



It was the end of March and we had just left five days of having an absolute ball at the Penrith AGM. Don was there camped up as usual, happy to be with friends. Trying his luck with the women, calling them all in for a drink and a chat.

We ran into him again up the Putty Road when we called in for a coffee. He was off his food and didn't feel the best. He was travelling alone, but wouldn't wait for us to have a coffee, he was off to Singleton.

Next time I saw Don was at the Riders' in the Sky ride at the end of April. He didn't look well at all and told me the sad news of his cancer diagnosis.

Don has been with the Ulysses Club for many years, not only here on the gold Coast. He loved the Club, and it loved him back. A simple thing we could do in return for Don's loyalty was to have a BBQ in his honour.

So we did. The day and venue were made, word was sent out. To my amazement we had 39 riders + their pillions leave McDonalds at 10.00am that Sunday morning. Don had deteriorated and could not ride on the back of the trike I had organised for him, so he was chauffeured in his own car by a neighbour.

We left McDonalds and went straight to Sharp Park, Canungra where we were met by another half dozen fantastic people who had given up their time and ride to allow this BBQ to happen. I thank Nobby, Debbie, Amanda and others very much. Don was over the moon with the amount of people who turned up, it really made his day. The trusty video was out and he was handing it to everyone to use and say their piece. I was advised later that he entertained all the Nursing staff at Pindara Hospital with the footage that evening.

We took our time, as there were more than I had expected and all needed to be fed and watered. We said our goodbye's to Don before departing on the rest of the ride. Little did we all know it would be the last one.

Leaving with about 20 bikes we weaved ourselves back down the hill thru Caligriba Road and out thru Advancetown way and Tomelin to Murwillumbah. Out to Uki, but just when all thought we were stopping at the pub, I turned left and went thru to Stokes Crossing and Burringbar Range to Mooball Pub. Dragging tongues approached the bar and those who thought that 2.30pm was a good time to head home did so through Kingscliff. Turned out maybe to not have been a bad idea as I was determined to get to Lennox Head for the last pub stop.

So we left Mooball at about 2.30 and headed for Lennox. Thought we would never get there, but we did – Hooray..... 1 quick drink then off home, it is 3.45pm now. There were 6 only die-hards left and it was getting on a bit, so our goodbyes were done and we commenced the scoot home.

Don't know about the other 5, but I arrived home at around 5.30pm. Had a great day and a great ride, hope you all did too.

I would like to extend a very warm thank you to all that attended Don's Day. He appreciated each and every one's effort. He now rides in the sky holding with memories of his last ride with the Gold Coast Ulysses.

Ride on Don, a true Ulyssian.

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