

# Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch

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## Newsletter # 58 August 2023

Kai ora,

Alan Rigg 28.4.1940 – 17.4.2023: Our fellow Retreads member, friend and riding buddy passed peacefully at Christchurch Hospital on 17 April 2023. We all got on well with Alan. He particularly enjoyed himself in the company of other motorcyclists and went out of his way to help others. On the road he always made his priority the welfare of his fellow riders.



Sidecar outfits were his thing when he and I first met. After a short period of time out ferrying his good mate Ken Bush to sidecar rallies and on Retreads rides in his car, he got back on two wheels. The only thing that seemed to get in his way riding his bike was work. Yep, he wasn't what I would call a true retiree. Alan did manage to turn out for Retreads mid-week ride days though. Flexible hours you may call it. He and I often contacted each other to arrange a weekday ride in the sun. Mostly all was OK, but Alan's work commitments often took priority.

Retreads trips to the West Coast are always popular. On one occasion we set out to ride through the Lewis Pass with the intention of reaching Blackball by lunchtime and return through Arthurs Pass – a 600 km ride. We got as far as Springs Junction then decided to avoid the rain on the West Coast and head for St Arnaud, Blenheim, and Kaikoura instead. So far so good apart from Alan getting a puncture out in the Wairau Valley in the middle of nowhere. While many of us carry emergency puncture repair kits turns out that none of us had ever actually read the instructions for inserting a plug in a tubeless tyre. No problem – Alan ignored most of the advice offered and had his bike back on the road in about an hour.

We set off for Blenheim hoping to refuel and score some food. We expected Alan to observe the repair kit instructions and stick to the 80 km/hr speed advice. We got to Blenheim averaging close to 100 km/hr, refuelled, discovered no food outlets open and pushed onto Kaikoura where we consumed snack bars at a service station. Magic ride though through the Hundalees at sunset and home at around 9pm. I forgot to mention Alan led the way on a mainly traffic-free SH1 and I never really caught up to him as he led the group on this last leg of a 900 km journey. We sure miss Alan who was a regular and keen supporter of our club.

Our condolences to Alan's daughter Tracey, husband Eugen, granddaughter Olivia and their families.

Dan Ormsby Motorcycle Training: 'Ride Forever' could well be the mantra for the ACC 'Ride Forever Gold Course' run by Ormsby Motorcycle Training. 'Never too old to learn' was the aim of most of our group of Retreads who attended the refresher courses that we attended in April. A few of us also wanted to learn techniques to safely ride our recently acquired scooters – a new and quite different experience for us after a lifetime of participation in the sport of motorcycling. Three courses were arranged with up to 6 riders on each course.

Note to all riders: Our 'Group Riding Safety Plan' states that '**the ride ends when the groups all arrive at the dispersal point**'. Typically, our riders tend to find their way back home as they please – either on their own or in smaller, informal groups, members of which may choose to extend their day out by riding routes of their choice. When the dispersal point is at a destination and an hour or more from 'home' it is important that riders buddy-up and look after one another on the return journey.

It has happened in the past that riders have been stranded out on the road due to breakdowns and a long way from civilization. Not a good look when on a designated Retreads ride day. Our 'Risk Management Plan' states ***that other members of a group ride are to go to the aid of others suffering a mishap***. Never too late to rectify this situation. I suggest that the designated ride leader make a point of having members of the group let him/her know of their plans for the return journey before they leave the ride destination. Individual riders should help themselves in this regard and arrange to buddy-up with other rider(s) for the trip home.

Regards,  
Brian Neill (Organizer) Ph 021 613 726(M)

### **Continuing our series of ride reports:**

**Sunday 26 March 2023 ride to Methven & Alister's Shed:** A well organised ride to Methven via the Ashley, Waimakariri and Rakaia gorges drew one of the largest gatherings of Retreads riders for some time. An accurate count on the numbers of riders proved to be almost impossible at our rendezvous at Canterbury Honda at Woodend. Ride leader Karl Harrison had been busy behind the scenes and gained the interest of several new to Retreads ride day motorcyclists. We reckon that we most likely had 17 - 20 bikes at the start of the trip to lunch at The Blue Pub in Methven. Great to have Peter Wright and Colin Williams join us in Peter's car for lunch and 'after's' at Alister's farm.

The menu and service at the pub were excellent. They are used to having lots of motorcyclists descend upon them at weekends. This Sunday was no exception. Around 1:30 pm we made tracks for Alister's farm and his collection of sheds full of treasures that he obviously doesn't wish to part with. The highlight was the historic collection of horse drawn wagons, farm machinery and stationery engines from another age. Draught horses were grazing in a paddock and are often pressed into service for hauling wagons across the Methven district on treks organised by Alister and other local farmers.

An interesting behavior emerged on the way to the farm. We are aware that a lot of riders just don't do shingle roads. Many took to the grass verge instead! A great day out.



**A tin top and the bikes at The Blue Pub Methven**



**Wagons galore in a shed at Alister's farm**

**Sunday 2 April 2023 ride to Kaikoura:** 6 riders turned up at Woodend for the ride to Kaikoura. End of daylight saving, and the promise of a strong nor-wester may have deterred some who would otherwise have been there. Right on the heels of the ride the Sunday before, the coffee morning at Tai Tapu the day before, and the pending 'Ride Forever' course in a couple of days' no doubt made it a bit of a juggling act for some ...

We regrouped at Cheviot where, surprise, surprise, James joined us on his immaculate Vellocette Venom. Alan and Brian opted for the shorter ride and rode through Gore Bay and Fossil Point Café for lunch on their way back to the city. Paul, Richard, James, Daniel, and Andrew headed north along SH1 to lunch at the Pier Hotel in Kaikoura. Paul led out from Cheviot and adds that the riders experienced some heavy traffic. He reports that he always finds this ride challenging with different cambers and multitude of bends. They were to Dan's liking though and in no time, he was out of sight. James on the Velo showed great skill and experience and rode smoothly and fast through the hills and tricky road works. Paul's Cagiva and Brent's Bandit did the job for their riders.

Lunch at the Pier Hotel was relaxed in the warmth of the outside tables. Good food. Other bikers were enjoying the venue including the Ducati club with a variety of bikes. Dan visited family while we headed back through the Inland Road, stopping at Waiau for the compulsory icecream. A really good day.

**Wednesday 12 April ride to Oxford:** Lead rider, John van Dijk, reports that five hardy riders (Barry, Ross, Nigel, Kingsley, and himself) set off from the Woodend rendezvous at about 10:20 am. The original trip to Methven via the three gorges was changed to a much shorter route due to some predicted wet weather. Also added to the problems the Waimakariri river bridge repairs had expected delays up to one hour and part of the Ashely gorge road was closed for repairs.

The ride headed the back way through Ravenswood to pop out at the roundabout on SH1. From here heading north and turning left into Tulls Road just before the Ashely River bridge then a few twisty kms to arrive at the Main Power sports complex Rangiora.

From here we turned right and headed to the back roads of Loburn via Ashely Township including stopping for a few minutes at the Loburn Domain coming back to Rangiora. We then headed to the Rangiora Z petrol station as one member forgot to fuel up before the ride (might have been the person leading) and on to Cust.

From Cust we turned right into Mill Road and a few more roads to Ashely Gorge Road then on to Sheffield Pies Café Oxford at approx. 11:55. Nearly 2 hours later with many important things been discussed and great coffee/food we all headed homeward. Luckily the wet weather stayed at bay for the day and with great company made it an enjoyable ride.

**Tuesday 18 April 2023:** Lesley, Barry, Paul, and Nigel set out on a short North Canterbury ride. Brian joined them for lunch at the Rivertown Café. The weather forecast may have deterred some riders from joining them. Others had just finished ACC sponsored 'Ride Forever' courses only days before so, presumably, felt that they didn't need another day in the saddle.

Sad times as Alan Rigg had passed peacefully in Christchurch Hospital the day before. His daughter, Tracey, and her family held a memorial service for Alan on Friday 21 April. His Retreads friends turned up to farewell Alan at the service and 10 riders followed Alan's workmate Johnny who was riding Alan's Honda on his last (and wet) ride through Casebrook, Belfast and back to the Harewood Crematorium. Ride on Alan, ride on...

**Sunday 30 April 2023 Leader Valley ride to Waiau Hotel for lunch:** Alan Forgie reports that it was very foggy in town when he left for Woodend ("I needed windscreen wipers on my visor"). 5 riders met up at Woodend for the ride. Daniel left early as he was going to do a tour of all the shingle backroads that he could find on the way. The remaining 4 travelled along SH1 and stopped for a break at Cheviot. The fog cleared away eventually on the way thank goodness. There were lots of bikes at Cheviot and on the road, making the most of the lovely weather.

Continuing north on SH1 they passed through Parnasus and then the Leader Valley to Waiau. Unfortunately, they were a bit late for all the Autumn colours. It is a great ride along the Leader Valley Road. Our Retreads were made very welcome, by Michele, for lunch at the Waiau Tavern. It was good to see the Tavern surviving after all its problems. Had a nice lunch with \$5 hamburgers. Daniel turned up later to join them for his lunch.

Our riders all made it home in great conditions for motor cycling, observing just a few idiots on the road. After Alan got home, he heard that there had been a bad crash on SH1 between a motorcycle and a car. Alan suggested that this must have happened just after our group went through - so, take extra care out there.

**Wednesday 10 May 2023 ride Waikari Valley/Scargill to Fossil Point Café for lunch:** Six hardy souls stood in a light rain at Mobil Yaldhurst (which was closed incidentally, looks like some big upgrade), and decided we were all toggled up so might as well ride. By West Melton the rain had stopped and by the back of Darfield the sky was clearing. Waddington, dry roads. Waimakariri and Ashley Gorges all fine and clear right through to Amberley.

Three riders (Lesley, Barry and John) elected to stay and lunch in Amberley while ride leader, Leigh, Kingsley and Ross continued through to Fossil Point via Scargill. The creamed mushrooms on toast were fantastic!

**Tuesday 16 April 2023:** Sunny ride day for a change. 12 riders turned up at Woodend and half an hour later Ulrike led us on our way through Rangiora, Oxford, Coopers Creek and the Waimakariri Gorge to the Café on the Green (Hororata Golf Club café) at Glentunnel for lunch. The only hiccup along the way was with Brian's Yamaha X=MAX scooter that didn't want to start again after a stop in Oxford. Problem – flat battery in the key fob was diagnosed and fixed (Brian had a spare especially for this eventuality) and the tail group was

underway again. Our regroup at the gorge was delayed but, hey, the sun was shining. Downside – by the time we arrived at the café they had run out of pies ... again.

**Sunday 28 April 2023 ride to Hanmer Springs for lunch:** Paul Tayler led this ride of a group of 11 Retreads riders on what was a very mild autumn day. As usual, Paul led us off the main roads wherever he could and managed not to lose anyone on what was the long way inland to Hanmer. We stopped at Waikari to regroup, then through Hawarden, Balmoral, and back on SH7 at Culverden finishing up at The Saints Restaurant and Bar for lunch. The ride home was just as pleasant.

**Wednesday 14 June 2023 ride to Orderings Urban Eatery Cashmere for lunch:** 13 Retreads riders, 12 bikes (including two Harley trikes) left the Tai Tapu Store at 10:30 am on a ride planned by Barry Cook to a new destination for lunch. Barry led the way on his Africa Twin with Lesley tailing on her Harley trike. The trip went via various back roads, across Coe's Ford, to Rakaia Huts where we stopped to stretch our legs. From here it was a more direct route to our new lunch destination. However, toward the end of the ride one of the riders mistakenly followed a different group of motorcyclists all the way back to Lincoln. Lesley had her time cut out to round up this breakaway group and lead them to the café on Cashmere Road. A couple of riders had signaled their intention to leave the group and return home before Lincoln.

Not knowing how cold this winter run would be, the trip started a bit later giving those that wanted to warm up, time for a coffee first. Having lunch on the outskirts of Town also meant there wouldn't be a long cold ride home after lunch. This concept seemed to have support from the group. The Urban Eatery was in pleasant surroundings, attached to Oderings Nurseries with good parking (mid-week) and the food was nice and at quite reasonable prices. The staff were friendly and helpful. Maybe a good winter destination in the future.

**Tuesday 20 June 2023:** Brian Neill led a group of 9 riders from Woodend on a brisk but fine winters day heading for the Ashley and Waimakariri Gorges and the Thirsty Acre Pub at Kirwee. Great to know that the Tuesday rides remain popular. No frost, a bit of git and lichen on the road through the inland road through Oxford before regrouping at the Waimak Gorge. Under way again we turned off onto the Old West Coast Road at Waddington. Fog in the Waimak river valley slowed progress to the turnoff to Kirwee at Courtney. Didn't deter the driver of a Nissan Skyline who passed the lot of us just as we left the fog behind; must have been travelling at around 200km/hr!

Lunch was great – our hosts had set up a long table next to the fire and nobody seemed to be in a hurry to leave. Except Daniel who spent time plotting a dirt road ride back home...

**Sunday 25 June 2023 ride to The Sheffield Pie Shop for lunch:** This ride was originally headed to Oxford via Ashley Gorge. However, the mid-week ride on the previous Tuesday had also taken that route and so plan B was put into place. The idea was now a route via the roads less travelled to the Sheffield Pie Shop.

Heading north from Woodend we turned left after Ashley Bridge and headed to Sefton and then carried on up the hill to Marshmans Rd. Heading back towards Ashley we turned right and completed a loop of Loburn then around the back of the Rangiora Racecourse and out to Fernside. We turned left into Swannanoa Rd and then turned right into Boundary Rd and carried on to Cust. We then followed Poyntz Rd through to South Eyre Rd and, after a stop at the Waimak Gorge, made our way to Sheffield. On the ride were: Nigel, Brian, Barry, Lesley, Daniel, Rob, Ulrike, Ross, and Leigh.

**Saturday 1 July 2023 coffee morning at the Rivertown Café Kaiapoi:**



Paul Marks, Karl Harrison, Paul Tayler, John De Wys, Ross Connolly, Colin Williams, Alan Forgie, Barry, and Lesley Cook. Ulrike van Nek and Brian Neill were there too.