



BMW Clubs
International Council



BMW Motorcycle Club
New Zealand



BMW Motorcycle Club New Zealand

NEWSLETTER

Official BMW Club - *Established 1975*

May 2026



MEMBER OF BMW CLUBS INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL



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**THANK YOU for your
feedback and stories**
feedback@bmwmc.nz

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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: Waikato Ride

Photo by: Chris Townson

Date: April, 2026



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BMW Motorcycle Club
New Zealand



A Very Warm Welcome to:

by Region

CAMERON
VUKCEVIC
UHLAR

Anthony
Michael
Kayla

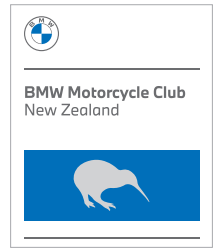
NORTHLAND
AUCKLAND
CANTERBURY





President's Podium

Colin Gates



May 2026

We're now experiencing shorter days, cooler temperatures, changing light, but still some of the best riding conditions of the year. Whether you're out for a quick spin after work or heading further afield for a weekend ride, it's a great time to enjoy the roads and trails, but also a timely reminder to stay mindful.

As conditions shift, so do the risks. Damp patches, fallen leaves, shorter daylight hours, low sun, and sudden sun blindness can catch even experienced riders off guard. Please take that extra moment to check your gear, ride within your limits, and look out for one another. A safe ride is always a better ride.

When trouble happens, it's important to know exactly where you are, especially when riding in more remote areas. If something goes wrong, being able to clearly communicate your location can make all the difference. Most of us carry a mobile phone with various map options available, but an additional very useful free App (there's a paid version to avoid ads) is What3Words.

I've barely heard it mentioned here in New Zealand, but it is widely used in the UK. Riding back to Picton

some time ago, a rider came off his bike in front of me. A lady called emergency services, and when asked where exactly the injured rider was, several people gave an answer, but you guessed it, they all differed! I asked the lady to ask if the operator knew What3Words. While the lady, a little flustered, was still waving me away, the emergency operator replied, "Yes, what are the three words?" And, boom, problem solved. Screen shot attached

For those unfamiliar with it, the App divides the world into 3m x 3m squares, each identified by a unique combination of three words. Instead of trying to describe a hard-to-find location, you can simply share three words and be pinpointed instantly. It's quick, accurate, and increasingly used by emergency services across New Zealand. It obviously doesn't replace a PLB, but it's an excellent product, very useful, and deserves to be better known. ([what3words.com](https://www.what3words.com))

If you haven't already, consider downloading What3Words and getting familiar with it before your next ride. It's a small step that could make a big difference when it matters most. Or, please let me know if you know of something better that we can share with our



members.

Please note the invitation (in the covering email) from BMW Motorrad Auckland and Wellington, regarding the launch of the F 450 GS, and speak with your local dealer for details of any events or activities they may be running. It looks like it'll be a popular choice, and I'm looking forward to riding one.

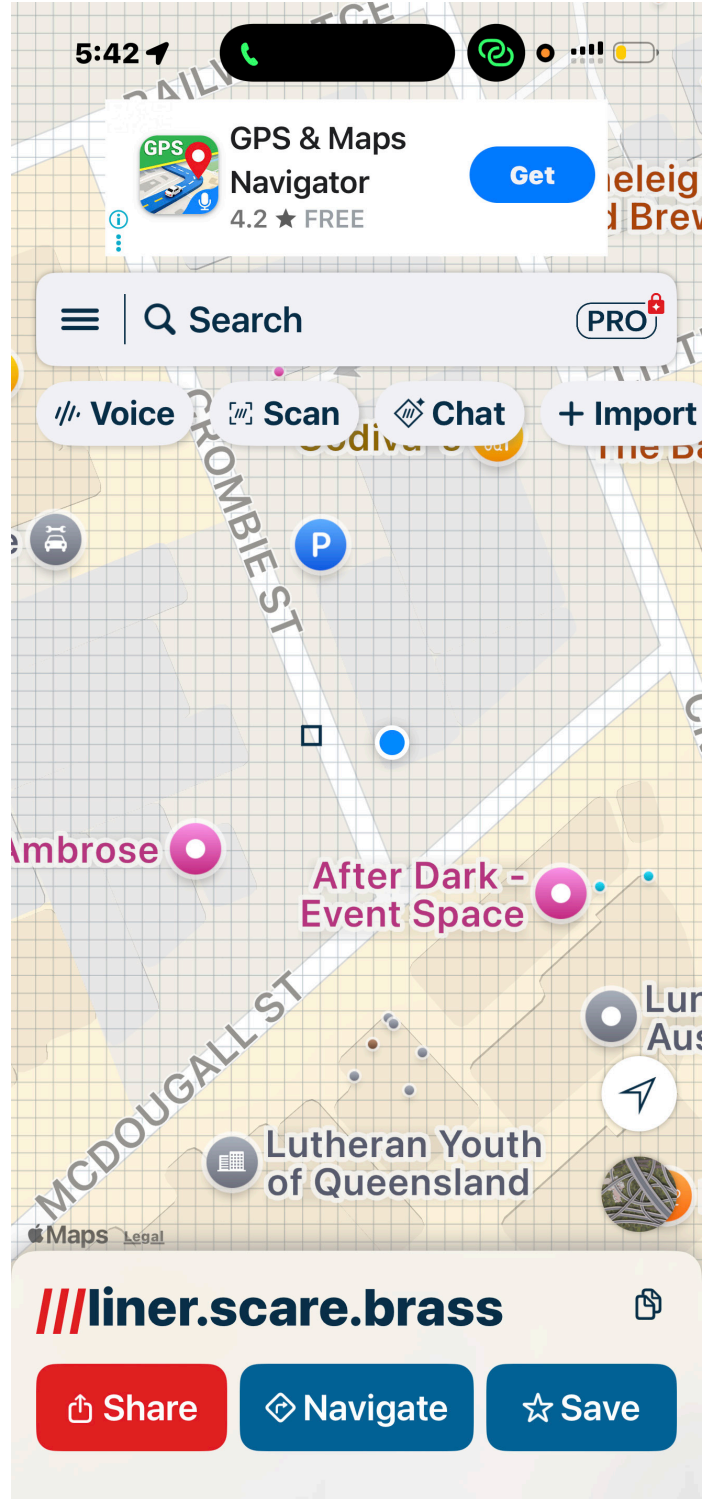
You will also have seen the recent offer from Helite and, despite saying it before, this genuinely does appear to be the last time. So if you've been thinking about one but putting it off, now may be the time. You're effectively getting a discount on last year's prices, and I'm told prices are likely to increase after June this year.

Thank you to all those who voted on which way to display our New Member list. Not surprisingly, the overwhelming choice was to group the names by region. Although April was unusually quiet with only three new members to announce, so the grouping is not overly obvious but that's how we'll do it in future.

Ride well, ride safe, and look out for each other.

Stay safe on the saddle.

Colin





Social Dinner and Our trip to Kaiaua



Wednesday, 15th April

We had our monthly dinner at Stallions in Cambridge. We had a reasonable turnout for the evening, which also included Tony and Gretchen visiting from the top of the South Island. Unfortunately, I couldn't attend, but from what I was told, it was a great night with plenty of laughs and good yarns shared around the table.

Speaking of monthly dinners, the next one will be held at The Merchant of Matamata from 6:30 pm onwards.

Please get in touch if for any reason you're in the Waikato region

but are not being notified of events.

It's always great to catch up with everyone again, and a good turnout is a bonus. And, if like Gretchen & Tony, you're visiting the area, please let us know as you're very welcome to come along too!

Sunday, 3rd May

This month's social ride saw 5 bikes and 8 club members head out for a scenic cruise around Lake Waikare and up to Kaiaua. Riders for the day were Graeme with Sue as pillion, Phil, Matthew, Dean with Joe as pillion, and Chris with Hannah as pillion.

The group enjoyed beautiful



weather for the entire ride, making for perfect cruising conditions and plenty of chances to take in the scenery around the lake and along the coast towards Kaiaua. The stop for food and a catch-up was well earned, with plenty of stories and laughs shared along the way.

Unfortunately, Graeme suffered a puncture during the ride, which slowed proceedings down for a

while, but with everyone lending a hand, we were soon back on the road.

Thankfully, everyone made it home safely after another enjoyable Waikato ride.

Chris #3983

Waikato Area Rep
027 390 4239





April



There was quite a turnout for the Ulysses Club fundraiser ride. We have been enjoying a stretch of great weather, countrywide, I think. The Saturday before last was no exception, bright and warm. As per the way my life seems to be now, I arrived just in time to set off. I am sure the pre-ride talk that I missed would have been much the same as ours, and I might have had a clue where we were going, but such is life. I stayed with a bunch of Harley riders and avoided getting lost.

I saw Walter and Stella on their RT, but no one else from our club. If anyone else was there, I'm sorry to have missed you and to catch up.

We rode circuitously to Maraekāhaho and stopped just in front of the memorial. I chatted to Walter and Stella and then to a couple of the Ulysses members. Too busy talking, I almost missed the call to get back on the bikes. The very hasty photo included does no justice to the ride, but I believe there were about 70 bikes involved. At the very back, you might just be able to see the ambulance that kept us company around the route.

Thank you, #UlyssesClub, for organising a great ride.

Sadly, my back is playing up again, and I can barely drive a car, let alone safely ride a bike. It is a pitiful excuse, but I do not have a ride organised yet, despite the beautiful weather we are having. If anyone would like to suggest a route, I will be happy to pass it on.

April Dinner

Sorry about these dreadful photos. We were squeezed onto a table designed for 12, and there were 16 of us. This time we went to Alessandro's Pizzeria e Pasta Napoletana, which is in Havelock North.

Folker had planned to join us but unfortunately had to have an unexpected visit to the hospital. We missed you Folker, and hope you are recovering well.

Top pic: Danny, Carole, Mike, Peter, Walter, Stella and Bronwen.

Bottom pic: Leonie, John, John Wuts (also on the road to recovery), Pam, Tony and Maria. I managed to exclude Rosemary, Ann and myself.

Alan #4049



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Rangitikei Roundup

Murray Petherick - rangitikei@bmwmc.nz



Papa Cliffs

The last few weeks have been fairly quiet for the Rangitikei group; probably a function of the time of year, along with other events, including ANZAC weekend, Mother's Day and the changeable weather pattern, all having an impact on our normal activities.

The brunch gathering on April 26th took place at the Woolshed café, although the occasion was enjoyed by a relatively small number of attendees.

The May ride, which would normally have been on Sunday, May 10th, was rescheduled to Saturday 9th, in deference to Mother's Day. The planned ride was to meet at Ashhurst and then head over to Porangahau for lunch but the weather forecast looked a bit dodgy, so early Saturday morning, the call was made to meet at Ashhurst and, over a coffee, sort out a ride plan for the day. Only three other

intrepid riders, Barry, Nev and Robin, joined me at the café in Ashhurst, and after considering the high wind warning for the area east of the ranges, we decided to head up SH 54 (Vinegar Hill), via Colyton and Cheltenham, for a lunch stop at Hunterville. Conditions for the ride through to Hunterville were good; cloudy, and at times a little breezy, but no rain. Road conditions were good, and there are always some good views, including those of Papa Cliffs, where the river has become deeply incised, together with the odd view of a carelessly parked car.

In Hunterville, we lunched at the Argyle Hotel, which, we understand, has been purchased by a local group, after lying idle for a long time, and refurbished. The refurbishment has been well done, and the building now boasts bar and café areas, plus a couple of artisan shops.

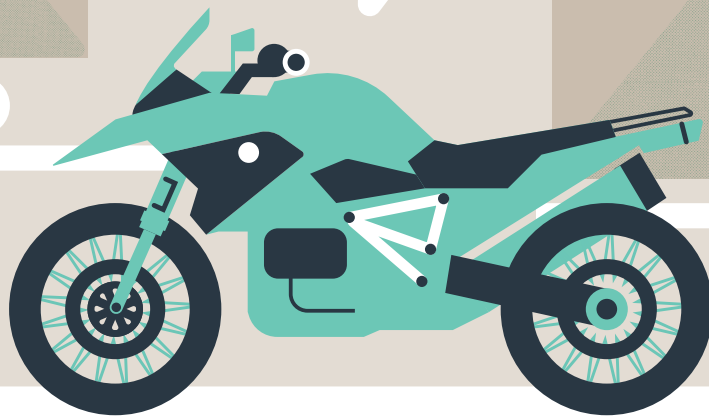
After lunch, Barry and Robin headed homewards down SH1 while Nev and I took a jaunt over Mt Curl and then checked a couple of back roads before we split up. Nev headed home to Whanganui via Turakina, and yours truly headed home to Ohau via Marton and Bulls. I had to put up with a strong westerly crosswind heading south from Sanson but managed to dodge what appeared to have been a heavy rain shower that must have been through the area just before me. Maybe the timing was just luck, or maybe it was the preemptive strike I made by wearing my yellow rain jacket!

Thanks, Gents, for a good, semi-impromptu day out.

Murray #2690



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Wellington & Wairarapa Wanderings

Denis Hulston - wellington@bmwmc.nz



April 2026 - First of the month, first club ride – Castlepoint Light



Carterton coffee stop – Chester, Martyn, Allen, Denis, Ian, Keith & Peter

April kicked off with our first club ride on the 1st April. It was mid-week, so some had to work, but seven riders found their way to Carterton for a coffee catch-up before riding to Castlepoint. Allen had his Police bike, which hadn't been used for some time and was surging over the Remutaka, so he decided to return to Wellington to sort it out. We met Peter at Carterton and six of us - Ian, Chester, Keith, Martyn, Peter and Denis - rode to Castlepoint via Gladstone, Te Whakau road, Wainuioru,, Stonvar Road and Masterton -Castlepoint road.

The Tinui hotel and café, where we have enjoyed some good food on previous rides, was closed and up for sale. We had planned a lunch stop at the Castlepoint hotel, but it was also closed. Recent liquor licence breaches may have had something to do with that, or not, but we rode on to Castlepoint for fish and chips at the local store. The weather was great – no wind, sunshine, no rain. It was a quick ride home by various routes – SH2 direct, Ponatahi and Martinborough, and back over the Remutaka hill. This was a great 360km start to April.



Happy line-up - Castlepoint



Chilling - Castlepoint Light; Peter, Chester, Denis, Martyn, Ian, and Keith (courtesy photo)



Welcome back, Allen and his beautiful Police machine,

complete with surging after a long time unused. (Keith's photo)

Club night social, meet and eat at the Petone Club

Our usual Club meet and eat on the first Monday of the month, 6th April, saw seventeen turn up for food and craic. This is always a good night and a chance to catch up, even if you're not regularly riding.

Roadsafe Gold Rider Course

We arranged two Gold Rider Courses for club members with Andrew Templeton, one in March, the other in April. Both courses filled quickly. We are blessed with Andrew. His approach is tuned to the group, extending and refining our riding in a logical and experienced way. His knowledge of riding physics, trust your tyres, and the practice opportunities with related feedback make for a valuable day. This is the fourth Gold course I've attended, and there is always value in thinking about your riding, refining the details, and testing your habits. It also still attracts a worthwhile ACC discount over two years of registration.

Our scheduled Club ride on 19th April was unfortunately cancelled. It's hard to read the weather and the weather bomb forecast for Wellington didn't arrive, although we did have some thunder and rain, and extensive localised flooding not forecasted a week later.

Last day of the month, last April '26 ride. This was an auspicious way to end April on Thursday 30th with a ride through the Horowhenua, over the Pahiatua track and back-roads for a lunch-stop at Eketahuna before finding our way back



home. Seven riders, Denis H, Ian M, Chester C, Keith T, Richard M, Trevor W, Allen B, met at BP Mana for a 9 am ride start. It was a calm, sunny morning and not cold despite the “early” start for this time of the year. Wellington traffic in the Hutt Valley, SH2 and Haywards routes to get there was jammed, but didn’t diminish our enthusiasm once we got started. We rode for an hour to Shannon, where we met with Barry and Murray and stopped for coffee at The Horseman Cafe.

We rode to Aokautere and turned off over the Pahiatua track, with weather threatening but not eventuating from the east. Our next stop was Mangamaire, where we split the ride – five riding gravel backroads, Mangaraupiu and Quarry roads, to Eketahuna and four riders taking the more direct bitumen SH2 route. The gravel conditions were good despite recent heavy rain in the Wairarapa.

Feeling good - Wellington riding this month: There’s some sort of equilibrium in having managed rides on the 1st and last days of the month, but not in being hammered by extreme weather and weather unpredictability in between. A lot happened between these two rides.

Trevor had to evacuate during recent Wellington flooding but saved his bikes; we hunkered down for a life-threatening storm warning, which didn’t eventuate, and then the next week we drowned in endless rain, with flooding in absolutely unexpected parts of our region. You’d think this wasn’t the month for motorcycling.

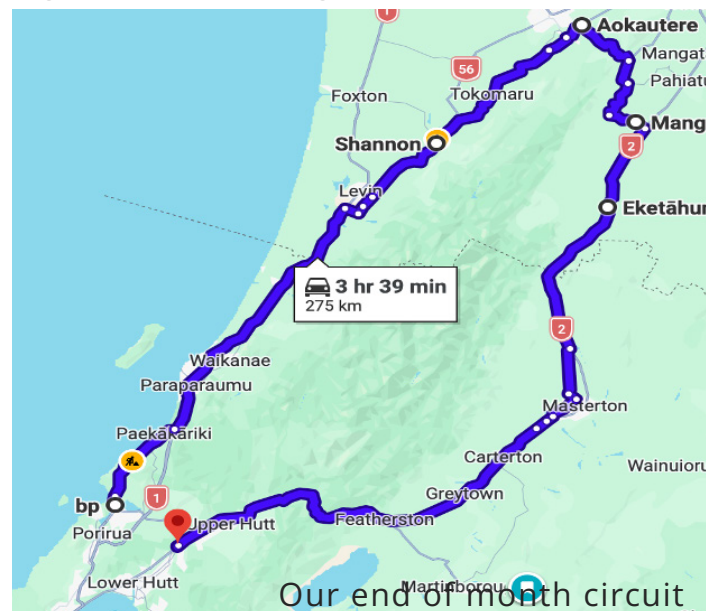
On our last ride, we talked about how rejuvenating motorcycling is – a great mental health day which revitalises. We’ve been hammered – locally with weather, internationally with Trump insanity. (It cost me nearly \$50 to refill the bike today). Here’s to lots more “mental health days”, more great riding days. **Denis #3131**

Well done, Ian, on testing out your gravel riding on the 1300GS – nice riding.

After lunch at the Lazy Graze in Eketahuna we continued our ride home, four riders on gravel and three riders riding bitumen. Murray and Barry rode back to the Horowhenua.

Our gravel riding now took in Mangaoranga road and Mangamahoe Central Road to Mauriceville before returning to SH2 and the ride back over the Remutaka. Bitumen riders returned via SH2 with another coffee stop in Greytown.

This was a 340km ride on excellent roads and weather conditions. Thanks, Richard, for offering to lead this ride and for your research in finding good gravel roads to break up the bitumen riding. Thanks all for a good day out – a “great mental health day”. Let’s hope May treats us to more good riding.





Eketahuna line-up: Allen, Richard, Barry, Murray, Keith, Ian, Trevor & Chester (obscured)



A lot to talk about, including the next leg of riding – Barry, Murray, Richard, Keith, Allen & Ian

Top of the South Beemers/Te Tauihu

Dale Grover - topofthesouth@bmwmc.nz



April



As Anja, our esteemed leader, was away for work, we were left to fend for ourselves; luckily however, Anja had organised the meeting point & lunch destination.

11 riders & 2 pillions met up and made our way up to St Arnaud. Somehow, I was allocated the role of Ride Leader. And as Odette had suggested that we really should go to the lake first, that is of course what we did. And had a great group photo opportunity to boot!

Odette & Hilary had a wee lie down on the jetty for a nice chat with the eels.

We then went to the Alpine Lodge for lunch and there, met up with 3 riders & 1 pillion from Marlborough.

As usual, after a nice lunch & socialising, people

make their own way home. Some of us decided to go ride up Inwoods Lookout. Dale/Odette, Hilary & Peter wound our way up the hill, fighting the gusty wind as we went. We reached the summit, as did Tony, soon after.

Shortly after that, the weather started closing in, so we turned and zipped back down, thus avoiding any yucky weather.

As is traditional, Odette and I finished off the day with a beverage in the spa! 😊

Dale #3170





Southern Stories

Tharon Knoetze - southern@bmwmc.nz



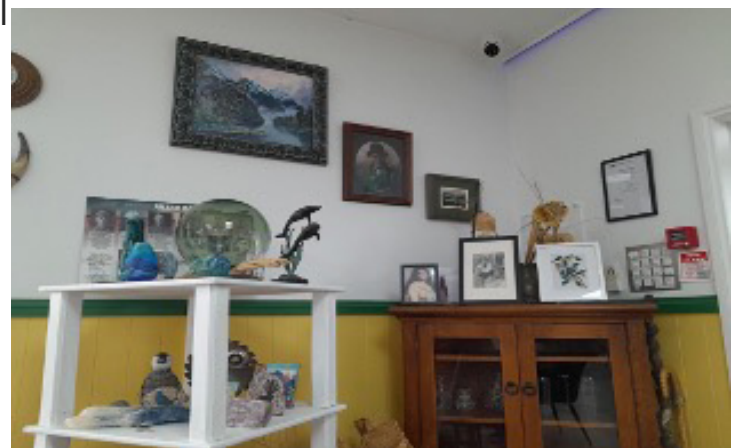
What was planned to be our last ride for the first half of 2026 turned into a wonderful social outing to the charming Curiosity Café at Port Molyneux, Kaka Point.

The café is a beautifully restored 1860s schoolhouse, originally opened in 1865. After years sitting derelict, it was lovingly restored into the sought-after venue it is today, full of character, history, and coastal charm.

With recent mornings and weekends bringing true South Island “winter” temperatures, most of the group made the sensible decision to travel on four wheels rather than two. As it turned out, that was probably wise!

We did, however, have one “brave” soul who arrived by motorcycle — a decision he dearly regretted when temperatures plummeted below zero and thick fog reduced visibility to around 20 metres.

As always, good company made the time fly. A one-and-a-half to two-hour yarn felt like we had barely sat down before it was already time to head home again.



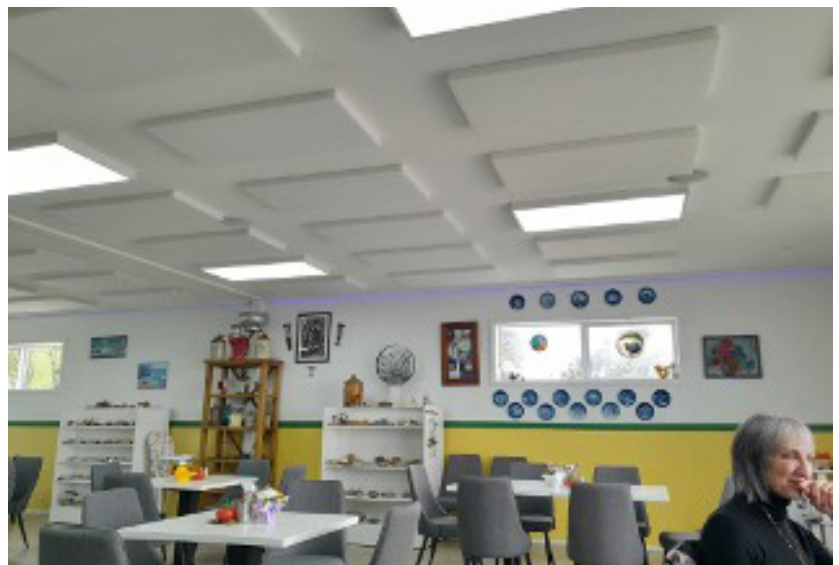
For now, the bikes are being placed on hold in



the "Deep" Lower South until our next outing — perhaps in Spring when the temperatures become a little friendlier again.

Until then, be warm and stay well.

Tharon #2595





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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

[Find out more](#)



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SIRAG 2026
13th-15th November 2026

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



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Motorcycle Number Plates for Sale:

Please share any unwanted plate that you wish to sell?

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If any are of interest, please email

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WE BMW - \$750 - 2 Plates available

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Two for the price of one!

1998 BMW R1100R

Plate Number: 16 TUA

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.

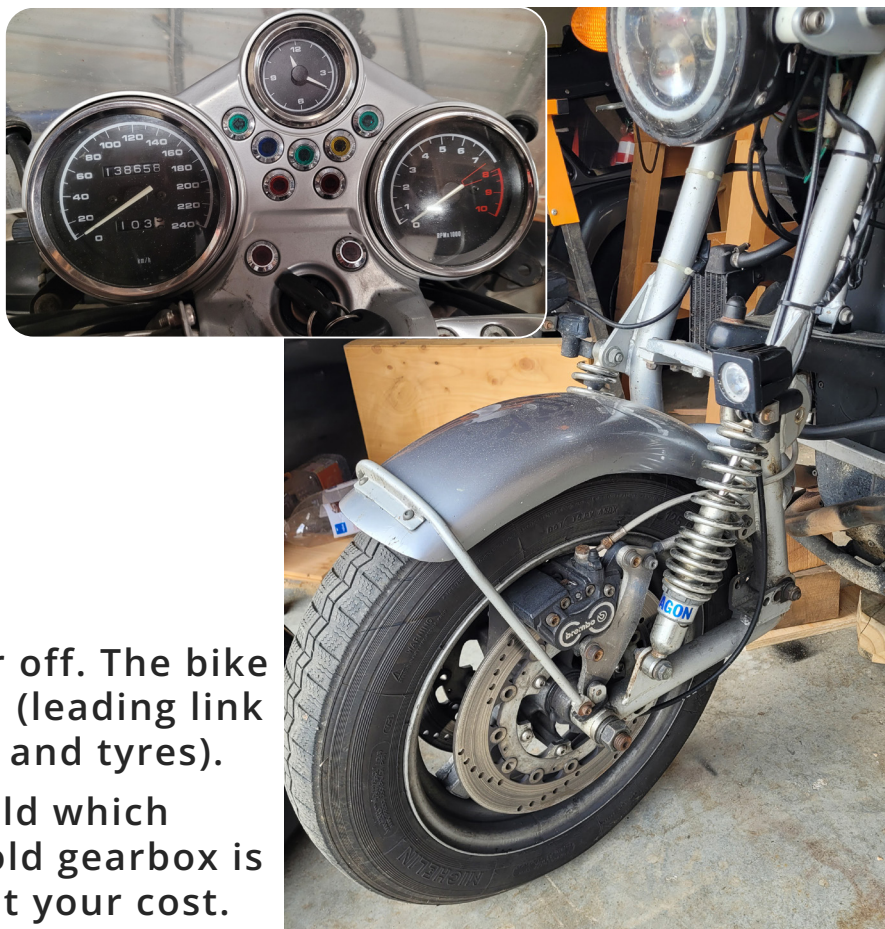
The R1100 RT is completely disassembled but should be complete except for a brake light switch (No guarantees!)

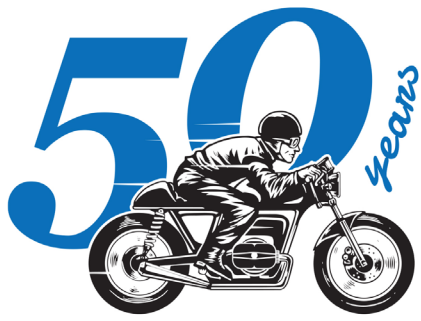
Here is the deal: Both bikes need to be sold in one go. NO parts sale.

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!



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



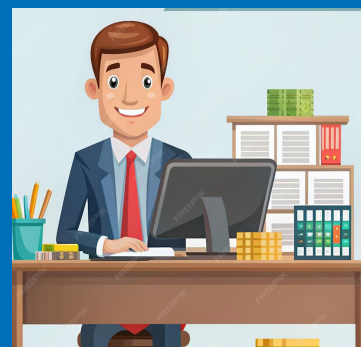
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