

Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch

www.retreads.co.nz



Newsletter # 60 March 2024

Kai ora,

At last year's Club AGM, I undertook to draft up a constitution of rules for our Club. Your committee is working on a document that will align with the Incorporated Societies Act 1908 even though we have no plans to apply for registration as an Incorporated Society. The constitution will be supported by rules to enable a managing committee to advance and protect the interests of all members and provide an environment where likeminded motorcyclists and their associates can meet, socialise and participate in group rides and other activities.

In common with all like organisations our club's active membership numbers fluctuate as people move on with their lives. Motorcycling as a sport continues to attract former enthusiasts back onto their bikes. Our Retreads club activities centre on providing group riding opportunities and a chance to meet other enthusiasts. We are regularly in contact with around 60 people who continue to associate themselves with our club. Riders apart, we have a ladies group who regularly met for lunch to celebrate one or another's birthdays. Lifelong friends forged through their association as members of our club. My expectation is that both current and former club members will continue to fraternise and enjoy the friendships that have been formed for many years to come through their association with Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch.

Brian Neill (Organizer) Ph 021 613 72

Continuing our series of ride reports:



Wednesday 13 December 2023 ride to Darfield Bakery for lunch: Due to the previous wet and windy Sunday our ride to Lake Coleridge Domain for a picnic lunch was cancelled. We decided to use our spare ride day (Sunday 17 December) for the picnic. With the busy time in the lead up to Christmas, and with the Christmas lunch happening on Saturday 16 December, it was no surprise that we had just four riders turn up for the Wednesday ride. We were to be outdone though by our lady's group of nine who met at Di and Alan Forgie's place for lunch to celebrate Fay Caldwell's birthday about the time our riders arrived at Darfield.

John De Wys led Willem, Kingsley, and Brian on an interesting ride through the two gorges and the Coalgate loop to arrive at the Darfield Bakery spot on midday. When we left sometime later a group of Ulysses Canterbury riders arrived for coffee and snacks. A great place to eat – undiscovered by many until now.

Saturday 16 December 2023 Christmas lunch at the Brickworks: Christmas lunch at The Brickworks was a little different this time. No set menu for 24 hungry Retreads that made it easier for people to order their favourite dish. Thank you, Lesley, for organizing the lunch. We all enjoyed ourselves and looked forward to meeting up again in the New Year.

Sunday 17 December 2023 picnic lunch at Cust: Our planned Christmas picnic at Lake Coleridge Domain on 9 December was cancelled due to rain. We decided to use our 'spare ride day' the following Sunday, not expecting a high turnout this close to Christmas. However, 9 riders did make it despite weather predictions that included gale force north westerly winds and late afternoon thunderstorms. Welcome back David and Brenda Morgan on their new Harley trike and new members Roger (Royal Enfield) and Wayne on his new Can-am. Brian on his scooter was the lead rider for the day. Barry on his magnificent Indian sidecar outfit and Lesley on her Harley trike tailed the group. Sandwiched in between these big machines was Paul on his Cagiva and Roger on his classic Kawasaki.

We decided to avoid the worst of the atmospheric conditions and opted for a shorter ride to the Cust Domain. Good choice as it avoided the gale force winds on the main divide and rain at Lake Coleridge. We travelled from Yaldhurst NPD along the Old West Coast Road, regrouped at the Waimakariri Gorge bridge, rode through View Hill, Coopers Creek, and Oxford to the domain in Cust. Brian had two goes at finding the short cut on the way to the Waimak Gorge and our group was forced to detour around Oxford central. All minor glitches in what turned out to be a great hot dry day. Got to 28 degrees on the X-MAX's temperature gauge...



Regroup at the Waimak Gorge Bridge

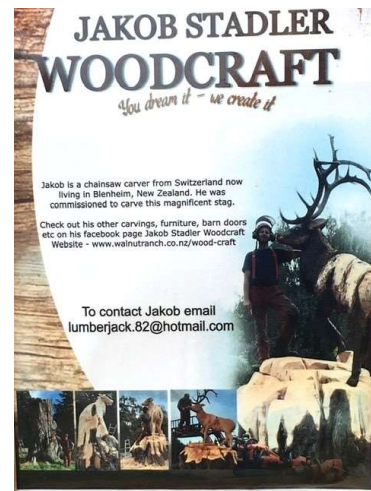
Wednesday 10 January 2024 lunch at Greta Valley Tavern: Lead rider Leigh Richardson reports that fourteen riders met at the Woodend mid-week assembly point. After much discussion about the very strong wind and forecast for gale force later in the day, we set off hoping it would be calmer inland.

Travelling out to the main road we passed through the new township of Ravenswood and meandered through back roads and through the Weka Pass, where the weather became much more agreeable. A lazy loop around the Hurunui basin, then up the Scargill road to Greta Valley Tavern. We stopped mid-way along the Waikari Valley for selfies, a yarn with the farmer, and group photos alongside his magnificent carved Stag on a tree stump.

Greta Tavern supplied very nice, well catered meals even though they had no forewarning, due to their phone lines being faulty. A pleasant and welcoming experience from the team at the tavern.



Waikari Valley Road Stag sculpture



Thursday 18 January 2024: A bit of a 6 or 7's day for our group. Threatening rain showers and indecision on where best to head from the group of 7 Retreads who had turned up at Woodend. Barry took charge and set us on a track that took us around the outskirts of Rangiora and Fernside, through Cust, German Road and its bumpy surface, some appallingly controlled roadworks and ending up at the pie shop in Oxford for lunch. Along the way we entered no exit roads and were forced to return along roads travelled earlier in the day. Could have sworn that we viewed from our saddles the same landscapes time and time again... Good humor prevailed though, and Barry was forgiven once we arrived at Oxford safe and dry. Could have been a different story had we opted to ride north to The Hogget Tavern in Hawarden first suggested at the rendezvous in Woodend and then abandoned due to the thought of rain spoiling our fun day out on our bikes.

Sunday 28 January 2024 ride to Otira: A popular road trip for us Retreads. This year we again were running against a tide of motorcyclists returning from the Woodstock Rally. Met up with a few of them as we regrouped at Springfield and Arthurs Pass. Our group of 13 riders left Yaldhurst npd in warm conditions and, apart from a bit of wind along the way, arrived at Arthurs Pass after an enjoyable and relaxing ride. Colder though and a few spots of rain on the trip through the pass to Otira.

The busy staff member at the hotel did what she could to satisfy the onslaught of customers – took our helmets off to her for keeping calm and carrying on ... The ride back home was without incident with one group of Retreads stopping off at the Sheffield Pie Shop as they had missed lunch at Otira. A stop at the Darfield Hotel was a great end to our day out and we were pleased that Kevin's friend Tony, and Kingsley's brother, Kendrick, enjoyed their first time with us on the road.

Wednesday 14 February 2024 ride to Ashley Gorge for picnic lunch: Ulrike reported that the group had a pretty good ride. Despite the gorgeous weather there were only 6 riders at the Woodend rendezvous: Colin, Willem, John De Wys, Ross, Daniel and yours truly. We decided to slightly alter the original planned route to Amberley and rode via Golf Course Road, Coldstream Road and then onto SH1. We stopped in Amberley where Colin unfortunately found he had a flat rear tyre on his Vespa due to a vanished valve. We shifted the bike around the corner to a tyre service establishment where they sorted him out. Unfortunately, his wheel had to come out and we had to leave him to it. He swapped phone numbers with Willem and later let us know he would not follow us to Ashley Gorge but ride home directly.

We went to the picnic place past Loburn and the Ashley Gorge Road and found a table in the shade. After a munch and a chat Daniel met a friend who he had arranged to meet to ride through Lees Valley and they separated from us. We had a quick look at the river and decided to stretch the ride a bit, so we took off to Oxford - where Daniel and his friend were chilling at the pie shop, then we took a tiki tour through Coopers Creek and back onto the main road (where Daniel and his friend were still chilling at the pie shop), turned left to follow German Road and the winding bits to Mill Road and Cust. John went straight through to Rangiora, and Ross and Willem followed me to my place for a coffee and an ice cream. Done.

Thursday 22 February 2024: Not a popular day for riding it would seem. Ross Connolly was on his lonesome at the Woodend rendezvous. We reckon that many of our regulars were still on their summer holidays ...

Friday 23 – Sunday 25 February to Reefton and the West Coast for our scheduled 3-day trip: Unfortunately, Jack Gillman who had planned an interesting long weekend ride decided to can it due to the unavailability of key members of the group who had booked their place on this trip.

Sunday 25 February 'Round the Block' two passes ride: Following the cancelled annual two night away trip to the West Coast we expected a high turnout of riders for the two passes ride. A lazy summer perhaps as only seven riders met at Woodend at 9am from which four, led by Paul Tayler, set out on the long haul over Lewis Pass, Greymouth, and home via Arthurs Pass. Brian Neill led a shorter ride from the refueling stop at Culverden through Waiau and the Leader Valley Road to lunch at the Greta Hotel and then return home along SH1.

Brian reported that the leisurely ride through the Leader Valley on his Yamaha X-MAX accompanied by Lindsay Curtis riding his Suzuki Burgman and Ross Connelly on his Kawasaki 300 was his most relaxing in many a year - scooters do that for you. Rest stops were the name of the game, and it took most of the morning to reach our lunch destination. Thanks for the company fellas, an enjoyable ride to round off the Retreads Summer riding season.

Paul reported that on Saturday he took himself to Ruapuna to the BEARS "Sound of Thunder" meeting. A great gathering of British, European and American bikes. Around 160. The afternoon racing was close, noisy and show casing some beautiful machinery. The highlight was a feature appearance of a Britten ridden by Nick Jefferies, and a Moto2 600.

Sadly, a dark cloud descended with a very serious start line accident. The rest of the meeting was abandoned for the day. Sunday, and the events of yesterday were still with me.

We left on the journey from Woodend after 9am (Paul leading, Kevin, Brent and his friend Stewart on a Suzuki Marauder.) We were with Brian, Ross and Lindsay who were branching off at Culverden to head through the Leader Valley for their ride. After topping up the thirsty bikes at Culverden, we headed for Springs Junction with a reasonably heavy traffic load to pass.

Springs was busy and we parked beside a group of Harley bikes and trikes. This group had been travelling through the South Island and comprised a Christchurch couple with a dog on board and overseas visitors. Top-up and let out and after a non-hurried good break we headed off through the beautifully rolling pass to Reefton and lunch break. The place was heaving with a motor-home convention and the usual tourists and motorcyclists. We ate at the ever-popular Broadway Cafe. It was not long before Brent offered membership to Rod, from Amberley, who joined us for lunch. Dan was also there and was considering an extension to his ride by including Westport. Weather so far was great.

We continued, passing the turn-off to Blackball (a trip for another day) and rode through part of the town of Greymouth to stop for fuel at Kumara. Not an easy task with the card system but welcome to those who would not have made it to Springfield. The weather that had been so good looked a bit doubtful however the light drizzle that developed soon petered out and allowed a quick ride to our last stop at Springfield. We shared the joy that the day had delivered and continued to Sheffield and separated for the ride home. Cheers and thanks to my fellow riders for a great ride.



BEARS meeting Ruapuna Raceway 24/02/2024



Dog with eye protection at Springs Junction



Brent, Kevin, Stuart and Paul regroup at Springs Junction 25/02/2024.

Nigel Cummins TT2000 – 2024 Version – Richmond, Nelson to Tokoiti School, Milton. Nigel Cummins is well known for his regular sorties on the annual TT 2000 calendar. He completed the 2024 version during the first weekend in March. The speedometer clock on his bike in the photo read 92,877 km at the end of his journey – 2,003 km. Hope you enjoy his report:

“Tuesday 20h February Maree and I headed to Picton for the night. Wednesday we had an easy cruise to Nelson via a small detour up Maungatapu Rd to take a photo of someone’s front paddock.



We spent a couple of days in Nelson using the bus service to get around from our motel across the road from the Turf Hotel at Stoke. Maree flew home on the last flight to ChCh on Thursday night and the TT started at the Headingly Centre off Queen St, Richmond on Friday morning. Usual story – lots of checkpoints to choose from although there were compulsories as well. The theme of the checkpoint was Emergency Services Buildings. Ambulance (A), Police (P), Fire (F). Here is my route:

At noon we were released, and I headed to Mapua (F) and then made my way via Garden Valley and Dovedale to Tapawera (A). Then it was a longer stretch to Westport for the 1st of my compulsories – all emergency services buildings (A, P, F). My next checkpoint was Seddonville (F) and then back to Westport for fuel and on to Reefton (A). Springs Junction (F) was next and then down Lewis Pass to Mt Lyford (F) before heading back south to Hawarden (F) and Waikari (F). To get my km's up I then headed up to Scargill and out to Greta Valley and back down SH1 to Amberley (A). Then it was home at 11pm. 810km done.

A 5.45am start on Saturday morning and my 1st stop was Darfield (A) and then on to Alford Forest (F) via a more than breezy Rakaia Gorge. Next Peel Forest (F) and I then ignored all checkpoints and only stopped at Omarama for fuel until I got to Lake Hawea (F). The rain spots started at Cromwell and by Queenstown it was coming down in biblical proportions. But by the time Frankton appeared the clouds were lifting, and the roads became dry although you could see it was still raining to the west which was where I was heading to the next compulsories in Te Anau (F, P, A.). Then to my favourite part, south through to Blackmount (F). Cool wind from the south and more importantly blue skies joined me through the last part of the day to a Winton Motel, the GPS taking me on a real cross country shortest route rather than the fastest route. None the less it led me right where I needed to be. 915km.

Sunday morning departure was just before 6am but there was no rush as I only had 275km to do before the noon finish. A very dark ride north to Lumsden and handily all 3 services could be gathered in a single photo. Then I headed to Gore and to the southern part of town to for the (A) photo. Next stop Tapanui (A) and I headed for Raes Junction but turned left and went up to Moa Flat and then down one of the most spectacular rides you can go on in NZ dropping down into Ettrick in the Clutha Valley. Next the 3 compulsories at Roxborough (F, P, A) and then back down to Lawrence (P) and finally Milton for the last of the 3 compulsories. Then we were at the finish – Tokoiti School. 278km for the morning. The school put on Sausages and Cake for us. One of the rally organizers is the school principal. The rally profit goes to the school. The profit ensures that all pupils receive free education – no school fees, exercise books provided, uniforms provided”.

Wednesday 13 March 2024 ride to Port Levy for picnic lunch: Lead rider Leigh Richardson reported that six riders met at the Tai Tapu store on this somewhat cloudy and overcast day with the destination being lunch at Port Levy.

With the Summit Road being closed due to the recent Port Hills fire some sightseeing was required to fill out the morning. Our riders agreed to hug the Port hills back through Halswell and all the way out to Sumner then on to Godly Head for a stroll and leg stretch. Onwards then through Lyttelton and the eastern bays to Purau and a picnic lunch on the beach. Afterwards, three riders returned to Christchurch and the remaining three travelled onwards to Port Levy to complete the journey.

A dry ride and enjoyable day.



Lunch stop at Purau.