

Bush Chatter

Winter 2018

Dick's collection Triumph



• Collector Dick Shepherd, left, with his 1962 Triumph 106 CWD, and motorcycle consultant Mike Jackson with the 105 CWD Tiger 90, the most decorated International Six Days Trial bike of all time.

Read more Page 3
Photo: Jude Edginton



PO Box 2071 Mildura 3500

Underwater Nortons found!

Unearthing shipwrecks is a pretty fascinating trade to always be in the hunt find some genuinely beguiling treasury, historical artifacts, clues to mysteries, and millions of ancient relics just like these World War II-era Norton 16H motorcycles found under the greatest shipwrecks in one of the most famous dive sites in the world.

This photo captured by Tobias

Friedrich, a professional photographer in 2007, shows parts of dozens of Nortons found in their watery grave in a famous shipwreck of the British World War II SS Thistlegorm near the Sinai Peninsula of the Red Sea.

The SS Thistlegorm was struck by German bombers in 1941 sending it to the sea floor, where the cargo has been eerily frozen in time.



Coming events

- August Saturday 25th – Wentworth Show. At present we have eight attendees but it would be good to have more. The club has 15 tickets. If you need to know more please give Jack a call 0408 528 091. We must be there before 9am. Mildura people leaving Hudak's at 8am sharp.
- September 9 – mid-month ride to Overland Corner for lunch. Normal start time.
- October 9/12 – (Tues to Friday) – JB's Tour de Victoria. Contact JB regarding accommodation on 0411349290. 10 EOI's to date.
- October 6/7 – Visit to Swan Hill (TBA)
- November 17/18 – Bendigo Swap Meet. (TBA)

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• Well Winter has come...and almost gone...there's not much rain to impede the riding, but it has been bloody cold on occasion! Here's hoping you all have been tucked up in your sheds, or another available space, keeping warm and getting the bikes ready for the onset of Spring. Sunraysia really is a great place to be a motorcyclist... lots of open roads, big skies and year-round riding weather...what's not to love eh?



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Dick's collection Triumph

When Dick Shepherd's wife suggested that he took up a hobby to provide some light relief from his daily routine as the owner of a business specialising in the import and export of heavy machinery, he didn't need to think long before deciding to dedicate his free time to expanding his motorcycle collection, having owned his first – a tiny Brockhouse Corgi runabout – at the age of 10.

But his true love has always been the evocative Triumphs built in the marque's "golden era" between the 1930s and the 1960s, when chief designer Edward Turner created legendary models such as the Thunderbird and the Speed Twin (on which Ivan Wicksteed set the Brooklands circuit record). And now, after more than 45 years of buying and refining – and a great deal of detective work to track down rarities – Shepherd is the proud owner of what is probably the greatest collection of Triumph bikes in the world – more than 320 of them.

While the collection contains at least one example of every Turner-designed Triumph ever made, it is also replete with rare and unique machines – the quest for one of which resulted in Shepherd meeting his long-standing "finder" Mike Jackson, a former director of Norton Motorcycles and a respected doyen of the vintage-bike world.

"I met Mike during the 1990s when he worked as a consultant to the now-defunct Sotheby's car and motorcycle department," recalls Shepherd. "Within a very short space of time I realised that he was incredibly well-connected in the classic-motorcycle world, a fact that was soon proved to me when I mentioned in passing that, for many years, I had been trying without success to find the only car Triumph Motorcycles ever made, which was called the Ladybird."

"Mike knew precisely where it was and introduced me to the owner, who

also happened to have the single-cylinder prototype bike that was the first machine to be raced at the Isle of Man TT by Triumph's senior road tester, Percy Tait. The owner didn't want to sell either of them at first – but then called me a few months later to say I

person to officially exceed 200mph on British soil in 1972; the TR5 ridden by Henry Winkler's The Fonz in the television series *Happy Days*; the Bonneville ridden by Tom Cruise in *Mission: Impossible III* (bought at auction in 2012 for £13,800); and the



• Shepherd's record-breaking 1938 Triumph Speed Twin.
Photo: Jude Edginton

could buy the car. I agreed, but only on condition that I could also buy the Tait bike. So I got them both."

On another occasion, Jackson tracked down a 350cc Tiger 90 – now worth around £100,000 and the most famous machine ever to compete in the International Six Days Trial (ISDT).

"It is undoubtedly the most important motorcycle in the history of the ISDT, being the only one to have won five gold medals," explains Shepherd. "I have since gone on to find the other three team bikes that competed alongside it in 1964, and so now have the full set."

Shepherd also counts among his collection the actual TR6 machine famously ridden by Steve McQueen in *The Great Escape*; the supercharged, twin-engined Cyclotron on which tuning ace Fred Cooper became the first

T100 that won the celebrated 1966 race at Daytona International Speedway when Buddy Elmore came from a seemingly impossible 54th place to take the chequered flag.

"The very first time I met Dick I simply liked the cut of his jib," says Jackson (affectionately known as "Old Mike Jackson" to fellow biking buffs), who began his commercial motorcycle career more than 50 years ago as a sales representative for the British manufacturer Greeves, before moving to the US with Norton in 1970, where he spent his working days selling the famous Commando machines and his weekends in the desert, racing dirt bikes with his fellow enthusiasts.

"I think our relationship has been helped by the fact that he tends to focus on Triumphs from the Turner-era onwards, and that is the same period that interests me," says Jackson.



Dick's collection Triumph

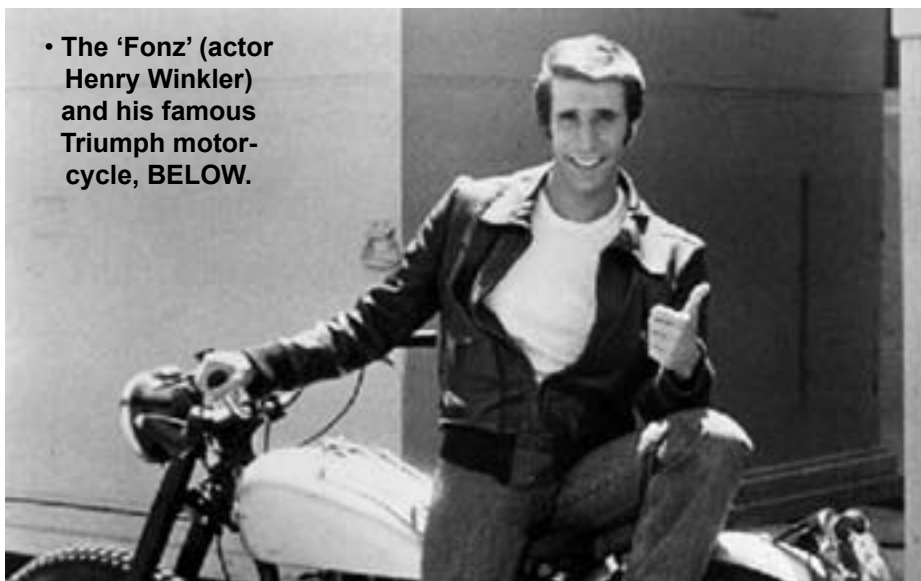
From Page 3

"I still remember being amazed, at the age of nine, when a master at boarding school showed me a newspaper photograph of the newly launched Thunderbird – it was a real milestone machine with a streamlined headlight. I carried that cutting about with me for months."

Among the finds Jackson has made for Shepherd of which he is most proud is the Triumph Tiger Cub trials bike, valued at around £15,000, that was owned by the late, great motorcycling journalist Denis Jenkinson. He famously navigated for Stirling Moss during his record-breaking victory in the 1955 Mille Miglia, when the pair covered the 1000-mile course in a Mercedes-Benz 300 SLR at a still-remarkable average of 97.9mph.

"Jenks used to ride in off-road motorcycle trials during the winter, when there was no grand-prix racing to report on," recalls Jackson. "The bike was a converted road model given to him in the 1950s by Triumph agents from Stroud. Although he was already famous for his journalism, he was rarely recognised when

• The 'Fonz' (actor Henry Winkler) and his famous Triumph motorcycle, BELOW.



competing. He kept the Tiger Cub until he died; a few years later, I recommended that Dick bought it."

Jenkinson's 40-year ownership of the machine makes it historically important – something, according to Jackson, that Shepherd invariably looks for when making a new purchase, whether from auction, a private owner or a specialist event such as Staffordshire's annual Classic Motorcycle Mechanics Show. "I feed Dick a few details about a machine and off he goes – he is a detective

with an enthusiasm that some would call an obsession," says Jackson.

"His eye for detail is remarkable and he researches everything meticulously – he is not in the least bit motivated by profit or capital growth. His buying is purely about the love of the marque, the history behind the bikes and the people who rode them. In an era when most people seem fixated with 'tangible assets', to find someone who still collects out of a genuine love of the subject is really quite refreshing."



Wanted to Sell

- NORTON Model 7 Dominator crankshaft and conrods. Fully reconditioned. Complete Norton Dominator gearbox minus clutch. Serial #GB8 2418. Will listen to realistic offers. Call Adam on 5023 0977.

- 1987 Harley Sportster XLH 883 DLX. \$7000. Red plate eligible. Ring Danny Curran 0418 303 964.

- 1984 Suzuki GSX250S. Reg 4386H. \$2000 ono. Roger Moser 0428 413 323. See RIGHT.

- 1992 BMW K1100LT – I spent about \$3000 at PITSTOP getting the engine going properly. Engine produces 75bhp.

She is almost roadworthy, and is now eligible for Club plates. Will need a battery. Unfortunately the fairing was wrecked during the recent storm when our garage roller door blew in. This would be a great cafe racer project at a very reasonable price. Contact John for more information or inspection – 0411 349 290.



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- CB450 HONDA Twin Leading shoe front drum and backing plate and linkage. Complete. 0407 364 692 or email dougo294@hotmail.com.

- MOTORBIKE trailer. Call Nicky on 0417 629 875

- MOTORBIKE trailer. Two or three bikes for club runs. Phone Ian on 0428 242 613.

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- Can do small panel beating jobs on motorcycle metal body parts. Geoff Needham 0437 006 882.

Regular events

Regular Club Runs

- **Monthly meeting rides leave from Hudaks on 15th Street opposite Centro at 10am. The run finishes at the Mildura Scout Hall in 12th Street, Mildura.**
- **The mid-month ride leaves from Hudaks on 15th Street opposite Centro at 10am on the second Sunday of the month. Turn up with a full tank. Many more events listed on our website at www.shmc.org.au**

This is a good deal...

Graham Burton-Clay at Sunraysia Bearings, 34 Orange Avenue, Mildura, telephone 5023 4337, is offering all SHMC members trade prices on a wide range of items including those featured below... All you have to do is flash your membership card to get one of the best deals going around. The Sunraysia Bearings team have 50 years experience in the industry, and the business is locally owned and operated by people that live and work in our community. Thanks Graham! Let's support the bloke who supports us. The good stuff!

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