



Media Release

Friday 4 September 2015

Motorcycle education programme aims to make Selwyn riders safer

Selwyn motorcyclists are being offered the opportunity to develop their skills for free so they can be safer on the road.

Selwyn District Council is offering 20 vouchers to local riders towards a Ride Forever motorcycle skills coaching package which makes the training free.

The Council is also hosting a free 'Responsible Riders are survivors' Motorcycle Expo with Christchurch City Council on Sunday 4 October. At the expo motorcyclists can enjoy a free barbeque breakfast provided by The Rock, see the replica Indian motorcycle used in the Burt Munro movie and hear from Wayne Alexander who built the bike. They can also view other displays, skill demonstrations and have the chance to win a number of spot prizes. The expo runs from 9am-12 noon and is at the A&P Showgrounds, Curletts Road, Christchurch.

Riding a motorcycle is much more dangerous than driving a car. In New Zealand, the risk of being involved in a fatal or injury crash is around 20 times higher for a motorcyclist than for a car driver. From 2009 to 2014, there were 80 crashes involving motorcycles in Selwyn district resulting in four fatalities and 39 serious injuries. Half of these crashes were due to a loss of control, unsafe following distances by either motorcyclists or vehicles, or turning or crossing actions. For 47% of accidents, only the motorcyclist was involved, while in 53% of accidents either a vehicle or another motorcycle was also involved in the collision.

Selwyn District Road Safety Coordinator, Ngaire Tinning says the Ride Forever training and Motorcycle Expo are designed to help educate motorcyclists about safe choices and sound decisions when riding.

"Motorcyclists and drivers of cars and other vehicles all have a role to play in reducing the number of crashes. Many of the crashes are caused by motorcyclists or drivers not allowing each other enough space and either following too closely or passing without sufficient room," she says.

"It's important for both motorcyclists and drivers to allow enough space when following, passing or turning. Wearing high visibility clothing also helps to make motorcyclists more visible, and drivers of cars and other vehicles also need to be alert for motorcyclists when they are on the road."

Ride Forever courses help motorcyclists refresh their skills, and learn and practice new techniques. The course is delivered by New Zealand Transport Agency qualified trainers and includes on road training to develop braking, handling and safe riding skills. To be eligible for the vouchers, motorcyclists must live in the Selwyn District to attend the course for free.

To register for the Ride Forever training and request a free voucher, and register to attend the free Motorcycle Expo visit www.selwyn.govt.nz from Tuesday 8 September.

Ends

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