



Rum City Riders
Bundaberg Ulysses Branch
PO Box 4184 Bundaberg 4670
www.rumcityriders.org
newsletter@rumcityriders.org

Welcome to the Rum City Riders

APRIL 2025 Newsletter

BRANCH COMMITTEE

Branch President: Neil Cook Ph : 0409 607 511

Branch Secretary/

Treasurer: Jill Cook Ph : 0414 579 608

Ride Coordinator: John Watson Ph : 0427 678 351

Email : rumcityriders@gmail.com

General Meeting - Rum City Riders
Ulysses Club Inc. Bundaberg Branch
Sugarland Tavern - Heidke St, Bundaberg
Tuesday 1st April 2025 - 6.30 pm

Welcome – Neil welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies – Ross & Bev T, Barb & Jeff B and Dave C.

Welfare – Neil asked if everyone was ok – nothing was reported

Sign in book – We were reminded to sign in please.

Any new members or visitors –

Any New Rides –

Finances.... Balance as of 31/03/2025 is \$746.16

We have stock of our club patch – cost \$10.00 each.

Members are entitled to 2 x vinyl stickers free – 50 cents thereafter. See Jill or Dave C.

Tonight's Raffle – Half pot raffle of \$27 was won by Mark L who kindly donated it back to the Branch.

Newsletter Subscriptions – Emailed newsletters are free. Brenden W is printing the 5 copies for the Motorcycle shops.

In the Post Box – Bank Statement.

Sunday Rides & Events

- Ladies Lunch – 7th February – Bargara Lakes Tavern.
- Mount Perry – 23rd February – report on Facebook and newsletter.
- Mundubbera – 23rd March – report on Facebook and newsletter.
- Ulysses National Rally at Armidale NSW – 24 – 30th March – report in newsletter.

Thursday Rides

- Poona – 6th February – BYO ride - report on Facebook & in Newsletter
- Gayndah – 13th February - report on Facebook & in Newsletter
- Woodgate – 20th February - report on Facebook & in Newsletter
- River Heads – 27th February - report on Facebook & in Newsletter.
- Turkey Beach – 6 March - BYO ride – report on Facebook & in Newsletter.
- Coalstoun Lakes Café – 13th March - report on Facebook & in Newsletter
- Point Vernon – 20th March - report on Facebook & in Newsletter
- Many Peaks – 27th March – cancelled due to weather.

Thursday Rides depart River Cruz 9.30am, unless otherwise advertised for a long ride.

Upcoming Ulysses Rides – Events

- **01/04/2025** - Branch Bi-monthly meeting.
- **03/04/2025** - Thursday BYO Ride to 1770.
- **10/04/2025** - Thursday Ride – destination to be advised.
- **11/04/2025** – Ladies Lunch – Sandhills Sports Club, Bargara.
- **17/04/2025** - Thursday Ride – destination to be advised.
- **24/04/2025** - Thursday Ride – destination to be advised.
- **25/04/2025** - ANZAC Day Memorial – Elliott Heads
- **16 - 18/05/2025** - Gladstone Branch Long Weekend at Big4 Breeze Cania Gorge.
- **29 - 31/05/2025** – Bruce Watson Memorial Ride
- **6 - 8/06/2025** - Logan Branch Bowls Weekend – Kingaroy
- **14/09/2025** – Ulysses Memorial Day at Somerset Dam
- **18 – 24/05/2026** – Ulysses National Rally in Nambour QLD
- **05 – 11/04/2027**– Ulysses National Rally at Mt Panorama, Bathurst NSW

Upcoming Non-Ulysses Rides – Events

05/04/2024 - Pigs Ass Poker Run - Apple Tree Creek Pub
25 - 27/04/2025 - Cane Toad Rally – Mount Perry Showgrounds - cancelled
18/05/2025 - Distinguished Gentleman's Ride

Please post Thursday rides, Sunday rides and other event rides on Facebook so members can see pictures – these can also be used to go into the Newsletters.
Remember to add ride destination and dates please!!!!!!

General Business

- Suggestions for activities for 2025 – social outings or some more weekend rides?
- ANZAC Day memorial ride – meet at Reds Café to ride to Elliott heads
- Combined Branch BBQ's – to be advised
- Our 20th Anniversary will be coming up this year in September. We are looking at having it on 28 September. Jill will look at Woodgate Hotel to see if it is a viable venue for the Anniversary celebration. We are looking at doing a 20-year patch for this event, but will need numbers before organising them to be made.
- Xmas Party this year will be on 7 December at the Spotted Dog restaurant.
- Neil has been approached by NATCOM office regarding an older member, Ray Harris, who lives in our area, who has all the Riding on magazines since 1987. He is wanting to know if anyone would like them.
- Blane suggested that we have a banner made up to be included on the wall hanging that is put up at the National Rally's. This has banners from most Branches sewn onto it. Blane has asked for suggestions for what we should include on one for our Branch.

Meeting Closed at 7.48pm

Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday 3rd June 2025**

Please post Thursday rides, Sunday rides and other event rides on Facebook so members can see pictures – these can also be used to go into the Newsletters. Remember to add ride destination and dates please!!!!

Branch Meetings:

Are held on the first Tuesday of every second month which are: February, April, June, August, October and December. Meetings are held in the Avoca Room at the Sugarland Tavern, 52 Johnston Street, Avoca, Bundaberg. The meetings commence at 6.30pm sharp. Feel free to arrive earlier to enjoy a meal and beverages.

Thursday Rides:

We have a ride to various destinations around the area every Thursday of the year unless notified otherwise.

Thursday rides will normally depart from the River Cruz car park on Quay Street at 9.30am. Meet at 9.00am or earlier for coffee and food. There is usually a riders meeting in the carpark at 9.15 to discuss the days destination.

If we are departing from a different venue or at a different time the details will be advised by email, on our Face book page and on our website.

The destination is usually decided on the ride the previous week. Depending on weather conditions, interest, etc there may be a last-minute change. The 1st Thursday of each month ride is usually to a destination which does not have food available so

BYO lunch. Most other times there will be a cafe or pub to eat at but feel free to bring your own food on any ride.

If you want a pre ride coffee or feed, we have a table booked at River Cruz Cafe.

Sunday Rides:

There is a "formal" Sunday ride to a pre notified destination on the 4th Sunday of each month. Details will appear in the Newsletter, on Facebook and on our website.

Other Rides. There may be other rides organised during the year which will appear in the Newsletter or on Facebook and the Website. If you feel like organising a ride at any time, feel free to put the details on Facebook or contact the Ride Co-ordinator.

Please post Thursday rides, Sunday rides and other event rides on Facebook so members can see pictures – these can also be used to go into the Newsletters.

Remember to add ride destination and dates please!!!!!!

The committee would welcome suggestions from any members regarding either ride destinations or social events.



RIDE REPORTS



6/03/2025 Thursday BYO Ride to Turkey Beach

There was a good-sized crowd at River Cruz this morning. Quite a few regular riders and coffee drinkers plus some of our regular riders who weren't riding. Round about 9.30, the riders headed off through North Bundy onto Rosedale Road. Graeme B on his Fireblade branched off on Bucca Rd as he had decided to head for Mt Perry. We had an excellent run through to Miriam Vale with very little traffic and none of the usual loonies. After a short smoko break at Miriam Vale Wayne T and Chris and Cheryl P headed for home while the rest of us proceeded up the Bruce Hwy to Turkey Beach.

Once again it was a good run with very little traffic and the technical bit of Turkey Beach Rd was quite entertaining. We had the shelter shed at Turkey Beach to ourselves and everyone enjoyed their lunches and solving world problems. Alun R was brave enough to buy his lunch in TB and appears to have survived at least long enough to get home. We had finished lunch by around midday and the decision was made to head to the Fingerboard Roadhouse and home via Rosedale Road. We all arrived at Fingerboard ok, some taking on fuel as well as coffee or ice creams.

The group broke up and headed home either individually or in small groups. Thank you all for another enjoyable day and to Chris and Cheryl P as well as Steve M for TEC duties.

Approx 330 klms - home about 3pm

Riders: Greg D, Steve M, Chris M, Wayne Z, Ken C, Alun R, Dave C, Wayne T, Chris P Cheryl P , John W



Some of the members at River Cruz Café



Bikes parked at Turkey Beach



Riders having a BYO lunch



13/03/2025 Thursday Ride to Coalstoun Lakes Cafe

Riders 10+1-1+1+1=12

There was a quite a large group at River Cruz with about an equal mix of socialisers and riders. We ended up with 10 riders and 1 pillion leaving River Cruz at round about 9.30. Dave C kindly "volunteered" to do the ride report (See Below). Our usual route out of town via Bargara Rd and the Ring Road saw us negotiating a fair bit of traffic, however after a few slowdowns or stops to regroup we all made it onto the Isis Hwy for the run through to the Cedars Rd where we made a quick stop to regroup, as soon as I saw Kerry and Maria on the Spyder come around the corner, I led off, little realising that Dave C was going to great lengths to avoid writing the ride report and had somehow continued on towards Childers. -1

At South Kolan we crossed the main road onto Birthamba Rd then turned left and came back out on Koolboo Rd. From there we rode to Wallaville for a quick comfort stop then to Booyal onto Dallarnil Rd and Paradise Dam Rd. There are heaps of roadworks on this section, but we weren't held up for too long in any one place. We took a left turn onto North Dallarnil Rd and a right onto Emu Creek Rd through to Degilbo. There we crossed the railway line and came out on the Isis Hwy on Biggenden Mines Rd for the short run to Coalstoun Lakes. On arrival was Kevin P waiting for us which made +1.

The meals at the Homegrown Store are excellent and very generous helpings. Service was quite quick considering the size of our group and the number of other customers including a couple from Brisbane on a BMW R9T who were heading to Mon Repos for the turtle hatching. While we were eating, we were surprised to see a Honda pull into the car park at high speed with smoking tyres. It was none other Mr C who had lost us earlier. We all had a good laugh at his expense when he related his story. After lunch Wayne Z headed off as did Kerry and Maria shortly afterwards. The rest of us waited while Ron P did a quick rebuild on the V Strom so it would start. It was decided an ice cream stop at Biggenden would be a good idea.

The group pulled into the BP at Biggenden, some refuelling and most of us having something cool. Kerry and Maria were already there. After half an hour or so we headed for home after the RCR pit crew had restarted the V Strom. Some of us went through the Childers twisties while I think others took NS Rd. A small group of us ended up on Foleys Rd with most going left and Alun R and I taking a right and ending up on Goodwood Rd for very steady run back to Bundy with more road works.

Thank you all for another good day out, special thanks to Kerry and Maria for TEC duties, Dave C for volunteering to write the ride report.

John W

Now here's Dave C's late note.

A very good turnout of riders & Socialites for coffee.

After the usual banter & instructions from John W who gave a detailed description of which way we were going, Of course yours truly & others never listen just blindly follow the leader, this went to plan until we ended up with half of the Bundaberg truck fleet in the middle of our group, when I got to Cedars crossing Allan D was sat on the side of the road with his arm out, I thought he was just waving us on so I continued. Of course I was wrong as usual & after 15km of no one behind me (I thought the sun on car windscreens was the bikes behind me), I pulled over & turned around, to find my battery was flat I managed to bump start it & proceeded to town where I had a new battery fitted. I then headed at very legal speeds to Coalstoun lakes where of course most of the group were amused by my adventure.

Dave C

Riders John W, Allan D, Alun R, Steve J, , Kerry L, Ron P, Wayne C, Kevin P, Darryl C, Narelle D, Wayne Z, & I.



Some of the members at River Cruz Café



A comfort stop at Wallaville



Lunch at the Coalstoun Lakes Café





Ice-cream stop at Biggenden



Some of the bikes at Biggenden

20/03/2025 Thursday Ride to Point Vernon

The Terrific Trio ride to Brew & View - Point Vernon (and back again).

We only had 3 starters for Thursday's ride, with a few more for coffee. Riders were Ray N, Phil G, and myself.

The weather wasn't looking great, but we decided to see what happened and headed off around 9.30. The further West we travelled the more threatening the rain looked. Undeterred we pressed on through some light showers and emerged into a warm sunny day. Our route took us through Apple Tree Creek via a few back roads we haven't used for a while then down the Bruce through Childers to Howard. From there we had a steady run to Pt Vernon partly on main roads and partly on back roads.

The Brew and View was reached, lunches ordered and eaten. The view over the bay is impressive and the food seemed quite good and reasonably priced. Ray needed fuel so we headed back to the servo at Eli Waters (I guess). From there I led the group through some industrial areas back onto the main road. I have absolutely no idea where we were, but we did eventually emerge somewhere I recognised.

I left the group at Torbanlea and headed South while Phil and Ray continued on to Bundy.

Thank you to my fellow riders for a good days riding and Phil for TEC duties.

John W



Ray N and Phil G resting at Howard



The bikes at Howard



View from the Brew & View Café

23/02/2025 Sunday Ride to Mundubbera

How many of you can remember where you were when you heard the news of the assassination of JFK ? A momentous occasion for sure, but on Sunday we had a similar earth-shattering event.

Sunday was the day that John Watson was formally admitted to the Rum City Riders "Legends of Navigation" hall of fame. Prior to that date, the hall of fame was occupied only by that giant of motorcycle navigation, the mighty Michael Collins. Who can forget Michael's epic feat of navigation , managing to travel from Gayndah to Bundaberg via Goomeri. In a strange twist of fate, one of the survivors of that trip was present to witness John's triumph as well. Ronald Pretlove seem to have a rare ability to steer others astray.

The day started normally enough with eight riders lining up with not even a clue as to the events that were to unfold. Even the mix of motorcycle brands seemed normal enough. A Benelli, a couple of V- Strom's, a Triumph, a Harley, a BMW and a lonely Yamaha bringing up the rear.

On leaving our rest stop in Biggenden, John's inherent navigation skills became clearly obvious for all to see. A simple right turn towards Degilbo was transformed into a two-hour tour of the western suburbs of Biggenden. That takes real skill !! Even the local police officer was glued to the unfolding drama as we went past his residence for the fourth time. At that stage I noticed that he was unashamedly applauding the navigation skills on display. (at least that is how I interpreted his two raised fingers).

The main event commenced when we passed through Gayndah on the Burnett Highway instead of taking the route through Humphrey. This was a deft touch of navigation best left to professionals. From here the die was cast. The 45 Km journey from Gayndah to Mundubbera was converted to 120 Km including traversing every Km of road on the Council road register. This would have been a massive achievement on its own, but it was the way that John achieved it that set him aside as a Legend. For the whole journey he rode rapidly and with an air of nonchalant confidence as if he knew exactly where he was at any time. At no time did the following entourage of riders ever doubt his navigation skills.

Unfortunately Steve and Greg became detached from the tail and made their way directly to Mundubbera, missing the entire adventure. I am sure they are already regretting their poor navigation. When generations-to-come of Rum City Riders ask them "where were you the day of the fabled John Watson Mundubbera ride" they will have no alternative but to shed a quiet tear and say, "I got lost".

John continued to amaze the other riders by also demonstrating super-human organizational skills as well as his undoubted navigation ability. Arriving at the Mundubbera Hotel at around 1.30pm, we were all amazed to discover that he had arranged for the kitchen to be closed on a Sunday. Impressive !! As I slowly chewed on a six-week-old Mrs Macs rubber pie in the back bar, I felt privileged to have witnessed the day's events. As a parting tribute, John had organized a street brawl by some Islander backpackers, at which point I scrambled rapidly onto the Triumph and departed in a cloud of rubber smoke.

When I arrived home, I realized that John had given us a truly memorable day and we had all had a ball. Thanks, John, for organizing the day. We all had a ball and that is what it is all about.

Wayne C

24 - 31/03/2025 Ulysses National Rally – Armadale

Yesterday we changed our banner from UTA to Ulysses ready for the Ulysses National Rally, which is also in Armidale. We are not moving our camp though because we are only 1.6km from the main Rally site. We went and registered in, then caught up with some Bundaberg Branch members, as well as some Gladstone Branch and Logan Branch. We will be here for the duration of the Rally.

The following are some of the photos from the rally.

Jill C





