

AGM Special Report

On the Road to Albany and beyond with Dave

Our trip to the 2010 Albany Ulysses AGM

We took the easy way out and decided to travel via Qantas and turn the trip into a long over due holiday, sorry guys we left the Harley at home. We left Sydney early on Sunday morning as we wanted to spend a couple of days in Fremantle before we headed south to Albany.

We arrived in Fremantle about 10.30 am and headed straight for the markets as you do. The following day Alyce and I took the 20 metre climb down under the Fremantle Prison to check out the plumbing and this is worth a look if you ever get the chance. After a couple of days to wear off the jet lag we headed south to Albany during which we caught up with Rudy who after an epic adventure was also on his way south. Albany is a small compact town with so much to do, The Wind Farm, Distillery, Brewery, Whale World, The Harley Dealer and the list goes on, yes I forgot the AGM the reason we were there, personally was a bit disappointed with the trade area of the AGM but overall it seemed to go off well, we were spectators for the grand parade and that was brilliant. Tuesday morning we headed off towards the west coast, we did the Meadery, Elephant Rock and the Ice Cream factory (yes we ate Bulla Ice Cream), the valley of the giants tree top walk and then onto Pemberton where Alyce and myself climbed 61 meters to the top a giant Karri tree to the fire lookout.

Then off to Pemberton we headed down to Augusta and Cape Leeuwin where the Southern and Indian oceans meet.

Then on up into Margaret River and what a busy place that was, we couldn't believe how much there was to see in and around this area. We caught up with Peter and Paulina and had a lovely evening sitting in the garden unwinding and catching up on what we all had been doing.



Meeting of the Southern and Indian Oceans

After spending a couple of days in Margaret River and the Busselton area we headed off via Bunbury back up to Fremantle for our last night before flying home. In Fremantle we caught up with Peter, Paulina, Ron and Carol and reminisced over a couple of cold ones about what we had been up to over the last two weeks. We arrived at the airport next morning where we once again meet up with Peter and Paulina but we didn't get to fly out, due to technical difficulties we got to spend another night in Perth courtesy of Qantas, then we were up at 3.00am the next morning on to the bus and back out to the airport again and finally arrived back in Sydney early Sunday afternoon.

This is a lovely part of the country (how about those big Karri Trees) and if you get a chance to get across there it is worth the trip. We had a great two weeks, they say it is the journey and how true that is. The Hawkesbury Group what great bunch to go away with and we are looking forward to the next adventure. Harley riders make better pirates to by the way.

Dave, Anne & Alyce

The Hawkesbury Rider - Newsletter of the Hawkesbury Branch of the Ulysses Club - April 2010

AGM Special Report

On the Road to Albany with the Handleys Part 1

Marg & I decided just a few short weeks out, to do our trip of a lifetime to Albany & damn glad we did.

We travelled on our own to Adelaide, ran out of fuel once, due to the unknown fuel range with the trailer & a servo with no fuel on the western side of the Hay Plain, at Balranald.

The servo had been struck by lightning the day before.

Stopped at most towns for liquid refreshments, chat with the locals, as the weather was hot & windy. We battled heavy winds all the way into Adelaide, yet it was quite cool on arrival. Adelaide was busy, as we arrived in the middle of some music festival for the weekend.

Two nights with a fellow Ulyssian in Adelaide & a brekky with friends then the winery crawl around the

Barossa for Margaret & she was in alcoholics heaven.....AGAIN

or still? We tried to get Pete a

clutch cable in Adelaide to no avail. We did all keep in touch along the way, when we had service.

It was nice to compare stories as we went across this BIG land of ours.



Again we battled heavy winds & slow speeds due to an ill handling trailer, but not for much longer.

We filled the esky in Pt Augusta & the trailer became our friend instead of the pig it had been for days. Just needed a bit more towball weight! As confirmed by a stranger in a pub in a small Victorian town, of all places.

Met so many great people along the way, from grey nomads, fellow bikers, locals at any number of pubs that Margaret kept dragging me into, bitch.....hahaha

Met up with my older brother at Ceduna & he tagged along with us for the rest of the trip. We camped out across the Nullarbor in swags & grabbed the odd motel for a bit of luxury & respite from the weather. We had no plans, therefore, no disappointments. Just take it a day at a time & see where you end up.



Battling hot days all the way, we arrived at the WA junction of Norseman, to find the weather quite bitter.

Of course, all the cool weather gear was back home!

After a quick trip around Esperance in foul weather, we made a bee line for the Margaret River.

The weather had cooled & the riding was great, as the roads got progressively windy. A big thumbs up after the Nullarbor.

The most expensive shout - two pints & a gin/tonic.....
..\$25.30 & it was my brothers' shout hahaha sucker !

A great day on a winery & food tour in Margaret River, an opportunity to do some washing & all was well after some relaxation & a comfy bed. 4 wineries down, 996 to go.....ooh yeah

Our daily schedule was quite hectic, to cover the kilometres, but we made it.

My gift to Margaret for our wedding anniversary. Piss poor effort eh....hehehe

AGM Special Report

On the Road to Albany with the Handleys Part 2

A leisurely run down to Albany & time to set up camp with the Tamworth & Kalgoorlie crowds. With Rudy & us the only campers from our mob, the others were pussying it, in 5 star fashion.

Our 30th wedding anniversary dinner consisted of a hamburger, chips, 2 beers each & a Mr Whippy before bed.....she won't forget that one in a hurry !

Caught up with our fellow Hawkesburians (I think that's a new word) for dinner for 2 nights & visited our Nicky in hospital to try & keep her spirits up. Greg's also!

A great day out with Pete & Paulina, my brother & some fantastic food, scenery etc. Pete & I attempted a day fishing, whilst Marg & Paulina had a pampering day in the girlie fashion. The fish were so plentiful, we grabbed a \$10 hamburger on the way home.

Parade day & damn we all looked good in our club shirts, didn't we guys *wink*
A hoot of a night for the Saturday dinner, all done up as pirates & nearly drowned inside the hoekker after a huge storm.

Wet bedding night sleep & time to pack up & get Marg to Perth for her flight home. Bigger it, everything seemed too rushed....grrrr

Riding without the boss on the back just ain't the same, except when I ask a question through the intercom, NOW, I at least get a positive & intelligent response.....

hehehehehehe

A bit of roadside maintenance (fresh oil) & just keep punching out the k's all the way home. Not quite so exciting on the way back, just taking it easy in the heat & enjoying what's left. 11 days to get there & 5 1/2 days to get home....grrrr

As many tales as there were kilometres, but no room for them here unfortunately.

We could not have enjoyed this trip without the cooling vests that we wear. Most riders looked buggered in the heat, yet we were predominantly fresh, most of the time.

We all misbehaved & were as disgraceful as you would expect us to be, some more so, especially with a little encouragement from Ron...hahahaha. It wasn't me, Ron made me do it !

10,060Km all up & wouldn't change an ounce of the trip, except the time factor.

If you ever get the opportunity to do a long distance AGM folks, please spoil yourselves & make the effort. Remember, we are here for a good time, NOT a long time!
Camping onsite is the only way to take in the full experience, I am sure!! The friendship & camaraderie is 2nd to none!

To Rudy, Trevor & Carmen - we did it!
The others only did half the trip !!!!!!!!!!!!! hahaha



Pirates of the Caribbean



Desperate housewives (Aussie way)

Grant Handley - Australia wide traveller!

Nicky's Albany Story

Why she loves the Hawkesbury Ulysses Part 1

Some of you may be already be aware of me! I was the unlucky one who rode 3800klms over to Albany, Western Australia, only to have a car pull out in front of me and put an end to my husband & my 2010 AGM adventure.

I spent countless hours planning our trip & arranging accommodation for myself, my husband, Greg & our good friend Peter. This was to be the trip of a lifetime, across three states and the Nullarbor, a "Bucket List" adventure. The trip over was great, we had wonderful weather and met new friends at every fuel and rest stop! Another 3000 Ulyssians will have similar stories to share; great roads, great weather & new friendships forged. We even saw & photographed a wild dingo at the Nullarbor roadhouse, drinking from the window washing bucket! However, I digress...

The reason for my writing this is to extol the virtues of my extended Ulyssian family who have been such an incredible source of love & support once our adventure ended on Chester Pass Road.

After 3800 klms I had worn out the rear tyre on my 2009 Triumph Bonneville, and booked her in to get a replacement at the Triumph dealership in Albany on March 8th – day one of the AGM activities. After paying the bill for the tyre & a new battery for Greg's Triumph Speedmaster, we took off towards the petrol station and dinner with our friends. 300 metres up the road a local western Australian pulled out of a side street, behind Greg, right in front of me. There was nowhere for me to go, but into the side of the car – BANG! I woke up on the tarmac, flat on my back. Bloody Hell my foot hurt! The bike was lying next to me; my new friend Steve was holding my hand talking to me; a man in a blue striped business shirt was on his phone calling for an ambulance. Greg came back to find me lying on the road with cars stopped all around me; every husband's nightmare. Police Constable Ben Cousins (yes, really) was taking my statement and eventually an ambulance arrived to assist. They already had a patient, but stopped to give me some much needed pain relief & first aide until an empty ambulance arrived. Thank you Mike!



Heading out



Our riding buddy

So there I was; day one of the AGM, on my way to Albany Hospital, for the next 10 days. X-Rays showed the damage; foot crushed, all 5 metatarsals smashed, but at least my toes & ankle are OK! Two bones were pinned and our travel agent arranged business class flights home to NSW with Qantas.

Nicky's Albany Story

Why she loves the Hawkesbury Ulysses Part 2

Stewart's special taxi service picked us up & brought us home.

The pain increased and on Sunday day Greg noticed green on the gauze under my plaster cast, so off to Nepean hospital we went. Under the plaster, the skin on the top of my foot was so badly infected that most of it was dead & had to be removed under general anaesthetic.

The dressing had to be changed in theatre every Monday & Thursday for 4 weeks until the infection is under control & my foot produced enough granulation tissue to prepare to receive a skin graft. Last Tuesday they performed the skin graft & I hope to be out of here sometime next week.

So; my local Ulyssians of Hawkesbury, I want to publically praise you for being such wonderful friends, more like family. Every day I was visited by at least on of our group, always with a smile & a hug, sometimes with gifts, often with food which is especially appreciated. Without you all I would have gone absolutely barmy by now. Without your picnic dinners I would have starved as the hospital food is practically inedible.

So, thank you all, from both Greg & my hearts, for all your love, support & friendship. We still need you and hope that we will be able to repay you one day, should you ever need us, but hopefully you will never find yourselves in a similar situation.

(Although I will warn you, my cooking skills are not that great!!)

Nicky

SOME INTERESTING PICS



I thought i would share this a wild dingo at the Nullabor Road house.



Some off the characters you meet on the way to the AGM.