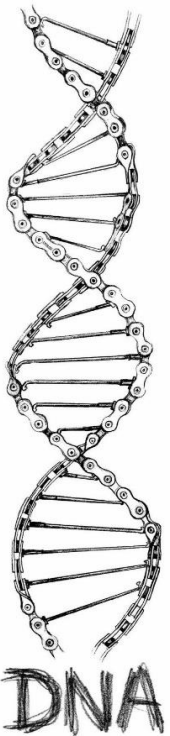
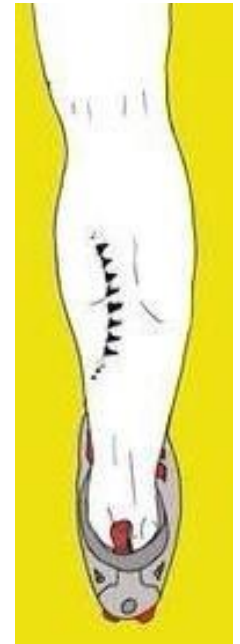


Cyclist's



Cyclist's



"Tattoo"

ARE CYCLISTS BIGGER THAN YOU
THINK?

FEBRUARY 2020 Spokesman Contents...

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YOUR COMMITTEE March 2019 – MARCH 2020

| | | | |
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REGULAR CLUB RIDES

Saturday rides depart at 9:00am from regular departure points around the city. These rides include a mid-ride café stop, so remember to bring a few dollars. Rides are about 30-40kms and are usually completed by midday. For detailed ride information, view the Club's website and select 'Rides Programme' from the menu.

Sunday rides depart at 9:00am from differing venues. This is an all-day ride, usually in the country, and can be anything from 50-100kms. A café stop is hopefully included mid-morning. Also, remember to bring your lunch! For detailed ride information, view the Club's website and select 'Rides Programme' from the menu.

Wednesday rides are listed on the quarterly rides list. For the **West**, the first 3 rides of the month are from Kumeu (Bakehouse) and the 4th Wednesday is from Riverhead (Beekeepers Wife Café). For the **South**, we have first Wednesday from the Ferry Building and 2nd and 3rd from Papakura. Those rides in the country can be anything from 30 - 60kms, including a mid-morning café stop. Remember to bring your lunch! **1st Wednesday Month West Ride** 9.30am departure from somewhere in central Auckland (often from the CBD Ferry Terminal). Members are advised of details in advance.

2nd & 3rd Wednesday Month South Ride 9.30am departure from Ron Keat Drive, Papakura at the back of the railway station. This ride will wait for the 9.20am train to arrive. Geoff Phillips (contact details shown under Committee above) will lead the 2nd Wed ride and Bill Pepler, peplers@ihug.co.nz, 09 266 6846, 021 073 7019 is the coordinator for the 3rd Wed ride and is the contact for new people who want to try out this ride. **NB: Despite the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Wednesday rides, the usual Wednesday rides from Kumeu and Riverhead starting locations remain unchanged.**

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the ACTA editor and/or ACTA Committee. Readers should exercise their own judgement when considering technical matters or any other information/advice.

ACTA SAFETY GUIDELINES

YOUR BIKE.

- Keep your bicycle well maintained.
- Especially tyres – check for sufficient tread and no major cuts
- Brake blocks not worn and cables not frayed

YOU, THE CYCLIST

- Wear high visibility clothing and/ or a large reflector or rear light
- Obey the Road Code, especially traffic signals and stop signs
- Keep well to the left (be aware of potholes and gravel on the road edge)
- Ride single file when there is other traffic on the road or visibility is restricted.
- Communicate intentions and hazards.
- Give voice signals. e.g. “stopping”, “slowing”, “car back”, “pothole”
- Give clear hand signals for turns and hazards
- Stop off the road and away from intersections
- Ride within stopping distance of the cyclist in front.
- Pass on the right - never the left!
- Know your own ability: is this the right ride for you?
- Group Leaders to appoint a ‘tail end Charlie’ and riders made aware of him/her.
- Notify the leader should you leave the group early.

▪ *On a ride you are ultimately responsible for your own safety.
e.g. don't just follow the rider in front across a busy road assuming it is safe, always
lookout for yourself*

WHAT TO BRING.

- A spare inner tube of the correct size, pump and tyre levers (3).
- Basic tools and know how to use them.
- Sufficient food and drink, some money and a mobile phone.
- Clothing appropriate for the forecast. (Our weather can be very changeable)
- ID and emergency information.
- (Ride Leader to carry First Aid kit and have basic cycle maintenance skills)

Enjoy your ACTA rides

Hi and welcome to your February Spokesman...

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all ACTA Members! I hope you had a wonderful family time celebrating both Christmas and New Year!

You will note from the Contents of this Issue that several articles regarding overseas tours, ACTA New Zealand Tours and weekend rides, the inaugural ACTA Quiz night and Christmas Luncheon are covered from September through to December 2019 in this issue. I also attended the Official Opening of the North West Cycleway Extension from Lincoln Rd to Westgate on Thursday 19 December 2019 and chose to write a brief article, which is included on Page 35 of this issue, rather than simply including it under "Snippets".

Thanks to staff from **Auckland Transport Cycling**, I attended the e-Bike Expo at the "Cloud" on Saturday 16 November 2019. Unlike the previous expo held in 2018, it was pleasing to note that there were more prominent brands displayed on this occasion. However, some retail outlets including the *Electric Bike Team (EBT)* who strangely chose to hold a separate expo on the same day at Victoria Park, were not present. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the EBT expo due to other commitments on that day. At the AT Expo in the Cloud, although I did not intervene, I also noted and listened to members of the public who were interested in buying e-Bikes but had not done the necessary research. I would remind ACTA members that the research I did and an article in respect of investing in an e-Bike was published in the SPOKESMAN 123 Issue dated August 2017, but is still relevant today and my research was subsequently confirmed by an article regarding e-Bikes published in the AA magazine.

I have included some of the news from **Auckland Transport Cycling** such as *Victoria St. Cycleway* and *Replacement of the old Mangere Bridge* under SNIPPETS. However, I draw your attention to the **Auckland Transport Cycling** Article concerning **free Adult Bike Skills and Maintenance Courses** and recommend that members consider joining these.



Just a reminder that *The SPOKESMAN* is issued in February, May, August and November.
Happy reading, and I hope the forthcoming issues are of interest to you. Also, *happy riding!*

Message from your President...

Quarter 1 2020

Our Christmas party was again popular and noisy, so everyone had a good social catch up prior to Christmas with our families. It is on these occasions that it is obvious that ACTA is so much more than a cycling club and as our approach to cycling is non-competitive, we can accommodate a broad range of interests and abilities in our group. The sad occasion of Keith Holborrow's funeral before Christmas highlighted that we do offer activity and comradery for people that might otherwise spend a lot of time on their own and we should be on the look-out to keep an eye on those who have to take spells out of active cycling with the club for various reasons.

Well, we certainly manage a consistent high turn-out of cyclists during the Holiday Period helping to keep the Christmas food excesses in check and I thank Kevan Fleckney for being our main leader over this time.

Your ACTA Committee will continue to work hard at providing you with another full year of cycle rides, tours and social events, but please let us know if you have any offers of help or suggestions you would like us to review.

I hope to see several of you at our February gathering celebrating the coming of age of "**JB**" (John Billinge).

Cheers Annette/Annie



BRIEF GUIDELINES FOR NEW ACTA RIDE LEADERS



*We would love you to
become an ACTA Ride
Leader!*



Becoming a Ride Leader

Welcome and introduce new members to the group

Ensure that the “**ACTA Rides Register**” has been correctly completed

Ask for someone to become a “**Tail End Charlie**” and, if you have one, provide the “Tail End Charlie” with an ACTA luminescent vest that states “**Cyclists Ahead**” on the back

Give a brief description of the route pointing out *known hazards, highlights* and the *likely coffee and lunch spots*.

Remind riders to:

- Ride predictably and to clearly communicate intentions and hazards to the riders around them
- Obey traffic signals and stop signs
- If possible, ensure the group bunches up when waiting at intersections rather than being strung out in order to get riders across quicker
- Wait on corners so others behind don't get lost

Point out to riders that “on a ride you are ultimately responsible for your own safety so make your own assessment, for instance, don't just follow the rider in front across a busy road assuming it is safe, always look for yourself!”

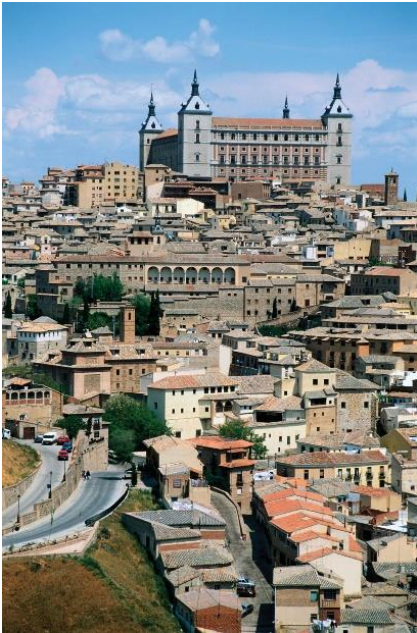
Ensure that the pace is not too fast for the slowest rider whilst keeping in mind the distance and time

Both the **Ride Leader** and **Tail End Charlie** should carry a mobile phone, first aid kit and basic repair kit

Impressions of a Luxury Cycle Tour from Madrid in Spain to Portugal's Southernmost Region in September 2019 by Judy and Garth Barfoot

All that twenty-four keen cyclists needed to do was get on their bike, choose one of three groups according to their ability and pedal away! A few serious competitive guys brought their own bikes and became the “*Expresso Group*”, racing together in a peloton. They biked the longest distance and did the toughest climbs (maximum distance 105kms, max. elevation 2100 metres). Others could choose what they felt like on the day from the next two slower and shorter rides - (max. 70 kms, max elevation 1045m). Each of the three groups had their own leader and a supporting van. The van drivers fixed any problems, punctures or replaced a faulty battery. 90% of the staff live in Spain!

Prior to commencing our Cycle Tour, we visited **Toledo** to the Southwest of **Madrid**.



A view of Toledo



Inside the Toledo Cathedral



Castles in Don Quixote area of La Mancha between Toledo and Madrid are two a penny (Judy in the foreground)

The organisation and logistics of the three groups referred to above was amazing. Each day there were three graduated rides. Some mornings we set off in the vans for the start of the ride. While we drank coffee, the crews got the bikes ready for us! Most of the roads we rode on had a good surface, including those through small towns with many old abandoned houses. When we rode in the vans, we went at a good speed along the tolled motorways as there was no congestion. We were told there is usually more traffic during weekends and holidays.



Historical Landmarks in Madrid



Picture of a Madrid Street

On the first day the vans picked us up from our hotel in **Madrid** to drive us north to the outskirts of **Segovia** where there was a large courtyard where we could change our bike seats and pedals and have a little practice on our hired bikes, riding on the right side of the road. From here it was an easy 30 kms to our hotel in **Segovia**.

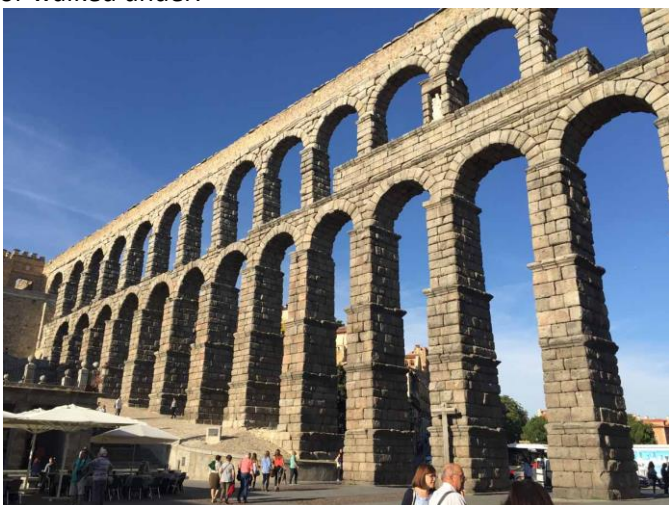


Segovia Cathedral

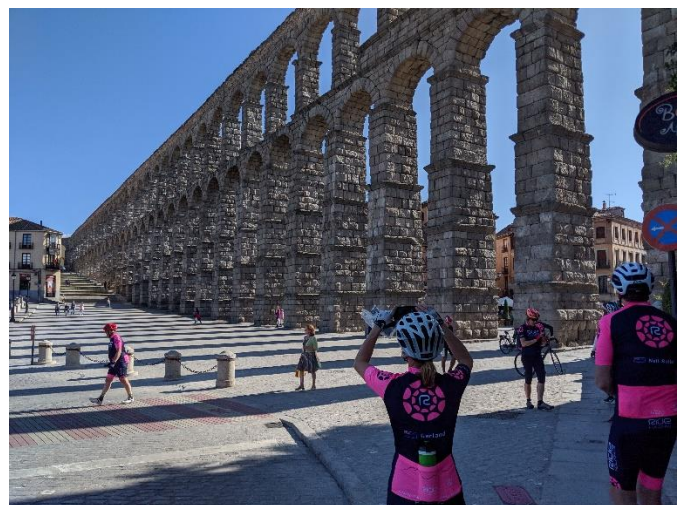


The Alcazar (Castille or Castle) of Segovia

Alcazar means any class of fortified structures built in the 14th and 15th centuries in **Spain**. (The term is derived from the Arabic word **al-qasr**, meaning “castle,” or “fortress”). The **Alcazar of Segovia** was first cited in the 12th century, though its foundations date back to Roman times. It was built by Christian monarchs in the place of a Moorish fort. An amazing feature of **Segovia** was a huge high **Roman Aqueduct**, 2,000 years old, in perfect condition, which we cycled or walked under.



The Roman Aqueduct in Segovia



Some of our group taking pictures of the Roman Aqueduct

From **Segovia** we headed West to **Avila**, North West to **Puebla de Sanabria**, just north of **Portugal** on the edge of the Portuguese border. Then South West into **Portugal**.



The town of Avila to the West of Madrid



The town of Puebla de Sanabria in Spain just north of Portugal

Day 7 was a rest day, so we took a river cruise down the **Duoro River** in an old Portuguese wooden “**rabelo**” – the boats, which had carried the wine casks down river previously. This included lunch, local wine sampling and a spectacular trip down the **Duoro Valley**. On both sides of the river are extensive steep fertile terraces, growing grapes. Most of these would have been formed by hand as this was the world’s first demarcated wine region in 1756. A marvel of intensive farming practice to this day.



Rabelo boats used to transport Port-Wine barrels



Cruising down the Duoro River

Next day we continued on our bikes, following the **Duoro River**, along N222, voted the World’s Best Road, in 2015.



The Duoro River with fertile terraces and vineyards



One of our pelotons riding in the Douro Valley



Apples (left) and oranges (right) in Portugal



Left: Cooking Class in the Duoro Valley

Right: Grapes being transported in Portugal

From **Duoro** we headed South and then along the **West Atlantic Coast** to **Coimbra**, **Cabo de Roca** on the Atlantic Coast to the west of **Lisbon** and then to **Lisbon**.



Coimbra and the Mondego River



One of our Pelotons at Cabo de Roca on the Atlantic Coast to the West of Lisbon



Pictures of Lisbon, Portugal

From **Lisbon** we headed South East to **Evora**, **Monsaraz** and **Tavira** in the **Algarve**, which is *Portugal's southernmost region on its South Eastern coast of the Atlantic Ocean*. Although we mostly followed the coast, we only caught glimpses of the Atlantic, unless we diverted briefly to a cafe. However, there were plenty of hills and some enjoyable climbs and long descents.



Part of the historic centre of Evora



We had to climb up to the hilltop village of Monsaraz

In **Tavira** there were opportunities to swim in the sea by taking short ferry ride to an island, which was crowded with tourists. Sadly, we handed back our bikes.



Beach at Tavira, in the Algarve Portugal



Tavira Island, Algarve Portugal

Do not expect to lose weight on this trip. All breakfasts were included at our hotels and the buffets were great– fresh seasonal fruit, fresh pastries and cakes and the usual breakfast choices. About half the dinners (some were banquets) were also included and we could select local Spanish or Portuguese wines or beers.



Chuleton de Buey (ox ribeye steak)

We also enjoyed a few special late lunches. One was a memorable gourmet lunch in a huge converted wine cave in Spain, booked well in advance on the recommendation of one cyclist. Here we were served “buey”, a very tender steak made from a rare ox. After the huge animal is killed it is hung for 90 days or longer in an air-conditioned cave, close to the restaurant. The steak was delicious and not cooked. Spain has a great **steak** culture, usually involving meat from older animals cooked slowly over a live wood fire, and the national standard is the “chuleton de **buey**,” a very thick **cut** bone-in rib **steak**.

The non-cyclists, seven ladies were well looked after in their van with a nice Spanish driver and various local tour guides. They were well informed about local history and had no shortage of medieval towns, castles, cathedrals, churches, monasteries, city walls, cobbled streets and stairs to climb but they also tried their hands at a pottery class, grape picking and tasting.

Many cyclists and their partners are regulars with “**Ride Holidays**”. Several weeks before we left Auckland, we received a coloured booklet with details of the rides and the many attractions on our route. A training programme was emailed to us too! Six or seven of us rode E-bikes, but some wanted the choice of hiring both. *Karl Woolcott*, who started “**Ride Holidays**” now lives in Devonport and knows *Sarah’s* and *Simon’s* son. Our co-tour leader, *Dean* is now part owner. Their rides go to many places around the world and are booked out early.

We had 8 hours to spend in **Seville**, waiting for a train to **Madrid** so we left all our luggage in the storage room at the Railway station. Unfortunately, we had a bad experience! Garth put our passports, his phone, phone charger, a map and credit card into a soft day bag, brightly coloured with thin rope like straps that “**Ride Holidays**” gave to us carry on our backs when biking and Garth had it slung over one shoulder as we walked along a main street to a Park. Our passage was blocked by a large group of people standing outside a pub, who took over the whole footpath and spilled across a side street as well. Judy was behind Garth somewhere and saw nothing untoward. However, Garth saw a motor bike come up the side street into the group and then turn around and disappear. He thought this provided the distraction for somebody to cut the ties on his bag and take off. This happened on Friday afternoon, the day before we were to fly out of **Madrid**. **We had to cancel our flights because we had no passports and the NZ embassy was closed over the weekend.** We finally flew out on Thursday. and were very relieved to finally get back to NZ. Interestingly, Garth’s stolen iPhone turned up later near Casablanca in Morocco!



With e-Bikes you do not need to draft back makes a nice picture



Happy Wanderers can now leave Spain after their stolen Passports have been replaced

Pictures above of our wonderful ACTA Club Members, Garth and Judy Barfoot, whom many members respect and aspire to achieve at least some of what they have achieved at their age!

Impressions of ACTA Supported East Cape Cycle Tour 8th - 17th November 2019 written by Maureen McRae based on combined notes from Maureen and Erica Gilchrist

The group gathered on the night of Friday 8 November and stayed at the *Opotiki Holiday Park*.

Day 1, Sat 9 November: Opotiki to Te Kaha 73km



The Group at Opotiki Holiday Park, prior to commencing the tour on the morning of Sat 9 November

On Sat 9 November we rode 73km north along the Bay of Plenty Coast to **Te Kaha**. The first 10 kms we rode on the **Dunes Trail**, which has quite a few places where we had to stop and get off because of “squeeze bars”. We then rode onto the main road and, because we were a “supported tour” we were able to stop for morning coffee and tea from our support vehicle, kindly provided by Athol and Erica, on the roadside. Having no formal toilets and not a lot of cover, one of our ladies lost her phone in the process, but luckily realised it was gone when she was 200 m down the road and returned and found it! It was a day of medium hills with us often returning to sea level to start all over again. Being a Saturday, there were no logging trucks running, but we did see some parked up and already loaded. Our lunch stop today was beside the **Motu River** in long grass under the shade of a large *Macrocarpa* tree. We saw a few horses tethered up by rope around their necks. This appears to be very much an “East Cape style”. We next enjoyed an ice cream stop just north of the **Motu River** at **Whitianga Bay**, where the couple at the store were very friendly and welcoming. There was a beautiful looking Marae, the “*Whitianga Marae*” nearby, being one of many we passed today. There were also Maraes a short distance further north in **Omaio Bay**, being the “*Omaio and Otuwhare Maraes*”.



Omaio Marae



Otuwhare Marae

Some of us rode down to **Te Kaha Beach Resort** (which is far too upmarket looking for the East Cape!) near **Maratetai Bay**. As a local guy told me it stands out like “dog’s balls”. All the same, it is sitting in a beautiful spot. It is built on the site of the original old hotel, which burnt down under perhaps suspicious circumstances, (rumours have it they may have been hoping for an insurance pay out). Not sure of the full story, but a couple of investors came along afterwards and built this flash place, hoping to sell some of the apartments off, which no one ever bought. So sadly, the place has gone into receivership 2 or 3 times since. Now, it and the local camping ground just up the road, have been purchased by the local iwi. So, here’s hoping all goes well for them!



We arrived at **Pahaoa Marae** 4 kms after **Te Kaha** late afternoon, where the two lovely ladies Claudette and Aunty put on an amazing afternoon tea followed, soon afterwards by a delicious roast chicken meal. These wonderful ladies went out of their way to make us feel welcomed. This was a new experience for quite a few of us in the group and I felt very privileged to stay here. Many thanks to Marlene in our group for organizing this.

Left: Pahaoa Marae

Day 2, Sunday 10 November: Pahaoa Marae to Te Araroa 80km.

The local area had a planned power outage for most of Sunday. We ate up our breakfast and pre-made our lunches before leaving the marae to head off into the wind and rain! Soon we arrived at the **Pacific Coast Macadamia Farm** which, unfortunately, was closed. We followed the coast which would have been very scenic if the weather had been more favourable.



One of the highlights today was the charming **Raukokore Church** (1895) located on the coast near **Papatea Bay**. By this stage the wind had really picked up and I could see why the church was built with side supports. The minister was setting up for the regular Sunday service at 11 am. The church is also home to a penguin family who come to nest underneath each year.

Left: Raukokore Church

We rode North East from **Raukokore** to **Waihou Bay**. Bill’s front wheel had a worrying wobble which was later repaired by Mike, who came well prepared with a large toolbox. We had a quick look around at **Waihou Bay** where everything was closed due to no power. We then had another climb up and over eastwards to our destination for the day being **Te Araroa Holiday Park** located just south of **Hicks Bay**. I had warned the group I considered the **Holiday Park** to be basic the last time I was here, and we found nothing had really changed. We all arrived looking like drowned rats! Perhaps if the sun had been shining and we could have walked down to the beach, the place may have felt a bit better. At least we had a big kitchen and eating area all to ourselves and more importantly a covered in area to dry off our wet gear. There was not a lot open in **Te Araroa** in the way of food, so Erica and Athol very kindly drove back to **Hicks Bay Lodge** and brought back fish & chips.



Te Araroa Holiday Park

Day 3, Monday 11 November: Te Araroa out to East Cape Lighthouse and back again 54km return.

The wild weather from the night before had cleared, but it was still very windy. Our first stop was only 3 km down the road at the *East Cape Manuka Oil and Honey Shop/Café*. From here, we took a short ride into town to view New Zealand's largest Pohutukawa tree, being 21 meters tall and has a 40-meter span.



Above: Manuka Oil and Honey Shop and Café
Right: New Zealand's largest Pohuukawa Tree



The first 10 kms out to the light house was tar sealed, then it turned to rather rough metal in places. There were wild seas to look at, being blown out by the wind. Consequently, we became aware we would be crawling back. There was plenty of cattle, large herds of mares and foals, often without road fences. We parked our bikes, took our lunch and valuables and started climbing the 800 steps up to the top. We were rewarded by wonderful views, but it was a shame it was so gusty.



East Cape Light House on the hill in the distance



East Cape Light House

I arrived back at camp early enough for me to be able to ride back to **Hicks Bay**. It was well worth the effort to see the remains of the old freezing works and wharf (which is presently closed and in need of major repairs, but ironically, they have just installed a brand-new toilet block and water tanks.) **Hicks Bay**, by this stage is looking beautiful now the sun is shining, and the wind has disappeared. Carolanne and Nancy stayed backed today and did the shopping for our dinner.

Day 4, Tuesday 12 November: Te Araroa to Te Puia Hot Springs Hotel 78 km.

Once again Carolanne rose early and had another large pot of porridge ready to go. A bit of climbing was required up and over 3 or 4 major hills today. We had our morning coffee and tea stop after riding 29 km south to **Tikitiki** where we stopped opposite the exquisite Maori Anglican church built in 1924 as a memorial to the soldiers of **Ngati Porou** who died in WW1. It has a truly stunning interior showcasing Maori carvings, weaving, Tukutuku panels, painted rafters and stained windows.



The Tikitiki War Memorial Church



The Carved Pulpit

There was not a lot else at **Tikitiki** other than the **Waiapu RSA** and an old store which has long gone, but still has the old Peter Pan ice cream logo on the building. We headed further south and our next stop was at **Ruatoria** for lunch. When riding on this stretch it was often beside the **Waiapu River**. Many were hoping for a pie, but sadly the pie shop was closed for repairs for another week. We then headed over a few hills, further south to **Te Puia Springs**.

Today was rather cold and in fact it looked like we would get wet, but luckily the rain fell ahead of us. There is a small general store, a good-sized hospital and the lovely old hotel which, for a very small fee, the manager kindly up graded us into their newly refurbished rooms with ensuites. After unloading, some of the riders enjoyed a nice soak in the hot pool along with some more of Marlene's pineapple lumps which she has kindly been carrying every day. This was followed by a fabulous meal at the hotel.



Left: Te Puia Springs Hotel

Day 5, Wednesday 13 November: Te Puia Hot Spring to Tolaga Bay 70 km.

This was the best day so far! The weather was great, and the scenery wonderful. After an hour riding south from **Te Puia Springs**, we all arrived at **Tokomaru Bay**, where some of us rode out past the **Te Puka** tavern (which was rebuilt after cyclone Bola swept the old pub off its foundations) at the eastern end of the big sweeping bay to the old freezing works ruins and wharf. We then had morning tea out of the back of our support Ute vehicle on the beach only to realise later that 200 meters down the road we could have had morning tea at **Café 35** which is famous for its Paua Pies. Some people brought a pie and I heard rave reviews. However, I am not too sure if it helped them up the long hill which followed immediately afterwards! Lots of full logging trucks passing us heading to Gisborne and returning empty. Continuing further south we took a detour to **Anaura Bay**, which is famous for being a place where Captain Cook landed in New Zealand. Although it started off flat, we came up against the "mother of all hills" where those on electric bikes had to up the power, while Mike took on his tandem as the sole rider. Some of us zig zagged, while others got off and walked and a couple sneaked off into our support Ute vehicle. Either way, we all arrived at the gorgeous beach to enjoy our lunch. Getting out of **Anaura Bay** towards **Tolaga Bay** was a lot easier with a more gradual incline. In this vicinity all roads lead to **Tolaga Bay** where we regrouped before heading out of town a couple of km to arrive at **Tolaga Bay Holiday Park**, which is only a stone's throw to the 660 m long **Tolaga Bay Wharf**.



Most of us rode our bikes out. Although the cabins were nice, the highlight was dinner, which was prepared and delivered by Marlene's extended family, their partners and children. We were fed like royalty with smoked salmon wings, venison lasagne, wild pork, and roast veges, just to name a few, followed down by delicious chocolate eclairs! It was a wonderful feast and once again a huge thanks to Marlene and her extended family, most of whom are **Tolaga Bay** residents.

Left: The 660m long Tolaga Bay Pier

Day 6, Thursday 14 November: Tolaga Bay to Gisborne 54 km.

When heading south from **Tolaga Bay** to **Gisborne** we went straight into a few hills, then some undulating riding along the ridges, which was very nice. We experienced probably double the number of logging trucks that we had previously and, thankfully, there were no issues. We were mindful of pulling over and the trusty call from behind of "car back" or "truck back" is always a useful warning! We reached the coast at **Pouawa** and, following the coast, we had lunch at **Tatapouri Bay**, which was very pleasant. As we neared **Gisborne**, we noticed there are a lot of permanent camps beside the road. People pay a small fee to be able to leave their caravan in place and have rubbish and sewage pickups. Moving onwards further south towards **Gisborne** we were all really pleased and surprised to find a concrete cycle path from **Wainui** into town. It meant we could start to relax a bit. I dare say the "truckies" were pleased to see the end of us too! We arrived in Gisborne early afternoon in time to enable us to do "our own thing" before regrouping for an excellent meal at the Gisborne Cosmopolitan "Cosi" Club.

Day 7, Friday 15 November: Gisborne to Eastwoodhill Arboretum 43 km.

We started off by riding towards the **Eastland Port**, to observe the fascinating goings on. I thought the logging trucks were large, but the trucks looked insignificant in comparison to the huge ship they were busy loading. It really was a hive of activity! Gisborne Council are doing big improvements both on the Port and at the Marina, both of which are still incomplete. This was followed by a coffee at "Raglan Roast Gizzy" café at Wainui Rd, Inner Kaiti, **Gisborne**, which must be one of the cheapest in the country. It was pure good luck that Bill asked the postman where to find a good coffee. From here, it was onwards out of Gisborne heading west, first on the cycle/boardwalk, where schools were busy participating in a triathlon. We then rode through a very fertile valley seeing vegetables, like tomatoes, squash along with avocados, persimmon, kiwifruit, citrus, apples and vineyards. Quite a lot of them looked relatively young plantings. We had a short day although we did have to contend with strong head winds. Our lunch stop was in front of the small school at **Ngatapa**. Soon afterwards we had a climb to the top of a summit. We then arrived relatively early at **Eastwoodhill Arboretum**, where we were in for a beautiful treat. It is very relaxing place to spend the afternoon wandering around the extensive gardens and mature trees. Some of us enjoyed alfresco dining that night with our shared meal.



The Eastwoodhil Arboretum

Day 8, Saturday 16 November: Arboretum to Motu 75km.



Today was the most climbing of all. Early on today I noticed someone had been creative with a beautiful white horse and had painted its legs and mane blue. Although not everyone noticed, it was standing in the yards. We then rode past the small school at **Rere**, the only school I have seen with its own diesel bowser pump. Our first stop was at **Rere waterfalls**, which are spectacular, followed soon afterwards at “*The Rock Water Slide*”, which was fascinating. It is as the name suggests, but covered in algae, and some brave souls slide down it on boogie boards. I would think that once you start, there would be no stopping! Both places were beautifully maintained with toilets and freshly mowed lawn areas.

Left: The white horse with painted blue legs and mane



The Rere Waterfall



The Rere Rock Water Slide

Soon afterwards the 27km stretch of gravel began. We were extremely lucky as the gravel was in superb condition, but still needed our full attention all the same. As one rider said, “look well ahead, loose grips on handlebars, relax, pedal and don't forget to breathe”. After our lunch stop it was just a few kms out to the main road (SH2) then up to **Matawai**, where we were to regroup. Unfortunately, this didn't quite work out to plan, as three male riders did not appear. They had been geographically challenged after turning in the wrong direction. Eventually relocated some 20 kms off course and they were brought back in the support Ute with their bikes on the trailer.



From here, it was an easy ride NW to **Motu**, where we stopped at the **MotoVation Cafe & Museum**. It was an interesting place to visit, but sadly, the business had been affected by the closing of the **Pakihi Track** six months ago, due to a major slip which, at present, looks like it may not reopen.

We stayed just around the corner at the **Motu Community House**. An excellent spread of roast pork and vegetables was provided by the local school. It was **Athol's Awards Evening** that night where we all had the opportunity to share our highlights and lowlights of the tour. Carolanne's “lowligh” was being accidentally locked out at **Te Puia Hotel** building on a particularly cold evening. The one common theme was everyone agreed they had a marvellous tour despite the weather giving us a real mixed bag!

Left: Picture of Margaret at the Motu MotoVation Cafe

Day 9, Sunday 17 November: Motu back to Opotiki 65 km.

We rode back to Optiki via the old Motu Coach road. It became a bit of a “musical bicycles” ride today, with the tandem being unrideable due to a broken pedal and one electric bike becoming free. Today Carolanne did not follow us. Instead, she made a wise move when towing the trailer by driving back via the **Waioeka Gorge**, taking with her a couple of passengers, both of whom had had enough cycling.



One of the large ice creams and the “ear tag” they give you at the Tirohanga Beach Store

The cycling group went NW up and away straight onto gravel climbing the **Taumatakaretu Hill**. The coach road was quite diverse and a small part of it was more like a narrow track than a road. We had a couple of fords to cross, the first one was shallow, but the next one was a different story! Some of us got our feet wet, while Athol took a full dip, along with the packet of biscuits he was carrying for our morning tea. We rode past the start of the old **Pakihī Track** where the toilet block has since been removed. We all appreciated the tarseal, when it finally appeared. From here, we were able to pick up the pace and go full steam ahead to the **Tirohanga Beach Store** where their massive large ice creams went down a treat! They had a novel system whereby you pay, then they give you an “ear tag” which states what size you have paid for, to hand over to the person dishing up the ice creams.

All in all, this was the end of another wonderful ACTA tour! Many thanks to Athol for leading us and providing his Ute and trailer for support. Thanks also to Carolanne for giving up her time and being our driver and deciding who sleeps with who and keeping track of the finances along with Bruce. Thanks also to everyone else who pitched in and helped along the way including being the “Tail End Charlie” for the day. Also, a big thanks to Louise for booking the accommodation in advance and anyone else who worked behind the scenes.

General notes from the tour:

Of the 15 riders, 5 were on electric bikes, two riders on a tandem and the rest of us on pedal powered. Congratulations to both Paul and Marlene on their single battery bikes and Mike and Nita on their double powered tandem, for completing their first ever ACTA tour!

Also, I found it interesting to see newly installed Electric Vehicle Charging Stations around the cape as well as some new toilet blocks. A young friend of Ken’s, unfamiliar with ACTA, suggested that we were a group of **“Ancient Cyclists Taking Ages”**. Although I didn’t get the group’s correct average age, the range was 57 to 79 years old, which means the average is somewhere up there. Mike, our mechanic on the tour, recommends a good book being *“The Big Blue Book of Bicycle Maintenance”* by Calvin Jones.



**ACTA Inaugural QUIZ
Night Thurs 21st
November by Sarah Ley-
Bucherer**



The inaugural night's program created by *Phil Le Gros* is shown below:

ACTA

**QUIZ
NIGHT –**

- vaguely about -
le maillot jaune, lanterne rouge, la
mussette, grand depart, le drugs and
dingbats



Thursday 21st November 2019

- Round 1 le maillot jaune, le lanterne rouge – yellow and red general knowledge questions
- Round 2 la mussette - food questions
- Round 3 grand depart - geography (*not necessarily linked to Le Tour*)
- Round 4 drugs – *and a bit of rock n roll*
- Round 5 dingbats – *wowolfol????*

Team Name

Joker Round 1 2 3 4 5 (please circle)
You can play a Joker on only one round. Your score for that round is doubled.

This new social event for the club planned by **Simon Bucherer**, ACTA's new *Social Convener*, was a great success with plenty of opportunities to laugh at ourselves and one another, argue a point, or agree wholeheartedly whilst trying to keep answers closely guarded from other teams. Luckily, some of the members in this club are hard of hearing so loud whispers were mostly fine! Others were trying their hand at lip reading from nearby tables, though! All this made up to a fun night of organised chaos.

Our Quizmaster, **Phil Le Gros**, organised the questions into categories which related mostly to avid *Tour de France* followers, which were not entirely obvious to many of us mere cyclists.

"*la musette*" (in French means a food backpack) were food related questions such as

– *What ingredients are most likely in a Cornish pasty?*

"*grand depart*" (which in English means a grand departure or a big start) resulted in geography questions such as

– *What are the 2 most challenging & most often included climbs in Tour de France?*

"*maillot jaune*" (which in French means Yellow Jersey) and "*lantern rouge*" (which in French means a Red Lantern) resulted in yellow & red questions such as

- *In this year's tour de France, name the person with the yellow jersey on the final podium & what country was he from?*

However, we all claimed to know about the "*drugs and rock n roll*" category except that the questions were, true to many quiz formats, quite often seriously obtuse and unexpected. As an example, "*a good friend of the singer never understood a word he said but helps him drink his wine*". Yes, many of the questions had clips from songs to clarify, frustrate or possibly confuse us even more!

Finally, we all had to try our hands at "*Dingbats*" – those annoying accumulations of letters and sometimes numbers that have you staring at them for ages to find out the obscure meaning. For example, at the top of the sheet was **XMASCARA**. I will leave you to figure that one out or ask a friend!

Although all teams were keen to win, there was only **one winning team on the night** ("*Duffy's Hill*") with **Jill and Tony Hooks, Ray Mankelow, Robyn and Bill Duffy**.



Left: Action shot of the quiz in progress

Above: Another perspective from the "scoring table"



Left: Let them eat cake! – a magnificent offering baked by Nancy was quickly demolished!

Nancy, recently back from the East Cape November Tour, thanked Erica and Athol for their leading, Louise's husband, Andrew Sinclair's birthday was acknowledged, and we all enjoyed the excellent cake with a coffee or tea to end the night.

From all of us, thank you to Phil and Simon for their planning and organising of this social event for the club! Judging by the laughter and chatter, this event will be repeated. Watch this space!

ACTA Waikato Cycle Weekend Sat 30th November – Sun 1st December by Stu Andrews

Simon Bucherer led two fantastic ACTA weekend cycle tours across the Northland Twin Coast Cycle Trail at the beginning of December in 2017 and 2018. Because they were so popular, Simon decided that rather than repeat the Twin Coast Trail for a third time he would lead rides from Hamilton at the beginning of December 2019 instead. The majority of those attending stayed at the Hamilton Holiday Park in either motorhomes/ campervans or the Holiday Park cabins.

SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER (Hamilton Holiday Park to Te Awamutu and Ngahinapouri School before returning to the Hamilton Holiday Park. Approximately 77kms).

Saturday proved to be a lovely sunny and warm day for riding. Simon had notified ACTA members well in advance that the longer Saturday ride would leave the Hamilton Holiday Park at 8.00am.



The group at the entrance to Hamilton Holiday Park about to start the Saturday Ride

The group headed west and crossed the Waikato River into the city centre before zig zagging down onto the cycle track on the western side of the Waikato river. After following the river south on the cycle track, we rode through Melville and then headed west on Collins Rd.



The group riding south on the Waikato River Cycleway

About halfway along Collins Rd the group turned left and headed south along the long, flat, straight and sealed Oregon Rd before turning eastward briefly on Rukuhia Rd and then turned right and headed south again on the windy and hilly McGregor Rd.



At the top of a hill on McGregor Rd we waited for the group to re-group

At the end of McGregor Rd, we came to a “Y” intersection and continued south on Ngahinapouri Rd before turning west and then south on Forkert Rd and then east on Ryburn Rd before turning right and south onto Sing Rd.



*We waited for the rest of the group to turn right from Ryburn Rd. onto **Sing Rd.** Because we were on **SING Rd.** perhaps, while waiting, the group should have sung **“OH WHAT A WONDERFUL BIKE RIDE!!”***

At the end of Sing Rd, we continued south east on Paterangi Rd for some distance before arriving in **Te Awamutu** and riding along Alexandra St to the lovely **Central Café** for morning coffee and tea.



Morning coffee and tea at the Central Café Te Awamutu

After morning tea in **Te Awamutu** we rode northwest along Alexandra St and Pirongia Rd and then turned right up Bowman Rd and north west again along Paterangi and Meadway Rds before riding a few kilometers along SH39 (Karamea Rd) to **Ngahinapouri School** where we had our cut lunches in the school grounds. While we were there, a cricket match was being played on the sports ground.



The group having their lunches in the grounds of Ngahinapouri School



Are ACTA Members Young at Heart?

Above: Your author, Stu, on Ngahinapouri School kid's playground

Right: Our wonderful Leader, Simon, also on Ngahinapouri School kid's playground



After lunch we crossed SH39 (Karamea Rd) and rode briefly on Ngahinapouri Rd before turning left and riding on hilly Gillard Rd. Upon reaching the crest of one hill we undertook a “coasting” or “freewheeling” competition down the other side to see who could progress the furthest. Although there were no prizes due to the impromptu decision to hold the competition, Dave Winter won it and Allen Small came second. From Gillard Rd we continued north on Tuhikaramea Rd before going east back along Collins Rd to Melville. We then crossed the Waikato River to the Eastern side and rode north along the river cycleway before returning to Hamilton Holiday Park.

On Saturday evening the group enjoyed having drinks and a meal at the Hamilton Cosmopolitan Club in Claudelands Rd close to the Hamilton Holiday Park in Hamilton East.

SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER (Predominantly Morning Ride from Hamilton Holiday Park to Ngaruawahia via a part of the Te Awa River Ride alongside the Waikato River and return. Approximately 45km)



Te Awa is a free, accessible walk/cycleway that has an overarching positioning of lushness, water, rural green landscape & pockets of native bush. When complete, the Great NZ River Ride will travel 70 kms along the shoreline of New Zealand’s largest & longest river – the mighty Waikato from Cambridge to Ngaruawahia.

Most of the group left from Hamilton Holiday Park and got onto the riverside cycleway. Your Author, Stu, and his Sister-in-Law, Lynda, who is also a member of ACTA, and his nephew, Jason, met the group on the western Riverside cycleway after crossing the Pukete Road Bridge in Hamilton near Wairere Drive.



Meeting the group near the Pukete Bridge and Wairere Drive

We rode alongside the river north through the Horotiu region and then on the new section towards the famous Perry Bridge.



Pictures of the cycleway heading north from Hamilton towards Ngaruawahia



The group crossing the famous Perry Bridge



The last of the group crossing Perry Bridge

Upon arriving at the southern outskirts of Ngaruawahia we turned off the cycleway, rode through a new urban development and along the old SH1 to the Ngaruawahia Golf Club where Simon had arranged for our morning coffee and tea. Despite Simon being an excellent organiser and having confirmed with the Golf Club by telephone on more than one occasion that we would be arriving about 10am, unfortunately the staff there on Sunday morning had been uninformed of our expected arrival. Consequently, we abandoned the Golf Club and went across the old SH1 to the Cooper Bean Café where, despite having limited staff, they looked after us very well.



The café across old SH1 from Ngaruawahia Golf Course



The café swamped with our group and their bikes



After morning coffee and tea, we headed for the Point Reserve at the confluence of the Waipa River and the Waikato River. The Waipa River is the largest tributary of the Waikato River.

Left: At the Point is the famous Band Rotunda



Left: Last Picture of the group, except your Author, at The Point Band Rotunda in front of the confluence of the Waipa and Waikato rivers

After the picture, the group majority rode across the Thermal Explorer Hwy Bridge close to The Point Reserve and took some rural roads as well as the cycleway back to Hamilton.

It was a wonderful weekend having regard to both the weather and Saturday and Sunday cycle tours. Once again, many thanks to Simon Bucherer for his early December ride!



ACTA Christmas Luncheon Annual Report Sun 8th Dec 2019 by President Annette Collins



President Annette addressing ACTA Members at the 2019 Christmas Luncheon

2019:

So, I'm assuming as you're here today, according to our Secretary Colin's 5 excuses for missing the lunch, I know some information about members, they:

1. Knew the Xmas luncheon party was on! (Either before or after Colin let you know)
2. Are vegan, vegetarian, pescatarian, carnivorous or whatever (and can select what they desire from a buffet!)
3. Can afford the substantial, subsidised cost!
4. Are not currently weeding the garden, cleaning the car, visiting the mother-in-law, doing the shopping, etc. and, therefore, "Have a life".
5. And..., *have not applied for permission from Secretary to be a thousand kilometres away from Auckland, cycle-touring.*

We assume that Colin gained permission for himself, because we have noted his absence!!!

It's been an odd year for Steve and I with no major overseas cycle touring, but we did enjoy our time in South America and it would certainly lend itself to cycle touring in certain areas or down the coast as Arnold and Marieke did, but cycling at altitude is tough, and even a short walk was enough.

And our second break away I can't claim to have enhanced my cycle touring experience at all! However, if anyone needs to know how to find the best playgrounds in London, look us up.

So, what have we got planned for our 71st year? More of the same for sure, but we will be having some more social events like the *pub quiz* and we also plan to add in some "Hub Tours" during the week, or for a long weekend, to help get around traffic issues in Auckland.

Several of our members have recently turned, or are turning 80, (that I know of), *JB* and *David* for instance, so we plan to introduce wheelchair rides!!! Just kidding, it might finally give some of us young ones a chance to catch up!

We are about to launch our "new members' page" on the website (it is still being developed but there is still some useful information on the website already)

- Check that your membership info is up to date and find other members contact info;
- Find club route maps on the club's "Ride with GPS" membership;
- Check the accumulated distance you have ridden for the year to date;
- Login as "member" and "noquestion" password easy to remember (on the homepage).

I'd like to especially thank all our leaders! We are so fortunate to have people willing to put the time into leading a ride or a weekend or tour! And it's great to see new leaders coming out of the woodwork such as: Stephanie Dixon, Sue Woolnough, John McClean and Bob Maudsley. And what's more, once they give it a try, they appear to have fun

doing it. It's also useful that several of our e-Bikers are very willing to be tail-enders. This certainly helps if there's a need to get a message to the front quickly.

Annette provided members attending the 2019 Christmas Luncheon with the following cycling jokes:

😄 **A cyclist was stopped by customs**
"What's in the bags?", asked the officer, pointing to his panniers. "Sand," said the cyclist. "let me take a look", said the cop. The Cyclist did as he was told, emptied the bags, and proving they contained nothing but sand, refilled the bags, and continued across the border. A week later, the same thing happened, and continued every week for a year, until one day the cyclist with the sandbags failed to appear. A few months later, the cop saw the cyclist living it up downtown. "You sure had us foxed", said the cop. "We knew you were smuggling something across the border. I won't say a word - but what was it you were smuggling? **"Bicycles!"**

😄 **The lucky one**
A pedestrian steps off the curb and into the road without looking, and promptly gets knocked flat by a passing cyclist. "You were really lucky there," says the cyclist. "What on earth are you talking about! That really hurt!" says the pedestrian, still on the pavement, rubbing his head. The cyclist replies, "Well, usually I drive a bus!"

😄 **The price to pay (dedicated to Ron as Susan isn't here!)**
A cyclist lying on his deathbed asked his best friend to do him a favour when he'd gone. "Anything," replied his friend. "Just don't let my wife sell my bikes for what I told her I paid for them," he begged.



There was a good turn out with over 50 ACTA Members attending. "JB", who kindly organised the ACTA Christmas Luncheon, addressing members and arranging for members sitting at each table when to join the queue and help themselves to the main course



Some members helping themselves to the main course of the Christmas Luncheon



Christmas Luncheon Dessert




ACTA RIDE STATISTICS 2019

In total for 2019 the club has collectively (on club rides) cycled almost **100,000km (99,932)**
 If just one more of us had done one more ride we would have topped 100,000 Km,
 Impressive!!!

| ACTA RIDES | RIDDEN DISTANCE KMS No. kms ridden by No. people on ride e.g. 40km x 10 persons = 400km | HIGHEST KM BY ACTA MEMBER | NOTES |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|
| WEDNESDAYS | 36,448 | RAY MANKELOW | This is the largest due to the extra rides, and the numbers that attend. Wednesday rides have increased slightly from last year but, overall, we are doing many more km on Wednesday's than in the past. |
| SATURDAYS | 20,289 | KEVAN FLECKNEY | This is low because of the low kilometres ridden on a Saturday. It is meant to be a morning coffee/ tea ride of approximately 40K. However, sometimes it is longer due to the course set by the Rides Leader. |
| SUNDAYS | 22,858 | ANTHONY TAYLOR | The kilometres ridden differ each ride. |
| WEEKENDS/ TOURS | 20,339 | SIMON BUCHERER | Our km in weekends has increased this year. |

Overall, its **Maurice Kwan** who has cycled the most Km with the club this year. **(3,101km)**
 Well done **Maurice**, and thanks for taking over coordinating our stats for next year!
 And **Ron Oosterdijk** has done the highest number of total rides: **68!**

Trophies for 2019:

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>CAPTAIN'S CUP:</p> <p>For the most Km on a Sunday ride</p> <p>Previous winners: 2016: Ed Austin 1566 km 2017: Helen Orchard 1295 km 2018: Kathy Engelbrecht 1110 km</p> | <p>Winner 2019 is:</p> <p>ANTHONY TAYLOR 958 KM</p> <p>Sadly, Anthony was not in attendance at our 2019 ACTA Christmas Luncheon.</p> <p>Anthony is a first-time winner! This win was closely followed by JB on 951km (7km behind in total distance!) but was helped by Lynn taking JB to see her homeland for 6 weeks!! <i>Well done Anthony!</i></p> |
| <p>JUNIOR CUP:</p> <p>For the most Km ridden by a First-Year Member Rider</p> <p>Previous winners: 2016: Christine Lawson 512.5 km 2017: Sandra Knight 217 km 2018: Mike Harris 1288 km</p> | <p>Winner 2019 is:</p>  <p>JIM NOBLE</p> <p>494 KM</p> <p>A fine km distance with the club for the first year. Note: This is for first-year members and is not age-related.</p> |
| <p>ROUGH STUFF CUP:</p> <p>For the biggest "oopsie" on a Club ride</p> | <p>Winner 2019 is:</p> <p>HELEN ORCHARD</p> <p>Sadly, Helen was not in attendance at our 2019 ACTA Christmas Luncheon.</p> <p>Unfortunately, Helen had a serious accident last year on the beginning of her East Cape tour, where she damaged her back, but it has been rebuilt. She has made a fast and excellent recovery and she has already been out on a couple of ACTA rides and I suspect we will now see her more often on ACTA rides. I'm sure having a trophy to commemorate it will continue to help her recovery!!!</p> |

BEST ALL-ROUNDER CUP:

Good Cyclist and Leader, Knowledge of Bike Mechanics and other contributions to ACTA

Winner 2019 is:



ATHOL BERRY

Athol (ably assisted by Erica) has arranged to lead and assist on many tours and we would like to acknowledge his willingness to get involved.

HILL CLIMB CUP:

Winner 2019 is:



JIM NOBLE

The competition was fierce for this, I believe. The result was close and there were some disappointed competitors. Well deserved! This might also be the first time that someone has won two trophies in one year!

TRIALIST CUP:

Winner 2019 is:



SIMON BUCHERER

Awarded for a combination of the best result on the coasting ride and the Slow Race:

The coasting race is the longest distance one can travel down a hill with no peddling (i.e. free-wheeling) and the slow race is taking the longest time between two points without putting your feet down!

So, we can conclude that Simon slides down easily and very slowly!! We did a test run on Simon's Hamilton ride so more people will be practised for the competition next year.

TOURIST CUP:

**Best Touring Achievement
in 2019**

Winner 2019 is:

KATHY and IAN ENGELBRECHT

Sadly, Kathy and Ian were not in attendance at our 2019 ACTA Christmas Luncheon.

The Great Divide Ride Across America: Kathy and Ian did this fabulous ride. I believe they may be the first in the club to do so. Even though they allowed 3 months for the journey, they completed around 4500km in just over 2 months and qualified for the Great Divide Award based on doing a minimum of 90% of the trail. Once they got into New Mexico with temperatures up to 40 degrees they decided it was time to take a leisurely ride back to San Francisco. Kathy said they had challenges in that the water quality was such that they had to boil, purify or filter all their water, the bugs were plentiful and ferocious, and the countryside was not as easy to travel in as NZ. While concerned about bears they managed to see just one baby bear, so they had a good run that way. People were hospitable & Trail Angels helped them out & provided beds on occasion. All in all, a recommended cycle tour either in full or parts of the trail.

As an aside, when Ian pulled tendons in his leg (not while cycling) and needed assistance to get back to San Francisco and home to New Zealand, Kathy said that the travel insurance through the ASB credit card worked a treat and picked up all expenses including accommodation, extra food and an upgrade to premium economy on the way home! I know several of us travel on the ASB Credit card insurance, so it is useful to know this.

BUCKET LIST CUP:

**Personal Bucket List
Achievement in 2019**

Winner 2019 is:



JUDY BARFOOT

It's hard to imagine that Judy has any more things to tick off her bucket list! But I am sure there are some. Certainly, her cycling achievements are superlative, and she just keeps on going and included an overseas cycle tour this year.

Official Opening of the NW Motorway Cycleway Extension from Lincoln Rd to Westgate on Thurs 19th Dec 2019 by Stu Andrews

Editor's Comment: Rather than include this briefly under Snippets, I chose to write an article with pictures including my personal opinions!

The Official Opening of the extension was organized by **Bike Henderson** (a regional part of **Bike Auckland**) in conjunction with the various construction contractors. The Opening was well advertised on public media such as Facebook. Many thanks to **Bike Henderson** for arranging this. Apart from myself, both **Wolfgang Pohl** and **Maurice Kwan** from ACTA were also present. If other ACTA members were present, sadly I did not come across them.

Initially, the ride was to commence from **Lincoln Rd** at 10.45am. However, nearer the starting date, it was advertised on Facebook that the time for riders to commence was changed to 9.30am. Rather sadly, there must have been a miscommunication with the construction contractors regarding the timing of the ride and not only did those keen cyclists who turned up at **Lincoln Rd** have to wait before commencing the ride, but, upon arrival at **Makora** and **Royal Rds.**, we also had another substantial wait before being allowed to cross the roads.



Keen cyclists gathering at Lincoln Rd



The large group having to wait at Makora Rd crossing

While cyclists were aware that drinks and snacks would be provided, most were unaware as to where this would be held. Upon eventually crossing Royal Rd we were unaware that we would be going into the **Royal Rd Primary School** not only for drinks and snacks, but also for some speeches in the school hall by officials including **Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport, Phil Goff, Mayor of Auckland** and **Barbara Cuthbert, Chair and Spokesperson of Bike Auckland**. Prior to the arrival of the officials while enjoying a drink and snacks, I spoke to members of the **NZ Transport Agency** who were involved in the design of the cycleway extension. Upon the arrival of the Officials I was also privileged to speak to the two Phils face-to-face and after the speeches I also spoke to Barbara Cuthbert.

In addition to commending NZTA and the Officials on providing the extension to the cycleway, parts of which were well designed and constructed, **I also expressed my disappointment about aspects of the design. WHY???** As you are no doubt aware, an **underpass** was provided some time ago for **crossing Te Atatu Rd**. However, **Lincoln Rd is far busier than Te Atatu Rd with vehicles entering or exiting the NW motorway going either North or South**. Likewise, with the development of housing in the **Massey** and **Hobsonville** areas and vehicles wanting to enter the NW motorway heading south from **Royal Rd** and exiting the NW motorway at **Makora Rd** onto **Royal Rd** when heading north, **Royal Rd** is also probably just as busy, if not more so, than **Te Atatu Rd**. Therefore, rather than cyclists having to wait for traffic light signals to allow them to cross such busy roads (**Lincoln** and **Royal**) **I recommended that, while appreciating the costs involved, underpasses be provided for the cycleway to enable cyclists to cross both of these roads safely!!!**

After completing drinks and snacks we moved into the school hall for official speeches. After a warm welcome from local Maori, speeches were presented in order by Phil Twyford, Phil Goff and Barbara Cuthbert.



Phil Twyford, Minister of Transport



Phil Goff, Mayor of Auckland



Barbara Cuthbert, Chair, Bike Auckland

After the speeches we rode down Royal Rd to the new cycleway leading down to Westgate. Prior to heading down to Westgate, a ribbon was cut by the head boy and head girl of Royal Rd Primary School with the above officials being present. The cycleway from Royal Rd is well designed and sealed. At Westgate it goes under the yellow pedestrian and cycleway bridge crossing the NW motorway and then connects with the bridge entrance.



Above: Cutting the ribbon at Royal Rd entrance to cycleway
Right: "The Bicycle Chap" (Shane Price) a collector of cycling memorabilia who rode his "penny-farthing" bike on the new cycleway extension



Auckland Transport Cycling Information

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



and



Free Adult Bike Skills (ABS) and Maintenance Courses – sign a group up now



With summer in full swing now is a great time to get out cycling with your friends, family and workmates. **Auckland Transport** is offering **free Adult Bike Skills** training and maintenance courses to groups around the region, so if you know people who would like to gain confidence riding or learn to fix a puncture, why not sign up now?

The **Adult Bike Skills** courses are for people looking to get on a bike for the first time or for those who would like to develop their confidence and bike handling skills (Bronze course), for those wanting to progress out to shared paths and quiet roads (Silver course) and for those wanting to ride on busier roads (Gold course). There is a Bike Maintenance course which will teach you how to fix a flat tyre, how to check your bike is safe, how to make minor adjustments and more.

If you've got a group of people together who would like some bike skills training, then just register online and we can work with you to schedule a course in. Courses can be scheduled at a time and location to suit the group. You only need ten people for the Bronze and Bike Maintenance courses and six for the Silver and Gold courses and we also have the option of tailoring sessions to suit the needs of the group. If courses are not fully booked out with your club, then they may be opened for public registrations. If you haven't got minimum numbers, then contact us to discuss options available. Let's get riding!

For more information and to register go to our website:

<https://at.govt.nz/cycling-walking/courses-events/adult-bike-skills/>

Snippets...

❖ Old Māngere Bridge Replacement Project



Construction of the new bridge to replace the Old Māngere Bridge in Auckland started before the end of 2019. The architecturally designed bridge will be eight metres wide and provide an attractive and safe way for people on bike and foot to cross the Manukau Harbour.

The Old Māngere Bridge is over 100 years old and was closed for public safety reasons in late 2018. The old bridge will be demolished and removed as the new bridge is constructed.

As well as being a space for the community to enjoy the surrounding views, the new bridge is an important link to the broader cycle network connecting South Auckland to the rest of Auckland.

❖ Unfortunately, one Inconsiderate and Aggressive Cyclist might have Temporarily Tarnished and Dented the Reputation of all Cyclists



An 'inconsiderate and aggressive' cyclist on an Auckland train caused an uproar in November 2019 after he laid down on four priority seats, preventing a mum and baby from having a seat. A passenger boarded the Onehunga line to the CBD at 7.18am, but when he got on the packed train, he came across a cyclist having a sleep across four seats. At the very next station a mother with her baby and pram boarded the train and had nowhere to sit. The passenger managed to discreetly get the train manager's attention and point him to the situation unfolding. Unfortunately, this aggressive cyclist abused the train manager when trying to get him to give room for the mother and baby.

❖ Hauraki Rail Trail Matamata-Piako Extension Now Open



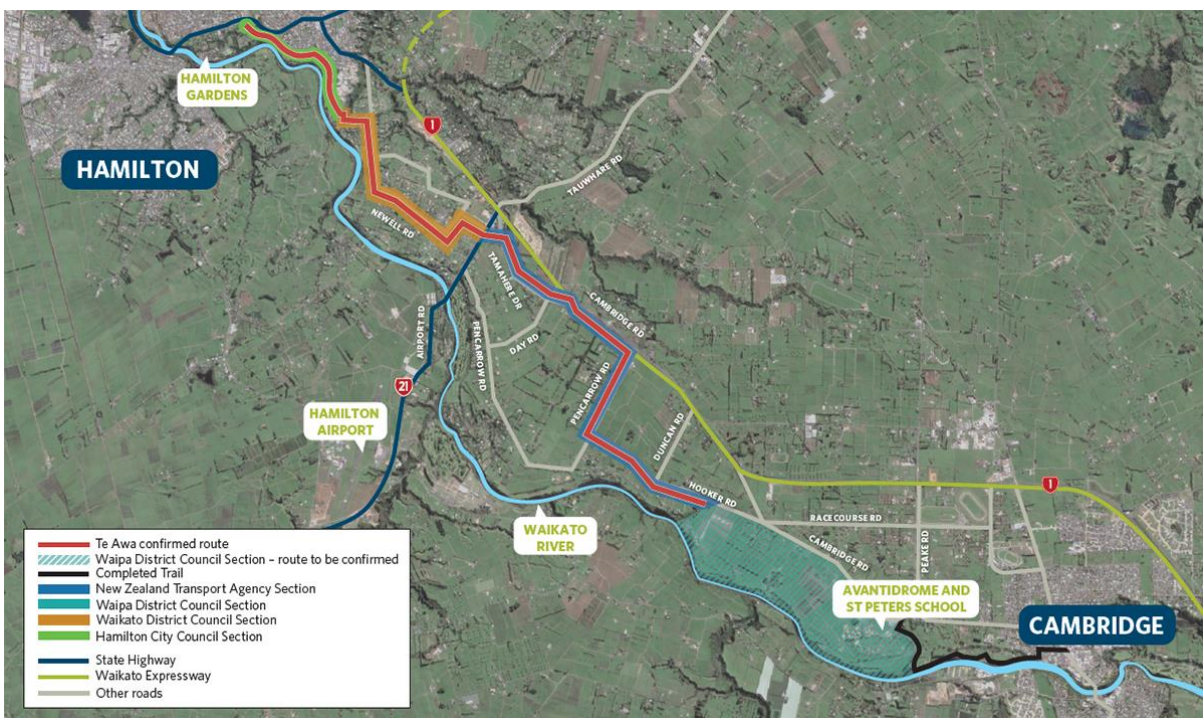
Soon cyclists will be able to soothe their pedal-weary muscles at *Te Aroha Spas* and venture through luscious "*Middle Earth*". The Hauraki Rail Trail extension from Te Aroha to Matamata was completed in time for Christmas 2019 and the summer cycling rush. This new section of the Hauraki Rail Trail neared completion with bridge approaches at the very end stages. Construction on rest areas and toilet facilities will continue during 2020. The trail will pass through fertile plains, significant horse studs, goat farms, groves of scented trees, scenic *Wairere Falls*, ravines, *Stanley Landing* and the *Firth Tower*.

❖ Construction of Victoria Street Cycleway started at the end of 2019



Victoria Street West in the city is one step closer to being safer for all road users. Auckland Transport (AT) started construction of a safe, separated cycleway along each side of Victoria Street West, from Beaumont Street to Nelson Street immediately after Christmas 2019. This area will also be made safer for people walking. The work will cost \$5.3 million for construction - inclusive of the maintenance reseal programme. It will be a dig once approach. The work will provide a vital connection linking the cycleways on Franklin Road and Nelson Street, so you can bike or scooter from Ponsonby to the city - all on a separated and safe bike path. For more information on the project, visit: <https://at.govt.nz/projects-roadworks/victoria-street-cycleway/>

❖ Te Awa Cambridge to Hamilton Shared Cycling and Walking Path Project



The NZ Transport Agency (NZTA) in partnership with Hamilton City Council, Waipa District Council, Waikato District Council, Waikato Regional Council and the Te Awa River Ride Charitable Trust is building a shared path connecting the communities of **Hamilton**, **Tamahere** and **Cambridge**. The shared path will be a safe and reasonably direct route which links into key destinations as well as existing urban cycling networks. In some places the path will run alongside local roads while in other places it will be close to the Waikato River. Funding has been approved for an underpass, so the route can safely cross SH21. This 20km shared path is being built by four different organisations, which are working to different timeframes so each section will be finished at different times. Construction began in October 2019 and will be complete in mid-2021.

Upcoming Events

The upcoming events shown below do not include ACTA regular Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday rides, which are on the *ACTA Rides List* issued to all members, but, rather, includes special events

2020

❖ **Cycling Weekend at Waipu Cove 7th - 9th February**

This club weekend coincides with a special birthday celebration for "JB" (John Billinge). Kit O'Halloran Leading. Please note accommodation is already limited at Camp Waipu Cove. Some Cabins are already booked out. ACTA will book a bunkhouse that sleeps 14 persons. There are also tent and powered sites available, but they are filling fast. Book at www.campwaipucove.com Phone 09 432 0410.

❖ **Unsupported Cycling Tour of Parts of South Island 26th February - 13th March**

Starts in Queenstown and ends in Christchurch. Options for joining and leaving at various places. Includes Mavora Lakes, Nevis Valley, Thompsons Track, and various passes along the way. The final route is still a work in progress. Contact Louise if you are interested.

❖ **ACTA MOVIE Night Sat 29th February**

Venue: JC Ryders Movie theatre Address: 177 Riversdale Rd Avondale
Time: Sat 29th Feb at 6pm for dinner - movie at 7pm
BYO: Drink & glasses
Movie: *'The World's Fastest Indian'* - starring Anthony Hopkins

❖ **Garth Barfoot's Unsupported Cycling Tour of Invercargill Area 22nd - 30th March**

Book in with Garth.

❖ **Supported Cycling Tour of East Cape Mon 23rd March - Thurs 2nd April**

Organized by Brian Alexander - subject to number of participants.

❖ **Cycling Weekend at Otorohanga 30th April - 3rd May**

To be led by Maureen McRae

❖ **Cycling Weekend at Mangawhai 30th - 31st May**

To be led by Dave Winter and Carol

❖ **Cycling Winter Solstice Weekend at Pukehina, 18-21 June**

Day 1. Thursday 18 June - travel to Pukehina, arrive at Pukehina Beach Front "Uncle Tom's" cabin after 3pm.

Day 2. Friday 19 June 80kms. from cabin. Not all flat! 25-30 kms gravel or 62 kms and 10kms gravel. Bring your homebaking and flask coffee/tea for morning tea plus your lunch. Snacks.

Day 3. Saturday 20 June - 64kms from McLoughlin Park, TePuke. Not all flat! 25kms gravel. Explore TePuke hinterland. Bring your homebaking and flask coffee/tea for morning tea plus your lunch. Snacks.

Day 4. Sunday 21 June - 34kms from Paengaroa School. Mostly flat. Cafe morning tea on the beachfront Maketu. Bring your lunch.

Evening Food - Thursday bring your own dinner or may be Pukehina Fish and Chips open?

Friday shared meal. Bring your favourite dish to share. **Saturday** Mid-Winter Christmas. bring your favourite dish to share with a Christmas theme.

Uncle Tom's Cabin sleeps 14-20 depending on number of couples. (5 bedrooms, 1 super king, 3 queen beds, 2 double bunks, 2 singles and 2 bunks. Price depending on final numbers \$43-\$50 per night approx. Owner will allow one campervan at \$40 per night for two people if needed. Lots of parking and bike storage. Large lounge. View on "holidayhomes" website. Bring your own sheets, pillowcase, duvet or sleeping bag.

Cut off date for final numbers 30 April 2020 with accommodation to be paid in full by 10 May 2020. (If not all beds are taken there may be at the discretion of the owner the possibility of a later book in for one or two people) **Leader:** Margaret Law 0212554124 margaret.j.law@gmail.com

Editor's Comment: The ACTA TOUR ORGANIZING SUB-COMMITTEE still have some decisions to make. Consequently, they will issue a separate club email with details of upcoming events once decisions are made.



Yes, some more wheelie-terrible bike jokes and puns!



- 😄 *Driving one winter's day, I spotted my mate chest-high in snow. I shouted to offer him a lift, but he said: "no thanks, I'm on the bike".*
- 😄 *My Cousin Loves E-Bikes because she's really indecisive! She likes that it takes Charge!*
- 😄 *Apparently, there was a type of Dinosaur that used to ride a Bike. The Velo-Ciraptor!!*
- 😄 *There was a Massive Tropical Storm while I was out riding my Bike. I decide to Cyclone!*
- 😄 *Why is your bike better than your girlfriend? Because you can ride it whenever you want to.*
- 😄 *The cyclist stood at the Pearly Gates, his legs were worn and old, Meekly, he asked the man of Fate for admission to the fold. "What have you done?", St Peter asked, "to gain admission here?" "I've been a cyclist, Sir," he said, "for many many years!" The gates were swiftly opened, and St Peter rang a bell, "Come in and grab a harp! You have had your share of hell!", he cried*



A new ACTA Member!



"I'm fed up with these Bars! Every time I turn a corner I scrape my knuckles on the ground!"



WHAT IS RECYCLING?

GETTING ON YOUR BIKE TWICE.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SPOKESMAN

The Spokesman is your club magazine and as such it needs interesting articles and items to be published each quarter. The Spokesman is issued in February, May, August and November. The articles/ items can be full editorial articles about trips or interesting snippets of information you may have. **I WOULD ALSO WELCOME ANY COMMENTS OR "LETTERS TO THE EDITOR"**. When supplying these items to me please send in an electronic format with text as an unformatted "WORD" document and the images or photos as separate files. This will make it easier for me to edit and insert the article into the template I use for publishing. Within the word document indicate where the photos should appear and add a caption. Contributions of other separate photos are appreciated, so I can fill spaces and have something interesting for the front and back covers. However, they need to have good resolution, so the printed version looks ok. Please give each photo a specific name. Articles and information on Future Events can be sent to either:

editor@acta.org.nz or stu.andrews@xtra.co.nz.

Stu Andrews



TAIL END CHARLIE is at THE END