

# Safari on scooters

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**GOOD RESPONSE:** Organisers of the event had about 40 drivers for the first ride last year, and 210 have registered this year.



**MADE IT:** Drivers aren't too keen to get back on their scooters after making the 12-hour drive into Hokitika.



**PREPARED:** Warkworth's Justin Sollitt will make the trip to Christchurch on Friday in preparation for the 250km traverse from Christchurch to Hokitika on a 50cc scooter.

Driving a 50cc scooter from Christchurch to Hokitika may sound like fun, but doing it in one day at 50kmh is a bit more challenging.

Warkworth resident Justin Sollitt, along with 210 other registered drivers, hope to do the 250km traverse this Saturday in about 12 hours to help fundraise for New Zealand Cancer Society.

"I'm pretty sure I won't want to get back on a scooter anytime soon after that ride," says Justin.

The event, officially called the Trans-Alpine Scooter Safari, leaves at about 7am from the Air New Zealand terminal in Christchurch.

Riders have an itinerary which includes five official breaks.

"The event was inspired when some Air New Zealand engineers had a friend fighting cancer. They organised the ride to help fundraise for the cause."

The idea has caught on, with the goal to raise \$50,000, and organisers were celebrating as the total hit \$60,000 on Monday morning.

Justin decided to join in the trip after a business associate asked to be sponsored.

"I said I would go one step further and do it with him."

With a target of \$1500, Justin was up to \$939 on Friday last week.

His family are flying down to support him on the trip.

Daughter Anna, 6, who attends Warkworth Primary School donated some of her pocket money to her dad's cause.

"She wants to do it one day too."

Justin says he has driven the course and knows the scooters will struggle to hit speeds of 50kmh in parts.

"It's not a race, it's an endurance event.

"It is designed to be the coldest, longest, hardest, most gruelling and uncomfortable test of endurance on a city scooter to raise money and awareness for cancer sufferers.

"The event goes ahead rain, hail or shine. I've never ridden a scooter before, the closest to one that I've been on is a motocross bike when I was in my 20s."

When the riders make it to Hokitika they will celebrate, then take the scooter back to Christchurch on the back of a ute.

To support Justin visit [www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/JustinSollitt](http://www.fundraiseonline.co.nz/JustinSollitt), or contact Scooter Safari organisers on (03) 313-3128.