

# AUCK TORQUE

## TWO WHEELS



**MAY 2009**

# **TWO WHEELS SOCIAL AND TOURING CLUB COMMITTEE 2008-2009**

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

We been lucky with John putting pen to paper to tell us about the Southern Cross run that he has just completed. A total of 3612km and then you have to get from Bluff back to Auckland. But like the last time thoroughly enjoyed. The Southern Cross is held every two years, so if you fancy it in 2011 better start on the Brownie Points now.

Great turnout on Sunday 26 April, despite the weather and the threat of rain all day, 7 of you turned up. I know of another 2 who didn't make it because of the threatening weather. It just goes to show that despite what the forecasters say we can still have some encouraging weather. So remember that this winter.

## MEMBERSHIPS

Just a reminder that another year has gone and the coffers are getting empty, so get the chequebooks out or if you prefer pay direct via your bank's website to:

Account number is 02 - 0100 0911450 – 00

Account Name is *Two Wheels Social and Touring Club*

Use your name as the reference.

## **RUNS SHEET – June 2009**

May 5	Club Night at the Cavalier		7.30pm
May 10	George is heading south	Wendys	9.30am
May 17	Frank is looking north	BP Reidvale	9.30am
May 24	Lawrence is heading south	Wendys	9.30am
May 31	Chris is wandering south	Wendys	9.30am
June 2	Club night at the Cavalier		7.30pm

Queens Birthday weekend is the next long weekend ...you want an adventure and to explore parts of NZ with fellow riders, please contact one of us in the committee and we will assist you.

The Committee,, Run Leaders and/or Two Wheels Club are not responsible for participants safety and all riders participate in all activities at their own risk. All riders should be aware that they are travelling on open public roads and are responsible for their own safety and compliance with all road rules and laws at all times.

## **REPEAT OFFENDERS.**

At a Two Wheels social meeting not so long ago. George was heard to say that he would like to do the “Southern Cross Road Rally” again. (Obviously hadn’t learnt from the first one). Anyway I immediately opened my mouth and said I would like to come as well. Lawrence soon added his name to the list. Chris then said that he would like to do the Northern part of the event.

So come the Sunday before the Monday start, the four of us left from B P Southern Motorway with our destination being Hicks Bay on the East Coast for an easy and enjoyable ride in fine weather, which unfortunately was to change on tomorrow.

A drizzly morning greeted us we repaired to breakfast, after which we went to Te Araroa to experience again the unique method of buying fuel here, and then headed along the narrow sometimes unsealed road just below the East cape light house. This was to be our starting point for the rally.

The weather might not have been conducive, but the cameras were out in force recording the vast array of two- wheeled transport, which ranged from a selection of B M W’s, performance orientated Suzuki’s (Hyabusas), M Z’s, collectables, and a V8 powered BossHoss, to mention but a few.

As we were early, myself and a few other intrepid souls elected to climb the steep track to the lighthouse. Just so that we could say that you have been there and were not frightened of a short steep and slippery climb. The lighthouse tower is 14m high which makes the light itself 154m above sea level, and it flashes every 10sec and is visible for 35km.

Originally it was on the Whangaokena Is (East Is) 1900. But because earthquakes were making its position perilous it was moved to its present site in 1922. All this knowledge was my reward for braving the climb.

Back at the start. Mrs Rusty wished us all a safe ride, including the overseas entrants, who were from Aus, U K, Russia, and Ghana. And emphasising that it is not necessary to speed. This rally can be done inside the legal speed limit and to look after the good Rusty name.

Our plan was to retrace our route back to Opotiki (lunch) then bypass Whakatane, take highway 30 towards Rotorua and stay on highway 30. Unfortunately we missed the turn off and finished up at Wairakei, a good place to stop for fuel and coffee. Then we passed Kinloch and around Lake Taupo, riding into the setting sun, along the western access route turn west at Kuratau Junction towards Taumaruni.

All of this on a superb road with little traffic, which allowed our speed to inch up just a tad. Tonight we lodged at an economical bike friendly motel. Twin Rivers Motel (recommended). Straight across the road was the Taumaruni RSA, which provided us with beer to go with the roast dinner, all very suitable after 487km.

Our plan on day two was to get away early (after waking Chris) via the Forgotten Highway, stop for a quick pee at Whangmomona, then onto Stratford around Mt Egmont (well that's what it says on my map). All the roads leading radially to the coast are unfortunately not labelled to helpfully guide us to Cape Egmont, however helpful locals pointed us in the right direction.

As there is always a bit of a melee at sign in, arrangements were made to all meet at the end of the Cape Egmont road. Well the best laid plans of mice and men. Chris couldn't catch George as he was still at the meeting place, and finished up at back in Auckland. George finally caught Lawrence and myself. We stopped at Pio Pio, a good place to stop for a snack, and try and find out what or why it all went wrong. Anyway an easy run from here to Auckland and home to our own beds, ready for an early start on Wednesday. Another 643km.

B P Silverdale on Wednesday was very dark at 5:30am and surprisingly cool. I was a little concerned about being able to see as the CBX's headlight is not up to the lighting standards of modern bikes. However as it turned out the lights of tin tops, of which there were enough to allow me take advantage of, until I could spot a car further ahead and make a dash for it and so on.

It was really nice as the sky slowly lightened in the east heralding another fine day as we progressed north, to arrive at Cape Reinga in plenty of time to have a look around before signing in. Since we were here last, the improvements both physically and culturally are impressive, making the stop both pleasant and informative. After the still partly unsealed far north road. Chris said that we must stop at Awanui for fuel and food at a Kauri café and museum. Again a recommended stop, the café is good and the museum/shop is impressive for it's range and quality of merchandise. A highlight is a swamp Kauri stump that is so large that it has a spiral staircase hewn inside it to take customers to the mezzanine floor.

Today had been a planned up and back from our various home's. Auckland- Cape Reinga- Auckland. I thought that 880km for the round trip might be the killer day but really it was no trouble and I was looking forward to the Auckland- Picton ride.

8:30 am. Thursday morning and George is waiting for me at Autobahn. As I arrive my phone sounds. It is Lawrence who informs us that he won't be joining us as his house was broken into and robbed while they were asleep during the night. Scary stuff. So now it's just George and yours truly to complete the remaining days. The ferry and Picton here we come. We crossed our Monday track at Taumarunui and carried on to Wellington arriving in plenty of time to chat with a number of other SCRR riders. Our day's weather had been fine again making the crossing fine. Our motelier had gone to

bed by the time we arrived but had thoughtfully left our unit key in an envelope. 660km today.

Friday, again, an early start as we planned to have breakfast at a recommended eatery north of Kaikoura. This had been recommended by a fellow rider, and it certainly was of a high standard. Curious as it was on it's own so far from any settlement. So we had a nutritious breakfast while relaxing and enjoying the view out to sea and wondering about the whales chasing their breakfast of squid lurking in the deep.

Christchurch was bypassed by taking the inland route. A route which I hadn't been on before, always interesting to travel previously unexplored areas. A quick stop at Oxford for a light lunch and then onto Oamaru our next overnighiter achieved in plenty of time to enjoy a beer before dinner. 580km today.

Saturday. A very early start in the dark again as our destination Bluff had to be reached by midday. We were lucky, again, as the overnight fall of rain at Dunedin only gave us wet roads to contend with. Next stop on the way was Gore, the town Famous for Country Music, Gold Guitar Awards, and of course Trout fishing.

We unfortunately had to miss out on the pleasures offered as we were on a mission. We did however have time to warm up with a genuine Southern Man breakfast. Straight roads took us away from the famous Hokonui hills, through Invercargill and to Bluff. Photos taken badges collected from Rusty. 362km for the final part.

We retraced our way back to Invercargill (Tim Shadbolt's territory) where we were motel-ling. While in Invercargill, it would be a shame not to view Bert Munro's world famous fastest Indian. And I have to say I did enjoy the display, which included a number of other motorcycle memorabilia. An L E Velocette for example, I used to ride one as a student (*you can't be older than Frank! Ed*). Wonder if I still could.

It's all over we have completed another "Southern Cross Road Rally," along with 131 other entrants. Here are some interesting stats, 5 DNF only one of which was a crash. 36 B M Ws. 31 Honda's. 15 Suzuki's. 9 Triumph's. 9 Kawaksaki's. 6 Harley's. 6 Yamaha's. 3 Ducati's. 2 Aprilla's. 2 K T Ms. 2 Moto-Guzi's. 1 Cagiva. 1 Beull. 1 Boss-Hog.

Pressure is off now, no more sign-in targets. We had allowed for this, as there were some places we wanted to explore, like the Catlins, like the gold mine, and Central Otago. Next day, would you believe that the weather is still gloriously fine. This is definitely the season to ride the South Is. Anyway we cruised around this scenic coast, and took in the Nugget Point Lighthouse, explored Macraes Flat and the gold mine there, we must really want the stuff as it is a very impressive deep opencast mine.

We stayed with my sister who lives n Alexandra. Great to catch up with her and Laurie, and explored the local area, a part of N Z that I hadn't been to before. When one lives in the winterless north, (Yeh! Right) it is so easy to imagine that the area is bleak because it is colder. Well that is all wrong as colour was everywhere, gardens were

lovely, countryside looked productive, noticeable was plentiful irrigation, and that probably helped.

After another local explore it is time to wend my way home, enjoying another brilliant day cruising the west coast on a very comfortable bike, which is a joy to ride on the open road.

John.



**BLUFF AT LAST**

## END NOTES



*For the first time in ralph's life his Birthday wish came true. However, it wasn't the big, hairy beaver he was hoping for.*

### **Sex and Petrol .....**

A petrol station owner in Melbourne was trying to increase his sales, so he put up a sign that read 'Free Sex with Fill-Up'.

Soon a local pulled in, filled his tank and asked for his free sex. The owner told him to pick a number from 1 to 10. If he guessed correctly he would get his free sex. The local guessed 8, and the proprietor said, 'You were close. The number was 7.... sorry, no free sex this time.'

A week later, the same local, along with his mate, Dwayne, pulled in for another fill-up. Again he asked for his free sex. The proprietor again asked him to guess the correct number. The local guessed 2 this time. The proprietor said, 'Sorry, it was 3. You were close, but no free sex this time'.

As they were driving away, the local said to his mate, 'I think that game is rigged and he doesn't really give away free sex'.

Dwayne replied " No it ain't, Bruce, it ain't rigged. My wife won twice last week".

## The Credit Crunch...

Husband and wife are shopping in Pak'N'Save when the man picks up a crate of Lion Red and sticks them into the trolley.

'What do you think you're doing?' asks the wife.

'They're on offer, only \$10 for 24 cans', he says.

'Put them back. We can't afford it,' says the wife and they carry on shopping...

A few aisles later the woman picks up a \$20 jar of face cream and sticks it into the trolley.

'What do you think you're doing?' asks the man,

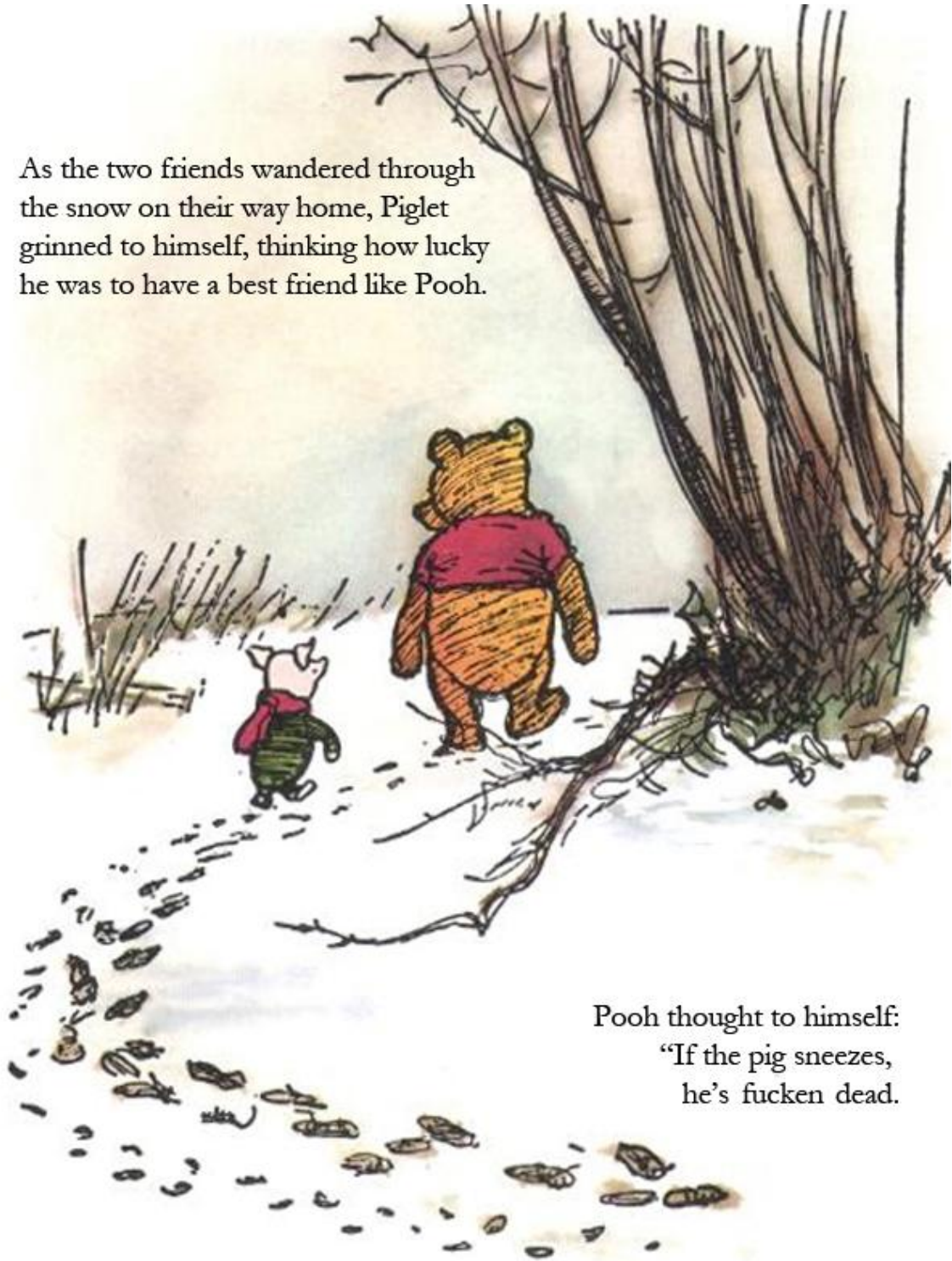
'It's my face cream. It makes me look beautiful,' she says.

The man replies... 'so does 24 cans of Lion Red and it's half the price'

## COLVILLE



As the two friends wandered through the snow on their way home, Piglet grinned to himself, thinking how lucky he was to have a best friend like Pooh.



Pooh thought to himself:  
‘If the pig sneezes,  
he’s fucken dead.