

Newsletter

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April 2017

BMW Motorcycle Club
BMW Owners Register
of New Zealand





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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 March 2017

March hasn't been that flash if, like me, you were hoping the run of summer weather we'd been enjoying over February continued for a bit longer. The "Tasman Tempest" that hammered Northland, Auckland and Waikato over six days washed away previous weather records, dumping more rain in some places in six days than is usually expected for the entire month of March.

There's a saying though that 'one man's pain is another man's pleasure'. Jo and I were at the Cheviot A&P show on Saturday 11 March where a light but steady rain had many in the crowd grinning from ear to ear. I can't remember the last time I saw

puddles and mud on any farms in north Canterbury, the 50mm we got at home was probably the most rain in one go since January two years ago. It's certainly not a drought breaker, nonetheless a bit of security in the next month or so that we will get a wee bit of growth.

I was saddened by the recent news that John Surtees died. John will be remembered quite simply as one of the true greats of motor racing history and, of course, for his unique achievement as the only man to win both the Moto GP and Formula 1 world championships; and he was the first man to win the Senior TT on the Isle of Man three times in a row.

Jo and I had the honour of meeting John when he brought his beloved 1938 BMW Type 255 Kompressor out to New Zealand as part of the Classic Racing festival at Pukekohe. Sammy Miller, the former world trials champion, was also there that weekend.

At the time Jo was recovering from surgery for a bad elbow injury after I tossed her off a bike and she reluctantly withdrew to the BMW NZ transporter to exercise her arm, which was usually quite painful. As she sat there steeling herself, John and Sammy, taking a break from the heat and the noise of the track, walked in. It was, according to Jo, a really awkward moment as she sat there with her mangled, swollen chicken wing and bottom lip starting to quiver.

However, John and Sammy instantly showed great interest in what was going on. They were chatting away, inspecting Jo's removable cast and counting up the number of stitches in her wound. They spent a good 45 minutes comparing notes on injuries, trading stories and just generally talking motorcycles. Sammy recounted a story of when he broke his elbow – same injury as Jo's – but instead of a crash he fell off a kitchen stool when he was wallpapering.

John told his story about waking up in a German hospital to find the surgeon excitedly talking to him about "hammering a nail" into his broken arm – the doctor meant a stabilisation rod but things got horribly lost in translation.

Jo says it was one of the most entertaining conversations she had ever had and a lasting memory of an easy time spent in the company of two wonderful gentlemen. John was exactly that; a genuine gentleman with a sharp wit. The motorcycling fraternity has lost a proper legend, and a champion in every respect.

If you have stories like Jo's, we'd love to hear them. Drop a few lines to the Editor or, better yet, regale others around a camp fire at events like the Annual RAG Rally at Taylor Memorial Lodge, Pokaka near National Park on the weekend of Saturday 1/Sunday 2 April.

There's another chance at the Hanmer Springs Forestry Camp on the weekend of 13/14 May, which is a replacement for the South Island RAG Rally we had to cancel due to the Kaikoura/Hurunui earthquake event. Sadly, in my efforts to find a date that suited the majority of South Island Area Reps and their members, I'd not given too much thought to what I was doing. Turns out I'll be at our Board meeting in Wellington on Saturday 12th instead.

Our first meeting of the year will review the discussion at the AGM about the newsletter and some of the suggestions in how we manage the increasing cost of publication and distribution. This, along with other things the Board needs to consider this year, may involve further change to the way we do or think about things. We will keep you informed along the way and, as always, will seek to hear from anyone with a view on what it is we're doing (or not doing).

There are still a good number of new members joining our club each month. If you're one of them, it would be great to see you at club events. Don't be shy! Pitch in, enjoy yourself and let us get to know you and you can get to know your club. We are, above all, a social motorcycle club dedicated to the BMW marque. All our members look forward to showing you what our club has to offer, either on a ride or at an event.

Garry

Cover

See Me. The NZTA campaign become us! (Area Reports page 12)



BMWOR 2016 Motorcycle Insurance Scheme

Aon has a new Policy Wording with a new Underwriter

In collaboration with NZI, Aon has a new improved policy wording for Motorcycles. This Prestige Motorcycle Policy gives you the best of the best in cover for all types of On-Road Motorcycles including 3 wheelers, Off-Road Motorcycles including Quad Bikes, Competition Motorcycles (not covered whilst racing), Motorcycle Collections and Classic/Vintage Motorcycles.

Some of the Benefits

New replacement Motorcycle if a total loss occurs within 12 months of the insured motorcycle being first registered as a new Motorcycle up to 20,000km – this increases to 24 months and 30,000km for BMWOR members.

Windscreen/shield, headlights or **tail lights** covered – Nil excess.

Roadside Assistance is provided on comprehensively covered motorcycles.

Automatic **Riding Apparel** cover – \$5,000 (indemnity value) any one claim per year.

Option to have **Replacement Riding Apparel** cover – \$5,000 (replacement value) any one claim per year. Premium for BMWOR members \$50 plus GST. (Normally \$75+GST).

Discounts Discounts Discounts

Age Discounts, Multiple Bike Discount (conditions apply), Loyalty Discounts, Trike Discounts, Named Rider Discounts and the Restricted Usage Discount – this is now based on riding less than 7,500km per year, per bike! (was 5,000km).

Lower Excesses

The standard policy excess is now \$250 (plus underage excesses applying), \$500 theft excess and on approved track days a \$750 excess only will apply.

Ride Forever

If you complete a Ride Forever training course, provide us with your certificate and we will apply a NIL excess for one claim within 12 months of completing this course.

Contact

Leonie, Annaliese or Jodie

0800 65 62 64

if you have any queries

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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

National Events

Friday 12th – Sunday 14th May. South Island RAG Rally, Hanmer Springs. See page 9

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.

Auckland

Sun 2nd April. Café run. 10am destination advised by email.

Mon 10th April. Monthly meeting 7.30pm Vintage and Veteran Clubrooms 39 Fairfax Ave Penrose.

Wed 19th April. Mid-week run. Meet Cyclespot BMW Barrys Point Rd 10am.

Sun 23rd April Monthly ride. Destination Coromandel. Meet BP Service Centre Sth Mwy between Papakura and Drury off ramps 9.00am for 9.30 departure.

Sun May 7th Café run 10am.

Mon 10th May. Monthly meeting 7.30pm.

Wed 17th May. Mid-week run 10am.

Sun 21st May. Monthly ride destination Cambridge. 9.00am for 9.30 departure BP Service Centre Sth Mway.

Wellington

Note – In addition to the events noted 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 – 2 April – Destination Ride – The Cafe at Palmers Plant Centre - Plimerton

Monday – 10 April - Club Social get together - Petone Working men's Club from 6pm.

Sunday – 16 April - Monthly Club Ride to Gladstone Hotel for lunch.

Sunday – 07 May – Destination ride – TBA

Monday - 8 May - Club Social get together - Petone Working men's Club from 6pm

Sunday – 14 May - Monthly Club Ride to Pahaitua – Lunch – Charlees Bakery & Cafe

Sunday – 4 June – Destination Ride – TBA

Monday – 12 June - Club Social get together - Petone Working men's Club from 6pm.

Sunday – 18 June – Monthly Club Ride to Woodville – Lunch – Cafe 88

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Area Reports

Northland (Arrears)

The ride to the Rally for 3 of our members accompanied by the Area Rep in his car will be our January ride.

Hubert on his RT had the longest ride of 584km. Geoff and Ian on their GS steeds met in Cambridge after finally escaping the Auckland traffic maelstrom- not fun. With multiple Events on over the weekend Taupo was a busy place for lunch, certainly much harder parking a car than a bike.

Bonnie Tyler was in town along with Icehouse & Alan Parsons (doing some Project) for the Summer Concert. I didn't see them in McDonalds.

The best piece of road was the run to Napier (even in a car). As I was a wee bit ahead of the pack, my job was to ensure cold beers were at hand as the side stands hit the ground in Taradale.

I managed to accomplish this with military precision after a visit to Thirsty Liquor, a very busy place on a Friday afternoon when it's 31c.

The Rally was excellent, even without a bike it was good to catch up with other members & pretend I'd ridden there.

Top spot for a Rally at the EIT facility. The various rides on offer by all accounts were excellent too. Well done to the organising team.

Heading home on Mon at 7am it was a crisp 10c across the ranges for the riders (20c in the car listening to ZZ Top, heated seats not required). I did find myself leaning in the corners however possibly a combination of habit, muscle memory & speed.

The Northland boys' pinkies were a bit numb as we breakfasted at Replete Cafe.

(Anything less than 18c is a severe cold front up north)

From here they chose to take the back roads to Cambridge via Whakamaru & Karapiro before the boring 1a to Taupiri, Bombay, the great Southern Car Park (motorway) & north to Nirvana far from the madding crowd.

Everyone home safe mid pm, Mr Jacques for a wee nap before his night shift started.

Hopefully another member (don't be shy) will step forward to take the monthly ride till I'm back in the saddle of returning riders.

November last year: The BMW GS Safari, highlights of Day One in Qld. <http://amcn.com.au/editorial/13426/> Shown in Australia on 7mate TV on Saturdays mornings.

Ian Macartney

Auckland

The weather extremes of late have made

picking riding conditions in advance a bit of a lottery. One example of this was our café run on Sun 5th March; the day started out with drizzle and looked like it was going to continue in this vein which affected attendance but, following a spot of brunch, everybody enjoyed a mid-day ride in near perfect conditions. February's mid-week run surprised with pretty much double normal attendance.

As Garry mentioned at the AGM, life memberships are not handed out lightly, they honour solid contribution and effort over time.

One issue affecting our local club is my current need to pour huge amounts of time into other areas of my world. The main casualty of this distraction is that the current Auckland membership database has not been reconciled with



Above, below. Photos from the Rangitiki ride.



Choosing destinations for the mid-week ride is a bit of a challenge as Auckland traffic pretty much chokes the fun out of any options which require travelling back across the harbour bridge. Our monthly meeting at the Vintage and Veteran Clubrooms was well attended and proved the perfect setting to present Trish Plowright with her Life Membership pin.

my existing records. This means that newer members are not being included in the upcoming events emails which are updated and sent out before every event. So to help out a hapless Area Rep, if you are Auckland based and don't receive the event emails please email me on steve@ctnsider.co.nz requesting to be included. The emails also serve to notify

any late changes, cancellations, or postponements.

It's not every day you see an Auckland area report with fewer than 300 words.

Catch you out there

Stephen

Taranaki

Nothing is about all that's been happening in The Naki as far as BMWOR is concerned. It would seem everyone is happy doing their own thing and not interested in any of the events we have tried so far so not much help filling a newsletter from our activities.

The Taihape overnighter we hoped to do with Wellington had no other takers from our lot so along with the negative response from our lot no option but to defer/cancel.

Anyway enough negativity and I am still looking forward to the RAG Rally/Dawn Chorus at the end of the month and catching up with members from around the country. If anyone keen to join me in the ride over give me a call.

That's it for this month. Cheers, Ray.

Rangitikei

Our usual monthly dinner meeting is held in a cafe or restaurant: It was time for a change and as its summer I thought, what about a BBQ.

A central location would suit most and I chose the Palmerston North Esplanade. I checked out the location of the free BBQs and circulated the details to all in the Rangitikei area. We arrived at the Esplanade to find the area I had chosen was closed for a running event! Just as well I had plan B. There was another area

available in the Esplanade that also had free BBQs.

We enjoyed our meal and my wife Sue had made a batch of chocolate éclairs as a treat for those who attended.

From the favourable comments I received this is something we will do again.

Don Cross

Wellington

Sunday, 05 March. Destination Ride – This was second of these rides this one was to the Aston Norwood Cafe at Kaitoke - We had 11 members attend including one new member and a pleasant 2 hours was spent together enjoying good coffee, food and service. We have decided to have one of these rides on a monthly basis at different venues around Wellington and the suburbs.

It is hoped that these rides will attract riders who do not want to ride longer distances but are happy to have a ride on a Sunday morning with their significant other to a pleasant venue for coffee and or brunch and to meet other BMWOR members. It is hoped that these rides will appeal to a wider range of members going forward.

The next Destination ride will be held in early April.

Monday, 13 March. Club Social get-together - Petone Working men's Club from 6pm. Fourteen members attended and enjoyed the facilities at PWMC. Member Brian Zemanek gave a presentation on his trip to the USA last year whilst not strictly motorcycle related the roads travelled showed anyone contemplating a ride in the States, what to expect. Brian's presentation was well

received and appreciated.

Saturday/Sunday 18 & 19 March. Monthly Club Ride – This ride was an overnight ride to Taihape but was cancelled due to lack of interest and may be re-offered later in the year.

Nelson

January ride report. (Arrears)

Kevin was unable to come today, so I reprised my role as ride leader for the day, we met up at our usual spot in Richmond & was pleased to see a good turnout. Our destination for lunch was St Arnaud, rather than take the usual main road we had a nice twisty curving ride through 88 valley & joined up to the main road a bit later. Most people had an uneventful ride through to the lake, except for yours truly who took a little track off to the side. It was a bit steeper and looser than I thought, but I managed it in the end.

We met up with a couple of the Marlborough riders at the lunch stop, Peter on his R80GS & another rider who's name I cannot remember (sorry) on a very nice S1000RR. After a long lunch we all went our separate ways, 2 of us went with Tony on one of his infamous "easy" side routes.

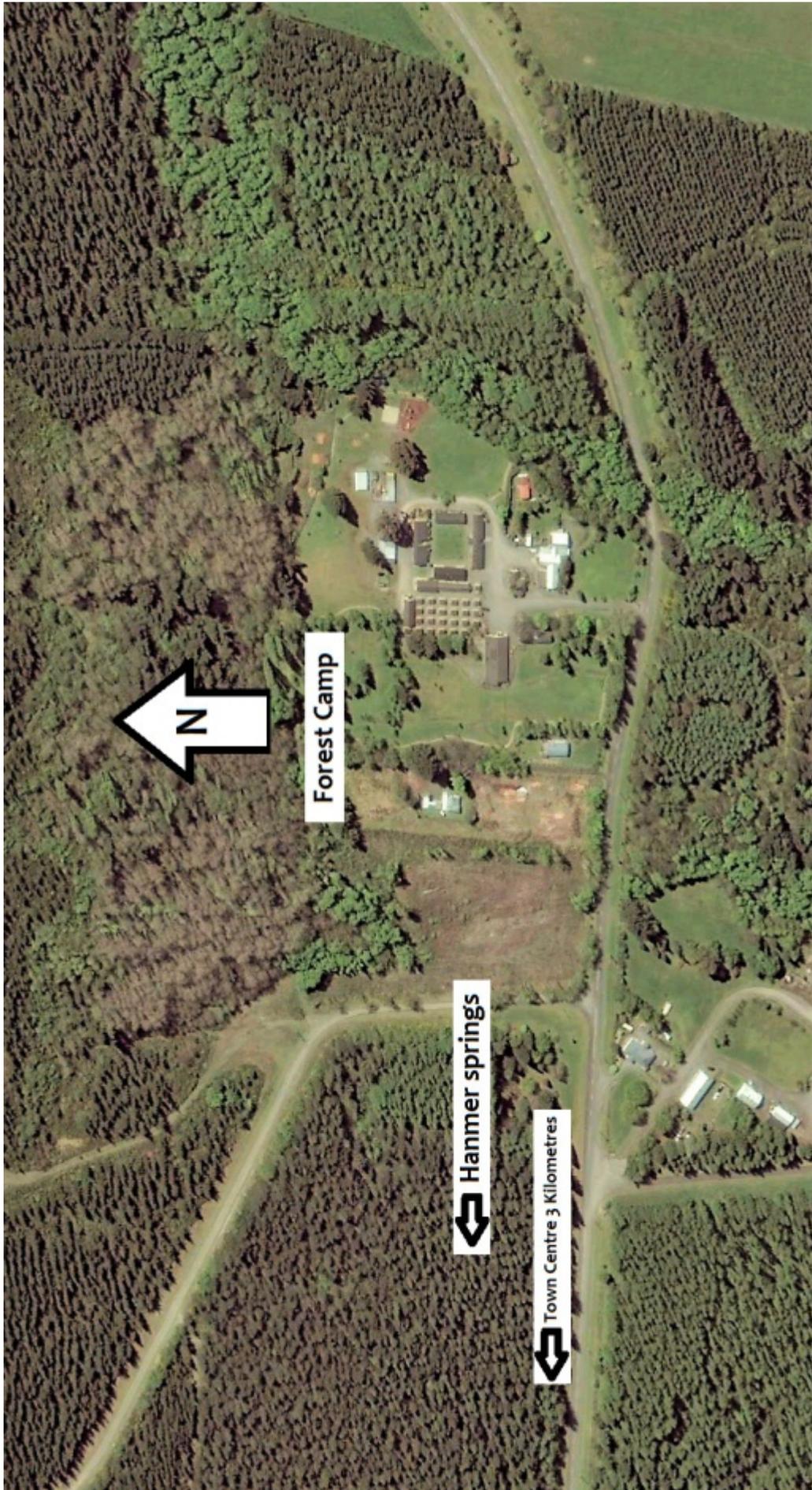
I feel I must take some of the blame for leading the way through where the road used to be. I am not sure if the others would have done it if I had not; it is a lot steeper & narrower than the picture makes it look.

We all made it through OK & had a nice ride home over the Spooners hill.

Cont. page 12



Nelson: Short stop on the ride



South Island RAG* Rally

- Where:** Hanmer Springs Forest Camp
243 Jollies Pass Rd.
Hanmer Springs
- When:** Friday 12th May (evening) – Sunday 14th May
- What:** A weekend get-away for like minded people. Surrounded by forest and mountains and only 2.3 kms from the centre of the Alpine Village, the Forest Camp is a wonderful smoke-free venue to get away from it all!
- Facilities:** Our hosts, club members Elizabeth and Selwyn Meaclem, have put aside one lodge, a few forestry huts and camp sites at very generously discounted rates (\$20 per person per night for accommodation in the lodge and \$10 per night for a tent site). There is also an option of a self-contained unit (one queen size bed and a single) for \$75 but there's only one of those available. All ablutions and kitchens/lounge rooms are heated.
- Bookings:** Your accommodation booking is your registration for this event.
Bookings for specific accommodation types are, as always, on a 'first come, first served' basis. The Forest Camp will do their best but may offer you an alternative accommodation type if one type is over-subscribed.
Please book directly with the Forest Camp by phoning 03 315 7202 between 8.30am – 9.00pm or by emailing;
reservations@hanmerforestcamp.co.nz
When you make your booking please let the Forest Camp know you are a BMWOR member attending the SI RAG Rally to ensure you get the discounted rate.
Accommodation bookings will close at 5:00pm on Thursday 11 May.
- Programme:** The RAG weekend is not planned out to minute detail; it will be what you make of it. As a rough guide:
- If you arrive Friday night, make the most of the eateries in the village.
 - A cooked BBQ breakfast will be available on site for reasonable donation on Saturday and Sunday mornings.
 - A Saturday adventure ride led by a local is being organised to show off some of the amazing terrain around north Canterbury.
 - Road riders have a couple of big loops with plenty of interesting things to stop and see south of Hanmer Springs – bring a map, put a group together and go where you fancy.
 - If you don't want to ride, head up to the Hot Pools, visit the Marble Point Winery, go for a Jet Boat ride or take in any of the other activities Hanmer Springs is well known for.
 - Depending on numbers, Saturday dinner will be at the Alpine Village Inn a couple of kilometres up the road. Transport will be available so there's no need to take the bike, unless you really want to.

*Rough As Guts – but it's not really

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Events Calendar Cont from page 5

Canterbury

Sunday 2 April – Craft brewery tour & brunch: The Laboratory, Lincoln. Say farewell to daylight saving with a destination ride to The Laboratory at 17 West Belt, Lincoln (in the middle of town). Pick your route and your riding mates and meet up at The Laboratory for 11.30 am.

Describing themselves as a Craft Brewery and Culinary Chemists, The Laboratory is a very special place – a wonderful mix of funky innovation and salvaged history. A tour of The Laboratory brew house is on offer at \$25 per head for those with a passion for the technical side of the craft. After the tour there will be a tapas, pizza and “things on toast” style of meal – have a look at the menu on their website to get a feel for the style and cost of food: <http://www.thelaboratory.co.nz/food>. There are also food package options which kick in for larger groups.

Please let Jo know by Thursday 30 March if you are coming - bookings are essential for us to get the best deal on the brewery tour and meal option. Send an email to Canterbury@bmwor.org.nz or call/text on 027 241 0611.

Sunday 18 June – Mid-Winter Madness Ride: Put this date in the diary for a longer club ride. Planning this far out will give you plenty of time to make sure the heated grips are working properly. Details to follow.

Otago/Southland

Sunday 9th April. Kaka Point for lunch around 12:30.

Members of other Areas should contact their Area Rep or listed Area Reps of above events.



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NEW MEMBERS

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.

Paul ENDICOTT-DAVIES

Rick BROWN

John SUISTED

Michael WRIGHT

Daniel PETZEN

Yang LIU

Yafei ZHANG

Graydon ARMSTRONG

Dion YANDLE

Daryl BALDWIN

Auckland

Paeroa

Cambridge

Lower Hutt

Lower Hutt

Lower Hutt

Lower Hutt

Wellington

Nelson

Invercargill

On a side note, we have had a new road safety campaign recently launched in Nelson/Marlborough aimed at making drivers more aware of the rider than just thinking of it as just another motorcycle, I "volunteered" to be part of the billboard/radio campaign, it must be working because I have had lots of people mention the billboards, luckily all of them positive. (See cover photo - Ed.)

Dale Grover

The Annual Rainbow/Molesworth Weekend Feb 25-6

As usual, the choice of weather was superb, warm and gentle breezes to carry the dust away.

As usual, the same small but great band of riders. Plus a welcome to Allister from Blenheim.

As usual, a great support team in the mother ship - thanks Murray, loadmaster and pilot.

As usual, a great balmy calm night under the stars at Acheron Bridge after which,

As usual, the low flight up the Acheron involving most

Unusually, a side trip up Pudding Hill (which felt a bit exposed in places).

As usual, no trip is without entertainment. In this case (name removed) immediately after passing a bunch of Suzukis on Taylor Pass Rd, (oh the shame) overcooked a corner, and subsequently blaming ABS, came into close huggies-type contact with a bunch of tussock, which left bike tastefully tufted and rider slightly tweaked shoulder wise.

All in all, the usual darn fine BMW group trip away. My thanks for the great company to Allister, Gretchen, Hans, Matthias, Murray, Penny, and Peter.

Tony H

Canterbury

First off, welcome William Lewis, Alister Sladen, & Jeremy & Angela Jones to the Canterbury membership.

Sorry I missed our monthly social night, I've been super busy (as Garry will attest to) with earthquake recovery work and was in Kaikoura for a farmer workshop that evening.

I'm told it was an intimate affair this month with just seven turning up, but most impressed that four of them turned up on their bikes, a pretty good effort considering the wet weather. By all accounts it didn't matter that the number was lower than usual; great conversation (mostly giving Geoff grief about riding a KTM), great food and a very convivial get together.

If you're in Canterbury (or visiting) we meet up at the Styx and Stone Bar and Restaurant in Northwood from 6.30 pm onwards every 2nd Monday of every month right up to November. We have our own dining room, the \$20 Monday night specials are a great option, there's a good selection of beer and wines, and it's always great to catch up for a natter with your local BMW motorcycling friends.

I'd encourage you all to keep up the rides to those cafes and businesses on SH1 in North Canterbury who are suffering a downturn while roads are being repaired. Greta Valley, Domett and Cheviot are all feeling it and are very appreciative of our two-wheeled support. If you're heading up through the Lewis Pass, why not stop in at the Blacksmith Café in Hurunui (next to the old hotel) for a coffee on the way through? They also have great little accommodation units if you want a quick weekend away.

Nelson
members
enjoy
their
ride



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Cyclespot Group

EIGHT-HUNDRED (- And Some) WORDS

An Intrepid Tale by Dave M

PART ONE

For some years now I have put up with an annoying occasional alien noise somewhere in the bike (1999 R1200C). Many theories were put forward – The inner exhaust pipe had a hole, a loose piece of body-part, and so on. I'd had it checked out more than once, but still not sorted. I lived with it. Made sure I carried the Tour Guide, but the bike stayed faithful and I cruised around the country. I did the Wanganui and Nelson rallies plus trips out after them for a few days.

Now it's the Rally at Napier. For some time I had this goal to get to Cape Reinga for a number of years. – Been very close several times, but not actually there. Now was the chance. Leave from Napier as I was 'half-way' there already; much closer than Wellington. So: Monday morning I set off on my big adventure. Great weather, minimal traffic and altogether a pleasant day for riding – as were the Rally days. I was heading for a Waikato farm where I was to stay with a Register member. Buzzing along the Hamilton expressway – new to me and disorientating self, – at a speed the bike was very comfortable with. (Well, we have been together now for some 12 years and knew each other; we were in harmony after all that time.) At the north end after reading a directional road sign I de-throttled and that's when my trip plans changed. There was a loud noise that sounded expensive. That is the best way to describe it. I did a few changes while riding like changing gear, power spurts braking, other riding variations to hear the extent of the problem. On this trip the oddo moved over to 140,000kms. I arrived at my host's and we decided to go into the local BMW agent in the morning, today being Auckland Anniversary holiday.

They test-rode it and said, 'It's the gearbox. Put it on a truck and ship it home.' The impact of those words didn't sink in, as I thought, 'I'll ride it home easy-as, I have been all around the country over the last 5 years, I can do this.' Besides, I have rallies in Taupo and Taihape. As it was I stayed the night in Palmerston and carried on the next day.

At home, I researched what best option. There had been a Cruiser advertised in TradeMe, I thought could make a good donor bike. But that was now unlisted. A couple of queries to wreckers were negative. A peek at E-bay was daunting.

And then it happened.

Completely out of far left field.

'Would you like a new bike for your birthday?'

Serious?

PART TWO

And so it was. I was shown a 2002 Independent Cruiser I had not seen, in TradeMe. In fact, there were two; same model, yellow & black paintwork and neighbouring years. One had 15,500, the other 50,000. 'My' one was in Whangarei. That's a journey in itself. I looked at the travel options and the overnight bus seemed to work the best, with a transfer at Auckland to arrive at Whangarei late morning. If you need to travel on these buses, take a seat in the bottom deck. They are much more comfortable. The difference is similar to airline 'cattle' and business classes.

I had asked a local member to check out the bike for me, which he did and came back with extra photos and a positive response, So a special thank you to Ian McCartney for taking the time to travel over to the other side of town to inspect the bike for me. I could go to Whangarei with the confidence it would not be a wasted trip.

I had arranged to meet the owner at the bus terminal (The Hub). And after introductions, we were on off to his home.

And there it was, resplendent in the light airy garage. As good as a bike could be. This was a bike with an incredible 15,500 km on the clock. My host offered me a light lunch and after that it was away. I remember thinking as I rode down the driveway, this is the first time I have ridden it.

I took it easy. The owner had said he never rode over 100kph so I respected that and took the ride easy.

I spread the trip home over 3 days and had decided not to do the top 'o the north at this time.

So I took the bike over to Henderson and Kumea. Picked up a couple of Pinot Gris from the vineyard of the same name. They replaced the room the helmet had taken up on the trip north.

I dropped into BM Motorcycles and introduced myself to Colleen and Dean. Then onto the black carpet through the city. On the other side I made a reservation at a farm stay at Pukekawa. I had time to ride out to Port Waikato. That was a good ride; not too short – or long. At the farm stay, I had a cabin to myself and enjoyed fabulous views of the Waikato River and the panoramic countryside.

To summarise day two, I travel down to National Park. There's a café in Taumarunui that some fellow members know of. Once it was Twin Rivers, now it is Jasmine's Café and Thai Restaurant. – Compulsory stop for lunch. Used to be breakfast when we did Henry's W.W.

Just south of Taumarunui, about 10 kilometres there is a signpost denoting Kakahi 4km. That is a little adventure too. The school reflects pride and is extremely tidy. Surprisingly, there is a general store there. I got talking to a young guy about the hamlet. He was outside a building that once used to be a bakery.

At Jasmine's Café I rang a lodge in National Park. When I arrived and opened the door, there was gear all over the floor. One solitary Canadian was there and we got talking. The reason the place was a pig sty was a group of backpackers were walking the Tongariro Track in the morning. Anyway I thought the room was claustrophobic and stuffy, so got a change of room. I was second in that room, but by evening it was full. But at least it was tidy.

The bike was performing well and riding was slightly better than the old maroon Cruiser. This amounted to the difference in the handgrip angle of the handlebars.

Occasionally when putting the bike on the stand, the indicator or emergency lights would switch themselves on. I worked out later at home the handlebar was hitting the tank. One small adjustment fixed that.

In the morning there was a heavy dew which I wiped off with a towel. One press on the starter button and the engine fired up.

This last leg from National Park, took me into my riding neighbourhood and home.

It was a great trip even if it was a delivery trip. I am looking forward to some more great trips in the future. I have the history of the bike. It was bought brand new from Motorad and has 3 owners. It lived in Wellington until my seller took it up to Whangarei. (I left him with a couple of 1950's British twins.)



Above: The old and the new.



Left: At the Glen Afton Line, Heritage Railway, west of Huntly.

The Hommage Series

BMW have a little known series of cars and motorcycles categorised under a group called the Hommage Series.

List of designs.

- 1997 Mini Anniversary Concept Vehicle 30
- 2006 BMW Concept Coupe Mille Miglia
- 2008 M1 Hommage
- 2009 Concept Ninety motorcycle
- 2011 328 Hommage
- 2015 3.0 CSL Hommage
- 2016 BMW 2002
- 2017 R 5 Hommage Motorcycle

Included here are the two motorcycles, and a group photo of the complete range of vehicles.

Below, L to R:

Rear; the 328's, Mini's, Milla Miglia's, 3.0CSL's, M1's.

Centre; the Motorcycles, R90S's, R5's.

Front; the 2002's



The Hommage Motorcycles



The R5 Hommage



The RSD Concept Ninety Hommage.

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(1)

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Brand new never worn on a bike. \$190.

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\$100.

richard.kuysten@hotmail.com or 021
993 708 (1)

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GS.

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\$350. (1)

richard.kuysten@hotmail.com or 021
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For other Wanted to Sell or Buy see:
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BMW R1200GS LC 2003 for sale. (See above)

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