

How it all began

The original suggestion for a social club for older motorcyclists was put forward in a letter by Stephen Dearnley published in the August 1983 issue of Bike Australia. (This was originally for members 50 years and older, but was later changed to include junior members of 40 years and older). This drew two significant responses: one from Rob Hall, 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 club off the ground. This was done at an inaugural meeting in Sydney on 6th December 1983 when the five people present approved a basic constitution and the Ulysses Club was duly formed.

From that tenuous beginning it has never looked back and the club now boasts a large and extensive network of members throughout Australia, with sister clubs formed in New Zealand and South Africa.

Why ULYSSES Club Inc.?

The Name comes from a poem of the same title by Alfred, Lord Tennyson. It tells how the great Greek hero Ulysses, now middle-aged and securely 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. Too long to quote here, you will find it in any good poetry anthology such as the Albatross Book of Verse.

What are its aims?

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

What does it do?

It publishes a quarterly magazine, 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 a membership directory 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 before the end of May and takes the form of a major rally. The venue is a suitable location anywhere in Australia 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 where members and their friends can join in good companionship.

Who can join?

Any lady or gentleman who is **over the age of 40**, and **who holds a current motorcycle licence**, or who is a regular partner of such a person, and over 40, is eligible to join. Until you reach the grand old age of 50, you will be a "junior" member, but with full membership rights and privileges. It's just that you might have to help some of the "seniors" off their machines sometimes.

There is a joining fee of \$20.00 and a mandatory 3 year membership term currently set at \$60.00. This we feel gives a considerable incentive to long-term survival.

PLEASE NOTE Initial membership may be less than three (3) full years; depending on the month you join.

How to join.

Fill in the attached membership form with a copy of your license, and post with your credit card details, cheque or money order (no cash please) to Ulysses Club Inc., 24 David Street Kensington WA 6151

Membership Application Form



The ULYSSES CLUB