston. I filled up adding a can of injector cleaner (I do this every 3000kms) and Steve checked his tyre pressures, and we were off making really good time down SH1 with little traffic to slow progress. Despite a forecast for shattered scours, a brief shower of rain before Oamaru was the only precipitation had for the trip. The long, straight approach into Steam Punk Central is notorious for generating revenue and my TPX was nutting off, the first of many such warnings we

were to get over the next two days.

We'd made very good time so a mug of Rosie Lee and a breakfast croissant at the Peter Pan Bakery on Eden Street was warranted before we rode to Dunedin and the first of thirteen questions or tasks. We took the required photo of the black loco but



with the sun reflecting off the glass all I managed to get is the mirror image of what was behind us. Never mind, it'll have to do.

Hawkeye had never been to

Portobello, and I hadn't for a few years. They've done some serious work on the road which is much improved and the adjacent cycle / walking track is very well done. Finding the answer at the pub, I took him back over the top via Highcliff Road past Pukehiki and on to Andersons Bay and Musselburgh. I should have shot down Centre Road to the beach front but the views from the top were too good to pass up. Dunedin has some wonderfully big old homes, but I imagine the maintenance to keep them in that condition is probably a tad on the high side.

Continuing south on SH1, the red LED of my tried, true and trusted Infringement Mitigator was again searing into my cornea, but I couldn't see him, or her, or where they were lying in wait. It proved to be a dark coloured sedan way up ahead on the strait after the Allanton turn-off. He pulled out and followed Steve for a while. Good boy Hawkeye, taking

one for the team like that. The answer to question 3 was found in Milton, not far from Tokoiti School, where the TT2000 has finished for the past few years. Is that a hint? I couldn't possibly say. My lips are sealed. Ya pays ya monies and Brucie will send you the questions.

From there we continued south to Balclutha and topped up before tackling the Catlins. It didn't look that flash up ahead with a very black cloud overhead to the south but as we rode towards Owaka, it moved off to the NE leaving wet roads which were drying quickly under a clear blue sky and warming sunshine. We parked up at the Catlins café for a mug of tea.



Catlins Café

The sweeping bends, hairpins and climbs and drops of the Catlins makes it one of the iconic rides, even more so when the roads are dry and with very little traffic, so it was an absolute pleasure, but the SW'er had kicked in and by the time we'd got to Fortrose it was fair howling. There's a reason why trees in southland don't need pruning on the south side. Google maps took us around Invercargill bringing us out on SH98 and the



Lost Gypsy caravan

roundabout at Lorneville.

Continuing along SH99 through Wallacetown, we were constantly smacked sideways by the wind, as it lay in wait behind hedgerows and bluffs waiting to pounce. The TPX alerted us to another snake hiding on the straight before Riverton. The surfer statue at Colac Bay was the photo op we were after, the artwork looking much the worse for wear with flaking paint and lichen growing across it. As our next question was at Nightcaps, we had two options; ride back and take the Riverton-Otautau Road or carry on and attack the thriving metropolis from the other side. Option two drew the short straw.

SH99 follows the southern coast along Te Waewae Bay and under normally a very enjoyable romp but the wind was making it hard work; at least it was sunny and dry. Filling up at Tuatapere, the self-proclaimed sausage capital of the country, we took the Otautau-Tuatapere Road through Pukemaori and Merrivale. Now I don't believe I've ever ridden this road, or maybe I have during a TT, but I can't remember, however with the wind now behind us and the sun shining down, I have to say it was bloody fantastic, a breath of fresh air, a weight off the shoulders; fast and flowing through iconic Southland's lush and flush farmland. I will definitely consider taking this road in future rather than the following the coastal route.

At Raymonds Gap, we slowed, took a hard left onto Lower Scott's Gap Road and right again at Scott's Gap Hall, an optional checkpoint on a recent TT, onto Hundred Line Road West. We snuck into Nightcaps from the south via the Otautau-Nightcaps Road through Woodlaw and Wairio.

Now here's where the best laid plans of mice and men suddenly came unstuck. Finding the answer to the question here was pretty straight forward, however sorting our accommodation, another because it was closed. A pub with no beds, no beer and no bread. The Facebook page looked very promising which is why I'd emailed them and asked if they had space for two blokes, a meal and a few pints on Monday. "Sure, we can do that". While we were standing there wondering what to do, a very large green tractor stopped, the driver



Nightcaps Pub

swinging open the cab door yelling "You're not from around here, are you? It's closed mate. Try Otautau or Winton, they'll see you right there." Giving them one last chance at redemption, I rang the number on the note on the door. Yes, we could probably get you a couple of beds. No, you'll have to get food from the shop down the road and the bar's closed. Fuelled by disappointment we continued on SH96 through Wreys Bush, Dunearn and Oreti Plains.

We found accommodation with the Paramount Motel in Winton, and can I say, very friendly and accommodating hosts and great facilities. We really recommend them if you're planning on staying in Winton. Settled in, we walked down to the Commercial Hotel for a very tasty steak, a couple of pints and a few Gentleman Jack roadies before wandering back to the motel.

Hawkeye et Moi were on the road by 06.00am continuing on SH96 through Springhills, Hedgehope and Glencoe. We turned off and took Waimumu Road as not only do you circumvent Matura, but it's also another of Southland's gems. We joined SH1 briefly south of Gore before hooking left at McNabb on to the Waikaka Valley Highway (SH90) which took us through Waikoikoi and Glenkenich.

The answer to question 8 was found in Tapanui. How many public toilets are there in Tapanui? No that's not the question, it is the answer to a question not asked that Hawkeye and I found in our search for the right answer. Despite being a rather

Continued over the page...

Absolute Beginners

and the 2026 Helicopter Hunt

continued...

picturesque wee village, it would appear there's not a lot going on in Tapanui, other than the odd bout of flu. Did you know that in 1984, a cluster of symptoms arose in Tapanui? Media called it Tapanui flu; a prolonged and unexplained fatigue caused by epidemic neuromyasthenia. I'm not sure what that is but it's clearly nowhere near as bad as Man Flu. And I should know, I've had man flu, and its bad, really bad. It's debilitating, I couldn't even manage the vacuuming. Continuing north on SH90, we turned right at Raes Junction to find the next answer at the old Beaumont bridge.



The tapeworm was wriggling and a little upset so Alexandra was the next place we were aiming for, not only did the bikes need petrol but we needed breakfast. This section of SH8, particularly north of Roxburgh, is another stretch of road that unless you're actually deceased or transitioning will have the endorphins and testosterone coursing through ones system, especially if ridden in a spirited frame of mind. When filling up at NPD, take a few moments to check out the motorcycles at Two Wheels Unlimited next door. Sitting in glorious sunshine outside the Tin Goose café with another mug of tea and a

24 | Ulyssian MARCH 2026

breakfast bagel and a good mate to solve the world's problems and figure out what to do when I win lotto, life doesn't get much better really.

We were back on very familiar roads now, the circuit along the Ida Valley and back on SH85 through Becks and Lauder is pretty familiar to most of us, yet despite being sunny, the wind was still cool so I had all my layers on, on the cusp of being just comfortable or cold.

Springfield Road took us directly to Clyde and SH8 and onto another stretch of revenue collecting highway. My TPX was to prove itself on several occasions but to be fair, we weren't in a hurry, so it wouldn't have mattered anyway. However, north of Tarras the intermittent flashing of the LED had me stumped. Where the hell is he, and with the frequency of flashes constant indicating he was travelling at the same speed, was it the white SUV two cars behind, or the dark blue station wagon in front of the road maggot up ahead? Woa! At the top of the Cluden Hill before the series of downhill sweepers, the Skoda with three antennae suddenly hit the picks and pulled left stopping on the shoulder. I think he had seen our headlights a ways back and was hoping to catch us overtaking on those long straights, and now with Hawkeye and a Royal Enfield Interceptor between him and me, I now had a free run down to the bottom.

The multi coloured lupins were out, the sun was shining and the colours of wildflowers and the alpine grasses through the Lindis Valley past Merivale Station were just glorious. I wish I had a camera and the skill to capture what I was looking at because it truly was special. Others thought so too because numerous cars had stopped and people with phones were doing just that.

Every now and then the pastel blue of Lake Pukaki and Tekapo becomes electric, almost artificially or impossibly blue and today was one of those days. I know they're a weed, but the lupins added to the colour pallet and with the reds and yellows of the grasses,

augmenting the tapestry. The lakes were chocker, really full and for the first time in a long time, they were



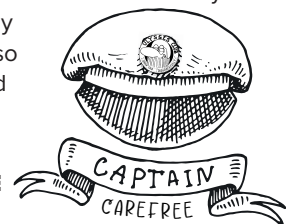
spilling water from Lake Pukaki with kayakers taking advantage of the rapids downstream.

Beep, beep beep! Jeeze, how many is that? Eight so far today? We couldn't find a milkshake for love nor money in Tekapo, so an iced coffee had to suffice. Full of petrol again, we rode for home via Fairlie and Geraldine opting to take Thompsons Track to Rakaia to avoid the SH1 congestion either side of Ashvegas. Well, that turned into a right cluster with unexpected road works and detours on most sections of the track and us zig-zagging all over south Canterbury until eventually reaching Rakaia with impatience and exasperation levels near boiling point. And the rest they say is history. A whisker under 1600kms over two days of great roads seeking answers to the mystery of mankind. Awesome. A huge thankyou to Bruce and Maree Vincent for doing the spadework for what is a worthy cause.

Oh, and why was this epistle titled Absolutely Beginners? I had David Bowie's 1986 classic as an ear worm for most of day two.

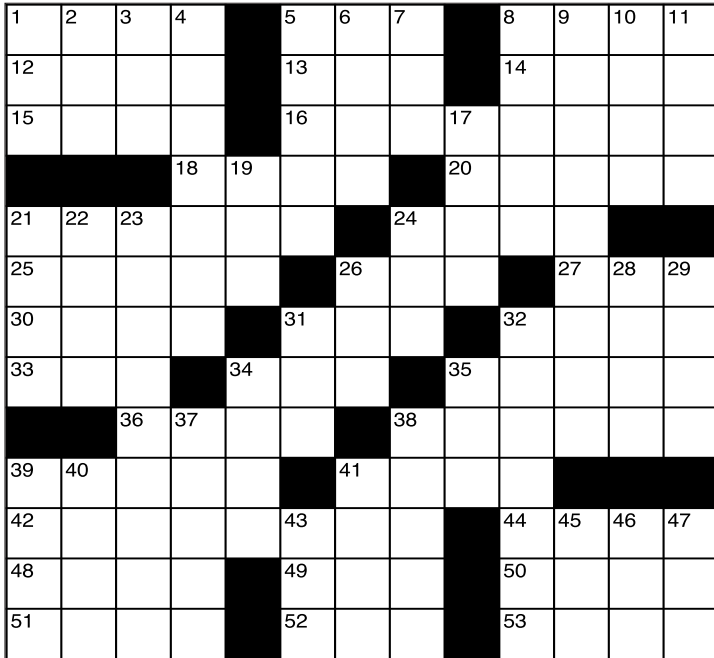
Its one of my favourites, so I didn't mind at all.

CAPTAIN CAREFREE
#3497



COFFEE BREAK

PUZZLE NO. 164



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ACROSS

1. October stone
5. Pointed tool
8. Pretends
12. Travel expense
13. Female deer
14. Circuit
15. Pet pest
16. Condensed liquid
18. Type of duck
20. Rowed
21. Crocheted blanket
24. Rudely abrupt
25. Electrician, sometimes
26. Touch lightly
27. Mischievous creature

30. Yonder
31. Center

32. Sightsee
33. Up to this point

34. Metal tooth
35. Cruel person
36. Steamy appliance
38. Arranged beforehand

39. ___ statistics
41. Lambs' cries
42. Teacher

44. Defrost
48. Came by horse

49. Sign
50. Not prompt
51. Oozed

52. Garden

- vegetable

53. Looked at

DOWN

1. Switch position

2. Sidekick

3. "You ___ My Lucky Star"

4. Deerskin

5. TV commercial writer

6. Warm fabric

7. Flower wreath

8. Center of worship

9. Polite
10. Ripped
11. Drove too fast
17. Broth, e.g.
19. Corn portion
21. "Far and ___"
22. Drum accompaniment
23. Thanks
24. Driver's compartment
26. Harbor ship
28. Old stringed instrument

29. Brood
31. Sweetie
32. Railroad bridge
34. Soda choice
35. Half of a bikini
37. Hurried
38. Hooded jacket
39. Active word
40. Adored one
41. Skeletal piece
43. Tongue part
45. Alfalfa
46. Wolfed down
47. Tie the knot

SUDOKU

HOW TO PLAY:

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 only once. Each 3x3 box is outlined with a darker line. You already have a few numbers to get you started. Remember: You must not repeat the numbers 1 through 9 in the same line, column or 3x3 box.

Puzzle 1038

3	1			8		2		
	2			6				
9			4					1
6		7		4		5		
	9	3						
			7	5				9
			2					
4						3		8
8		9					1	

Answers to these puzzles are on page 48



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DEAN #9633 & DEBBIE #9634

Canterbury Helicopter HUNT

Morning of 26th of December 2025, first day of our journey. We were awake early, so Dean made the decision for both of us that it was time to get up (5:30 AM) breakfast was cooked and eaten, bikes taken out of the shed, with a last check around the house, we were on our way.

We set off in a balmy 17-18deg at 7.45am, destination (the first loo stop) Hinds. Onwards to Timaru for 1st fuel stop and some refreshments. It was starting to warm up so time to hit the road to Oamaru, straight through to Dunedin with a quick stop at Mountain Warehouse for a set of camping pillows as we forgot to pack ours, haha. We had a photo opportunity with a train at the train station. Next stop was Waihola for fuel, Deb's fuel light was flashing. We also put on our wet weather gear as it had started to rain, and it did for the briefest moment. Always happens when you decide to put your gear on, (the rain stops). It started to get hot and humid as we came into Balclutha and it got even hotter when Dean was putting up our tent, (he felt it had got much warmer). Dean's tongue was hanging out for a cold beer and something to eat would go down well too. Needless to say, a ride to the takeaway shop and the liquor outlet was in order once the tent was set up. When were back at camp enjoying our dinner, the heavens opened up, thunder, lightning and hail. It did test our new tent, and we are happy to report nothing was wet and the tent was intact. When the storm passed, we were ready for bed (it's only 7.14pm) According to our Relive App we had done 434.8kms today. Easy day tomorrow. Looking forward to exploring the Catlins.

Day 2: We woke up to fog after the thunderstorm the night before. Packed up our tent which was wet, on the outside, everything was still dry on the inside. We finished our leftovers from dinner and set forth looking forward to the day ahead of us. 1st destination was Nugget Point to walk out to the lighthouse. It was rather warm and a bit of a hike in our bike gear! Just as well we had to stop a couple of times to take in the view. It was well worth the walk; the scenery was spectacularly breathtaking. From there we headed to our next stop which was for brunch in Owaka. Once replenished with average food we set off to find Purakaunui waterfalls. Oh dear, another walk but at least this time it was through the



bush, so it was cooler and it only took 6-7 mins. Again, well worth the stop, the falls were pretty damn cool. Next destination was Papatowai in search of a whale which was apparently in residence at The Lost Gypsy Gallery. Another good stop, a very interesting assortment of crazy stuff. Well worth the stop and worth paying the \$10pp to have a look around. We carried on to Curio Bay, the Petrified Forest, we had to do this as it was on Deb's list of places to visit. Oh great, Another walk with stairs this time! The Petrified Forest was good, but Dean was more interested in the Paua that were in one of the rock pools. Deb lost count of our many times Dean made the comment (wish I had my dive gear with him). By now the need for a cold beverage was at the fore front of our thoughts. Oh, so nice and cold!! After all of our sightseeing was done the next thing to do was to get to our campsite. Planned stop for the night was at The Beach Rd Holiday Park, the office was closed (it was 5.14pm), what a bloody nuisance. Scan the QR code and sign up, then sign in and park wherever. Deb was hot and tired, and we knew the tent was wet, so Deb said to hell with that, a motel was phoned, room booked, sorted. We were able to put the tent up on their lawn and dry everything out. Got a load of washing done, had a few coldies, walked to the Ascot Pub for dinner, back to the motel and bed. A great day, amazing roads and spectacular scenery. So pleased we did it, we must go back. Both of us said wow so many times with Dean expanding to f**king wow on occasions. 242.1 kms today. We deliberately kept the mileage down so that we had plenty of time to enjoy the scenery and stop when we wanted to.

Day 3: An interesting day to say the least. Sunshine and low cloud greeted us this morning, but we were ever hopeful that the forecast would hold true and be kind to us. It was but Auntie Google was another matter. 1st stop was to check out some surfer dude at Colac Bay. He is starting to look a little bit worse for wear, he needs a spruce up. The sky was starting to look fairly mean and threatening but no moisture fell on us, through to Tuatapere and on to Nightcaps, from Nightcaps it got a little interesting as we couldn't find a fuel station so by the time we reached

Manapouri Deb was getting a little bit nervous as her fuel light had been flashing for 60 -70kms. We filled our bikes and set off for Te Anau. We went on to book a tent site at a Doc camp, but it was full, bugga. We ended up with a tent site in Te Anau, man they know how to charge down there. We got the tent set up in a tranquil little spot, then went to supermarket for some food and beverages for the night. We had a beautiful evening in Te Anau, sitting in our camp chairs enjoying the sun and going over everything we have seen so far. 266.4kms

Day 4: We were up fairly early to pack up the tent and gear so we could head up to Milford Sound and try to beat the traffic (which turned out to be a good idea). The day was not overly warm, about 12deg for the most part but still an enjoyable ride until we got close to the Homer tunnel, then it dropped down to 8deg. The tunnel is much better now than it was in 1983. It actually had some lighting. Milford itself hasn't really changed much just a lot more expensive. \$10 an hour to park, anywhere you park is paid parking. We grabbed something to eat, had a walk around, took some photos and brought the obligatory stubby holder and magnets. We had got there at the right time as we had a pick of carparks, but when we left it was full and lots of people driving around waiting for people to leave. The ride into Milford was good but the ride out was better as there was less traffic. We refuelled in Te Anau and headed down through Lumsden on to Tapanui and a final stop for the evening at the Beaumont Hotel. Yet again a cold beverage was on order. 433.6kms

Day 5: We cruised off from Beaumont heading for Alexandra with our first stop in Roxburgh for breakfast. Onwards from Alexandra we did a loop out past the Ida Burn Dam (Old Brass Monkey site). We by-passed Alexandra and cut through to Clyde. Photo op at the dam, rather awesome watching the water blasting over the spill way, a short blast through to Crowell to catch up with a fellow Ulyssian, Craig and his wife Angela. We had a bit of a yarn, a cold drink and then set off to Omarama with the weather closing in on us really fast. We decided to try and make a dash to Twizel. Reached Twizel and

pretty much NO Vacancy anywhere, it had started to rain and Deb did not feel like putting up the tent in the rain. That decision unfortunately did cost us, we stayed at the Destination Mackenzie Country Hotel, we think we now have shares in the hotel!!! The most luxurious motel we have stayed in and definitely the most expensive. The food was fantastic and reasonably priced though and we did enjoy our meal with a couple of cold beverages; it would have been rude not to. 382.3kms

Day 6: The final leg home. Well, we started the day with some yummo food in Twizel and it was looking ok weather wise first thing. Off we set, Tekapo for some photos at the church which was overcrowded to say the least. A family of Indian's asked to have photos taken sitting on our bikes, they were very polite and appreciative, it was a bit of fun. They insisted that we were in a couple of their photos so we will be instant legends when they go home. LOL. Heading towards Burkes Pass and the wet weather gear had to go on as it looked fairly nasty but again it fizzled into bugger all but we kept our gear on as the temp had dropped a lot. A hot cuppa in Fairlie then on to Geraldine and out to the Main Road to Ashburton, where it did rain a bit. Heading into Rakaia we ran into immobile traffic about 1km from the NPD, poop, probably an accident on the bridge (again) so it was down the shoulder to the 1st left and detour out through the Rakaia Gorge. Add a few extra km's to our trip that we hadn't anticipated but we made it home with no major problems or incidents. Good to be home, now we need another holiday!! 350.5kms
Total km's travelled for our holiday – 2,109.7

An amazing road trip.

DEAN #9633 and DEBBIE #9634



UPCOMING EVENTS

Email: editor@ulysses.org.nz to list your event

MARCH

27th - 29th

2026 National Rally and AGM Hosted by Ulysses Nelson

The Headingly Centre, 2 Headingly Lane, Richmond 7020. Come and experience Nelson/Tasman like never before for our National AGM Weekend.

Information in the rally section of this magazine.

JUNE - AUGUST



APRIL

MAY

1st - 3rd

Tauranga Branch Ulysses Rally

Sea Esta Camp & Lodge, 48 Seaforth Rd, Waihi Beach. Registration form in the Rally section of this magazine.

2nd

Ambo Rides

The Ambulance Ride is back up and running! The first Saturday after Anzac Day in 2026 is the 2nd of May. We look forward to seeing all your rides go up online!

15th - 25th

Australian National Rally 2026

Nambour on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. Theme: Sun, Surf and Sand. For more information go to the Australian website at: www.ulysses.org.au

SEPTEMBER

12th

MAM Rides

We hope to see lots more branches doing this ride in 2026. The Motorcycle Awareness Month ride is a big one for Ulysses and our strategic planning goals.

18th - 20th

Rotorua Okataina Rally 2026

Make memories & reconnect.

From 3pm onwards.

Another weekend off the grid to catch up with members. Friday night catchups, Saturday day ride and then an evening with an

awesome band playing 60's themed music. Registration form in the rally section of this magazine.

Price: \$120 per person incl. patch



To list your event
on this page,
email details to:
editor@ulysses.org.nz

2026-27

OCTOBER



DECEMBER



NOVEMBER

1st

North Harbour Ronnie Run

Enabling children in Starship Hospital to have parents &/or caregivers stay in Ronald McDonald House free of charge. The Ronnie Run is held on the first Sunday in November each year. Save the date!



6th

Taranaki Energy Rally Back to Basics

TSB TOPEC, Hydro Road, State Highway 3, Junction Road, New Plymouth. Registration form and more information in the Rally section of this magazine.

JAN - FEB 2027



Hey Ulyssians!

To list your event
on this page,
email details to:
editor@ulysses.org.nz

Nelson

LORRAINE LINDSAY
#1117

nibblings

Hi Everyone,

By the time you receive this magazine the 2026 National AGM/Rally will be nearly upon us.

I hope you all got good accommodation and reasonable places on the ferry across the ditch.

Our committee has been beavering away in the background and can now see light at the end of the tunnel.

We have some exciting raffles and prizes, plus spot prizes. Our local businesses and individuals have been very generous.

Our local dealers have got great displays planned for you. You will be able to see and discuss all the standard brands and will have the time to go visit their shops. All of whom have magnificent displays of bikes and gear.

The entrance to the venue will still be compromised so it's a bit of a maze to get to the venue .

From Lower Queen Street (which is the main route past the venue,) look for Estuary Place which leads into an Industrial area , then look for the Ulysses banners after that . we come into the venue from the back .

We are going to try to post a map for you .

At the end of November we held our annual Toy Run.(see photos included). Once again, this was a great hit with the locals and as usual, we gained a few new members from it.

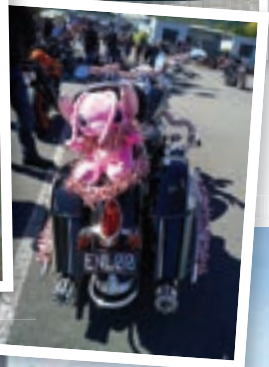
This year we were allowed to have police escort, traffic light and roundabout control. What a difference that made!

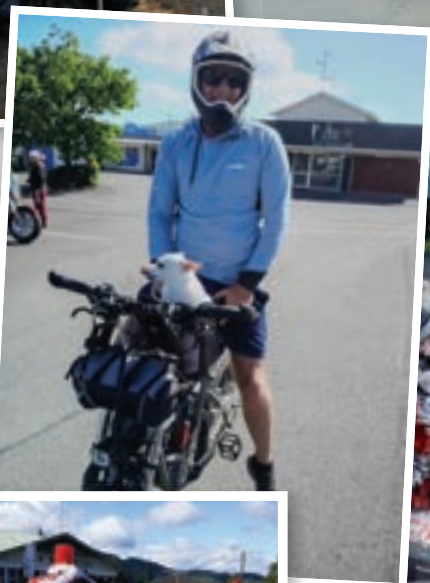
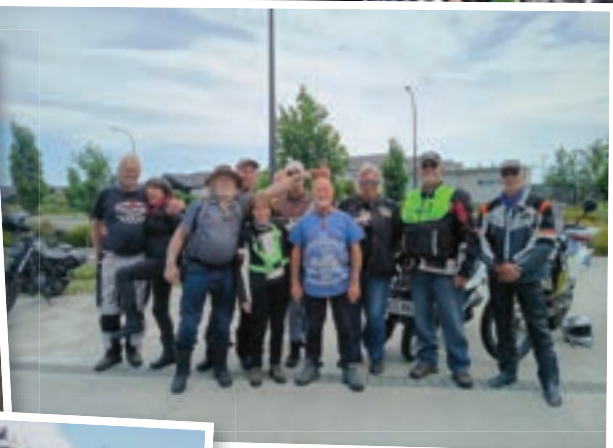
We still did not quite reach 200 bikes but 182 was still pretty good.

Its getting really hard to judge all the costumes and decorated motorcycles as more and more people are getting into the festive spirit .

Our monthly social nights finished with a great idea. Instead of having a guest speaker we had members telling yarns and stories, That was a great laugh

LORRAINE #1117





Kapiti Kapers

PETE WHITTINGTON #9311

We ended October with a ride out to Days Bay. November started with a mid week ride to Ground Up Café.

Then a visit to two motorcycle emporia in Hutt. I was leading and got lost between the two. NZ Motorcycles has the CFMoto range and we were amazed at what you can get for sensible money. No wonder the CFMoto 450MT gets great reviews. Then a bite to eat and an walk around the bikes at MC3, the smell of 2-stroke brought a tear to the eye. A few of us attended the Rider down training courses in November and learnt a lot while not feeling we were being lectured at. Our monthly coffee morning in Levin was bustling. Plus a ride out to Riversdale. We were packing in the summer trips.

Then the pre Christmas silly season arrives with everyone having multiple commitments. We still managed a gravel road ride to Whiterock in the Wairarapa. A ride out to the Herb Farm Café in Ashhurst in glorious sunshine. Another great December ride was an overnight trip to Ohakune via the Army Museum.

Our December meeting was combined with a Christmas BBQ at Manakau Bowling Club instead of a coffee morning.

Fully rested after Christmas we were all itching to get back in the saddle. A Saturday ride to Dannevirke via Pahiatua, Pongoroa and Weber hit that spot. Immediately followed on Sunday with our coffee morning in Levin where we welcomed new member Mike Goodin #10929. Poor Mike is having issues with his Vstrom at the moment; fingers crossed he gets it fixed. The while some of the country was in a red weather warning six intrepid riders donned their wet weather gear and headed to the Ground Up Café again for lunch and that craic only those of a certain age understand. (Those who don't have a little Irish in them might have to Google craic)

On a more sombre note our treasurer John Rolls #7221 is recovering from a stroke and we wish him all the very best and a full recovery in his own time. And finally my good mate Em Roberts #8056 is part way through cataract surgery and recovery and we expect him back on the road when the Doctors say he can see again.

PETE WHITTINGTON #9311



Glenn and Mary enjoy lunch at the Herb Garden



6 go for lunch in the rain



After meeting BBQ



Pahiatua on the way to Dannevirke



Guided tour of MC3. Drooling over bits of our misspent youths



November coffee morning chat



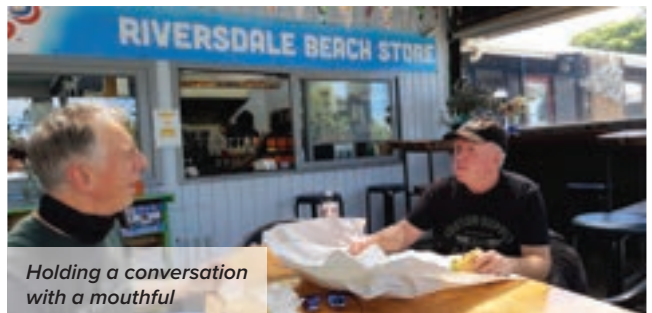
Pete presents Helge with his 10 year badge



The overnights heading to Ohakune via the Army Museum



Lance admires Pete's new tyres out in Days Bay



Holding a conversation with a mouthful



Martin chats to Peter Hookham at Rider down training while Paulette from Porirua City Council laughs



Serious discussion about gravel riding techniques



Pete welcomes Mike to the Club

Westland CO-ORDINATOR'S DISCOURSE

KERRY CHAPMAN #3443



The club coffee mornings are still well attended with up to 15 members weekly, and solving all the coasts problems and sorting rides for Sunday. I feel I must mention Peter; he is the backbone of the branch as he does the work in the background letting everyone know what is happening around the coast.

We had a good group ride (16) to Wanaka for Westland Anniversary weekend, staying at the Mt Aspiring holiday park. It used to be very good place to stay but has been purchased by overseas owners and they are getting off to a very bad start. Next year we will try another version of the bottom of the south ride, even though some of the team got to tickle Donald Trump's throat at the Highlands Park's loo with a view, due to the weather the race in the go karts was

cancelled for safety reasons. We were all keen, but they said they did not want to have the carts damaged on the wet track, the fun police at it again.

The guided tour of the Clyde Dam and control room was very interesting with a chance to get a photo of some of the bikes in front of the slipway. Like the rest of the country, we have had some bad days with weather and some good so just make the most of the weather ride every day you can. Xmas on the coast was quiet and peaceful, with various rides up and down the best roads in the world. We also have another crazy member on three wheels Well done Sonya, hope it does not scare you too often, remember if in doubt open it out.

Off for another ride keep the shiny side up.

KERRY CHAPMAN #3443,



Taupo on the rocks

STEVE #9232



Shaken but not stirred. An acquired taste that matured and grows on you.

We have had some fun rides this year, led by Andrew our rides leader with a limited turn out but all enjoying the day. Our membership seems to be holding and events like our Christmas dinner and socials, are well attended. We have our regular Saturday morning coffee meet at the Pub and Grub if you are passing through. I will attach a photo of the usual suspects.

We are working on the build up to running the 2027 AGM next year with our dedicated AGM committee all working on the different aspects of the event. We have been luck

enough to have secured a fantastic venue for this and we are expecting to have a memorable weekend. I can't say anymore without "cabinet" approval.

Its interesting to see the move to adventure bikes from sports and cruiser bikes. I guess its because of the general state of the roads. I swapped up from a HD sportster to a bigger cruiser for that very reason. I do like the look of the adventure machined but at 5'4 it's a bit of a stretch for me.

Not a lot more to report. By the time you read this we may have had summer.

Wishing Nelson good luck with their AGM. I am sure it will be a banger.

Na Mihi

STEVE #9232



Marlborough Musings

JOHN (JG) SINCLAIR #9272

From Paradise we wish everyone a happy, healthy and safe 2026.

The Marlborough Branch has changed significantly over the last 20 years. Whereas the rides were always run in the weekends, these days our rides have been run during the week, on Thursdays. We haven't been able to attract anyone to run weekend rides and interest in them has been minimal. Having said that, Mike Brasch has stepped up and has advertised one Sunday ride a month for the next three months to see what interest he can awaken. We wish Mike every success.

Is having just Thursday rides a bad thing? Well get this. We have averaged 34 riders throughout winter and recently we had 50 motorcyclists on one of our Thursday rides. All were members, albeit a handful from Nelson.

Like most branches, our membership has aged with an average age of 72.2 currently, and I know for sure that many want to spend their weekend time with their families, especially with their grandchildren. We have had six resignations this renewal time; each giving the reason that they have got too old for motorcycling and no longer own motorbikes. This is further evidence, if required, to justify Natcom's efforts to

recruit younger members.

We ran our Christmas function at the Marlborough Aero Club Clubhouse once again and were able to arrange a couple of displays. One was a flying display of a DHC 2 (de Haviland) Beaver. It is one of two based at Omaka and still topdressing. The other event was a ground run of one of the Rotary Engines that are built here from scratch by Tony Wytenburg and his Classic Machining business. These engines were used in many WW 1 aircraft and Tony has exported a number of them overseas. The main entertainment however, came from our resident Elf being Carol, the wife of our hardworking Welfare Officer, Phil Taylor. Carol had everyone in fits of laughter as Christmas presents were distributed by her and Santa (Phil Bishell). We thank Carol Taylor, Patchett Ag Air and Classic Aero Maintenance for their generosity. At the Clubhouse Bar, a genuine one-pint beer costs you a mere \$6. The weather was warm and we enjoyed a great evening.

Keep the shiny side up and enjoy summer.

We have a happy little branch that thrives on riding, fun and compassion

JOHN (JG) SINCLAIR
#9272 (signing off)



BRANCH NEWS



from the **MALCOLM PERRY #10115** **Far North**

As I'm putting the last touches to this newsletter the region is recovering from a patch of wild weather that has flooded roads, caused slips and isolated communities both up here in the Far North and the wider North Island. Our thoughts are with all of our Ulysses family and their family at the moment and we wish you all the best as things get back to normal.

As always, it's been a busy time with rides here, there and everywhere on a variety of surfaces including the usual tarmac and gravel rides and the last chance ride to the Cape. Alongside all that, we had the Christmas do at Tutukaka, the 2nd Bunnings BBQ, the Bunnings family evening, the walking wounded lunch and members have travelled down to Gisborne and the Cemetery circuit under their own steam.

Sadly, we said farewell to another of our members, Tim Howard #10113. Members attended his funeral and provided an escort for the cortage to the crematorium. Always a sad event but it was nice to see so many members turn out to offer support.



Unusually for us, we have had a couple of members forget to stop their bikes before alighting resulting

in some nasty injuries. The guys are recovering slowly and chomping at the bit to get back on a bike but, as always, it could have been much worse in both instances. I have said previously that given the regularity, distance and number of riders, our safety record is really good and I reckon it still is. Having said that, this is a wake-up call and a reminder to us all that we are not immune from coming to grief and at our ages we are certainly no longer bullet proof (assuming we ever actually were). We all have a responsibility to ride safely for ourselves, and others so please take a few moments to give a bit of thought about how you ride and whether you can improve anywhere to help keep that safety record intact. It seems that motorcyclists in the Far North just want to ride motorbikes.

The Bike raffle tickets are going well and heads up to the rest of the country - it's coming "up north" this year - so don't be disappointed when you find out!!

Memberships have been a big activity for us (as well as everyone else) and we are pleased that the vast majority of our members have decided to stay with us.

I've done a quick analysis of our

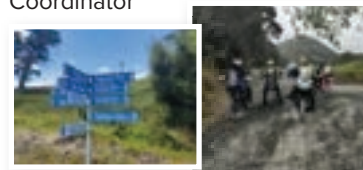
membership and found that we currently have a total of 70 members with 34 (49%) of them being aged under 70; 28 (40%) aged between 71 to 80; and 8 (11%) aged over 80. The stats also show that we have 14 (20%) who have been with us less than one year; with the same number at 1-5 years

It's all go up here at the top of the country, if anyone is in the area and fancies joining us for a ride get in touch or just rock up to BK Whangarei for a 10.00 (sharp) departure any Wednesday or Sunday.

Best wishes and ride safe, all.

MALCOLM PERRY #10115

Coordinator



North Harbour News

JOHN SHEARER #9242



To our Fathers

I need to ask for your indulgence on this issue, it won't be the usual update. As I write this I have just buried my father and to all those who have rung or contacted me offering their condolences you have my thanks. It is no small thing to bury our loved ones. It is a harsh reality that someone close to you is gone.

The conversations you used to have, the time spent together with a coffee or a wee dram, all the fabric of connection, that life is gone. I was lucky I had Dad for so long, almost got to 89. Others we know like Peter Webb and Niki Morrison, got nowhere close to that. In times like these all we can do is support each other where we can and later build and rebuild. Life will never be the same, but while these times are difficult to endure, life is still there, life will return and there is future promise.

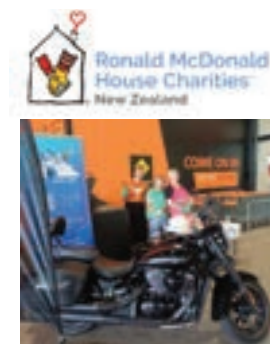


This photo is from my family summer camp and these are my fathers youngest great grandchildren- future promise. Live while we can- get into what's on offer, support where you can and if you enjoy riding motorcycles get on your bike while you can. Ps Dad had a 1955 Triumph speed twin just like this when he was 18yrs old. To dad this felt like yesterday. Life is a flickering flame.



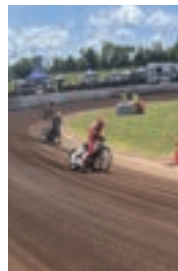
Ronald Mc Donald House Charities

At the end of the year we held a BBQ at Mitre 10 and started fund raising again. Our thanks to Karl and Steph Hughes for their lead in this. Great first step and we will have another BBQ around Easter too as we build up to our \$10,000 target.



Christmas Dinner at Rosebank Speedway

Our Christmas lunch was simply spectacular. Our thanks in particular to Jennifer Shadbolt for organising this. The racing was a blur of sliding madness. Great fun and at \$10 fantastic value for our members. What a day!



North Harbour AGM 2026 and Elections

Our Branch AGM and committee elections which we hold in April 2026 are getting really close and we are looking for members who would like to join the committee.

All positions are open and the only qualification is that you need to put aside a couple of hours per month to help run the club. Could this be you? Come and see me if you are thinking about it and nomination forms are attached at the bottom of this Newsletter .

The date again for our AGM: This is notice that our 2026 AGM will be held at the Hobsonville RSA on Thursday 2nd April 2026 at 7.30pm. Nominations for all officer bearers are now open and need to be received 30 days prior to our AGM on Thursday 2nd April. Nominations will close the first week of March 2026. Nomination forms will be available at our Feb/March meetings. Please send all nominations to our acting secretary Pip Sutherland.



Ride safe!

JOHN SHEARER #9242

Canterbury Capers

CHRIS CAREY #3497

Greetings from a damp, claggy, overcast, wet, sodden, partially sunny, Canterbury.

Well, not a lot has happened over the silly season, what with people being away, businesses closed or open at odd hours, so we flagged our monthly branch nights for December and January. Not too many were around so pointless putting them on. The same for our January committee meeting, I mean why have people travel in from all corners of the Canterbury region when there's nothing that can't be sorted via email or WhatsApp.

With the Papanui RSA closing its doors, sad but inevitable, we have been exploring all options and the Papanui Club, where we held our AGM, has been chosen. Not only have they ample parking and a room for us to use, but the meals are great and not expensive. We had an unofficial branch night in January, and I had the pork roast which if I'd been in town at a restaurant would have cost considerably more and arguably not as good. So, it's a big thanks to Debbie Mac and Jason, our secretary for doing the groundwork to get this sorted.

Note, from February until the foreseeable future, the Canterbury branch night is now the 3rd Monday of each month, starting with Monday February 16th at the Papanui Club, 310 Sawyers Arms Road, Bishopdale. While the meetings kick off at 7.00pm a lot of punters arrive early for a burger and chips or the roast of the day. While anyone can buy food, you will need to be a member of an associated club in order to buy alcohol.

Our branch AGM will be held in March. I will be stepping down as coordinator. Five years is enough at the helm; the branch needs a fresh perspective and someone with more get up and go than I've been able to provide over the past year or so. I will be taking over the newsletter after the AGM, so I'm not disappearing into the ether. I can still, and will, heckle from the

cheap seats as and when required. Just don't expect these epistles to be gender neutral, politically or cultural correct, vegan, transitioning or sensitive and caring, and while I will do my utmost, I can't guarantee that any Ulyssians won't be harmed in the process. However, if you're one of life's snowflakes trolling through social media to find a reason to be offended, will I have just the thing for you.

Euan, our rides coordinator, continues to keep us on our toes with a pretty comprehensive rides calendar. Again, all rides leave from Spitfire square under the Spitfire model, adjacent to the airport every Sunday, rain, hail or shine and for those who don't want to ride, there's a Coffee Club just across the carpark. Arrive around 10.00am and 'Stand Up' at 1030am unless otherwise stated, which will usually be for longer rides when Euan does the Round the Block or similar.

The Wednesday Knitters group continues to grow. We recently presented Casbolts Motorcycle dealership with a plaque expressing our thanks for the continued support they give us by providing a venue to leave from and bottomless coffees, hot chocolates and teas.

A number of members have completed, or are about to complete, the Rescue Helicopter Hunt run by the Canterbury branch of the Ulysses Club. This is a fun event for anybody to take part in. It has been designed for all levels of riders and bikes, trikes and even cars. It is all about raising funds for the Canterbury West Coast Air Rescue Trust. The course can be done as it suits you, either direction, starting and finishing where and when you choose. You can complete this ride anytime from 1 November until 1 March 2026. Contact Bruce Vincent for entry fees and the list of questions: bruce.vincent@hotmail.co.nz. See attached flier

The 1000km Longest Day is back, what route you choose, when you want to do it, who you want to do it with, is entirely up to you. Thea's not the fun police, no proof is needed, it's up to you to have a crack and if

you nail it, all the better. Email Thea at thea.t-r@hotmail.com with entries and questions. See attached flier.

Now the cunning of us would combine both of the above events...two entries, two badges, one ride. Steve Parr and I recently knocked off the 1600km round trip and found all the answers without cheating comfortably over two days with great weather and dry roads.

And of course, the TT2000 website is up and running and the number of Ulyssians becoming addicted to this event is growing as well. www.tt2000.org Yes it sounds a lot, 2000km over 48 hours, but as its actually over 3 calendar days, and provided you don't push the boat out, proper prior planning gives you two opportunities to hit the sack (Friday and Saturday nights) for a well-earned break. There is also a pre-planned route which all you have to do is follow and you'll knock it off. Easy peasy.

A really exciting event is soon to happen in Christchurch The Britten motorcycle is well known to Kiwis and international bikers, its cutting-edge technology and performance took the world's best by the short and curlies in the 90's breaking all sorts or records in design and performance. One Man's Dream, what a story. The Britten Museum is to open shortly in February (<https://brittenmuseum.nz/>) and the organisers are asking for volunteers to man the desk and help with the visitors. Although it appears to have attracted a lot of interest particularly with online sales of merchandise, we have no idea how popular it will be but its in a great location right across the road from the Riverside markets and The Strip and where the buses with the cruise ship punters pull up. Check out the website.

And that as they say, is that.

Regards

**CHRIS
'CAPTAIN
CAREFREE'
CAREY
#3497**



Waihi-Thames Valley

WAFFLINGS

CHRIS BROWN #4797

The New Zealand summer: Hot sunny beach days, good riding, heavy rain, destroyed roads, hot & sunny again.

For the first half of summer we had some great days riding to some beautiful destinations. The country looking green and lush and the rides coordinators tracking down blokes with some amazing motorcycle collections stashed away in their sheds. They either have very understanding wives or no wives at all, as far as I can see. A number of our branch members have Snails (motorhomes), which they crawl around the country in holding up traffic. However they can be useful when we send them off the day before a ride to have lunch cooked and ready for us when we get to them.

Then came Christmas. Our December branch meeting is always our Christmas function where we pack out the Paeroa RSA for an afternoon of feasting, beer, bullshit and comradery. We have a great bunch of members who get along, have a laugh, no egos or anyone being precious. Our January meeting is a picnic meeting where we go to a beach somewhere on the Coromandel. This year it was to the Whangamata International Airport?? I

didn't know it existed and I have lived in Whangamata for 9 years. Our pilot Cliff McChesney knew about it and set it up for us. It's actually a working airstrip on private land with a little Bach and a nice picnic area alongside the river. A fabulous day was had.

We planned to have a Ride Forever Gold course on the 27th January with our branch instructors Karel Pavich and Howard Mansell. But the torrential rain a few days earlier destroying the roads meant a postponement to the 3rd of March. These courses are very worthwhile. No matter how long you have been riding you always learn something and it just brushes up and finetunes your skills. If you get the opportunity to do one then go for it.

Our big event The Lower Loop Road Rallye which was meant to be in November 2025 was postponed due to road closures, is now coming up on the 28th February 2026. I hope the roads get repaired in time.

By the time you read this it will be autumn. Time marches on so get out there and enjoy our beautiful country. Every missed ride is a missed opportunity. Keep the rubber on the road!

Cheers,

CHRIS BROWN #4797

WTV Coordinator.



Rotorua RAMBLIN'

SMILEY #10243

As I write this for the magazine, perhaps this will be my last update as I will be stepping down as Co-Ordinator for the Rotorua branch. It has been an honour to be a part of a Nationwide motorcycle group and local branch leader. Rotorua has come alive in the spirit of riding and camaraderie and there are some amazing members in our group.

We have achieved a lot and continue to support local charities and events. Motorbiking isn't all about riding (well most of the time it is!) but also about putting a brand out there and encouraging a range of other riders to join Ulysses, of any age and any kind of motorbike.

I have found my true North in where I want to go and my passion and love is riding my bike and the people I meet. I have been involved with Long Distance riding and found that is just the best way to travel. The longest way to anywhere is by far the best way.

I am also involved with another womens' organization and am currently the NZ Ambassador for WRWR womens biker movement. A global connection, where we are passing a virtual baton, across many countries, lighting up the globe, and, what an honour!

This is such a huge stage to be a part of and as the ambassador I need to be out on the road, passing the baton to many more biker chicks. This suits me just fine and I have some rides on the radar. However, it's two-fold because we can also talk about Ulysses and why the women should join as well as enjoying the discounted benefits.

Every connection leads to somewhere and making new friends is what the biking community spirit is all about.

As I step down from the Co-Ordinators role, I look forward to supporting the next Co-Ordinator and committee and their ideas that they will bring to the table.

See you at the AGM in Nelson, the Rotorua Rally in September or just out there.

Put the pedal to the metal and lean to the green!

SMILEY AND KEBIN #10243



40 | Ulyssian MARCH 2026



EUGENE BERRYMAN-KAMP #9353

Ulysses Rotorua has an active ride calendar where we look to have a run every 2nd Sunday and also where possible support other local events and rides. On November 2nd 13 of us attended the Taupo dice run, winning 2 of the prizes so thank you very much Taupo for a nice ride along local backroads and a BBQ lunch by the Waikato river. We had a club ride to Julians Berry farm in Whakatane 16 Nov with 7 riding over there and 6 of us attended the Ulysses Whakatane Mountain to Sea run 23 November, again, amazing the backroads locals know with a BBQ at Thornton at the finish. Luckily the Matata pub was on the way home as it was a pretty hot day so a cold one was much appreciated.

On 7 December we had our Rotorua Hospital toy run to the paediatric ward, supported by Taupo, Whakatane and Tauranga riders, 29 attend that run, left a good supply of toys for those kids in hospital over xmas in both Rotorua and Taupo hospitals and finished off with lunch at the Waitapu tavern.

13 December 4 of us provided support bikes for the Rotorua Suffer Triathlon, including pillion observers during the cycle leg and transporting officials to assist a rider who had crashed his bike on a downhill road section. A great example of supporting an event with a rapid response vehicle that did not block other road users and competitors.

We finished 2025 with a ride alongside Tauranga members to Gisborne through the Waioeka gorge which at the time of writing looks to be closed for some time due to slips so it might be a while before we can go through there again.

2026 saw us have a run 11 January to Piopio for fruit ice creams and lunch, over via Arapuni and a great backroad Robert knew, back via Maniaiti/Bennydale, stopping off on the way home at the Bullring in Atiamuri.

Then 25 Jan we had a Ulysses display at the Rotorua Lakefront car show, weather was patchy but a good profile raising exercise and lots of interest in Chris's trike.

EUGENE BERRYMAN-KAMP (he/him) #9353

Pakihi BK Ltd
Rotorua 0278402390



Southland "Scribbles"

ROSS L #1177

Hi all. Looking back to the final Branch events in 2025, the rides we had planned for November and December were not that successful, one being cancelled due to bad weather and the other impacted by a lack of numbers, only one lonely rider arrived at the meeting place. However not one to be discouraged he had a very enjoyable ride to Beaumont (in West Otago) for lunch.

Pleasingly our dine-outs and coffee mornings continued to attract reasonable interest. We had an extremely successful Branch dine-out at a local "Roastery" in early December. This was followed by our annual Branch Xmas dinner later in the month.

Our Xmas function was again very well supported, with members gathering in a private room at the Ocean Seafood Restaurant in Invercargill to enjoy an excellent banquet dinner, raffles, refreshments and plenty of entertaining chat.

Two of our Branch members put a considerable effort into organising an "overnight" event that was set down to be held in early December 2025. Although the response was not as good as hoped, the event went ahead anyway and was enjoyed by those who did attend. Although not as successful as was hoped, the experience gained from this event will certainly assist with organising any future events of this kind.

A quieter time for Branch activities in recent weeks as members and their families spent

time together over Christmas and New Year. However it is very pleasing to report that we have got our 2026 program underway with a ride to Mossburn, Northern Southland taking place in mid-January. The weather on the day was excellent, the ride attracted 6 bikes and a support vehicle. The chosen route to Mossburn appeared to provide just enough challenges for the riders, particularly for one member who was having his first ride on a recently purchased bike that he had kept very quiet about. A different set of roads were chosen for the trip home which the riders again appeared to enjoy. The majority of the group then met up at a local Café back in Invercargill for a very enjoyable "debrief" before going their separate ways.

Another of our major Branch events The Southland 300 has again received a good response, particularly from outside the Southland region. It is now underway and we hope that those who have entered enjoy their day and our excellent Southland roads.

Looking ahead, we will continue to work with our members and hope that we can continue to offer an interesting program for 2026.

In closing, we send our very best wishes to our fellow members in the storm affected areas of the North and South Islands. Our thoughts are with any families who may have been directly impacted during this time.

That's all for now from the Deep South.

ROSSL #1177

Wellington Witterings

ROSS ALEXANDER #8542

During a recent conversation with a branch member, we got onto the topic of why he chose to join Ulysses. Although he belongs to another informal riding group, he said he joined Ulysses to be 'part of the community'.

For me, being part of the Ulysses community has meant that we look out for each other, give support when things go pear shaped, and provide a chance to meet new people. It has provided me with many opportunities to foster life-long friendships.

And, there is no better way to feel that community spirit than to head off on an overnighter – like our trip to Whanganui in early November.

The atrocious weather of the previous few months (and the cancelled rides) finally cleared to something like summer when around twenty of us met up at Plimmerton Weigh Station. Colleen (Camp Mother) had booked a two-hour cruise up the Whanganui River on the Paddle Steamer Waimarie, and accommodation at Aramoho Top 10.

The cruise is a fantastic way to see the lower parts of the river, and to appreciate the hard work to get the old steamer back into working order after more than fifty years sitting on the muddy bottom of the river.

The Top10 provided an excellent venue for our Saturday night stay. Having

a BBQ and shared meal in the communal area gave us a chance to catch up with branch members and to get to know newer recruits.

The annual Christmas BBQ at Kaitoke was attended by around a dozen members and family. This is always a nice way to round off the year.

The Christmas and New Year is always a quiet time for the branch with family commitments rightly taking priority. So, it was great to get back together for the Wellington Anniversary weekend overnighter in Tūrangi. Around twenty of us met at the Plimmerton Weigh Station, with a coffee stop at La Bull in Bulls. A great little café – good food and efficient, friendly service.

From here plans were made to head to Tūrangi.

Paul and Judith headed up via Whanganui to see the Percy Coleman 100-year anniversary display.

Most of the others headed straight up SH1 to Taihape where they met up with Rick Barker who then joined us for the weekend.

A group of four chose the back road via Halcombe, Kimbolton, and Rangiwhahia -popping out on SH1 at Mangaweka. A lovely road with little traffic! The Sheriff grew up in these parts so was able to give us a running commentary of the history of the area.

Hoping that the predicted dodgy weather up north was going stay up there, various plans were hatched for the Sunday rides. A few stayed close to home (with some going to the Hot Springs). The Furneaux' and Paynes headed to the lavender farm at Taumarunui.

Five of us decided to go and look for the mysterious Kaimanawa Wall. The origin of the wall has been the subject of much speculation over the years – including it being built by a pre-Māori civilisation. However, the science is quite clear - the wall is a natural phenomenon and the fractures appeared as the rock cooled over 330,000

years ago. The road in from Napier Taupō Highway is partly gravel but is well-formed and goes through farmland and lovely native forest. It's well worth a visit if you're up that way.

And just yesterday five of us of us headed up to Manfeild for the final day of the NZ Classic Motorcycle Register Festival. There was some spirited racing and being able to wander through the pits brought back many youthful memories.

We're all looking forward to more fine weather, fewer cancelled rides, and more opportunities to be part of our fantastic little community.

ROSS ALEXANDER #8542



Manfeild Classic Bike Festival



Kaimanawa Wall



Wheel house of PS Waimarie

Tauranga TITBITS

MEL #7873

It's great to see so many members staying in touch at our Branch meetings, coffee mornings and rides

and events both in person and/or reporting on Facebook.

The year ended with visits to the Aerocool Rescue Helicopter Open Day (V.I.P. invites) and a good midweek turnout to the Matua Life care rest home. Finished off with our Xmas lunch function which was enjoyed by all in attendance.

2026 has started well with our New Year BBQ only postponed three times and was enjoyed on a not wet day on the 1st of Feb.

We have a new Meeting location so maybe that will bring a few more of you living beach side into a monthly catchup. Hopefully the city-siders will be happy to pop over the bridge – it really isn't that far. So, from now we'll see you all at the Mt RSA on the 3rd WEDNESDAY of the month from February onwards. Our first branch night is WEDNESDAY 18th February 2026 at 7.30pm. We have the use of the Gallipoli room which is a short walk from the restaurant. Many thanks to secretary Lee for sorting this for us.

Swanie gave an entertaining talk on the N1800 done recently with invited interjections (from Colin and others) and a Challenge to other members to look at doing it too. I've done a few N1800's myself and found it's a great way to spend time on your bike, especially if nothing goes wrong. Ha ha! I'm sure there are more stories out there waiting to be told.

Gavin from *Adrenalyn* gave a very entertaining talk about his origins, (in SA), moving to NZ, comparisons and setting up his (passion) shop in Tauriko. Fully enjoyed by those present. I'm happy to welcome interesting people to contribute to our get-togethers.

There are a few surplus Rescue Ride badges which are available to those who didn't do the rides but would like to help with our donation to St John. Feel free to contact our secretary if you'd like one for your collection.

I made a call in our last newsletter and at our last meeting for any (confidential) nominations for Odyssey or Life Membership. I received a great response and acted on this so hoping we have some good news after the AGM.

MEL #7873

A reminiscence from one of our members... Laxton Smith - The Dealer Who Kept Us (Mostly) Alive

Many of Tauranga's long-standing members will remember Laxton Smith of Smiths Scooter House. Don't be fooled by the name, there was barely a Vespa in sight. Laxton was a dealer for Yamaha, Kawasaki and Honda, and he ran the place with the kind of authority that made you stand up straighter the moment you walked through the door.

Laxton was and still is, a no-nonsense character who didn't suffer fools, especially the young and overconfident variety. Back in my teenage days, two mates and I each bought brand-new Yamaha R5 350cc strokers from him. Those things were weapons. Light, fast, and just waiting to get us into trouble. And predictably, they did.

We thought we were heroes tearing up Cameron Road, drag racing each other like we were at Baypark. That was until the day Laxton caught wind of it. Next thing we knew we were "invited" to a meeting at his shop one Friday evening.

He didn't waste time on small talk. Arms folded and with 'that' look, he laid it out plain and simple. "Keep up this silly business and two things will happen, your mothers will hear all about it, and your bikes will stay here with me until you can be trusted to ride like you've got a brain."

No prizes for guessing who financed those bikes, hence why that particular threat hit home hard. We found our self-control remarkably quickly.

Looking back it was tough-love at its finest, and probably the reason we're still here to laugh about it today.

TONY DOMS #5180

Hawkes Bay

TREVOR WYLIE

BUZZ

It's fair to say the silly season was anything but quiet for the Hawke's Bay Ulysses crew. Between rides, new toys, and plenty of good company, we've managed to pack a lot into December and January.

Kicking things off was the annual K55 ride to Taupō on 14 December, ably organised by Rosco. A cracking turnout of around 50 riders made the most of the day, proving once again that if there's a good ride involved, Hawke's Bay will show up. Well done to everyone who supported this popular event.

On 21 December, we gathered at Balls Clearing for our annual Christmas picnic. Seventeen bikes turned up, along with a couple of four-wheeled interlopers. Barry Robertson and Chrissy arrived in style in Barry's new F-Type Jaguar, while Andy rolled in with her brand-new CVO Harley. Clearly, Santa was very generous this year.

Speaking of generosity, there were quite a few new bikes under the Christmas tree. Congratulations to Tony Marrett on his Indian Springfield, Andy Lyver on her new Harley, and Tony Hickmont on his impressive BMW 1600 GT. Plenty of shiny machinery around lately—expect a bit of envy at the next few rides.

Our weekly rides continue to go from strength to strength, thanks largely to the efforts of John Warren, Darren Henson, and Jeff Beach, who do most of the organising. The fortnightly Sunday club rides are also enjoying solid participation, which is great to see. Thankyou David French. Meanwhile, the Wednesday Coffee Club mornings in both Napier and Hastings remain well attended—proof that caffeine and motorcycles are a winning combination.

On 11 January, we held a special ride in memory of Mac Macaulay, who was tragically killed last year. Twenty-three riders took part, retracing the same route and paying respects along the way. It was a big and meaningful day, including a visit to Ulysses Road, just 400 metres from where Mac was killed—a fitting moment of reflection for all who attended.

All in all, it's been a busy, social, and memorable couple of months in the Bay. With rides well supported and plenty of new bikes on the road, the year is already shaping up nicely. Ride safe, enjoy the summer, and see you out there.





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for KIWIS by KIWIS
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 starinsure



CO-ORDINATORS' CONTACT DETAILS

To update your branch's information, please email the updated information to administration@ulysses.org.nz
Any website queries or changes, please email com.2@ulysses.org.nz and administration@ulysses.org.nz

ADMINISTRATION:

P O Box 55,
INGLEWOOD, 4330
Gemma Peyerl
021 072 3636
administration@ulysses.org.nz

AUCKLAND

Manukau Cruising Club,
Orpheus Drive, Onehunga,
First Wednesday every
month, 7.30pm
CLIVE THOMAS
auckland@ulysses.org.nz
027 481 2700

AUCKLAND N.HARBOUR

1st Thurs of the month,
5.30-9pm, Hobsonville
RSA, 114 Hobsonville Road,
Hobsonville.
JOHN SHEARER
n.harbour@ulysses.org.nz
Ph 027 482 2565

BULLER

Contact for
next meeting details.
PETE GRAHAM
buller@ulysses.org.nz
021 271 2846

CANTERBURY

Cashmere Club, 520 Colombo
St, Cashmere, Christchurch.
Third Thurs every month. 7pm
CHRIS CAREY
canterbury@ulysses.org.nz
021 497 155

FAR NORTH

Rides every Wednesday and
Sunday mornings. Depart
10am from Burger King,
Whangarei.
MALCOLM PERRY
far.north@ulysses.org.nz
027 438 0052

GISBORNE

1st Tuesday of the month.
Bushmere Arms Public Bar,
7.30pm
**CHRISTINE (CHRIS)
CAMERON**
06 868 9661 / 027 460 2430
gisborne@ulysses.org.nz

HAWKE'S BAY

Taradale RSA, 1st Wednesday
of the month at 7.30pm
TREVOR WYLIE
hawkes.bay@ulysses.org.nz
0275 226 830

KAPITI COAST

2nd Tuesday each month,
7.30pm. Manakau Bowling
Club. 10 Mokena Kohere St,
Levin.
PETER WHITTINGTON
kapiti@ulysses.org.nz
020 4058 4552

MANAWATU

1st Wednesday each month
(except January) at the
Bunnythorpe Tavern
at 7.30pm.
MURRAY CROSS
manawatu@ulysses.org.nz
06 323 2660 / 027 702 4455

MARLBOROUGH

3rd Wednesday monthly,
Portacom A&P Park. Coffee
morning Runway Café, SH6
every Saturday 10am.
JOHN SINCLAIR
marlborough@ulysses.org.nz
027 314 2151

NELSON

Coffee morning, every
Saturday 10am-12noon.
Alioqe Eatery, 4A Central Park
Lane, Appleby, Richmond. All
welcome, with space to park
your bike or car.
JOHN JOHNSTONE - Secretary
nelson.sec@ulysses.org.nz
027 416 4666

NORTH OTAGO

Various venues.
3rd Wednesday of each
month. Contact Glenda
GLENDAG HAGENSON
n.otago@ulysses.org.nz
021 162 8110

OTAGO

First Tuesday of each month,
7pm at the Otago M/C Club
(OMCC) rooms, 3 Clark St
NEIL GRIFFIN
otago@ulysses.org.nz
027 211 5037

ROTORUA

Mcds room, Fenton Street,
Rotorua, 7pm last
Sunday of the month
LEIGH-ANN CRANE
rotorua@ulysses.org.nz
021 0266 0528

SOUTHLAND

Contact co-ordinator for next
meeting and ride details
ROSS LAWRY
southland@ulysses.org.nz
03 218 2900 / 027 227 2522

SOUTH CANTERBURY

Contact co-ordinator for next
meeting and ride details
GAVIN BARKER
s.canterbury@ulysses.org.nz
021 468 979 (evenings)

TARANAKI

New Plymouth Club,
49-55 Gill Street,
New Plymouth. 6pm,
3rd Wednesday monthly
BILL KIDNEY
taranaki@ulysses.org.nz
021 264 9598

TAUMARUNUI

RSA, 1st Wednesday each
month. 7pm. Rides 10am,
Mobil, Sundays
TONY RITCHIE
taumarunui@ulysses.org.nz
027 475 0428

TAUPŌ

Taupō Cosmopolitan Club,
Taniwha Street, 7:30pm.
2nd Thursday each month.
IAN PILBROW
taupo@ulysses.org.nz

TAURANGA

Tauranga Citizen Club,
13th Ave; Upstairs at 7.30,
3rd Tues monthly.
MEL THOMPSON
Ph 027 646 3084

WAIHI-THAMES VALLEY

2nd Sunday monthly
2pm at the Paeroa RSA
CHRIS BROWN
waihi.tv@ulysses.org.nz
027 257 6602

WAIKATO

The Hamilton Working Mens
Club, 45 Commerce Street,
Frankton, Hamilton 3240.
First Tuesday of every month
except Jan.
ALLAN BRUNSKILL
wai_kato@ulysses.org.nz
022 438 0627

WAIRARAPA

Club Carterton (RSA), 35
Broadway Street, Carterton.
3rd Monday monthly, 7:30pm
TONY ALLEN
wairarapa@ulysses.org.nz
027 432 5075

WELLINGTON

Petone Workingmen's Club,
Udy Street, Petone, 7.30pm,
2nd Tuesday monthly
JIM FURNEAUX
021 244 2091
wellington@ulysses.org.nz

WESTLAND

Coffee every Sat, 1000hrs at
the Honey Café, Kumara.
KERRY CHAPMAN
westland@ulysses.org.nz
027 472 8289

WHAKATANE

Ohope Chartered Club,
Ohope, 7.30pm,
2nd Wednesday monthly
JEREMY NEWELL
Ph 021 192 3608

GEAR UP

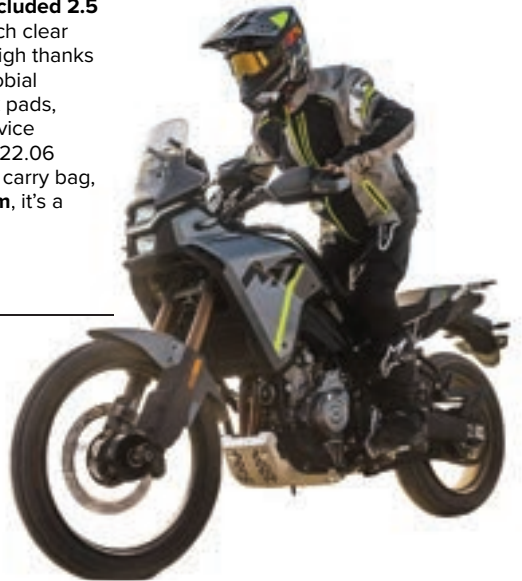
LEATT 7.5 ADV HELMETS

The Leatt 7.5 ADV helmet delivers adventure-ready performance with a lightweight **Injected Polymer Compound** shell and impact-dampening **360° Turbine Technology** that helps reduce rotational forces when things go wrong. Its wind-tunnel-tested profile cuts drag and lift, while the chin curtain and cheek pads create a quiet, sealed ride. An **extra-wide eye port**, **quick-release shield**, and a **4-way rider setup** let you switch effortlessly between shield, visor, and goggle configurations, made even better with the **included 2.5 goggles** and anti-scratch clear shield. Comfort stays high thanks to a washable antimicrobial liner, emergency cheek pads, and communication-device compatibility. With ECE 22.06

and DOT certification, spare lens options, a carry bag, and a **3-year Helmet Replacement Program**, it's a feature-packed ADV lid built for riders who want versatility without compromise.

WHITESPOWERSPORT

\$799⁹⁹



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Serious ground control

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- Suspension upgrades
- Springs, seals
- Free friendly, expert advice

Straight rate springs custom revalve

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\$1129**

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FUNDRAISING EVENT FOR MATATĀ FIRST RESPONDERS & OTHER CHARITIES



MUSIC FESTIVAL

9-12 APRIL 2026

11AM - LATE

At Hotel Matatā: 47 Arawa Street, Matatā

FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT

LIVE MUSIC | RAFFLES | DOOR PRIZES
FOOD TRUCKS | BIKES | CUSTOM CARS and more...

**EARLY BIRD TICKETS
ON SALE NOW!!**

3 DAY EVENT PASS \$240

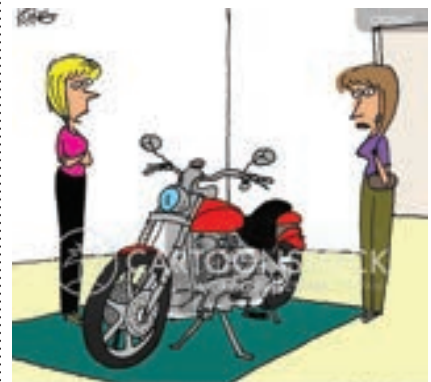


SCAN FOR BANDS LIST
AND MORE INFORMATION

From Hotel Matatā | PH: 0273 153 356 or East Coast Harley Davidson

JUST FOR FUN

"It's better to grow old with a sense of humour, than to grow old with no sense at all!"



"I realize you like to baby your motorcycle by going slow, but that turtle just passed us."

"It's not an actual motorcycle. It's an exercise bike. I made it look like one so my husband would actually use it."

COFFEE BREAK SOLUTIONS

XWORD

ANSWER TO PUZZLE NO. 163

O	P	A	L	A	W	L	A	C	T	S		
F	A	R	E	D	O	E	L	O	O	P		
F	L	E	A	M	O	I	S	T	U	R	E	
				T	E	A	L	O	A	R	E	D
A	F	G	H	A	N	C	U	R	T			
W	I	R	E	R	T	A	P	E	L	F		
A	F	A	R	H	U	B	T	O	U	R		
Y	E	T	C	O	G	B	R	U	T	E		
				I	R	O	N	P	R	E	S	E
V	I	T	A	L	B	A	S					
E	D	U	C	A	T	O	R	T	H	A	W	
R	O	D	E	I	N	K	L	A	T	E		
B	L	E	D	P	E	A	E	Y	E	D		

SUDOKU

ANSWER TO PUZZLE NO. 1038

3	1	4	9	8	7	2	5	6
7	2	8	5	6	1	9	3	4
9	6	5	4	3	2	7	8	1
6	8	7	1	4	9	5	2	3
5	9	3	8	2	6	1	4	7
2	4	1	7	5	3	8	6	9
1	3	6	2	9	8	4	7	5
4	7	2	6	1	5	3	9	8
8	5	9	3	7	4	6	1	2

Ulysses Member Discounts

Butt Buffer

info@buttbuffer.co.nz 15%

Bluebridge Ferry

Ulysses10 10%

Valid to 31/10/2026

Ezibed NZ www.ezibed.com

Kiwi Fuelcards

Ulysses Sign up online

Kiwi Motorcycle Rentals 10%

info@kiwimotorcyclere rentals.co.nz

All relevant information is on the Ulysses NZ website.

ULYSSES MEMBER DISCOUNT INCREASE

14% OFF your WoF when you show your Ulysses membership card at VTNZ

vtnz

NORTH HARBOUR RONNIE RUN 1st November 2026

Enabling children in Starship Hospital to have parents &/or caregivers stay in Ronald McDonald House free of charge.

The Ronnie Run is held on the first Sunday in November each year. Save the date!

WITH YOUR SUPPORT IN 2024, WE COLLECTIVELY MADE THE FOLLOWING DIFFERENCE TO FAMILIES WHO USED ROOM 503 IN RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE AT GRAFTON MEWS:

- 80 FAMILIES USED ROOM 503 THAT YOU HELPED SPONSOR.
- THIS ROOM PROVIDED 271 NIGHTS' SLEEP FOR FAMILIES WITH A CHILD IN STARSHIP.
- YOUR SPONSORSHIP HELPED SAVE THE FAMILIES \$63,414 IN ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD COSTS.



ROTORUA OKATAINA RALLY 2026

MAKE MEMORIES • RECONNECT

18TH - 20TH SEPTEMBER FROM 3PM ONWARDS

Spring Dates this time round!

Another weekend off the grid to catch up with members. Friday night catchups, Saturday day ride and then an evening with an awesome band playing 60's themed music.

- Bar available - bar tickets can be purchased on the day
- Sunday clean up and move out.
- Accm: Bed Included - Just bring your sleeping bag
- Meals: Includes Friday night, Saturday cooked breakfast, light lunch if you don't ride. Evening meal yummo defo worth it, Sunday cooked breakfast
- No Dogs allowed
- Dietary Req: No special needs catered for
- Price: \$120 Per person inc patch

REGISTRATION: BNZ Rotorua Branch 02-0412-0032076-01

With your name and Ulysses number.

Last day for registration is August 21st, 2026

Please email registration form to rotorua.sec@ulysses.org.nz



NAME:.....

PARTNER

ULYSSES No.....

EMAIL:.....

ADDRESS.....

MOB:.....

ENTRY FEE PAID: \$.....



Confirmation email will be sent once registration & pymt received.

No REFUNDS after close off date.

I agree to abide by the rules & regulations for the rally and will hold blameless all organizers and officials associated with the rally, for any injury or damage while participating at the event including travelling to or from the event. Please NO BYO!

Signed:..... Partner.....

CONTACT: Lynda Bain MOB: 021 580 770

Taranaki Branch, Ulysses Club, Energy Rally 2026.

6th to 8th November 2026



Back to Basics style of rally.

Venue TSB TOPEC, Hydro Road, State Highway 3 Junction Road New Plymouth.

Name ----- Ulysses # -----

Address ----- Phone # -----

Pillion ----- Ulysses # -----

E-mail -----

Cabins available for at least 80 people, first in first served. **Bring Sleeping Bag and Pillow.** Room to bring the Motor Home, Caravan or Tent.

Cost	Number	Total	
Friday night BBQ	\$12.00 p/p	-----	\$-----
Saturday Breakfast	\$8.00 p/p	-----	\$-----
Sunday Breakfast	\$8.00 p/p	-----	\$-----
Saturday evening meal	\$30.00 p/p	-----	\$-----
Friday accommodation	\$20.00 P/P	-----	\$-----
Saturday accommodation	\$20.00 P/P	-----	\$-----

Tea and coffee available all weekend.

Cut-off Date, 18th October 2026.

Total \$-----

The Taranaki Branch Ulysses Club will have a liquor licence for alcohol sales, so there will be no BYO, the prices will be very reasonable. Thank you. Also we will have Eftpos machine available.

Camp will be open for arrivals after 4.00 pm on Friday.

In signing this form I/We agree to abide by all rules and regulations for the event and will hold blameless all organizers and officials connected with the event for injury or damage while traveling or participating in the event.

Signed ----- Date -----

Please forward this form to harrybayliss@xtra.co.nz
with your remittance to

Ac Name: Ulysses Club Taranaki

Internet banking Bank Ac 15-3949-0289502-00

Use your Name as Code and Ulysses number as reference.

Contact Harry Bayliss on 0274705300 with any queries.



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL RALLY 2026

For your information and possible planning of holidays: The Ulysses Club Australian National Rally 2026, will be held from 15th - 25th of May, at Nambour on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. The theme is: "Sun, Surf and Sand"

The Ulysses Club Australian National Rally 2027 will be held in April (date to be determined) at a place some of you may have heard of, Mt Panorama (famous race track) at Bathurst in New South Wales. The Grande Parade for the 2027 event will be three (3) laps of the circuit. Maybe more, but officially only three for the actual Grande Parade.


**For more information, please go to the Australian website at: www.ulysses.org.au
Allan Pratt #9186 D.M#22
President, Ulysses Club Inc. Australia**

Tauranga Branch Ulysses Rally

Date: 1st, 2nd & 3rd May 2026

Venue: Sea Esta Camp & Lodge, 48 Seaforth Rd, Waihi Beach.

Cost: \$85 per head + \$15 badge, includes bunk room accommodation and mattress (BYO bedding), Friday night meal, Saturday breakfast and evening meal and Sunday breakfast all included. Limited to 75 people. **ON SITE CHECK IN FROM 2PM.**



Name..... Ulysses No.....

Pillion..... Ulysses No.....

Address.....

Email..... Phone No.....

Enclosed Entry Fee \$ **Closing Date: 14th April, 2026**

Confirmation email will be sent once payment and registration form received.
No REFUNDS after close off date.

I agree to abide by the rules and regulations for the rally and will hold blameless all organisers and officials associated with the rally, for any injury or damage while participating at the event or travelling to or from the event. Please no BYO.

Signature Rider..... Signature Pillion

Email completed form to paulrobyn7@xtra.co.nz

Direct credit to **Ulysses Club Tauranga: 01-0434-0208650-00** and **please put "your name" as particulars and Ulysses membership No. as "code" and "Rally 2026" as reference**

Queries to 07 543 3042 or 027 586 2121

ULYSSES CLUB NZ INC.
2026 NATIONAL RALLY AND AGM
Hosted by
ULYSSES NELSON

27-29 MARCH, 2026



VENUE:

THE HEADINGLY CENTRE
2 Headingly Lane, Richmond 7020

**Come & experience
Nelson/Tasman like
never before for
our National AGM
Weekend.**

KEEP UPDATED

<http://ulysses.org.nz/national-rally-and-agm/>

For all queries or
questions:

Lorraine Lindsay

021 276 5656

or Vicki McGhee

021 278 3552

or email:

ulyssesnelson2026@gmail.com

ITINERARY:

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2026

9am - 12pm: NatCom Meeting

1pm - 4pm: Co-ordinators' Meeting

12pm - Registrations Open

4.30pm - Bar opens

5.30pm onwards - Welcome,
Housekeeping, Mix & Mingle, Games

6pm - Dinner starts

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

9am - AGM Registrations (new arrivals)

10am - 11.30am - AGM

12pm - 4pm - Ride and other non-ride activities

Theme: Life's a Beach

4.30pm - Venue opens for evening

6pm - Dinner starts

6.30pm - 'Don't Fret' band starts

8.30pm - Bike Raffle, followed by other
raffles & prizes

11pm - Close of Evening

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026

7am - 11am - Breakfast & Farewells at Alioke Eatery

Ulysses Club NZ 2026 National Rally and AGM

27-29 MARCH, 2026

Headingly Centre
[N.B. ONLY FOR SELF CONTAINED RV's]
2 Headingly Lane, Richmond
To book your free site (limited spaces):
UlyssesNelson26@gmail.com
Distance: On site

Queen Street Holiday Park
422 Lower Queen Street, Richmond
info@holidayparknelson.co.nz
03 544 7677
Distance: 0.3 km

Richmond Park Motorhome Camp
358 Lower Queen Street, Richmond
manager@richmondpark.nz
03 544 7181
Distance: 0.9 km

Redwood Stables Holiday Park
384 Lower Queen Street, Richmond
redwoodstablesholidaypark@gmail.com
021 0912 7868
Distance: 1.0 km

Oxford Court Motel
73 Oxford Street, Richmond
enquiries@oxfordcourtmotel.co.nz
0800 351 352 / 03 544 8003
Distance: 1.6km

Gladstone Motel
19 Gladstone Road, Richmond
info@gladstonemotel.co.nz
0800 449 984 / 03 543 9984
Distance: 1.6km

Queen Street Studios
244 Queen Street, Richmond
info@aw.kiwi.nz
0800 427 844 / 03 544 7164
Distance: 1.6km

Richmond Motel and Holiday Park
24 Gladstone Road, Richmond
stay@richmondmotel.co.nz
0800 250 218
Distance: 2.0km

Parkside Motel
42 Gladstone Road, Richmond
info@parksidemotel.co.nz
0800 161 212 / 03 544 2264
Distance: 2.2km

Room For Two B&B
77 Champion Road, Richmond
027 566 4842 (Cindy)
Distance: 2.5km

Lavender Studio B&B
222 Hill Street, Richmond
027 312 3517 (Daphna)
Distance: 3.4km

Rose Cottage B&B
83 Hill Street, Richmond
Distance: 3.6km

The Pear Orchard Lodge
569 Hill Street, Hope
stay@thepearorchard.co.nz
03 544 5361 / 021 022 46501
Distance: 4.0km

Saxton Lodge
103 Saxon Rd East, Stoke
info@saxtonlodge.co.nz
0800 088 866 / 03 547 1375
Distance: 4.8 km

Country Retreats on Ranzau
216 Ranzau Road, Hope
021 548 373 / 03 547 1375
Distance: 4.8km

Appleby House / Rabbit Island Huts
305 Redwood Road
Rabbit Island
027 663 2639
Distance: 6.5 km

Boutique Motel
7 Bail Street, Stoke
boutiquemotelnelson@gmail.com
03 547 1439
Distance: 6.8 km

The Beachcomber
23 Beach Road, Tahunanui
stay@beachcomber.co.nz
03 548 5985 / 027 625 5116
Distance: 7.8km

The Honest Lawyer, Ascend Hotel
1 Point Road Monaco, Stoke
info@honestlawyer.co.nz
03 547 4070 / 0800 921 192
Distance: 8.1 km

The Apple Pickers Cottages
43 Apple Valley East Road
stay@applepickers.nz
021 721 730
Distance: 11.0km

Redwood Valley B&B
159 Stringer Road, Redwood Valley
0275483793 / 035483793 (Maria)
Distance: 11.0km

Tahunu Beach Holiday Park
Golf Road, Tahunanui
huna@tahunabeach.co.nz
035 452 127
Distance: 12.0km

AGM 2026 Accommodation options around Nelson/Tasman

Example of Rally 2026 Polo Shirt front and back:



**Polo Shirt -
Colour Grey/
Green. A
BIZ COOL™
performance
polo. Grid
mesh
underarm
and side
panels
for added
ventilation.**



Example of
cloth patch -
size 10cm x
7cm (100mm x
70mm)



Ulysses Club NZ

2026 National Rally and AGM

VENUE:

THE HEADINGLY CENTRE
2 Headingly Lane, Richmond 7020

27-29 MARCH, 2026

Name:	Address:
Ulysses Member No:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Tick if Coordinator and or <input type="checkbox"/> Tick if NatCom Member	
Phone:	Branch:
Email:	
Partner Name:	Partner Ulysses Member No:
<input type="checkbox"/> Tick if Coordinator and/or <input type="checkbox"/> Tick if NatCom Member	

	Number	Per Person	Amount						
National AGM / Rally Registration Fee: Payable by all attending		\$40.00							
SELF CONTAINED RV overnight limited parking for Friday & Saturday [N.B. ONLY FOR SELF CONTAINED RVs: Any queries email: UlyssesNelson2026@gmail.com]		Free							
National Rally Badge 2026: <i>Cut off badge order: 27th January 2026</i>		\$10.00							
Nelson Badge 2026: <i>Cut off badge order: 27th January 2026</i>		\$10.00							
Friday Evening: Meal – The Headingly Centre, light food. Bar Opens: 4:30 pm Dinner Starts: 6.00pm		\$27.00							
Saturday Afternoon: Rally Ride - Banjo Country adventure.									
Saturday Evening: Meal – The Headingly Centre 'Smorgasbord Menu' Bar Opens: 4:30pm Dinner Starts: 6.00pm		\$50.00							
Dress Up: Prizes for Best Interpretations of "Life's a Beach" Please make every effort to dress up. It will be fun!									
Sunday Morning: Breakfast 7:00am to 11:00am - Alioke Eatery 4A Central Park Lane, off Berryfield Drive, Richmond 7020.		\$25.00							
Please list your Dietary Requirements here:									
Rally Embroidered Cloth Patch- <i>Cut off badge order: 27th January 2026</i>		\$30.00							
Rally Polo Shirt – Refer to Accommodation page for polo style <i>Cut off for order: 27th January 2026</i>		\$50.00							
Polo Shirt Sizing: Please circle size required:	Total		\$						
Men:	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	5XL		
Ladies:	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24

Payment will be by Bank Deposit or Online Banking: **NBS 03-1354-0222852-01**

Please include your **Ulysses Number** and **Surname** in the details.

Scan and email the **Registration** form to: UlyssesNelson2026@gmail.com

Registrations will be acknowledged via reply email.

Cancellation Policy: In the events of a Covid outbreak or similar related Regional/National lockdown, any payments made will be refunded unless the purchase of items ordered has been committed to, in which case the items will be shipped and the refund reduced accordingly.

Registrations & Orders Close: 27th January 2026



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MARCH 2026

**VENUE: THE HEADINGLY CENTRE, 2 HEADINGLY LANE,
RICHMOND, NELSON 7020.
SATURDAY, 28TH MARCH, 2026 AT 10AM.**

**AGENDA, REMIT AGM, POSTAL VOTING FOR REMITS,
FORTHCOMING BRANCH AGM NOTICES,
GENERIC BRANCH NOMINATION FORM**

PAGES 56-64

THE ULYSSES CLUB OF NZ INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2026

**VENUE: The Headingly Centre, 2 Headingly Lane, Richmond, Nelson 7020.
Saturday, 28th March, 2026 at 10am.**

MEETING AGENDA

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Welcome and Greetings - Andy Wilson | 6. Coordinators' Meeting Report |
| 2. Apologies | 7. Remits/Resolutions - Discussion & voting |
| 3. Minutes of AGM held in New Plymouth 2025 | 8. General Business* |
| Matters Arising from those minutes | 9. AA Presentation |
| 4. President's Report - Andy Wilson | 10. Odyssey Medal Presentation (if any forthcoming) |
| Matters arising from report | 11. Life Member Presentation (if any forthcoming) |
| 5. Treasurer's Report - Chris Groube | 12. 2026 National AGM - Taupo Branch |
| Matters arising from report | 13. Election of Officers |

Nominations for the National Committee received by Friday 31st October, 2025 deadline with their proposer and seconder are listed below. All candidates are unopposed, so no vote will be required for these.

Nominee	#	Nominator	#	Seconder	#	Incumbent?
President						
Suzie Pentalow	8532	Tim Stewart	8959	Wayne Painter	1756	N
Vice President						
Craig Moodie	8602	Suzie Pentalow	8532	Peggy O'Neal	2849	Y
Treasurer						
Chris Groube	7295	Euan Quaid	8661	Dean Macfarlane	9633	Y
Secretary						
Tony Hickmott	10416	Wayne Savage	10699	Nadene Savage	10700	N
Committee						
1. Karen Wilson	7787	Donald Morrison	1984	Maxine Perrett	4159	Y
2. Vicky Chapman	9990	Chris Perrett	8086	Tony Breg-Yates	10149	Y
3. Leigh-Ann Crane	10243	Suzie Pentalow	8532	Vicky Chapman	9990	N
4. John Macdonald	7528	Kenneth Scoltock	10562	Andy Wilson	7169	N

***GENERAL BUSINESS**

2026 Nelson AGM

Please note that only those items of General Business or Members Questions which are notified in writing, (including by email) to the National Secretary by 28th January 2026 will be accepted for discussion in General Business at the National AGM.

Current Membership

Please note that if your membership is not current at the time of the National AGM then any vote cast will be invalid and although you may attend the AGM, you will be unable to vote.

Future National Rally and AGM information: 2027 Taupo, 2028 Westland

2026

REMIT AGM

REMIT/ RESOLUTION 1

The following is a request seeking to amend the Club Rules to increase the date range for holding Annual General Meetings of the club.

This remit is intended to be presented at the National Annual General Meeting to be held on 28 March 2026, as permitted by Rule 5.1 of the Club Rules.

We further request publication of the remit in the December Ulyssian as required by the Club Rules.

Proposed:

CHRIS GROUBE #7925 - National Treasurer

ANDY WILSON #7169 - National President

Background

Clause 3.71(a) of our Constitution states that "There shall be a Society Annual General Meeting held each year between 14 March and 26 April.

It is proposed our 2027 AGM be hosted by the Taupo Branch. The only suitable venue is available in February, outside the current permitted date range.

Section 84 (1) of the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 states that "Every society must call an annual general meeting of members to be held –

Not later than 6 months after the balance date of the society; and

Not later than 15 months after the previous annual general meeting

Our current balance date is 31 December so under the Act the latest date we can hold an AGM is 30 June. There is no restriction on how soon after the balance date we can hold an AGM but logistically we need time to complete the financial statements and reports required for distribution to the membership.

Therefore there is no restriction under the Act to bringing the commencement date forward. It is proposed to change the 14 March date to 15 February and the 26 April date to 31 May.

Approval is therefore sought for the following amendment:

Clause 3.71(a) is amended with "There shall be a Society Annual General Meeting held each year between 15 February and 31 May.

REMIT/ RESOLUTION 2

The following is a request seeking to amend the Club Rules to remove the default requirement for the accounts to be audited and instead only require an audit if the members agree by resolution at an AGM.

This remit is intended to be presented at the National Annual General Meeting to be held on 28 March 2026, as permitted by Rule 5.1 of the Club Rules.

We further request publication of the remit in the December Ulyssian as required by the Club Rules.

Proposed:

CHRIS GROUBE #7925 - National Treasurer

ANDY WILSON #7169 - National President

Background

An audit is a formal examination of an organisation's financial records, conducted by a qualified auditor, to ensure accuracy, compliance, and transparency.

Our constitution currently states at clause 3.5.3 the National Treasurer is responsible for:

(d) Ensuring that the Society annual Financial Statements are presented to the person appointed for audit or review.

Audits are expensive. Our audit fee last year was \$1,550, in 2023 \$1,500 and this is probably at the lower end of what would be considered a market rate.

Reporting Requirements Under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022

We are required to adopt reporting standards set by the XRB (External Reporting Board)

Standards are applied based on Tier Sizes, 1 to 4.

1 and 2 are large Incorporated Societies with Public Accountability.

Tier 3 Societies don't have public accountability and have expenses less than or equal to 5 million.

Tier 4 does not have public accountability, is allowed by law to use cash accounting, has expenses \leq \$140,000 and elects to be in Tier 4.

To put the size of our Club in perspective, we had total operating expenses of \$129,223 in the 2024 financial year and \$118,413 in 2023.

While we could fall into Tier 4, our accrual accounting system and current reporting standard puts us into Tier 3 so we will elect to adopt Tier 3 Reporting Standards.

Audit Requirement

Tier 3 societies need to have their financial statements audited if:

they are not a charitable entity, and

in each of the two previous financial years of the society, the total operating expenditure of the society and all entities it controls (if any) is \$5 million or more.

This is a two-part test and both parts must be satisfied for an audit to be required. We don't meet the second test. Our operating expenses hardly register on the scale of a \$5 million threshold. Therefore, we are not required to have our financial statements audited

Financial integrity

All payments from our bank accounts require two authorisations. Typically, the administrator sets up accounts payable or bank transfers between accounts and these are checked and authorised by a second account signatory, normally the Treasurer. The risk of fraudulent transactions is negligible.

Our Accounting system, Xero, has very good reporting capabilities so we have real time information on our financial transactions. Financial Statements generated from our accounting system

Remits/Resolutions

The National Secretary, Ulysses Club of NZ Inc

provide a transparent picture of the Clubs finances and comply with generally accepted accounting principles.

Under clause 3.5.39(f) or our constitution the National Treasurer is responsible for: If requested by a Society Member, arranging for the records, books, and other financial documents of the Society to be inspected free of charge at any reasonable time and

place.

We are a small Club in the context of Financial Reporting Standards and the cost of having our Financial Statements audited is hard to justify.

Recommendation

It is recommended we amend the Constitution by amending paragraph (d) to

read:

(d) If required by members by resolution at an AGM, ensure that the Society's annual Financial Statements are presented to the person appointed for audit or review.

Under this amendment, only if the members decide and resolve to have the accounts audited will the treasurer be required to organise for and audit.

REMIT/ RESOLUTION 3

The following is a request seeking to amend the Club Rules to simplify the Nomination Form for the election of Branch Committee members.

This remit is intended to be presented at the National Annual General Meeting to be held on 28 March 2026, as permitted by Rule 5.1 of the Club Rules.

We further request publication of the remit in the December Ulyssian as required by the Club Rules.

Proposed:

CHRIS GROUBE #7925 - National Treasurer

ANDY WILSON #7169 - National President

Background

It has come to the attention of the National Committee that a version of the Committee Nomination form circulating comprise only one half an A4 page requiring name, Ulysses number and signature of the person being nominated for a position, a proposer and seconder.

This format does not satisfy the requirements under our constitution.

The Constitution states at 3.2(d):

Each elected Branch Member of the Branch Committee shall upon their consenting in writing and certifying that they are not disqualified from being elected, appointed, or holding office as an officer of a society, hold office until the time at the next Branch Annual General Meeting when all positions are declared vacant.

Qualification of Officers

The Incorporated Societies Act 2022 (the Act) imposes a standard to be met by Officers. Under our Constitution this

standard is also applied to Officers of Branch Committees.

Officers seeking election must consent in writing and certify they are not disqualified from being elected, appointed, or holding office as an officer.

The criteria are detailed the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, Section 47 Qualifications of Officers, and are replicated at the end of this remit. They are extensive.

Proposal

While it is entirely appropriate National Committee appointees are subject to the consent and certification requirement, being the officers of an Incorporated Society, we don't believe this needs to be applied at branch level.

Recommendation

It is recommended we amend the Constitution by amending paragraph 3.2(d) to read:

Each elected Branch Member of the Branch Committee shall upon their consenting in writing hold office until the time at the next Branch Annual General Meeting when all positions are declared vacant.

47 Qualifications of officers

- (1) Every officer of a society must be a natural person.
- (2) A natural person who is not disqualified by subsection (3) may be elected or appointed as an officer of the society, so long as that person—
 - (a) has consented in writing to be an officer; and
 - (b) certifies that they are not disqualified from being elected or appointed or

otherwise holding office as an officer of the society.

(3) The following persons are disqualified from being elected or appointed or

otherwise holding office as an officer of a society:

- (a) a person who is under 16 years of age;
- (b) a person who is an undischarged bankrupt;
- (e) a person who has been convicted of any of the following, and has been sentenced for the offence, within the last 7 years (refer to legislation for full list):

- (ii) a crime involving dishonesty
- (iii) an offence under section 143B of the Tax Administration Act

1994:

- (vi) a money laundering offence or an offence relating to the financing

of terrorism, whether in New Zealand or elsewhere

- (vi) a money laundering offence or an offence relating to the financing

of terrorism, whether in New Zealand or elsewhere:

- (f) a person who is subject to any of the following orders:

- (i) a banning order under subpart 7 of Part 4:

- (ii) an order under section 108 of the Credit Contracts and Consumer

Finance Act 2003:

- (iii) a forfeiture order under the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009:

POSTAL VOTING FOR REMITS

To ensure your votes are counted please:

- Use the forms provided on this page
- Don't write other information on the forms
- Put the forms in a sealed envelope
- Write your Ulysses Membership Number and the words 'Secret Ballot' on the outside of the envelope (your number is used to only determine your eligibility to vote, not how you vote.)
- If combining votes in one envelope then ALL membership numbers need to be recorded on the envelope
- All postal votes must be sent to the National Administrator at PO Box 55, Inglewood, Taranaki, 4330 and they need to be postmarked no later than March 13th, 2026.



REMIT VOTING FORM

REMIT/RESOLUTIONS 1

Mark your vote by placing a tick, cross or circle in the "FOR" or "AGAINST" box in the line of the remit

REMIT/RESOLUTION 1	FOR	AGAINST
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The request seeking to amend the Club Rules to increase the date range for holding Annual General Meetings of the club.

TEAR OR PRINT OUT AND USE THIS FORM FOR POSTAL VOTING. TO ENSURE YOUR VOTE IS COUNTED, PLEASE REFER TO THE DETAILED POSTAL VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS PAGE



REMIT VOTING FORM

REMIT/RESOLUTIONS 2

Mark your vote by placing a tick, cross or circle in the "FOR" or "AGAINST" box in the line of the remit

REMIT/RESOLUTION 2	FOR	AGAINST
---------------------------	------------	----------------

The request seeking to amend the Club Rules to remove the default requirement for the accounts to be audited and instead only require an audit if the members agree by resolution at an AGM.

TEAR OR PRINT OUT AND USE THIS FORM FOR POSTAL VOTING. TO ENSURE YOUR VOTE IS COUNTED, PLEASE REFER TO THE DETAILED POSTAL VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS PAGE



REMIT VOTING FORM

REMIT/RESOLUTIONS 3

Mark your vote by placing a tick, cross or circle in the "FOR" or "AGAINST" box in the line of the remit

REMIT/RESOLUTION 3	FOR	AGAINST
---------------------------	------------	----------------

The request seeking to amend the Club Rules to simplify the Nomination Form for the election of Branch Committee members.

TEAR OR PRINT OUT AND USE THIS FORM FOR POSTAL VOTING. TO ENSURE YOUR VOTE IS COUNTED, PLEASE REFER TO THE DETAILED POSTAL VOTING INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS PAGE

FORTHCOMING BRANCH AGM NOTICES 2026

Branch	AGM date	Venue	Time	Positions	Noms close	Address for nominations
Auckland	Wed, 4th March, 2026	Manukau Cruising Club, Orpheus Dr, Onehunga 1061	7 pm	P, VP, S, Com	4 Feb	Branch Secretary, 6 Jackies Place, Pukekohe 2120
Buller	TBC	TBC after National Rally in Nelson		C, T, S, Com		Branch Secretary, 71 Snodgrass Road, RD 2, Westport 7892
Canterbury	Mon, 16th March, 2026	Papanui Club, 310 Sawyers Arms Rd, Bishopdale	7:30 pm	C, S, T, 5 Com	16 Feb	Branch Secretary, 11 Aberfoyle Place, Parklands, Christchurch 8083.
Far North	Sun, 17th May, 2026	Whakapara Hall, Whakapara	12 noon	C, VC, S/T, 4 Com	17 April	Branch Secretary, 28 Markson Ave, Onerahi, Whangarei 0110
Gisborne	N/A			P, VP, S/T, 3 Com		Branch Secretary, 14 Mullolly Road, RD 1, Gisborne 4071
Hawke's Bay	Wed, 3rd June, 2026 Please note date change from last edition!	Committee room, Taradale RSA, Taradale, Napier	7:30 pm	P, T, S, 4 Com	18 May	Branch Secretary, 72 Tait Drive, Greenmeadows, Napier, 4112
Kapiti Coast	Thurs, 7th May 2026	Manakau Bowling and Sports Club, 10 Mokena Kohere St, Manakau, Levin	7:30 pm	C, VC, S, T, 3 Com	7 April	Branch Secretary, 69 Nimmo Ave East, Waikanae, Kapiti Coast 5036
Manawatu	Wed, 6th May, 2026	Bunnythorpe Tavern, Bunnythorpe	7:30 pm	C, S, T, Up to 8 Com	6 April	Branch Secretary, 361 Ruahine Street, Palmerston North 4410
Marlborough	Wed, 11th Feb, 2026	Redwoodtown Community Hall, Cnr Weld & Cleghorn St, Blenheim	7pm	C, VC, S, T, up to 8 Com	11 Jan	Branch Secretary, 94 Howick Rd, Blenheim 7201

KEY: C - Co-ordinator, P - Branch President, VC - Vice-Co-ordinator, VP - Vice President, S - Secretary, T - Treasurer, S/T - Secretary Treasurer, Com - Committee

Branch	AGM date	Venue	Time	Positions	Noms close	Address for nominations
Nelson	Sun, 3rd May, 2026	Club Waimea Meeting Room	4 pm	C, CV, S, T, 4 Com		Branch Secretary, 76 Berryfield Drive, Richmond, Nelson 7020
North Harbour	Thurs, 2nd April, 2026	Hobsonville RSA, 114 Hobsonville Rd, Hobsonville, Auckland 0618	7:30 pm	P, VP, S/T, 3 Com		Branch Secretary, 14 Waimoko Glen, Swanson, Auckland 0612.
North Otago	Wed, 15th April, 2026	13 Stour Street, Oamaru	7 pm	P, VP, S/T, 3 Com	15 Mar	Branch Secretary, 13 Stour Street, Oamaru 9400
Otago	Tues, 5th May, 2026	Otago Motorcycle Clubrooms, 3 Clark St, Dunedin	7:00 pm	P, VP, S, T, 4 Com	5 April	Branch Secretary, 20 Stewart Street, Waikouaiti 9510
Rotorua	26th April, 2026	Bike Force, Lake Road, Rotorua	7:00 pm	C, S, T, 4 Com		Branch Secretary, PO Box 1791, Rotorua
South Canterbury	Fri, 21st May, 2026	1 Lincoln Street, Timaru	7:30pm	C, S, T, 3 Com	21 April	Branch Secretary, 143 Peters Street, Hinds 7747
Southland	Tues, 12th May, 2026	Ocean Seafood Restaurant, Dee Street, Invercargill	6:00pm	C, S/T, 3 Com	12 April	Branch Secretary, 12 Martin Street, Strathern, Invercargill 9812
Taranaki	Wed, 18th Feb, 2026	The New Plymouth Club, 55 Gill St, New Plymouth	6:30 pm	P, VP, S, T, 4 Com	18 Jan	Branch Secretary, 70 Shelter Grove, Frankleigh Park, New Plymouth 4310
Taumarunui	N/A			C, S, T, 3 Com		Branch Secretary, PO Box 244, Taumarunui 3946
Taupo	Thurs, 11th June, 2026	Taupo Cosmopolitan Club, Taniwha Street, Taupo	7.30pm	C, S, T, 3 Com		Branch Secretary, 189 Rifle Range Road, Taupo, 3330
Tauranga	Tues, 21st April, 2026	Tauranga Citizens Club. 170 Thirteenth Ave, Tauranga South	7:30 pm	C, VC, S, T, Com	21 Mar	Branch Secretary, 31 Ponga Place, Golden Sands, Papamoa 3118
Waihi-TV	Sun, 14th June, 2026	Paeroa RSA, 67 Belmont Rd, Paeroa	2:00 pm	C, S, T, 4 Com	14 May	Branch Secretary, 22 Waimarei Ave, Paeroa 3600
Waikato	Tues, 5th June, 2026	Hamilton Cosmopolitan Club, 32 Claudelands Rd, Hamilton East	7:00 pm	C, T, 5 Com	5 April	Branch Secretary, 19 Coronation Road, Morrinsville 3300

Branch	AGM date	Venue	Time	Positions	Noms close	Address for nominations
Wairarapa	Mon, 18th May, 2026	Carterton Memorial Rooms, Carterton	7:30 pm	C, S, T, Com	18 April	Branch Secretary, 11 Alton Grove, Masterton, 5810
Wellington	Tues, 12th May, 2026	Petone Workingmen's Club, Udy St, Petone	7:30 pm	C, S, T, 4 Com	12 April	Branch Secretary, 81 Houghton Bay Road, Houghton Bay, Wellington
Westland	Sun, 3rd May, 2026	Greymouth Rodders Club, Anzac Park, Greymouth	11.00am	C, S, T, 4 Com	3 April	Branch Secretary, 16 Stafford Road, RD 2, Awatuna, Hokitika 7882
Whakatane	Wed, 8th April, 2026	The Ohope Beach Tavern		C, S, T, Com	8 March	Branch Secretary, 15 Myrtle Street, Hamilton East, Hamilton 3216

KEY: C - Co-ordinator, P - Branch President, VC - Vice-Co-ordinator, VP - Vice President, S - Secretary, T - Treasurer, S/T - Secretary Treasurer, Com - Committee

1. Contact secretary@ulysses.org.nz with changes, which will be printed in the March *Ulyssian*.
2. You may use the following Generic Branch Nomination form.



GENERIC BRANCH AGM NOMINATION FORM 2026

THE ULYSSES CLUB OF NEW ZEALAND INC.

I nominate:

For the position of: (please circle one)

Co-ordinator
Vice-Co-ordinator
Branch treasurer
Committee member

Member No.#

Branch president
Branch vice president
Branch secretary

Nomination accepted by: _____

Date: _____

Nominated by: _____

Member No.# _____

Seconded by: _____

Member No.# _____

All nominations are accepted with no pre-conditions





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