

The Mighty TZ Yamaha



Through out all the years of motorcycle racing, no machine has made the impact like the mighty TZ range produced by Yamaha, to the point that the “Widow Maker” the 750cc model changed GP racing to the 500cc class we know today – it was just too powerful. When removed from eligibility to race many engines were utilised by sidecar racers, therefore making availability of TZ 750 quite rare as only 100 were produced.

At the 2003 Geelong Speed Trials, we are delighted to have several of the TZ Yamaha machines competing, the principle one being a replica of the 3 times World Championship bike ridden by Kenny Roberts in mid seventies.

This machine owned by David Rodd (a Melbourne businessman and enthusiast), was especially built over 2 years by the well known racer/tuner Bruce Woodley (Powerflow) to the exact specifications of the Kenny Roberts TZ700A, and this is its first competition since being built.

This is not a machine for just any rider to operate, so when John Woodley accepted the offer to ride we were delighted as John is a 5 times NZ Champion (1974 -81), 3 times Australian 500cc GP Champion (1976-79) and having several successes in world GP racing (1978-79).

We welcome the David Rodd and his TZ 700A machine, John and Bruce to the 2003 Geelong Speed Trials