

newsletter

BMW Motorcycle Club
BMW Owners Register
of New Zealand



bmwor.org.nz

may 2015



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Send editorial copy to:

The Editor
27 Omapere Road
Kaikohe 0405
editor@bmwor.org.nz

All other correspondence to:

The Secretary
BMWOR of NZ
P O Box 109-245
Newmarket
AUCKLAND 1149
NEW ZEALAND

PRESIDENT

Peter Tibbs
(06) 378 2242
president@bmwor.org.nz

VICE PRESIDENT

Garry Williams
(03) 312 8204 or (027) 242 7799
vicepresident@bmwor.org.nz

SECRETARY

David Oldershaw
(029) 200 3679
secretary@bmwor.org.nz

TREASURER

Robin Wood
treasurer@bmwor.org.nz

EDITOR

Bruce Crowther
(09) 401 0029
editor@bmwor.org.nz

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Folker Liebenow
(06) 874 8506
membership@bmwor.org.nz

BMWOR GEAR

Ian Sowden
regalia@bmwor.org.nz

ARCHIVIST

Paul Edlington
(09) 478 3903
pauledlington@xtra.co.nz

please note

Any material intended for publication in the newsletter should reach the Editor no later than the 15th day of the month preceding publication. The newsletter is an open forum for all members. Views expressed by members may not necessarily represent the views of BMWOR of NZ. Publication of all material is subject to the Editor's discretion. Photos are courtesy of article authors unless otherwise specified.

president's podium



With winter almost upon us it's time to take another look at those tyres and riding gear. With wet slippery roads to ride on there's no substitute for good tyres and riding gear.

The North Island Rag Rally venue Taylor Memorial Lodge at Pokaka is undergoing renovations and was good to see the new water tank in place. (Last year we ran out of water). The outside of the Lodge has been painted and work is underway on the inside. It looks like we are in for a major upgrade to our North Island Rag Rally accommodation along with the utilities.

I reached the Lodge over one and a half days riding with nine other riders which turned out to be a lot quicker than Snow Buckton who set out from his home a year earlier. But like the good man Snow is he made it to the Rag in the end.

On Friday morning prior to the Rag three of us left our home in the Wairarapa and rode North taking, wherever possible, roads less travelled and then meeting up with two other riders in Ashhurst. After coffee and a chat we then rode back into the back country to emerge back in the big smoke at Taihape where we met up with two more members. We then continued on to the Geographic Centre of the North Island which is deep in the Pureora Forest. From there we rode to a DOC camp site where we teamed up with two more members who rode in via a different trail. All nine of us had a great meal, chat and plenty of laughs well into the evening. Come morning it was up for breakfast before dawn. Then our wait began for the dawn chorus, an idea initiated by Dave Morris. But alas this year the forest remained relatively quiet. We all saddled up then off to civilisation for brunch after which we continued our ride to Pokaka.

One of our Reps, Peter Nash, who only lives a bit over 100kms from me, holds an impromptu ride from time to time. I have taken up the opportunity to take part in some of these rides and have found them to be very enjoyable and a great way to make the most of the good weather while it is on offer.

Ann and I took part in an overnighter recently with other members of our Club. This proved to be a great way to spend the weekend with fellow members and just proving once again what a good Club we belong to. There is always something to do within this Club if you so choose to participate.

I thank all our Area Reps for the sterling effort and time they put into this Club in order that we may share in rides and social activities.

If you live in an area where we are currently without an Area Rep perhaps you could initiate a get together and work out how best your Area could co-ordinate some group activities and social get togethers for Members in your Area.

I was concerned to read in the April issue of our Newsletter the completely negative thoughts expressed in a letter to the Editor. It reads of a mindset of someone sitting on the porch fiddling a banjo or is that a ukulele whilst staring into a half empty glass. No solutions just negativity in spades. No Club has room for this sort of mindset. Let's move on with a glass at least half full and enjoy what we have. After all how does that old saying go - we are all here for a short time, not a long time. Let's all work on building a future together.

We all have plenty to smile about.

As always - wheels down, feet up!

Peter
Aka. Tibsy.

Cover

Snow Buckton receiving the Rag Award from Tibsy (who is moving too fast for John Wut's camera.)

It only took Snow a year to get there, and it involved a few repairs to his bike during the journey, which may explain why, like many another person in Northland, he can't afford shoes.

Thanks to Winston, the Editor and the Librarian hope to soon have shoes, which will be good for walking over Jonkey's bridges.

No such luck for Snow though, Hikurangi comes under Whangarei Electorate, so he'll have to petition Dr Reti for his footwear.

BMW Owners Register Risk Management Plan

Introduction:

The BMW Owners Register is an organisation whose members join together for rides to nominated venues and for other social occasions. The organiser nominates the destination and regrouping stages along the way, but otherwise has no influence upon the way that riders behave on the road. There is no element of organised competition in the rides.

Riding Code:

1. All register members on register rides shall do so as individuals responsible for their own safety and shall take into account the safety of others they encounter on the ride.
2. Register members are responsible for ensuring that their motorcycles are in a safe and legal condition, the minimum being to Warrant of Fitness standards.
3. Riders, pillion, and sidecar passengers where required, shall have as a minimum Standards New Zealand approved motorcycle helmets, and stout footwear, gloves and clothing that will be capable of protecting their body in the event of a mishap.
4. Register members are to go to the aid of any others suffering a mishap.

5. Ride organisers shall nominate the destination for the ride as well as any regrouping locations or other stops. The organiser is not responsible for other riders' behaviour or safety.

6. Riders shall ride at a speed and in a way that is comfortable for them. Do not ride outside your personal comfort envelope.

7. If a rider is unfamiliar with the route, they shall arrange to follow another rider who does know the way and who travels at a comfortable pace.

8. Riders who decide to travel as a group shall adopt a staggered riding formation such that there is an accepted following distance to the rider immediately in front. A reasonable following distance is indicated by a time of two seconds between riders for dry conditions, and longer for inclement conditions and on loose surfaces.

9. The Organiser and or the Register are not responsible for participants' safety, and all participants participate at their own risk. All participants are aware that they are travelling on open public roads and are responsible for their own safety and compliance with all Road Rules and Laws.

events calendar

tother events

BRONZ Ride Right, Ride Safe. A great way to get to know your new bike. Usually third Sunday of the month at the Whenuapai Airbase. Contact Finn on 09 625 5533 or 027 484 6326 for details.

More detail at rrrs.org.nz - and they can **BRING THE COURSE TO YOU** if you can come up with the numbers and a venue: speak to Finn.

bmwor area events

Please note that rides start at varying times and/or places. Read the event notices carefully and, if in doubt, contact the Area Rep (details on rear cover) or ride organiser (if noted) for assistance. On most rides there is a rider briefing 5 minutes prior to departure, at which point riders are expected to be ready to go with bikes fuelled and bladders empty.

Every effort is made to ensure that details of events are correct at the time of printing. Please check the website (<http://bmwor.org.nz>) for current information on events or contact the local Area Rep if you have any questions.

northland

Sunday 10 May, meet for lunch, Blah,Blah, Blah Cafe, Dargaville: Leaving (for the northern lot) from Ngapuhi Caltex, Kaikohe at 1000.

auckland

Sunday 17 May Tirau or Cambridge or thereabouts. Leaving Southbound Motorway Service Centre, SH1 Papakura, at 0930.

Sunday 21 Jun, Sea Change Beach Cafe, Ruakaka. Leaving from Starbucks, Westgate at 0930

waikato

Thursday 14th May - Coffee/ or Meal & Chat Night. Café Oasis. 35 Duke Street Cambridge 6:30 pm. Note: New location for tonight

Sat 16th & Sun 17th May – Forgotten Highway Overnighter. Departs Cambridge BP 9 am. Email or phone me if interested so accommodation can be

booked.

Sat 23rd & Sun 24th May - Forgotten Highway Overnighter Backup Date. Departs Cambridge BP 9am

Sunday 24th May - Coromandel Loop Ride. Note: Only on if weekend not required for Forgotten Highway run. Departs Cambridge BP 9 am.

Sunday 31st May – National Park Ride. Departs Cambridge BP 9 am

bay of plenty

Sunday 3rd May – Ride through the Waikato to Hamilton Classic Car Museum (option to continue on to Raglan). Depart 10:30am from Caltex Tauriko

Sunday 24th May - 2pm Yum Char at No 88 Devonport Road Chinese Restaurant. Please email us if you will be coming for yum char lunch as soon as possible, as we will need to know numbers to book our seats.

rangitikei

Sunday 10 May Ride to Wheelwright Masterton. RICs Don Cross and Robin Wood.

Tuesday 26 May Dinner, Brickhouse, Whanganui. Jeanette Hawthorn.

Sunday 14 June Ride to Thompson's Bike Museum RIC TBC

Tuesday 30 June, Dinner Lone Star, Palmerston North RIC TBC

east coast

Monthly gathering at the Puketapu Hotel, 679 Puketapu Road, Puketapu. Last Tuesday of each month from 6:00pm onwards.

Sunday 10 May – Ride to Guthrie Smith Arboretum at Tutira to view the autumn colours. Entry \$10 per person. <http://www.guthriesmith.org.nz/> Take a picnic lunch and meet at BP Bay View 11.00am. All enquiries to Bronwen and Peter on 06 836 7938.

Saturday 13 June / Sunday 14 June – Overnighter to Masterton and visit Wheelwright at Gladstone on Sunday with Rangitikei BMWOR members. For further information contact Norm on 06 877 3383

wellington

Note – In addition to the events posted here we also undertake 'Impromptu Rides' these are offered via email to the membership with a couple of days notice when the weather looks like being favourable.

Sunday 10 May – Club ride to Castle Point – Lunch at the Whakataki Hotel – RIC Dave Oldershaw

Monday 11 May - Club Night - Petone Working men's Club from 6pm

Sunday 07 June – Club ride to Lake Ferry Pub – Lunch at the destination – RIC Dave Oldershaw

Monday 08 June - Club Night - Petone Working men's Club from 6pm

Sunday 12 July – Club ride to the Wool Shed Cafe – Sanson for lunch – RIC Peter Nash

Monday 13 July - Club Night - Petone Working men's Club from 6pm

otago/southland

May 10th Lawrence.

As usual, details by email as the days draw closer.

otagosouthland@bmwor.org.nz if you want me to update your email details.

area reports

northland and auckland

Auckland did plan to visit our 'hood, and I suggested we could meet them for lunch. Then along came Cyclone Pam! So they stopped for lunch at Matakana, then retreated in the face of the weather.

A small group of riders from Auckland determined to get to Russell for lunch before daylight hours shortened further did the run on Easter Sunday. I set out early to meet them, but they zigged and I zagged, and we were just "ships that passed in the night." However, by all accounts they had a good ride, and so did I: mine was shorter and a lot dustier. (Reminder to self, find tuit and clean bike.)

Bwucie



Above: Auckland riders waiting for vittles at Russell. Looks ordinary, eh? Until -

Below: You turn around and see why the place is popular on a good day. Photos 'borrowed' from Neko's Forum post.



waikato

Another month has flown by and with more beautiful fine weather. It has been a good month for the Waikato area, with 2 good rides and our first Coffee & Chat night.

Saturday 14th March saw me plus Phil & Terry turn up at Boyds Motorcycles to dream about what we buy if we won lotto. After about an hour we decided we had better go for a ride before we got in trouble with our wife's by buying something we shouldn't. We rode to Raglan for lunch via Ngaruawahia. Then after lunch we headed up to Mercer via highway 22. This is a beautiful bit of road with plenty of corners and spectacular views. From Mercer we headed south down the motorway turning off at Meremere and zig zagging our way through back roads until ending up back in Hamilton. A good day was had by all even though there were my usual detours and stops to check the map.

Thursday 10th March saw our first Coffee & Chat night. I was delighted to see 5 members, Trevor & his brother Chris, Graham & Janice & Ian joining me for an excellent night. Everyone enjoyed the night talking about the about bikes and roads and how lucky we are to live in the Waikato. I have decided to make this a regular event and encourage all Waikato members to come along to the next one.

They will be held in Cambridge on a Thursday night at 6:30pm. We will alternate between different Cafés / Bars

so nobody gets bored with the same food each month. I will send out an email a week or so in advance as a reminder. Please let me know in advance if you are coming so I can book table.

Sunday 29th March ride got rained out with only me brave enough to turn up & ride. I got a bit damp in the morning but luckily the rain eased up after lunch. I had a great day but must remember to water proof my gear before riding in the rain again. (I thought you only got wet on an LT if you stopped? Ed.)

Cheers,

Chocky

rangitikei

As the waves of wind and showers continue rolling through I realise just how fortunate we were to complete our ride yesterday in the small gap in the weather we received. Our route was an anticlockwise ride down the west of the island, across to Upper Hutt, a short detour to Staglands on Akatarawa Valley Road for lunch, across the Rimutaka's, up through the Wairarapa and finally cross back over to the west.

Conversation at our rendezvous point in Ohau between the six intrepid riders and one pillion (my wife Ann who thought I may need the numbers as the weather may put most riders off - thanks Love) centred on a common experience - waking up to the sound of rain on the roof and wondering whether I was going to postpone this ride again. I assured all that piking once was hard enough and that twice was never an option.

Our first destination was the Paekakariki lookout. With everyone prepared for

bay of plenty

For our April event many of our members joined the Mt Motorcycles ride (nearly 40 people in total) up the East Cape Coast with a night over at Hicks Bay Motel. It a stunning day to enjoy the coast scenery, with refresher/photos stops at Opotiki, Te Kaha, the little church, and then Waiau Bay. No incidents apart from the backup vehicle breaking down, but a well organized event thanks to Carolyn and Ray.

The boys from BMW NZ turned up with demo bikes from Auckland and Daryl appeared with the latest R1200R looking very smart with complete red frame and white paint. After heavy rain over night, those that waited it out till after breakfast had a dry run home via Opotiki for lunch.

Looking forward to upcoming events and hope to see you soon....

Mike Long and Geri Goodman

whatever the weather threw our way (Roger Allen making sure he wasn't going to get a wet butt by donning his yellow waterproof pants) we set off. John Christie took us on a picturesque and winding detour from Manakau to Otaki which was a very welcome break from SH1 but was over all too quickly. As we rode up to the Paekakariki lookout a quick glance out to the white capped sea provided a very visual picture of the strength of the westerly wind that was to dominate so much of our discussion and riding today. With the road cut into the hillside we managed to escape the wind as it roared up the slope and over our helmets. The view from the lookout is always breathtaking and today was no exception with good views across Cook Strait to the South Island, Kapiti Island in front of us and the west coast glistening in the morning sunlight. The winding Paekakariki Hill road not only provided some lovely bush clad riding but also sheltered us from the wind. We joined up with the traffic again as we traversed Haywards Hill before turning left up SH2





to Upper Hutt. The 14km ride up the beautiful bush clad, narrow, winding and sheltered Akatarawa Valley road was taken at a leisurely pace and we all arrived safely at our lunch destination at Staglands Wildlife Reserve.

While waiting for our meals our conversation quickly focussed on Barry Hawthorn who had joined us on this ride, the significance of which is that he suffered a stroke shortly after the Annual Rally requiring hospitalisation and significant rehabilitation. He has clearly made a remarkable recovery and was thankfully spared from have to make an unimaginably difficult decision, selling his beloved motorcycle. He is once again able to ride with no ill effects which is wonderful news. Conversation then turned to medications and the prescriptions everyone was on - and I thought the rattles I could hear while riding were coming from the four Suzuki's on the ride, but clearly not (definitely couldn't have been from the outnumbered two BMW's or us youngsters of course).

Don Cross then asked whether anyone

else had noticed the flashing warning sign in Upper Hutt which said "Caution, wind gusts on Rimutaka Hill". After a brief discussion about whether to change our route somebody pointed out that the sign didn't say severe gusts or strong winds. We agreed, decided to stop being wimps and to give it a go, but if the wind gusts were as strong as the forecast 130kph we would turn around and find another route home - not wimps but common sense. The ride over the Rimutakas was no problem at all as the wind was largely a tail wind which pushed us up rather than across the road. We took it easy which made the ride longer and consequently more enjoyable as the fun kept on keeping on. Having intercom communications with Robin Wood (our TEC) also made things a lot easier as we knew everyone was managing well. The wind through the Wairarapa was also not as bad as forecast and the rain had either just passed through or was about to pass through - our little weather window was doing its best to give us the best possible conditions under the circumstances. With the Gorge closed we agreed to ride over the Saddle Road before setting off in



our different directions home - two to Wanganui, two to Levin and two (plus pillion) to Palmerston North. If faces are any indication of the amount of enjoyment anyone had then I would suggest that this ride was definitely worth doing and I thank everyone for their participation.

Peter Truter #2981

east coast

The ad hoc two man committee reports:

John: When I turned up at 9:30 am on Sunday 12 April I was not expecting many people due to the very cold weather we had had in Hawke's Bay, the same that caused heavy snowfall in the South Island.

I was right, as only hardy Folker Liebenow turned up on his son-in-law's trusty F650GS, the same as mine.

Folker: I again rode my son-in-law's F650GS, nice bike to ride and so very economical. My ride to the RAG Rally and the Geographical Centre of the North Island the previous fortnight returned 3.4 litres/100 km.

Peter Chang had travelled from his nearby home to see us off, choosing to stay with his not-so-well Bronwen.

John: The Napier to Taupo road has always been a most attractive road to me, so we were happy to set off and have our first break at the Tarawera café.

Folker: Traffic was minimal and made for a very comfortable ride. Both of us were wondering though, if the lady driver in a late model Suzuki just out of Te Pohue, travelling north at a steady (ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZ) 65 km/h ever made it to wherever she was headed. During our coffee break at Tarawera we didn't see her coming by, so here's hoping.

John: The last part of the road to Taupo gets a bit boring because of all the beautiful bush has been converted to paddocks, filled to the max with thousands of cows.

However, before long we were at the De Brett's baths and our gold card gave us \$11 discount off the admission price! Because of the school holidays it was quite full, but enjoyable nevertheless.

After duly soaking in the hot thermal pools we retired to the Friends café for lunch - the beauty with this place is that you can park your bike on the footpath opposite so you can keep an eye on it whilst having lunch.

The trip back was exciting due to the amount of traffic, it required a few quick passing manoeuvres which was fun and kept the adrenaline pumping.

We decided to have another quick break at the Te Haroto café, which had been out of action for a while. The coffee was yum as were the freshly made pikelets.

Once we got over the Titikura's, Hawke's Bay was spread out below us, bathing in glorious sunshine.

All in all, a wonderful way to spend a day on the bike, and I thank Folker for his good company.

John Wuts and Folker Liebenow



Wutsie going to....



Folker coming from....

Editor: And it's farewell from him, and it's farewell from him, too.

wellington

The April Wellington Club night included a presentation co-promoted by Motomart and the BMWOR on South African Motorcycle Adventure Tours. The invited crowd of approximately 45 turned up at the Petone Workingman's club to listen to an excellent talk and slide presentation given by Nicole Berman from SAMA Tours on a range of motorcycle tours covering all of the various countries in southern Africa. Apart from South Africa these countries included Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho, Zambia and more recently Zimbabwe.

Each tour had a maximum of 10 bikes so potentially 20 people (an additional fee is charged for a pillion) plus a Tour Guide and a back up van and driver; all of their bikes are BMWs less than 2 years old and range in size from 700ccGS to 1200ccGS. The slide show covered a wide range of scenic vistas and points of interest and included visits to various national parks along with great wild life park visits. The routes are on 99% sealed roads some with gravel road options along the way.

Accommodation is in 3 or 4 star facilities and tours vary in length from 7 days to 26 days. The daily average distance ridden is around 450kms with photo opportunity stops at a lot of points of interest along the way. SAMA Tours also provide bikes and a fully loaded GPS for those who want to go on self guided tours, they also accommodate riders who want to use their own bikes with an obvious reduction in fees. At the time of the presentation Nicole indicated that the exchange rate was about 9 SA Rand to the NZ\$ but that will clearly fluctuate from day to day.

SAMA Tours is a Pretoria based tour company that has been in business since 2003. As part of the SAMA Tours NZ promotion they are running a completion with the prize being a 12 day Garden Route Tour starting in Pretoria and ending in Cape Town. The winner will need to get themselves to and from Pretoria.

The SAMA Tours website is WWW.SAMATOURS.CO.ZA and is well worth a visit.

On Wednesday 18 March an 'Impromptu Gravel Ride' was offered to GS riding members who had previously indicated an interest in these rides, the outcome being we got 2 starters others responded but had other things organised. On Friday 20 March Peter Nash and Peter Tibbs set out from Casa Del Tibsy and rode along Stronvar, Westmere and Te Wharau Roads turning left into Kawhata Road which is gravel and hard packed clay and runs through Homewood to Riversdale. A lot of the surrounding countryside is forestry blocks and some of which was being cut and transported from the site. Rain had

fallen in this area in the previous few days which was good in that it kept the dust down and bad in that it turned the road where the logging was being undertaken into thick mud. This added to Peter Nash's experience, confidence and competence on these types of surfaces with the Mitas tyres doing a great job keeping everything upright and tidy.

The road, like a lot of these road's, is narrow in places with winding hilly sections. We rode through to Riversdale and stopped there for lunch at the local café. The food and Service was ok and a sealed road ride will be considered for a future monthly club ride to this venue.

The return ride to the Tibbs homestead took us out along Homewood Road and eventually onto the Masterton – Castlepoint Road to the left turn onto Te Parae Road and back to Stronvar Road. After a coffee at the Tibbs home Peter N returned over the Rimutaka Hill to Wellington with the home to home distance covered being 332kms. This was another great ride on a road less well travelled through interesting country with almost no traffic to contend and with well worth doing again in the opposite direction.

Peter Nash Nelson

Sorry folks, bit of a short report this month.

We met at our usual spot in Hope, after waiting for any more riders & chatting for a bit longer than we should have, we decided to change our planned Golden Bay ride for a shorter one, so 4 bikes, Trevor R1150GS, Revti F800GS, William on his new 1200GS, me on my new 1150GS with our youngest BMWOR member as my usual pillion, set off over the Spooners Range to Kohatu for coffee, cake & even more bike talk. While we were there a KTM rider turned up fully kitted out in BMW riding gear, when quizzed on whether he actually had a BMW, he replied that he didn't but as he was fed up buying rubbish, wanted some proper clothing, had bought the BMW outfit & was loving it.

We then had a great ride along the ever wonderful Motueka Vly Rd (actually thats a lie, it can be pretty darn scary in the winter) to Motueka Airport, hung a right & then back to Nelson via the inland Moutere Rd. Doesn't sound like a long ride, but we somehow managed to make it last almost 3 hrs.

Dale Grover

The RAG: Getting There, Being There, Getting Home.

Prelude to the RAG

The previous newsletter opened an invitation for a camp-out at the Pureora Forest (just west of Taupo) to hear the dawn chorus of the birds as they wake up and begin their day. Eight people responded to the call. From a geographical point, they came from between Napier to Wellington. Welcome John, Folker, Peter, Stephen, Steve, Al, Dave O and David T. And myself, too.

The ride in was quite fragmented. This in itself is interesting. John and Folker travelled the 'once road less travelled', - the Gentle Annie - (Napier/Taihape) and met Peter, Stephen, Al, Steve and Dave O there. Myself, I ran through a night earlier to Raurimu Spiral and stayed the night there with David T. As we had a short ride to the venue, we arrived there first and early. Some did and some didn't, - sleep in tents; sleep in cabins. The original concept of hearing Dawn Chorus was to be able to hear the birds through the tent all without getting out of the 'sack', and to be a 'Johnny on-the-spot' at the place of action - right next to the bush-line. Still, for me, cabin or tent is not a problem. Some folk are not of the canvas bent. And juxtaposed, our R.A.G. Rally is so similar, with tenting now being tenuously opted. (Say what? Ed.)

And now, perhaps a core reason for the occasion: The chit-chat time and

exchanging stories and sharing tales, until the body screams out: The call to sleep.

In the event, the actual sparrow-fart chorus amounted to a small number of birds: A pair of tui flew over screeching, as did one of the hawk/falcon types and the usual fantail with their incessant chatter as they caught breakfast on the wing. There was a call I identified as Kokako, but nobody else could agree. So, for me it was successful.

This was the second invitation I put out for the event, and it was successful. Would I do it a third time? Somewhere between possibly and probably. I need time for this occasion to wear off and generate a new spark (after the approaching cold season) for another night under the stars. Which reminds me, the Friday night was totally cloudless and a Waxing Gibbous (I think) moon to cap it off.

Dave Morris



Is Herr Liebenow merely sightseeing, or is he 'fertigating' the Geographic Centre of the North Island?

(John Wuts)

Travel to the RAG Rally (and return to the Hutt Valley via the Forgotten World Highway)

A confession at the outset - I'm often a 'lone ranger' who seldom remains on rides where the majority of the road surfaces are 'sealed' (or the Black Carpet as President Tibsy likes to call them). Preferring instead to peel off by myself sometimes encouraging other 'gravel surfers' to join me in my renegade riding. This time I'd purposed to 'play nicely' and remain with those Register members travelling to the RAG via Pureora Forest Park. I did so in the interests of attempting to become more of a 'team player' and in the knowledge that Tibsy organises some interesting routes on rides he leads - entailing what I term (and actively seek out in my riding) the 'roads less travelled'.

I met Secretary Dave Oldershaw late afternoon on Thursday 26 March for the run over the Rimutaka Hill and on to President Tibsy and Anne's home where we were both accommodated for the night. The plan was to leave from Tibsy's early the following morning as Tibsy had in mind a fairly tight program if we were to achieve the distances he had in mind and keep our planned rendezvous with other members from Wellington and the Hawkes Bay.

Dinner was a fine roast at the Masterton Cosmopolitan Club. I retired early to a comfortable night's sleep in the knowledge that breakfast was to be 6 o'clock.

Friday dawned somewhat grey with the hint of a shower which caused us to put on 'wets' before departing Casa Tibbs. Incidentally their gravel drive is challenging in parts and a good 'warm up' as one begins the day.

From Masterton Tibsy had us head initially through Te OreOre, Alfredton and by a series of deft moves, had us bypass firstly Ekethuna and Pahiatua and then Woodville as we re entered SH2 North of Woodville. Crossing SH2 after exiting from Hopelands Road we headed over Saddle Road stopping briefly to admire the view from the wind farm before descending to Ashhurst and our first rendezvous with with Al and Steve at Fusion Cafe.

Fusion Cafe in Ashhurst was a good

choice - good coffee and nice bacon & eggs at a realistic price - I'd stop there again.

Leaving Ashhurst our group number had increased to 5 riders - Tibsy, Dave O and your scribe all aboard R12GSes, Al on his R100GSPD and his trials riding friend Steve aboard a very tasty R12000R. I'm hopeful that Steve may become a member of the Register. He was certainly great company and appeared to really enjoy the weekend.

Proceeding up the Eastern side of the Pohongina Valley and on through Apiti to North of Mangaweka, via Taoroa Junction and Gorge Road (which rejoins SH1 North of near turnoff to Bungy Jump) where we joined SH1 for the run into Taihape and our planned rendezvous with Folker and Wutsie who had travelled over the 'Gentle Annie' from the Bay.

Travelling toward Taihape - just after we'd joined SH1, I had a scary moment as a late model Holden Ute 'shared' my lane with me. The driver of the ute then proceeded to execute the same move with the four riders ahead of me. For at least part of this manoeuvre passing the four riders ahead of me the driver of the ute had to cross yellow no passing lines including one case where a large Kenworth was approaching from the opposite direction!!

On reaching Taihape I went straight to the Police Station to alert them of this character's dangerous driving. I was subsequently contacted by the policemen I'd spoken to who called me to let me know a colleague further up the line - closer to Waiouru had booked the driver of the ute for speeding and were charging with overtaking where 'no passing' road marking were present.

From Taihape, refreshed with Wild Bean Coffee from the BP Station our next regroup / fuel stop was at Turangi. From Turangi Tibsy led us through Tokaanu, Kuratau and on up the Western Bay Road toward Whakamaru turning toward the forest at Pakonui Road which becomes Arataki Road passing the Centre of the North Island en route to our campsite at the Ngaharenga Campsite. This is where Al, Steve & myself joined two 'Daves' (Morris and Thomson) tenting for the night. Less hardy members Tibsy, Folker, Wutsie and Secretary Dave O had

arranged a cabin for themselves. To be fair Tibsy had camped at the campsite the previous year under only a 'fly sheet' - obviously a bit chilly so he had arranged more creature comfort for himself and several others this year.

I have to say here - Tibsy is a very considerate ride leader - encouraging club members to gain confidence in handling their machines in unfamiliar surfaces - allowing the less confident to determine the pace by encouraging them to lead on the gravel sections.

Stephen Oatley



Above: Tibsy bolts from the camera on the tripod - did he mistake it for a Claymore mine?

Below: At the centre of the North Island Peter had calmed down about the camera sitting on top of the obelisk. (Can see the Obelisk, but no sign of Asterix or Dogmatix, though.)

(John Wuts)



Packing up after the Dawn Chorus.
(Dave Morris)

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RAGGITY RIDE

No one signalled their intention to join me at Ohakune for a bit of motorcycling prior to dropping in at the RAG at Pokaka.

The forecast was not for the faint hearted, which suited me. I had bought new leather boots on Friday and they claimed they were waterproof.

Straight to Raetihi, right to Ohakune, and parked outside the Stutz Cafe so anyone

passing through would see it. Read the paper for an hour. Then I wound up to the top of Turoa. Drizzle began near the top, but the road was OK. Back through Ohakune, and off to National Park with a view to getting to the Top of the Bruce. Rain put paid to that. No, it was not the rain, but the low cloud and mist that spoiled the idea.

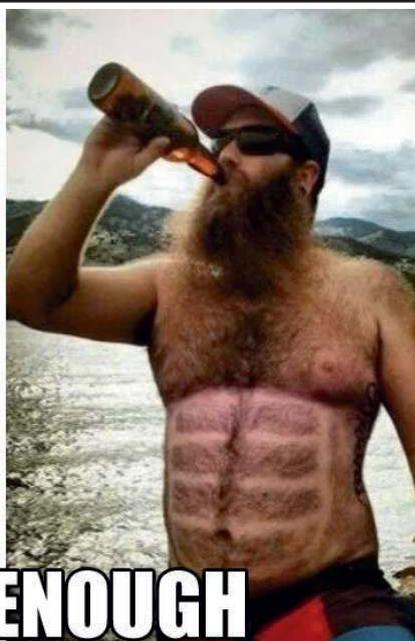
Luckily I knew about good coffee at the National Park Railway Station, so I did some quality control while I waited for my boots to let moisture make its way to my socks. Both boots and coffee passed with flying colours.

The not-too-serious rain lasted until Pokaka. Inside the lodge was warm and dry, and the spit roast was beginning to excite tastebuds. We dribbled as we chatted. After a great catch up with overnight guests, it was time to retest those boots. Alas, it was fine all the way home. Not alas really, because the Para Para highway all to myself after a great day out on a motorcycle was more blissful than dry feet on a wet day.

Lance

More RAG on P14

**BMWOR Body Building
Image provided by (and body building practised
like the bloke on the right by)
Lance Nixon**



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welcome

A warm welcome to our new members this month:

- Carey Griffiths and Pauline Nunn from Lower Hutt
- John and Marie Rutherford from Tauranga
- Brad Teal from Wellington
- Rob and Christine Young from Wellington

We hope you'll take part in many of your local and national events. Your Area Rep will be pleased to introduce you to other members in your area.

Our monthly newsletter is an open forum for all members. If you fancy having a story (and photos) published about your ride, the rebuild of your bike, a book you might have read or a movie you have seen lately, or just want to get something off your chest about how the club is going, then get in touch with the Editor no later than the 15th day of the month preceding publication. We welcome your contribution.



Rare photo of Tony O'Connor, back when he was a good-looking youngster, by his BMW, instead of the ST.

(Peter Zink, 2012 Rally)

2016 BMWOR Annual Rally Hanmer Springs Friday 29 - Sunday 31 January 2016

Nestled in the midst of the Hurunui District, surrounded by mountains and forests with crisp alpine air, the village of Hanmer Springs is a simply magical place and a stunning location for our 2016 Annual Rally. As soon as you cruise into oak-lined Amuri Avenue – the entry point to Hanmer Springs - you'll know you're in a special place.

With the mountains, the forests, the enormous trees and the town's award winning thermal springs you could be forgiven for thinking you're in Colorado, Canada or Switzerland – the village has a very international feel.

But it is Kiwi to its core with warm hospitality and adventure tourism underpinned by excellent cafes and restaurants that take pride in serving the best food and wine New Zealand has to offer.

The Rally venue is the Hot Springs Motor Lodge situated on the right of the road as you approach the Hanmer Springs Township on SH 7a. The lodge has a fully licensed restaurant and bar on site (the Five Stags) and 32 modern, well appointed studio rooms and apartments.

Our hosts, Kim and Warren Rogers, have kindly offered the BMWOR the following group rates for accommodation:

Studio Units

- Single/Twin/Double occupancy \$135.00 inc GST per room per night
- Triple occupancy \$165.00 inc GST per room per night

Superior Units

- Single/Twin/Double occupancy \$150.00 inc GST per room per night
- Triple occupancy \$180.00 inc GST per room per night

To book accommodation, please ring 0800 315 000 or email stay@hotspringsmotorlodge.co.nz and say you are with the BMWOR to receive these special rates. Note that as all rooms are blocked for the Rally, the online booking site will show it as fully booked.

If you miss out or just fancy staying somewhere else there's a wide range of accommodation available...everything from campgrounds to mid-ranged hotels and motels, quaint and homely bed and breakfasts and luxury 5+ star accommodation. But be quick, don't forget Hanmer Springs is a year-round resort town!

Irrespective of where you stay, on the Friday evening of the Rally weekend Kim and Warren are offering a 10% discount on food to members who wish to dine at the Five Stags – you just need to present your registration card or BMWOR membership card to receive this discount. Otherwise you'll be free to dine at any of the wonderful establishments in the village.

It's going to be a spectacular weekend with awesome road and off-road rides planned, but there are plenty of options for those who want time off the bike.

The number one attraction is the Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools and Spa. It has more than 15 outdoor thermal, sulphur and freshwater pools. From the intimate quiet of the private indoor thermal pools to the crazy fun of hydrosides, there is something for everyone.

With vibrant boutique shopping and world class cafes in the village, vineyards close at hand, hectares of forest with walkways and rivers to explore, jet boating, quad bike, horse or llama safaris, clay bird shooting, archery, white water rafting, and a free fall 35-metre bungy jump over the picturesque Waiau River, there is literally something to entertain everyone!

We look forward to seeing you at the 2016 Annual Rally.

Garry and Jo

Rally Coordinators

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REGISTRATION FORM
ANNUAL RALLY
29 - 31 January 2016



Name: Partner's name:
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 Bike/Model: Year: ____

Special accommodation rates apply at the Rally Venue. Bookings can be made directly by calling 0800 315 000 or by email at stay@hotspringsmotorlodge.co.nz At present, all rooms at the Hot Springs Motor Lodge are blocked for the Rally, so if you try to book through an online site it will show as fully booked.

					Number	Cost	Total
Registration						\$25	
Badge						\$12	
	<i>Small</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Large</i>	<i>XL</i>			
Men's Polo						\$46	
Women's Polo						\$46	
Saturday breakfast - buffet (any style)						\$18	
Saturday cut lunch (you'll want this on the GS ride)						\$18	
Saturday: Rally dinner						\$40	
Sunday breakfast - buffet (any style)						\$18	
Sunday cut lunch (you'll want this on the GS ride)						\$18	
Sunday: BBQ						\$40	
Monday breakfast - buffet (any style)						\$18	
<input type="checkbox"/> Internet banking (preferred) <input type="checkbox"/> Cheque enclosed						Total	

Please mail all Registration Forms (including Cheques) to: BMWOR 2016 Rally C/- G Williams & J Buckner 24 Inglis Road RD3 Rangiora 7473 Or email registration forms to: vicepresident@bmwor.org.nz	Payment by Internet Banking to: TSB BMWOR RALLY Account 15-3973-0032424-00 (Note, this is not the account you pay your membership subscription to!) Enter your Name and BMWOR Membership Number with 'Rally' in Message/Reference	General enquiries to: Rally Coordinator Garry Williams & Jo Buckner 027 242 7799 027 241 0611 riversidebend@scorch.co.nz Registrations close Friday 20 November 2015
--	--	--

Disclaimer: This Rally will be run under the BMW Owners Register Risk Management Plan as set out in the Register's monthly newsletter. By registering for this event, participants agree to abide by all the conditions set out in the aforementioned Risk Management Plan.

Stephen Oatley continues... .

The RAG was another great event - in my view probably the highlight of each BMWOR year for me. The travel to hear the Dawn Chorus at Pureora Forest - an innovation of Dave Morris', adds to the whole weekend. I suggested the Pureroa Forest event be named the 'Centre Rally' for future years.

Dave Thomson, Domestic Goddess.
(John Wuts)



Steve Wade and Al Keane just out of Lance N's gentle rain.
(Stephen Oatley)



Cath Thomson hard at work - maybe knitting socks for Snow's poor old tootsies?
(John Wuts)

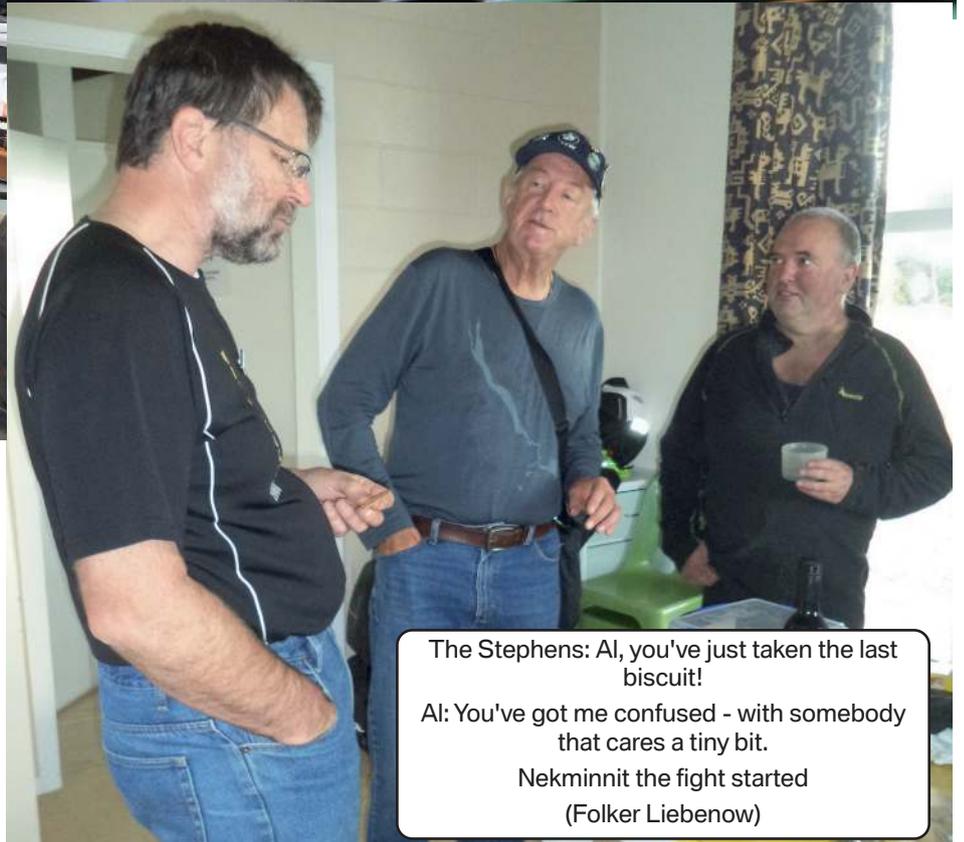


Voted "Most Popular Attendee"
(John Wuts)

Strangely, very little text about the actual RAG - what goes on leave, stays on leave, obviously.

I apologise to Wutsie if I have wrongly attributed his photos: seems many people have reshared his shots with me.

More on P16



The Stephens: Al, you've just taken the last biscuit!
Al: You've got me confused - with somebody that cares a tiny bit.
Nekminnit the fight started
(Folker Liebenow)

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El Presidente describes how tall he was when he left high school - not much has changed since.



All photos, John Wuts.



Too much "Gracelands" album? Diamonds on the soles of his shoes? Nope, new dancing shoes, P10.



Aucklanders Paul Edlington and Neil Walsh counting their mixed veg to make sure they got a fair share. Rob Hargreaves looks confident he got enough, and it tastes OK an'all.



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Stephen Oatley is still finding his way home... .

My return from the RAG to Wellington extended over two days - Sunday following the RAG and the Monday. On Sunday Al, Steve and I headed to Owhango for breakfast at Cafe 39 South where the coffee and food is great. We were joined by Richard K & Janine heading back to the 'Big Apple' and Dave and Cath Thompson who consider this cafe their 'local'. Having fuelled the 'inner man' I took leave of the others and headed for Taumarunui. Having fuelled the bike I headed North a short distance before turning onto Opotiki Road passing through the Rangi Scenic Reserve continuing along Opotiki Road which becomes Ararimu East Road (I know these details with some accuracy as I'm able to review my SPOT tracks of this ride. I use my SPOT tracker whenever I'm riding alone in isolated places.) Ararimu East Road becomes Otonui North Road, thence Kururau Road before joining the River Road which leads to Whangamomona. Travelling only a short distance along River Road toward Whanga I turned right onto Roto Road as directed by GPS navigating toward Ohura. From Roto Road I continued along Huia Road to Ohura. From Ohura I took Managparo Road to rejoin the Forgotten World Highway 43.

Reaching Whanga around 3pm after a very satisfying ride on some great gravel roads from Opotiki Road to Ohura and

the Takarakau Gorge I felt I done enough for the day and got myself a cabin (\$20) at the Whangamomona Camp - a very modest Cabin yet cheaper than a night in the Pub and within walking distance of the Pub and a refreshing Ale. On Monday I rode straight out to Stratford and on home to Wellington via the State Highway. All in all a great weekend.

Stephen



Self portrait at the geographical centre of the ~~Known Universe~~ North Island. (Pretty much the same place if you are too old and tired to get on a Cook Strait ferry.)

Shhhh! Don't tell Bwucie! We are hiding here from page nine!



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A scenic view of a paved road leading towards snow-capped mountains. The road is flanked by a fence and snow-covered fields. The sky is blue with some clouds.



"Here are a couple of pictures from the recent impromptu **R90S "40th Birthday"** get together held in Taupo just over a week ago. (It was the same weekend as the RAG. Ed.)
It was a great ride and catch up with Les and I traveling up from Christchurch.
We ended up with eight bikes and twelve people celebrating the history of this classic model.
Cheers,
Peter Bath"



Wellington – Overnight Ride to the Wimbledon Tavern

Resulting from a lunch call at the Wimbledon Tavern (60kms east of Dannevirke) on the first day of the Central and Southern North Island 6 day ride in March 2014 was where the idea to return to this venue for an 'overnighter' originated. Nine members on 5 bikes and 1 car travelled by various routes to arrive on the afternoon of Saturday 11 April.

The original route plan was for all riders except the Tibsy's, to assemble at the BP Mana on Saturday morning for a 09:30 departure. In reality only Peter and Jenny Nash and Dave Oldershaw assembled at this departure point. We rode north on SH1 turning on to SH57 via the Kimberley Road south of Levin for the ride through to Shannon for a Coffee stop where, by prearrangement, we linked up with Dave Hubble. From Shannon we travelled north crossing the Pahiatua Track to the lunch stop in Pahiatua and to rendezvous with the Tibsy's and whilst enjoying lunch at Charlie's Café we were joined by Dave Morris. Dave M had ridden over the Rimutaka Hill and was going to meet us at Wimbledon however, recognised the bikes outside the cafe in Pahiatua and joined us for lunch. After lunch and a quick fuel top up the ride

took us on to the Pahiatua – Pongaroa Road and onto Pongaroa. The 3 GS riders had decided over lunch to ride the gravel road from Pongaroa to Akitio and then on to Wimbledon via the sealed River Road from Akitio to Waione and then onto Route 52 to Wimbledon. The ride out to Akitio was on a mixture of seal and gravel or more correctly hard packed clay with a sprinkle of gravel. However, this made a change from the all sealed ride so far.

Dave Morris and Dave Hubble took the sealed Route 52 from Pongaroa to Wimbledon. Bruce and Virginia Frost had travelled up by car as Virginia had a leg injury making getting on and off the bike difficult and the ride on the back of Bruce's bike likely to be uncomfortable. After checking in, Peter Nash and the Tibsy's rode around to Herbertville and met Bruce and Virginia by chance in the local pub (their car was parked outside). Bruce and Virginia had stopped there for a late lunch.

Being a Tavern meant that there is no actual accommodation within the Tavern itself however, there is a lodge over the road that can accommodate 9 consisting of 2 double bedrooms and a bunk room along with a lounge, kitchen and bathroom facilities. The lounge has a wood burner and had been lit earlier in the day by the Proprietors and was nice

and warm when the team started to arrive. Behind the Tavern there is a small cottage that can accommodate 3 and is fully self contained, it had also had a heater turned on earlier in the day making it warm for the Nash's when they arrived. The accommodation is basic, warm, clean and reasonably priced.

Given the location, i.e. remote, we ate at the tavern and the evening meal was good pub fare on a par with other similar establishments in terms of selection and price. We had an all day breakfast on Sunday morning this consisted of 2 sausages, 2 rashers of bacon, 2 eggs and 2 toast served with a small dish of tomato sauce along with orange juice and tea and coffee, again this was up to the same standard of like places.

The weather for the ride home was predicted to include strong winds with a likelihood of rain later in the day. Dave Morris was going to continue north to Napier; the Frosts were driving home in their car and rest of us, that is, the Tibbs' the Nash's, Dave Oldershaw and Dave Hubble rode south together. The original plan was that we would all ride down Route 52 to Alfredton and then via Alfredton Road to Eketahuna where the Tibsy's would peel off and ride home to Masterton. The Wellington resident contingent would then ride back over the Pahiatua track and continue south on



2016 Post Annual Rally Tour

A Ten Day Tour With Tibsy And Ann.



The Tour will commence on Monday morning following on from the Annual Rally in Hanmer Springs. Ann and I are planning a Ten day Tour of the South Island with an extra lay day in Arrowtown planned. Planning is based on the tour party consisting of twelve people: five members have already put their hand up to take part in this tour.

We will ride on both sealed and unsealed roads taking in many points of interest throughout the South Island. The timing of this tour will encompass Waitangi weekend and as this is a very busy time to obtain accommodation early booking arrangements are essential. If you are looking to take the opportunity of touring the South Island following our Annual Rally now is the time to register with me.

Contact: president@bmwor.org.nz

Subject: After Rally Tour 2016.

SH57 to Levin and then SH1 home. The ride south on Route 52 met with strengthening wind gusts which made keeping the bikes both upright and on the Island a constant challenge. We stopped in Eketahuna for coffee and a fuel top up we also took advice from the local (Tibsy) in respect of the deteriorating weather and decided 'The Mountain' aka the Rimutaka Hill was a better choice than 'The Track' wind wise. Our departure from Eketahuna was in wind driven rain but as we progressed towards Masterton the weather improved to no rain and dry road conditions, however the wind was ever present. We bypassed Masterton and rode on down SH2 and on to the Rimutaka Hill and again the gusting wind became a challenge as is often the case on this road. Apart from being waylaid by the normal Sunday drivers the ride was relatively straight forward for those used to riding in the wind as, of course, we all are from this part of the world!! The rest of the ride home was uneventful with normal Sunday traffic volumes and flows.

This was another great ride to a destination venue well worth a visit hosted by friendly welcoming people who provided a convivial ambiance and produced nice food and good basic inexpensive accommodation for, in our case, approximately \$35 per head for the night plus food. The ride to and from had a set of mainly weather related challenges which adds to the overall experience. Lastly the company of fellow members with the usual good natured banter and humour made this a memorable weekend which for the writer and his wife was a 542km home to home journey.

Peter Nash



Last hurrah for the RAG, Stephen Oatley's shot of the Rangitikei going to, and a fence that looks like it's about to slide away coming back.



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BMW Grey Rally 2 suit – Size 50 Great suit in good condition. Detachable Gortex liners – jacket liner has small abrasion on the collar edge but this does not affect waterproofing. Trousers little used. \$600.

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06 378 2242 or 029 200 3679

OTAGO AND SOUTHLAND

Andy Hutcheon
027 464 3230
otagosouthland@bmwor.org.nz



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