

Torrens Valley Midweek Rides Group

Welcome to our group! We are a friendly bunch of Ulysses members. We are motorcycling enthusiasts who have a ride every Wednesday, though not everyone goes on every ride. We meet at the Tea Tree Gully Hotel on Northeast Road in the car park behind the hotel. Rides start at **10 a.m.** covering distances from 160 to 300km, with most being around 230km.

We ride all sorts of bikes (and trikes) from middle-weights up. The skill level of the group is fairly good, as we ride a lot and on some fairly demanding roads. We are not boy-racers, but we do not ride slowly either – mostly we travel somewhere near the posted speed limits.

If your bike is a 250 or smaller you'll probably find you can't keep up with us. If you haven't ridden for a long time, or if you are new to motorcycling and unsure of your skill level, you may find our rides too demanding. If so, you could choose to ride with a group of slower riders who meet every Wednesday in the main street of One Tree Hill, leaving at 10:30 a.m. Their leader is John Simpson, a friendly welcoming guy, whose phone number is **8251 3064**. You do not lose face if you choose to ride with them – we want you to make the choice that's right for you as you alone are responsible for your own safety.

If you decide to ride with us we ask that you have the proper riding gear for safety's sake. Motorcycling has an element of risk, so we expect everyone to have a proper motorcycle jacket, whether leather or textile. Waterproof is best for showery days.

A helmet is mandatory of course but an old helmet, if impacted, could be the cause of death or serious injury for you. Your helmet should fit snugly and not be more than four years old. A full-face helmet with a good visor offers a lot more protection than an open face helmet.

Motorcycle gloves are a must, and proper motorcycle boots should be worn. Shoes or work-boots are usually ripped off if you unfortunately have a fall. Ordinary jeans offer next to no protection, so leather pants or Kevlar-lined jeans are a far better option.

We ask that you keep your bike well-maintained. It does not matter how old it is, but we want you to have your bike running properly, tyres at the right pressure with sufficient tread, your chain adjusted properly and your tank full or nearly full when you arrive to ride.

We ask that you carry an ICE (In Case of Emergency) card with you in your wallet so that we have all the necessary information if you are taken ill or in an accident. This information could be crucial.

We are all about enjoyment and safety. We want everyone returning home each Wednesday after an enjoyable ride with like-minded enthusiasts free of incidents. None of our group rides to outdo others, to race anyone else or prove anything. It's a relaxed non-competitive group. We don't visit pubs on our rides, we're about safety.

We observe the rules of the road and particularly ask that you NEVER pass another rider on the wrong side. That's a big no no with us!

We use the proven 'Corner Marshal' system on all our rides, where the Rides Leader will indicate to the rider directly behind him to stay on a corner where an indication of where the ride is going is needed. That designated rider will then stay on that corner using a hand signal or flashing indicators, until 'Tail-End Charlie' comes into view and indicates that the marshal can now depart his or her post and rejoin the ride. This whole process starts again at the next corner.

We ask that the designated marshal not leave their post until the 'Tail End Charlie' arrives. Sometimes, towards the end of a ride it may take up to 5 minutes or more until this happens, so be patient.

If for any reason you wish to leave a ride at morning tea or at some point on the journey, we ask you to tell the Ride Leader and Tail-End Charlie beforehand.

If the forecast is for heavy rain, storms or high winds we cancel the ride. If the forecast maximum is 37 or above, we often have an email/ring around to organise an early breakfast run from the usual starting point, the Tea Tree Gully Hotel car park. These rides are shorter and the group heads for home after morning tea break before the day becomes unpleasantly hot.

You are not obliged to come every week, and you do not have to complete any ride, though some of us hardly ever miss a ride. Members are free to ride until morning tea then leave for other appointments or commitments. Ulysses is a social club with a focus on motorcycling, and that's exactly what our ride group is.

Guzzi Bob – ride leader