

# Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch

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



## Newsletter # 57 March 2023

Kai ora,

It seems an age since Christmas and about time for reflecting on what our riders have been up to. The lead up to Christmas included our traditional picnic at the Lake Coleridge Domain and Christmas lunch at the Valley Inn Hotel. Interestingly the last ride report in this newsletter was a return to Lake Coleridge for a picnic.

For some time now we have been encouraging members who may be reluctant to turn up for some of our longer rides to meet at the rendezvous anyway. Options include stopping off at one of the regroup stations along the way and riding to an alternative destination of their choosing. Or, if there are others wanting to embark on a shorter ride, appoint a leader who can take responsibility for guiding them to that destination.

A case in point is our ride to Kaikoura at the end of March. Some riders may only want to travel as far as (say) Cheviot and then cut back through either Gore Bay or the Leader Valley, Waiau and Culverden. Riders on the long ride would most likely return from Kaikoura via the inland road to Waiau and Culverden.

We are striving to cater for all riders and are open to ideas how to improve the rider experience. Remember, if for any reason you can't turn up on your steed on the day, we encourage you to consider driving your tin top (or convertible) ...

Our thanks to Ulrike for liaising with Ornsby Motorcycle Training Ltd to arrange for members to sign up for an ACC 'Ride Forever Gold Course'. These courses are popular and the benefits include ACC rebates on motorcycle registrations of \$100 for each of the two years following the course. Our riders have booked for courses in April.

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

**Nostalgia time:** Ariel Square 4, Triumph Speed Twin.



Scott Harrison's 1953 1,000cc Ariel Square 4



Brian Neill's 1959 500cc Triumph Speed Twin

Scott's 1953 Ariel is still on the road and is seen here in original condition parked up at Motunau Beach at the Retreads picnic lunch in October 2022. Brian's 'bathtub' Triumph was new at the time this photo was taken and sported a fiberglass fairing to replicate the livery used by UK cops in the 1950's. Brian and a mate bought the Avon fairing from Tom McCleary Jnr that was originally mounted on an imported bike. They made a fiberglass mold and manufactured several replicas for other motorcyclists. One was fitted to Brian's 1964

500cc Triumph Tiger 100. The last one manufactured was mounted on his brother Robert's 350cc Triumph Tiger 90. Comfortable to ride behind but a bit heavy. Went well on a Triumph Tiger 110 Steib sidecar outfit though...

Anyone up for it for the next newsletter – write a piece about your favourite bikes.

**Continuing our series of ride reports:**

**Sunday 4 December 2022 picnic lunch at Lake Coleridge Village Domain:** 14 riders, including ride leader Brian on the only scooter, left our Yaldhurst rendezvous around 10:15 am. We travelled the most direct route to the picnic – SH 73 to Aylesbury to regroup, rode on through Hororata to the crossroads at SH 72 where we picked up James Anderson on his Vellocette Mac. 25 km to go to the picnic spot at the Lake Coleridge village domain. Daniel diverted through Windwhistle to take on fuel for the dirt road trip he had planned for the trip home. The rest of us were determined to make the most of the tree canopy at the domain to rest, yarn, and sleep on what turned out to be a hot 27 degree nor-westerly day. Alan Rigg and Brian (the only real geriatrics) were the only riders to walk the track for the expansive views of the upper reaches of the Rakia River. A couple of fly fishers were casting from the island between the Tailrace from the Lake Coleridge power station and one of the many channels formed by the braided river. A magnificent view of the expansive Canterbury high country – should have taken a photo ...

**Saturday 10 December 2022 Christmas lunch at Valley Inn Hotel:** Everyone enjoyed themselves at the Valley Inn for our Christmas get-together. Lesley did a great job of coordinating the event.



**Wednesday ride 14 December 2022:** 10 riders turned up at Woodend for the last 'official' group ride of the year. 28 degrees at Hawarden so the rather overheated riders took advantage of the table set up for us inside The Hogget for lunch. Led by Alan Rigg, we swung past the BP service station in Ravenswood where John van Dijk joined us on our way through Sefton, Balcairn, back onto SH1, then through Scargill and the Waikari Valley enroute to Hawarden. Frustrating to say the least, we experienced long delays at three separate signal-



controlled roadwork sites north of the Waipara River – stationary on a motorcycle on a hot day is a bit tough. The red always seemed to switch itself on as we approached ...



**Lunch at The Hogget**

**Wednesday ride 11 January 2023 to Iron Ridge Quarry Park:** Great turnout for this the 1<sup>st</sup> group ride for the New Year. 14 riders set out on this ride led by Rob Newton with pillion Jane around 10:20 am. Traffic was reasonably heavy as we left Woodend and the day warmish but with the threat of rain. We turned right off the Rangiora–Woodend Road through the golf course to SH1 at the Ashley River bridge then Greta Valley and our favored ride through Scargill and Waikari Valley to regroup. We had put up with a little moisture along the way, so some time was spent parked up outside the Waikari store. Barry and Daniel took off to travel 'overland' in search of a metal road that appeared to be the shortest route to the Quarry Park... The rest of us turned south on SH7 and the Weka Pass to SH1 and the trek west to the Iron Ridge Quarry Park. Barry and Alan decided to give the lunch stop a miss and returned home early.



**Where are the riders?**

**CHECK THE NEXT PAGE!**



**Easy rider**



**Interesting ...**



**More difficult than one thought**

**Tuesday ride 17 January 2023:** A wet ride day. 14 riders turned up at Woodend and after a lot of dithering and the late arrival of Paul Taylor he drew the short straw and led the ride through the gorges and the Café on the Green at the Hororata Golf Club in Glentunnel. Had we gone north not south we may have missed the drizzle, and wet roads, that put a damper on things after we passed through Oxford. A stop at the Waimakariri Gorge bridge allowed riders to don wet weather gear before tackling the Hororata loop back to the café. Apart from the fact that we bought out all new business owner Zoe's pies it was great to be out of the weather for a bit before a (dry) ride home.



**Kingsley, John, Richard, and Paul chewing the fat around the table at Café on the Green Glentunnel**

**Sunday ride 29 January 2023 to Otira Hotel for lunch:** Great to see so many riders turn out for this ride over the main divide. Lead rider Nigel Cumins rang the hotel to let them know they needed to cater for at least 13 Retreads riders. A busy day on SH 73 with returning riders from the Hokitika MC Rally mixed with holiday makers in their tin tops and camper vans. Pleasant riding conditions though.

Great to have Wim Bauman on his BMW join us for the ride. James joined us enroute on his Velo Mac, had lunch then continued over to the coast for the weekend. Nigel also took the opportunity to travel to the coast to suss out some of the territory he will be travelling through during the upcoming 2023 24-hour TT2000 event. The rest of us riders buddied up for the trip home. Along the way to Arthur's Pass village our tail end group came upon a serious motorcycle crash. A traumatic time for them but pleased that they were able to assist first responders at the scene.

Check out the scene outside the Otira Hotel:





Parked up outside the Otira Hotel

**Wednesday ride 8 February 2023 to Crate & Barrel Leeston for lunch:** With some of our riders on their way to Invercargill and the Bert Munroe weekend and others still on holiday, just 8 riders made it to Yaldhurst on what was a perfect riding day. The scooter mob led the way with Brian in the lead. Colin and Christine Williams met the riders at the Crate & Barrel for lunch. Lindsay, John, Ross, Richard, Ulrike, Roger and tail end Charlie, Alan Forgie, rounded off our party of 10. It would be great if there were more pubs in the region offering 7 days a week service like we had at the Crate and Barrel. The food was first class and there was a great selection of refreshments to be had. For some Leeston appears out of nowhere. The circuitous route chosen to Leeston had some riders wondering which way to go for the trip home ...

**Catlins overnigher Saturday 18 – Monday 20 February:** Rob Newton reports on the ride:

At 8 am on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> Jack, Wim, Richard, Daniel, and myself, met at BP Rolleston on a fine cool morning and planned to ride down SH1 with a first refreshment stop in Timaru. However, our first stop ended up at Geraldine Farm shop Café, having been detoured down a backroad at Hinds due to an accident. This took us out onto the Inland Scenic Road and into Geraldine where we had our refreshments stop. From there we rode back out onto SH1 at Winchester and then our next stop at Oamaru for fuel. We then decided to continue onto Moeraki for a fish and chip lunch. However, the fish and chip shop was closed so we had lunch at the Tavern across the road.

Next onto Dunedin to a BP station so Wim could fill up his BMW with 98 octane, but he ended up being separated from us. After I tried to ring him several times, (his phone was off), Jack went back to look for him but couldn't find him. We all knew that we were to meet next at a supermarket in Balclutha, so the rest of us continued, arriving outside New World Balclutha. Wim wasn't there...

So again, Jack went to look for him and found him waiting for us outside the Countdown supermarket. All back together again we bought some supplies and headed onto our destination at Chaslands Farm Cottages in the Catlins, arriving sometime after 6 pm. The weather was fine and warm the whole way.

On Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> the morning was warm and overcast and our plan was to ride into Invercargill, about 110 km away. On the way we stopped at Curio Bay to see the petrified forest and then onto Slope Point, the southernmost point of the South Island. We didn't do the walk from the carpark as felt we could be pushing for time considering the things we wanted to do.

From here we rode to Bluff, and after the standard photo shoot under the sign at the end of SH1 at Sterling Point, we had lunch at the Oyster Cove Café on the hill above. Just as we finished lunch it started raining. We waited a while longer in case it was just a shower, but it really looked like it was setting in, so we continued into Invercargill. But first we had a ride up Bluff hill for a look, but no views as the weather was changed in.

We rode to Invercargill in the rain where we split up. Daniel, Richard, and Wim went to the Classic Motorcycle Museum, while Jack and I went to the Transport World (Truck) museum. This took about two hours, and by the time we came out the rain had stopped, and the roads were dry. Even though it had rained it wasn't cold, and this was the only time we had any rain while away.

After the museums, we met at the Countdown supermarket to purchase the next two nights' supplies. Then we rode back to the Catlins on awesome roads, arriving back at the cottage sometime around 6:30 pm.

On a warm and sunny Monday 20<sup>th</sup>. we chose to ride to and explore the Catlins. First stop was Cathedral Caves as they are only accessible at low tide. It was a 20-minute walk from the carpark, down to, and along the beach to reach these amazing caves. We then stopped at the Skeleton Point lookout to take in the views and take photos. Next was Papatowai, stopping for a coffee and browse through the amazing electromechanical gizmos at The Lost Gypsy Gallery.

Next was Owaka where we stopped for fuel and some lunch at "The Catlins Café". Afterwards Richard stayed in Owaka as he was meeting up with a friend, while the rest of us rode to Kaka Point, then on to Nugget Point. The walk from the car park is about 20 minutes, and well worth it for the wonderful coastal scenes from the lighthouse.

We then headed back towards Owaka passing Richard going the other way. He had finished his meeting and was on his way to find us. On the way back to Chaslands we visited the Purakaunui waterfall, which is probably the best of the many waterfalls in the Catlins.

We decided to visit one more waterfall on the way back, so we turned off and rode 4 or 5Km down a dusty gravel road only to find the sign said it was a 40-minute walk into the falls. As it was the end of the day we decided "Nah, too far!" So rode back down the dusty road to the main road, and back to our cottage at Chaslands for relaxation and a beer, except, sadly I had none, as the supermarket in Invercargill doesn't sell any because Invercargill has a Licensing Trust.

On Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> we rode back to Christchurch on another perfect, warm sunny day departing from the cottage about 7:45 am riding about 75Km to arrive in Balclutha around 9:00am for a quick fuel stop. From there we travelled north on SH1 and turned off just south of Milton and headed inland up SH8, stopping in Roxborough for an early lunch at the famous Jimmy's Pie shop. Believe it or not, we could smell the pies about a km before the pie shop! By now the day was getting really hot, around the 30-degree mark.

Next stop was in Alexandra for fuel and stopping to see another mate of Richard's at the Honda motorcycle dealership. We were there for quite some time as Wim took an interest in a new Honda and was wanting to work out a deal on trading in his BMW. By then it was about 1:30pm, stinking hot, and we still had a long way to go, so we had to haul him out of the showroom, saddle up and get going.

On up to Cromwell, Tarras, over the Lindis Pass and a brief 2-minute stop in Omarama to regroup. We continued with another brief 2-minute stop at Tekapo, and then a fuel stop in Fairlie. It was after 4 pm by now and nothing seemed to be open for coffee in Fairlie, so we decided on having one long final stop in Geraldine, as there are more café options.

We arrived in Geraldine about 4:40pm when Jack had a flat rear tyre. He *commented "that's why the back end felt like it was sliding in the corners!"* The local garage was still open but closing soon, but we managed to get the tyre fixed using Wim's repair kit and the help of the local mechanic, who was the only one to have done this type of repair before. Fairly easy when you know how!

After the repair was made, we went to The Village Inn for a beer or other cold refreshments. From here Daniel left us to travel home via the inland Route, while the rest of us, by now wanting to get home via the quickest way, rode out to SH1 at Rangitata for a straight run home. I arrived home about 7:15pm having travelled 1,625Km over four days.

An awesome ride, great bunch of guys and great weather. All smiles in the photo taken at the very bottom of SH1 at Bluff:



**Rob, Wim, Daniel, Richard, and Jack at Sterling Point (Bluff).**

**Sunday two-passes ride 26 February 2023:** Rain intervened and forced us to postpone this ride to the following Sunday only to cancel it altogether as the rain, despite clearing up during the week prior, returned.

**Wednesday mid-week picnic ride to Lake Coleridge Domain 8 March 2023:** We were planning to have a picnic lunch at the end of our ride at Lake Coleridge Domain. However, the weather forecast was grim for the foothills around the Canterbury side of the main divide that included heavy rain and gale force winds. As we set out from home for our rendezvous at Yaldhurst some of our group did so despite some light rain falling. A hardy group of 8 riders did turn up though as well as Colin and Peter in Colin's Hyundai tin top.

After assessing the situation, we opted to ride the familiar Ashley Gorge and German Road route to the Cust Domain where we figured that there is at least a shelter provided for picnickers. Some of us remembered that the last time we were at the domain we were sheltering from the sun! Turned out to be hot and sunny though, the bad weather passed us by, and we experienced a 29 degree ride home after a relaxing outdoor lunch at the picnic tables provided.

Next rides:

**Tuesday 21 March – meet Rangiora/Woodend Road adjacent SH1 at 10am.**

**Kaikoura ride Sunday 26 March – meet Canterbury Honda SH1 Woodend 10am.**