

Branch Coordinator Report for Auckland Ulysses AGM May 2022

Greetings to you all the end of my third year as branch president.

It has been a very interesting and once again, unusual year for us all. We would never have expected to be living with Covid restrictions for a second year in a row, but "it is what it is" seems to be the motto for this year. The restrictions and subsequent vaccine mandates and passes, required by the government, made operations for Ulyssians in NZ difficult and as a result a couple of members resigned from the club. However, for most of us, we have been able to balance keeping safe and learning to live with things as they are.

It was great to have our borders reopen in December and the opportunity to meet for a branch night once again, and even though numbers have been down, it has been wonderful to hang out and see each other face to face, tell yarns and have a laugh. A big thank you to Maree from the cruising club, who managed to sort meals for us when needed.

As can be expected, our club numbers have been down a bit due to the lack of meetings, rides and people giving up riding as their health deteriorates in later years. However, we have had a renewed interest in the past month with several new members signing up and bringing friends along on rides.

It was a real shame that our national AGM had to be canned this year, but so fortunate that we managed to fit in our Remembrance weekend again last year just before another lock down. It is always a great privilege to honour our past members at the service in Taupo.

Our committee is the powerhouse of our branch. As we come to the AGM, I want to say a big thank you to Mark Benton, Sheryl Boyd, Peggy O'Neill, Vance Barrett and Chris Moller who have served on committee and are putting their names forward to stand again.

I also want to say a huge thank you to Sig Falkenhaus who has done many years as our treasurer and is stepping down now. Tony Kay, has also done a fantastic job of keeping me in order as our branch secretary, and doing all the administration work to keep us ticking over. He has doubled as quartermaster as well, so he is going to be sorely missed in these two roles.

I want to thank Clive for his role as sheriff and also to give a big shout out to Lou and Sandy, our welfare officers, who have had more than their fair share of work through two years of pandemic, phoning people and checking to see if everyone was OK. Thanks guys for all your efforts.

We are pleased to have Roger Judd, who has offered to do the role of treasurer and Doug Bene, who has put his hand up to come onto committee to help out. However, we do have one vacancy to fill on the committee, which is really important to the overall running of our branch. If you would like to know more about the role of secretary, please have a chat to me. As the old war billboard used to say, "Your country (in our case, your Ulysses branch) needs you." Although it is not necessarily a committee position, we also need another quartermaster.

On a personal note, trying to run a business through the Covid pandemic with all its restrictions has really taken its toll on me. No one has come forward to say they are in a position to take over the president role at this time. Therefore, I am keen to give the branch a big effort over the next year, but I want to signal that I will be standing down at the 2023 branch AGM.

Let's all hope that as we move through 2022 we will be able to operate more smoothly!

Cheers,

Craig Moodie #8602