

Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch

www.retreads.co.nz



Newsletter # 56 December 2022

Kai ora,

At the AGM on 4 June 2022, members agreed to continue the club's support for St John and the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Trust by donating \$300.00 to each organisation. I am pleased to report that both St John and the Helicopter Trust were appreciative of our donations.

John van Dijk offered his assistance to Alan Forgie who is to stand down as Treasurer of the club. Meanwhile, Alan agreed to carry on and collect the 2023 subscriptions that are due in December 2022. New members paying their subscriptions between 1 July and 31 December each year will be automatically registered as being financial for the balance of the current year and for the following 12 months. From 1 July 2022, all new members are entitled to purchase a copy of 'Retreads on the Road' – 25 years of the Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch NZ for \$10.00.

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

Nostalgia time: No takers this time round. Anyone up for it for the next newsletter – write a piece about your favourite bikes.

Continuing our series of ride reports:

Sunday ride to Hanmer Springs 28 August 2022: 8 riders turned up for this late winter ride. A tad cold on the way up to Hanmer where riders enjoyed lunch at The Saints Restaurant Café and Bar. Paul Tayler led us on the ride from the rendezvous at Woodend, through Sefton and Broomfield, and back onto the State Highways to regroup at Waikari. From there we headed along back roads through Hawarden, and Medbury, emerging onto SH 7 at Culverden and so to Hanmer. A well thought out trek and great company as always. Only Paul, true to his word, soaked up the atmosphere in the Hanmer Springs hot pools (two hours) before heading home.

Wednesday ride to Rangiora 14 September 2022: After trying to second guess what the weather was going to do the day before a decision was made to meet at The Tia Tapu Store at 1pm. Surprisingly, considering all the snow on the Banks Peninsular peaks and flurries at lower altitudes 11 riders turned up at the rendezvous. Barry led the ride with Lesley tail end Charlie. We set off over Gebbies Pass, through the Lyttelton tunnel and wandered through the eastern suburbs, headed toward Kaiapoi, and finished up in Rangiora at the Black on White Café two hours later. Good fun but our convoy got split up while negotiating suburban Kaiapoi and again when we hit Rangiora. *Editors comment: best to stick to main roads when faced with peak time suburban traffic ...*

Saturday/Sunday overnigher to Twizel and Mt Cook 17/18 September 2022: Organizer and lead rider Lesley Cook reported that there was a great turnout of 15 people and 14 bikes which consisted of a Harley Trike, an Indian Chieftain and sidecar, a BMW Adventure bike with sidecar, a Suzuki Burgman 650 scooter and the rest being a mix of Adventure bikes and road bikes. Present were Barry and Lesley Cook, Bronwyn and Tony Harris, Rodger Young, Karl Harrison, Rob and Jane Newton, James Anderson, John van Dijk, Jack Gillman, Chris Wardell, Paul Tayler, Kingsley Archer, and his friend Steve Wipiana. Unfortunately, Kingsley's brother Kendrick had to pull out due to having had a minor accident shortly before our ride. Seeing we had such a big group it was decided to split up into two groups, with everyone meeting up in Ashburton for morning tea.

We carried on through Timaru stopping for lunch in the centre of Waimate next to the statue of a woodsman with his axe. From here most of the group had a fun ride through the Waimate Gorge, with the sidecars, trike, and scooter bringing up the rear at a more leisurely pace. Enjoyable stop in Kurow for an icecream and comfort stop, then it was back on the road where we eventually turned off at the Aviemore Dam lookout, crossed over and enjoyed a leisurely drive down the other side of the lake. Many tents, caravans and campervans were already in residence for the weekend making for quite an interesting ride. Back across the Benmore Dam to the main road, arriving soon after at Omarama where we again had a rest stop.

Twizel was only 34kms down the road, and here we called into McKeown's fuel stop expecting to fill up, however the internet appeared to be down, so it was at Mobil Twizel we all eventually ended up at. Unfortunately, Paul's bike battery inexplicably appeared to give up the ghost here and after fruitless attempts at push starts, he had to settle for a push to the Bookabach we had rented which fortunately was only minutes away.

After unloading the bikes etc, it was time for relaxing in the comfortable house with a few beverages or cups of tea. The BBQ was served an hour or so later with the food being hailed a success. Roger's Lemon Cheesecake was the hit of the evening! Thank you, Roger, for eating the leftovers for breakfast, thereby removing all temptation for those of us with questionable willpower!



Convoy taking a break near the Benmore Dam

Sunday dawned fine and frosty and after removing the frost from the bike seats etc, we waved goodbye to the Twizel house. Paul's bike was pushed outside the gate where it would wait for a new battery organised by Paul and to be brought by Ross Connelly to the Sunday lunch spot. Paul hitched a ride in Roger's offroad sidecar for the run to Mt Cook which proved to be an enjoyable ride as the weather brightened up the closer we got to the mountains with the grand old lady herself giving us a spectacular view. A photo op at one of the viewpoints, and then on we went where we stopped for morning tea in the DOC visitors' carpark. A "Cooks' Tour" past the Hermitage and through the Village and it was back on the road bound for Tekapo and an obligatory photo stop at the Church of the Good Shepherd. At Fairlie we stopped for a fuel refill and then onto the Farm Barn to meet up with the rest of the Retreads for lunch.

After a very nice lunch, we all headed for home via Geraldine and the Arundel Bridge and Ashburton. We refueled at Rakaia and then all made our own way home, everyone on a bit of a high after such a fun weekend.



Sightseeing near Mt Cook Village

Sunday ride from Christchurch to the Farm Barn: Brian organised a ride to Fairlie on the Sunday to meet up with the returning overnights for lunch at the Farm Barn Café at the top of the Mount Michael Road overlooking Fairlie. A couple of riders opted out but 7 did turn up at Yaldhurst at 9:30 am for the trek south. The group waited for Ross to arrive with a new battery for Paul Tayler's bike that was stranded in Twizel. However, we made good progress along SH73 turning off at Aylesbury, through Charing Cross, Hororata and the Rakaia Gorge. After a regroup at the camping ground we rode SH72 through Staveley and onto Geraldine for a fuel stop.

Alan Rigg left our group at Geraldine to return home. The remaining riders made the lunch stop at the Farm Barn around 12:30pm and had ordered their meals seated at the table reserved for the 16 overnights who arrived in dribs and drabs sometime later. Luckily for all other lunch guests had vacated their tables before the mob arrived. A great ride for all with most arriving home late afternoon. That is, apart from John van Dijk and battery ready Paul Tayler who rode two-up back to Twizel to have a go at getting the Cagiva Raptor back home ...

Tuesday ride 20 September 2022: The weekend escapade must have been too much for most Retreads. 4 of the weekend riders, Brian Alan Rigg, Ulrike and Barry gathered at Woodend though. The sun shone soon after they got on the road with Alan leading on our 'usual' course on back roads to Waipara, then Waikari and to the (closed for the day) Fossil Point Café. Alternative stop for lunch at Bunco's Café in Amberley proved to be a good choice though.

Sunday ride to Arthurs Pass/Otira 25 September 2022: Unfortunately, the pub at Otira was closed this day and of the 12 riders who turned up at our Yaldhurst rendezvous, 8 opted for the shorter ride on offer with Rob, Paul, Daniel, and Richard continuing to Arthurs Pass for lunch. Welcome to Lindsay Curtis and his Suzuki Burgman 650 who joined us for this ride. At the briefing lead riders Alan Rigg and Rob Newton organised the group to travel the Old West Coast Road to SH 73 and regroup at Springfield before riding through Porters Pass, Lake Lydon and Castle Hill Village for a break. The sun was almost blinding at the village that had the riders not wanting to hurry to leave.

Alan led those who had opted to turn back and lunch at the Pie Shop in Sheffield. Rob led the other two on the much more adventurous and picturesque route west to Arthurs Pass. The pie shop must be a goldmine on Sundays – we queued to get served and retired to the outdoors to get away from the madding crowd...

After leaving Castle Hill Village, four riders, Paul, Richard, Daniel and Rob went through to Arthur's Pass for lunch. They had little difficulty getting a table for our small Retreads group as the other group of Japanese Classic motorcyclists were at the Wobbly Kea across the road. After lunch Daniel left the group to go through to the West Coast and back through the Lewis Pass, while Richard decided that he would go on as far as Otira. Paul and Rob rode back together parting company at the Old West Coast Road turnoff just East of Sheffield.



Sunshine at Castle Hill Village. Left to right: Rob, Paul, Alan Rigg, Alan Forgie, Andrew, Nigel, Ulrike, Lindsay, and Ross.

Saturday Coffee morning ride 1 October 2022: Back to The Tai Tapu Store for our group through to June 2023. A good turnout considering the change in venue. A bit cold out so we gathered in the (cyclists) conservatory to tell our stories. The cycle mob braved the seats outdoors as far as we could tell.

Wednesday picnic ride to Port Levy 12 October 2022: Weather didn't beat us this time – we met at The Store for coffee first to allow the sun to show itself before setting off over Gebbies Pass and 'the bays road' to Port Levy. I reckon we had 9 riders all of whom made the trip over the Banks Peninsula Road from Purau to Port Levy along what could hardly be described as a proper two-way sealed road. Loose shingle, not helped by logging trucks, posed hazards but allowed our riders to hone-up on their riding skills... Pre-ride we had decided to return to the grassy slopes of Diamond Harbour to eat our packed lunches. Some bought coffees at the cafe before sitting down to eat. Lindsay took a couple of photos:



Port Levy



Diamond Harbour

Tuesday ride 18 October 2022: Rain threatened but held off for the six riders who decided that a trip inland through Ashley and Waimakariri Gorges to The Willows Café at the Glentunnel Golf Club would be best. It transpired that some of us got a wee bit too much sun at the café before the threatening storm showed itself. Homebound mid-afternoon we realized that the storm had moved well north of us, so all was well. Bit dicey for those living north of the Waimak though as the band of rain passed through Rangiora. Oh well Summer is all but upon us.

Sunday ride to Motunau Beach for picnic lunch 30 October 2022: One of the biggest Retreads Sunday rides for some time. 16 riders trailed by Ulrike in her Subaru left Woodend and headed along mainly back roads to regroup at Waikari. A 23-degree day pleased all who joined the ride through the Waikari Valley and Scargill to join up with Karl's brother, Scott, on his 'original' Ariel square four just short of our destination on the road into Motunau Beach. Welcome to Brian Smith (a friend of Karl's) who also joined us on the ride. Jack Gilmore on his Yamaha met us on the outskirts of the village and guided us to his seafront bach. We parked up under an old Macrocarpa tree on the grass reserve opposite his abode. Rearranged Park benches supplemented by outdoor seats from the bach ensured that our group partook in a relaxing picnic overlooking the rugged seafront, fishing boat channel and the Motunau Island bird sanctuary. Thanks for the invite, Jack, we now know why you spend so much time skiing in North Canterbury ...



Motunau lunch in the shade



Motunau bike park in the shade

Wednesday ride to Castle Hill for picnic lunch 9 November 2022: All 11 riders enjoyed the Castle Hill picnic lunch. We visited the village in September and jumped at the chance to visit the Castle Hill of NZ conservation area (Kura Thwhiti). The limestone formations and the very accessible 'Hogs Back Track' is a very popular stop on SH 73. It is the site of a scene from 'Lord of the Rings' and was used for scenes from 'The Chronicles of Narnia' and 'The lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe'. The conservation area is important to Nga Tahu and much effort has gone into presenting a great NZ experience for visitors. We picnicked at a long new table and shelter before the hardier riders from our group tackled the track. Our trekkers in the foreground of the photo below. Great day out with lots of sunshine and a 25-degree day.



The Hogs Back Track



This guy either took his bed with him or perhaps used it as a cushion for rock climbing?

Tuesday ride 15 November 2022: 10 riders gathered at Woodend. Paul Tayler, then Alan Rigg led the ride through Oxford, Coopers Creek, and the highways to the Hororata Café for lunch. Long time since we called in to the café that now sports a covered outdoor seating area. Great company as always and a pleasant day out traversing roads well known to our Retreads riders.

Wednesday twilight ride to Sumner for Fish & Chips 23 November 2022: 10 riders' rendezvous in the car parking area of Cashmere Road opposite Princess Margaret Hospital. Lead rider, Rob Newton, deferred his place on the road to Barry Cook who took off like a rocket on his ancient 'dusty red' Vespa for the long haul up Hackthorn Road, Dyers Road, then down into Governors Bay and the roads through Lyttelton to the Fish n Chip shop at Sumner. Barry had to wait for the rest of us to catch up along the way and was first in line at the fish n chip shop! A very pleasant evening was had by all marred only by the presence of a flock of seagulls that descended upon our group relaxing at tables in the clock tower reserve at Sumner. Our riders attempted to devour their fish n chips through small holes in their individually parceled servings to avoid any mob attack from the birds. At least one rider had a bird swoop down and snatch a chip out of his hand as he attempted to steer it towards his mouth... We are all up for a repeat twilight ride or two ride before summer's end. Must get someone else to feed the birds though.

Sunday ride to Methven for visit to view private collection 27 November 2022: Unfortunately, rain forced us to abandon this ride. However, lead rider, Karl Harrison will be re-scheduling the ride, lunch at Methven's Blue Pub and visit to 'Alister's place' in the New Year.

All the best for Christmas and have a happy New Year.

Brian Neill

