



New Zealand Distance Riders



Rider Briefing Notes 2022 North Island 800 & 1,600

Welcome to the 9th New Zealand Distance Riders' North Island 1,600 and 7th North Island 800.

We hope you enjoy your ride and the weekend.

Once again, this year's routes maybe considered to be a little tighter, perhaps even challenging, but hopefully you enjoy riding them.

We continue to welcome your feedback, both the good and the bad, so that we can make our future rides even better.

Check-in

On arrival at Ohakune, please make your way to the NI1600 event headquarters at the Kings on Rimu Street. If you are staying at the Kings, you can check into your room at reception, settle in, then check into the event at the Bar area. There you will receive your Rider Card, (Rider Guides and T-Shirts (for those that ordered one) will be issued after the briefing at 7pm).

Your Rider Card is colour coded for your start group. On one side it will note your Entry Number, Start Group Number, Start Time and HQ Phone Number. On the reverse it will note your Name and Bike details and has check boxes for verifying: Licence/WoF/Rego checked; Disclosure Received; Bike has passed scrutineering. Then on completing your ride, your distance travelled and that you have acquired all the Checkpoint pics as required.

Scrutineering

The scrutineering is NOT aimed at telling you that your bike is safe to ride. Firstly, it is there to ensure that you have a full (for the NI1600) and current Motorcycle Licence and that the bike has a current Registration and Warrant of Fitness. Secondly, it is a backstop to check that there aren't any obvious faults that make your bike unsafe. The scrutineers will check things like: your lights are functioning (the 1,600 is a night ride after all and 800 may include some night riding for some), your tyres have enough tread (and should still have enough tread after you have completed the 1,600/800km) and so on. We reserve the right to tell you that you can't start and we highly recommend that you get your bike checked out before you leave home.

Groups

Departures for the North Island 800 will start at 10am on Saturday, 8 October, with riders enrolled in the North Island 1,600 departing from 1pm. Riders will be split into groups of 10,

starting 3 minutes apart. This is done to ensure bikes disperse and don't travel in great clumps. These groups will be colour coded (as per your Rider Card) and you may start when your colour is raised by the starter. If you have friends you want to ride with, you should advise us before the event so we can ensure you can start together, otherwise, you should start and go slow to allow them to catch up, or wait until their group starts.

2022 Route

Our routes are designed using a mixture of 'local knowledge' and mapping software, with the application of preference being MapSource/BaseCamp using NZ Open Source Maps.

The positioning of our checkpoints is done to ensure a minimum distance (1,609km / 1,000 miles or 804km / 500 miles) is completed and the route as prescribed in the Riders Guide is Long-John's recommended track. That recommendation will be a blend of: shortest distance; fastest riding (ie quicker time); and good riding roads. There will generally be very little leeway for alternatives, controlled by the number and placement of checkpoints, however some examples of this are:

NI1600: Your mapping software might tell you that it's faster to go via SH2 Waihi-Tauranga, or perhaps via the Track-Palmerston Nth. (hard to believe when there's a plethora of double-yellows, 80 & 50kph zones??) Otherwise, there are possible variations via Waikato or perhaps you might prefer to take the Track rather than the Saddle on the return from Pahiatua.

NI800: Let us know if you find one!?

Places to watch

We try to find a good blend of 'flowy' and technical riding, with most of the ride on main roads, or good quality secondary roads. While we avoid unsealed roads, there may be patches of roadworks to negotiate but, as is always the case when riding in New Zealand, watch for critters, loose bits, and other things that can add spice, particularly on country roads.

Areas to watch for are:

NI1600: Fields Track – narrow and may have grit in places

Paraparas – there's always grit in places and maybe they've had slips

*Forgotten Hiway – There should a big section of 'roadworks' after the Tahora Saddle
Cheltenham – Pahiatua is out-&-return; 'Take care for oncoming riders'*

Huntermville-Fordell can be crappy and gritty

NI800: Route 52 area & Tablelands area can be gritty or have critters

Lake Ferry Rd to Ngawi and back is out-&-return; 'Take care for oncoming riders'

The Track can be gritty and pot-holy

Huntermville-Fordell Rd can be crappy and gritty

Fields Track – narrow and may have grit in places

Fuel Stops

There are ample opportunities for fuel along both routes, with the longest no-fuel or marginal-km fuel sections are:

NI1600 - Matamata to Turangi - 175km

Stratford – Te Awamutu - 149Km

NI800 - Martinborough to Featherston - 150km

The Checkpoints sheet and Route Times Sheet notes available Gas Stations, particularly the 24-hour fuel stops that will be open during the times you should be in those areas, but even the teeny-weeny-tankers shouldn't need to 'carry'.

Marking your route

You need to take digital photos as evidence you have done the required 1,609km/804km and your photos will be checked when you finish. If you are riding in a group, it will be acceptable for one rider to take all the photos, but these must require all bikes to be visible in the photos. The photo requirements are clearly identified in the 'Rider's Guide' and there shouldn't be any problems clearly identifying the photos, even for the few night ones.

NZDR 'Highly Recommend' the use of Spotwalla (and this would be almost mandatory if you are planning to get IBA recognition)

NI1600 Manned Checkpoints

There are no manned checkpoints on this ride.

The change to drop all Manned Checkpoints has arisen from the trend towards 'Pay-at-pump' or 'Window-Service' at the 24 hr fuel stations, which makes it tough on our volunteers, plus it makes it difficult to request a rider to rest-up, if they can't relieve themselves, get a snack, or lie down out of the weather.

Hence our 'Highly Recommended' regards the use of Spotwalla, as that means we can track progress from HQ, check, then raise the alarm if a rider ceases to make progress.

Finish

The Kings Ohakune

Rock in, check in with the Marshal who will check your photos, sign your card and send you in to the controllers who will issue your Finisher Pack. The Finisher Pack will include: Your metal badge & cloth patch (for completing 1,600 riders only); a Certificate; and a meal voucher.

General Comments

This is not a race! We expect that an event like the 1600 will only attract participation from very experienced, hard-arsed endurance riders, on a variety of bikes and the 800 an event to entice all riders to see what distance riding is all about. The route is generally on main roads to provide a free-flowing ride, so most 1,600 riders should finish within 20-22 hours and 800 in 10-11 hours. This will be easily achievable by minimising stops rather than increasing speed.

Please ride at your own pace and respect your fellow riders, feel free to pass slower riders but please don't carve-them-up. If you see another rider who needs assistance, stopping and helping them won't incur a time penalty.

We're here for a good time and I hope you all enjoy this foray into the top end of endurance riding. These are the NZ Distance Riders' key events. We also organise the 1,000km Cruise in November, with starts and finishes in Wellington and Hamilton. Feel free to give us your feedback.

Make it a Great Day!