

BIKING TO TO RAISE MONEY AND AWARENESS FOR CANCER SUFFERERS

# Scooting off to Southern Alps



**Long haul:** The route is described as "the coldest, longest, most gruelling and uncomfortable test of endurance on a city scooter".

**Scooter Safari:** Justin Sollitt with his scooter ready for a long haul ride from Christchurch to Hokitika, fundraising for the New Zealand Cancer Society.

By CARALISE TRAYES

Justin Sollitt will grit his teeth and clench his fists through freezing conditions on a scooter for 12 hours to help fundraise for the New Zealand Cancer Society.

The Warkworth man will be joined by 249 others riding from Christchurch to Hokitika over the Southern Alps this Saturday in the 2012 Tranz Alpine Scooter Safari.

Due to the event's popularity it runs every two years and the number of entries has to be capped at 250, as there is not enough room for more scooters and support crew cars at each pitstop.

"I can assure you it is the coldest, longest, most gruelling and uncomfortable test of endurance on a city scooter to raise money and awareness for cancer sufferers," Justin says.

Justin took part in 2010, raising \$2500 for the society.

"The weather was almost bad enough to close the roads over the Porters Pass. We did finally make it but the cold was extreme and 20 of the entries

didn't finish. One entry won the prize for most unlikely to finish, but in the end he did it. He rode the 250km on an old push bike with a chainsaw engine strapped to it."

Justin will travel to Christchurch with wife Karen and 8-year-old daughter Anna who will support him, along with Christchurch friends Jonty and Sally Ryan.

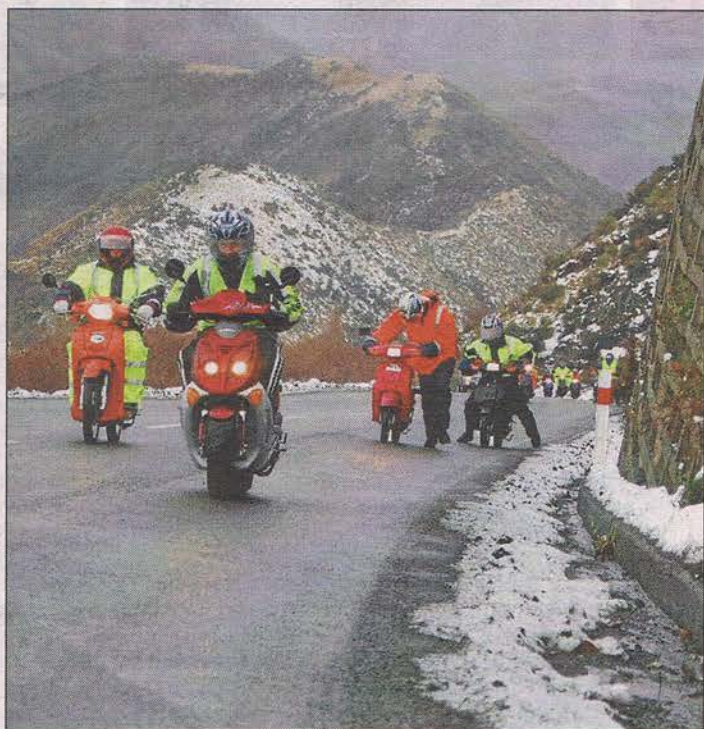
"I participate because it's a fantastic way to fundraise for a great cause.

"Even since doing the 2010 Scooter Safari I know of four people who have either since passed away, or have been told they have cancer. So I know how much these people suddenly come to rely on the efforts and funding of the likes of the Cancer Society.

"One never knows - it could even be myself one day relying on my own fundraising," he says.

Justin has spruced his scooter up for the ride.

"This year I have improved modifications such as two sets of musical air horns and a larger aeroplane tail fin."



**Cold climb:** About 250 scooter riders have signed up for the Tranz Alpine Scooter Safari.

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