

Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch

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Newsletter # 53 March 2022

Kai ora,

My life on two wheels has now gone full circle. 1958 with me straight out of school my first bike was a 1949 Triumph 3T twin with ridged rear end and kitted out with telescopic front forks capped off with a nacelle headlight enclosure. Rolling on 65 years I am now a proud owner of a new Yamaha V-MAX 300 scooter complete with electronic gizmos, ABS, and traction control. 350cc, on the Triumph, down to 300cc on the scooter! In the 60's I may have considered myself a 'real' motorcyclist rather than a Rocker. Question, am I now too old to be a Mod?

Nostalgia time: My turn to start this off. Please send me old photos you would like to share with our fellow Retreads. I will keep this spot open for future memories ...



The Neill brothers Cira 1964. Rob, Dennis, and Brian



Brian's 1949 Triumph 3T

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 me if you would like to purchase a copy – a bargain at \$20.

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

Continuing our series of ride reports:

Tuesday ride to Leithfield Hotel 16 November 2021: Four riders enjoyed their day out on their machines. Alan Rigg led them on a tiki tour of north Canterbury roads finishing up at the Leithfield pub for lunch.

Sunday ride to Otira on 28 November 2021: Unfortunately, the weather beat us this time round – the result – no ride today!

Sunday Christmas picnic ride to Cust Domain 5 December 2021: 7 bikes, 9 riders gathered at Yaldhurst on a day that should have had us heading for our favorite picnic spot at Lake Coleridge Domain. Over coffee at the Tai Tapu Store the day before we decided that stormy conditions near the divide complete with 90 km/h gale force winds just wasn't our ticket for the next day. We did confirm that we would meet at Yaldhurst though and go from there. After a short discussion at the Mobil Service station rendezvous, we rode around the back of the airport to the motorway, hung a left off SH1 at the Ohoka exit and headed towards Cust via Fernside. We regrouped at Cust and decided to extend the ride through Oxford and German Road reaching the Cust Domain for lunch around 11:30am. Most of our party had a cut lunch, that is, apart from Karl who fried up some tasty wild pork sausages that he shared with us. A very relaxing picnic in the shelter at the domain (too hot in the sun) Check out the photo ...



Saturday Christmas Lunch at The Old Vicarage 11 December 2021: 15 Retreads sat down to enjoy our Christmas lunch at The Old Vicarage complete with Christmas crackers and all the trimmings. The two-course lunch menu provided a choice of mains and deserts and was served with the usual good service we have come to expect at TOV.

Sunday afternoon ride through Waikari Valley to Fossil Point Café: Ulrike organised this 'flash' ride which encouraged 9 riders to turn out on a warm Sunday afternoon chatting over a pre-Christmas tea, coffee, or a milkshake at one of our favorite spots. Café owner, Sue and staff appreciated us calling in for what would be our last visit for 2021. Three riders experienced their first ride with our group.

Wednesday ride to Lake Coleridge Domain for picnic 12 January 2022: After missing out on our trek to Lake Coleridge pre-Christmas we got there but on a weekday for a change. Nine of us enjoyed our time in the sun and experienced sharing the spot with generating staff from the TrustPower hydroelectric station for a change. It would appear that they are only using one penstock and generator now at the historic generating station – the first major power station in New Zealand that was built to mainly supply power to Christchurch way back in 1914.

Tuesday ride 18/01/2022: No report was received for this ride other than it happened!

Sunday ride to Hanmer for picnic at the Hanmer Domain 30 January 2022: Great weather for a picnic. Paul Tayler, led the group setting out along SH1 then turning off the main road to travel through Sefton. Paul reported that our system of watching out for the rider behind worked well with the lead rider being informed that Paul Mark's Suzuki GSX had developed a problem. He decided to return home. It was good to hear on our return that he had made it home okay. After a stop at Waikari to de-fuel for comfort on the ride ahead we reached Hanmer and proceeded to the Forest Park grounds and found a suitable area to lay out our picnic rugs etc. Carl's mini-BBQ soon had the air filled with the appetizing smell of meat cooking. The throb of an incoming bike took our attention and Carl's brother arrived on his 1956 Ariel Square 4 in original condition. He lived in the area and decided to join us. It was a welcome sight.

We left at different times for the journey home. 4 riders, including the leader stopped for an ice cream at Culverden. An excellent decision. Back on the bikes and not far down the main road, the leader was positioned to pass a motor home when a back tyre on the motorhome suffered a blow-out, and a piece of the tyre flew back and caught him full in the face. Fortunately, with no other consequences but it did show him how easy and unexpectedly things can happen on a bike. Brian, who was riding his newly acquired Yamaha 300 scooter observed that the change in riding position will take some getting used to but it is great that he will be able to continue riding with us. He did a long solo ride on the way home though to get to grips on things as there are no foot controls on a scooter.

Wednesday ride to The Willows Café Glentunnel 9 February 2022: Lead rider Ulrike reported that as the weather forecast was not that flash for areas south of Christchurch, we shortened the intended ride to Staveley and aimed for Glentunnel in the hope that the rain stayed away. 10 riders met in Woodend for the ride through Loburn, Ashley Gorge, Oxford, and Coopers Creek to the Waimakariri Gorge for the usual stop. After making sure that nobody had lost their way we headed for 'The Willows' Hororata Golf Club Cafe in Glentunnel. The golf club is celebrating its centenary later this year and the well-groomed golf course was quite a picture. While we were ordering our snacks, to our surprise, a very neat Alan Forgie joined us - he had had a haircut on the way! The moment we hopped on our bikes for the ride home the rain set in... Alan Forgie. followed Dennis and Brian home via Aylesbury leaving the heavy drizzle behind. Brian pushed his new Yamaha scooter to over 100km/h though the 1000km oil change barrier which should have come first! Some of the other riders managed to overtake the rain front and had a relatively dry ride back through the inland route. Altogether a very pleasant day!

Tuesday ride 15 February 2022: Another good day in the middle of some lousy weather. Paul Tayler, Ross, Colin, Brent, Rob, Alan Rigg, Ulrike, and Dennis met and discussed where to ride. The choice was east for a change, and they headed through Motukarara

and over Gebbies Pass and continued to Diamond Harbour. A 'Cooks Tour' and then bumped their way back to The Wheatsheaf Pub at Teddington for lunch. 'We are Open' said the sign but you could be forgiven for doubting that. After an age a reasonable fare was served, and we had a good time discussing many a topic to while away the afternoon. It was every man and woman to themselves for the return direction home. Good to travel these roads for some variety, but in time they will need some improvement.

Sunday two passes ride and 3-night stopover for some ride 27 February 2022:

Waimakariri Gorge ride: Brian reported that 13 riders turned up at Mobil Yaldhurst for a group (three in one) ride. Rob led out with everyone in tow along the Old West Coast Road to regroup at Springfield. Fuel top-ups for some before Ulrike led off with Brian, Dennis, Colin, Ross, and Alan Forgie for a ride back to the Sheffield turn-off to the Waimakariri Gorge. The group then headed through Oxford, German Road to Cust, then Fernside and the Mandeville Supervalu for provisions before 'lunch at Ulrike's'. A very relaxed ride thanks to our lunch host who makes some awesome French toast with bacon.

Blackball and two passes ride: Barry reported that at Springfield, six of the original group set off for Arthur's Pass. They had put on wet weather gear for this part of their ride but only got a bit of drizzle going up Porters Pass. It was a good run through to Arthur's Pass where they stopped for a coffee. The group then headed off for the Coast regrouping at the Jacksons turnoff to say their farewells. Barry led the trip to Blackball with Richard and Alan Rigg following while Rob headed for Fox with Paul and Jack.

The Blackball team stopped at Moana to fuel up and arrived at 'formerly the Blackball Hilton' around 1pm. It was nice sitting outside in the sun enjoying lunch, but they did have to move on. They stopped at Reefton to refuel, and Springs Junction for a comfort stop. Barry and Alan stopped at Maruia Springs for a coffee and Culverden for a comfort stop. Barry arrived home around 7 pm. Although it was hot at Maruia Springs it did get a bit chilly once they rode through Lewis Pass. There was very little traffic on the road. Barry mused that it is a lovely ride, one he and the others enjoyed very much.

Haast ride: Rob reported that after they had said our farewells to the Blackball trio at the Jacksons turn off, Jack, Paul and he continued to Hokitika briefly stopping to refuel. They then rode on down to Ross and the Historic Empire Hotel for a very nice lunch. A bonus was the live entertainment out in their sunny beer garden. It was so pleasant there, they reckon that they could have stayed all afternoon, but had to leave after finishing lunch as there was still a long way to go. As they neared Franz Joseph it started to cloud over and by the time they got to Franz it was raining lightly which continued all the way to Fox Glacier which was their stop for the night. In the evening it stopped raining just in time for them to go down to the local pub for a meal. Not many places to choose from as most places were closed, due to the town being like a ghost town.

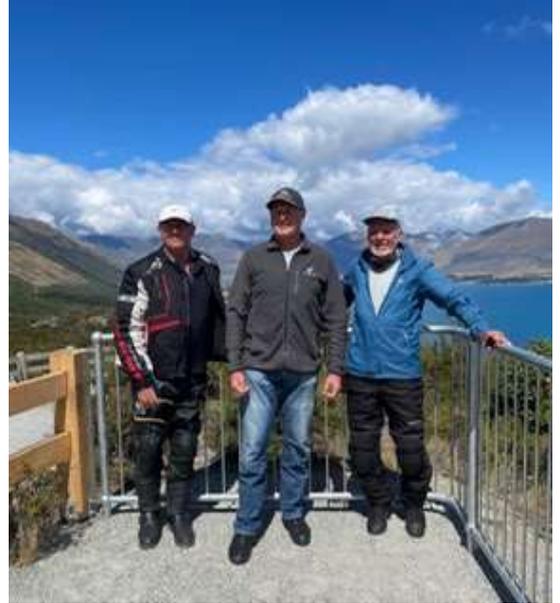
On Monday morning the group headed south in dry weather and had their first stop at a Salmon farm for muffins and coffee. Soon after departing from the salmon farm it started to rain (mostly on and off light rain) but soon got to a point that they had to stop and put on wet weather gear. Even though it was a bit damp they decided to do a detour down to Jackson Bay for a fish and chip lunch. By the time they arrived at the bay the sun had come out. The usual stroll down to end of the jetty and Jack strikes up a conversation with 'Whitey' a local commercial fisherman. Turns out that Whitey knew Jack's uncle Joe Gillman who used to live and fish at Jackson Bay. Whitey knew him well, and ended up giving Jack a couple of crayfish, still alive and wriggling! They were promptly put into Jack's panier bag for the trip through to Wanaka. Dry conditions from the bay all the way through to Wanaka. A great ride through the Haast once the group got past the stop-start roadworks. They booked into the Mt Aspiring Motel in Wanaka where the Crays were dealt with and promptly frozen.

Rob reported that Tuesday was just awesome for riding to Glenorchy in warm sunny weather on what must be one of the best motorcycling roads in NZ. First stop was the Highlands Motorsport Park in Cromwell. Jack chatted up the young lady at the entrance, Rob and Paul don't know exactly what he said to her but next thing they were admitted for nothing. A great collection of cars including a \$4.5 million McLaren. Such a great place and well worth visiting if you haven't been there before. They spent more than two hours there including having a coffee in their café. On to Glenorchy for a late lunch. Again, not many options as a lot of places have closed, but we did have a nice lunch sitting outside at the only place that was open. After lunch a walk down to the waterfront to check out the jetty and other historic sites and by then it was mid-afternoon, so they headed back to Queenstown and a stop at the town waterfront for an ice cream. A very pleasant afternoon. Leaving Queenstown quite late in the afternoon they rode through Arthurs Point and Arrowtown and then the best bit, over the Crown Range stopping down the other side at the Cardrona Hotel for a well-earned beer. It was so pleasant sitting in the garden out the back that they ended up having dinner at the pub eventually getting back to Wanaka just before 9 pm.

Wednesday was ride home day via the Lindis Pass and Tekapo with first stop at Omarama for coffee and cake. Next stop was lunch at Eat deli & Bar in Fairlie. Then through Geraldine and out to Rangitata and onto the main highway. At Rolleston Paul waved farewell and turned off. Jack and Rob continued to the Southern Motorway. As soon as Paul turned off and was on his own, his clutch cable broke, but with quick thinking and skillful riding he managed to get all the way back to Rangiora without stopping, as he was able to change up and down gears without a clutch, but knew if he stopped, he would be stranded, and not be able to get going again. So well done Paul. A wonderful four days of motorcycling and good times enjoyed by all three riders.



Lunch at Ross and the Historic Empire Hotel



Jack, Rob, and Paul at lookout en-route to Glenorchy



The team on the Glenorchy Warf



The bikes outside the Cardrona Pub