

The Odyssey

Adelaide Branch Newsletter

December 2025 Issue



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Editor / President

This is the last edition of the Odyssey Magazine in its current form. Much of the current content can be found on our website and in greater detail. 2026 will see it transformed into a e-newsletter and will be sent out monthly. It will be more about current news and upcoming events. If you would like it sent to you via email, please register your email address with myself at president@ulyssesadelaide.org.au or Ph: 0407 011 251

The Jamestown Odyssey was a resounding success. Everyone enjoyed themselves, the events ran smoothly, the catering was exceptional, and the entertainment was thoroughly enjoyable. I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks and congratulations to everyone who dedicated their time and effort to making the Odyssey such a memorable experience.

The February meeting is our Branch AGM, at which time all committee positions will become vacant and open for nomination. Nominations close after the January meeting, so if you're interested in joining the committee, now is the time to consider it. I encourage all members to seriously think about getting involved—it's a great opportunity to contribute to your branch in a meaningful and positive way. Fresh ideas are always welcome, and too often, talented individuals hesitate to bring their energy to the branch's leadership. Take the plunge—you might be surprised by how much you can contribute.

This issue contains the usual ride reports for Sunday and Wednesday, another instalment of Frank's Two Wheels, A lifetime, 60 years of Roads, Races and Revelations, reports from SARV and SA Breakfast Club. The usual What's On page and photos from the Jamestown Odyssey.

I would like to thank Catherine Hutchesson MP (Member for Waite), and her staff for printing our magazine for no cost to the branch. It has made it possible to produce the magazine at minimal cost to our members.

PS: *On a personal note, if anyone knows of someone looking for a great well-loved **HONDA CTX1300** let me know as I am selling my bike. See the back cover for more details*

Regards

Maurice Stevens



Sunday Ride Round Up ^{5th} October 2025 Finniss/Meadows Ride Leader Rob Hartridge

Another sunny day, ideal for riding. 9 of us had the opportunity to wear some rubber off the edges of our tyres on our way to morning tea at Littlehampton. A bit more time on the middle of the tyres on our way to Finniss for lunch. When we got there, Mike & Carolyn were there. The long queue led to a quick decision to head back to Meadows for lunch. Rob.



Sunday Ride Round Up 2nd November 2025 **Tailem Bend** Ride Leader **Rob Hartridge**

The radar was showing us we were in for some wet stuff. It was regrettably right. The run to morning tea at Birdwood gave us a few light showers. We had a bit of heavier rain on our way to lunch at Aldgate. Somehow, we managed to skirt around a storm over Forest Range as we headed towards Woodside from Lenswood. A few decent flashes of lightning and claps of thunder had me hoping we could also avoid any heavy rain. The 7 of us made it to lunch reasonably dry, with Judy joining us. Unfortunately, the ride home was not as forgiving. Rob.



Sunday Ride Round Up 16th November 2025 Craigburn Farm Ride Leader Peter Wood



Up Coming Sunday Rides All Rides Depart at 9.30am

When	Leader	Event	Destination	Departing from
14 December	Rob Hartridge 0422 114 225	Day Ride	Pt Elliot	Pelican Plaza, 1007 North East Rd, Modbury
2026	TBA			

SA Breakfast Club

4th October 2025

The October 2025 SABC breakfast was at Palermo Ristorante, North Haven. 26 attended. Food was good, coffee was great. Noisy as usual, but everyone seemed happy with the venue. Deb came along as well (since she lives at North Haven).



Friday Dinners

14th November 2025

The Red Ass was the venue for the November Dinner and 16 turned up for an enjoyable meal. While the name suggested spicy, there were plenty of mild options on the menu. A great time was had by all.



On Any Wednesday



by Claire Hartley

Chris and I are back from holidays. Two weeks touring Japan. I recommend it as a destination, lovely people and so much to see and do. Bunny and Bev were off to scenic New Zealand. Buzz and Ruby were on yet another cruise and reported in from Istanbul and Greece.

The On Any Wednesday Remembrance Ride was held on November 12th. This annual ride is dedicated to former members /participants who have Ridden On or Departed due to illness or other issues beyond their control.

September 24th Fifteen riders, one pillion and one new bike today. To Victor via Myponga, cool conditions but the decaf soy lattes kept us warm. Thanks to Mike and Dave for TEC duties.

October 1st Eight wuss-less and wimp-less riders today, nine apologies, cool but mostly dry roads to Lobethal via Williamstown. Thanks to Bruce and Andrew for TEC duties.

October 8th Eighteen riders today and multiple apologies today. To Cudlee Creek via Lobethal and circle work around Harrogate in cloudy but dry and cool weather.

October 15th Twenty-two starters today and a couple of guest appearances, two or three off road excursions and one soon to be traded Trumpy limped home. To Milang via Meadows and Pik A Pie. Thanks to all participants today, which included Newell, John B and Rob B. Apologies from Colin Snr, Claire and Chris.

October 22nd Four fearless riders today – two Davids, one Andrew and one John – to Uraidla via Wistow. A bit of light drizzle but plenty of blue sky and dry roads.

October 29th Twenty-two riders and seven apologies today. To Lobethal via Wistow and lots of circle work in perfect weather and good company. Two new bikes started today.

November 5th Twenty-one riders and seven apologies today. To Cudlee Creek via Mount Pleasant, including circle work around Williamstown. Overcast weather but no rain. Thanks to all for participating.

November 12th The 30th Anniversary of the OAW ride group and The On Any Wednesday Remembrance Ride. Twenty-two riders enjoyed a leisurely ride in perfect conditions to Lobethal via Birdwood and Palmer, with a bonus tour of all the roadworks in the hills. Thanks to Michael and Ross for TEC duties.

November 19th Twenty-three riders and six apologies today. To Victor Harbor via Strathalbyn. Overcast to sunny and dry conditions. Thanks to all for participating and those who assisted Chris and Richard on the road. It was a record day for punctures with Chris, Richard and Mick all suffering. Steve's theory was that Chris, Mick and Richard were catching our ride leader today and he dropped tech screws to give them the slip. Thanks to Newell and John B for attending the ROAR and Colin Snr for joining the ride group at Top of Taps.

Sunday November 23rd was a breakfast ride to Finniss. The forecast was deliciously warm. As we got closer to Meadows there was fog and the temperature dropped quite significantly. I had not dressed for this and was a bit uncomfortable until we reached the end of the Bull Creek Road and the sun came out again. There was more coffee at Meadows on the way home. A good time was had by all. Thanks to Lester for organising this ride.



SARV

November 2025

What a fantastic way to finish our year at Meningie. It was great to see how many members turned up to enjoy themselves and to see the sights the Coorong has to offer.

Meningie is situated at the northern end of the Coorong on the Shores of Lake Albert. It combines the charm of a small country town with the stunning beauty of the Coorong and freshwater Lower Lakes Albert and Alexandrina of the River Murray. What a peaceful relaxed place.

Friday was a sunny bright day, so it was a fabulous time to take a walk along the Pelican Path. The bird life was everywhere. The weather started to deteriorate later in the afternoon. It was time to retreat to the camp kitchen, make some tea and get into have a great time chatting and catching up. Despite the wind and rain, it was a very warm and friendly atmosphere in the camp kitchen. The revelry continued well into the night.

The wind was still blowing the next day but at least the rain had gone. It was great to have caught up with the High-Country Ride from Fleurieu branch on their way home. The Goolwa to Meningie boat race was on so it provided a great spectacle on the lake. We gathered at the Meningie Hotel for tea. The meals and service were fabulous. Thanks to everyone who came and made it such a great weekend.

Have a great Christmas and New Year. Looking forward to doing again in 2026.



These events are open to Ulysses members and partners

Special Guest at the October Meeting

Thanks to Graham Paull's connections, we were able to secure David Johnson as a special guest speaker. David, an Isle of Man TT class winner and veteran of numerous motorcycle races, was a hit with everyone who attended. Members from other branches also joined us for dinner and the talk, making it a wonderful opportunity to connect and enjoy each other's company. David was an engaging speaker, sharing captivating stories from his racing career, and he was more than happy to answer any questions. It was a fantastic event that was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



Two Wheels, A lifetime, 60 years of Roads, Races and Revelations.

Chapter Seven - The Kawasaki Years

By Frank Pellas

I did mention in the previous chapter that I went skiing very weekend for four years from November to March. What I neglected to mention was that not long after I came home from hospital my second marriage was as they say, "on the rocks".

In the three years since the accident, I had my second marriage collapse, moved into a rental house as a single parent, took a group of engineering people to the Hanover Industrial Fair in Germany, left the company I had worked at for 13 years, got a new job and bought a house.

Oh, and during that tumultuous time I also bought my next bike. I had set my sites on a beautiful new Suzuki GS1100 from Suzuki North. As I was just about to buy one when Peter Dunstan suggested I have a look at a bike they had just traded. It had only 2,500km on it and was in pristine condition. The previous owner didn't like it because it was not powerful enough. Peter told me he had never taken it over 3,000 rpm.



Of course, we all know that a Kawasaki GPZ900R does not come alive until around 6,000rpm. So, the Kwaka came home with me. It was a no-brainer, cheaper than a new Suzuki and a much better bike. I reckon that out of all the bikes I have ever owned this one stands out as the best. This bike was such a joy to ride, fabulous in the hills, very quick, and good looking as well. I used to look at this bike

and wonder how the Japanese engineers designed and built such an amazing bike.

As well as riding through the hills I did some track days at Mallala, Mac Park and a memorable day at Adelaide Raceway. Memorable as I could overtake all the other bikes on the main straight. The amazing thing was that I would pass them just sitting normally, while the other blokes were crouched down and tucked in.

The biggest test of speed occurred on Sunday on a group ride out to Walker Flat. I reckon there was about 8 riders in the group on all sorts of fast machinery. This was a time when you could do high speed on your bike if you picked the right road, and the road to Walker Flat was one of those roads. I was in the rear as we came down the hill onto the flat (fast) straight, and suddenly everyone else started to pull away and soon disappeared. There was one bloke left behind like me and as I overtook him his BMW was flat out on the rev limiter.

I soon left him behind, but I never caught the rest of them. After mobbing up at Walker Flat we soon took off back to Mt Pleasant. I let them all go, I didn't have much fuel left and my tyre tread was getting low. So, I trundled back a bit slower, around 200 kph, (insane right?). It wasn't long before my reverie was interrupted when I was overtaken by a guy in a Porsche 911.

OK that meant it was time to get serious. Roll on the throttle and try to keep the 911 in sight. It was not easy and given the speed we were going I didn't want to get too close. This was the only time I had the GPZ900R flat out against the rev limiter. As we approached the hills, I thought I could overtake the Porsche on the twisty bits. Nope, he was just too fast.

As we flew over one of the hills, I could see my friend ahead all alone on his BMW. He spotted us in his mirrors and took off. I was stunned as he then proceeded to pull away from the Porsche and me.

I had that Kawasaki for about 4 years, and thinking back on it now, it was my best bike ever. For the time of course. Later, I did have many great bikes, but that Kawasaki was a standout.

As time goes on things change, choices are made, directions are revised, and consequences are experienced. In my case the



consequences were life changing. One of the choices I made caused a financial fiasco, so the boat and the GPZ900R had to go.

A new phase began. It wasn't sudden, but it was very different. At that time, I was around 40 years old. I had resigned from my job as a General Manager of a manufacturing company and struck out on my own. It was a period that required me to learn quickly and the changes I made eventually paid off.

However, it was a time when I did not have a motorcycle. It wasn't long though, (a few years) and the next bike came along. Another Kawasaki, and this one was given a name. From then on, all my bikes have had a name. A moniker that I believed suited their personality, performance and peculiarity.

Next: Chapter 8 - Another Kawasaki and Some Others

31st SA Odyssey Jamestown

The committee—and especially Ken—spent many hours organising this event. There were numerous issues to overcome. Saturday night's dinner became a particular sticking point: the local pubs were either unable to accommodate the predicted numbers or simply declined. One option was located 10 km out of town, which we decided was not acceptable for our members to travel to, especially after a few drinks.

The footy club proved to be the best venue, but we were still without a caterer. Traditionally, we try to use as many local businesses as possible, but in this case, none were willing or able to provide the type of meal we wanted. Michelle conducted some Google searches and found a caterer in Whyalla—Mint Café—who turned out to be excellent. Everyone who attended will agree that the meal was sensational. Entertainment provided by Steve was a hit.

The local Apex Club provided the Friday night dinner and Saturday breakfast without a hitch. The committee later decided that Jamestown Apex would receive a donation from the Odyssey's excess funds, which amounted to \$1,933.89. Apex does a great deal for the local community.

Rob organised a great Saturday morning ride, taking in the sights from Jamestown to Clare for morning tea and then on to Crystal Brook for lunch at the local hotel. The ride was well supported by members.

Overall, the Odyssey was a great success, judged by the interaction of the members who attended. It's always wonderful to see all the branches mixing so well and enjoying themselves.



SA Branches & Riding Groups Contacts

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Darryl Partridge – 0408 853 886

Whyalla & Districts Branch

President Perry Zimmerman – 0419 134 511

Secretary &

Treasurer - John Lawson – 0421 170 181

Welfare Officer - Friendly Reminder



As Ulyssians we greatly value the camaraderie and support that is provided by our fellow members.

Adelaide's Welfare Officer is a central person in our branch to ensure members in need are assisted in whatever manner is appropriate for that individual.

All members have a responsibility to inform the Welfare Officer if you know of someone who needs support. Perhaps they are unwell, had a close relative / companion die, or experiencing any other physical or emotional need.

Let the Adelaide Branch Welfare Officer know immediately so they can organize a hospital visit, home visit, send a card or arrange any other appropriate help.

Ian Pascoe P: 0410 444 962

E: welfare@ulyssesadelaide.org.au

You know you're getting older when the "long ride" is now to the letterbox and back, but hey, you still took the bike.

I told my mate I bought a bike that makes me look younger. He said, "Does it go fast?" I said, "No... but the helmet hides the wrinkles."

Someone asked if my bike still excites me. I said, "Every time I swing a leg over — absolutely."



Wednesday Midweek Rides

All Rides Depart at 10.30am for more details phone Steve 0405 120 542 or John 0407 794 147. The 1st 2nd & 5th Wednesday depart from The Feathers Hotel Car Park Burnside, and the 3rd 4th Wednesday depart from the Top of Taps, Victoria Hotel, O'Halloran Hill. Please arrive with a full tank of fuel.

SA Breakfast Club

The SABC meets at an eatery somewhere around the state, on the 1st Saturday of the month, from 9.30am. It doesn't matter what the weather is. Come by motorbike, bicycle, car, or on foot. The SABC is about socialising with members from other branches.

When: 6th December 2025 at 9.30am

Where: Oak & Iron Tavern, 17 Adelaide Rd, Mt Barker

When: 3rd January 2026 at 9.30am

Where: TBA

Please confirm your attendance as venues require numbers to provide adequate staff.

Contact Ken Wagnitz by the Wednesday before either ken@ulyssesadelaide.org.au or SMS 0417 353 389 with - SABC, your name, how many require breakfast.

Adelaide Branch Monthly Meeting. Official meeting starts at 7:30pm

Held on the 1st Thursday of the month and issues regarding the branch are relayed to the members. New members are welcomed and general business raised. A raffle is held on the night. Come early and enjoy a meal and drink available at the venue: - The Maid of Auckland Hotel, 926 South Rd, Edwardstown

When: 1st January 2026

When: 5th February 2026 Adelaide Branch AGM

Friday Night Dinners

Friday night Dinners are held on the 2nd Friday after the Monthly Meeting at 6:30pm. Venues require numbers so please let us know if you will be attending by email president@ulyssesadelaide.org.au or phone 0407 011 251 at least one week prior.

Where: No dinner booked for December 2025

When: 9th January 2026

Where: The Brickmakers Arms, 36 Chief St, Brompton

Upcoming Events Details on our website ulyssesadelaide.org.au

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