



Greetings to all you disgraceful old farts!

Ulysses East London Chapter would like to cordially invite all those old fossils who proudly wear the Ulysses patch to the 2012 National Rally to be held at the beachside village of Gonubie just outside East London over the weekend of the 11,12,&13th of May 2012.

According to the Mayan calendar the world is going to end in 2012, so depending on whether you believe in all that stuff or not, you only have one choiceto party like never before. We at Ulysses East London would like to offer you that opportunity to let your hair down (If you still have any) and celebrate life in all its fullness with us in Gonubie at the National Rally.

As can be seen from our logo, old Coelacanth has been around here for a bit longer than we have (About 300 million years)obviously we your hosts who have only been here for a comparatively short time, would like to share East London as host city with all of you and we have chosen the seaside village of Gonubie just outside East London to be the venue of this auspicious occasion.

East London, with its temperate climate and exceptional coastline, its golden sandy beaches and warm ocean-combined with its rich cultural history, heritage sites and abundant natural resources, makes it the ideal, year round holiday and business destination. East London offers a world of sporting activities, night life, fine dining and a world of fun and adventure. It is a city with a holiday town spirit and just eight kilometres down the road is the beautiful seaside village of Gonubie.

Built around the estuary of the Gonubie river (Gonubie comes from the Xhosa word Gqunube, named for the wild bramble berries growing on its banks.) Gonubie has all the charm of a small village, while boasting an amazing assortment of places to eat, hotels, B&B's and a caravan park. There is a beautiful tidal pool, board walk, lagoon and a Nature Reserve. This tranquil village is a haven for those who just want to relax but sadly over the weekend of the 11th- 13th of May 2012, that will not be the case as we are expect hoards of old farts to join us in a celebration of life the Ulysses Biker way.

So this is where we ask you all so nicely to diarise these special dates in your events calendar, cause you don't want to miss this one! You may at your age, forget your wife's birthday, your wedding anniversary; even for some of us our own birthdays but please.....

DO NOT FORGET THE NATIONAL RALLY ON THE 11TH -13TH OF MAY 2012!!!!

Ulysses East London Chapter would like to welcome you to our adventure province, and believe that your adventure awaits you here at our rally, come and see for yourself, choose your adventure and take home memories of a life time.

To make this adventure even more special, the day you leave home the adventure will begin. For those of you travelling from the Cape, you have the beautiful roads and scenery of Route 62 and the garden route to thrill your senses.

For those from Gauteng and the Free State you have a few routes to choose from but let us promise you this: If you go via Aliwal North, Queens Town, Cathcart, and Stutterheim to East London, you will discover our best kept secret; the most awesome biking roads in the Province.

For all those enthusiastic old farts from Natal, you have some of the most scenic roads to ride. Once you have reached Kokstad, try branching off to Matatiele, Mount Fletcher, Maclear, Ugie, Elliot, Engcobo, Tsomo, Butterworth over the Kei and onto Gonubie.

As we all know life is a journey so why not enjoy the ride. We guarantee you a fun-filled weekend, but we don't want you to rush down and be too tired to enjoy it, so why not take a few days off and take time to enjoy this beautiful country of ours on the way to the rally.

A little bit of History on the origins of East London,

The river known to the Hottentots as Igaab ('place of Buffaloes') provides South Africa with its only river port of any significant size. The first vessel known to have visited it was the Centaurus, in 1688. (Some useless information for you: Centaurus has traditionally been identified in Greek mythology as a mythological creature called a Chiron, half man, half horse (sounds like a biker to me) who according to legend was the tutor to many of the earlier Greek heroes, such as Hercules, Theseus, Jason and Ulysses. However, most scholars consider Sagittarius to be the civilized Chiron and Centaurus to represent a rougher, uncouth member of the species. Sounds like us!) It is interesting to note that the first European ship to land in East London somehow had Ulysses type connections. The Centaurus had been sent to pick up survivors of shipwrecks along this coast. They in fact managed to find 18 survivors along the coast, a coast that has as many as 150 wrecks within a five kilometre radius of the harbour since 1847. It's not called the "Wild Coast" for nothing and from the 11th till the 13th of May 2012 it will become so again.

The captain of the rescue ship reported favourably on the prospects of establishing a river port, but at the time as there was no trade in the area the idea was shelved.

In 1835 when the British annexed the coastal region after the 6th Frontier War, Colonel Harry Smith rode to the river mouth and subsequently recommended that it be used as a landing for military supplies. As a result the brig Knysna, owned by George Rex, sailed to the river with supplies. The Union Jack was hoisted on what is now known as Signal Hill, on the north bank of the river and the area was named Port Rex. No development took place until 1846, when the war of the axe broke out. Fort Glamorgan was built as one of a chain of forts to protect the supply route from the river to King Williams Town. (For those of you who misbehave, Fort Glamorgan is now the Prison.)

In 1848 the area was annexed to the Cape Colony, and the name of London was given to the river harbour. (The name was later changed to East London so that there could be no confusion with London UK.) German soldiers, disbanded from the British German Legion (German (Prussian) mercenaries who had fought as the Kings German legion, commanded by Marshal Blucher at the Battle of Waterloo with the Duke of Wellington in 1815 and secured victory by arriving late (3pm) but routing the surprised French.) were settled here. Most of these men were bachelors, so the British Government very kindly shipped out 157 Irish prostitutes on a ship called the Kennaway (There is a hotel by that name in East London) and apparently that was the most welcome cargo ever landed at the mouth of the Buffalo River. (Please note that most of the locals are



unaware that their great grandmothers were Irish prostitutes, so by mentioning it you could be involved in a fight that may allow you to see the inside of Fort Glamorgan for free!)

Today East London is a harbour for the export of citrus, mineral ores, wool and Mercedes Benz motor vehicles. While in our lovely city perhaps you

will make time to visit some of your relatives in our extensive museum. Among them is the Coelacanth, a skeleton of an extinct Karoo reptile known as a Kannemeyriawilsonii Broomand the only known Dodo's egg.(If your teacher said you were a bit of a Dodo, now you know where you came from.) So we as old farts are not alone, we are just younger versions of the past.

The city of East London now forms part of Buffalo City, which includes, King Williams Town, Mdantsane and Bhisho. It has the highest proportion per capita of Millionaires on the country, a fact that they don't like made known as this is their secret jewel, with many commuting on a regular basis to Johannesburg, Cape town etc to conduct or manage their business interests. So by now we trust that we have wet your appetites for next year and that you will now take the time to diarise and book for The Ulysses National Rally 2012 to be held in East London. We guarantee you a most memorable weekend of fun and adventure.

