

The Green Green Limousine's Maiden Voyage

It was a brisk morning on Monday 5th May when Steven Muir from Cycling Church set off from Central Christchurch to the airport on his bike, with an extra bike bolted onto his bike trailer. This was the first-ever voyage of the green green limousine, an airport pickup service primarily aimed at promoting the wonders of bike trailers (particularly the ones Steven constructs himself) and reducing the carbon footprint associated with travel.

On arriving at the airport Steven removed the spare bike from the trailer, replaced the front wheel (which was removed to bolt the front forks to the trailer), locked the bikes, and went meet Nandor Tanczos from the Green Party who was arriving for a talk at Lincoln University. Nandor travels lightly with only a small backpack, so a small trailer with a single recycle crate was used to transport the luggage, with panniers for a few snacks.



Steven's bike, with spare bike on board the trailer, arriving at the airport

After supplying gloves and discussing Nandor's helmet exemption they set off at a leisurely pace, on the 20km ride to Lincoln. The first stop was only a few meters down the road at the Totem Pole where a demonstration of support for the Anzac Ploughshares activists was occurring. Fortunately parking on this busy corner was no problem for the bikes and Nandor had a bit of a

chat before setting off around the unpleasantly busy Russley Road, through Hornby to Prebbleton. A great off-road cycleway from Prebbleton to Lincoln made this the most enjoyable part of the ride and we arrived at Lincoln University around one and a half hours after departure – a very good effort from Nandor who doesn't do huge amounts of cycling. The Recreation Centre kindly supplied a free shower to Nandor to freshen up for his talk.



Nandor and Steven arriving at Lincoln University

Following the talk Nandor set off in a car for several other engagements around Christchurch while Steven returned home with the spare bike back on the trailer, getting his daily quota of exercise with 50km or so of riding.



Front fork attachment bracket, Home made from 10mm threaded rod.

There are several other forms of the green green limousine depending on the number of people to be picked up and their amount of luggage. The most impressive limousine is a large suitcase-carrying trailer which can be towed behind a tandem bike with up to three folding bikes in the trailer. Visitors to Christchurch can ride on the back of the tandem or one of the unfolded folding bikes to their destination within Christchurch. Up to three large suitcases (or four smaller backpacks/suitcases) can be easily placed into the plastic bins on the trailer. One local person can thereby pick up three or four visitors depending on the amount of luggage.



The tandem limousine with suitcases and one folding bike

Free bike trailer hire for a month is also available within Christchurch to encourage people to give trailers a go for shopping and other load carrying tasks around the city.

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