

Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch

www.retreads.co.nz



Newsletter # 45 August 2019

Greetings all,

What a great lead-in to the winter months. On Saturday 4 May members gathered at the Rivertown Café in Kaiapoi for coffee. An instant success – 18 to 20 people turned up in support of Alan Rigg's suggestion that the café become the Club's coffee morning venue of choice for the winter months. We all but had the café to ourselves commandeering the largest table in the establishment and spilling over to other tables as group attendance grew. We were pleased to welcome Patricia and others who no longer ride to join us at this monthly gathering.



Retreads riders' other means of transport at the Rivertown Café in May – yes it was a bit wet

Our rider group continue to enjoy our planned rides on the second Wednesday and last Sunday each month. We have settled on three rendezvouses for our rides. Depending on where the leader chooses to meet, we alternate between SH75 opposite Challenge Tai Tapu, SH73 at Mobil Yaldhurst and SH1 at Blue Wing Honda Woodend (Sundays) or on the Rangiora-Woodend Road adjacent to SH1 (Weekdays). A timely warning though – there is no longer a service station in Woodend. The nearest petrol stop near the settlement is a BP station north along the State Highway near the roundabout turnoff to Pegasus.

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Continuing our series of ride reports:

Sunday ride 28 April 2019: Always popular, this Autumn ride through the Leader Valley was no exception. 12 bikes, 14 riders, a sometimes overcast but mild day and Autumn leaves made for a pleasant journey. We travelled as a group along SH1 through Cheviot and then Waiiau for lunch at the Waiiau Lodge Hotel. The usual welcome from Michelle at the Hotel (Michelle is always keen to host bikers), and a return trip through Culverden, and the Waikari Valley Road through Scargill back to SH1. The group stayed together until Amberley where quite a few riders opted to stop for Petrol.

Wednesday ride 8 May 2019: 6 riders gathered at Tai Tapu and travelled over Gebbies Pass, through Teddington, Diamond Harbour and regathered at Purau before tackling the hill over to Port Levy. On previous rides to Port Levy we have visited one of the cafes in Diamond Harbour. This time round we rode back to Teddington, through Governors Bay and Lyttelton then onto the newly restored, and vastly improved, road over to Sumner for lunch at the Ocean Café at Scarborough. A low key but enjoyable mid-week break with our Retreads friends.

Sunday ride 26 May 2019: On a mild autumn day in Canterbury 7 riders made it to the rendezvous at Yaldhurst. Northerly winds on the way to Porters Pass and threatening skies beyond. Uls decided to turn back in search of more sunshine following our stop at Springfield. The rest of us pushed on to the Bealey Hotel in ideal riding conditions and the usual welcoming wood fire. Lunch was OK ... Maybe the cabinet food is the last-ditch effort from the kitchen prior to the hotel closure on the 20th of June. Word is that the owner wants to market the hotel and accommodation facilities as a '4 Star Resort'! Other riders in the dining area informed us that it was raining steadily at Arthurs Pass. A few spots in the car park as we suited up ready for the ride home again in ideal riding conditions.

Wednesday ride 12 June 2019: A good turnout for our ride to Culverden and visit to St John. Rain threatened but didn't eventuate. We left Woodend and rode through the Sefton road to Waipara, the Greta Valley, Scargill and Waikari to our appointment with Amuri

St John Chairman Donald McLean and Station Officer, Anne in Culverden. 7 of us gathered outside the station where we took the opportunity to hand over a one-off \$500 donation from Retreads MC Club Christchurch to Amuri St John. No one apparently noticed that Barry Cook had bought a new bike (a clutch-less 1,000cc Africa Twin) to replace the Triumph that son-in-law Tony has commandeered. Both bikes are black and viewed from a distance not all that dissimilar to Alan's Rigg's BMW ... It took Lesley to point out the fact that they were on a Honda rather than a Triumph at our lunch stop at the Hurunui Hotel Café.

Saturday 15 June mid-winter lunch at Under the Red Veranda: 18 for lunch at Under the Red Veranda. This year we were spread over 3 tables (we had originally booked for 21 people) rather than just 2 last year. Worked well I reckon as we were able to circulate more easily rather than all being crammed onto one large table setting in the rather small room that is 'The Cottage'. No complaints though – the food was good. Maybe we try somewhere else next year for a change.

Sunday ride 30 June 2019: 8 riders turned out for a conducted tour of the 'huts' – Greenpark, Selwyn and Rakia Huts and a stop off alongside Lake Ellesmere as depicted in the photo below. Great day for mid-winter rounded off at the 'Crate and Barrell' hotel at Leeston. A new build, we were greeted by two static display scooters and features three interim spaces with seating below and above with classy wall hangings and cabinet cases that included a rather old BSA and a rather new Indian. A place worth visiting for a museum experience even though one doesn't want a beer or a meal...

Wednesday ride 10 July 2019: Alan Rigg lead a group of 8 'winter' riders through little used, interesting roads between Woodend and Waipara, through Waikari and Scargill to the Fossil Point Café in Greta Valley for lunch. The roads travelled were, this time round, relatively road-cone free for a change ...

Sunday ride 28 July 2019: 7 riders on a fine winters' day meandered their way at a leisurely pace from our rendezvous at Blue Wing Honda in Woodend to stop at the Ashley Gorge campground and reserve for a catch-up. Many of us spent time reminiscing about family picnics at this popular spot that, even in the depths of winter, was hosting families doing just that. The grounds are very well maintained and may be a good spot for a future Retreads picnic? Alan Forgie then led us off the main road and onto back roads finishing up at the Cust Route 72 Café for lunch. Very popular place is the Cust Emporium – just as well we booked ahead for a table.

Wednesday ride 14 August 2019: 8 riders led by Barry Cook. Crisp winters day but OK if you had heated hand grips! We left Yaldhurst at around 10:15 am and travelled along the Old West Coast Road then the inland scenic highway via Coalgate and Windwhistle to the Hororata Café for lunch. Those without heated grips suffered for a bit longer than usual – the café wood burner hadn't been lit! Lots of catching up was done including a worthwhile discussion on next year's ride calendar. We missed the midday rush – the queue was out the door when we left just after 1pm. A popular stop for locals and visitors alike.

Sunday ride 25 August 2019: 6 riders, led by Alan Rigg left Yaldhurst and coped with high winds on the way to Rakaia Gorge. Fortunately, the wind died away after the gorge that made for easy riding on the scenic route through to the Farm Café on the outskirts of Geraldine for lunch. No one was in any hurry to leave the sunny spot the group had chosen outside the café. Eventually though, the group split up for the trip home with Paul dropping by the township for a roll of tape to patch up an indicator lens that had seen better days. Lesley, Barry and Tony returned via Thompsons Track; the two Alans headed for different routes on their way to the state highway network.



Our riders enjoying a picnic at Kaikoura 31 March 2019



Lakeside stop Lake Ellesmere 30 June 2019 ride



Visit to St John Amuri 12 June 2019

Uls's August report from the Isle of Man:

"Hello Brian and poor Stay-at-home Retreads, I hope your NZ riding experiences are a bit less exciting than mine here.

After a 2 weeklong holiday in Germany I had the usual trouble with flights to and from the Isle of Man, this time having a delayed BA flight again and having to be rebooked on a later flight. At least I still managed to get my rental car and got mobile. The practice days proved to be boring - I went marshalling, waited for the cancellation due to weather problems, went marshalling, waited for the cancellation due to weather problems, went marshalling, waited... you get the picture.

We just had 2 short sessions with speed-controlled practice and an untimed lap with orders to ride to the conditions. Why am I always revelling in the sun while some part of the island has a nice shower to spoil the road? All this was made up for today when I marshalled at the Waterworks and we got some fast-qualifying in. I had 2 big crashes in my corner and had to help scooping one rider up for transport in the helicopter. All just under a yellow flag with riders rushing past. The poor guy tried to get up but then wanted to fall over again. To make it a bit more exciting the rider was French, the paramedic thought he spoke German and wanted my help to find out what hurt, and my meanwhile poor French was at least enough to get out of him that it was not just his head but also his hip and that he was afraid of heights and did not want to get into the helicopter.

We made it clear to him that crashing into a corner at 100mph was worse than a nice helicopter flight which other people had to pay for, and away he went. The bike was probably a rebuild.

It helped that I had just completed an Incident Management Course, but I was glad to have a paramedic there who took charge... The other crashed rider was an American Indian who crashed into the bales but distributed his bike all over the road in bits but stayed in one piece himself. He just shook his head and did not want anything from me but a glass of water. Tomorrow the fun starts - the real races begin....

*Enjoy the New Zealand roads.
Regards to all".*

Calendar rides and events for the rest of 2019:

You will by now have received a copy of the latest calendar for September, October, November and December 2019. Details of the September events follow:

September 2019				
Sunday	1 September	-	-	Spare ride day.
Saturday	7 September	Rivertown Café Williams St Kaiapoi	10am	Coffee
Wednesday	11 September	Challenge Service Station Tai Tapu Lead rider: Jeff Bannister	10am	Mid-week Retreads ride – Summit Road to Duvauchelle Bay Hotel for lunch.
Tuesday	17 September	Rangiora-Woodend Rd adjacent SH1	10am	Geriatrics ride - an alternative mid-week ride for Retreads members.
Sunday	29 September	Note: Lead rider and rendezvous to be advised.	10am	Gentleman's ride this day starts Cathedral Square at 1pm, details www.gentlemansride.com