

Newsletter

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May 2017

BMW Motorcycle Club
BMW Owners Register
of New Zealand





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“ PS: Don't forget to ask for the John Baker special.



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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 May 2017

Crikey! Here I was thinking the weather in March hadn't been that flash yet April has been much more of a challenge, especially up north. The Bay of Plenty was on high alert with a local state of emergency declared before the heavy rain expected from Cyclone Cook even arrived. I'm quite sure that didn't help matters as many people are still reeling from the effects of Cyclone Debbie. Severe weather warnings were also issued for Auckland, Waikato and in parts of Otago, the West Coast and Nelson. Our thoughts are with members and their families in the areas most affected and we trust you are safe and coping with any clean up as well as you can.

Speaking of safety, winter is fast approaching and there is a strong possibility that you are planning to be out riding. Now is the time to make sure you and your bike are up to it. First off, look after you! There is no doubt that being warm when riding is far safer than being too cold. There is nothing particularly macho about braving conditions that bring on exhaustion, confusion, drowsiness, slow reaction times, not to mention stiff and sore joints. If you are not prepared for the cold you are quite simply a danger to yourself and others.

Today's riding gear features materials that keep you warm without having to be extra bulky. Yes, you pay for what you get but good quality textile gear is much warmer than leather. Get a decent set of thermals, which are thin but effective, and they will keep you warm without having to put on layers of bulky clothing under your gear and limit your movement.

You can wear the warmest jacket and trousers, but if your hands and feet are still cold, you'll find it pretty uncomfortable going. Get some good quality winter gloves and wear warm, woollen (Merino) socks to keep your fingers and toes from going numb. Just because gloves are thick doesn't mean they are warmer. Again, the price you pay relates more to effectiveness than thickness.

Also, when we're cold we don't feel as thirsty as when we are hot, so there is a tendency to not drink enough. That can lead to fatigue, so stay hydrated but not with alcohol. Alcohol (and too much caffeine) increases the blood flow to the skin, which may make you feel warmer but it is actually causing you to lose body heat.

Just make sure you've got what you need if conditions deteriorate during your ride. Warm and comfortable riders are more alert, more flexible and better able to deal with emergency situations and therefore safer road users.

A little preparation on your bike before winter can also pay big dividends, especially if it avoids a problem miles from home. Make sure your bike is serviced before winter, at the very least change the oil and oil filter. If your bike is water cooled, check the anti freeze and change if necessary. Check the battery and terminals, if your battery is old replace it. There is nothing worse than a battery dying on you in the middle of nowhere. Check your electrics; make sure all lights are working, including instrument lights. I carry a replacement headlamp bulb rather than having to make a trip to town just to get one when it's freezing outside. Lube your cables, especially the clutch cable. Grit and water getting into cables is not much of a problem during summer but that water can freeze during the winter - at best it means a stiff clutch lever, at worst a broken clutch cable. Check your brakes, replace the pads if they are worn, and check for calliper corrosion. You may want to consider replacing the brake fluid if it has not been done for a while. Contrary to popular belief, 'sticky' sports compound tyres rarely get up to working temperature in winter. Think about getting more 'touring' type tyres, which are of heavier construction and generate more internal heat not only offering more grip in the wet, but they'll last a good deal longer.

I heard the northern RAG Rally went well. Many thanks to Clifford McLellan who no doubt did another fabulous job with the spit roast; I'm told very little was left over even though attendance was down a bit on previous years.

The South Island RAG Rally is not far away; Friday 12 May (evening) to Sunday 14 May. This is our weekend get-away in a beautiful part of the world - and a great chance for people to catch up with others from points north, south and west of Canterbury. Details were published in the April issue of the newsletter and you'll find them somewhere in this issue as well. Note that accommodation bookings close at 5.00 pm on Thursday 11 May. Many thanks to our hosts, members Selwyn and Elizabeth Meaclem at the Hanmer Springs Forest Camp, and South Island area reps for making it happen.

I'm sure it will be a great event. It is just a shame I'll miss it as I'll be at our Board meeting in Wellington on the Saturday.

Wherever your travels take you in May; stay warm, be safe and have fun!

Cover:

Desert Road. A sign at the Waiouru end: These horses established themselves when the Army released surplus horses from the camp after WW2. They are now considered part of our heritage, and are under the care of Dept. of Conservation.



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 undamage 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

May Fri 12 – Sun 14. SI RAG Rally. Hamner Springs. URGENT ACTION REQUIRED. Refer last month's Newsletter at bmwor.org.nz)
January 2018. BMWOR AGM & Annual Rally. (See page 6.)

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

Contact Area Rep. See back page.

Auckland

May

Sunday 7th. Café run (destination Café Sole, 10 Seaway Rd, Clarks Beach.) Make your own way there for 10am.

Monday 8th. Monthly meeting. Vintage and Veteran Clubrooms 39 Faifax Ave Penrose 7.30pm.

Wednesday 17th. Mid week run. Meet Cyclespot BMW Barrys Point Road 10am.

Sunday 21st. Monthly ride. Destination Cambridge. Meet BP Service Centre M/way Sth between Papakura and Drury off ramps 9.00am for 9.30am departure.

June

Sunday 4th. Café run (destination on your email). Make your own way there for 10am.

Monday 12th. Monthly meeting (venue TBA).

Sunday 18th. Monthly ride. Destination Ruakaka. Meet Starbucks Westgate just off exit 19A North Western M/way 9.00am for 9.30 departure.

Wednesday 21st. Mid week run. Meet Cyclespot BMW Barrys Point Road 10am.

Waikato

Contact Area Rep. See back page.

Bay Of Plenty

Contact Area Rep. See back page.

Taranaki

Contact Area Rep. See back page.

Rangitikei

May

Sunday 14th May A ride around Manawatu. Depart Ashhurst Fusion cafe at 10.00am

Tuesday 30th May Dinner at Ashhurst Inn 7.00pm

37TH ANNUAL BRASS MONKEY RALLY 2017
3th June - 4th June (Queens Birthday Weekend).
Idaburn Dam, Oturehua, Central Otago.
<http://www.brassmonkeyrally.org.nz/>

Cont. page 8



“Gateway to Paradise”

2018 Rally and AGM

The 2018 Annual Rally and AGM are going to be held in Cromwell in the heart of Central Otago, commencing on Friday afternoon January 5 and concluding on Monday morning January 8. Put these dates in your diary now!

The venue is “The Gate” which is booked out to us for that period. It is a terrific venue which has just been refurbished and developed, as has much of the Cromwell town centre across the road, and you will be able to be as busy or as lazy as you like in this fantastic location! The Gate is an upmarket motor lodge with very comfortable, quiet rooms, all with great views of the surrounding mountains and vineyards, and of course there is plenty of safe parking for our BMWs. It is also close to Lake Dunstan and there are great walks in all directions for those whose bottoms are sore from lots of riding!

The Gate has its own cafe, “Forage”, which is open from early morning until late in the day, and which caters for all tastes and wallets. If you want to stretch your legs a bit, cross the road and check out the cafes, bars and eateries of the Cromwell.

Over the Rally weekend there will be organised road rides and adventure rides—we can even organise for you to hire a trail bike if you come on your road bike. There will also be a wine tour for those wine lovers amongst you. If you want to do your own thing, the choices are huge, from Highlands Park to the many cafes and historical townships and sites that abound in Central Otago.

Once you have registered, we will send you a Rally Pack which will give you advance notice of what you can expect in Paradise---and yes, we can even take you there!

Please do not contact The Gate yourself because all room bookings will be done as part of registration which will open in the July Newsletter.

So, watch for developments—January is not far away!

AREA REPORTS FROM AROUND THE REGONS



Above left: East Coast dining. Tie not compulsory.

Below right: Picton Picnic



For whoever is interested to have an alternative trip to the SI RAG rally from the North.

My plan is to go through the Rainbow road (gravel) on Friday the 12th and go back on Sunday to Nelson through the Maruia saddle road and Braeburn track. As the Rainbow is NOT open that time of year a key is required. If anyone is interested in joining please contact me on schultzrd@slingshot.co.nz. It cost \$15.00 (pay cash on the day) to get through and it is weather dependant. I have to know numbers as you will have to sign a form stating that you travel at your own risk.

Cheers, Hans Claus 3200

Events Calendar Cont from page 5

June

Sunday 11th Ride to Porangahu Depart Summer hill shopping centre 9.30 am

Tuesday 27th Dinner at Murrays Irish Bar Feilding 7.00 pm

July

Sunday 9th. Ride to Rangiwahia Depart from Robert Harris cafe Feilding at 10.00am

25 July Dinner at Rutland Arms Inn Wanganui 7.00pm

East Coast

Contact Area Rep. See back page.

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.

May

Sunday 7th – Destination ride – TBA.

Monday 8th - Club Social get together - Petone Workingmen’s Club from 6pm.

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

June

Sunday 4th – Destination Ride – TBA.

Monday 12th - Club Social get together - Petone Working men’s Club from 6pm.

Sunday 18th – Monthly Club Ride to Woodville – Lunch – Cafe 88.

Nelson

Contact Area Rep. See back page.

Marlborough

Contact Area Rep. See back page.

Cont page 9

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Canterbury

June

Sunday 18th – 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 7th May: “Autumn colours” ride to Lawrence for lunch around 12:30 at the Wild Walnut..

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

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.

Chris BOAG

Michael (Max) KENNY

Graham & Marion AITKEN

Clive MATHIS

Ralph RACKSTRAW

Serena WHYE-JOYCE & Wayne BILLING

Fritz & Vicky MULLER

Monty SWANEPOEL

Paul ARROWSMITH

John GILSHNAN

KERIKERI

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Area Reports

Auckland

Nature certainly seems intent on persistently dishing out adverse treatment to New Zealand (is it wrong to think it's time for someone else to have a turn?). Some of us have purely been spectators to the various beatings handed out whilst the lives of others have been dramatically impacted. Measures in place around preparedness, protection, and insurance which seemed adequate have often been exposed for not really being as "up to the task" as perceived in the aftermath of these events. Retrospectively a more realistic assessment of New Zealand's risk exposure would have resulted in more appropriate readiness and improved outcomes. I'm one of those who have "dodged all the bullets" and I'm shocked at how easily my mind defaults into the "sucks to be them, it'll never happen to me" line of thinking. The reality is that many people ride bikes in the absence of a realistic assessment of their risk exposure and compliment this with inadequate preparedness, protection, and insurance. Sorry to be so morbid but a friend of ours stays with us Monday through Thursday, she works at The Limb Centre. The Limb Centre looks after a lot of motorcyclists who have experienced stuff which "will never happen to them".

March 19 would have probably been unspectacular if it weren't for the fact that our monthly ride was scheduled. The parking area at Westgate held maybe 3 bikes at 9.00am but by 9.30 this number had swollen to 16 with 3 other bikes planning to join up as we cruised north. Our intended destination was Paihia via Russell Road and the Opuia ferry. Russell Road is an epic ride and no biker should ever depart this earth without experiencing it at least once. It does however consume a bunch of time and distance so we arrived at Russell some 260 / 270kms later and a tad late to consider Paihia for lunch. Our usual leisurely lunch time frame went by the board and got replaced with swiftly consumed takeaways on a bench under a tree. Riders then had three options for the homeward leg, back the way they came giving them a 520 / 540km day, ferry across to Opuia then straight down the main road for a tad under 490km, or follow Peter and good luck to you. Grant, Richard, and I decided to follow Peter. Following our ferry ride we managed to cruise through Kawakawa, Kaikohe, Maungatapere, and Dargaville giving us around 640km for the day. Lurking in amongst this labyrinth was epic road number two for the day. Known as Twin Bridges this road is nothing less than a gift from the gods. If one was so inclined and under controlled circumstances with a closed road one could travel along this road extremely quickly. So it was that we paused for fuel at Maungatapere, rued the restrictions we were subject to on the open roads, and puzzled over some tyres feathered out to the edge of their tread (tyre pressures maybe, who knows).

Again, I'm having email difficulties and I'm a tad time poor around reconciling membership databases so if you think you should be receiving Auckland event emails then contact me on steve@ctnsider.co.nz.
Stephen

Hawke's Bay Happenings

We may not have been on many rides, but the social side of things are alive and well in Hawke's Bay.

Last year members made a request to vary the dining places each month, so we started in;

February, going to the 'Chook and Filly' on Highway 50 where we were well looked after and enjoyed our meal.

March, brought us back to Napier and '3 Doors Up' in Ahuriri was the venue of choice.

April, will see us heading to Havelock North, to 'Off The Track'. We are still looking for someone to take care of the rides now and again; it can be very impromptu, as sometimes these are the most fun. It often depends on the weather of course but we are blessed with sunshine most of the time.

I enjoyed our camping at Ruatiti and the RAG rally at Pokaka.

John Wuts.

Rangitikei

The Rangitikei group were due for a ride on Sunday 9 April and I had thought about a ride to Napier.

When I found out about the Hawke's Bay Classic Motorcycle Clubs evolution of the motorcycle show I saw the possibility to combine both events.

Our meeting point was the Fusion cafe in Ashhurst and 5 bikes were gathered for departure at 9.00am. Our route would take us over the Saddle road and back country roads to Dannevirke where we joined Highway 2 up to Takapau, there we turned on to Highway 50 with a stop at the Tikokino pub to stretch our legs and use facilities. State Highway 50 does have long straight roads but as you get closer to Napier things get more interesting with hills, one way bridges and great views over Hawke Bay. Lunch was at the Silky Oaks cafe where the food is always excellent.

We now rode to the event centre in Napier to see the show. In the last six months I have been to three iconic motoring events in New Zealand. The Burt Munro, Rod Millen's Lead foot festival and The Beach Hop. Each of these events was a showcase of New Zealand history and the passion people display for their treasured motor vehicles. This motorcycle display was no exception. The bikes on display included a BSL 500 cc GP bike the Britten V1000 and "out of the crate" Hailwood NCR Ducati. I thought the British bikes from the 1950 and 1960 were best represented with Triumph, Norton, BSA, and AJS but my choice of "Best Bike" was the 1896 Roper Steam Bicycle. No rev counter or speedo on this bike but it did have a pressure gauge and it took 30 minutes to get steam up before it could be ridden. There must have been more than 200 bikes on display and it was worth the \$15.00 entry. Our ride home was back down state Highway 2 with a coffee break at Dannevirke. My thanks to those who came on this ride, you were great company and we had a fantastic day. Don

Wellington

Impromptu Ride – Apiti Tavern – 17th March, 2017.

Two Wellington members Denis H and Peter N met at Mana for a ride to the Apiti Tavern for lunch on Friday 17 March in bright sunshine and a developing northerly wind.

The route called for SH1 to Sanson with stops at the BP Levin to link up with Murray P and at the Woolshed Café for coffee. Murray was only able to ride with us as far as the Woolshed Café having to return home to meet other travel commitments in the afternoon. While at the Woolshed Café Lance and Heather Nixon called in and had coffee and a catch up with us.

At Sanson instead of turning either left or right we went straight through on to Cemetery Rd, through Halcombe eventually turning onto SH54 (Cheltenham – Vinegar Hill Rd) stopping at the Stormy Point look out for the fantastic views of the surrounding area including Mount Ruapehu in the distance. We continued to Vinegar Hill and turned right onto SH1 for the short ride to a right turn onto Otara Rd for the run eventually through to Apiti via Te Parapara and Main South Roads. Lunch at the Apiti Tavern was good a little more expensive than some of other eateries in the area with a Thai Beef salad and Diet Coke costing \$20 but very tasty and good service.

After lunch we rode up onto the Kimbolton Rd stopping at the lookout just north of Kimbolton for the panoramic view of the valley to the south and the East, we continued through Kimbolton and through Ashhurst onto SH57 for the ride south. A quick detour into Palmerston North for a refuel stop and then back down SH57. Being Friday afternoon the traffic volume increased as we got further south with the usual hold up in Otaki however the new Kapiti bypass has eliminated hold ups at both Waikanae and Paraparamu. Denis peeled off and rode over the Paekakariki Hill and home while Peter continued on SH1 with the usual tail back at the Paramata roundabout.

This was another great days riding meeting and riding with Denis for the first time and catching up with three of our Rangitikei members and putting 436kms onto the new F700GS which now has 2550kms on the clock. It also provided the opportunity to video the scenic aspects of the ride into Apiti from Ohingaiti on SH1, on the GoPro.

Nelson

Tony had suggested a ride through to Lake Tennyson & back on Sunday, I jumped at the chance not realising it clashed with our (official) club ride, oh well, it was gravel so no contest really seeing as I had just bought a DRZ400 complete with long distance tank.

I sent the word out to a few people & we ended up with 6 riders, some of whom are BMWOR members so it sort of became a club ride anyway. We all met up in Richmond, rode to St Arnaud (apart from Ollie who took his dirt bike on a trailer) for breakfast, then up to the ski field access road where Ollie unloaded his bike & off we went, we all stopped at Lees Creek only to realise Ollie's fuel can that was strapped to his rear guard was no longer there (only a 9ltr tank on his trail bike) I went back with him to find it while the others carried on, it was duly found, strapped onto the front guard this time & off we went, only to have it come loose less than a K later, this time the tie downs were supplemented with thick black sticky tape from my tool kit, no way it was coming loose now. We thought the others were going to wait for us,

but we did not see them again until Tennyson, luckily Raefe was one of the riders in front & tends to leave a breadcrumb trail in the form of power slides on most corners so we had no problem working out which way they went.

Anyway, we all met up for lunch, afterwards Tony said he had to go back, but suggested the rest of us go & explore Malings Pass, a great wee track. We went a portion of the way, but decided to turn back at the top of a decent descent as some of the guys had big bikes & were not too keen on going down seeing as we still had a 100k ride back to St Arnaud. On our way back to join up with Rainbow road I had a bit of an oops moment when due to looking at the scenery, I rode off the track into a small ditch off to the side, all caught on my GoPro (now on Facebook).

We then had a mostly uneventful ride home; Allan got stuck in the creek, Raefe & I were too close to him & got roasted with the water as he tried to power out of the hole he was in.

We had a great day, even if I did feel as though I had been sitting on a wooden saw horse all day, the DRZ is not quite in the GS category of seat comfort. Dale Grover

April Ride Report.

On Sunday 9th April there was a ride organised to go to Picton waterfront for a picnic. Tony had organised a ride through the Rainbow to Lake Tennyson on the same day, so only a few turned up for the ride, Myself, Anya, Revti, Murray and Matthias. The weather was fine and sunny, a few clouds and a gentle breeze.

Revti was only going as far as Havelock so we headed over the Whangamoas to Havelock and had refreshments at 'Apples For

Charlotte' near Four Square. The staff were dressed in quaint uniforms of yesteryear.

We said farewell to Revti and carried on our way to Picton via the Queen Charlotte Drive. No matter how many times I travel this road I do not tire of the stunning scenery. Once in Picton we parked near the waterfront, Anya and I went and found suitable seating, whilst Murray and Matthias went and got some lunch. The breeze was rather cold here, but the sun was out and scenery very pleasant. Anya very kindly made a fruit cake to share and seeing as not many turned up there was plenty for two pieces, thanks Anya.

After lunch we headed back via the Queen Charlotte Drive again after Anya gassed up. For some crazy reason Fuel was 5c a litre cheaper here than in Nelson! We stopped for a break and refreshments at Rai, time for another piece of cake.

It was a great ride and pleasant company as always.

Otago & Southland

There's been a bit going on since the last time I reported on activities deep in the south, so here goes:

Back in February, when the days were still long and balmy, we took a look at the new (ish) motorcycle museum in Invercargill. A relatively small group gathered in Waihola (restricting my U-turn embarrassment when I realised my Matura shortcut would bypass Gore), and grew considerably as we gathered at the cafe in Gore for morning tea (the chocolate peppermint truffles were spectacular). Numbers swelled further at the museum, some having come in from the far west.

The museum is highly recommended, a very fine assortment of British, European and American machinery going back well over a hundred years. All displayed in a fine old art deco building. Go see it if you get a chance, how often do you see a Brough Superior and a Vincent Black Shadow a few steps apart?

After looking over the collection we had lunch in the rather fine cafe (all the food is very good, the hot chocolate well beyond any reasonable expectation...). The ride back to Dunedin was one of those rare occasions that I've been too hot on a motorcycle, a memory to cling to now the nights are drawing in.

Cont.14



Picture association. Gran'pa rides a Yamaha.



Left:
A general view of the Bike show in Napier.

Cyclespot Group



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Dawn Chorus

I set off for Dawn Chorus in the company of Dave O and Peter Tibbs (in a tin cage) . The trip was to take SH1 to Sanson, stop for coffee at the Church Café and on to Wanganui for lunch. The route then was to follow the Wanganui River Road and pass through Pipiriki and Jerusalem. The River Road is under construction/repair and there were a number of road works in place "Stop on Request" 30kmh etc, but for all that the ride is a pleasant one. We did stop at the Matahiwi Gallery and checked out the art work there.

Matahiwi Gallery is in the process of providing accommodation and this looked like a potential destination for an overnigher.

As an informal arrangement, most of us met at Raetihi, (last chance to buy food and top up fuel) - and proceeded to Ruatiti Domain in convoy. What a good sight, 9 bikes in a row.

We found the area used last year was free of tents and elected to stay there again. It is a quiet part of the domain and has seating and BBQ area and toilets down wind.

As we are pitching our tents a 1200GSA turns up. Who can this be now? I beckon him to come over and join us but he stays where he is and starts to settle in. I eventually go over and check him out. It turns out he is a Japanese tourist from Tokyo who has bought his own bike over. His plan is to spend 2 months in NZ. He had come from Australia and intending to go on to Europe after NZ. He came over in the evening and met the team and joined in. Using Ruatiti Domain as a base, he was off to the Tongariro Walk in the morning. We gave him some tips for that trip.

Night comes quick in the bush and by 9.00pm after chitchat around the BBQ table it is time to retire (for some).

The morning comes, the dew is heavy but it promises to be a good day. We pack- up and it's off to Ohakune for breakfast, Sweat Pea is a good place and we spend maybe an hour to eat, enjoy and kill time there.

We still weren't the first RAG members to arrive; Paul was there in his usual spot; - waiting.

R.A.G.

Nobody beats Paul to the RAG. He has the advantage of living comparatively close and this year there were some Regional events that could/would affect the travel through the Paraparas.

RAG has a following of regulars. There is a hard core of members that return every year. Why is that? I had a discussion with a couple of members during the gathering and this is a summary of reasons.

1. No organized rides during the event.
2. Very affordable.
3. Informal and relaxed.
4. Convivial.
5. Very central location.
6. Good food.

Since the lodge ownership has changed, there have been visible signs of improvements at the lodge.

1. Stoves replaced – now gas.
2. New pillows and mattresses.
3. New more-efficient electric heaters.
4. Furniture in lounge matched and tidy.

Our meal was at Gentleman hours and chatter and natter went into the night. Added it was the first day of 'natural' time, the effects of a daily routine were still from the past: The body clock was not yet adjusted.

Sunday morning was clean-up and depart: Back to homes in Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Taranaki, East Coast Rangitikei, Wellington – and Wairarapa!

The event was enjoyed by everyone. And would have been enjoyed by others had they come too!

DM

Area Reports. Continued from page 12.



Left: Nelson visits Picton.

March was less successful; the planned ride to Naseby coincided with a considerable deluge. Nobody met up with me in Dunedin, just a couple of cancellations by cellphone. I made it as far as Palmerston for morning coffee, no sign of anybody else so I headed home. As far as I know none of us got all the way to Naseby, I know there were a few hardy souls who tried then thought better part way.

April 1st saw three of us helping to marshal the local round of the Calder Stewart cycle racing series. The organisers appreciate the help, there's a contribution towards running costs, and it's a great experience seeing a cycle race play out up close. Give it a go if you get the chance!

The following week we converged on Kaka Point and I managed to lay on another fine day. Sunshine, the ocean almost looking tempting to swim in, and fine local blue cod for lunch. I had to head straight back to Dunedin for an afternoon commitment; others had the luxury of time to take the long way home.

This should be a link to the Otago/Southland area report:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1asG0nsZCQTWJkfU__Y6HxRWmrq1kPxVJ45IMqTUMgi0/edit?usp=sharing

This article includes photos of a Britten, Douglas and others.



**DAWN CHORUS
and RAG RALLY
(overleaf)**

Above: Dawn Chorus. L to R; Takemasa, Dave M, John, Mike, Peter, Tom, Jan, David T, Dave O.

Left: Matahiwi Gallery and cafe. Peter the art Critic. Paintings by local artist Don Hill.



Left: Kune pig 'free range' at the Gallery at Matahiwi.
Don't run her over if you pass through.



Above: Lounge area of Taylor Mem. Lodge.



Left: The Kitchen.

Member Buys New Bike!

Long wait come to an end.
New owner Peter Tibbs is at last one with his grand motorcycle.
Enthusiasts astounded by new bike's performance.

New Motorcycle boasts 1200GS 'Facelift' model.

The esteemed motorcycle company trading under the name of Motomart have gone to great lengths to make this new acquisition for Peter Tibbs Esq an ambrosial-like transaction.
This new acquisition is expected to achieve high milage as our intrepid loved member is expected to travel many happy miles and make up for time lost spent watching video favourites as such of the like of International stars Ewan McGregor and Charles Boorman. Further, the pristine showroom condition of the motorcycle is anticipated to gain a patina characteristic for this type of motorcycle.



The motorcycle while undergoing delivery acceptance.

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Clothing for sale_____

BMW COMFORTSHELL Jacket. Red, size euro 48. That's small men's or a 12-14 lady's size In new condition \$350.

BMW City 2 Pants. Blue denim, full hip and knee armour size small. Uni-sex, Brand new never worn on a bike. \$190.

BMW Protection Suit, size XXL this goes under your jacket with back, shoulder, elbow and kidney belt. Good condition \$100.

richard.kuysten@hotmail.com or 021 993 708 (2)

Parts for sale_____

Clutch cable for airheads R50/5 through R100R, new/unused BMW original part # 34 73 2 324 957, \$40 plus postage or pick-up from Nelson, matthias@peak.co.nz (1)

2006 plus R1200 Adventure main stand and side stand, complete with springs

etc. Came off a brand new bike, good if you put Adventure suspension in your GS. Will not fit '04 models. \$300.

K1200/1300 R/S/GT wide rear wheel, comes with a 190 Michelin pilot road 3 tire. Good condition wheel, half worn tire. \$350. (2)

richard.kuysten@hotmail.com or 021 993 708

Parts Wanted_____

K100RS - need a fairing plus screen. Will consider just the top half. Also need various small

parts such as gear indicator and foot rests. Rick. Mobile :021 114-8745. Email: rickbrown@ihug.co.nz (1)

On occasion Star Insurance sell parts from insurance wrecks through TradeMe. Take a look at the Star Insurance web site www.star.insurance.co.nz for details

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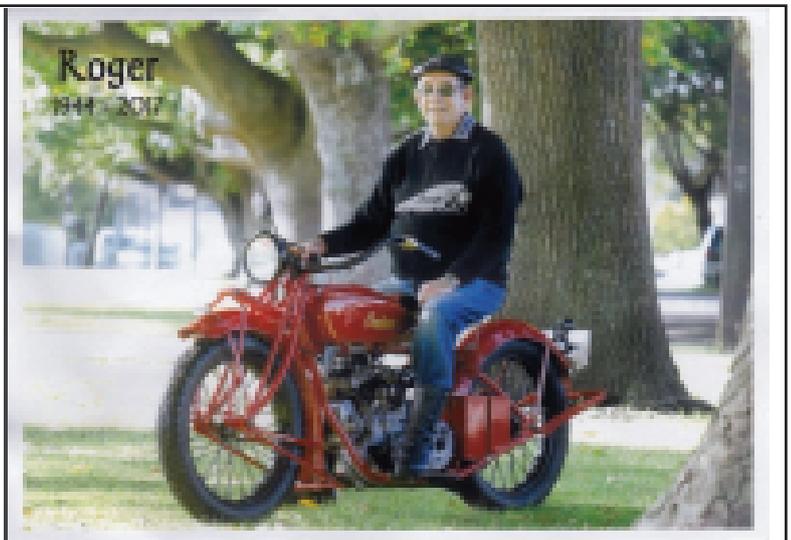


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Obituary

Roger Allen, one of our Rangitikei members, died on Saturday. A number of our local members attended his funeral in Wanganui. Attached is a photo of Roger scanned from his funeral service sheet.



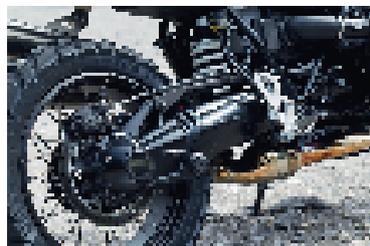
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