

HMCC Christmas Dinner Ride

The HMCC Christmas Dinner will happen on Thursday 14th December, one week after the December club night.

We will book a venue in Raglan and advise details in the December email magazine.

Dec 14th - Road riders sit down dinner at a Raglan Restaurant

Feb 1st - Club Night

March 1st - AGM

Late March? End of Road Rally - Return to Ohura in better weather!

Some weekend in April - Quine Rd Hill Climb

Road Rides

Club ride to Whangamomona ride 14th Oct

(yes, on the 2023 election day).

Only 3 of us braved the terrible weather forecast for the ride to Bushlands campground from Hamilton for the overnight stay via Waitomo, Awakino, Waitara, Stratford and Whangamomona. Steve on his 701 Husky, Ray on his BMW R1200ST and me on the Guzzi Brevia 1100. All the others who expressed keen interest leading up to the weekend now “had other things to do”!!! (or obviously took note of the weather forecast).

We left Hamilton in dry and mild conditions for the first stint to Piopio via Pirongia, Waitomo Valley rd, Fullerton rd and Troopers rd. It was a quick in Piopio, as we were keen to get as far south as we could before hitting the forecasted rain. We got almost through to the end of the Awakino gorge before we encountered the first drops of rain. That was just the start! From there the rain just got heavier. I was drenched right through in about 15 minutes as I was thinking that I should've put a rain jacket over my leathers. The ride over Mt Messenger was not very enjoyable in those conditions, especially when encountering large truck and trailer rigs in both directions. The road surface conditions were terrible, lots of super shiny tar bleed areas (ask Ray how well his BMW handles when going sideways!).

We arrived at Urenui for our lunch stop at the Mud Bay café, where we left large puddles of water under our table and in the mens toilets for them to mop up after us (the water was dripping from our wet gear in case you were wondering). Good food and coffee there. We carried on to our next stop for fuel and some other supplies at Stratford, still in heavy rain. During that stretch we encountered heaps of bikes heading in the opposite direction (my estimate was 50 or 60 of them, in small groups), apparently on some 800km ride.

We left Stratford in the rain (it had eased a little bit by now) and headed north on the Forgotten World Highway to our next scheduled stop at the Whangamomona Hotel where I took the first photos during the ride, simply because there were no photo opportunities so far due to the shyte weather. There were others riding bikes through there that day, as there were about a dozen bikes parked at the pub we arrived.



It was 3.30pm by now and it was a welcome break, the coffee and home-made date scone went down well. The plan was for Steve and Jo to meet us there, as they had trailered their classic bikes to Ohura, and were riding from there. After about an hour, we decided to continue north to the campground (another 45mins away), but as we were leaving Steve finally arrived on his 1928 AJS 350cc "big port" (with BSA painted on the tank – for dodgy reason) with Jo following in the car with her bike on the trailer. The story was that they had left Ohura with Jo leading on her Honda, and

unbeknown to her, Steve had encountered “water on the magneto” just out of Ohura, so she carried on for another 20kms thinking that he will catch up when she slowed down. She turned around when there was no sign of Steve. By the time she had got back to where Steve was (with-in 5kms of Ohura) he had sorted out the issue and got the bike going again. Thinking they didn’t want the problem again, they went back to their car and trailer in Ohura and smeared some sort of blue gunk over the electrics for waterproofing. Jo decided to put the Honda on the trailer, then follow Steve for the rest of the ride in case there were more issues with Steve’s 95 yr old bike.



After chatting to Steve and Jo for a while we decided to head off to the campground while they had a stop at the pub, and they would see us at the campground.

The campground is about 6kms off the main road (down a bit of a goat track that the locals call a road), but what a great spot, even in the rain! (yes, it was still raining). After finding our cabins and settling in a bit, the host (Jo) came and introduced herself and showed us where everything was. The outdoor firebox (under cover) was already lit and warmed up, so that was a good place to start dry out our gear. Jo offered us her tumble drier to use for the rest of our wet gear, so that was very welcome and well used. After about an hour or so, Steve and Jo turned up with no further issues.



Time to have a hot shower, then organise food and beverages and get settled in for the evening. There was no wi-fi, cell phone reception or TV there, so we didn’t have the distraction of election coverage, nor All Blacks vs Ireland on the Sunday morning. A very relaxing place to be. We found out about both results about 10am on Sunday, to mixed discussions! During the morning had a good look around the campground and at Jo’s converted shearing shed home, as well as the display of

artefacts and objects of the town of Tangarakau where 1200 people once lived, where the campground is now situated. Jo was a great host, I recommend taking the time out to stay there when you venture down SH43 next time.



Most of my riding gear was quite dry (apart from the top layer of leather), and I had dry warmer extra under-layers with me, so it was time to put it on and get on the road to head home. The weather had eased to light showers by Sunday morning as we headed off. The road was still wet, but the rain was much lighter than the previous day. The whole road through SH43 was in good condition (apart from a few bumps and slump areas) with plenty of grip even in the wet, which is more that can be said of the whole of SH3 on the way down to Stratford. We headed north through Ohura and Matiere to SH4, then through Kopaki to Te Kuiti. From about Matiere the rain stopped, and we were back on dry roads. We had a lunch stop at Bosco Café in Te Kuiti, and we also got some gas for the last leg back to Hamilton.

In summary, it was a good adventurous weekend. It was a shame there were so many pikers in the days leading up to it. It's always good to spend time with good people. Sometimes the weather forecasters get it right (bugger!). Much of SH3 road surface is crap in the rain for motorcycles (Hamilton to Stratford). It was a very wet weekend, but looking back on it about half the time was on dry roads (according to Ray). We all need experience riding on wet roads. Bushlands campground is a great place to stay, with an interesting history. Glad we had cabins instead of tents. SH43 has a good, "grippy" road surface. The tunnel had a good dry surface and it was longer than I remember, I was glad I had a good light, and so did the bike in front of me. There is still approx. 10kms of gravel on SH43 (I measured it with my odometer). We did 570kms in total. Is "grippy" really a word?

Cheers,

Bruce.



HAMILTON MOTORCYCLE CLUB



Hamilton MCC

Aircooled Round 4

MNZ Permit No 20649

12th November 2023

Williamson's Property,

No. 69 Otuiti Road

Opuatia (Pukekawa)

Signposted From Rangariri West

State highway 22

Sign on 9:30

Event start 10:30

Entry \$20 (Juniors \$5)

Enter on the day

Contacts

Tony Perkins 0272741237

Terry Williamson 0211336715

No Dogs or Pets please



**“AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:
TO PROMOTE MOTORCYLING FOR THE GOOD OF MOTORCYCLING”**

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