



## ***JULY 2025 Newsletter***



### **CLUB NIGHT - WEDNESDAY 2nd JULY**

Location: Manukau Cruising Club, Orpheus Drive, Onehunga

Doors open: 6.30pm - Dinner available (from \$16)

Raffles, Prizes, catch up with friends, chat etc.



## President's Report

First off I would like to say a huge thank you to Craig and Raewyn Moodie for hosting the mid winter lunch at their place. Many Ulysses members from far and wide enjoyed a few hours of the friendship and camaraderie that the club is all about. As you all know our membership is falling and we need to do whatever we can to get new members and retain those that are already members. Most of you will have seen the email from Andy but for those that haven't I have added it below.

It is common knowledge amongst our members that over the last few years, our membership numbers have been gradually dropping. We are recruiting some new members, but some existing members are not renewing their membership for many reasons; be it health, no longer riding, disgruntled and any number of other reasons.

So, looking at the attached graphs it won't be long – approx. 4-5 years until we won't be viable anymore and will need to make major changes to the way we operate.

We hear many members asking for Subscription reductions for older members. 80% of our members are in this bracket, so that won't work. Free membership for members after 35 years' service will totally devalue the Life Membership Award and reduce the Club funds by a large amount per year.

So, the answer to all the Finance issues is to increase membership numbers. In future when numbers are substantially higher, we can look at options for Subscription reductions, Branch Incentives and other rewards.

First, we need to regain our members that have not renewed their membership or retain what we have and recruit more new members.

To this end the National Committee has formed a Strategic Plan which involves holding events and rides at Branch level, with the aim of increasing our profile in the public forum. To support this, use the banners, wear our branded clothing, Ride Responsibly and share how good being a part of Ulysses can be, as well as getting some good discounts as part of being a Ulyssian.

We need to remember that no Branches are full. Some are just larger than others. We need to be mindful of how we treat members if we want them to stay and we need to present a fun caring environment that people want to join.

Everybody has a part to play if we are going to increase the membership back to the former levels and add to it.

Yes, this will require effort, work and energy we seem to have lost over the years. So, let's start now and make this great club the biggest and the best in New Zealand, as it should be.

If you would like to contribute other suggestions and ideas, please feel free to talk to any of the NatCom team.

.Cheers

Clive Thomas # 2383

Auckland President

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### **LONG SERVICE AWARDS** **Congratulations to:**

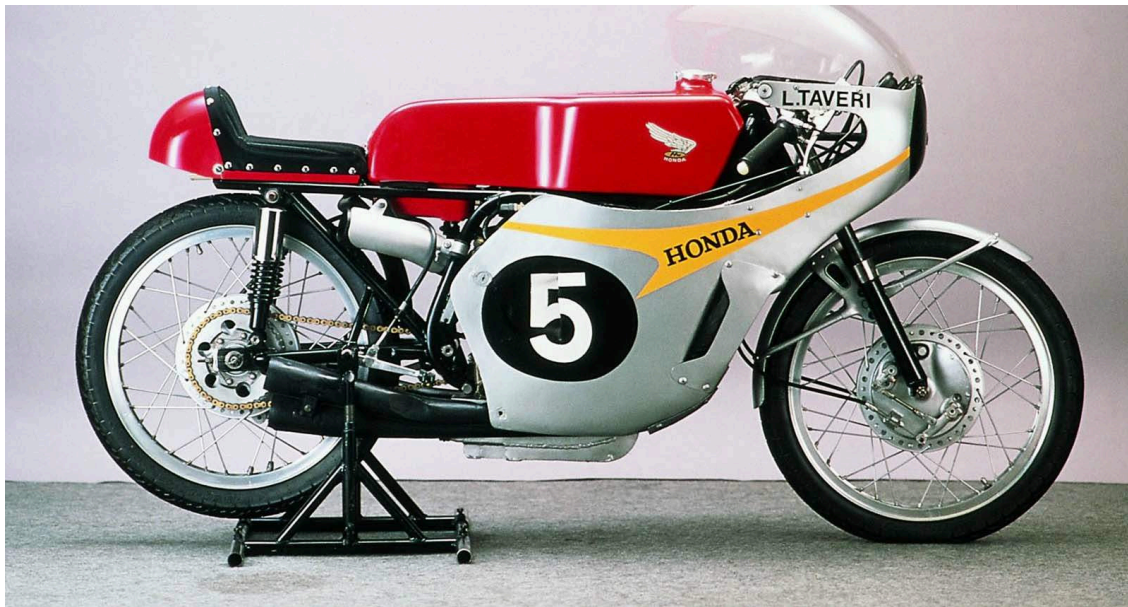
**Lee Mason member # 3245 - 30 years**

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### **The 1996 Honda RC149**

Remember when debates raged about which fundamental design would prove superior for Grand Prix racing, four-stroke engines or two-strokes? We're not talking 2002, when rule changes gave manufacturers the option of running two-stroke engines of 500cc or less or four-strokes up to 990cc in their GP machines. That deck was loaded in favor of the four-strokes, and morphed into the MotoGP era we have today.

Rather, we're talking about the middle 1960s, when that key question turned into a technological battle between two-stroke and four-stroke 125cc race bikes. No special allocations or dispensations allowed—just bring your best eighth-liter bike to the track and we'll settle things at the checkered flag.



In 1961, 1962 and 1964, Honda four-strokes won three 125cc world titles. But by the middle 1960s two-strokes had evolved into an undeniable force. Debates surrounding engine design had real merit: In a two-stroke engine, every crankshaft rotation yields a power stroke, while four-strokes produce power only upon every other crankshaft rotation—one rotation is “wasted” pushing out gasses. There is no shortcut here; to produce equal power in a four-stroke, engine speeds must increase substantially.

The obvious answer to this dilemma was to create an engine with more cylinders. But they would have to be tiny bores combined with an extremely short stroke to allow ultra-high engine speeds—all of which invited disaster given the materials and technology of the day. But Honda did it.

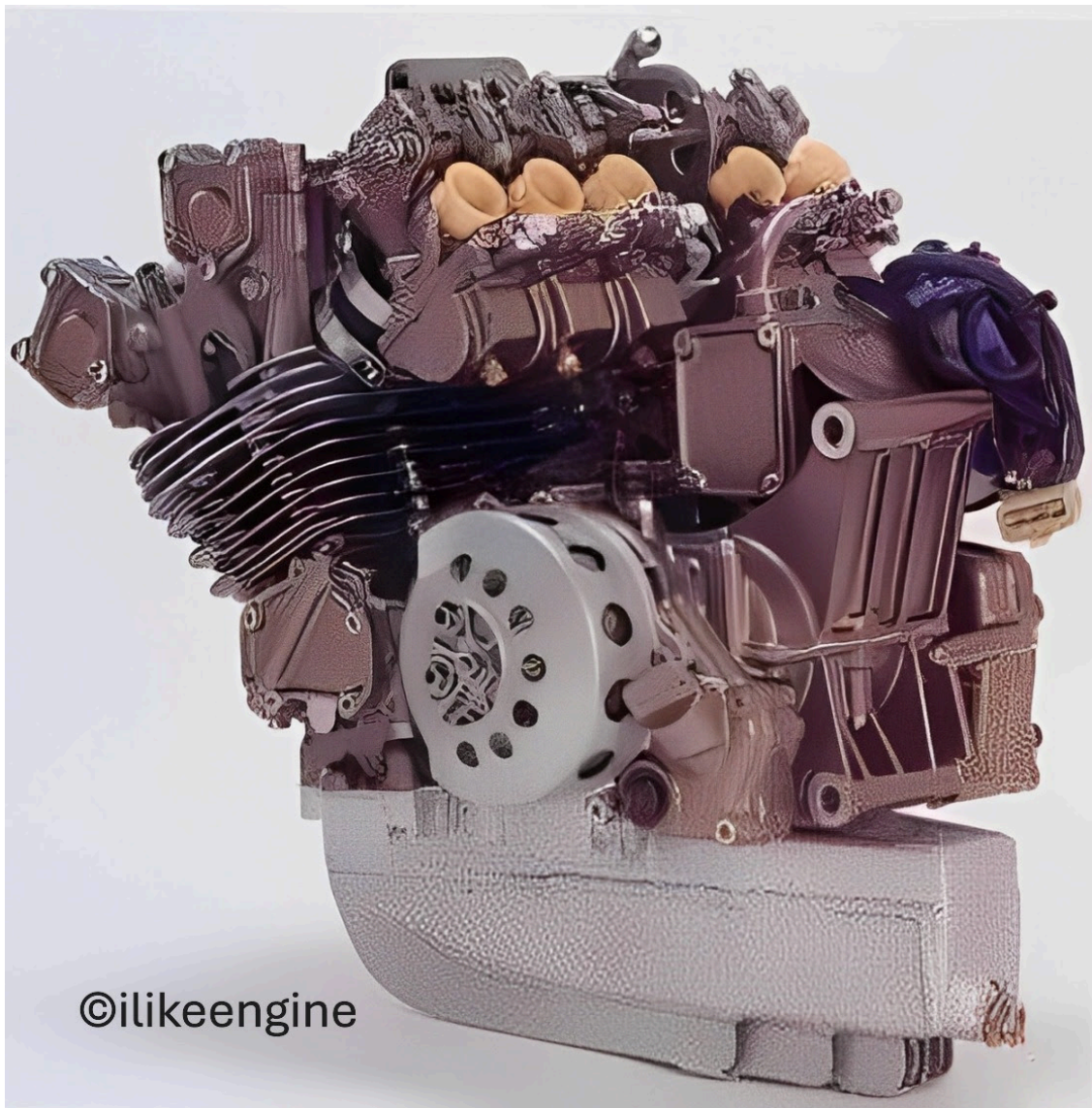
In 1965, Honda unveiled an incredible machine. It demonstrated just how far Honda engineers could reach beyond convention to produce a winning design. Boasting five cylinders with a bore measuring a minuscule 34.0mm and a stroke of just 27.5mm, this machine had one of the smallest cylinder bores Honda had ever attempted. And it revved to an unheard-of 21,000-rpm redline. Into this 1.33 inch diameter cylinder Honda stuffed four tiny valves and a centrally located spark plug. The next year, Honda engineers made minor changes to the bore/stroke figures, raising the redline to 21,500 rpm and creating the RC149 shown here.





Team technicians noted that these engines were among the most challenging of all Honda race bikes to wrench on. Not because they weren't built well; they were incredible. The problem was they were so small your fingers felt like huge sausages. And if you tried to lap a valve the usual way, you'd twist the valve head right off.

With 34 horsepower sent through an eight-speed gearbox, the RC149 was good for more than 130 mph. In 1966, Honda won at Hockenheim in West Germany, Sachsenring in East Germany, Brno in Czechoslovakia, Dundrod in Ulster and Monza in Italy, beating the two-stroke-mounted competition for the world championship. That may have defined the four-stroke versus two-stroke argument. But the debate raged on for one simple reason: That was the last year Honda's exotic works bikes contested the 125 Grand Prix class.



## SPECIFICATIONS

**Model:** RC149

**Year:** 1966

**Engine:** DOHC four-stroke inline-five, four valves per cylinder

**Bore and Stroke:** 35.5 x 25.14mm

**Displacement:** 124.42cc

**Output:** 34 hp

**Redline:** 21,500

**Compression Ratio:** 12.0:1

**Gearbox:** Eight-speed

**Dry Weight:** 187.4 pounds

**Top Speed:** Over 130 mph

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## North Island Remembrance Service

**YES, ONE WEEK LATER THAN USUAL, this year Saturday 16th of August 2025**

Ulysses, Auckland Branch, in association with Taupo Branch, invite all Ulyssians to come together at our annual Remembrance Service and remember members who have passed away.

If you intend to stay in Taupo, please make your own accommodation arrangements.

An organized social event is intended for Saturday evening. Once planning is finalized, details will be available on the Auckland Ulysses website.

Badges and embroidered cloth badges will be sold on the day, both at the morning organized Taupo ride and at the venue. Hot drinks and biscuits will be available in the main foyer on your arrival in the afternoon. A donation will be appreciated.

The Remembrance Service starts at 2pm, please be early so you can be seated in the hall before that time.

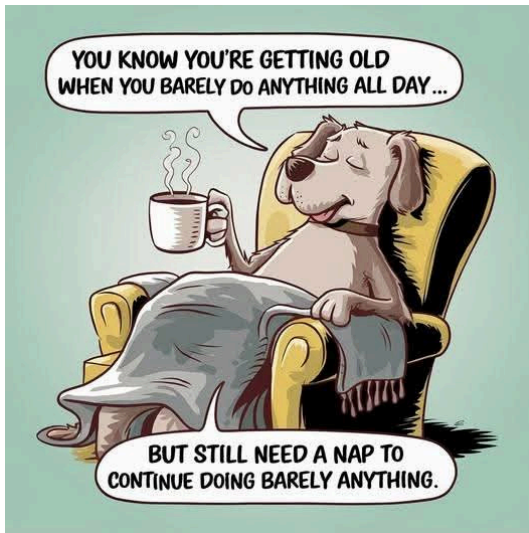
A formal ride of respect through Taupo will be held on the day of the service. All ride details will be available in the Branch Newsletters and websites closer to the event.

Any questions, please contact: Auckland Branch President [auckland@ulysses.org.nz](mailto:auckland@ulysses.org.nz) or Peggy O'Neal at [remembrance@ulysses.org.nz](mailto:remembrance@ulysses.org.nz).

Please also keep visiting our website [www.ulyssesauckland.org.nz](http://www.ulyssesauckland.org.nz) for further information.

[Ulysses Club - Auckland Branch \(ulyssesauckland.org.nz\)](http://www.ulyssesauckland.org.nz)





Grandma, what happened to the money you got from selling Grandpa's Motorbike ?





DID YOU HEAR THERE'S BEEN A  
BIG CHANGE OVER AT ULYSSES?!

## OVER 18 & LIKE MOTORCYCLES? JOIN THE ULYSSES CLUB!

**With branches all over Aotearoa NZ, you are never far from other motorbike riders of all ages - no matter what brand you ride (or even if you don't ride).**

Our branches organise social events, group rides, fundraising events, training and more!  
Join us and you'll see that there's lots to do and fun to have - for beginners and more experienced riders alike.

**To join, head to our website or email the Club administrator [admin@ulysses.org.nz](mailto:admin@ulysses.org.nz) and join over 2500 members who are out riding and having a great time!**

**[www.ulysses.org.nz](http://www.ulysses.org.nz)**



PHOTO: MANAWATU BRANCH

### ULYSSES CLUB MERCHANDISE

Show your club pride with some of our Ulysses branded merchandise. Decals, Patches, Clothing and Badges all available online.

Click this link to purchase online: [The Ulysses Club of NZ | Club Store](https://www.ulysses.org.nz/club-store)

**MEMBERS DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE**

## There have been changes to the Interislander and Bluebridge discounts.

[Click here for the new details.](#)

Re the Interislander please note if you are a senior tick the seniors box and enter the discount code. You will get discount on the seniors price. Also the Interislander on occasions has discount promotions.

There is currently one for twenty percent but subject to conditions. [Click here for details.](#) Note you cannot use two discount codes at the same time.

KIWI FUEL LTD current Ulysses card 0800 438383 or [info@kiwifuelcards.co.nz](mailto:info@kiwifuelcards.co.nz)

Motorcycle Doctors 10% discount for Ulysses members to use at the online store [www.shop.motorcycle-doctors.co.nz](http://www.shop.motorcycle-doctors.co.nz). Enter "Ulysses" as the discount code at checkout.

For further discounts click on the link above

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## Are you a financial member?

There are still some people who have not renewed their membership yet. If you think this might be you please go and get out your Membership Card.

- Check the expiry date. If your membership expired last year, it is still not too late to renew your membership.
- Go online now and pay your sub.

One Year Individual Member is \$70.00,

Three Years Individual Member is \$190.00

One Year Joint Member is \$66.00 per each member

Three Years Joint Member is \$180.00 per each member.

Pay money into:

BNZ Bank A/c: 02-0412-0001771-097.

**DON'T FORGET TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME AND ULYSSES # IN THE DETAILS**

Job done thanks.

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**CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST UPDATES**

<https://www.ulyssesauckland.org.nz/new-runs-list>

Refresh your favorites tab on your phone or computer now.

Craig Moodie

Runs/Calendar Coordinator

**RIDES AND SOCIAL EVENTS CALENDAR**

When attending a Club Ride be at the departure point 10 Minutes early with a **FULL TANK OF FUEL** and an **EMPTY BLADDER**.

If you are not sure if the ride may be cancelled because of inclement weather, check the website or phone the RIC.

Unless the Ride shows '**EXPERIENCED**' beside it, the Ride is for all experience levels and bike types.

**RIDE DISTANCE GUIDE**

**Short - 150kms**

**Medium - 150-300kms**

**Long - 300 + kms**

Each RIC will carry a Mobile Phone for emergencies. In an emergency use the number listed next to the relevant RIC. If no answer leave a message.

- The Rider in Charge will be organising the day. Contact them for details. All Riders participating in a Ulysses Club Ride are expected to hold a current licence, relevant to the motorcycle that they are riding, wear suitable clothing and have a registered and warranted road-worthy motorcycle.
- Riders are asked to complete the Rider list on the day and give your contact number and that of a contact not taking part in the ride.
- Direct ride related questions to Chris Moller (Runs Co-ordinator) 09 298 1702 or RIC of the day. General questions to Clive Thomas (President) 027 481 2700 .

**Tue 1st July TUESDAY EASY RIDERS RIDE - MEDIUM** Dave is RIC Ph 021 901 274. Destination decided on the day. Departs Papakura Autobarn at 10.00am.

**Wednesday 2nd July CLUB NIGHT Manukau Cruising Club** - Orpheus Place Onehunga - dinner from 6.30pm, licenced bar , event starts at 7pm with raffles, talks, chat etc. Wear your club badge or risk a fine from the Sheriff!

**Sun 6th Jul Matamata with Chris RIDE – LONG – EXPERIENCED** Chris is RIC Ph 021 034 7996 Departs Bombay Z at 10.00am

**Tue 8th Jul TUESDAY EASY RIDERS RIDE - MEDIUM** Dave is RIC Ph 021 901 274. Destination decided on the day. Departs Papakura Autobarn at 10.00am.



**Thur 10th July SOCIAL – West Auckland Dinner & Social Night.** New Lynn  
RSA, 2 [Veronica Street, New Lynn](#).

**Sat 12th July Littles Newbies & Oldies RIDE – SHORT** Nathan is RIC Ph 027  
463342 Departs Papakura Autobarn at 10.00am.

**Tue 15th July TUESDAY EASY RIDERS RIDE - MEDIUM** Dave is RIC Ph 021 901  
274. Destination decided on the day. Departs Papakura Autobarn at 10.00am.

**Sat 19th Jul SOCIAL – Coffee, Cakes & Conversation** Karaka General Store &  
Café 257 [Linwood Road Karaka](#) Meet at 10.00am, choose your own departure time

**Sun 20 th Jul Tairua with Dave RIDE- MEDIUM** Dave is RIC Ph 021 901 274.  
Departs Z Bombay at 10.00am

**Tue 22nd July TUESDAY EASY RIDERS RIDE - MEDIUM** Dave is RIC Ph 021 901  
274. Destination decided on the day. Departs Papakura Autobarn at 10.00am.

**Sat 26th Jul Littles Newbies & Oldies RIDE – SHORT** Nathan is RIC Ph 027  
463342 Departs Papakura Autobarn at 10.00am.

**Tue 29th July Tuesday Easy Riders RIDE – OPTIONS LONG RIDE with a short  
ride option.** Tony is RIC Ph 020 4148 5160. Destination: Cambridge. Departs  
Papakura Autobarn at 9.30am Destination is Tirau. For those not wanting a longer  
ride, the regular ride will depart at 10.00am, pick your own RIC and destination.

**Thurs 31st Jul SOCIAL – Sth Auckland Dinner & Social Night.** Papakura Club 5  
[Croskery Rd](#) (off Hunua Rd). Questions Chris Ph 021 0347996. Meet at 6.30pm  
onwards.

**Sun 3rd Aug Smoko Café with Vance RIDE – MEDIUM** Vance is RIC Ph 021 023  
83498 Departs Z Bombay at 10.00am Tue 5th Aug TUESDAY EASY RIDERS RIDE -  
MEDIUM Dave is RIC Ph 021 901 274. Destination decided on the day. Departs  
Papakura Autobarn at 10.00am.

**Wed 6th Aug CLUB NIGHT – Manukau Cruising Club -** Orpheus Place Onehunga  
–dinner available from 6.30pm, licenced bar and drinks available, event starts at 7pm,  
raffles and chat. Wear your Club badge or face a fine from the Sheriff!

**Sat 9th Aug Littles Newbies & Oldies RIDE – SHORT** Nathan is RIC Ph 027  
463342 Departs Papakura Autobarn at 10.00am.

**Tue 12th Aug TUESDAY EASY RIDERS RIDE - MEDIUM** Dave is RIC Ph 021 901  
274. Destination decided on the day. Departs Papakura Autobarn at 10.00am

**Thurs 14th Aug SOCIAL – West Auckland Dinner & Social Night.** New Lynn  
RSA, 2 [Veronica Street, New Lynn](#). Meet from 6.30pm onwards.



## THINGS CAN CHANGE BETWEEN NEWSLETTERS!

### Check before departing on a club ride

To keep up-to-date with Branch events, runs and news between newsletters visit our website for the latest information [www.ulyssesauckland.org.nz](http://www.ulyssesauckland.org.nz)

We also have a face book page.

Join the [Auckland Ulysses Facebook](#) page. You will find notices of upcoming events, ride reports immediately after (or during!) rides, ride cancellations, and much more.

## JUST A REMINDER - RAFFLE DONATIONS

It's not just the committee's job find to find the raffle prizes at the monthly meetings - it's up to all members. The raffles (and the modest run fees) form a vital part of our Branch's income.

- Idea 1: if it's **your birthday** in a particular month please donate a bottle of wine or something else of similar value.
- Idea 2: consider donating any unwanted Christmas - or birthday - gifts as a raffle prize. That way it will still bring joy to someone.

- A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN HELPING OUT WITH THE RAFFLES!

## BUSINESSES WHO SUPPORT AUCKLAND ULYSSES

### ULYSSES MEMBERS' DISCOUNT

There are a range of businesses throughout New Zealand that recognise the value of the Ulysses Membership. Note that to obtain the discount you will need to produce your current club membership card.

#### CLUB DISCOUNTS 2025

1. Interislander and 2. BLUEBRIDGE [Click Here](#)
3. VTNZ current Ulysses card 31 Dec 2025
4. KIWI FUEL LTD current Ulysses card 0800 438383 or [info@kiwifuelcards.co.nz](mailto:info@kiwifuelcards.co.nz)
5. KIWI MOTORCYCLES current Ulysses card Christchurch
6. APEX AUTO CENTRE HAM current Ulysses card
7. TREVOR PIERCE YAMAHA CHCH current Ulysses card
8. BUTT BUFFER WHANGANUI current Ulysses card
9. EZIBED NZ "ULY10" current Ulysses card
10. FRANKTON LAW current Ulysses card
11. ASURE ACCOMM GROUP Join Azure Group
12. TOP TEN MOTOR CAMPS Join Top Ten Group

## MEMBERS' FREE ADS

### **QUARTERSAWN Custom Wood Creations**

We are experienced craftsman that will create your custom piece to your requirements. Furniture, cabinetry, library, doors any wood project.

For examples click on [quartersawn](#)

Phone Aaron **027 228 9724**

email [aaron@quartersawn.co.nz](mailto:aaron@quartersawn.co.nz)

Paul B #8082

*These adverts are for Ulysses Auckland members only and are free of charge. Email the Editor. Support your fellow members.*

## BUSINESSES WE LIKE

**LIFESTYLE IMPORTS:** For all your motorcycle gear and clothing. Shop online at [www.lifestyle-imports.co.nz](http://www.lifestyle-imports.co.nz) They have now set up shop at 13 Queen Street Waiuku. Call Florence at 027 262 5287 for opening hours.



**CAFES:**

**Waiomu Beach Cafe** - 622 Thames Coast Road. Great coffee and food. Good parking just across the road.

**Native Tree Cafe** - 7 Church St, Mangatarata (on SH27 about 200 meters south of intersection with SH2). Great food & coffee. Sheltered outdoor seating. Excellent parking off main highway.

**Coach Cafe & Takeaways** - 37 Seddon Street, Raetihi An excellent stop in the central North Island.

**CLUBS:**

**Manukau Cruising Club** offer memberships to Over 65's for \$6 and \$30 per year for everyone else. A great opportunity to have a spot for a few drinks with friends or to join in with their great entertainments!

**Parnell Returned Services Club** - 139 Parnell Road, Parnell

We welcome anyone from Ulysses to pop in and enjoy a beer at a reasonable price.

We don't have pokies or TAB – but we do have pool tables, dart boards, and a juke box.

We are surrounded by some of the best eating places in Auckland including pizza at La Porchetta, local Indian etc - bring the takeaways back to the club - they are virtually next door.

Guests will need to sign the visitors' book, but please consider membership at \$30 per calendar year. (This will give reciprocal rights with clubs all over NZ:

see <https://clubsnz.org.nz/> ) There is a bike parking space across the road next door to the Windsor. Generally we are open 2pm to at least 9pm daily.

*Please send details of any businesses that treat Ulysses members well to the editor for future inclusion in this list.*


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# ULYSSES

## AUCKLAND BRANCH

**Join other  
Motorcycle Enthusiasts.  
Enjoy riding our country roads.  
Socialize over lunch at  
many great cafes**



- \* Several rides every month
- \* Rallies
- \* Weekends away
- \* Dinners and Social Events

For more information go to our website:  
[www. ulyssesauckland.org.nz](http://www.ulyssesauckland.org.nz)

### AUCKLAND BRANCH OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

#### Office holders

President: Clive Thomas # 2383 027 481 2700 [auckland@ulysses.org.nz](mailto:auckland@ulysses.org.nz)

Vice Pres: Grant Johnstone # 10808 027 535 3066 [grantscars1@gmail.com](mailto:grantscars1@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Evan Swenson #803 027 2370860 [ewswen@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ewswen@xtra.co.nz)

Secretary: Roger Judd #9372 021 844040 [auckland.sec@ulysses.org.nz](mailto:auckland.sec@ulysses.org.nz)

**Committee members**

Janny Nicoll	#9471	021 070 0994	<a href="mailto:jannynicoll@gmail.com">jannynicoll@gmail.com</a>
Claudia Wilson	# 10221	021 087 35087	<a href="mailto:clawilson63@gmail.com">clawilson63@gmail.com</a>
Martin Pepper	# 9415	027 453 0761	<a href="mailto:peppertoetoe@gmail.com">peppertoetoe@gmail.com</a>
Neville Kerr	# 4658	027 307 1088	<a href="mailto:nevkerr14@gmail.com">nevkerr14@gmail.com</a>

**Other roles**

Runs Coordinator	Chris Moller	0210347996	#5401	<a href="mailto:mollerz@xtra.co.nz">mollerz@xtra.co.nz</a>
Sheriff	Clive Thomas	0274812700	#2383	<a href="mailto:_clv6pat@gmail.com">_clv6pat@gmail.com</a>
Webmaster	Charlie Truell	0223459309	#8956	<a href="mailto:charlietruell@gmail.com">charlietruell@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Roger Judd	021 844040	#9372	<a href="mailto:ulyakld.editor@gmail.com">ulyakld.editor@gmail.com</a>
Facebook Admin	Adrienne Dodge	0211655349	#9247	<a href="mailto:ajdodge@xtra.co.nz">ajdodge@xtra.co.nz</a>

**ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER**

The newsletter is freely available to any non-members who wishes to subscribe. Members receive it automatically. Feel free to forward this on to anyone who may be interested. To subscribe email the editor.

The newsletter is distributed by email on or about the Saturday prior to the monthly meeting. Eleven monthly issues are produced, January being the missing month.

**If a printed copy is required the annual subscription will be \$30.** Printed newsletter is available for pick-up at the monthly social night at the Manukau Cruising Club. Copies not picked up by hand may be mailed out.

The editor encourages right of reply, correspondence, criticism, and suggestions.  
Address newsletter correspondence to: The Editor: [ulyakld.editor@gmail.com](mailto:ulyakld.editor@gmail.com)

**AUCKLAND ULYSSES POSTAL ADDRESS;**

**PO Box 96219, Dominion Road,  
AUCKLAND 1446.**

**Web site:** [www.ulyssesauckland.org.nz](http://www.ulyssesauckland.org.nz)