



BMW Motorcycle Club New Zealand

NEWSLETTER



BMW Motorcycle Club
New Zealand

Lest we forget. Official BMW Club - *Established 1975*

April 2026



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feedback and stories**
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Welcome to our 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 a story and/or 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 please email/ phone the Editor no later than the 2nd day of the month.

We forward to your contributions.

Please Note: Any material intended for publication in the newsletter should reach the Editor no later than the 2nd day of any month but the earlier the better. The Newsletter is an open forum for all members. Views expressed by members may not necessarily represent the views of BMWMC. Publication of all material is subject to the Editor's discretion. Photos are courtesy of article authors and/or usually credited when known, unless requested otherwise.

Cover picture: Cromwell

Photo by: Colin Gates

Date: Feb, 2026



BMW Clubs
International Council



BMW Motorcycle Club
New Zealand



A Very Warm Welcome to:

by Surname

BARROW	Grant	AUCKLAND
BOWMAN	Tony	AUCKLAND
DAVIES	James	NAPIER
GREEN	Steve	CHRISTCHURCH
GREEN	Michelle	CHRISTCHURCH
MORE	Stu	DUNEDIN
NICOL	Brent	STRATFORD
READER	Brian	AUCKLAND
WATERS	Jason	STOKES VALLEY

by Region

BARROW	Grant	AUCKLAND
BOWMAN	Tony	AUCKLAND
READER	Brian	AUCKLAND
DAVIES	James	NAPIER
NICOL	Brent	STRATFORD
WATERS	Jason	STOKES VALLEY
GREEN	Steve	CHRISTCHURCH
GREEN	Michelle	CHRISTCHURCH
MORE	Stu	DUNEDIN



President's Podium

Colin Gates



BMW Motorcycle Club
New Zealand



April 2026



Breaking somewhat with tradition, March (not April) saw us host the North Island RAG. It would typically have been the weekend of daylight saving. However, this year that weekend clashed with Easter, so it was probably not a great idea to disappear from family. That, and the fact that another party booked it many moons earlier, meant we had to rethink! This essentially came down to the weekend before or after, and we all agreed that bringing it forward a week was best for the likelihood of better weather, slightly longer days and our eagerness to host.

Weather-wise, we were very fortunate, as, despite it being very

wet leading up to the weekend, we enjoyed a couple of sunny and dry days. With a good number attending, and only one member having to cancel at the last moment. It was great to see so many familiar faces and welcome some new faces and members alike.

Aside from catching up with a great group of people, many of whom I will likely only see at our events. I had the humbling experience and great pleasure of awarding two overdue service awards to two long-time members, their long service awards; Folker Liebenow of Hastings (joined 2004), his 20-year service award, and Paul Roxburgh of Whanganui (joined 1984), his 40-year service award.



Both are legends and well-known in the group and regions.

The kitchen scene was much like déjà vu; it is a scene almost as iconic as Taylor Lodge itself and many NIRAGs. Notably, Clifford McClenaghan with his "portable" spit and Steve Parkinson on the vegetables (and breakfasts). The NIRAG is a real joy to experience.



This year, however, we learnt that it is to be put up for sale, and if sold, may well have been our last year there. Whilst we may provisionally be able to book it for next year, it would be only prudent to consider alternatives. Please don't hesitate to suggest any venue you think might be suitable. Bear in mind, our objective is to keep it central and "afford-ably cheap".

If you fancy another weekend's adventure riding Kiwi Rider has an event early May, details and links to the event on page 19.

Forgive my indulgence choosing the front page pic. I thought it worthy.

Stay safe on the saddle.

Colin





Our trip to Kawhia



March 29th, 9 riders on 8 bikes met up at a very foggy service station by Hamilton Airport. There were two new faces, which was great to see.

Our first stop was Pirongia for a morning coffee, still in the fog. Then, finally, as we headed out into the hills, the fog cleared to reveal a beautiful day.

On the way, we rode through the flooded area from the last big weather bomb a couple of months ago. The road bridge had been destroyed, and the new temporary Bridge has just opened. Seeing the destruction all along the river was quite an eye-opener. There were also lots of slips along the road.

However, the road, despite patches of roadworks, was wonderful to ride, with lots of curves and windy bits.

We arrived in Kawhia just in time for lunch, only to find the fish and chip shop where we were headed was closed. But just around the corner is a very fancy-looking building called Kawhia Sands. It had a restaurant, accommodation upstairs and was a very interesting design.

The interior looked like two original buildings with spouting in situ with a roof added over the middle, but on asking, apparently it was all a new building. We enjoyed a very quick arriving lunch with lots of



chat. Sue's parents used to own a motor camp in Kawhia, so after lunch we went for a tiki tour to the far end of town (Maketu Marae), then back out to the ocean beach through the forestry. A quick trek up the sand dune and a lovely view of Kawhia Ocean Beach, which has hot water at low tide, and several groups were enjoying their pools in the sand. We then headed back home once again, enjoying all the

curvies, stopping again in Pirongia for a chat before we headed our different ways. A great day out with superb weather

Chris #3983

--

Waikato Area Rep

m: 027 390 4239



Waikato Wonders

Sue Duncan - secretary@bmwmc.nz



Introducing the Waikato BMW Dealership



Following the arrival of a new BMW Motorrad dealership in the Waikato in October 2025, I had the opportunity to sit down with Hannah, Operations/ General Manager, for a conversation about the dealership's story so far, how things are progressing, and what members can look forward to going forward.

It all began in 1978 when Hannah's father, Barry Sproule, along with partner Keith Larkin, aged 21 and 23, started a used motorcycle sales and repair business. It was a difficult start as Banks and the Motor Vehicle Dealers Institute were sceptical about their suitability, so there was plenty of opposition. Eventually, they worked it out and opened with Barry being the mechanic and Keith the salesman. Early on, though, they got Suzuki on board, and this helped get them going.

In 1990, they became part of the Harley-Davidson comeback. 4yrs later, Keith left the business and Barry, along with wife Shelley, became the new owners. Beginning their journey that continues today.

At 3-4 yrs old, daughter Hannah was adamant she would one day be running the business, and now her daughter, aged 9, is saying the same thing. As a school leaver, Hannah began working full-time at the dealership but lasted about 2 weeks till she was fired by her parents. Apparently, she was somewhat averse to taking direction from her parents in their employer role. She left and spent the next 10yrs working for a Trucking company, starting in the office and working her way up to General Manager. Then the time was right to head back to the Dealership, where over the years she has worked in and learnt all areas except technician.

Hannah stepped into the Operations/ General Manager role. After Barry and Shelley stepped back from the day-to-day running of the store in 2022. They remain financially involved and are available for advice when needed.

The Dealership employs 11 staff, many of whom have been there longer than 10yrs so are part of the fabric of the business. Some time back, they became an exclusive Harley Davidson

New Zealand's
newest BMW Motorrad
dealership.



VIEW STOCK



to sit her full... when she has time! She enjoys being part of the motorcycle industry, especially meeting the diverse range of people coming together to ride. She wants the dealership to be a place that provides a wrap-around service and even be a destination point.

Hannah encourages you to call in, take a look at the bikes, grab a coffee, and a chat. She is also keen to revive the regular dealership BBQ sessions, helping rebuild that relaxed community atmosphere many riders remember.

Specific to our group, Hannah would like to be involved with our local group where she can. We may see some staff on rides, and Hannah is a member of our FB group, so she can keep up with our activities. They will be supporting our 2027 Rally by providing display and demo bikes, and hopefully adding an exciting twist to our Gymkhana.

Members who use their dealership will receive a Waikato BMW Dealership Loyalty Card. If you have already visited the dealership but did not receive one, simply contact them, and they will arrange a card for you and can backdate eligible purchases.

Please note, this is a BMW dealership initiative, specifically for BMW riders.

The future in a nutshell... Hannah hopes Road and Sport Motorcycles will still be here to celebrate 100 years of sales and service, and that BMW and

dealership as they wanted out of the dirt/farm bike scene that was part of Suzuki.

Last year, they were approached about taking up the BMW mantle for Waikato. Hannah was unsure how the staff would feel, but the proposal was popular, and they were excited about the new arm with positive buy-in. The head technician is #1 through the 57 HD Australia/NZ dealerships and has taken on the challenge of now providing top-notch service for BMW, with the whole service team having plenty of training sessions and access to ongoing support and education. The service department has been busy since taking over, with members of the team, including Blair, her husband and the Manager of the Parts Department, enjoying the opportunity to discover the BMW range. Several have already attended the GS Rallye and a BMW track day.

Hannah used to ride dirt bikes when younger and has been on a learner's licence for 16yrs. Her team likes to tease her about it, and she does intend

BMW owners and riders will be a part of that celebration.

Sue #3088

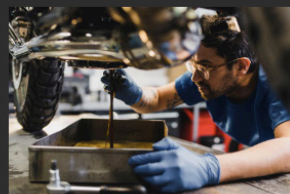
Road and Sport BMW Motorrad



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BMW MOTORRAD STOCK



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“We’ve Done Stupider Things Than This” (Matthew said...)



A Weekend’s Adventure Ride

Some rides earn their stories the easy way: smooth roads, good weather, and a tidy plan. Others earn them the way we did.

The background behind the title comes from 2024, our bright idea on Ninety Mile Beach. Instead of calmly waiting for the outgoing tide, we looked at the water, decided “Ah well, it’s not that deep and after all, we’ve got the best adventure bikes in the world,” and rode straight around the rocks into the sea. The result? One bike sliding sideways under the waves and our glorious leader, Chris, doing the quickest U-turn of his

life as the water washed over his seat. The background around the title.

We had planned to walk around Lion Rock, but the tide was still too high. So, instead of waiting for it to drop (sounds familiar?), the three of us, Matthew, Mimi, and Dean, pressed on, walking through what we hoped was shallow water. It wasn’t. The sand was soft, the mud was slippery, and within minutes, we discovered a new meaning of “fully waterproof boots”... they hold all the water once it’s in them!

But that was only one chapter in an amazing 450-kilometre day out. The BMW Waikato riders left



early from the Waikato, enjoying perfect weather as we made our way toward Elephant Rock and the Three Sisters. The coastline looked incredible, the company was outstanding, and the bikes were right at home.

The route gave us a bit of everything: scenic back roads, open highway sections, and about 20 kilometres of gravel to keep things interesting. Spirits stayed high, helped along by sunshine, good riding flow, and the kind of humour that only appears when your boots squelch with every step.

By the end of the day, we'd covered a solid chunk of the North Island, shared plenty of laughs, and added another story to the long list of "remember when..." moments for the BMW Waikato riders.

After all, as we proved once again, we've definitely done stupider things than this.

Dean #4376

East Coast Exclusive

Alan Robinson



March's ride



On Sunday, the first of March, a few of us enjoyed the first club ride in a very long time. Joe led the group, and Ann and I were very happy to be Tail-end-Charlie. We met up with some ex-riders at the Hatuma Cafe in Waipukurau.

From left to right, we have Alain Douylliez, Joe Booyens, Alan Robinson, Ann Galloway and John Wuts. Walter was behind the camera, and others were still inside the cafe. Alan #4049

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Whangamomona Hotel



Five riders gathered at Z Stratford on an overcast but pleasantly mild Sunday morning—ideal conditions for a day on the bikes. Spirits were high as we set off along the infamous Forgotten World Highway, a route that never fails to deliver both scenery and twisty goodness.

Our first stop was the iconic Whangamomona Hotel, where coffee and good conversation set the tone for the day. The

Whangamomona Hotel has just changed hands, and I would like to welcome the new owners to our district & wish them good fortune in operating one of the North Island's iconic motorcycling destinations. From Whangamomona, we continued on SH43 into the stunning Tangarakau Gorge, a real highlight with its narrow, winding sections and lush native bush closing in around the road—classic riding territory that kept everyone

engaged.

Emerging from the gorge, we rolled into Ohura, a township that feels quietly paused somewhere in the 1960s. It's a fascinating place, offering a glimpse into rural New Zealand's past, and well worth the detour.

A short stint on State Highway 4 followed before we peeled off onto more rewarding twisty backroads toward Aria. These lesser-travelled routes provided flowing corners and



minimal traffic— perfect for a relaxed but enjoyable pace. We reached Piopio in time for a well-earned lunch, sharing stories and plenty of laughs.

The return leg took us via Aria Road and onto SH3 through the Awakino Gorge, then over Mt Messenger— always a satisfying ride—before finishing

at the Urenui Hotel. There, we wrapped up the day with a debrief and a light refreshment, reflecting on a thoroughly enjoyable



ride through some of the North Island's finest motorcycling roads

Cheers

Phil #4214



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Wellington & Wairarapa Wanderings

Denis Hulston - wellington@bmwmc.nz



March 2026

Our first March ride, scheduled for the 1st March was slipped back by a day into February, where the weather was better. It was a good 380km ride on a route through the Manawatu and Rangitikei, over the “new” highway to the Wairarapa for the ride home.

Club night social, meet and eat at the Petone Club

We didn't hold a club night in February, so it was good to catch up again at the Petone Club on 2nd March, our usual first Monday of the month, get together.

Gold Ride Forever Course

We have arranged two Roadsafe Gold Rider Courses, with Andrew Templeton, one on 14th March and the second on 11 April. Both are full. There was excellent feedback from the seven riders on the first course on 14th March. Some riders had done several courses, others were first time – both groups got a lot out of the

training, whether a tune-up or learning something new. It was an extended day, with a morning of well-facilitated presentation and dialogue about riding skills and ride dynamics. The afternoon tuned up braking and manoeuvring skills, followed by an extended ride on winding roads using wired feedback on riding and skill application.

Club rides



From one coffee to the next –
Michaels R80, Martinborough

Sunday 22nd March, we'd planned a ride to Woodville, with the potential to catch up with Rangitikei and Eastern riders. However, with threatened fuel uncertainties, we rode to Lake Ferry Hotel for famous fish 'n chips. We were the first riders to arrive, but obviously 60 or more other riders heard what a good day it was and showed up for lunch, sunshine and good craic. It was a perfect day for riding – no wind, sunshine. After lunch, we took a leisurely ride back, with a stop for coffee at Martinborough, before the ride back over the Remutaka. On a 200km ride, we saved 150km.

Denis #3131



Lake Ferry line up – glassy Lake Onoke and Remutaka ranges



Happy arrival at Lake Ferry for lunch



Dave, Ian, Michael, Ian, Keith- lunch at the Lake Ferry Hotel

Top of the South Beemers/Te Tauihu

Anja Claus - topofthesouth@bmwmc.nz



Top of the South BMW tea ride to Glenduan Beach.



On Thursday, 19th March, we had our last tea ride for the season before daylight saving finishes in April. The usual, bring your togs, a towel and a picnic tea. It was a nice sunny day, but the wind was a bit chilly. Gretchen braved the conditions and was the only one going for a refreshing dip in the sea. A very nice catch-up with seven members of our group. Trevor joined us by car



when he came past, coming home from Blenheim. He left before the photos were taken. Richard arrived on the new to him KTM 390. Of the six bikes, there were three BMWs, a Triumph, a postie bike and a KTM. We are a very inclusive bunch.

Anja #3706

Members attending:
Trevor, Tony, Gretchen, John,
Peter W, Richard and Anja



Adventure Ride Taumarunui

May 8-9, 2026

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OPEN TO ALL BRANDS

This ride gives great access for riders across the North Island. The Central North Island is offering its best gravel roads and private land access to give the KR350 adventure ride a mix of gravel, seal, forestry roads and private farmland. This ride is open to all brands of bike and all ability levels. It is a fundraiser for maintenance of the popular Fishers Track.

It's going to be a great weekend of riding on some spectacular roads. Entries close on Sunday 26/04/2026.

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Area Report: Canterbury

Jason Batchelor



March

Hello, everyone, another month has gone by.

Last month, Annabelle and I attended the March Hare Rally down in Waimate, with a group of friends from another club. We took our trusty R1200CL (she is called "Beatriss"), towing the trailer.



This year, I have also upgraded to a lithium battery setup and a little solar panel in the trailer, so we took a small chilly bin fridge along too, which meant Annabelle could take more food along, as often at these sorts of events, the selection of gluten-free food can be problematic.

The trailer makes packing and unpacking so much easier, and while we certainly won't be setting any speed records, we do plug along at 100 km/h just fine. We were fortunate over the weekend to catch up with and spend a bit of time with the one and only Martin McCarron, too. We all had a great time, and the weather was much better than last year. I also managed to put up my BMW flag, of course, and got a hard time for that from our Ulysses Club friends we were with.





21st March - Kaikoura

I ran a road ride to Kaikoura last month, and the turnout was pretty sparse to say the least. There was only Dave and Kayla, who had ridden up from Ashburton to meet all the Canterbury folk at the meeting point, and no one else turned up. So 2 bikes headed off at the start time, up through Culverden and Rotheram to Waiau. Tony Haddon had contacted me to say he was heading South from Nelson to meet us, so we had a coffee stop in the cafe there, and soon enough, I heard a bike outside.

Tony had coasted the last few Kms on fumes and was very pleased to see the fuel pump as he had done the last 60kms on reserve!! After he replenished his bike, we headed up through the Inland Road and had a very pleasant lunch at the Dolphin Encounter Cafe, then Tony headed north, I headed south, and Dave and Kayla went to find accommodation for the night as they were making a bit of a trip up through Nelson for a few days.

Jason # 4267





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The Call for N.I.R.R.* (2026)

Dave Morris



Took ages to decide, two months by, did go.
Then almost overnight, t'was "yes", narry a no.
Packed my bags, and sorted kit,
Only essential items; appropriate for trip.
Away in the morning, beat maddening crowd.
The weather is still, blue sky; - not a cloud.

Stopped into a church, I pass along the way,
The Church Café, Sanson, coffee and roll on tray.
Back on the bike, moderate traff-ic.
All going well, I'll be there quick.
Two hours later, riding Parapara's way.
Arrive at Pokaka, ready to stay.

* North Island Rag Rally

Dave #1774





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Carrots to Ohakune!

Dave Morris

(or, Coals to Newcastle)



Numbers were lower than average, this year: Less than forty. Never the less, that did not detract from the enthusiasm and camaraderie. And great weather! A number of classic bikes were ridden to the venue and balanced out the old with the new. But one bike stood out from the rest! A postie's Honda bike resplendent in red and white. It featured two side stands (left and right) and forward highway pegs. The engine was a small 150cc with a two-speed gearbox. It travelled from Whanganui to Pokaka via the Paraparas. There were quite a number (perhaps six) of 60's and 70's airheads.

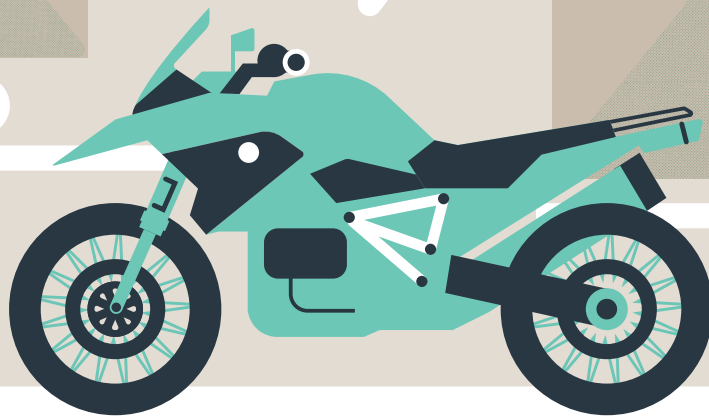
Too many carrots: And it seems to me no one has thought past the ubiquitous vegetable; - so local. There's even a roadstand as close as Horopito. Even the Ohakune children's playground is themed with carrots. We had a choice; boiled, roasted or chopped in a salad. So, I would say, if anyone did not like *Daucus carota*, and left them in the serving dish: - "All the more for me!"

But an admission, I took carrots to the event! And it is in season. But I must say of the Saturday meal, there was a good spread across the table of veggies.

Dave #1774



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Coming Events - Details on our Website

SIRAG 2026 - 13th-15th November 2026



2026 - South Island RAG Rally, Brightwater - 13th-15th of November 2026

Updated: 09/04/2026 South Island RAG Rally: 13th-15th of November 2026 Brightwater! This year we'll be at the Top of the South Island Registration and Full details coming soon... Registrations opening soon [HERE](#) - It's sure to be another exciting SIRAG! This event is being organised by Anja Claus, Area Rep, Top of the South, with

[Find out more](#)

2027 AGM/Rally - 5th-8th February 2027



2027 - National Rally/AGM, (North Island), Friday 5th - Monday 8th February 2027

Updated: 14/02/2026 Waikato BMWMC AGM Rally - Friday 5th-8th February 2027: Save the dates - Details and registration links will follow: Email any questions to agmrally@bmwmc.nz Accommodation - TBC: Region: Waikato We look forward to another great AGM and National Rally and seeing you there! [Click Here to Register Online Now](#). Please, contact us if

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SIRAG 2026
13th-15th March 2026

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Check the Events page on the
website for the latest details.



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WE BMW - \$750 - 2 Plates available

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Mileage: 138658km

1995 BMW R1100RT

Plate number: 99TCB

Rego: On hold

WoF: N/A

This sale is for both bikes.

The R1100 has taken its sidecar off. The bike and sidecar were both certified (leading link fork, sub frame and car wheels and tyres).

The bike had the gearbox rebuild which came out of the R1100RT. The old gearbox is still here and can be repaired at your cost.

The R1100R is in running condition. However it needs a new battery. It could be turned into a normal solo bike with the fork and wheels of the R1100RT.

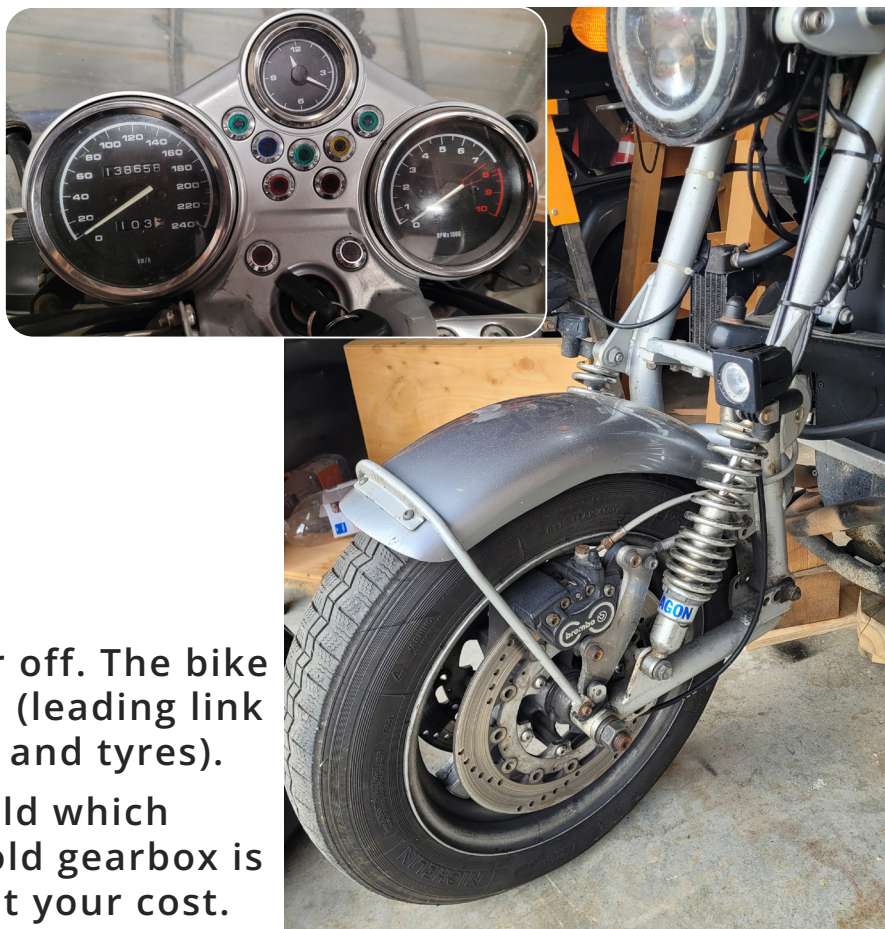
The R1100 RT is completely disassembled but should be complete except for a brake light switch (No guarantees!)

Here is the deal: Both bikes need to be sold in one go. NO parts sale.

Please call to discuss or for further information. The Price: make an offer. You will be surprised what will be accepted.

Paul Sterk - 022 411 6900

Winton Southland





BMW Motorcycle Club

New Zealand 1975 - 2025



BMW Motorcycle Club
New Zealand



Making Life a Ride!



**NO IFS.
NO BUTS.
MAKE LIFE A RIDE.**

Whatever you do, throw yourself into it. Make the best of it.
Because then you'll reach higher than you ever thought possible.
Get the right gear for it at bmw-motorrad.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The BMW Motorcycle Club New Zealand is an organisation where members come together to enjoy rides to nominated destinations and participate in social occasions. The ride organiser nominates the destination and any regrouping points along the route, but has no control over how riders behave on the road. Club rides are not competitive events.

Riding/Attendance Code:

1. Personal Responsibility

All members riding on Club rides do so as individuals responsible for their own safety and must consider the safety of others on the ride.

2. Motorcycle Condition

Members must ensure their motorcycles are safe and legal to ride, meeting at least Warrant of Fitness standards.

3. Protective Gear

Riders, pillion, and sidecar passengers must wear at minimum:

- New Zealand Approved Motorcycle Helmet
- Sturdy footwear
- Gloves
- Clothing capable of offering protection in the event of an accident

4. Assisting Others

Members are expected to assist anyone experiencing a mishap during a ride.

5. Ride Organisation

Ride organisers will nominate the destination, regrouping points, and other stops. Organisers are not responsible for the behaviour or safety of other riders.

6. Riding Pace

Riders must ride at a speed and in a manner comfortable to them. Do not exceed your personal comfort limits.

7. Route Familiarity

Riders unfamiliar with the route should arrange to follow another rider who knows the way and rides at a comfortable pace.

8. Group Riding Formation

Riders travelling as a group should adopt a staggered formation with a safe following distance:

- Dry conditions: approximately two seconds behind the rider in front
- Inclement conditions or loose surfaces: longer than two seconds

9. Participation at Own Risk

Neither the Ride Organiser nor the Club is responsible for participants' safety. All participants travel on public or private roads at their own risk and must comply with all applicable Road Rules and Laws.

10. Photography & Media Permission

By attending any Club ride or event, members consent to photographs, videos, or other media being taken of them by any person present. These images may be used in Club publications, social media, or promotional materials. The Club is not responsible for the use of any images taken by third parties.

The Team behind the Scene - our BMW Motorcycle Club NZ volunteers



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Vice President
Stephen Parkinson
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