

Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch

www.retreads.co.nz



Newsletter # 48 August 2020

Greetings all,

Great start to the resumption of our club rides and events that took a hiatus during the Covid-19 lockdown.

You will have received a copy of our July through December calendar that has been compiled with the valuable input from your committee and lead rider group. The Saturday coffee morning group met on 6 June following the relaxation of Covid-19 rules. The coffee morning on 4 July heralded somewhat of a revival for members of the club. 18 people turned up at the Rivertown Café in Kaiapoi including some members who we had not seen for a while. It was great to catch up with Jenny, Jackie and Patricia who made the journey across town along with Peter Wright all of whom do not now ride but enjoy the company of their Retreads friends.

We make a point of keeping in touch with ex members who retain an interest in our club. Currently, we have 50 people on our 'mailing' list including 30 riders. I send 'reminder' texts the day before each planned Retreads ride and Barry Cook has compiled a list of riders who have indicated that they would join him and Leslie on 'Flash' (as in flash mob) rides that, we are sure, will be most popular in the coming spring and summer months. We may, by this means, turn the clock back to the days of summertime twilight rides?

Marie Bush

We are saddened by the passing of Marie Bush on July 23, 2020. Marie and her husband Ken joined our club in 2004 and became totally involved in the club's activities be it riding their sidecar outfit or, later, trailing our riders in their Honda Jazz. After Ken died in 2015, we kept in touch with Marie who, when offered a ride as a pillion passenger by their close friend and fellow Retread, Alan Rigg, always jumped at the opportunity. On one mid-winter occasion Marie braved the crisp air on a Retreads ride to Springfield for lunch after a night of snow in the high country. Slippery as ... with a buildup of snow and frost lining the highway. Marie really enjoyed it.

Marie was a much loved member of our Retreads ladies lunch group. The group met regularly, and Marie enjoyed the ones where the ladies met at one of their homes and had a shared lunch and laughs rather than those where they met at a cafe. Di Forgie tells that they always had fun and a laugh with her and sometimes at her. She had a great sense of humour. We all admired her wisdom and stoicism. Marie missed Ken dreadfully and said she often felt lonely even when she knew there were people all around her. Marie always had advice when needed and she was very practical. She enjoyed these get togethers and liked nothing more than to be somewhere where there was a dog to lavish her attention on.

Alan Rigg kept close touch with Marie and her family and was witness to her failing health. An 'afternoon tea' is being held in her honor in the activities room at Marie's former home at the Streamside Court retirement complex in St Johns Street, Woolston on Sunday 9 August from 2pm. Marie was a wonderful cook and the family intend that the occasion be attended by her friends including us on what would have been her 90th birthday.

Our condolences to Helen, Stephen, Kate and their extended families. Marie will be greatly missed.



Marie and Ken at a Retreads picnic at Whitecliffs in 2014

Regards,

Brian Neill (Organizer) Ph 960 8302(H), 021 613 726(M)

Continuing our series of ride reports:

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19 your committee decided to cancel the Sunday March 29 ride to Kaikoura (which was subsequently ruled out by the movement restrictions anyway) and all programmed events until the Club's coffee morning at the Rivertown Café in Kaiapoi on Saturday 6 June. Our first ride, after the country moved to Level 1, was on Wednesday 10 June.

We have decided to continue to list the Geriatrics rides on our calendar as it provides a chance to meet up with some very good friends who are not members of the Retreads but like to meet and ride with others once a month. In its heyday the Geriatrics group was quite large with 20 to 30 riders turning up for the ride. Nowadays the group has shrunk to a more manageable size of up to 10 riders. Our July through December 2020 calendar lists the rides as Retreads/Geriatrics rides.

Geriatrics ride Tuesday 19 May 2020: Alan Rigg lead us on an interesting route to the Hogget Bar & Grill at Hawarden for lunch. It was a pleasure to be back at the hotel and be hosted by such a good team. Special thanks to the Chef – we will be back.

Wednesday ride to Fossil Point Café 10 June 2020: A good turn-out. Although we left Woodend as a large group, due to anticipated traffic on the Hanmer highway, we decided at our 1st stop at Waipara to split into two groups for the ride through Hawarden, the Hurunui, and Waikari Valley to our lunch stop. The lead group got a bit lost however and finished up on shingle roads before rejoining the others en-route to the Fossil Point Café. Much grumbling by some riders about following a route mapped by Mr Google who does not differentiate between sealed and dirt roads ... Much good-natured banter later with our esteemed ride leader, Jeff Bannister, who in turn promised to not use a gumtree for directions on future rides. Wow was not Fossil Point Café busy! We, and the Grey-beards classic car group had booked but the Ulysses riders had not. If it were not for Leslie's timely intervention and initiative in reserving a prime spot out on the veranda, we would have had to make do with separate indoor tables. The sun was shining, and the day's outing was enjoyed by all.

Sunday ride to the Crate & Barrel 5 July 2020 (postponed from Sunday 28 June): 20 people, 19 bikes on an interesting ride lead by Barry Cook. Most arrived at The Store, Tai Tapu for coffee before being led out of the township en-route to Waihora Park next to the Motukara Raceway. Barry entertained us with a bit of history of the area where his and Leslie's daughter Bronwyn and partner Tony live. Lake Ellesmere (Te Waihora) is close to this area and was our next stop after travelling through Coe's Ford and Greenpark to Lakeside Domain. From there we rode the short distance to our lunch stop at Leeston's Crate & Barrel Hotel and a lot of banter around a long table set up for us.

Wednesday ride Wednesday 8 July 2020 to the Waiiau Tavern for lunch: Winter ride but a good turnout of riders. Alan Forgie led the ride and reports that 'seven riders tuned up on a cold day and headed up the Main Rd then turned off to go through the Weka Pass and on to Waikari. Brian turned back at Waikari and rode the Waikari Valley road to SH1 and Christchurch as he had a midafternoon appointment. The rest of us went through to Culverden and stopped there to warm up. Did I mention that it was cold? Think it was about 4 degrees and not much sun. After warming up a little bit we carried on. At the turn off to Waiiau there was a big sign lit up saying that the Waiiau Bridge was closed!!

Anyway, we decided to carry on and see and maybe stop at Rotherham instead. When we got to the bridge it was actually open, so we made it to the Waiau Tavern after all. There the proprietor, Michele, welcomed us. While there Jeff and Alan Rigg tried to educate her about Mushy Peas so they may be on the Menu next time. Away home and another chilly ride back home.

Saturday 11 July mid-winter lunch at Under the Red Veranda: We packed out the 'large' room in the cottage as has become our habit for this popular Retreads mid-winter lunch spot. 23 people were welcomed by our hosts who did a wonderful job of serving us. The meals, as always, were great and we did not leave the café until well into the afternoon. Great to catch up with members we had not socialized with since the Covid-19 lockdown. We missed out on the company though of Barry and Leslie, Brian and Jenny who could not make it and had sent their apologies.

Sunday 26 July 2020 ride to the Hurunui Hotel for lunch: Beautiful day, sunny and warm – not like the middle of winter at all. 15 Retreads rode at a leisurely pace in two groups along SH1 for the most part to the Greta Valley, then left opposite Fossil Point and through the Waikari Valley Road to Waikari on route to the Hurunui Hotel for lunch. The historic Hotel has, thanks to the local community, been restored since the earthquakes and is open once more for private functions and weekend diners. The new licensees are welcoming and did a great job of looking after us. After lunch, smaller groups of riders rode their own route home with some choosing to travel back through Hawarden and the Weka Pass.

Photo Gallery:



Riders at Waihora Park on ride to Leeston Wednesday 5 July 2020



Riders at Waihora Park on ride to Leeston Wednesday 5 July 2020



Brian & Others try out Leslie's low riding Yamaha at Lakeside Domain on ride to Leeston



Retreads mid-week ride lunch at Fossil Point Café 10 June 2020



Retreads Sunday ride to the Hurunui Hotel 26 July 2020



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