

Retreads Motorcycle Club Christchurch

www.retreads.co.nz



Newsletter # 50 March 2021

Greetings all,

As we move into Autumn, I trust that the New Year holiday season for most of us was as per normal albeit with Covid-19 'Level 1' restrictions in place. Not so for folk in most other countries where restrictions on gatherings and travel were par for course. We trust that your holiday plans were fulfilled and that your Christmas included quality time with family and friends.

Long ride Retreads member, Nigel Cummins, went on a cruise around the Best of the South last November as part of the Ulysses 1000 event. His report on this annual event follows:

Regards,

Brian Neill (Organizer) Ph 960 8302(H), 021 613 726(M)

ULYSSES 1000KM DAY Saturday 7th November

I had not participated in this event for a few years so thought it was time for another go. The organizers' laid out a few routes but you could ride your own and this is what I did.

Check in was at 6am at the Yaldhurst hotel and at 6.05am I was on my way. The 1st stanza was through the fog on the Old West Coast Rd. There were clear patches approaching the Waimak Gorge area and by the time I got to Oxford it was all clear. Thru Ashley Gorge and Loburn and I took the inland scenic route hitting SH1 via Georges Rd. The route had avoided both Rangiora and Amberley and the 50km/hr zones which only serve to keep the average speed down. Up SH1 I turned left at the Fossil Point Café and headed back to Waikari via Scargill and it was on to Culverden for fuel having covered just over 200km.

Suitably refreshed (comfort stop and 4 jetplane lollies) I headed north and did not stop (lights just north of Springs Junction excepted) until Wakefield, the northern point of my ride. More fuel, homemade sandwiches, and all up a 20minute break and I was on my way south again via 88 Valley and St Annaud. There was quite a bit of heavy rain along the valley heading to Kawatiri Junction which kept the speed down a bit. Because of the rain I was of no interest to the mufti car heading in the direction of Blenheim. Murchison appeared and I decided to have another break here scoffing down a pie and a coffee before starting the last (and longest) stanza of the day.

The upper Buller gorge had had a downpour just before I got there and was a bit slippery. The lichen growing on the road did not help. In what seemed no time at all I was fueling up at Reefton and then heading down to Stillwater. Good to see the new bridge construction at Ahaura was finally underway. Down thru Moana and back over Arthurs Pass, across the plains (1 minor diversion in the Sheffield / Darfield area as I needed a few extra k's) and I turned left on to Johns Rd from Yaldhurst and clicked over 1000km at 6.15pm and made my way to the finish BBQ in Casebrook.

According to my GPS I had been stationary only 55 minutes all day, so my riding time was 11hrs 15m. I thought that I could do it all again on Sunday, but it was a completely different story the next morning...

Nigel Cummins

Continuing our series of ride reports:

Sunday Christmas picnic ride to Lake Coleridge 5 December 2020: Smaller turnout than usual for the ride out to the lake Coleridge Domain. Nigel led, Brian, Alan Rigg and Colin on their motorcycles with Alan and Di Forgie in their car to the lunch spot. Rob and Jane arrived by motorcycle just as we were starting to break out the lunch boxes. The domain was not as pristine as usual due to a good proportion of the picnic ground being closed off for the building of a new toilet block. For after's we had some treats

supplied by Alan Rigg and the Forgie's then checked out the Trust Power generating plant that was only running one penstock with the others seemingly abandoned at this time. The group took in the usual walk over the tailrace bridge and around the top track with views up the Wilberforce/Rakaia braided riverplain. Back home in time for afternoon tea!

Saturday Christmas lunch at The Old Vicarage, Halswell 12 December 2020: 25 of us gathered for a splendid Christmas lunch at The Old Vicarage. Great service and menu with lots of good cheer spread along two long tables. The only downside was the cramped back-to-back seating that limited opportunities for members of our group to leave their seats to chat to others between courses.

Tuesday ride 15 December 2020: Eight riders turned up at Woodend where it was decided that we would travel via the Balcairn route to Waipara with a short stop to eat Christmas mince tarts (thanks Lesley) and Alan Rigg's Werther's originals. We continued along SH1 at a very relaxed pace to the Greta Valley turnoff and a more spirited ride through Scargill and the Waikari Valley to Hawarden and lunch. Hot day so we elected to have lunch inside the Hogget Bar and Grill where our hosts had set up a table for us. The establishment offers a great choice of menus and the manager always goes out of her way to welcome us. Highly recommended.

Wednesday ride to Leithfield Hotel for lunch 13 January 2021: 10 riders turned up for our first ride of the year. Alan Rigg led us on an easy route through Rangiora with a stop at the Cust Domain. Jeff was riding his classic Triumph and, at the domain, offered Brian a ride through to our destination at The Old Leithfield Hotel. Despite previously owning a similar 1964 Triumph the years had taken their toll and Brian couldn't manage to kick-start the engine so opted out and jumped back on the V-Strom. He resolved to try again sometime minus the audience ... We left the domain and rode along the 'bumpy' German Road, through Ashley Gorge and some not often ridden roads to our lunch stop at Leithfield. Prospective Retreads member Brent was introduced to our group by Leigh and accompanied us on this ride.

Tuesday ride 19 January 2021: The 5 riders who turned up and decided to ride in the gale force nor-westerly conditions were led by Paul Tayler from the rendezvous at Woodend. They rode north to Amberley and out to the not often visited Amberley Beach. A quick turnaround and then onto our traditional regroup spot on Georges Road adjacent to the Waipara Winery before taking the Sefton route through Ashley Gorge, German Road, Cust and onto The Riverside Café at Kaiapoi for lunch. An often-challenging ride given the amount of windblown tree debris on the roads they traversed. All managed the conditions well and finished the ride in good spirits on a day that was OK temperature wise. The day after temperatures rose to 37 degrees that would have most certainly been much more challenging ...

Sunday picnic ride to the Hanmer Forest park 31 January 2021: Nice day, great company and a warm welcome to Jason Looij who joined 14 Retreads on the ride to Hanmer. This picnic venue is at its best at this time of the year and serves as a reminder of the joys of motorcycling. 13 bikes and 15 people made for some measured riding along a mixture of main and secondary roads in this part of North Canterbury. We were relieved to pass through Hanmer village that was packed out with people making the most of a fine summer's day. Only one other family picnicking in the Forest Park near us. Paul Tayler led us and did well to avoid, where possible, the most popular traffic routes on the way to Hanmer. The next few Sunday rides are longer and are targeted to make the most of the best riding conditions of the New Year.

Wednesday ride to Staveley Store for lunch 10 February 2021: Early morning rain cleared in time for our ride to Staveley. The sun was shining on the 6 Retreads riders and Rob's friend, Jack on his Yamaha at the Woodend rendezvous. Ulrike guided us through Rangiora, Cust and Oxford, then along our favourite 'tiki-tour' through Coopers Creek to the Waimakariri Gorge. The next stop was at the Rakaia Gorge Campground then onto our destination for lunch. The Staveley Store weren't selling their trademark sausage rolls this day but did offer their equally famous milkshakes. We willed away time at The Store and left for home around 2pm.

Tuesday ride 16 February 2021: Looked like a wet ride inland from our rendezvous at Woodend. Undeterred, 7 riders gathered for our first ride under 'Level 2' restrictions since August 2020 and headed through Rangiora and Ashley Gorge en-route to Oxford. The riders decided to press on once the rain had cleared Oxford only to be turned back when it returned with vengeance halfway along the Coopers Creek/Viewhill road and a planned stop at the Waimakariri Gorge Bridge. Lunch was on the cards by then and, back in Oxford, we called in to the 'World Famous Sheffield Pie' Café. A popular place with staff struggling to cope with the social distancing 'Level 2' rules in place. Our original destination was to be the Sheffield Pie shop at Sheffield anyway! Back on the road we rode in ideal conditions through the direct route to Waimakariri Gorge and the Old West Coast Road on our way home.

Sunday two-passes ride to Blackball for lunch 28 February 2021: The 1st day back in Lock-down Level 2 for us. The trip over the Lewis Pass to The Formerly Blackball Hilton Pub for lunch reminded 3 of our group who were last on the coast and at Karamea when Covid-19 Lock-down Level 4 was declared on Saturday 21 March 2020 ... This trip though was less eventful with 11 riders, 10 bikes gathering for our group ride at Woodend. A false start for lead rider Brian though who needed to return home and subsequently managed to join the others at Culverden. Alan Rigg stepped in and took over the reins for the 1st part of our tour over the Main Divide. Brian lead our group from Culverden and through the Lewis. We stopped at Springs Junction, Reefton and visited the Pike River Mine Memorial en-route to Blackball arriving there at around 1:35pm. We left Blackball with Barry, Lesley, Tony, and Rob choosing

to split off and return home via Moana and Arthur's Pass. John van Dijk lead the rest of us through to Greymouth for fuel and through Kumara and to the end of the of the ride at Arthur's Pass. Great day out, excellent riding conditions, no trucks and not much traffic. Our riders enjoyed, as always, the hospitality and good cheer provided by our hosts at the 'The Hilton'. Looking forward to a repeat of this great ride next year.

Photo Gallery:



Christmas picnic at Lake Coleridge 5 December 2020



Lake Coleridge Pelton wheel display interested our ladies ...



Christmas lunch 2020 at The Old Vicarage



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2021 Hanmer picnic group



Welcome to the Retreads Jason



Lunch at Formerly the Blackball Hilton 28/02/2021



Group photo at Springs Junction en-route to Blackball 28/02/2021