



ULYSSES MEMBERS RV GROUP



The Kermit Kronicle



Contacts.

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Fom the Editors Desk.

The Ulysses Club AGM at Newcastle has come and gone. On a restricted time basis, Sherol and I didn't get there until Thursday afternoon (she flew, I rode) and we joined a bunch of friends that evening in Hamilton for tea. Listening to the conversations around the table, I gathered that even though numbers for the event were down, just short of the 3000, everyone was having a great time.

On Saturday morning we rode in the Grand Parade, and again, which seems to be a big city thing, the parade route took us around a coastal road, away from the main streets, and there was hardly any spectators to see us. Memories of the Gold Coast and Canberra.

The AG Meeting itself ran smoothly, and it was pleasing to see RV Group member and the lady who gave Arvie to the group awarded a Dearnley Medal for her services to the Port Stephens Branch of the club over the past 10 years. Well done to Merilyn Evans (Leo to most of us.) Then Leo's husband John, not to be outdone, and having served as Port Stephens President for a number of years and as Newcastle Lower Hunter Branch administrator for the last 18 months, stood for and was elected to Natcom. Congratulations to both of you.

On the road again Sunday heading for home, and even though it was a shortened event for me, there is nothing like a good ride to clear out the cobwebs in both the bike and the riders head.

Whilst we were down there, Ruth Rawlings took us

to Australian Motorhomes at Bennets Green to show us her new motorhome that she was picking up that week. Wandering around the yard having a look in some of the vehicles there, I must say it is tempting to look at trading the 4WD and Van for a motorhome behind which we could take the bike with us when we go away. Bears thinking about, although I enjoy having the 4WD as well.

Plenty of get togethers coming up in the next 6 months, leading up to the AGM at Tamworth in October. Details can be found later in the newsletter.

We are getting a few members over in W.A. as well now, so I am looking forward to receiving a report of their first get together. (If that is not a hint for someone to organise something, then nothing is.)

You don't have to be a State Coordinator to organise a WGT. All you need to do is come up with an idea, get some friends together, organise a location and pick a date. Put it on to the Notice Board/Forum of the website so that others can join you as well. With a WGT, it is as about the company and having a good time rather than about the location and fancy dinners etc. What could be better than a bunch of like minded people having a happy hour BBQ and enjoying the company of friends and like minded comrades.

Until next time,
Stay safe and enjoy the road.

Rick.



UPCOMING EVENTS.

Glen Innes Celtic Festival April 28 - May 2nd.

Showground Camping

The showgrounds are situated in between the main street of Glen Innes and the Australian Standing Stones. The camping area is suitable for caravans, tents, motor homes and other camping utilities. Pets are welcome, dogs are to be on a leash at all times and litter picked up. There are no site numbers - first in, your choice of site location. Click here to view showground map.

How do I book Showground Accommodation?

Internet:

<http://www.australiancelticfestival.com/showground-camping-27.cfm>

1. Click on "Book Now" to make a booking and payment for the Glen Innes Showgrounds.

2. Go to the top left hand side of page and change the date to the day you would like to arrive. Showgrounds will be open for camping accommodation from Tuesday April 28 to Tuesday May 2, 2011.

Caravan Park Accommodation

Poplar Caravan Park (02) 67 321514 - Unpowered sites available

www.poplarcaravanpark.com.au

<http://www.fossickercaravanpark.com.au/>

<http://www.craigieburntouristpark.com.au/>

Ulysses Exmouth Rally - Sat 4th June 2011 - Mon 6th June 2011

2011 Ulysses Club Exmouth Rally will be held at Exmouth Cape Holiday Park in Exmouth WA 1271 klm north of Perth. The Park has deluxe Family Cabins, chalets, caravan and tent sites.

Website <http://www.exmouth.aspenparks.com.au> mention you are a Ulysses member and receive a

discount – and be placed near other members if you wish. Book early as it is Peak Season in Exmouth.

Jeanette Beverly and Fay Johnston have organised a weekenders on the following dates.

GLOUCESTER.

10-13th June (long weekend)

Gloucester Holiday Park

Denison Street, Gloucester

02 6558 1720

Contact Jeanette on 02 4389344

Pets are allowed

MUDGE

9-11th September

Riverside Caravan Park

Short Street Mudgee.

02 6372 2531

Contact Fay for this one 0266446105 or 0438215325

Camp Fire permitted at this Park as it will be cold at night.

Pets are allowed.

NUNDLE

Sept30-3rd Oct

Fossickers Tourist Park

Jenkins Street Nundle

02 6769 3355

Contact Jeanette on 02 4389344

Pets are allowed

FORSTER

25-27th November

Lakeside Resort

13 Tea Tree Road

Forster

02 6555 5511

Contact Fay for this one 0266446105 or 0438215325.

Sorry no pets allowed



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Website:

<http://ulyssesrv.org>

Its on again by popular request.

XMAS IN JULY AT NYMBOIDA .

For those who went last year you all know what to bring, warm jumpers and like some extra bottles of port or someone to keep you warm.

We will go to the coaching station again for sat night meal .

Come early and stay late no time limit .

DATES 16-17th JULY

TO SEND KEN AN EMAIL LETTING HIM KNOW NUMBERS, Paste this link into your browser;

<http://ulyssesrv.org/xmasjulyreply.html>

4th AGM - Tamworth, NSW. October 20th to 23rd, 2011

Fay and Phil, Di and Keith and Marie and Jurgen have been working to organise this year's AGM, and have secured a complete caravan park for us in Tamworth on the weekend of the 20th to 23rd October, 2011.

The Park is the Austen Tourist Park, contact details as follows.

581 Armidale Road, Tamworth NSW 2340

For Bookings: 1800 826 967

Telephone: (02) 6766 2380

Resident Managers:

Frank and Christine Edwards

Email: bookings@austintouristpark.com.au

It is an extremely well kept park.

They can provide 100 powered sites and they will book out the entire park for the Ulysses RV group.

We have decided that we should run with a Marquee on site and a local caterer providing a roast dinner and sweets. Meal would be 3 different roasts with steamed veggies, jacket potato with sour cream, or salad, which ever we choose. The sweets would be mud cake and pavlova. WE will have tea and coffee as well, provided by the Park owners. Cost will be \$20 per head.

Marquee cost will be approximately \$1000.00 which includes lighting and will be erected on the Wednesday and taken down on the Monday.

Thanks to the generosity of members at the North Haven AGM this year, the club is in a position to meet a good deal of the cost of the Marquee, and we will require only a donation of about \$3.00 a head from members attending to make up the rest of the cost, that way leaving a little bit of money in the bank to continue running the website and gear shop.

MERCHANDISE SHOP.

Our merchandise can be found in our shop online at <http://ulyssesrv.org> and click on the merchandise shop link.

We have stickers, and patches available to be sent out immediately, and you can order and pay for an RV shirt in your size, with or without having your name embroidered on the shirt.

If you prefer not to use PayPal or online credit card payment, or even bank transfer, feel free to contact me by letter to Ulysses Members RV Group, P.O. Box 4626, Eight Mile Plains, Qld. 4113,

or you can ring me on 0402 453 380 to work out a different manner of purchase.



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We are looking at increasing the range of merchandise available for purchase in our shop. Some suggestions have been:-

1. *A jacket, black or navy or green colour with the logo embroidered on the left breast.*
2. *A small flag, similar in size to the Ulysses Club small flag or pennant.*
3. *A mug with the RV Group logo on it.*

If you have any other ideas for merchandise, drop me an email and we will look into finding suppliers and pricing same.

Spare Wheel Covers.

Some of you will have seen the caravan spare wheel cover on the back of our van, or on Tom and Mary's van. That was produced by our daughter, at a cost of \$150.00, using marine grade enamel paint. This was a fairly labour intensive and slow process, and whilst the end result is great, waiting time can be extended whilst she juggles 2 jobs, TAFE studies, parenthood and whatever else young people do these days.

In the meantime, Phil has located a supplier who will produce a tyre cover logo on a round vinyl disk which can be sewn over your existing tyre cover, either by you or by the supplier. The logo is produced on white vinyl which will allow our 5 colour logo with only the standard 4 colour process, thereby reducing costs. Pricing is \$100 for 1, reducing to \$75 or even \$50 depending on the number ordered. The more ordered, the cheaper it gets.

I am also looking at sourcing tyre covers in the standard white printing on black, similar to what many of the van yards have on their vans. More on this later.

Borrowed from the Westprint Friday Funnies.

Douglas Adams, of "Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy" fame, gives an amazing insight into Australia - prepare yourself!

Australia is a very confusing place, taking up a large amount of the bottom half of the planet. It is recognizable from orbit because of many unusual features, including what looks like an enormous bite taken out of its southern edge; a wall of sheer cliffs which plunge deep into the girding sea. Geologists assure us that this is simply an accident of geomorphology and plate tectonics, but they still call it the "Great Australian Bight" - proving that not only are they covering up a more frightening theory but they can't spell either!

The first of the confusing things about Australia is the status of the place. Where other landmasses and sovereign lands are classified as continent, island or country, Australia is considered all three. Typically, it is unique in this.

The second confusing thing about Australia is the animals. They can be divided into three categories: Poisonous, Odd, and Sheep.

It is true that of the 10 most poisonous arachnids on the planet, Australia has 9 of them. Actually, it would be more accurate to say that of the 9 most poisonous arachnids, Australia has all of them.

But even the spiders won't go near the sea. Any visitors should be careful to check inside boots (before putting them on), under toilet seats (before sitting down) and generally everywhere else. A stick is very useful for this task.

At this point, we would like to mention the Platypus - estranged relative of the mammal, which has a duck-bill, otter's tail, webbed feet, lays eggs, detects its aquatic prey in the same way as the electric eel and has venomous barbs attached to its hind legs, thus combining all 'typical' Australian attributes into a single improbable creature.



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The last confusing thing about Australia is the inhabitants.

First, a short history: Sometime around 40,000 years ago, some people arrived in boats from the north. They ate all the available food, and a lot of them died. The ones who survived learned respect for the balance of nature, man's proper place in the scheme of things, and spiders. They settled in and spent a lot of the intervening time making up strange stories. Then, around 200 years ago, Europeans arrived in boats from the north. More accurately, European convicts were sent, with a few deranged people in charge. They tried to plant their crops (failing to take account of the reversal of the seasons), ate all their food, and a lot of them died.

About then the sheep arrived, and have been treasured ever since. It is interesting to note here that the Europeans always consider themselves vastly superior to any other race they encounter, whereas all the Aborigines do is happily survive being left in the middle of a vast red-hot desert, equipped with a stick.

Eventually, the new lot of people stopped being Europeans on Extended Holiday and became Australians. The changes are subtle, but deep, caused by expanses of nothingness and eerie quiet, where a person can sit perfectly still and look deep inside themselves to the core of their essence, their reasons for being, and the necessity of checking inside your boots, every morning, for fatal surprises. They also picked up the most finely tuned sense of irony in the world, and the Aboriginal gift for making up stories. Be warned.

There is also the matter of the beaches. Australian beaches are simply the nicest and best in the entire world. Although anyone actually venturing into the sea will have to contend with sharks, stinging jellyfish, stonefish (a fish which sits on the bottom of the sea, pretends to be a rock and has venomous barbs sticking out of its back that will kill just from the pain) and surfers. However, watching a beach sunset is worth the risk.

As a result of all this hardship, dirt, thirst and wombats, you would expect Australians to be a dour lot. Instead, they are genial, jolly, cheerful and always willing to share a kind word with a stranger. Faced

with insurmountable odds and impossible problems, they smile disarmingly and look for a stick. Major engineering feats have been performed with sheets of corrugated iron, string, and mud.

Alone of all the races on earth, they seem to be free from the 'Grass is Greener on the other side of the fence' syndrome, and roundly proclaim that Australia is, in fact, the other side of that fence. They call the land "Oz", "Godzone" (a verbal contraction of "God's Own Country") and "Best place on earth, bar none." The irritating thing is they may be right. There are some traps for the unsuspecting traveller, though. Do not, under any circumstances, suggest that the beer is imperfect. Do not wear a Hawaiian shirt. Religion and politics are fairly safe topics of conversation, (Australians don't care too much about either) but sport is a minefield.

Tips to Surviving Australia:

- * Don't ever put your hand down a hole for any reason WHATSOEVER.*
- * The beer is stronger than you think, regardless of how strong you think it is.*
- * Always carry a stick.*
- * Air-conditioning is imperative.*
- * Do not attempt to use Australian slang, unless you are a trained linguist and extremely good in a fist fight.*
- * Wear thick socks.*
- * Take good maps. Stopping to ask directions only works when there are people nearby.*
- * If you leave the urban areas, carry several litres of water at all times, or you will die.*



VALE MISSY FURNER

It is with great sadness that I advise of the death of early RV Group member Missy Furner, pictured below with husband Lewis.

Those of you who attended our very first AGM held at the Cowra Holiday Park which at that time was owned and run by Lewis and Missy will remember the work that they put into our event to ensure that it was a success.

Missy was blessed with a bubbly personality and always seemed to be ready to pitch in and lend a hand, with that ever present smile on her face. Apart from running the caravan park, Missy also spent week about with her son-in-law's mother

caring from her grandchildren, following the death of her daughter.

At our AGM, Missy and Lewis organised our first Saturday night meal, buying the meat and salads, then pitched in and helped prepare and cook up a storm with Lewis and a band of willing helpers. Much of the \$10 a head for the meal was donated back to the RV Group after expenses, allowing us to make a \$350.00 donation to UCARF.

Missy was sadly killed in a motorbike accident on Kangaroo Island, S.A. where they were touring, with Lewis ending up in hospital in Adelaide.

Our sincere condolences to Lewis and family. Missy, you will be sorely missed.

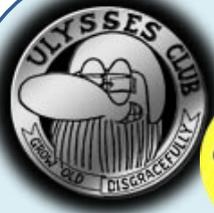




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2011 Queensland Odyssey

When: Queen's Birthday Weekend 11 – 13th June 2011

Where: Gladstone on the Central Queensland Coast



For more information email - gladstone.ulysses@yahoo.com

More information will be posted on our websites as it becomes available :

<http://branches.ulyssesclub.org/Gladstone> or <http://gladstoneulysses.multiply.com>



These three relatives of **Arvie** have taken up residence in Bev and Ken Driver's van at Aldinga in S.A. I believe that there was only one to start with, then she got a companion and lo and behold a third turned up. Some "facts of life" talks required there I think Bev. From left is **Cara, JC (just cruisin)** and **Campie**