



BMWMCNZ Annual Report 2023



Well, how time flies when you are having fun! It's been a whirlwind year, and I can't believe we are already a week into 2024. It was nice to have a year that wasn't plagued with COVID, but I do think we all now have a slightly different approach to the way we manage our health, and this has had some level of impact over the year particularly in attendance numbers at our regional events. That said, there is nothing better than having the opportunity to gather with close friends, enjoy the company of others and hit the road or the gravel together as the case may be.

The new-look Board has now had a year to settle into the administration and oversight of our club. I have been impressed with how well everyone has settled into their positions of responsibility and the way we have worked together managing the regular day-to-day club issues as well as the unforeseen ones that eventuate throughout the year. We have held six meetings this year, many of these have been virtual/online with a welcomed face-to-face meeting in Taupo in September.

Our annual combined Area Representative (ARs) and Board meeting did not take place this year. Several factors worked against us in respect of timing and location, so the decision was made to combine the meeting with the 2024 Annual Rally with the team scheduled to meet together ahead of the January rally. Many of the Area Representatives had planned to travel to Methven anyway so this was deemed a workable solution.

2023 Events

Our events schedule for 2023 started with the Annual Rally and AGM in January which was hosted by our BOP crew in Tauranga. It was a great success. The venue, rides and social events all went off without a hitch. The AGM held late on Saturday afternoon was well-attended and the slight change to the agenda allowing for an expanded Q&A session at the end was invaluable. The opportunity for our members to interact directly with the Board, asking questions and providing feedback was excellent and we are keen to keep this as a part of the AGM meetings going forward.

Our regular annual North and South Island RAG Rallies were held as usual. In the North, we all made our way to Taylor Lodge in National Park. The riding was excellent, and I made the very astute decision this year to steer clear of the 42nd Traverse to try and avoid the ligament damage to my left knee that ensued in 2021! I did hear that others tried to ride it but a major washout of a rather large section of the track made it impassable due to the heavy rains that we had been experiencing across the country at the time. Clifton and his team again excelled with the dinner on Saturday evening making it a great weekend for all.

The South Island RAG was held at the Top 10 Holiday Park in Akaroa on the beautiful Banks Peninsula. The event was held a little later in the year than normal, near the end of November and we hope to get the timing back on track in 2024. The Canterbury team hosting us did a wonderful job with the rides, a BBQ dinner on Saturday night and farewell

breakfast on Sunday morning. The riding on the Peninsula is fantastic, both gravel and road so we were spoilt for choice in that regard. The Saturday riding schedule had us all gathered for a very enjoyable lunch at a Café in Little River.

In October 2023, in conjunction with the team at Kiwi Rider, we held the GS Rally back at Lakes Ranch in Rotorua, the location we used in 2022. Unfortunately, my own personal calendar meant I was unable to make it but by all accounts, it was a great success. Close to 200 riders took the opportunity to tear up the road, gravel, and in some locations soft sand. I did hear the sand caused problems for some as this is not something we come across often in our riding adventures. We understand plans are already underway for the next event in 2024.

Operational Update

It has been a busy 2023 for the club and the Board. We continue to focus on our membership communications which are working well both through the newsletter and the regular ride updates being distributed to members via their local Area Representatives.

The newsletter content has been well received and the new flip book option to read it electronically has been a real hit. That said, we are always looking for additional content outside of our regular local ride updates, so if you are planning a ride that is a little different or has just completed one and you have some photographic content and a few words to wrap around it, feel free to send it through to our editor@bmwmc.nz email address.

The cost of producing the magazine is offset by the revenue that we receive from our regular advertisers, and I want to thank them all for their ongoing support. We have a couple of key sponsorship partnerships that I want to highlight separately.

Sime Darby – Continental Motorrad, It has been a year or so since Sime Darby became our local importer and distributor of BMW Motorcycles. They launched their new dedicated Continental Motorrad Showroom on the North Shore in Auckland earlier this year and are doing a similar thing in Wellington very soon. The team at Sime Darby recognise and values the partnership we have, and together we are committed to driving the profile of both the brand and the club going forward which we welcome. Their presence and support of our club events over the last year has been significant which we appreciate, and we look forward to building on that into the future.

Star Insurance our insurance partner has been fantastic this year providing competitive deals to members as well as gifts and prizes for core club events. If you are not already insured with them, remember to give them an opportunity when your renewal time comes around.

Membership

The following is a membership update from Barry Petherick our membership secretary.

The Board has emphasized retention alongside recruitment of members. We have had intermittent issues with email renewal reminders being erratic and not always reliable. Members are reminded that their card now carries an expiry date so that should make it easier to monitor.

Comparative numbers are in the table below.

Category	End of our financial year 2022 (Sept 30)	End of our financial year 2023 (Sept 30)	Last quarter 2023 (Dec 31)
<i>Owner</i>	464	568	583
<i>Pillion</i>	45	50	51
<i>Life</i>	21	21	21
Total	530	639	655

At our September 2023 meeting the Board decided to merge the Owner and Associate categories. As renewals are being done the Associates are being transitioned to Owner. Therefore, this table shows the owner category without any breakdown.

Barry Petherick #3104.

It's pleasing to see that over the reported period, with the increased focus placed on this area by the Board and especially the membership team, we have seen a positive increase of 24% in fee-paying memberships. Our numbers were impacted by COVID but it is encouraging that we have not only bounced back but effectively grown in membership.

Another focus for the Board has been strengthening our relationship with BMW Clubs, International Council (BCIC). This council is the central mouthpiece for all clubs, both cars and motorcycles across the globe. Historically the BMW car club here in New Zealand has represented the country as the delegate to the council for the last 20 years. We have been keen to have our motorcycle club recognised and acknowledged at the council equally with the car club and this was successfully achieved after an opportunity was presented to us to attend the most recent council meeting held in Berlin in July. During that meeting, a successful vote was achieved to enable us to create an umbrella between the two entities here in New Zealand. This will be called BMW Clubs of New Zealand. This new structure will ensure both clubs are represented in an equal way in all future council meetings. This is a big step forward and we have now engaged the services of our club's legal counsel who are in the process of engaging with the car club to develop a memorandum of understanding that will provide guidelines as to how the clubs interact both locally and at council meetings going forward.

We have a very exciting and full calendar of events for 2024. For those that don't know it, 2025 is the 50th anniversary of the club so whilst there is a focus on 2024, discussions are already underway as to how best to recognise and celebrate this significant milestone. If you have any suggestions or would like to be involved in any way, please feel free to contact any one of the Board members.

It's been a real pleasure to represent the club in my role over the last year and I want to thank my fellow Board members, Area Representatives and all those who sacrifice their own

time to help in both administrative and support roles that keep the wheels turning. Without you, the club would not function or exist so a big thank you to you all.

And to all our club members, we appreciate your involvement and engagement. We will continue to do our best to deliver the opportunities and activities that you enjoy ensuring your continued enjoyment and ongoing club enjoyment.

All the best and I look forward to seeing many of you at the Annual Rally and AGM in Methven later this month.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Souness". The signature is stylized with a large initial 'C' and 'S'.

Chris Souness | President | BMW Motorcycle Club Aotearoa New Zealand Inc.