

Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch

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Newsletter # 49 December 2020

Greetings all,

25 years of our Chapter of Retreads International:

While reviewing club activities a couple of months ago, we realized that this year is a significant milestone in the history of our club. To mark the occasion Ulrike kindly hosted a pot-luck dinner for members and associates at her place on Sunday evening 22 November 2020. During the evening members shared their experiences of club activities and expressed their fond memories of wonderful comradeship, great rides, and interesting times – something I reckon we can all endorse.

You will no doubt have read the short History of our club that was emailed to you. We all have stories to tell so we have in mind to produce a booklet on our club that could well include reminiscences from our members. We have quite a lot of historic material on hand which will help with this task.

Over 300 people have been involved with our club since our founding members started the club in 1996. Throughout the years we have been able to maintain an air of informality in everything we do as a club. I would like to imagine that the club will continue to prosper and provide opportunities for members to meet regularly for rides and social events.

Sadly, many riders and associates are no longer with us. We do, however, appreciate the continuing support of retired riders and partners who we have kept in contact with. Newsletters, ride, and event calendars reach over 50 people; we currently have an active rider group of 33. I would like to pay tribute to everyone who have provided the energy and expertise to build a relaxed and friendly association of like-minded people that enjoy the sport of motorcycling.

Tuesday rides: I had been asked to include the 'Retreads/Geriatrics' on my Retreads text reminder for the ride on Tuesday 18 August. As I was down to lead the ride, I chose to include a report on this ride and future rides in our newsletters. A few non-Retreads riders from the 'Geriatrics' group get this text message, and this provides us with another way of encouraging membership of our club. The August ride was the last to have been allocated (in advance of the ride) a lead rider.

Your committee have since decided to drop the word 'Geriatrics' from the title and list the 3rd Tuesday in the month ride as a Retreads ride but without nominating a destination. It would be nice to include the name the lead rider though in future calendars otherwise one will be appointed by the riders gathered on the day. All rides will leave from Woodend.

The following notes were taken from a meeting of your Club's Committee on October 3, 2020:

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1. 2020 Report: Brian tabled his report that had been circulated to members. Discussion followed and decisions made on matters raised in the report.
2. Annual financial statements for 2019 and 2020: Alan tabled his report that had been circulated to members. It was noted that the Club had accumulated funds of \$2,108.86 as of September 1, 2020. Alan indicated that subscriptions from 22 members had been received. Following discussion, it was resolved on the motion of Alan Forgie, seconded Brian Neill **'that the Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch subscriptions be set at \$15.00 for a single rider, \$20.00 for a rider and partner and \$10.00 for an associate member'**. The Club's subscriptions had remained at these levels since 2011. Members continue to support the collection of subscriptions the main benefactor in the past being St John for their local ambulance service. In 2012 we donated \$260 to Kaikoura St John and in 2019 \$500 to Amuri St John. It was resolved on the motion of Brian Neill, seconded Di Forgie **'that a donation of \$500.00 be made to Westpac Rescue Helicopter Trust and \$300.00 to Rolleston St John'**. We urge all active members to contribute to the Club's coffers by paying their subscriptions that are due in December so that we can continue to support charities of our choice.
3. 'Flash' rides: Barry and Lesley were complimented on their initiative and will continue to text those who are interested in joining them over the coming warmer months and long evenings.
4. Retreads calendar January through June 2021: Brian to circulate a 'blank' calendar to members of the committee and lead rider group so that people can populate the 'Rendezvous' and 'Destination' columns in particular, and to make suggestions

about other events that may be of interest to the wider group of club members. We currently have 30 people on our rider group list; 50 members all told. We propose to circulate the New Year calendar in November. Members agreed to drop the name 'Geriatrics' from our 3rd Tuesday monthly rides as only one or two of that group have continued to keep in touch.

5. Events: Hinton's have closed permanently, and we have secured a booking for our Christmas lunch at The Old Vicarage, Halswell, on December 12, 2020 at 12:30pm. Following discussion, we decided to go for the \$45 option for this lunch rather than the Christmas special of \$55. Booking to be confirmed in November. Members would like us to calendar an overnighter in for March 2021, preferably to the Nelson area.
6. 25th Anniversary of our Chapter of Retreads International: We need to mark this milestone. A few ideas were bandied about. A decision will be made by the end of October. Meanwhile, Brian will circulate a short history of our club he prepared some time ago to Committee members for their information.

Regards,

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

Continuing our series of ride reports:

Wednesday ride to Akaroa 10 June 2020: Back to Level 2 didn't deter 10 Retreads riders who met at Tai Tapu and rode over to Akaroa for a fish and chips lunch at 'Murphy's On The Corner'. Lead rider Leigh Richardson reports the ride went well with the road a bit wet and 'slippy' on SH 75 over the hill and into Akaroa harbour. The day got colder as the day progressed. The good thing was that the group had Akaroa to themselves...

Tuesday ride to Hawarden 18 August 2020: 8 riders turned up at Woodend for the Retreads/Geriatrics ride that finished up at The Hogget, Hawarden, for lunch. We travelled up SH1 to regather at Greta Valley opposite the Fossil Point Café where Dennis left us to travel back to Christchurch via the Waikari Valley Road. The other riders continued to Domett, then headed east to Gore Bay. We headed north again, through Cheviot, SH1 back to the Greta Valley, and to our destination at Hawarden via the Waikari Valley Road. A good ride day the only incident being a Highway Patrol car sandwiched between our 4th and 5th riders between Woodend and the Greta! The lead group wondered where the others had got to ...

Sunday ride to Leithfield Hotel 30 August 2020: Snowden Sheep Station near Terrace Downs was the original plan. Barry and Leslie, in consultation with the sheep station decided that we would be better to postpone this event until the New Year. With the change in plan we moved the rendezvous to Woodend with lunch at the Historic Leithfield Hotel. Barry Cook led our ride. He reports that Sunday the 30th of August saw a wonderful turnout of 16 bikes and 20 people. The day was warm and made for a very enjoyable ride ending at the Historic Leithfield Hotel for lunch. The route took us via rarely travelled back roads of Tuahiwi, Kaiapoi (inadvertently negotiating Kaiapoi township due to a missed turning), Clarkville, Mandeville, Fernside and circumnavigating Rangiora to come out on the Ashley River bridge. We turned off at Ashley, through Sefton and onto the lunch spot. Lunch was outdoors in a lovely setting under trees and in very balmy conditions. To make the trip more interesting Barry had organised a short quiz which created a lot of laughter with the prizes being small chocolate bars to all. Our thanks to everyone for making the day a memorable one.

Wednesday ride to Hororata Golf Club Cafe 9 September 2020: Lead rider, Ulrike, intended that we would have lunch at the Hororata Café. However, due to a rather high turnout of members (14) for this mid-week ride, the Café was unable to cater for our group on this occasion. After some discussion we decided to ride through the Ashley and Waimakariri Gorges and the inland scenic highway to the Hororata Golf Club Café at Glentunnel. A great choice this turned out to be. Sunny day ideal for outdoor dining overlooking the picturesque golf course fairways. Excellent cabinet food and service made for a relaxed lunch that kept us chatting for quite some time. A minor medical event was handled well by St John paramedics from Rolleston just prior to our riders leaving the golf course café.

Tuesday Retreads/Geriatrics ride 15 September 2020: Gusty nor-westerly winds greeted us on the way to the Woodend rendezvous. Just 6 riders turned out that had us opting for a shorter than usual ride. We decided to ride back through Kaiapoi, Spencerville and the Christchurch beach suburbs before arriving at The Ocean Restaurant at the Clock Tower in Sumner. A pleasant ride led by Barry who took us down more than one interesting 'No Exit' street before arriving at Sumner. We did, however, avoid battling into the nor-wester had we chosen to ride North Canterbury roads.

Sunday ride to The Duvauchelle Bay Hotel 27 September 2020: A gale force nor-wester deterred many for the ride that was to take us to The Staveley Store for lunch. 5 bikes and 6 people did turn out however, deciding to shorten the day out by opting for Little River as our 1st port of call, then over the hill to The Duvauchelle Bay Hotel. Good choice, tail wind most of the way there, little traffic for a Sunday and not too arduous a ride home. Lot of fun.

Wednesday ride to Fossil Point Café 14 October 2020: Fickle weather near the end of this spring did not deter the 9 riders (8 bikes) turning up at the familiar Woodend rendezvous at 10 am. Rain threatened and lead rider, Jeff Bannister, took a conservative,

but interesting route through the back blocks of Rangiora and the Seddon road to regroup at Waipara. On to the Hanmer road we travelled inland through Hawarden before the roads turned a trifle wet persisting through the Waikari Valley to our lunch stop at the Fossil Point Café. Another group of riders heading for the Picton Ferry would have had a wet trip after leaving the café. However, by the time we were ready to depart SH1 back to Christchurch was dry all the way.

Tuesday Retreads ride 20 October 2020: 7 riders turned up including James Anderson, the son of a past 'Geriatrics' member of the group on his dad's Velocette. Highlight of the day was by way of a van that stopped opposite the assembled riders at the Woodend rendezvous. The driver leapt out clutching a large cake that he donated to those assembled (morning snack) before the ride to The Famous Grouse at Lincoln for lunch.

Sunday ride to Kaikoura 25 October 2020: 9 bikes and 11 riders gathered at Woodend at the start of the long trek to Kaikoura on what was the hottest day of a dry spell at the end of Spring. Boy was it hot (30 degrees). Us riders who support the notion of wearing 'all the gear all the time' on our rides were only sort of prepared for the hot conditions. First stop Cheviot for well-earned refreshments. Rob turned back for home at this point; the rest of us carried on for a picnic at the South Bay Domain. Traffic wasn't too bad considering that it was Labour Day weekend. That is apart from being overtaken by a gaggle of Harley riders who shot past us ignoring any sense of decorum – enough said ... We left South Bay, filled up in Kaikoura and returned home through the inland road with the traditional stop off at Waiau for an icecream.

Wednesday ride to Staveley Store 11 November 2020: Ulrike reports that the ride to Staveley went well. 10 riders on 8 bikes - Barry and Lesley, Ross and Bev Wall, Ross Conley, Colin Williams, Alan Forgie, Jeff Bannister, Rob Newton, and yours truly. I think it was the first time that we had hardly any wind on that tour. We went through Darfield, turned left and then onto SH 72 with a short stop at the camp site by the Rakaia river. The sky turned blue and we could have stayed in Staveley for much longer.

Tuesday Retreads ride 17 November 2020: 12 bikes, 13 riders turned out for this ride. We left Woodend after deciding to finish the ride at The Hogget in Hawarden. A much-travelled route through Leithfield and the Belcairn road to Waipara, SH1 to the Greta Valley and the Waikari Valley Road through Scargill to The Hogget. Welcome to first timers, Rodney Bolton on his BMW RS 1200 and Warren Coulbeck on his Triumph Tiger. Riders enjoyed their day on the road and the lunch at The Hogget.

Sunday Pot-luck Dinner 22 November 2020: Our 25th Anniversary function at Ulrike's place was an outstanding success. Those joining us included Ross and Liz, Peter Archer, Noeline and Brian, Richard Wiltshire, Alan Rigg, Diane and Alan, Brian and Jenny, Colin and Christine, Lesley and Barry, Paul and Rosie, Jeff and Elaine, Rob and Jane, Andrew and Pauline, Nigel and Marie and host Ulrike Van Nek. Apologies were received from Dorothy Hutcheson and Sheila Grady. Many thanks to the chefs amongst you who provided a very impressive spread.

Sunday ride to Otira 29 November 2020: John van Dijk led our last longish ride of the year to the Otira Hotel for lunch on a fine 'end of spring' day. 9 riders, 7 bikes gathered at our rendezvous at Yaldhurst and, after fueling up made our way to the Old West Coast Road through the new Halkett subdivision. We regathered at Springfield and spoke to a group of Ulysses riders from the Wairarapa who were heading south on their way to Invercargill meeting up with other regional club riders along the way. Colin turned back for home at Springfield; the rest of us enjoyed the scenery and arrived at the Otira Hotel in good time for lunch. A great experience, what with the welcome we got, and the 'entertainment' provided equally by staff and their visitors. Reasonable overnight rates too if you are so inclined ...

Photo Gallery:



Lunch at Otira Pub Sunday 29 November 2020



Entertainment at Otira Pub 29 November 2020



Fish 'n' Chips Akaroa 10 June 2020



Gore Bay 18 August 2020



Lunch at Historic Leithfield Hotel Sunday 30 August 2020