

# Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch

[www.retreads.co.nz](http://www.retreads.co.nz)



## Newsletter # 55 August 2022

Kai ora,

Following the annual meeting on 4 June we have made several administrative changes aimed at sharing responsibilities for running the club around members of our committee. Rob Newton has been appointed 'Ride and Event Coordinator' assisted by Paul Tayler, Jack Gillman, Barry, and Lesley Cook. The committee for 2022 – 2023 is Brian Neill (Organizer), Alan Forgie (Treasurer), John van Dijik, (Website Manager), Rob Newton (Ride and Event Coordinator), Di Forgie, Ulrike van Nek, Colin Williams, Alan Rigg, Barry, and Lesley Cook.

Alan Forgie would like to retire from his role as Treasurer. The committee will need to seek the services of another club member to fulfill this role, preferably in time to organise the collection of subscriptions due in December. At the AGM, Brian Neill and Alan Forgie were elected Life Members of our club joining our other two Life and founding members, Doug Smith, and John Paulsen.

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.

### **Nigel Cummins report on his 24-hour 2022 TT2000 experience:**

This year's TT2000 followed the same format as previous events. Visit the checkpoints of your choice collect a minimum of 2000 points and ride a minimum of 2000km. The checkpoints were country primary schools with less than 100 pupils (there are a lot more than you think) spread around the South Island. There were several new concepts introduced that gained bonus points. You could "collect" schools that covered all the deciles from 1 to 10. You could also collect schools that were the geographical extremes – North (Motu pipi), East (Ward), West (Hauroko Valley) South (Tokanu) and Centre (Tekapo). And finding all the mystery locations. Everyone had to complete 2 sets of compulsory pairs. For Canterbury this included Okains Bay and Mt Cook. As I had missed the previous two events, I decided to ease my way back in and complete a basic course making sure of my compulsory requirements and the schools on my chosen route added up to 2000 plus points. The start was at Brayshaw Historic Park in Blenheim.

On the Thursday afternoon I left Christchurch at 2pm looking forward to a leisurely ride up the coast but at Amberley the signs were out that the road north of Kaikoura was closed due to a slip, so it was up the Lewis Pass. Helping a fellow TT rider with a fuel supply issue at Murchison cost some time. His outboard motor set up had stopped supplying fuel from the 10-litre tank on the rear seat to the main tank. I didn't do much other than offer moral support and that I would follow him on to Blenheim. He disappeared into the distance, and I never saw him again that evening. Those Honda Silver Wing 600cc scooters seem to go quite well. Nothing quite like a 500km warm up and every cloud has its silver lining. About 20 km from Renwick, I spotted the Tasman/Marlborough Mystery (a windmill – see photo) so that was an additional 150 points found.

Friday, 12pm, we all departed Brayshaw Park. My 1<sup>st</sup> checkpoint was Waikawa Bay School then I did a U turn and headed down Wairau Valley to the mystery location windmill and on to Lake Rotoiti School, then Maruia School (about 20 km north of Springs Junction). Awahono school at Ahaura, Paparoa Range School at Dobson, Lake Brunner School, over Arthurs Pass to Springfield School, Sheffield School and I made it to Lincoln by 9 pm. Still 3 checkpoints to get and be home by midnight so Little River and Duvauchelle schools were grabbed and then up and over to Okains Bay School – the 1<sup>st</sup> of my Canterbury Compulsories. Then via the Summit Road to the Hilltop and home by midnight by 5 minutes accompanied by a layer of Lake Flies over the front of the bike. 840km / 1210 points. Highlight of the days ride was coming over the Hilltop and seeing a "blood" moon.

Saturday I was away at 5.15am, photos at Chertsey, Carew, Lake Tekapo, Mt Cook (2<sup>nd</sup> of my compulsory Canterbury pair), then Omarama school. Most of the Mackenzie Country ride was spent looking south at the constant build-up of cloud from the predicted southerly front. Soon after departing Omarama, it poured down removing the Lake Fly layers. It

was a long soaking ride through to Glenorchy School where it began to fine up. I had a regroup there, having a hot drink, a couple of sandwiches and tried to dry off in the stiff wind coming across the lake. Still needing more of a pick-me-up, I had a quick coffee at Kingston and pushed further south to Mossburn school and then 1<sup>st</sup> of my Southland compulsory pairs – Mararoa School – at a place called The Key - about 25 km short of Te Anau. Check out the photo. Neither Te Anau nor Manapouri were on my route as I continued further south on a very scenic road through Blackmount to Clifden and a photo of Hauroko Valley School. Back north a few km's and it was east on the last part of the days ride, a photo at Nightcaps school and then on to the motel at Winton by 7.30pm. 1010 km/1160 points. Highlight of the days ride was the empty road from The Key to Hauroko School and the view at Blackmount.

Sunday, I had a sleep in and departed Winton at 7.15am. Still heading East there were 3 schools – Hillside, Hedgehop and TeTipua before I got to SH1, just south of Mataura. I kept heading south at Edendale and then followed Mataura Island Road via Pine Bush to Tokanui School for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Southland compulsory pair. A mystery checkpoint was grabbed at Florence Hill lookout in the Catlins and that completed my points gathering. I arrived at the finish at Milton just after 11am, well before the noon cut-off. There was now the paperwork to do – making sure you had ticked the correct boxes on the event checklist and downloaded the photos into my file on one of the laptops in the school library. Then it was time for the usual sausage and bread with a slice of carrot cake. 185 km/490 points. Highlight was the Florence Hill lookout – 22 degrees and no wind with the incoming waves below looking like they were moving in slow motion.

I talked to a couple of riders from Timaru I knew, and they were thrilled to have finished a TT2000 on their third attempt. A bruising crash and a broken chain having thwarted their previous attempts. Then it was time to head home so I retreated southward 2 km and headed up through Lawrence, Alexandra and Tarras and stayed the night in Twizel.

Monday was a pleasant ride back to Christchurch arriving home with 3125km total km on my GPS.

Things I noticed this year: You can have a near new Honda ST1300, loaded with enough electronics to call the International Space Station but if you don't have at least Gortex Gloves or decent wet weather gear of any kind you are going to have a bad day. You can get caught thinking ahead of yourself and completely miss a checkpoint (sorry Wairau Valley School). The bikes included: 24 V-Strom's, 46 BMW's, 6 American Iron, 1 Benelli and a Yamaha Niken. You can ride your DR650 in the Dusty Butt and 2 weeks later ride the TT2000 on the same bike. No need to change tyres. Or oil the chain.

Staying at home on the Friday night allowed me to take a packed lunch which combined with the location I ate it at meant no mucking around at a café (or rather getting too comfortable in a café)

Things that stay the same: During the planning stage I make up a prospective route, then modify, modify again, make up a completely new route, modify that, cancel the modification, make a new modification, cancel that route etc, etc, a few weeks go by, more routes, more modifications and I finally decide that what I came up with in the first place is the best idea anyway.



Waiau Valley windmill



Mararoa School (The Key) 25 km from Te Anau

Editor's note: We know that Nigel enjoys long solo rides – any other Retreads up for it – there will be one next year ...

## Continuing our series of ride reports:

**Tuesday ride 17 May 2022:** We all stood around at the beginning of the run on 17th May until someone suggested the Scargill road and someone else The Hogget. Barry was volunteered to lead. We headed for Rangiora but turned into Gressons Road coming out onto SH 1 just before Waikuku. Once over the Saltwater creek Bridge, we turned left into Broad Rd to the usual inland route, stopping by the truck yard for a break, before continuing up SH 1. From Greta Valley we took the Scargill Valley Rd to Waikari. With time permitting we continued along SH 7, turning off just before the historic Hurunui Pub and traveled through Medbury, coming into Hawarden from the north. It was a nice day, so we had lunch outside at The Hogget, enjoying the good food and company. Those on the ride were Barry, Ulrika, John, Kingsley, Ross, and Lee.

**Sunday ride to Otira 29 May 2022:** Lead rider John van Dijk reports that 10 riders and 1 pillion turned up at the Yaldhurst Mobil Petrol Station for the Sunday ride to Otira. The Temperature was a little chilly at about 8 degrees, but the weather otherwise looked good. We headed away at 10:15 am and headed to the West Melton township turning left into the new housing area. After a few loops we were back onto Weedons Ross Road and from there some back roads to arrive at Charing Cross. More back roads leading to Deans Road (Highway 77) and then back onto SH 73 Main West Road to regroup at Springfield.

Ulrike, Brian, and Colin lunched at Springfield. The rest of us headed to Otira with the sun still shining and the roads not too busy making it a very enjoyable ride. The snow on the Mountains made some stunning views which could be a little distracting at times.

The lunch/drinks at the Otira Stagecoach Hotel went down well. We also enjoyed looking at the many memorabilia items on display. The other visitors at the hotel were a friendly lot and joined in some of our conversations and that's even after we stole their table. The Sun started to fade behind some clouds, so we decided it was time to head back to Christchurch which again was an enjoyable ride back with some great scenery.

**Wednesday ride to Sumner 8 June 2022:** A group of riders met at The Store at 10am for a coffee prior to leaving on the days ride. Lesley led the ride with Barry, Brian, Leigh, Kingsley, Alan, John, and Ulrike. Away soon after 11am we rode from Tai Tapu, over Gebbies Pass and around to Diamond Harbour. Quite a twisty turning trip so all happy to arrive at Stoddart Point Reserve for a short break. A pleasant day although a bit overcast, and not much wind. Back on the road again this time riding through the Lyttleton Harbour Bays, reaching Lyttleton and enjoying the ride through the tunnel – always fun on the bikes. Down Bridle Pass Road, though some roadworks and associated traffic lights, after which Brian waved goodbye as he headed home and the rest of us made our way via Beachville Road to lunch at The Spur. This small, friendly cafe was enjoyed by us all with a very good selection of hot and cold foods. After a relaxing lunch, we all parted ways until next time's run.

**Tuesday ride 14 June 2022:** The usual procrastination before a 10:30 start from Woodend. Paul led off with approximately 5 riders in tow, on what was a very chilly morning. This time we rode north on SH 1 to the truck yard where we usually stop and turned left to do our usual run but in reverse. Paul threw in a few deviations to make the trip interesting. We had decided not to go through Loburn because of the possibility of frost on the road so skirted around Rangiora to Cust and west on German Road. On approaching Oxford, Paul took us on some back streets arriving at the Store Cafe from behind. Once inside, it took a while to warm up, but the cold trip was worth it just for the Sheffield pies.

**Sunday ride to Rakaia 26 June 2022:** Sunny day with most of the 15 riders drinking coffee at The Tai Tapu Store prior to starting out on the days ride. Barry gave a succinct indoor briefing before we started up our machines and left on the ride around 11am. Our bearded Indian Chieftain on his sidecar outfit led the way with his squaw, Lesley, riding sweep on her Harley trike. The group didn't miss a beat all the way through Lincoln, along Telegraph Road to Hororata and then some interesting 'never before travelled by most of us' back roads through a right-angle bend at Te Pinta (blink and miss the church) to finish the ride at Rakaia for lunch.



15 riders at Rakaia for lunch at the Salmon Tales Cafe



Chieftain Barry

**Kickstart – Highway to Well event Wednesday 6 July:** ACC, in association with Christchurch City Council, Selwyn District, and Hurunui District Councils sponsors this annual event. Four of our Retreads attended the event at the Cashmere Club. Others had the opportunity to attend meetings in Selwyn and the Hurunui. Most attendees at the Christchurch event were in the 'older' age group who were no doubt wanting to pick up a few safety tips and catch up with other likeminded riders. Lockie, the local Police Sergeant in charge of the motorcycle mounted group of Police related personal experiences to his 'powerpoint' presentation. Peter, who had worked for ACC and is now with a 'Ride Forever' team, along with Phil, a long-term rider added their pennyworths got the message across that motorcycling is a sport where it is necessary to continually improve our riding skills and being safe out there on our roads.

**Saturday mid-winter lunch at Under the Red Verandah Café 9 July 2022:** 17 Retreads enjoyed themselves on a real wet July day. Good company as always inside the 'cottage' where we had the place to ourselves. The menu doesn't seem to change year by year. However, those present had little trouble finding their own choice of dish. At least the old, discolored plastic water glasses had gone and been replaced with clear glass tumblers.

**Due to adverse weather conditions the three planned mid-week rides for July 2022 were cancelled.** The Met Service reported that July 2022 turned out to be the wettest month ever in Christchurch since records began. The previous record of 233 mm was recorded in May 1945. 311 mm was recorded in July 2022 (average rainfall for July is a low 72 mm). But wait, there is more useless statistics ... This year to the 31 July 656.6 mm fell with the average for the same period recorded as being 377 mm!

**Sunday ride to Gore Bay 7 August 2022:** Lead rider Rob Newton reported that Six bikes, Paul, Nigel, Daniel, the two Allan's and he, along with Barry and Leslie in their gorgeous Mini Clubman convertible met at the rendezvous point. It was decided that they wouldn't waste too much time tiki touring around because of the threatening weather front due mid-afternoon, but we would still ride through to Gore Bay.

They left Canterbury Honda, Woodend, in sunny warm conditions and rode directly up state highway one to Domett where they turned off and rode through to Gore Bay for a brief stop. From there they rode through to Cheviot and then back down to Fossil Point Cafe, arriving at 1:00 for lunch. Lunch over with by 2:00pm and by then the sun had gone and clouds had gathered. They departed south for home, running into a strong southerly head wind, much colder air and light patchy rain just south of Amberley. Getting back into Christchurch the rain had stopped and roads were dry. Shortly after arriving home the more serious rain set in, so good timing on their return trip.

**Wednesday ride to Duvauchelle Bay 10 August 2022:** Rendezvous at Tai Tapu was arranged for the ride over to Duvauchelle Bay Hotel was prearranged and all riders bar one who arrived early found themselves tucked around the corner off the highway by the service station. The main road was parked out and, Brian, who was running late thought the others had left so set out to catch them up only to arrive at the destination before them! Lead rider Rob tried his best to find out where his charge had got to ... don't ask it is complicated.

The pub, like many around Canterbury in these Covid-19 times was closed so the group settled on the bay café and bar for lunch outside with snow on the hills around Akaroa and an air temperature of just 3 degrees centigrade – beany weather. Luckily, we were dressed for the occasion. Our 8 intrepid riders left the Bay mid-afternoon after a thoroughly enjoyable day out. Possibly our last organised ride along SH75 before the lower speed limits come into force – contractors were busy at work erecting new signs and road markings on the Little River/hilltop sections of the highway.



**Gore Bay 7/08/22**



**Near Hilltop enroute Duvauchelle Bay 10/08/22**

**Tuesday ride 16 August 2022:** A new idea for this ride with most of the 9 riders arriving at the Rivertown Café for lunch before the ride. Others joined the group and saddled up after lunch before deciding on a leader or the route to be taken. Ulrike stepped up and led the convoy through Kaiapoi, over the Ashley River Bridge at Rangiora, through Sefton, Belcairn and the Weka Pass, through Waikari intending to complete the Hawarden loop back to SH 7. Missed the turn-off back to the State Highway didn't she and carried on a direct route toward Lake Sumner. The road lost its centreline, got narrower and, fortunately for our group stopped well short of the gravel road ahead.

We turned around and hightailed it back to Waikari where the group split up with Brian, Alan, Colin, Karl and Paul returning home via SH7. Richard, Ross, Ulrike and Kingsley tackled our favoured route through the Waikari Valley and Scargill to SH1. A great afternoon ride with the temperature reaching 20 degrees centigrade through Hawarden.

<b>Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch Calendar for the rest of 2022</b>				
Sunday	28/08/22	Woodend <i>Lead rider: Paul Tayler</i>	10am	Hanmer Springs - hot pools for some?
<b>September</b>				
Saturday	3/09/22	Rivertown Café Kaiapoi	10am	Coffee.
Wednesday	14/09/22	Tai Tapu <i>Lead rider: Barry Cook</i>	10am	Meet for Coffee 10:00am / Ride 11:00am Lake Hood – lunch at Lakehouse
Saturday	17/09/22	Z Service Station, Rolleston <i>Lead rider: Lesley Cook</i>	9am	Overnighter to Twizel and Mt Cook.
Tuesday	20/09/22	Woodend	10am	Lead rider/destination to be decided on the day.
Sunday	25/09/22	Yaldhurst <i>Lead rider: Alan Rigg</i>	10am	Arthur's Pass / Otira lunch
<b>October</b>				
Saturday	1/10/22	The Store, Tai Tapu	10am	Coffee
Wednesday	12/10/22	Tai Tapu <i>Lead rider: Rob Newton</i>	10am	Port Levy – picnic lunch
Tuesday	18/10/22	Woodend	10am	Lead rider/destination to be decided on the day.
Sunday	30/10/22	Woodend <i>Lead rider: Jack Gillman</i>	10am	Motunau Beach – picnic lunch, beach / Jack's Bach
<b>November</b>				
Saturday	5/11/22	The Store Tai Tapu	-	Coffee
Wednesday	9/11/22	Yaldhurst <i>Lead rider: John van Dijk</i>	10am	Castle Hill – picnic lunch
Tuesday	15/11/22	Woodend	10am	Lead rider/destination to be decided on the day.
Tuesday	23/11/22	Tai Tapu <i>Lead rider: Rob Newton</i>	6:00pm	Ride to Sumner for 'Fish n Chip' evening
Sunday	27/11/22	Woodend <i>Lead rider: Karl Harrison</i>	10am	Methven – Lunch at Café 131- Then on to visit a private collection of old stuff incl., engines, cars, carts etc
<b>December</b>				
Saturday	3/12/22	The Store Tai Tapu	10am	Coffee
Sunday	4/12/22	Yaldhurst <i>Lead rider: Brian Neill</i>	10am	Retreads ride and picnic lunch at Lake Coleridge Domain
Saturday	10/12/22	Valley Inn Hotel	12pm	Christmas lunch 12 noon. Numbers by 24/11/22.
Wednesday	14/12/22	Woodend	10am	Lead rider/destination to be decided on the day.

**Issue: 31/07/2022**

**Contact: Rob Newton Ph: 022 111 2852**

**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. A normally unscripted, mid-week ride will be held on the **third Tuesday** of each month. Unless notified otherwise, we alternate our rendezvous for rides between SH75 opposite Challenge **Tai Tapu**, SH73, at **Mobil Yaldhurst** and SH1, at **Canterbury Honda Woodend** (Sundays) or on the **Rangiora-Woodend Road adjacent to SH1** (Weekdays). **Everyone joining the rides listed does so at their own risk.**