

## The Britten Motorcycle Story



The Geelong Speed trials welcomes to the 2003 event a very special motorcycle, a BRITTEN, one of only 10 in the world produced, a 1000cc V Twin that went on to win the World BEARS Championship in 1994, you may ask what makes it so special?

The Britten was built in 1990 as a result of one mans dream to build from scratch an Ultimate Superbike, that man was New Zealander John Britten.

John designed and built the proto type of this machine in his backyard workshop, with a small band of enthusiasts, virtually casting the engine block in his lounge room.

In 1991 after months of testing, and frustrations, running on the proverbial shoestring, they set off for Daytona to take on the worlds best at the BEARS Championship, stunning world motorcycle racing by coming 2<sup>nd</sup> to the worlds best – the Britten had arrived!

In 1992 not to be beaten, John and his small team once again went to Daytona, dominating the race, and whilst leading several laps from home, retired due to an electrical fault, one of the few things he had not built himself. The footage of that event is now a motorcycle classic of excitement and heartbreak.

In 1993 John and the team set off around the world to accomplish many other dreams and records among which were – Fastest Top Speed Isle of Man TT, 1<sup>st</sup> BEAR at Bathurst Australia, 1<sup>st</sup> NZ National series, World standing and flying mile record, world standing quarter mile record, and many victories around the world, 1993 was John's year of success. In 1994 they again went to Daytona and this year they won the BEARS Championship that was the original desire of John Britten along with the building of 10 machines.

Sadly it was in 1994 that John passed away after a short illness.

His loyal group of friends kept alive his dream to build the 10 bikes and that is why there are only 10 in the world today and have become such a special machine.

The machine competing at the Geelong Speed Trials this year is Bike No 5 which is the actual machine that won the World Championship.

We thank the owner of the bike Mr Kevin Grant who when approached in January this year was delighted to accept coming to our event with his World Championship machine. We were further delighted when he requested that fellow New Zealander Hugh Anderson the respected 4 times World Champion GP rider (1963-1965) would be also coming as the rider for this machine.

Weighing 138kg's with 166hp the Britten is an amazing classic machine that still holds the fastest speed at Daytona of 189mph(303kph) which we welcome along with Kevin and Hugh to our 2003 event.

Roger Northam

Motorcycle coordinator

Geelong Speed Trials 2003