



Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch

www.retreads.co.nz

Newsletter # 46 December 2019

Greetings all,

In October, we were saddened to say farewell to one of our riders, Melvyn Pearson who joined our club in 2014. A memorial service to celebrate Melvyn's life was held at Rangiora on October 15, 2019. Those of us attending the service were not surprised by the large turnout and the respect for his contribution to the Fire and Emergency services, St John and The Spirit of Adventure Trust. He was an enthusiastic Yachtsman and motorcyclist. Melvyn trained as a motor mechanic before settling into his permanent occupation in the fire service. The tributes from family members, friends and former colleagues were heartwarming and brought out the full and rich life he had led.

My time with Melvyn will best be remembered on a Retreads three-day Marlborough trip in November 2015. Others on the trip also have fond memories and stories to tell of this particular time with our friend and riding buddy.

Our sincere condolences to Melvyn's wife, Helen and family who, most of all, will miss his cheerful disposition and wicked sense of humor.



Melvyn @ Farewell Spit Café



Di, Alan, Melvyn & Brian outside Motueka Top 10 apartment

A change to our 'summer' venue for our monthly coffee mornings started on Saturday October 5 at The Store, Tai Tapu. Wet though and no one turned up on two wheels nor ventured into the outdoor area for coffee! A special welcome to a returning member, Leigh Richardson, who was keen to renew acquaintances, meet new riders and join us on our group rides.

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

Continuing our series of ride reports:

Wednesday ride 11 September 2019: A small group of riders gathered at Tai Tapu and were led by Jeff Bannister to Little River where he abandoned us and turned back home. Something to do with a vibrating exhaust pipe and fracture of the slip joint between the LH silencer and the pipe on his 1964 Triumph 650 Trophy ... The rest of us made our way up to the Hilltop and along the Summit Road, Quarry Road and the Duvauchelle Bay Hotel for lunch. Hint – order a meal, ask for two plates and share it with someone else. Otherwise a doggie bag is advised for those of us without big appetites!

Sunday ride 29 September 2019: Normal end of month ride abandoned in favor of joining the international 'Gentleman's Ride' in support of prostate cancer. Were you there? Jeff and Yvonne, Barry and Lesley were. Jeff reports: On Saturday 29th September Barry and Leslie Cook, Yvonne and I put on our best shirt, tie and jackets to go on the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride, setting off from Cathedral Square. We were among the first to arrive, so we had a good view of all that arrived, bikes and sidecar outfits ranging from the modern superbikes to the lowliest 50cc step through. Around 200 registered. We set off at about 1.45 for a tour of the city and then Halswell, finally ending up at 5th. Street Restaurant for nibbles provided! via Princess Margaret Hospital. The bikes were filmed by various go pros en route, lots of waving for the camera and generally orderly riding. It was a lot of fun and well organized and totally recommend it. Donations are still being accepted for men's mental health and prostate cancer.

Wednesday ride 9 October 2019: Fine but cloudy day for the ride to Cheviot for lunch. Lead rider Alan Rigg took us on his favourite ride from Woodend through back roads and Leithfield to Waikari and the Waikari Valley and SH1 to Cheviot. Brian left the group soon after lunch at The Paddock Café to return to Christchurch. Simon choose to travel back through Gore Bay on his new steed. The other riders returned home along SH1.

Sunday ride 27 October 2019: Labour Day weekend ride for those not attending the Greymouth motorcycle racing or on family trips. Returning riders, Leigh and Jackie, joined Alan Rigg, Alan Forgie, Colin Williams, Jeff Bannister and Brian on the ride to Springfield to the re-opened Highway Café in Springfield for coffee. Colin turned back and the rest continued up over Porters Pass. Alan Forgie hadn't dressed for rain this time out and turned back as the southerly hit. Blustery conditions prevailed but little precipitation as we carried on to Arthurs Pass for lunch at the Arthurs Pass Store. Tail winds home. However, we encountered dust storms on the Bealey River flats and high winds through the pass back through to Springfield where we stopped and shared stories about the ride. Of course road users often encounter these conditions on both sides of the divide at this time of the year. Lotsa other riders on the highway the majority of whom were most likely returning from Greymouth.

Potluck dinner at Barry and Leslie Cooks place Friday 1 November 2019: Another great night out hosted by the Cook's. Barry staged his own fireworks show prior to the main event on the New Brighton Pier. Leslie excelled once again on the catering front with two varieties of homemade icecream and custard squares to go with other dishes that were brought to the feast – and that was only the desert! Between courses we took in a walk through the native bush walk created by Barry and Leslie and the obligatory rummage through their storage spaces filled with their 'treasures' while the grandchildren watched TV. Thanks Leslie and Barry for the night out at yours'.

Wednesday ride 13 November 2019: This ride is a favourite with many of us mid-week riders. This trip was the second day in a row that some of us had ridden SH 74 and the peninsular roads. More relaxed this time though for Barry, Leigh, Jeff and Brian who had completed the 'Ride Forever' ACC sponsored rider training course with Dan Ornsby the day before. Alan Rigg, Alan Forgie, Leslie and Rob may have noticed an increased awareness and riding style employed by those who had ridden these roads the day before? Brian though hadn't learned how to put his bike into first gear before dismounting on the narrow road shoulder at Little River; it would help though if he had extended the prop stand down first! Third time he has had to replace the left front indicator assembly for similar misdemeanors' (the last in 2015) ... After an enjoyable picnic lunch and obligatory stroll along a deserted beach, Rob and Alan Rigg (on his Vellocette 350 MAC) went their separate ways back to Christchurch; the rest of us took in the sights from the little used narrow Little Akalola road back to the Summit Road.

Sunday ride 24 November 2019: A hot and windy day's riding didn't deter the 8 riders who met at Mobil Yaldhurst with the idea that we would make it to Fairlie for lunch. Led by Rob Newton, the ride through to our first stop at the Rakaia Gorge camping ground challenged most of us due to the blustery nor-wester – hot enough for most riders to shed at least one layer of clothing. The inland scenic highway is always a pleasure but, by the time we got to the Farmers Market Café at Geraldine, we had all had enough of the heat and called it quits. After lunch Brian left a little before the rest to return to Christchurch for an appointment. The riders choose to split up travelling home by different routes that included Thompsons track to SH1 at Rakaia, the Hinds highway to Tinwald and SH1, and the scenic route back through Rakaia Gorge. A welcome cool southerly wind change as we left Geraldine. However, as we ventured north, we again faced the hot northwesterly conditions typical of the climate in Canterbury at that time of the year.

Wednesday ride 11 December 2019: Welcome to our new members Ross and Bev Wells who joined us on their Harley 'trike' for this ride led by Barry Cook. Starting at Tai Tapu, Barry choose to lead us along the foot of the Port Hills, through Sumner, Lyttleton (with a stop at the marina), Governors Bay, Gebbies Pass and on to '*The Little River Dinner*' for lunch. A very sedate ride, especially through the urban areas, but enjoyable. Lots of stops and clutch work for all but our leader who was riding his clutchless Honda Africa Twin!

Christmas lunch at Hinton's Vineyard & Restaurant Saturday 14 December 2019: A late change in date/day for this popular function actually resulted in more people being able to attend. Unfortunately, we lost our veranda table and were seated inside the restaurant. The chairs were more comfortable inside than out and we had the main dining area to ourselves – a great trade-off. An early kick-off (12 noon) with most of us taking the opportunity to wander the garden with our drinks of choice before our group of 18 sat down for a memorable lunch.

Christmas picnic at Cust Domain Sunday 15 December 2019: To round off the weekend, we took off from Mobil Yaldhurst with riders Alan Forgie and then Alan Rigg leading the way along a circuitous route through the Waimakariri and Ashley gorges to the Cust Domain. Reluctantly, we had abandoned our traditional picnic at the Lake Coleridge Domain as stormy weather was brewing in the Alps and foothills. Seven solo riders, two Harley trikes, a black one driven by Ross with Bev on the throne up back, the other Leslie's maroon machine. Di Forgie drove the Forgie's tin-top with picnic gear beating the whole convey to both stops, at the Waimakariri Gorge and then at our destination, the Cust Domain! A great way to finish off our rides for 2019. Looking forward to 2020...

Ride Forever ACC motorcycle training courses: Through her connection with Dan and Holly Ormsby, Retreads member, Uls, organised a series of 3 training courses with 'Ormsby Motorcycle Training' exclusively for active riders of our club. An ACC initiative, courses are on offer for Urban, Bronze and, for more experienced riders, Silver or Gold courses. Four riders attended a Gold course on November 12, five on November 26 and four on December 12, 2019.

Some of the attendees had previously completed Silver or Gold courses run by 'Ormsby Motorcycle Training' and have been the first to qualify for a special offer from ACC that entitles them to receive a \$200 cashback over two years paid on the basis of \$100 per year. The cashback is an incentive to invest in the training of riders throughout NZ and is offered as a contribution towards the annual rider motorcycle registration fee or insurance premium. Great – I have received my 1st payment already!

We wish to thank Dan and Holly who waved their normal motorcycle training top-up fee for members of our club who attended the courses in November/December this year.

Our club currently has a rider list of 28 people. To the best of my knowledge, Brian Neill, Barry Cook, Leslie Cook, Jeff Bannister, Dennis Neill, Leigh Richardson, Rob Newton, Scott Graham, Paul Tayler, Ross Conley, Alan Rigg, Alan Forgie, Colin Williams, and John Van Dijk have completed and/or Silver or Gold courses. The courses are enjoyable and very informative and can be tailored to the needs of participants. Opportunities can be taken to hone skills, learn new techniques and provide the environment to practice them.



Hanmer picnic January 2019



Briefing for the September Distinguished Gentleman's Ride



Retreads Barry, Leslie, Jeff and Yvonne were starters for the September Distinguished Gentleman's ride

Calendar rides and events for 2020: We are switching to a simplified six-month calendar for our planned ride days and events for the new year. This is a change from our traditional four-month calendar and will help our riders plan for the year ahead. The calendar for January through June 2020 follow:

RETREADS MOTORCYCLE CLUB CHRISTCHURCH CALENDAR January-February-March-April-May-June 2020

Day	Date	Rendezvous'	Time	Destination
January				
Saturday	4/01/20	The Store Tai Tapu	10am	Coffee.
Sunday	5/01/20	-	10am	Spare ride day
Wednesday	8/01/20	Woodend <i>Lead rider: Alan Rigg</i>	10am	To Hanmer for a picnic lunch.
Tuesday	21/01/20	Woodend	10am	Geriatrics ride.
Sunday	26/01/20	Yaldhurst <i>Lead rider: John van Dijk</i>	10am	To Lake Tekapo for a picnic lunch.
February				
Saturday	1/02/20	The Store, Tai Tapu	10am	Coffee
Sunday	2/02/20	-	-	Spare ride day.
Wednesday	12/02/20	Yaldhurst <i>Lead rider: Uls</i>	10am	To Staverly Store for lunch.
Tuesday	18/02/20	Woodend	10am	Geriatrics ride.
Sunday	23/02/20	Yaldhurst <i>Lead rider: Brian Neill</i>	10am	Two passes ride – Blackball Hilton for lunch. Sound of Thunder Mike Pero Motorsport Park.
March				
Sunday	1/03/20	-	10am	Spare ride day
Saturday	7/03/20	The Store, Tai Tapu	-	Coffee.
Wednesday	11/03/20	Tai Tapu <i>Lead rider: Bruce Boag</i>	10am	To Okains Bay for a picnic lunch.
Tuesday	17/03/20	Woodend	10am	Geriatrics ride
Sunday	29/03/20	Yaldhurst <i>Lead rider: Rob Newton</i>	10am	SH1 to Kaikoura for picnic lunch. Return via Inland Road.
April				
Saturday	4/04/20	The Store, Tai Tapu	10am	Coffee
Sunday	5/04/20	-	-	Spare ride day
Wednesday	8/04/20	Woodend <i>Lead rider: Paul Tayler</i>	10am	Three Gorges ride to Methven for lunch.
Tuesday	14/04/20	Woodend	10am	Geriatrics ride
Sunday	26/04/20	Woodend <i>Lead rider: Alan Forgie</i>	10am	Leader Valley ride to Waiau Hotel for lunch.
May				
Saturday	2/05/20	Rivertown Café Kaiapoi	10am	Coffee
Sunday	3/05/20	-	-	Spare ride day
Wednesday	13/05/20	Tai Tapu <i>Lead rider: Alan Rigg</i>	10am	Banks Peninsular to Duvauchelle Bay Hotel for lunch.
Tuesday	19/05/20	-	10am	Geriatrics ride
Sunday	31/05/20	Yaldhurst <i>Lead rider: Leigh Richardson</i>	10am	Arthurs Pass for lunch.
June				
Saturday	6/06/20	Rivertown Café Kaiapoi	10am	Coffee. 40 th (and last?) Brass Monkey Rally this weekend.
Sunday	7/06/20	-	10am	Spare ride day
Wednesday	10/06/20	Woodend <i>Lead rider: Jeff Bannister</i>	10am	North Canterbury roads to Hurunui Hotel Café for lunch.
Tuesday	16/06/20	-	10am	Geriatrics ride
Sunday	28/06/20	Tai Tapu <i>Lead rider: Barry Cook</i>	10am	Ride through Greenpark, Lakeside and environs to Crate & Barrel Hotel at Leeston for lunch.

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Please note: Retreads Sunday rides are on the last Sunday of each month. If wet, the ride will take place on the first Sunday of the next month (the Spare ride day). The mid-week rides are on the second Wednesday of each month. The Geriatrics group rides are on the third Tuesday of each month. Depending on where the leader chooses to meet, we alternate our Rendezvous' for rides between (1) SH75 opposite Challenge Tai Tapu, (2) SH73, at Mobil Yaldhurst and (3) SH1, at Blue Wing Honda Woodend (Sundays) or on the Rangiora-Woodend Road adjacent to SH1 (Weekdays). **Everyone joining the rides listed does so at their own risk.**