

# newsletter

[www.bmwor.org.nz](http://www.bmwor.org.nz)

annual rally edition

march 2013

BMW Motorcycle Club  
BMW Owners Register  
of New Zealand



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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



Well, having just made it home after a very busy Executive meeting, I find some urgent business awaiting me that requires my input now.

This will be a short report if I am to make our print deadline timetable.

The Executive meeting had a full agenda, one item being the formal appointment of Robin Wood to the Treasurer's role, taking over from Phillip King. Phillip will be sadly missed at our meetings. He has contributed so much and he has kindly offered continued input to the Executive if he is called upon to do so.

We'll have the minutes of the Executive meeting, including the first of our quarterly financial reporting, published in next month's edition of our newsletter. I will also take the opportunity to expand on my report to the meeting then.

In the meantime I have left a little room for our new Treasurer to introduce himself to you all.

Robin writes, "I have been asked by President Peter to give you all a brief of a profile on myself now that I have taken over the role of Treasurer for our organisation.

I was born south of the Waitaki (Gore) in the first half of last century and have lived in Timaru and Christchurch before settling in Dunedin where I was educated and commenced work, employed with the National Bank on leaving school.

Eventually, I was transferred to Wellington then Auckland, Rotorua, Hastings and Levin before finally ending up in Palmerston North in 1990 where, for the last three years or so, I've been the Area Rep for Rangitikei.

I have 40+ years in the Banking and Finance industry, specialising in commercial lending and risk management, and progressed through my career holding various executive positions including Branch Accountant, Branch Manager, Area Risk Manager and Senior Commercial Manager. Currently I'm working part-time (Lending and admin) at Onyx Finance Ltd.

I am married to Joy and have 3 adult children with 7 grandchildren.

I look forward to working as part of our Executive team."

With Robin's move to the Executive Team, Peter Truter takes on the Area Rep's role in Rangitikei. Thanks for stepping up Peter, I'm sure you will enjoy the role.

As I said in February's Podium, 2013 started with another fantastic Annual Rally. You will find the bulk of this month's newsletter taken up with stories and photos from this wonderful event at Tongariro National Park. Thanks again to all those

involved in bringing us together, to those participating and to those sharing their experiences through the newsletter. In essence, that's what our club is all about.

Let's not forget – wheels down, feet up.

Peter.

*A smoking Mount Tongariro, not your every day sight when riding. Photo: Vicki Ison*



**Cover:** Garry and John appreciate the finer things in life, chocolate cake obviously being high on the list of attractions at the Annual Rally in National Park. Photo: Bill Croasdale.



## 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, pillioners, 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

### bmwor national events

**RAG Rally: Saturday 6 - Sunday 7 April 2013** at Pokaka Lodge, SH4, National Park. See page 20 for details.

### other events

**BRONZ Ride Right, Ride Safe.** A great way to get to know your new bike. Usually 3rd Sunday of the month at the Whenuapai Airbase. Contact Peggy on (09) 638-9227 or Finn on (09) 625-5533 for details.

**Learners** - Rider Training & Basic Skills Testing for learner license, Thursday evenings @ A.M.C.C Club's premises in Ellerslie. For bookings and information contact: Craig (09) 444 6261

### bmwor 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 ([www.bmwor.org.nz](http://www.bmwor.org.nz)) for current information on events or contact the local Area Rep if you have any questions.

### auckland

**Monday 11 March** - Social gathering at the Vintage Car Clubrooms, Fairfax Avenue, Penrose from 7:30 pm. Details will be posted on the Forum calendar.

**Sunday 17 March** - Ride to Raglan for lunch via the back roads. This is a great ride and should not be missed. There will be a good gravel option. Wives and Partners most welcome. Leaving BP Southern Motorway at 9:00 am. Details will be posted on the Forum calendar.

**Black Dog Ride** (raising awareness of depression and suicide prevention)

**Sunday 14th of April 2013**

**CHRISTCHURCH TO HANMER**

The Black Dog Ride is all about raising community awareness of depression and suicide prevention and raising funds for LifeLine. Mark it on your calendar and tell your mates - this will be a ride not to be missed!

8.30am	Riccarton Race Course Lions' breakfast (enter off Steadman Rd)
10.00am	Ride leaves for Hanmer
10.45am	Coffee break at the Mud House Winery & Cafe
12.30pm	Finish with lunch at Queen Mary Hospital grounds Hanmer Springs

Register to be there at  
**[www.blackdogride.com.au](http://www.blackdogride.com.au)**

Contact: Islay McLeod, LifeLine NZ Fundraising Manager  
Mobile: 0274 424 799 • Email: [islay@xtra.co.nz](mailto:islay@xtra.co.nz)

Join us for a great ride and support a very worthy cause!

Supported by:



## bay of plenty

**Sunday 10 March** – Club ride to Kawhia. An all-day ride meeting at Z Bethlehem 9:00 am and returning around 4:00pm. An opportunity for those that wish to return on gravel otherwise great sealed roads as usual.

**Thursday 14 March** – Social evening at Lo Spuntino's on Wharf Street, Tauranga from 6:30 pm. Good food and great company so don't miss out.

## rangitikei

**Sunday 10 March** - Club ride. Details to be advised by email and on Forum Calendar.

**Tuesday 26 March** - Ride n' Dine. Details to be advised by email and on Forum Calendar.

**Sunday 14 April** - Club ride. Details to be advised by email and on Forum Calendar.

**Tuesday 30 April** Ride n' Dine. Details to be advised by email and on Forum Calendar.

## east coast

**Last Tuesday of the month** - Monthly gathering at the Puketapu Hotel, 679 Puketapu Road, Puketapu from 6:30 pm onwards.

**Saturday 23/Sunday 24 March** – Ride to Night-Glow Hot Air Balloons at Masterton Showground on Saturday night. Overnight accommodation at Cornwall Park Motel,

Cornwall Street, Masterton (walking distance to the showground). Phone 0508 26 76 92 to book, mentioning that you are staying with the BMW Hawkes Bay group. Further details from Rosemary on (06) 857 7058

**Sunday 14 April** – Autumn Colours ride. Leaving BP Clive at 10:00 am and Mangateretere at 10:05 am, travelling via Middle Road to Patangata then returning from Elsthorpe on Kahuranakiki and Tuki Tuki Road to Te Awanga for lunch at Clearview Estate. Further information from John on (06) 844 4751

**Friday 3 – Sunday 5 May** – Ride to Omokoroa staying at Omokoroa Thermal Holiday Park. Go to [www.omokoroa.co.nz](http://www.omokoroa.co.nz) for contact details and book your own accommodation. Group dinner on Saturday night. Further information from John on (06) 844 4751

## nelson

**Sunday 10 March** - Ride to Murchison. Meet at 10:00 am, Three Brother's Corner, Richmond.

## canterbury

**Friday 15/Sunday 17 March** - Mesopotamia Station. Ride a selection of farm tracks or just drive up and stay the night and join in the fun. Route is via Peel Forest, 47 kms of gravel to the station. Some of the routes around the station are suitable for GS bikes. Alternatively bring your trail bike. Accommodation available at

## welcome

A warm welcome to our new members this month.

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.

'The Rowans'. Bring your own sleeping bag and food. Lead Rider: Warren and Lex (027 256 0677)

**Sunday 31 March** - Brunch at Donegal House, Kaikoura [www.donegalhouse.co.nz](http://www.donegalhouse.co.nz) Depart from the Norwester Café, Amberley at 9:30 am.

**Sunday 7 April** - GS ride Lees Valley-Okuku Pass. Depart 10:30 am from the Station Café, Rangiora.

## concours de elegance

As the traditional judge Henry Plowright and his wife Trish were overseas at this time, Malcolm and Sue Sargent made the drive down to National Park to catch up with fellow members they had not seen for a year and so Malcolm could judge the event.

Only a handful of bikes had been prepared with seven lining up for the event.

Congratulations to Richard Kysten for his 9 year old R1200GS with 100,000 kilometres on the clock being the winner of the event.









*Taumatawhakatangihaokoauauotamateapokaiwhenuakitanatahu*

Kairakau Road. Well, only after once again being so engrossed in conversation that we missed the turn to Kairakau Beach!

By this time the mercury was climbing and we had difficulty finding a shady spot such is the popularity of this east coast beach. Nevertheless we made ourselves comfortable and stripped off as much as we could and remain decent!

I am pleased to report that Richard was forward thinking enough to bring his togs and enjoyed a dip in the South Pacific.

After a leisurely lunch and a chat we dispersed. Firstly Malcolm and Max who were travelling home by an alternative route, then Folker headed home to Raukawa while Peter and Ann left to travel further north to visit friends. That left Richard and Andree, Mark and Karen and Joy and me. We travelled back the way we came to Dannevirke for a much needed ice-cream and cool drink. The temperature had reached 34 degrees on occasions and on average stayed around 29/30 degrees.

From Dannevirke we all headed home after what was a very enjoyable, if somewhat hot, picnic ride.

A group of just over a dozen members met at Newbury School for our Ride n' Dine on the last Tuesday of January and, after a 50 kilometre ride up through Colyton and down Valley Road, we enjoyed a great meal at the Ashhurst Café and Tavern. This is an excellent venue for a get together with ample parking out back and hearty, good value

*East Coast afternoon tea at the Young's place*



meals. The proprietors went out of their way to make us welcome and no doubt we shall return.

Our club ride in February was to Martinborough where several of our members took part in a Motorcycle Skills Day arranged by the Wairarapa Road Safety Council. Professional motorcycle trainers from Roadsafes Motorcycle Riding Techniques Ltd took riders through a set of challenging exercises, answered questions and provided valuable safety tips.

There were spot prizes to be won and all participants went in a draw for a \$200 voucher for motorcycle gear. It was a great day out.

Robin Wood

## east coast

In August last year our monthly ride was to the Sawyers Arms, a country inn on SH50 at Tikokino, for lunch. It was such a pleasant setting we thought it would be ideal for a ride on a summer evening. So, rather than our usual get together at the Puketapu, in January we visited Tikokino. Dan and Rosemary opened their home to us so that those with time could call on them on their way to dinner.

On a delightful summer's evening 13 of us met at the Sawyers Arms, some travelling by bike and others by car, and we had a thoroughly enjoyable meal sitting outside in the sun. For a while we thought we had a new member as a dark grey R1100RT arrived at the same time

*BOP members arrive at Taupo*



as we did. However, he was just a local out for a ride on a glorious evening but John told him about our group and he may join us at the Puketapu next month. It's a bit far for a regular meeting, but we hope to meet at the Sawyers Arms again this year.

Our February ride was to Taupo and there were seven bikes when we set off on a beautiful summer's day. We stopped for a break at Tarawera where Barrie joined us, making eight bikes from Hawkes Bay. Taupo was busy as usual but we were well looked after at Friends where we were joined by a further four bikes from Bay of Plenty.

After lunch we all headed north in time for the 2:00 pm opening of the dam gates at Aratiatia. We found good vantage points on the high rock bluffs and watched the dry gorge turn into a magnificent waterfall, which was spectacular. After the free show we headed home and another break at Tarawera for the Hawkes Bay riders. All in all, a good day out.

Marie Nichol

## nelson

For Revti and I our rides are more about the journey than the destination. The 2013 Annual Rally at Tongariro National Park evens the score this time. What a stunning destination with breath taking views surrounding the venue.

## photo archives



Got photos? The BMWOR maintains photo albums as a record of the social fabric of our community.

We welcome all photos (electronic or printed) of members and events, in particular from 1999 onwards, for the Register's photo archives.

Please include the DATE, the PLACE and the NAMES of any people in the photograph.

### How can I send photos?

You can digitalise your old photographs (present pictures are fine too!) and email them to [pauleddlington@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pauleddlington@xtra.co.nz) or hard copies of photos can be sent to:

Paul Edlington  
61 Rosedale Rd  
Browns Bay  
Auckland 0632

Hard copies will be returned if a self-addressed, postage paid envelope is included with the original.





*A stunning day in National Park*

Revti and I, along with Mark another Nelson member, began our journey to the rally with a slow, frustrating ride to Picton. It seems more people are choosing to hire vans to tour the country and have a strong aversion to pulling over.

As a long-suffering sea traveler, I have learned to be prepared – Sealegs the night before works a treat. We stayed overnight in Wellington with friends, waking to Wellington at her very best. Then it was off up the coast (my god, when are they going to fix that bottle neck?), through Manawatu and across to Wanganui. The city was quiet and relaxed, warm and not worried about us wearing our patches! Phew, after all we are a club, not a gang!

The ride through to National Park on SH4 is a must do as local riders know. The best part is NO campervans.

We arrived at The Park Lodge, greeted fellow riders and headed to our rooms, intimate being a good description. Mark had warned us about his snoring and, as he is a tall lad, it was off up to the mezzanine to the double bed for him.

Revti and I weren't worried about a bit of snoring – I snore, Revti sleeps well, never hears a thing (my ribs tell a different story). Anyway, next minute, we

*Measuring up at Ohakune*



*William and Revti on the chair lift*

discovered the sloping roof amplified the noise. No worries, out with the earplugs! That left Mark coping with my snoring!

Saturday dawned clear and still and we gathered to hear the instructions for the mystery ride. Given that we had verbal, written and map instructions I was stunned when Revti headed right instead of left when we were back at the main intersection. Then he missed the cue to turn into the Rag Rally site. This necessitated a 10-point turn on the highway with me on one side of the road, Revti on the other and Mr Plod slowly driving past! Back on the bike we turned into the old lodge, answered the quiz question, and I had a tanty on the lawn – full bike gear on!

*Lunch stop at Mangakino*



All this aside, we had a fantastic day, riding the chair lift, guessing the length of Ohakune's carrot, and marveling at the views. And well done William, another Nelson rider, who won the prize for the ride.

We decided to join the short ride (300 km) on Sunday and headed off with packed lunches to Mangakino. The coffee stop at Bennydale was a treat. It is fascinating how people end up running such places after adventures all around the world. There were thousands of books and records lining the walls and hosts with unique talents.

The planned lunch at Mangakino was much anticipated in the heat. What a surprise we all got when we rode towards the lake with crowds everywhere and





*Riding into the Mangakino Reserve*



*The crane putting speed boats on the lake*

screaming motors from the water. The big crane lifting boats into the water was a clue - Speed Boat Race Championships!

We rode a little further into the reserve, parked up and lunched in the shade by the golf course. Someone was looking after us as the races stopped and we enjoyed the silence.

The return to the Village was a hot one with a couple of quick stops to enjoy the views.

Sunday evening was BBQ night – time to share stories and contact details as plans are made to connect later in the year.

Monday, the “Good-byes” – memorable for us as we said farewell to Fran and Bill who we had met in Cromwell on discovering we had Bill's old bike. Bill planned to ride home and give his beautiful R1200 R a going over before selling it. A hard decision and one we will all have to make at some stage. Many thanks to you both for your fun and laughter.

To the Rally organisers, thank you for a fantastic weekend.

Mark headed off with riders making their way home to Tauranga so he could stay with his dad in Paengaroa for a couple of days. Revti and I rode into a stunning, calm day aiming for Taupo and a visit with relatives before reconnecting with Mark and making our way to Napier in scorching conditions. We finally arrived, after confusing left and right again, at the Herrick B and B. What a find – great accommodation, hosts and a beautiful cool garden.

The next day it was a windy ride through the Wairapa to the Rimitaka Taniwha. As Revti and I used to be locals we weren't intimidated by the howling wind until we ended up in the passing lane on the opposite side of the road. I don't know if it was the thought of flying over the edge or impersonating bugs on a truck that held the most fear but our number wasn't up

and 8 seconds before on-coming traffic was enough for Revti to get the bike back on the right (left) side of the double yellow lines! It was one of those slow-mo moments as I saw the Fulton Hogan team watching close by, “At least the lads will be there for first aid!”

We made it to the Hutt and headed into the wind again on the Haywards to stay with friends in Whitby who bungee their BBQ to the deck!

The Cook Strait played the game being calm all the way and we enjoyed a relaxed ride home via Blenheim.

So the journey and the destination were tied equal this time. We hope you will head our way next January as we attempt to provide a destination worthy of the journey. See you in Nelson, early 2014 for the Annual Rally and AGM.

Sue and Revti Verma

## otago/southland

Our first ride-in for 2013 was to Kingston for lunch and a look at, or rides, on the Kingston Flyer. Unfortunately the Flyer was on “holiday” due to the dry conditions and the chance of a trackside fire being started by sparks from the train. As luck would have it, the normal timetable resumed the next day!

Lunch at the station café was, however, very good and we all enjoyed the opportunity of a yarn. There was a good regional representation amongst the thirteen who attended, with riders from Dunedin, Invercargill, Te Anau, Alexandra and Arrowtown. Hopefully everyone got home safe and dry before the long hot dry spell ended with a cold front arriving.

Barry Richardson

*Otago/Southland's mix of old and new*





# gymkhana

words: Jo Buckner

montage: Bill Croasdale

This year's gymkhana was contested over a tight and technical GS course set up on a small scrap of land outside the hotel – well done to David Thomson for the design of the course. It was challenging and competitors needed to take it seriously.

There were 8 entries in total - all BMW entries were 800cc or above; 3 entries on Yamaha XT250 bikes.

A small army of volunteer referees took their places around the course. Demerit points were scored over a total of nine components over the course – points came off for things such as feet down or stalling. The need to preserve the hotel grounds meant that any loss of traction earned instant disqualification.

We were pleased to report that all riders managed to ride the carpark with one hand. 🤖

Bonus points were awarded for higher engine capacity ratings and loyalty to the BMW marque. Points were also earned for the embodiment of BMW GS rider characteristics such as finesse and rider happiness.

The final results:

**Rick Kirkman Memorial Trophy Winner**

Garry Williams      BMW HP2

**First Runner-Up**

Doug Stuart      Yamaha XT250

**Second Runner-Up**

Julia Maelzer      Yamaha XT250 –  
with special mention for 2<sup>nd</sup> highest GS  
rider finesse points

**Third Runner-Up**

Justin Ryan      BMW 1200GS



## saturday ruapehu ride

words/photos: Wendy Zemanek

Armed with written instructions, we set out soon after the gymkhana, on a magnificent morning. Our 'Tiki Tour' across country ended at the top of the Bruce Road, where we parked and then headed up the two chairlifts. It was a nostalgic trip for me, as I belonged to the Victoria University Ski Club there in the 1960s.

The sky was clear, with The Pinnacles rearing up above us – and a great view right across to Mt Taranaki (Mt Egmont in olden times). Facilities are excellent at the top with a variety of tasty food available in the restaurant for lunch. For this time of year, there was quite a lot of snow on the tops, with one patch looking for all the world like a white lady.

After lunch we rode back to State Highway 4 and then south, turning off at Tohunga Junction and heading down State Highway 47 to Ohakune, with a real challenge to answer there: "What is the height of the Ohakune carrot?"

It was a pleasant ride through the forest to the southern side of Mt Ruapehu and up to the Turoa Skifield. Although it was shut down for the summer, the magnificent views were well worth the trip.

*Right: Pinnacles  
top of second  
chairlift*

*Below left:  
White Snow  
Lady*

*Below right: On  
the way to Turoa*





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## NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK.

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## 2013 annual rally

**words:** David Thomson, rally organiser

**photos:** Bill Croasdale

I take this opportunity to thank all our helpers for the 2013 Annual Rally, at the same time as providing members with some facts and figures arising from this year's event.

First, some facts about the Rally:

- Registrations - 79 (3 less than our last North Island Rally)
- Meals provided 465 (40% more than last North Island Rally)
- Weather – hot!
- Accidents – none that I know of, only decorum stops me identifying the rider who gave his pillion an involuntary dismount early in the Sunday gravel ride!

- Concours de Elegance winner – Richard Kuysten, and Janine [R1200GS], runner up Les and Barbara Ennor [R1200R]
- Gymkhana winner – Garry Williams
- Mystery ride winner – William Robertson
- Financial surplus - \$897 to go to Event Reserve

And some thoughts I have:

The commercial Tussock Adventure Ride held before the Rally gave many GS riders a “double wammy” of fun for their holiday, and I got the impression this sort of arrangement would be welcome again.

Most participants took part in the organised rides, and the provision of cut-lunches proved popular.

GS bikes rule at rallies these days, although the split between road and gravel rides taken during the Rally is about 50/50.

Gravel ride training was provided for the second Rally in a row, and was well received again.

Running the Rally at a distance (for me) added complexity and cost, but was manageable.

It has been suggested that we advertise our Annual Rally in the various Australian BMW Club magazines, as there are always a number of Australians touring NZ on rental bikes over the New Year.

A big vote of thanks to the helpers; Road ride leaders Bill Croasdale, Brian Zemanek, President Peter, and Dave





Oldershaw. Gravel ride leaders Neil Wood, Garry Williams, Robin Wood and Neville Parker. Bill Croasdale our official photographer; Dave Morris for putting together the Risk Management Plan, Jo Buckner our Officer of the Day for the Gymkhana; Dave Oldershaw who managed the raffle, and Marie and Norman Nichol who managed registrations. Bruce and Virginia Frost arranged for Shop Gear to be on site and manned the sales desk. Paul Edlington

and Jill Barter ensured the photo archives were on hand for viewing. Raffle donations came from John Glasswell (BMWNZ); Motomart Ltd (Wellington); our venue The Park; and numerous members some of whom made substantial personal contributions to the raffle table. My thanks to all of you and others who contributed in various ways.

Each Rally is only made successful by the effort of volunteers, and your help is always appreciated.





# saturday 'mystery' gs ride

words: Justin Ryan

photo: Vicki Ison



It was a blistering hot day, another one, and seven bikes turned out for Saturday's mystery gravel ride. Neil started with a short briefing and appointed me as Tail End Charlie, which was fine. I had Julia on the back as she was a bit sore from riding around the army training grounds at Waouru as part of the Tussock Adventure Ride so was taking it easy.

We headed south on SH4 towards Wanganui but shortly after Horopito turned off onto Middle Road. This was a nice gravel road through some scenic bush but not without some obstacles, a stock truck parked in the middle of the road being the first to negotiate.

This road brought us back to SH4 just north of Raetihi. We stayed on the seal a bit and just before Kakatahi turned onto Fields Track then onto Owahakura Road. Somewhere along here we had to stop to rescue a sheep that had managed to get

stuck between a gate and a fence (well I hope the farmer was not holding it there, but I don't think so). Further on we arrived at the ancestral marae of Neil's family although by this point we were all feeling in need of a good coffee and some lunch so it was a brief stop.

Owahakura Road turned across the Turakina Valley Road, which we followed up to the Ohakune - Waouru Road.

By now we were feeling very hungry but, much to our surprise, Neil turned left to Ohakune and not to Waouru, which he had mentioned was we were going. He then turned off the main road and came into Ohakune via a back road and pulled up outside a café to our great relief. We enjoyed a nice lunch stop before making our own way back to National Park in time for dinner.

# gs training

words: Garry Williams

photo: Vicki Ison

Armed with a handful of cones and an appetite for some fun, John Glasswell and I met eight others on the gravel carpark behind the Station Café for a 2-hour training session. Coincidentally, Downers had kindly left piles of different grades of gravel to practice our various manoeuvres on. We split the group into four aside, with participants alternating between time with John encompassing the techniques around slow cornering and me helping people get their heads around stopping and starting on different gravel surfaces. We finished up with a question and answer session plus a demonstration, and some excellent participation, on how to safely pick up an 800GS on its side. Suffice to say everyone had a lot of fun (despite some picking up a few grazes here and there) and we trust everyone got quite a bit out of the time on the bikes.

*Warwick Ison sneaks through the gravel*





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## an unofficial day words/photos: Virginia Frost

*Model Spiral*

Bruce and I opted out of the organised rides on Sunday of the Rally in preference of exploring Raurimu and surrounding areas. We found Cath Thomson and Joy Wood relaxing on the front deck of the Thomson's place on the main street of Raurimu, just past the well cared for 1914 Post and Telegraph building. Cath showed us how to get to the Raurimu Spiral; up Top Mill Road then down a 4WD track.

In 1898, R W Holmes carried out surveys and devised this spiral alignment whereby the railway ascends from this valley to the Waimarino Plain 220 metres above. John Rochfort's original survey 15 years earlier had broadly defined the route but had left unsolved the problem of a working grade for this section. The railway forms an ascending spiral southwards, with two tunnels, a circle and three hairpin bends. From the north, trains pass Raurimu before going round a 180 degree bend to the left in a horse shoe curve, climbing above the track on which they had just travelled. Two sharp bends to the right follow, after which the line passes through two short tunnels. Trains then complete a full circle, crossing over the longer of the two tunnels through which they have just passed, before continuing south. Two kilometres further on the line has two more sharp bends, to the right and then to the left. Raurimu was established as a construction camp in 1905 and before completion of the spiral about 1907 it was occupied by more than 1500 workers and families.

We parked the bike beside the railway track, crossed it and then walked down another track to a pleasant spot between two tunnels (the only two) in the spiral. Whilst there, much to our delight, a north bound freight train came across the top of the spiral above us on its way to the tunnels. The driver gave us a toot and a wave as he passed by us. We returned to the top of the spiral in time to watch the train go north in the distance. We could hear trains but the north bound one did not appear. Then amazingly to us a south bound freight train appeared below us heading to the spiral (there are double tracks at Raurimu to facilitate trains passing each other). The train entered the long tunnel and disappeared prior to passing our vantage point near the top of the spiral. To complete our spiral experience, when we were back at Raurimu Village another south bound freight train went past the Raurimu Station, disappeared for a while then reappeared climbing the track to the spiral. It was pure luck that we happened to be around at the time to see all this activity, and on a Sunday! However it did highlight the need to be very careful at country rail crossings even on a weekend.

After the spiral we checked out the memorial, six Rimu circling a plaque, in memory of the six people who died in the 8 Feb 1997 shooting incident. Then up to the lookout where a wire model of the Raurimu spiral is suspended in the bush. Then over SH4 to Wades Landing Café to view the amazing driftwood sculptures of dinosaurs, horses, deer, fish etc. On leaving Raurimu we took the Kaitieke Road west, 14 kilometres of good gravel meanders down a beautiful valley to Kaitieke. At Kaitieke a right turn into Oio Road on 18 kilometres of nice sealed, windy country road took us to SH4 and Owango from whence we returned to base.

A great day all round riding a total of 70 kilometres of nice, mixed roading.

*Virginia outside the Raurimu Post and Telegraph Office*





# sunday road ride

words: Dave Oldershaw

photos: Peter Tibbs



*Whangamomona Hotel*

During the President's speech after dinner on Sunday, Peter Tibbs asked one of the participants on our Saturday ride to give their take of the day's events. As I sat there listening, I was fascinated by this person's perspective of the ride. I therefore decided to write this report on the day's events from my perspective of Tail End Charlie.

I arrived in the Park Hotel car park just in time to attend Peter's briefing for the ride. All up there were eight motorcyclists on six bikes ready to go; one K1600GTL and five GSs. After the briefing we mounted up for the first stage of the ride to Taumarunui then onto Whangamomona and the Forgotten World Highway. We left the hotel car park at 8:55 am with ride leader Peter setting a steady pace as we headed up the highway towards Taumarunui with the bikes strung out along the highway playing follow the leader.

Our designated route took us through Taumarunui then left onto River Road turning onto Ohura Rd where we encountered the first of four road tunnels. Approaching the tunnel the bikes seemed to bunch up before proceeding slowly through the tunnel. Peter had advised us to use full beam going through the tunnel as the clay walls really do absorb the light. Once through the tunnel we encountered 12 kilometres of hard packed gravel. From my perspective, this was just a case of eating dust for 12 kilometres. All too soon eight hot, dusty and thirsty riders arrived at Whangamomona to be met by a number of Taranaki riders who had ridden over to meet us, led by the Taranaki Area Rep Colin Lister.

We had a quick cold drink and a catch up with the Taranaki riders before leaving for Stratford. A group of Taranaki riders decided to stay and have lunch at Whangamomona, however, Colin and one other joined us as we left for Stratford and

the first refuelling stop. Unfortunately, the group left minus myself and one other who was delayed by an extended pit stop but, as they were leaving, Peter said that they would wait for us in Stratford.

Leaving Whangamomona 10 minutes after the main group we settled into a reasonably fast pace over the saddles and through the twisties eventually catching the rest before Stratford. After refuelling, we were on the way again heading to Inglewood and our lunch stop at Tarata Domain, 22 kilometres inland from Inglewood. Approaching Inglewood the two Taranaki riders peeled away, taking a short cut to the Domain to open the gate.

Tarata is often overlooked by motorcyclists but should not be missed out when riding in the Taranaki district. The Domain made an excellent lunch spot and we sat under a large shady tree enjoying our picnic lunch. We were joined by Colin's wife Sue who arrived by car. The Domain consists of a large field with a river at one end, a disused tennis court and public toilets. We shared the domain with a group of campers although they did not put in an appearance. Whilst eating our lunch Colin entertained us with a history of the domain and surrounding area.

After lunch we headed towards the coast and north to Pio Pio. The hour and a half ride to Pio Pio saw us enjoying the cooler

sea breezes as we followed the coast, however as we headed inland from Awakino the temperature rose to 31 degrees. As we approached Pio Pio we encountered two Harleys with their riders and pillions in T shirts just emphasizing how hot it was on the bike. It was with some relief that we stopped at the Fat Pigeon Café in Pio Pio for a welcome cool drink.

Leaving Pio Pio it was on with sweaty bike gear before heading to Eight Mile Junction and a right hand turn onto SH4 to Taumarunui. We had to be careful though as there was a lot of tar bleed due to the hot weather. A quick fuel stop at Taumarunui saw us heading back to National Park.

After passing through Raurimu we came upon a car travelling at about 90 kph. Our ride leader chose not to pass, there only being about five minutes to The Park turnoff. I could see what would have happened had we passed this car, we could quite possibly have been stranded in the middle of a State Highway waiting to make a right hand turn across oncoming traffic with a car closing in on our tails. A good decision made by our leader.

Eight hot motorcyclists arrived back safe and sound at National Park at 5:30 pm all with big smiles after an enjoyable day's ride.



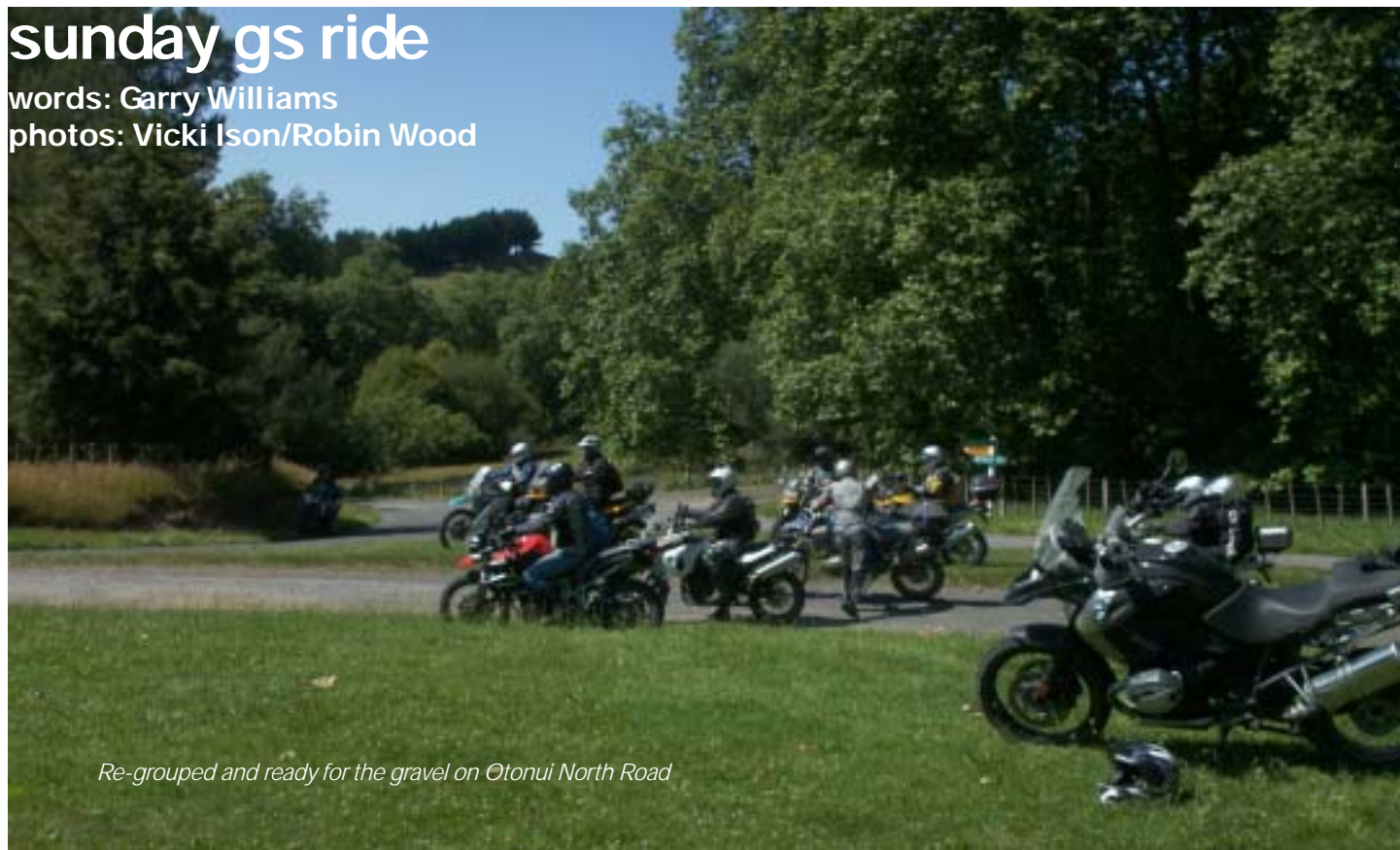
*Sue and Colin Lister*



# sunday gs ride

words: Garry Williams

photos: Vicki Ison/Robin Wood



*Re-grouped and ready for the gravel on Otunui North Road*

After three days of spectacular and somewhat exhilarating riding on the Tussock Adventure in Waiouru, a few hundred kilometres on 'proper' gravel roads, many of which I'd ridden before, was a welcome prospect and full credit to Neil Wood for putting together an amazing route.

The rally organisers had planned to run a shorter version of the route for novice riders and I was asked to take the lead. However, given that there were only 4 riders who had put their names down, the short route was only 30 kilometres or so less than the long route and I had not ridden the route before-hand, a quick chat with all concerned resulted in combining the two rides.

And so it was that 17 bikes, some two up, departed National Park on a cool but glorious morning for the first leg to Taumarunui. A short 1 kilometre deviation around Bullions Road just south of Owanga heralded the first 'off' of the day, the pebbled nature of the surface upsetting one of our 1200GS riders and his pillion. No damage other than pride though.

A right turn onto Whakapapa Road just north of Owanga had us running parallel to the main trunk line up into the small village of Kakahi, about 10 kilometres up the Whanganui River from Taumarunui.

The village derives its name from the Kakahi fresh water shellfish found in the area and notable for extensive colonies of glow worms, which live all along the sheer banks where the Te Rena Road cuts deeply through the hill side for about 500 metres.

Following the rail line along Main Services Road, we turned back onto SH4 taking the next left at Makokomiko Road at the bottom of the Pinaka Hill. This is an excellent slice of gravel cutting through the valley to link up with Hikumutu Road, which runs parallel to SH43 (Forgotten Highway) on the other side of the Whanganui River, and took us down into Taumarunui to re-group and get fuel at the local BP station for those who hadn't gassed up the night before.

By this stage it was getting hot so a few layers came off before we headed west along SH43 taking a right turn to Otunui onto the excellent gravel that is Otunui North Road skirting the Oruatapu and Pokoera Scenic Reserves. After 30 minutes of twisty, narrow, uphill riding,

Neil called a halt for a breather near the summit in the Rangi Scenic Reserve. The view was spectacular and the opportunity for a drink and muffins from the lunch packs welcomed by many.

Following Ararimu East and Opotiki Roads downhill got us back to SH4 where a left turn near Okahukura, a short run on the seal and a right turn onto Ongarue Back Road saw us back on the gravel for about 14 kilometres running north, parallel to SH4, the Ongarue River and main trunk line.

It was here near Ongarue that a railway accident on 6 July 1923 resulted in the first major loss of life on New Zealand railways. The southbound Auckland to Wellington express rounded a sharp bend and ploughed into a landslip which had



*Ian Sowden and Warwick Ison enjoy a welcome break*





*Shade break at Ongarue*

fallen across the railway line. Caught between the rails in the mountain of mud and rocks was a large boulder about 1.25 metres in diameter. The engine was able to push the boulder for a short distance, but then the weight of it threw the engine, tender and postal van off the track with 17 people losing their lives and 28 suffering serious injury.



*Café Waikaka*

Saying 'Bye' to a few riders who wanted to head back to National Park on the seal, the rest of us headed north again on SH4 crossing into the Waikato District before heading west along Mokauiti Road to bring us to our lunch stop overlooking the Waikaka Scenic Reserve. The view from our roadside picnic stop was just

stunning, especially of the mountains in the Tongariro National Park in the distance.

With our packed lunches and more liquid taken on board we were ready for more stunning gravel down Waitewhenua Road back into the King Country to the small township of Ohura. Ohura was once upon



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a time the coal mining centre of the region with mines and the railway network being a major part of local industry. Despite some coal mining returning to the district and talk of many of the old originally uneconomic mines being reopened; it's still a sleepy little place so there wasn't much to stop for.

Heading south along the gravel of Huia and Roto Roads we were soon back on SH43 with another couple of riders electing to head back to Taumarunui on the seal. The rest of us took the opportunity to head back up into the hills taking Kururau Road back to Otanui. As it happened, we got back to the BP station at Taumarunui just a few minutes after the others and ice cream and cold drinks appeared to be the order of the day.

After we'd gassed up (I had less than half a litre of gas left) we headed back to National Park anticipating a couple of cold beers to wash the dust down and, of course, the evening BBQ.

Combining the short and long rides worked well with less experienced gravel riders well looked after and not having to worry about being posted on a corner. Those with more experience who wanted a bit of a blast could do so by taking turns on the corners then catching up. Neil set an appropriate pace for all riders and allowed enough breaks and re-groups so that there was never much more than 5 or 10 minutes at a corner between first and last rider. Robin Wood did a sterling job as Tail End Charlie. The packed lunch from The Park was well worth the money and with a great ride, great scenery and great company; everyone enjoyed a brilliant day out.



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**How to get there:** Pokaka is on State Highway 4 between National Park and Raetahi

**From the North:** From National Park, pass through Waikune and Erua. After passing under the Makatote Viaduct, look for road sign 'Taylor Memorial Lodge and Pokaka' on the right side of road, pointing across the road, in the direction of the mountain.

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There are two places left. To register your interest or for more information contact Philip King on +64 7 543 0787 or +64 21 311158 or email [Pr.king@xtra.co.nz](mailto:Pr.king@xtra.co.nz) (1)

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