



MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

**NEXT CLUB NIGHT IS WEDNESDAY 6TH MAY
DOORS OPEN AND DINNER AVAILABLE FROM 6.30PM
RAFFLES AND OFFICAL FUNCTION COMMENCES 7.30PM**



Location: Manukau Cruising Club - Orpheus Drive - Onehunga

- **Wear your membership badge or face a fine if the Sherrif catches you.**
- **Bring along a few Gold coins for raffles, fines, tips etc...**

PRESIDENTS REPORT - Grant Johnstone



The Club's members have been very active, I've just completed the quarterly report to National and we had about 50 events between 1st January and 19th April, including upto three runs per week and a couple of coffee mornings a month. Hopefully we'll add an evening run and a quiz night to the next one.

Well to carry on from last month's notes, re my trip to the AGM in Nelson. I turned up at 6:30 on the Friday morning and every sailing was fully booked. Even if I had gotten over the sailing back had been cancelled.

Nothing for it but to head home, so headed over the Rimutakas to Carterton for breakfast at Aunty Gingers cafe, highly recommended. Then head north into the Hawke's Bay and stayed at Quality Inn Napier. The next day headed over the Napier Taupo with mixed weather, some fog and rain then clearing the closer I got to Taupo and home via highway 27.

The moonlight run is confirmed for Saturday the 2nd, starting at BP in Botany, stands up at 5:30pm. Actually by the time you read this it may have already been done.

Martin and I decided to scope the overnight run for October 2/3. We left Papakura Service Centre about 9:15 Friday and rode to Stratford via Piopio and through a back way into Inglewood, which we'll include in the event. We arrived at the Stratford Holiday Park, where we got great service and shown to our cabins. Highly recommended the facility as everything well laid out and clean. We checked out the local tavern, a five minute walk from the Park and they do great meals.

Next morning, after thunderstorms through the night, the weather was lousy, squally rain and wind. The decision was made not to come back via the Forgotten Highway and we geared up and retraced the previous day's route. I was following Martin, about 50 to 80 metres back all I could see ahead was his hi viz jacket. Winds, rain and fine hail did not make for good visibility. The weather eased once we got over Mt Messenger and we stopped for some breakfast, after which we struck some more bad weather, but once we got into the Waikato it improved. Stopping for lunch in Piopio we had an easy ride the rest of the way.

The MAM (Motorcyclist Awareness Month) event in September will be based at the Papakura Club and will be a Show'n'Shine and include a loop ride through the Hunuas. There will be prizes for the show'n'shine and a raffle. There's good facilities at the Club and we're working with them re catering. Come and join this worthwhile event and bring a friend, details will be in the events calendar.

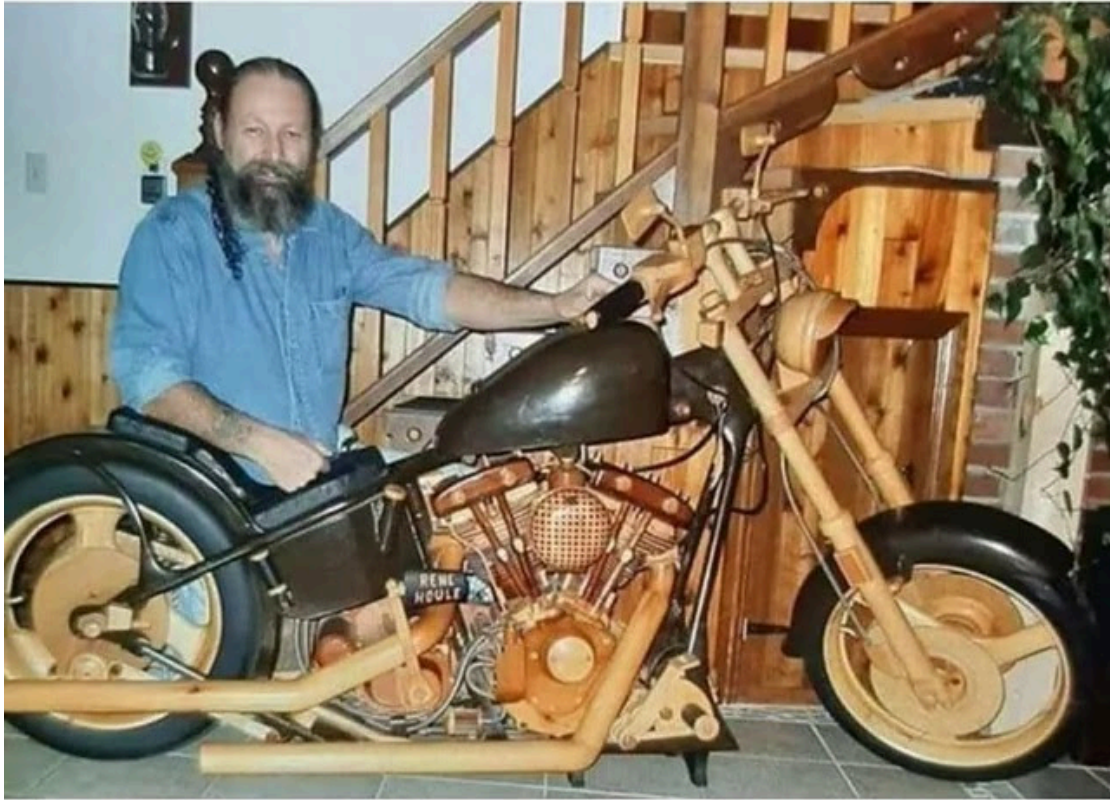
That's it for now.
Ride safe
Grant Johnstone
Auckland President

Long Service Awards

The following members are due their Long Service Awards and these will be presented at the next Club night if the recipients would like to attend.

Sheryl Boyd	Member # 9443	10 years
Rod Goldsmith	Member # 9444	10 years
Martin Wilson	Member # 6653	20 years

It's got a wooden frame, wooden engine, wooden wheels, and a wooden gas tank. Did he ride it? No, wooden start...



UP COMING EVENTS TO NOTE.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
2 May	Moonlight ride	Refer runs list
8 August	Remembrance 2026	Taupo Rotary Club
2 - 3 October	Overnight ride	To be advised
20 - 22 November	Annual Rally	Port Waikato

AUCKLAND BRANCH OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

Office holders

President	Grant Johnstone	027 5353066	auckland@ulysses.org.nz
Vice President	Martin Pepper	027 4530761	peppertoetoe@gmail.com
Treasurer	Evan Swenson	027 2370860	ewswen@xtra.co.nz
Secretary	Roger Judd	021 844040	auckland.sec@ulysses.org.nz
Committee			

	Janny Nicoll	021 0700994	jannynicoll@gmail.com
	Sandy Senk	027 2332236	sandytat1@xtra.co.nz
	vacant	please contact any	committee member
	vacant	please contact any	committee member
Other roles			
Runs organiser	• Refer to the	runs list for	contacts
Sheriff	Clive Thomas	027 4812700	auckland@ulysses.org.nz
Web Page	Charlie Truell	022 3459309	charlietruell@gmail.com
Newsletter	Roger Judd	021 844040	Ulyakld.editor@gmail.com
Facebook	Adrienne Dodge	021 1655349	ajdodge@xtra.co.nz

Your Auckland Committee meets once a month and a record is kept of the meetings, its attendees and any motions and discussions.

These minutes are now made available on our webpage for anyone interested.



Your 2026-27 Committee , from left to right..

Grant Johnstone, Martin Pepper, Evan Swenson, Roger Judd, Sandy Senk and Janny Nicol

Statistically Significant But Useless....

A little but of useless information for fun, taken from a recent Tuesday Midweek ride of 10 riders (ever wondered how Tuesday became midweek?) - from the Ed

Oldest rider	Youngest rider	Average age	Sample size
84 years	63 years	74.6 years	10 riders

Oldest bike	Newest bike	Average bike age	Sample size
2017	2026 April	2022	10 bikes
Highest kms	Lowest kms	Average bike kms	
150,000 kms	650 kms	43,300 kms	
Largest engine	Smallest engine	Average engine	
1330cc	450cc	975cc	

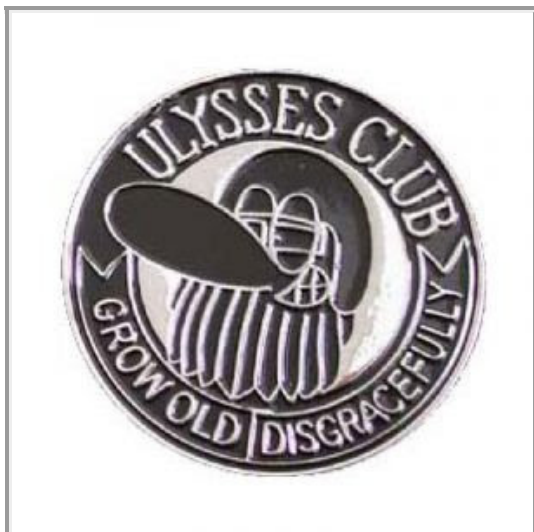
Highest hp 136 hp	Lowest hp 44 hp	Average hp 95.5	
Heaviest weight 448 kg	Lightest weight 193 kg	Average weight 265.1	Ave weight with no Can Ams 219 kg

Explanation - we had 2 x Can Am Syders on the ride, these skew the numbers a little in both engine size (1330cc) and weight (448 kg).

We also had 1 x bike (Suzuki V Strom 1080cc) with over 150,000kms on the clock, this also skews the numbers a little.

What does this survey tell us -Our Tuesday group are 'experienced' in years, riding newish bikes with power to weight ratios equal to that of a Ferrari 458! - I did mention it was Useless information!

UYLSSES CLUB MERCHANDISE



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

Click this link to purchase online: [The Ulysses Club of NZ | Club Store](#)

A Honda, a Suzuki and a Kawasaki in a bar...

A Honda rider, a Suzuki rider, and a Kawasaki rider walk into a biker bar with two dozen Harleys parked out front. The bar goes quiet as they walk up and the Honda rider says to the bar tender “may I please have a glass of milk?” The bartender gives him a 100-meter stare but pours him a glass of milk. The Suzuki riders is next and says, “may I please have a glass of water, no ice?” Again, the bartender begrudgingly obliges. The Kawasaki rider comes up and says “may I please get a glass of motor oil? My bike needs to be topped up.” The bartender is mildly more friendly but says “we don’t serve motor oil here, son.” The Kawasaki rider says “ok no worries. Can I just get a clean empty

glass and also a pint of beer?" The bartender scratches his head but obliges. As he hands the Kawasaki rider the two glasses he asks, "your bike can use beer instead of oil?" The Kawasaki rider says "no of course not. But I'll put the empty glass under one of the Harleys out there and by the time I'm done with the beer I'll have a pint of oil ready to go!"

IS YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE?

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.

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

One Year Joint Member is \$66.00 per each member

Three Years Individual Member is \$190.00

One Year Individual Member is \$70.00,

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.



We're changing how often most people need to get a warrant of fitness



We're making changes to the warrant of fitness system. On 1 November 2026, these things will change:

- people who buy a new car will need to get their next WOF when the car is 4 years old (it's currently when the car is 3 years old)
- people with cars between 4–14 years old* will need a WOF every 2 years (it's currently yearly)
- people with motorcycles registered before 1 January 2000 will need a WOF every year (it's currently every 6 months).

For a long time, we've had very frequent vehicle inspections compared to countries overseas. Modern vehicles are significantly safer and more reliable. It's safer to have less frequent inspections, and this'll save you time and money.

Cars over 14 years old, and motorcycles registered before 1 January 2000, will move to an annual WoF (up from every 6 months for some vehicles).

If your car has Automatic Emergency Braking or Lane Keep Assist, WOF inspections will now check for warning lights (or malfunction indicators) for these systems.

It's still your responsibility to maintain your vehicle to the WOF standard

between inspections. To reinforce this, we're increasing fines if your vehicle isn't compliant. From 1 November:

- **If you're driving a vehicle with a WOF that's expired by more than 2 months, you may be fined \$350 (up from \$200).**
- **If you're driving a vehicle with a wheel or tyre that wouldn't pass an inspection, you may be fined \$350 (up from \$150) and up to \$1000 (the maximum court-ordered fine).**

We've made these change following us consulting you for feedback about this towards the end of 2025. Thanks to everyone who shared their feedback with us – we received over 5000 formal submissions, and overall people supported these changes.

Our website has more information about the changes, including a summary and analysis of your feedback to us about these changes: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/changes-to-light-vehicle...>

*** We'll be introducing the change for cars between 4–14 years old in phases.**

From 1 November 2026, cars first registered on or after 1 November 2019 become eligible for WOFs every 2 years. From 1 November 2027, cars first registered from 1 November 2013 to 31 October 2019 become eligible.

RUNS / RIDES AND SOCIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

**** Note **** this document is now live and updated constantly on our Website. Before heading off for an event please check the Website for any changes or cancellations.

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

If you have any questions with regards to the calendar please contact
Craig Moodie 021 797 487

RIDERS - PLEASE READ

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

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

RUNS / 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 the displayed Runs Co-ordinator / RIC of the day. General questions to Clive Thomas (President) 027 481 2700 .

Sat 2nd May

Little's Newbies & Oldies

RIDE – SHORT

This is a slower paced shorter ride. Ideal for new riders smaller bikes and those who enjoy pleasant cruise with friends. All riders are welcome.

Nathan is RIC Ph 027 463342

Departs Bombay Autobarn at 10.00am.

Sat 2nd May

Evening moonlight cruise

RIDE – SHORT

Full Moon ride is planned weather permitting. All riders are welcome.

Planned route Whitford, Clevedon, Kawakawa bay and heading to Kaiuwa for fish and chips.

After f&c onto old state highway 2 and back up the motorway

Should be an enjoyable evening.

Grant is RIC Ph 027 5353066

Departs BP Botany Meet at 5pm and Stands up at 5.30pm.

Tues 5th May

TUESDAY EASY RIDERS

RIDE - MEDIUM

David is RIC Ph 021 901 274. Destination decided on the day. Departs Bombay Autobarn at 10.00am.

Wed 6th May

CLUB NIGHT

Manukau Cruising Club - Orpheus Place Onehunga –dinner available from 6.30pm, licensed bar and drinks available, event starts at 7:30pm, raffles and chat. A great nite of socialising and catching up

Sun 10th May**Sunday Ride***RIDE - MEDIUM*

RIC to be confirmed Ph 021797487. Destination decided on the day. Departs Bombay Autobarn at 10.00am.

Tues 12th May**TUESDAY EASY RIDERS***RIDE - MEDIUM*

David is RIC Ph 021 901 274. Destination decided on the day. Departs Bombay Autobarn at 10.00am.

Sat 14th May**SOCIAL – West Auckland Dinner & Social Night.**

New Lynn RSA, 2 Veronica Street, New Lynn. Meet from 6.30pm onwards.

Sat 16th May**Little's Newbies & Oldies***RIDE – SHORT*

This is a slower paced shorter ride. Ideal for new riders smaller bikes and those who enjoy pleasant cruise with friends. All riders are welcome.

Nathan is RIC Ph 027 463342

Departs Bombay Autobarn at 10.00am.

Tues 19th May**TUESDAY EASY RIDERS***RIDE - MEDIUM*

David is RIC Ph 021 901 274. Destination decided on the day. Departs Bombay Autobarn at 10.00am.

Sat 23rd May**Coffee Cakes and Conversation**

KARAKA GENERAL STORE & CAFE

257 Linwood rd, Karaka

Meet at 10:00am for a coffee and chat, choose your own departure time.

Sun 24th May**Sunday Ride***RIDE - MEDIUM*

RIC to be confirmed Ph 021797487. Destination decided on the day. Departs Bombay Autobarn at 10.00am.

Tues 26th May**TUESDAY EASY RIDERS***RIDE - MEDIUM***- Medium Ride**

David is RIC Ph 021 901 274. and will take the normal Medium ride. Destination decided on the day. Departs Bombay Autobarn at **10.00am**.

OPTION**- Longer Ride**

Our Longer Ride for May is a further attempt for a ride to Te Kuiti which was rained out on route in October 2025. Today we are going to explore roads between Cambridge and Te Kuiti. In order to make this happen within our timeframe, we will tackle the ride a little differently. On leaving Bombay, we will stay on the SH1 Expressway to Huntly.

Tony is RIC Ph 020 4148 5160.

Departs Bombay Autobarn at **9.30 a.m. sharp**.

Sat 28th May**SOCIAL – Sth Auckland Dinner & Social Night.**

Papakura Club 5 Croskery Rd (off Hunua Rd).

Questions Chris Ph 021 0347996.

Meet at 6.30pm onwards.

Sat 30th May

Littles Newbies & Oldies

RIDE – SHORT

This is a slower paced shorter ride. Ideal for new riders smaller bikes and those who enjoy pleasant cruise with friends. All riders are welcome.

Nathan is RIC Ph 027 463342

Departs Bombay Autobarn at 10.00am.

Tues 2nd June

TUESDAY EASY RIDERS

RIDE - MEDIUM

David is RIC Ph 021 901 274. Destination decided on the day. Departs Bombay Autobarn at 10.00am.

Wed 3rd June

CLUB NIGHT

Manukau Cruising Club - Orpheus Place Onehunga –dinner available from 6.30pm, licensed bar and drinks available, event starts at 7:30pm, raffles and chat. A great nite of socialising and catching up



Ulysses

Club of New Zealand Inc Since 1988



Whether you are an experienced rider, returning to riding or just starting out - No matter your age, gender or style of bike - We are the club for you!

What makes us different from the basic social media riding groups? For less than \$1.50 a week, Ulysses members enjoy:



- Over 20 branches spread across the country, working together to provide interesting riding, rallies and social events to cater to all members' needs.
- A dedicated rider safety training fund that subsidises member's training, first aid courses and safety equipment.
- An annual National Bike Raffle where members have a one in less than 3000 chance to win a new motorbike.
- The *Ulyssian*, our national magazine which contains national and branch news, information about upcoming events and articles of interest to riders.
- Branch and national level long service and recognition awards - Including Odyssey and Life member awards.
- Various member discounts.
- Supporting multiple charities at a national and branch level.
- National level strategic plan initiatives including marketing, networking, member support and coordinated events, provided by an enthusiastic volunteer National committee and paid National Administrator.
- An annual National Rally with fun themes and camaraderie.
- Remembrance Rides to honour fallen members.
- Proudly sponsored by AA Insurance.

National Administrator: 021 072 3636 • admin@ulysses.org.nz



www.ulysses.org.nz

f Ulysses Club NZ Inc

Contact your local branch for upcoming events and joining information:

DISCOUNT

ULYSSES MEMBERS' DISCOUNT

There are a range of businesses throughout New Zealand that recognise the value of the Ulysses Membership. **Note to obtain the discount you will need to produce your current club membership card and please ask first before purchasing to ensure the a discount is applicable.**

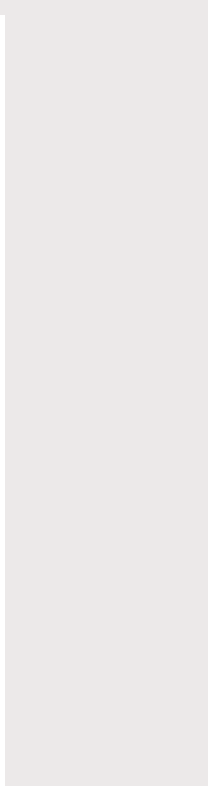
- IINTERISLANDER AND BLUEBRIDGE ferries [Click Here](#)
- VTNZ current Ulysses card 31 Dec 2026
- KIWI FUEL LTD 0800 438383 or info@kiwifuelcards.co.nz
- DRURY MOTORCYCLES Auckland
- KIWI MOTORCYCLES Christchurch
- APEX AUTO CENTRE Hamilton
- TREVOR PIERCE YAMAHA Christchurch
- BUTT BUFFER WHANGANUI
- EZIBED NZ "ULY10"
- FRANKTON LAW
- ASURE ACCOMM GROUP Join Azure Group
- TOP TEN MOTOR CAMPS Join Top Ten Group




JUST A REMINDER - CLUB NIGHT 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 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.
- **and a big thankyou to all those who have been helping out with the raffles!**






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)

BUSINESS'S - CAFES AND CLUBS WE LIKE AND SUPPORT



LIFESTYLE IMPORTS: For all your motorcycle gear and clothing. Shop online at 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.

Nikau Caves Café – 1770 Waikaretu Valley Road, Waikaretu. Good food and coffee, friendly hosts, good parking

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.

Maramarua Bakehouse Café – 1971 State Highway 2 Maramarua (the old Pink Pig). Café has new owners, has been totally refurbished and offers a typical Bakehouse menu. Good bike parking.

Smoko Café – 3331 State Highway 2 Waitakaruru - Good menu, good outside seating, good bike parking

Hopin Stopin Café – 60 great South Road Taupiri - Good menu, good outside seating, good bike parking - Eds recommendation - toasted sandwich and Iced Coffee!

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.

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

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