

Scenic Ride to the Coast – Memorial ride for Ted Collins - Sunday 13 June 2021

Well another great ride today from one of our 'Back Road Specialists' Gazza Tucker.

6 bikes left Tauranga with the Collins family, Ted's brothers Ross and Rex, Rex's wife Dinese and Ross's boys Devon & Anthony.

I've been on many a ride with the Collin's family, where they ride half the stock of Road & Sport!

We met up with Gazza and 22 other members at Horotui BP. At one stage I counted 23 bikes all up, however as I still had my boots on, I may have missed one or two.

We blasted off up SH 1 and it was great having the wind blowing through my hair. (I have been known to use literary licence at times). We turned off at Ohinewai, and again at Waiterimu and then into Waikare Road to follow the shore line of the lake, where we passed going in the opposite direction a Porsche / sports car club. We then went into Coalfields Road and the open cast mine, which may have something to do with the name of said road. A short stint on Kopuku Road, SH 2 and turned off again at Maramarua and headed off towards Miranda, down to the coast and along the Firth of Thames to Kaiaua.

This is where things started to go slow. Very slow. Gazza's original choice for lunch ditched us for a sell-out crowd of great looking Ford's, mostly Mustangs by the look. I was too busy trying to look for a park for myself next door at the Fish & Chip shop.

Needless to say it was also a sell-out crowd at the F&C shop too. Seems like everyone was taking advantage of the last of the sun we may see for a week or two. There were members from the Ulysses Club, Indian Motorcycles, some sports bikes, dirt bikes and other hungry people there. So it took a while for the 29 of us to get served. A nice opportunity to have a chat anyway. Deane and Janice had taken Gazza's suggestion of perhaps picking up some Subway before leaving Horotui BP. In hindsight, a great idea.

Following lunch Gazza retraced our way back to SH 2, this time travelling the full length of Kopuku Road to Okaeria Road, Cozens, Taniwha and a great selection of other back roads, making our way back to The Oasis in Fencourt Road for some refreshments and Kay was instrumental in getting a team photo to finish the day off.

Another great day out riding with mates from Waikato HOG, and a fantastic way to remember our fallen Road Captain Ted Collins, one year ago.

Thanks Gazza for another great scenic ride and to everyone for coming along and supporting the Collins family today.

Lance Potaka

Head Road Captain