

Sydney Branch Ulysses Club Newsletter

February 2026

Address all correspondence to
The Secretary, Ulysses Club Sydney Branch scrtyssydneybranch@gmail.com

President:

Michael Clarke : 0497 596 800

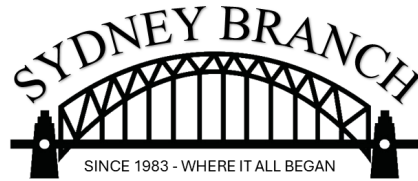
Secretary:

Kevin Fleming : 0419 724 545

Treasurer:

Kate Robinson

Sergeant at Arms:
position vacant



Committee:

John Robertson : 0411 141 039

Nick Williamson : 0457 006 309

Peter Nochar : 0401 424 400

Peter Higgins : 0450 157 661

Quartermaster:

Dominic Sidoti : 0412 602 485

Branch Meetings are Held on 1ST Tuesday of every month (3 February 2026)
Gladesville RSL 4-6 Linsley St, Gladesville NSW 2111
New members and guests welcome

Branch Meeting - 7:30pm 3 March 2026

Rides and other activities regularly posted on our Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/groups/UlyssesClubSydneyBranch/

BIKEBIZ

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPONSOR, BIKEBIZ PARRAMATTA and GRANVILLE.
THE SPONSORSHIP COMPRISES:

- \$50 Bikebiz voucher to raffle each month at Sydney Branch meetings.
- Contact Mick for Accessories & Spares.
- V.I.P Discounts for Ulysses members

7 Great Western Highway Parramatta and 274 Parramatta Rd Granville

Ph: (02) 9682 2999 www.bikebiz.com.au

Thoughts for the Month

- The road's heating up — and so are the barbecues. Ride, rest, repeat.
- Late-summer sunsets and smooth corners: the perfect kind of slow burn.
- Storm clouds ahead? Just nature's way of washing your bike for free.
- February's motto: hydrate, lubricate, and accelerate.
- Forget Valentine's roses — my heart already belongs to 1,300ccs of joy.
- Summer might fade, but good memories and good rides never cool off.

Monthly Meeting Minutes including AGM

Location: Gladesville RSL

Meeting opened at 7:30pm

Committee members present: John Robertson, Michael Clarke, Kevin Fleming
Nick Williamson, Roger Bates

Number of members present: 23

Acknowledgments: none

Minutes from previous meeting: No matters arising.

Apologies: Kate Robertson, Dave and Joy, Tim Sheldon, Jasmine, Phil Motby

New Members: none

Visitors: none

President report: Incoming President Michael Clarke thanked outgoing president John Robertson for his extensive tenure in the role and difference made during his time.

Treasurer report: none

Ride reports: many rides including Saturday ride to Tractor 828
Nick's overnight ride to Bundanoon
Ross - multibranch ride from Windsor to Grey Gums with over 50 bikes

General business: none

Raffle Prize: usual fare of wine, chocolates, nuts, bikebiz voucher etc

Meeting closed: 8 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday 3 March 2026, 7:30pm. Gladesville RSL

Results of AGM (2026 committee):

President:	Michael Clarke
Treasurer:	Kate Robertson
Secretary:	Kevin Fleming
Committee:	John Robertson, Nick Williamson, Peter Nochar, Peter Higgins
Quartermaster:	Dominic Sidoti

Thank you to Kim Kennerson for overseeing the election

Meet your 2026 Committee



L to R: Nick Williamson, Peter Nochar, Kevin Fleming (secretary), Michael Clarke (president) Peter Higgins, John Robbo Robertson, Dom Sidoti (quartermaster). Absent: Kate Robinson (treasurer)

Tell me about .. Your first bike:

Michael: a "nineteen hundred and fast asleep" BSA Bantam, which my brother and I converted into an observed trials bike, by replacing the motor with the "go to" engine of that time, a 9E Villiers 197cc, different front forks and wheel for better suspension and increased ground clearance, alloy mudguards, home made seat, wider handlebars and a high level exhaust system, plus other bits and bobs. We both rode in trials competitions with some success.

Kate: CB250T bought in a pub for \$200 as a teenager

Kevin: Honda CB250 .. got my bike license, sold it a year later for more than what I paid for it

Nick: Honda Varadero 125 - a learner-approved adventure bike, the baby brother of the Transalp

Peter H: 1972 Honda CB250cc road bike.

Dom: 1966 125cc twin cylinder Suzuki Stinger. Revved to about 16000rpm

Peter N: Technically my first blue was a Norman Nippy 50cc moped when I was about 12 or 13. It cost \$5.00 and I shared it with a mate. It was an insurance write off and we used to ride it on some nearby waste ground. When I was 16 I bought a Lambretta 150 'Pacemaker' which was later replaced with a GT200.

John: I learnt to ride at 16 on a WLA Harley. This was one of the "Urban Mith" still in the crate bikes. I think it was from the Korean war. A mate built it and taught me to ride on it. My first owned bike was a CB 450 Honda. I bought a Bultaco Sherpa T 250 in 1974 and still have it (needs some work).

Tell me about .. Your current bikes:

Michael: 2004/5 Honda ST 1300, which despite its weight, I love, in particular for its effortless touring capability for my flag marshalling at MotoGP, WSBK & ASBK, for which I need to carry a second complete set of clothes (official's uniform, radio harness, spare boots etc), plus camping gear for some events. The ST handles this very well and still manages to chase the modern bikes through the Snowy Mountains and Victorian high country twisties.

Kate: Triumph Speedmaster 1200 (with a damaged front fender)

Kevin: Yamaha FJR. Love this bike. Plenty of storage. King of the Road. Helps that it's an ex-NSW Police bike in resplendent white. Always interesting to watch the traffic react to my presence.

Nick: Yamaha Tracer 9 GT+ - laden with tech, does everything except make you a coffee

Peter H: 2019 Harley Sport glide, and 2023 Triumph T1200

Dom: 2001 Honda ST 1100 and 2022 BMW CT 400 GT Scooter (Roger's old bike)

Peter N: have a 2010 Honda 1300 ST which I enjoy very much, it is very fast and smooth and a joy on the open road. It has heaps of storage for longer trips. As it is too big to go to the shops or ride in town I have recently also bought a Honda 700 Integra.

John: I currently have a 2010 Honda VT1300 which I bought new. I do ride it to the shops and around town when I don't have access to the Car.

Tell me about .. When you aren't riding:

Michael: I have a casual job as relief Building Manager, plus other voluntary work (including helping my elder daughter and obviously also my two grandsons!) gardening and some housework/chores; we often watch British detective and quiz shows on TV: I'm reading an autobiography by Michael McIntyre, the stand up English comedian.

Kate: I'm half of a duo that plays music a couple of times a week, with a bit of practice in between. Get to the beach when I can

Kevin: I'm likely watching YouTube (everything from Ukrainian War, engineering, politics, cars and bikes), working, dating, and have a side hustle developing software for a highly regulated industry.

Nick: I'm more often on YouTube than TV - favourite channels include Sam the cooking guy, Syd Squad (aviation), Edge of the outback (shooting feral critters)

Peter H: I spend time gardening, cycling, reading crime mysteries, science fiction, history, horror. Time spent with 3 grandkids, 10, 6, and 18 months old. Local and overseas travel

Dom: Fishing, Outback RV travel, Chronic house renovator, Read a lot of workshop manuals (won't read ravings of bored authors). Beer and spirit brewing when time permits

Peter N: I host the Drive Programme on a community Radio Station every Wednesday. I play golf, like to travel, I'm in the Sydney Probus Club and participate in a Men's Chat group. On TV we are currently watching The Night Manager and the Brokenwood Mysteries set in NZ. I particularly enjoyed Slow Horses and more recently Hijack with Idris Elba. We always watch the news and a varied amount of Current Affairs. I am a fan of Media Watch on the ABC

John: I am President of the Gallipoli Memorial Club and am currently in the process of building a Gallipoli Museum at 12 Loftus Street. This has been a 26 year project. I am also the chairman of the Art Committee and am in the process of curating the Annual Art Prize at the moment. I am also President of a school for children with special needs with campuses at Mount Druitt and Lawson. I enjoy wood working and carving and have a small bonsai collection.

Tell me about .. What you enjoy about motorcycling:

Michael: the feeling of freedom when riding on the faster, open country roads, the adventure of travelling, the places you go to, the people you meet and my Ulysses mates!

Kate: It's the closest thing to flying without wings. It's just fun. I feel fully alive when I'm riding....and young again. And the guys I ride with in Ulysses aren't bad, either

Kevin: There are many aspects including the closeness with your surroundings, the technical aspect of riding, adventures that are paradoxically solitary and group based.

Nick: Riding with friends, finding new routes, getting out into the middle of nowhere, seeing wildlife

Peter H: All aspects of it, physical, mental, connection with other motorcyclists and the environment.

Dom: If you ride you would know - but the best thing is you can turn off the pillion's warnings and riding instructions with the press of a button

Peter N: I find riding the bike clears my head, you feel free. I never listen to music, I love the sound of the bike and what's going on around me. I sometimes ride alone but enjoy riding most in a group which is why I joined Ulysses. I have done a number of Tuesday rides with Eastern Creek. I did the Odyssey as well as Nick's 'Overnighter' which I particularly enjoyed, especially getting to know others in the group.

John: I enjoy riding especially in the country, but enjoy it anywhere. I try to make room for the AGMs (National Rallies) and have ridden every state in Australia.

From your committee

Odyssey: A location for this year's Odyssey has been chosen. Likely to be mid October. Details later.

Promo / Fundraising BBQ: Location and date to be determined, looking for volunteers.

Guest Speakers: We will be arranging various guest speakers on a wide range of topics.

In 2026, the committee will be meeting monthly, third Tuesday on the month

Recent Rides

Saturday Sojourn:

The Sat. Feb 21 st Sojourn was a bit of a "last minute.com" affair as Michael didn't post the event until late. Nevertheless, Peter N, Simon and Michael left the Gladesville RSL at 9:30, on a lovely sunny day. We rode to Pie In The Sky (PITS) to meet up with Kwaka John.

Whilst the traffic on the way was heavy along Lane Cove Rd, the traffic at PITS was almost gridlocked, with few parking spots! We cruised on as the temperature slowly increased, meeting an ambulance on the side of the old road as well as a police bike just arriving; there weren't any motorbikes in sight so maybe a cyclist was involved.

Simon and his MT 300 were enjoying all the corners as we continued to Peats Ridge, where we turned around to head to Mt White to try the new casual eatery at Saddles. As we rode through the car park at the Corrugated Café, a lot of bikes were in evidence. "The Barn" at Saddles is a place for casual snacks with coffee etc., situated at the rear of the car park. It was closed on Sat (good recce Michael ☺) but coffees were available at the main building so we sat on a picnic table & benches in the shade overlooking the dam – VERY pleasant!

Dave R had joined us by then and a pleasant discourse about airline-related books was enjoyed. Everyone headed home in their own time and direction. Thanks everyone for coming.

Thirsty Thursday

The Thursday 19th catch up at On Cowell café in Gladesville was a bumper edition with 12 members and a guest enjoying a very pleasant couple of hours at the big table. The café doors were open as the weather was a cracker.

Good to see Dave W as well as Pelican Don with Maid Marion. Dave S and Roger made their inaugural visits and hopefully not their last. The usual laughs, stories, reflections and good old bs was enjoyed, although the conversation was so loud we couldn't hear everything all the time!

Upcoming Rides / Events

26/27 February (Thursday/Friday): Leader: Nick Williamson. The Hunter Overnighter
details on facebook

6 March (Friday): Deus Café catchup. 10am

13 March (Friday): Leader: Peter Higgins. stands-up 10:30am McDonalds Kellyville Ridge
via Kenthurst then Kurrajong for lunch

13 March (Friday): Peter's ride: Details on Facebook

19 March (Thursday): Thirsty Thursday. Details on Facebook

21 March (Saturday): Saturday Sojourn: Stands up 9:30am from Gladesville RSL

27 March (Friday): Ride to Lunch. Details on Facebook