Red carpet rolls for riders

Steve Menzies

AS motorbikes ride into town for the Ulysses Club annual meeting, many businesses are opening their arms and doors to the visitors.

In honour of these visitors the Alice Springs Cinema is screening Why We Ride, a documentary celebrating the motorcycling community. The first screening was on Sunday and it will be repeated at 6.30pm today and again on Sunday afternoon.

About 2500 people are flooding into Alice Springs for the Ulysses Club annual general meeting and Chief Minister Adam Giles said they would be injecting cash into the local economy.

“It is truly a great honour for Alice Springs that the Ulysses Club chose our town to hold their meeting this year and I’d like to welcome the 2500 members and partners who are expected to attend the week-long event,” he said.

“Attracting these types of large-scale events to Central Australia is part of our Government’s plan to boost the local economy and drive the development of Northern Australia.”

Tourism Minister Matt Conlan said most of the town’s accommodation was booked.

“This will be a wonderful event – not just for the Centre, but for much of the NT,” he said.

“Many of the members attending the AGM have driven recreational vehicles to the Territory and are exploring our spectacular landscapes both before and after the event.

“Some are leaving their motorcycles in Alice Springs and catching the Ghan to Darwin and then exploring the Top End.

“The Ulysses Club is a social club for over 40s with an interest in motorcycles, and this demographic is a key group Tourism NT is targeting for holidaying in the Territory.

“They are also very much part of another key market that we are actively pursuing – the drive market.

“We welcome these motorcyclists to the NT – and hope they leave as ambassadors telling friends and family about their unique experiences as they explore the rugged beauty of the Territory.

“I strongly encourage Alice Springs residents and visitors to support the Ulysses Club’s presence in our town by attending the parade on Saturday where more than 1000 club members will ride their bikes followed by a Show and Shine muster.”

The Territory Government has provided $33,000 and in-kind support to help stage the Ulysses Club AGM.

The in-kind support has included temporary infrastructure at Blatherskite Park, supply of a minibus to assist mobility impaired people, additional road repairs, assistance with traffic management plans, and sewerage and water checks for the camping site.

For more information about the club go to: agm2014.ulyssesclub.org.

Cafe buzzing for drive-in visitors

Jessica Brown

LOCAL coffee shop Gloria Jeans is welcoming Ulysses members to Alice Springs with a 10 per cent discount on all its products.

Franchise owner Catherine Kleeman said the club decided to come all the way out here so the least the town can do is be accommodating.

“We just want to extend a bit of good will,” she said.

“We extend that 10 per cent discount to any senior that comes into the store (but) I just thought it was a good thing to create a bit of traffic.”

Ms Kleeman said they are catering for Ulysses members all week out at the showgrounds.

“We have really gone out on a bit of a limb (but) the expectation is that all of these people will spend up and leave with a really good impression of the town.”

She said she has heard the town was found underprepared last time Ulysses was in town and is worried it may happen again.

“I hope everyone realises what a big deal it is,” she said.

“We don’t want them to think everyone shuts down (in the middle of the week).”

She said many of the members have already come in asking about the discount.

Group wide open to any wheeled ones over age 40

MEMBERSHIP of the Ulysses Club is open to anyone, subject to the National Committee approval, who is 40 years of age or older and holds a current motorcycle or trike licence.

Additionally, the spouse of a partner or a member, on attaining the age of 40, may also be admitted as a member.

Anyone who is 40 years or age or older who previously had a motorcycle licence but no longer has it because of age, physical infirmity or other acceptable cause may also be admitted as a member.

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