



## HOW IT ALL BEGAN

The original suggestion for a motorcycle club for over 50's\* was put forward in a letter by Stephen Dearnley, published in the August 1983 issue of Bike Australia. This drew two significant responses, one from Rob Hill, a reader at Albion Park NSW, who suggested the present name and motto for the club; the other from Peter Thoeming, then the editor of Bike Australia, who sketched the logo and offered support from his magazine if Stephen could get the idea off the ground. \* NOTE: Membership is open for any person over the age of 40.

This was done at an inaugural meeting in Sydney on 6 December 1983, when the five people present approved a basic constitution and the Ulysses Club was duly formed. From the tenuous beginning it has never looked back and the club now boasts a large and extensive network of members throughout Australia and New Zealand.

## WHY ULYSSES CLUB INC.

The name comes from a poem of the same title by Alfred Lord Tennyson. It tells how the Greek hero Ulysses, now middle-aged and secure in charge of his kingdom of Ithaca, is getting bored with things around him and longs to go adventuring again with his shipmates of old. It describes very well indeed the sort of person who still has enough spark to go on riding into middle and later years.

## WHAT ARE ITS AIMS

- To provide ways for older motorcyclists to get together for companionship and mutual support.
- To show that motorcycling can be an enjoyable and practical activity for riders of all ages.
- To draw to the attention of public and private institutions the needs and views of older riders.

## WHAT DOES IT DO

It publishes a quarterly newsletter, Riding On, which contains information about forthcoming events, provides a forum for members news and views and carries articles on topics of interest to geriatric bikers. It also produces an annual year book which lists members' names and addresses throughout Australia so that a stranded traveller may not be too far from help and companionship, or a member can find a convenient neighbour when looking for company on a ride.

Through a number of regional branches it arranges regular meetings, outings and social events. The Annual General Meeting of the Ulysses Club Inc. is held sometime during March and takes the form of a mini-rally. The venue is an interesting spot in the country and it is a great occasion for widely separated members to meet each other. At selected rallies the Club banner is raised as a focal point when members and their friends can join in good companionship.

## THE DARLING DOWNS BRANCH

There are around 200 members in the Branch and we hold regular day and weekend rides and social nights. Check [www.eladesom.com.au/ulysses](http://www.eladesom.com.au/ulysses) for the current ride calendar and meeting venue or call any of the current committee members. The branch also publishes a local newsletter "The Megaphone", which includes the ride calendar, reports on previous rides, free classified advertisements for members and other newsworthy items. The branch also receives support from local businesses that advertise in "The Megaphone", some of which are bike-related shops. These businesses give generous discounts to current Ulysses members so you may care to consider this significant benefit of becoming and staying a member.

Interested members who usually participate in the rides draw up the ride calendar. The calendar includes rides from other branches, other bike groups and the Annual General Meeting.

## WHO CAN JOIN

Any lady or gentleman who is forty years or over and holds a current motorcycle licence or who is a regular partner of such a person and forty or over is eligible to join. Until you reach the grand old age of fifty you will be a "junior" member but with full membership rights and privileges. It is just that you might have to help some of the "seniors" off their machines sometimes.

The joining fee of \$20 and a three (3) year membership is mandatory, currently at \$60 This gives a considerable incentive for long term survival.

## HOW DO I JOIN

Fill in the membership form and post your cheque or money order (no cash please) to:  
The Treasurer Ulysses Club Inc.  
Darling Downs Branch  
PO Box 1714 Toowoomba 4350  
Updated 13th May, 2007



The Treasurer  
Ulysses Club  
Darling Downs Branch  
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Toowoomba 4350

Enclosed you will find an application form and background information about the Ulysses Club Inc. of which the Darling Downs Branch is part. The Darling Downs Branch issues on a monthly basis to financial members in the region a newsletter, the Megaphone. The current copy of the Megaphone is accessible on the website [www.ulyssesclub.org](http://www.ulyssesclub.org) via the Group Web Site button and Darling Downs can be found under Queensland. You will be added to the current mailing list – email or post - upon receipt of your application. A national magazine “Riding On” is also published and sent to financial members on a quarterly basis.

You are not obliged to join Ulysses and should you like to “feel your way”, you are most welcome to come on rides to judge for yourself the activities of the local branch. If you have any questions about the club and its activities please feel free to contact any of the current committee listed on the inside front page of The Megaphone. We are all approachable and would be happy to talk with you about any club matters. Thanks for your interest in the club and looking forward to seeing you on one of our rides.

Ride safely and often,

Kerry Rowe.

Branch Treasurer

