

Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch

www.retreads.co.nz



Newsletter # 54 MAY 2022

Kai ora,

The Press published an article in its paper on Tuesday 22 March 2022 about a trial of a Yamaha MTO9TRAP (900cc) fully operational 'muffi' motorcycle with lights, radio, and siren but without the usual police livery. The bike would initially be deployed on Canterbury metro and rural roads and be ridden by two officers wearing a 'fit for purpose' protective uniform including a hi-vis vest.

The officers' focus of the trial was reported to be "on driver and rider behavior relating to known causes the most harm on the roads; unrestrained drivers and riders not wearing helmets, distracted drivers, impaired drivers, and people speeding". Red-light runners would also be targeted. Depending on the results of the trial it could be extended to other areas in the country. I, for one, hope that the initiative will be successful especially if it errs more on driver education rather than focusing solely on law enforcement. The initial trial would last 3 months.

Regards,

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

Nostalgia time: Alan Forgie's turn this month. Pictured below is a newspaper cutting from 17 January 1982 at the start of the '100 mile round the gorges motorcycle reliability trial organised by the New Brighton Tiger Club. The Hon Matheson MP (left) started the trial which left from a point near the totem pole in Harper Avenue. Alan, arrowed, failed to finish though – his 1948 rigid Mac Velo went well for about 25 miles, then stopped with sticking valves. Home in a truck!!



"My first bikes: I bought my first bike when still at school in 1961. It was a Royal Enfield 125cc two-stroke (like a BSA Bantam only much worse). Had to teach myself to ride it by going around the block lots of times. Then went for my Licence - all I had to do was ride from the Council Offices in Manchester St and up the first steep bit of Dyers Pass Rd, stop halfway up and do a U turn. The traffic Cop followed me on his Ariel Square Four. This bike cost me £40.

Next bike was a 1948 Mac Velocette, this cost me £50. That's me in the photo, going on a Road Trial in Jan 1962. I got only about 25miles before it broke down and I had to be taken home in a truck!!

In July 1962 I traded that bike in for £45 dollars on a 1953 Mac Velo which cost me £130 from Bob Burns. Bob had a shop in Manchester St near where Casbolts is now. This bike went well, and I rode it down to Invercargill where I was helping out at work. Coming home the bike stopped at Rangitata and would not go any further - the oil had leaked out of the primary chain case and all the teeth had worn off the Clutch Sprocket!! I hitch hiked home and the next day went down with a friend on his bike, he towed me to the Ashburton Railway Station, and we put the bike on the train back to ChCh.

Lucky bikes these days are much more reliable, wish the prices were the same though”.

Editor's note: It is a credit to Alan's fortitude that he remains a Velocette enthusiast – he has a brace of them in his garage including LE's, a Venom Clubman and, of course one 1953 Velo Mac.

Continuing our series of ride reports:

Wednesday ride to Pegasus Café 9 March 2022: Lead rider, Lesley Cook reported that there was a good turnout of about 12 riders for the Run to Pegasus, with most meeting for coffee at The Store beforehand. We all headed through Lincoln and began wending our way along some of the back roads eventually arriving in Rolleston. Unfortunately, it all turned to custard from here on as some of the group got caught by traffic lights and found themselves left behind.

After waiting for quite a while the main group decided to press on but stopped for a short time at the Waimak Bridge hoping the rest of the riders would catch up. Unfortunately, this didn't happen so off we all went turning down South Eyre Road. At Clarkville the petrol situation (or lack thereof) was assessed, and two riders decided to fill up in Kaiapoi with the rest of us making our way through Tuahiwi and the new subdivision of Ravenswood and on to The Flat White Cafe in Pegasus. Here we finally caught up with the rest of the group and exchanged the expected rude comments etc. We had been allocated a very pleasant lunch spot away from the main seating area, and the late lunch was enjoyable. This new venue was well received, and I can see it being used again for lunch by us Retreads.

Tuesday ride to Leeston 15 March 2022: Paul Marks led eight other Retreads riders on an extended tiki-tour through Coes Ford and Rakaia. However, it started to rain before Springston, and a decision was made to bypass Rakaia Huts and head directly to Leeston and the Hillyer's Café for lunch in Leeston.

Sunday ride to Kaikoura 27 March 2022: What a day to be on SH1 north of Christchurch. While gathering at our Woodend rendezvous, literally dozens of classic cars drove past to a rally at 'The Better Half Kitchen Restaurant & Bar' near Amberly. This spectacle was followed by another contingent of exotic and supercars – Porches, Ferraris, McLarens, Lamborghinis – the list went on! Our near record turnout of some twenty odd Retreads happened to be one of many other large groups of motorcyclists on the road heading north at the same time.

Our ride was split between riders on the long haul to Kaikoura and the rest opting for a shorter ride to Cheviot. Things got a little complicated at the meeting spot at Canterbury Honda in Woodend. Rob and Barry tried hard at the pre-ride briefing to impart useful information to those assembled. However, with all the additional traffic on the road it seems that the only (most important) instruction got through – to regather at Cheviot where the two groups would part. Rob led out with most of the riders in tow closely followed by a smaller group led by Barry. More complications when we eventually got to Cheviot – there were at least two other groups of motorcyclists mixed with some supercars lining the main street!

Rob reports that after his group left Cheviot, they continued along State Highway 1 direct to Kaikoura. “A brief stop for some to re fuel and then on to Donegal House where we found the large carpark jammed packed with classic cars. When I rang them earlier, they never mentioned about being so busy, and they never took a booking from me anyway, just saying “*just turn up and we should be able to accommodate you*”. Anyway, we decided we didn't want to go in and order lunch with the possibility of being served it hours later, so we headed back through Kaikoura to the Pier Hotel out on the Peninsula. A very nice spot indeed and enjoyed a very nice lunch sitting outside in the sun overlooking the bay. The group split up afterwards with people leaving to head home at different times. Great company and a very pleasant days riding.

Brian reports that Barry led the second group of riders to Cheviot without a hitch then lost contact amongst the line-up of bikes parked on the side of the road. He then left for a pre-arranged return to Christchurch. After Rob's group parted for Kaikoura the remaining 7 Retreads riders, led by Brian, headed back to Christchurch via Gore Bay and lunch at the Fossil Point Café. To quote Rob “*great company and a very pleasant days riding*”.

Wednesday ride to Methven 13 April 2022: Lead rider, Ulrike reported that 9 riders met at Yaldhurst for the ride to Methven. Not being able to reach the normally visited "cafe 131" there on the phone, we booked our lunch break at the "Primo e Secundo" cafe. We followed the West Coast Road to Aylesbury Corner, turned left towards Charing Cross and on to Hororata where we turned

right and then left at the War Memorial. This road (Downs Road) led us to route 77. We regrouped at the Rakaia Gorge campground for the usual rest and a chat (a long one!).

Windwhistle did not live up to its name this time; it was very calm. Arriving later in Methven we had a deserved lunch - let us lay the shroud of mercy over the food as we are polite people. The weather forecast was for light rain in the afternoon on our way back. However, we were lucky and didn't encounter any wet roads. As usual, the group split for the ride back home. Brian and Jack followed the Barhill Road to Rakaia, Ross and Ulrike going through the Waimakariri Gorge and Oxford. Everybody happy!

Tuesday ride 19 April 2022: A short ride through north Canterbury and the Waikari Valley and Scargill to the Fossil Point Café for lunch.

Saturday ride for an overnight stop at the Admirals Hotel Ross 23 April 2022: Lesley Cook led the ride and reported that a small group of riders met in the carpark of the Yaldhurst Hotel - Roger Young from the Sidecar Club, Carl Harrison, Kingsley Archer, Jack Gillman, Tony Harris, and Barry and Lesley Cook all from the Retreads. Two of the group had had to pull out with Covid and a family bereavement. Ross and Bev Wall were to meet us at Ross having been over visiting friends beforehand.

'Away at 10am in good weather, stopping for lunch in Arthurs Pass it was good to warm up with hot pies and thermoses of tea and soup. Back on the road we headed for Jacksons where we turned off and enjoyed a bit of sunshine, less traffic and great scenery. Turned onto the road leading to Iveagh Bay where we stopped for a short time to stretch our legs. Being a holiday weekend, the lake was busy with skiers and canoeists and with little wind the water was calm and glassy. On we went detouring down to the marina at Moana, then topping up with fuel at the Allied pumps.

Jack led us on the next stage past Stillwater to Candlelight where we had arranged to meet with his cousin Joe who would show us his collection of motorcycles, cars, trucks, and bulldozers. We knew of Joe's aversion to authority, and to him "high viz" represented "the other side" however, we didn't anticipate how strongly he felt! On arriving at his back door, we were greeted by Joe with anger when he saw Barry and Roger's yellow panels on their motorcycle jackets, and he unceremoniously ordered them off the property! He calmed down and led the rest of us into one of his sheds where we enjoyed looking at his vehicles and trucks... After a short time had passed, I thought I might have a word with him and diplomatically asked that if Roger and Barry removed their jackets whether they would be allowed back? He agreed and so our little group were united once again.

Joe had a wonderful array of motorcycles from his racing days, classic heavy trucks and bulldozers used around the farm, and indeed some of which are still in use. We reluctantly decided we'd better get a move on and after thanking Joe and presenting him with a box of biscuits and a box of chocolates, we said our goodbyes and made our way down the road, through Greymouth, Hokitika and eventually arriving at Ross about 5pm.

After finding our rooms in and around the historic Empire Hotel, we all met for a great buffet dinner and spent some considerable time chatting and catching up around the dinner table. Bev and Ross had joined us by this time, as had Kerry and Gwen from Hokitika who were in the Sidecar Club. They'd seen the motorcycles we'd come to see many times so were only joining us for dinner. Next morning, we woke to hear rain on the roof. After breakfast we were taken across the road to the Museum where the collection was housed and so spent a very enjoyable hour seeing motorcycle history. A fascinating display of vintage Indians, Harley Davidsons - one with a sidecar - and many, many other European and American makes.

The weather was still wet, so after donning our wet weather gear we headed back down the road, topping up with fuel at Hokitika. Jack went back via Kumara, but the rest of us took a detour on the Goldsborough road where we stopped briefly to look at one of the access tunnels to the other side of a hill where tailings from the gold rush were. We also stopped for a short time at the DOC campground at Goldsborough to read information about the gold rush in the area. Still mild with a few showers which stayed with us all the way to the main road at Kumara and into Arthurs Pass for a late lunch in the DOC shelter which is tucked out of sight below the road. By now the weather was improving and continued to do so until we reached Porters Pass where we were enveloped in fairly thick cloud, dropping the temperature, and raining lightly. The group split up past Springfield where some went down the Old West Coast Road and others down the main road.

So, a really good weekend was had by all, with plans for another overnighter in the not-too-distant future'.

Sunday ride Leader Valley to Waiiau and overnighter to 24 April 2022: Fine weather but a sometimes-gusty wind greeted us on this traditional autumn ride through the Leader Valley to the Waiiau Tavern for lunch. Lead rider, Alan Forgie, reported that 9 riders arrived for this ride at Woodend. Some members were away on a weekend ride to Ross on the West Coast. The weather was quite good but windy. We travelled via SH1 and stopped for a break at Cheviot, continued and turned off past Parnasus to ride through

the Leader Valley to Waiau. This year we were a bit late for all the Autumn colours. My speedo stopped working at some stage, don't know why.

It is a great ride through the Leader Valley Road, and we were made very welcome by Michele for lunch at the Waiau Tavern. Brian got special parking (see photo). Michele handed out much appreciated Covid-19 (Antigen) self-test packs of 5 to all of us – a great gesture. It was good to see the Tavern seems to be surviving after all its problems; the hospitality is great. We all managed to make it home in a dry condition as the threatened rain did not eventuate until later that evening. Not too many idiots on the road either.



Rob Newton also snapped the other riders on their way through the Leader Valley:



Editor's note – we need more action shots like these... However, continue to send me any photos that you regard worthy of including in future newsletters. Motorcycle adventures that many of us chronicle and personal nostalgia stuff is always welcome and add a great sense of belonging to our group of motorcyclists that go by the name of Retreads. Makes good reading too!





Saturday coffee morning 7 May 2022: Back to the Rivertown Café in Kaiapoi for the colder months of the year. A good muster of bikes and their riders. Good stories around a cup of coffee seems never ending. Arrangements have been made to hold the club's AGM at Rivertown Café at 9:30am on Saturday 4 June 2022. Coffee before and after?

Wednesday ride Banks Peninsula to Akaroa for lunch 11 May 2022: 11 bikes, 12 riders including a trike and a couple of scooters. Leigh Richardson led the group of riders along SH 75 to regroup at Little River. The main group had decided to traverse the Summit Road from the hilltop all the way to Akaroa for a fish 'n chips lunch on the waterfront. Colin was 'running-in' his new scooter, so he and Brian opted to take the low road (SH75) through to Akaroa. Leigh reported that the Summit Road ride was great with clear roads and no wandering stock. Akaroa and this part of the peninsula is a great ride mid-week to have the place to yourself.

RETREADS ON THE ROAD



Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch, the New Zealand Chapter of Retreads International, was formed in May 1995. This book captures the embracing nature of the sport of motorcycling through the eyes of the Club's members along with a picture of the way members interact and come together for group rides and other social occasions.

RETREADS NZ
MOTORCYCLE CLUB
INTERNATIONAL, INC.

25 YEARS OF THE RETREADS MOTORCYCLE CLUB CHRISTCHURCH NZ

Published by Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch New Zealand
ISBN: 978-0-473-59919-5

Retreads on the Road: We have quite a few unsold books on the history of the Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch New Zealand. We published the book last year to celebrate 25 years of our Chapter of Retreads International. Please contact Alan Forgie (Ph 027 310 2322) or Brian Neill (Ph 021 613 726) if you would like to purchase a copy – a bargain at \$20.