



# The Hawkes Bay Mail Run

I hate it when my job interferes with my work! I mean covering motorcycle events for this mag is heaps more interesting than my real job. I had it all planned, ride to Taupo on Friday night, crash the night at a mates place and be ready to follow the Mail Run from there to Napier at 9am Saturday morning.

Reality steps in and I find I have to work Saturday morning and will miss at least half of the run. By 10.15 I've finished the one and only job booked in for Saturday, and I'm outa there. Heading towards Taupo I can't even see the hills because of the black rain clouds ahead, if I move it I'll meet the run at the Tararua pub for lunch.

Steady rain was falling at Tararua as the sixty or so classic machines trundled in, many other riders arrived at the pub on more modern bikes to have a look at what motorcycling

used to be like. The oldest machine entered was a 1915 Excelsior sidcar outfit with a rider of similar vintage. With lunch over the slower bikes hit the road first to try and get ahead, next stop TePohue.

After a brief stop in the TePohue rest area it was back into the rain and off to Napier - at least there were no road works this time. The run officially finished at the Marine Parade car park in Napier this year instead of going through to Hastings.

The Hawkes Bay Classic Motorcycle Club hold this event annually and for some of these bikes - and riders, it is the main event of the year. The only official requirement of entry is that your bike must have girder forks, so if you've got something suitable lying under the bench in the shed drag it out before next March and have a go

Chris Morris

