



# ROTORUA RAMBLINGS

April 2022

## EDITORS COMMENTS

It has been great to be able to get out on the bike and enjoy some rides with our branch and also the BOP BMW Motorcycle Club. The riding has taken my mind off the task of packing for our move to the South Island. It has also reinforced to me the Camaraderie that exist in our branch and within the motorcycling community.

While the BOP and Waikato is a great area for motorcycling my focus is now firmly on exploring those South Island roads and places that that I have not had time to experience in the past.

As I have said planning for any move has its challenges and in my case one of these was the logistics around relocating vehicles. Fortunately, we sold Andrea's car and she has a new one waiting for her in Christchurch. Bruce came to my rescue in relation to the Motorcycle and has agreed to store it for my until late May when I come back to Rotorua. Thanks Bruce, your help is appreciated.

So now we await the movers on the 27<sup>th</sup> and then load the car with everything we need for our 4 month rental experience and head South on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

The highlight for both of us was the club farewell at the Pig n Whistle last week. We appreciate the kind thoughts and wishes from those who were able to attend and were moved by the fact that Tony who was injured made the effort to call in briefly to offer his best wishes. Mal and Lynda had picked up Covid at the last minute and were unable to attend but contacted us to pass on their best wishes. We hope that you guys are on the improve.

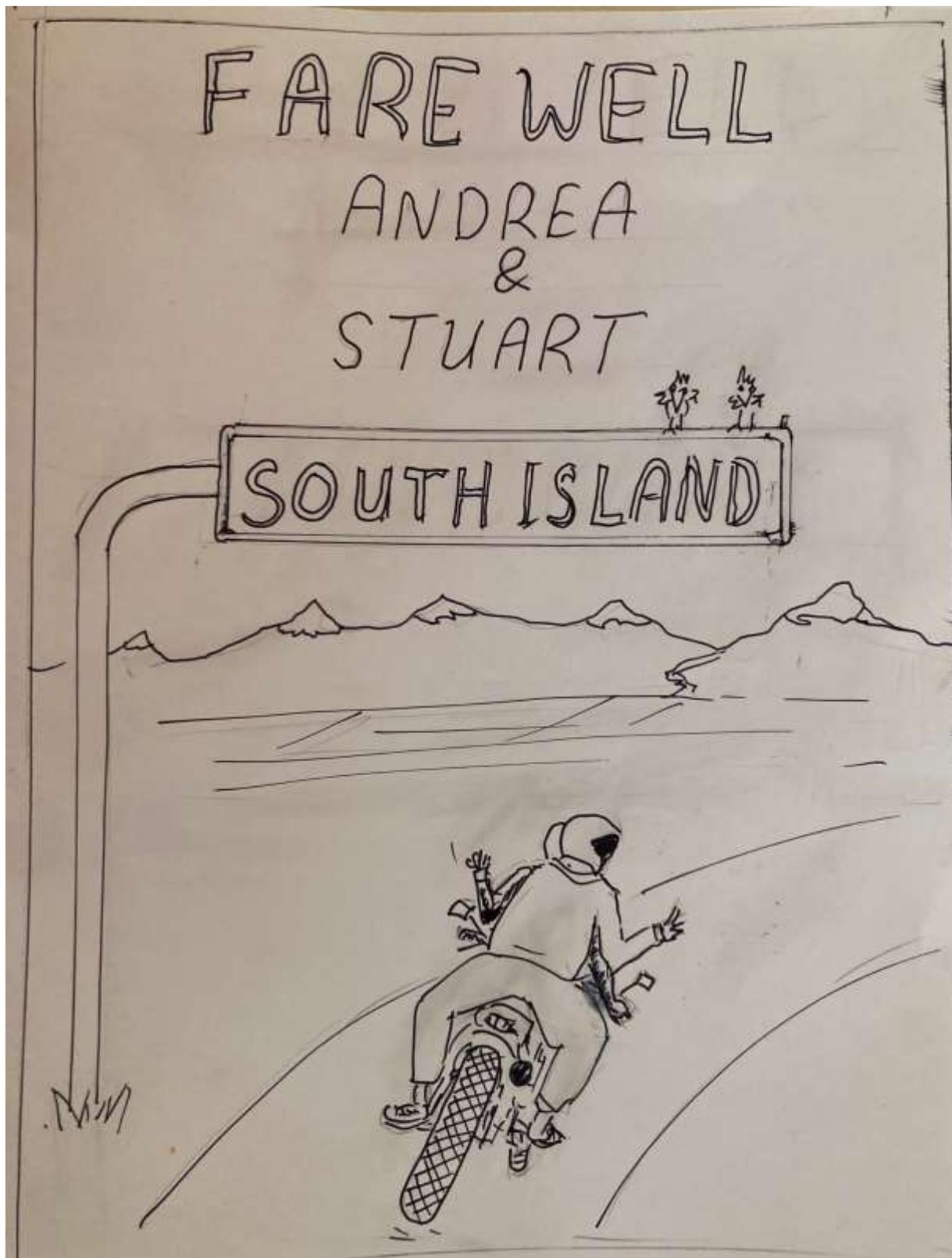
The Rotorua Branch has been a good branch to be a member of and both Andrea and I have been strong supporters in all aspects of branch activities. The old adage of "you only get out of a club, what you put into it" is true and I hope that our leaving Rotorua will see a new enthusiastic team running the Branch following the AGM on Sunday.

Thanks go to Hartley for his efforts at the helm of the branch in recent years.

We look forward to catching up with everyone at some time in the future.

And as my good mate Flash always say's **"Keep the Sun on your Back"**

**Stuart (Smokey) #3703**



**Thanks for all the kind words from everyone  
We will miss you**

**See you on the Road somewhere**

**Regards Andrea and Stuart**

## THOUGHTS FROM HARTLEY



### Hello Ulyssians

It has been a pleasure to be the Rotorua Branch coordinator but with my move to Cambridge I feel it is now time to hand it over to someone else who can take the club forward.

All coordinators traditionally would have a get-together in Wellington once a year but due to Covid this had to be held as a zoom meeting. These are just not as good as the face to face meetings especially for a social club like us. Hopefully this year will bring a better outcome.

Our last club meeting on Sunday the 3rd of April was well attended. Let's hope this is a continuing trend. The incoming committee has to discuss location and day of the week for future meetings. Some options are available but come with conditions. I think our current location is ideal as it is free and central, and the facilities are adequate.

Leigh-Ann suggested the resurrection of the Okataina rallies and has investigated suitability and availability of the facilities we used out at Okataina. She has sent an email presenting her ideas and will elaborate it all at the next meeting. The enthusiasm of members at the last Saturday morning coffee was heartening.

The Sunday ride to Ohope was enjoyed by the 5 of us that completed it. Unfortunately, Colin and his partner had to return home from Awakeri as their bike had developed a strange electrical problem.

This month I have sent out membership applications to 3 people who are keen to join our club. I also have another couple to follow up regarding membership. This is a pleasing trend. Long may it continue.

Don't forget the branch AGM on Sunday 1st May. All committee positions are available including someone to edit the newsletter. Please contact me should you wish to know what they entail.

Finally, I would like to thank Andrea and Stuart for their contribution to the Rotorua Club with 46 combined years of service.

Stuart joined Ulysses in 1996 member no. #3703. He was Branch Coordinator 2011 to 2014; this included our 2013 National AGM. He was Secretary or Treasurer (or both combined) at various times too. He was National Treasurer 2002 to 2005 and has been again since 2014. He has an Odyssey Medal. He has also been local magazine editor at various times, including currently. Stuart has owned a number of bikes, some never made it past the bits and pieces stage and remained in various boxes until he sold them unfinished. He is an extremely capable rider.

Andrea joined in 2001, member no #5500. She has also been secretary, treasurer, or both at various times. She was treasurer for Okataina rallies since joining and at the 2013 AGM at Girls High. She has written many informative and entertaining articles on her and Stuart's travels on bikes.

I am sure Canterbury will welcome them both and Stuart will relish exploring the South Island roads and trails.

**Take Care.**



**Hartley #6974**

**Ulysses Club AGM & Rally's**



**2013 Rotorua-sorting out the fish**



**2018 Mosgiel**



**2012 Nelson**



**2020 Blenheim**

**On Top of the World 2009**



**2015 Invercargill**



**Stuart & Andrea's first overseas motorcycle tour**

# RUNS UPDATE

## COFFEE

Join us for a coffee and chat each Saturday at the [Aroma Café](#), 1126 Fenton Street, from 10.00am.

## RUNS

### Runs leave from various petrol stations depending on the route out of Rotorua.

Please read each ride with care as the times and leaving place may be different. If you are not sure if the run may be cancelled because of inclement weather, phone Gordon (Flash) on 027 345 8634.

Obviously, rides will be weather-dependent.

## May

**Sunday 1st- Club meeting and AGM St John Hall Pererika St 7pm.**

Sunday 8th – Raglan. **Depart BP Fairy Springs 09.00am.**

Sunday 22nd – Arapuni, Rhubarb Café. Depart BP Fenton Street 10.00am.

**Sunday 29th - Club meeting St John Hall Pererika St 7pm.**

## June

Sunday 5th – Podium Café Karapiro. Depart BP Fairy Springs 10.00am.

## Further Ahead- start planning now!

North Island Remembrance Service, Taupo **13<sup>th</sup> August 2022**

Our Okataina Rally Weekend **19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

Bike n Car “Shine n Show” Rotorua Lakefront **1<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

National AGM & Rally **18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2023**, Papanui Club, Christchurch





## Birthdays

JIM BOLTEN  
JIMMY FLYNN  
BOB MCKENZIE  
PAUL SHAW  
KEVIN WILTON

## Membership

HARTLEY GRAY 15 YEARS  
GORDON HUDSON 14 YEARS

## 2022 New Members

ROBERT REWITA – ROTORUA  
CHERI PHILLIPS – TOLAGA BAY

## Rides

### OHOPÉ HERE WE ARE!

Sunday 10th at BP Geyser, 10am on the dot, 6 bikes headed out of town. Hartley was in front, I was at the back, and between us was Smokey, Eugene, Sean, and Colin with his partner pillion. No problems through Hongi's Track and down the Rotoma's, but we pulled up outside the revamped Awakeri Service Station, Colin's Suzuki dial was going haywire. The speedo needle was flicking the entire circumference, and the warning lights were flashing randomly. Colin decided to head back, at least to Kawerau, where his partner had family.

The rest of us continued on to the Ohope Store & Cafe where we gorged on damn fine food. During lunch, Smokey got a call from Colin saying his Suzuki got to Kawerau OK, but now would not start, and the AA could not tell how long before they could get to him.

We decided to head back the way we had come over, with a detour to Kawerau to check on Colin, and see what we could do. Our combined intelligence had not helped at all at Awakeri, but maybe we could fix everything when we got to Kawerau!!

One bike needed petrol, so we pulled in to Gull in Whakatane. There Smokey got the message that Colin had started up again and was now on his way home. He (Smokey) took off to ride in Colin's tracks and make sure he did not stop where he did not want too. Us others rode on at our usual sedate manner, but called in to Kawerau, finding that both Smokey and Colin had indeed gone.

We found Smokey at the Whakatane turnoff, Colin had got home to Ngongotaha without any further incident, and we all then rode home. We had a fine day out - except Colin! His bike problem turned out to be a broken wire, intermittently connecting, caused by a loose battery cover flapping, and fraying the wire. Simple really - Occam's razor again!

Thanks all for the day on the road in beautiful riding weather!

## Flash #1272



Now what is the problem here!



Eugene showing off his photo bombing skills



Some fine steeds waiting for the ride home



## Stuart & Andrea's Farewell

Photos provided by Hartley



## Road Safety Update

Canterbury's efforts to improve road safety have been boosted by a new addition to the fleet – an unmarked Police motorcycle.

Sergeant Lachy Garrick and Senior Constable Mark Middleton are trialling an unmarked Yamaha MT09TRAP (900cc). The motorcycle is fully operational, with lights, radio, and siren, but without the livery. There is also a fit-for-purpose protective uniform for the rider, which includes a high-vis vest.

The trial is focusing on the driver and rider behaviour we know causes the most harm on the road; unrestrained drivers and riders not wearing helmets, distracted drivers, impaired drivers, and people speeding.

It is also focusing on red-light runners.

It has a strong engagement component, with the emphasis being on changing rider behaviour before crashes occur. Director of the National Road Policing Centre, Superintendent Steve Greally says that this initiative will assist in changing unsafe behaviours, especially in relation to restraints and cell phone use. "The fact that these motorcycles will not be immediately obvious as Police vehicles, is expected to have a positive impact in death and serious injuries as it has overseas jurisdictions."

Senior Constable Middleton says the reaction from the public has been positive so far.

"I've completed three shifts with the bike, and I've stopped and chatted with at least 100 motorists. The reaction so far has been absolutely positive. "No one has expressed any doubt as to my role, the red and blue flashing lights are particularly visible at night and are accepted without question."

Sergeant Lachy Garrick has had a similar experience. "Probably 50 percent of the drivers of vehicles I've spoken to haven't commented at all on our plain uniform or the bike. The other half have expressed surprise or interest in the concept. I haven't had any negative feedback, which is great."

"Although Police visibility is a great deterrence for poor road behaviour, an unmarked motorcycle offers other benefits such as seeing people undertake risky behaviours and then being able to stop them and engage with them to talk about road safety." "It enhances our 'anytime, anywhere' philosophy and means we can be unpredictable in our patrolling, engagement, and enforcement activity for all drivers."

The trial is running from March through to the end of May, initially in Canterbury, before moving to Tāmaki Makaurau and Wellington.



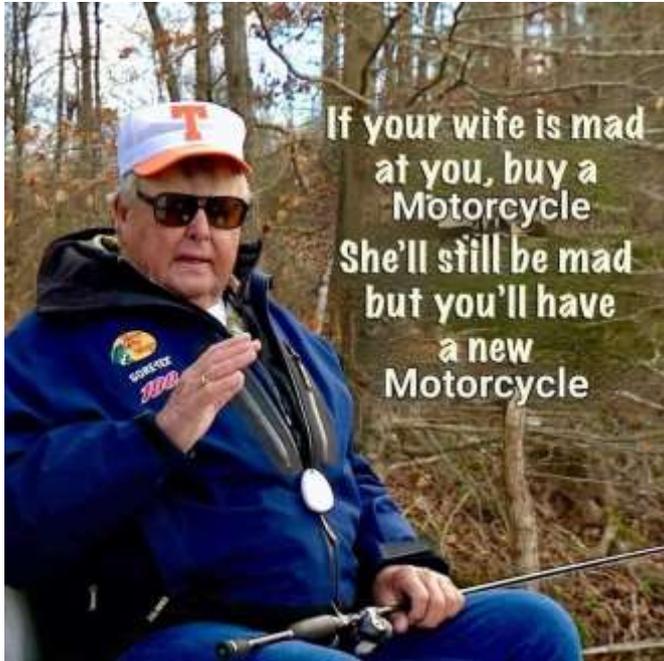
**The unmarked Yamaha MT09TRAP being trialled in Canterbury**



**Christchurch Police  
1982 Honda CB650P  
Photo by David Miller**



## Jokes & Other Bits



### SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

- A cashless society means **no cash. Zero.**
- It doesn't mean mostly cashless and you can still use a 'wee bit of cash here and there'.
- Cashless means fully digital, fully traceable, fully controlled.
- I think those who support a cashless society aren't fully aware of what they're asking for.

#### A CASHLESS SOCIETY MEANS:

- No more tuck-away cash for those preparing to leave domestic violence.
- No more purchases off marketplace unless you want to risk bank transfer fraud.
- No more garage sales.
- No more cash donations to hungry homeless you pass.
- No more cash slipped into the hands of a child from their grandparent.
- No more money in birthday cards.
- No more piggy banks or tooth fairy for your child.
- No more selling bits and pieces from your home that you no longer want/need for a bit of cash in return.
- Less choices of where you purchase based on affordability.

#### WHAT A CASHLESS SOCIETY DOES GUARANTEE:

- Banks have full control of every single cent you own.
- Every transaction you make is recorded.
- All your movements and actions are traceable.

### The Seven Wonders of the World.

To see  
To hear  
To touch  
To taste  
To feel  
To laugh, and  
To love.

## NEXT BRANCH MEETING & AGM

SUNDAY 01<sup>st</sup> May 2022 AT 7PM

(St John's Ambulance Hall, 31 Pererika St, Rotorua)

### 2021-2022 Rotorua Branch

Co-ordinator: Hartley Gray 021 916 645

[hartleyandteri@gmail.com](mailto:hartleyandteri@gmail.com)

Secretary/

Treasurer: Andrea Thompson 021 137 1808

[ad.thompson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ad.thompson@xtra.co.nz)

Runs Coordinator: Hartley Gray 021 916 645

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Committee: Graeme van Praagh, Sean Wilson, Paul Shaw, Neil Evans

Photographer: Mal Bain

Sheriff: **Take your pick at the meeting!!**

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Branch website address: [www.ulyssesrotorua.org.nz](http://www.ulyssesrotorua.org.nz)

"Have we reached the ultimate stage of absurdity where some people are held responsible for things that happened before they were born, while other people are not held responsible for what they themselves are doing today?"

*Thomas Sowell*



 [t.me/ThomasSowellQuote](https://t.me/ThomasSowellQuote)

*Thought for the Month*



## North Island Remembrance Service

# Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2022, 2:00 pm at Great Lake Centre, Taupo

**Ulysses Auckland Branch, in association with Ulysses Taupō Branch, invite all Ulyssians to come together at our annual Remembrance Service and remember members who have passed away.**

**Weekend events summary:** \*Saturday morning ride leaving Taupo-a-nui College on Spa Road at 10 am sharp, going to Whakarewarewa meeting up there for ride back to Taupo. \*Remembrance Ride to the service leaving Whakarewarewa at 12 noon going to the Spa Rd Pool complex carpark. \*Remembrance ride in, meet at the Spa Rd Pool complex 1pm. \*Remembrance service 2pm Great Lakes Convention Centre. \*Saturday night social and dinner at the Taupo Cosmopolitan Club 6pm onwards. If you intend staying in Taupō, please make your own accommodation arrangements. Evening meals are available at the Taupō Cosi Club. Badges and Patches will be sold on the day, both at the morning organised Taupō ride and at the venue. Hot drinks and biscuits will be available in the main foyer on your arrival in the afternoon. A donation will be appreciated.

Please plan and keep the weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022 marked for this enduring annual event.

**For questions, please contact Auckland Branch President Craig Moodie.**

**[auckland@ulysses.org.nz](mailto:auckland@ulysses.org.nz) Please also keep visiting our website**

**[www.auckland.ulysses.org.nz](http://www.auckland.ulysses.org.nz) for further information.**