

All Community
Celebrations

Motorcycle Street Parade

History Displays

Wakefield Park Raceway
events

Demonstration Rides

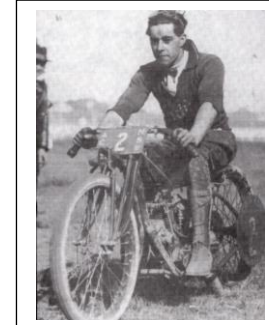
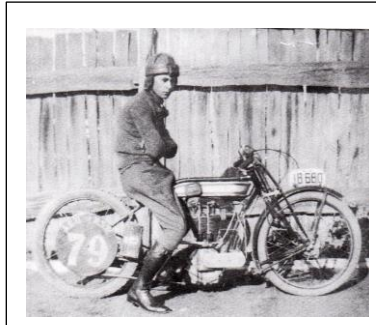
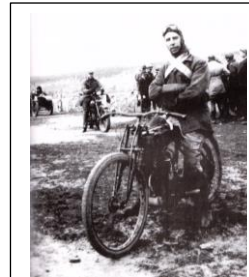
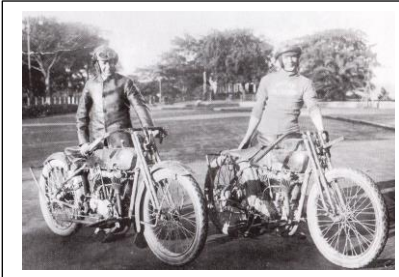
Goulburn Motorcycle Club
motocross events

Live Music

Official Dinner

Classic Riders Club
Goulburn
Re-enactment ride along
the track run for the
original race one hundred
years to the day of the 1924
Grand Prix

WHAT TO EXPECT



Famphlet prepared for Classic Riders Club Goulburn October 2023 -
Dale Towell, Club Secretary - for information call 0422 367 011

100th Anniversary
1924
Australian
Motorcycle
Grand Prix
Goulburn



In his book 'The Racing Boys', Wayne Adams wrote – *from the early pioneer days to 1930, Goulburn was the centre of most motorcycle racing in NSW. Working in conjunction with the Auto Cycle Union of NSW, the district would see five Tourist Trophy races and one Grand Prix.*

It is this Grand Prix that we plan to celebrate 21 – 23 June 2024 and it is thanks to Wayne, for his dedication and countless years of research, that we hold the knowledge and records of this incredible race. Sanctioned by the Auto-Cycle Union of NSW, the 23 June 1924 race, was Goulburn's own. An event honoured through time, as Goulburn sets a collective community sight on celebrating 100 years since that first race.

In publishing his book, Wayne brought Goulburn motorcycling history from a neglected corner where great events had been mostly unacknowledged, to an awareness which stretched Australia wide and beyond. He recognised it as a 'golden period of motorcycling'. One which nurtured local talent, sufficiently well-tuned to mix with the best in the country. He wrote of the first motorcycle arriving in Goulburn around 1905 ... the first run for Goulburn Motor Club in November 1922.

This club, founded in 1911, still runs today. Now shifted to motocross and dirt track, we know it as Goulburn Motorcycle Club.

In 1924, 139 riders participated in this race. Three events were held. The first, a distance of 104 miles which was two laps of the circuit. The second was held over one lap, a distance of 52 miles – and the third event was over 4 laps, a distance of 208 miles.

Thirteen different makes of British and American bikes took part. The overall winner was Dave Brewster on his Indian Chief. Tommy Benstead and R Preston took second and third place on their Harley Davidsons.

These machines were raw, they were mechanically minimal yet intricate in precision for their time. To see those models still running today, we can appreciate the strength and skill required to manage the distance and speed it took for our 1924 participants to finish the circuit. Negotiating roads unsealed, seats minus suspension and a braking system barely efficient enough to stop in a hurry, was the normal ride. As Burt Munro said, I don't want to stop, I want to go

Goulburn's Evening Post in 1924 offered this description of the Grand Prix Race –

'As the machines were sent away there would be a series of staccato explosions, a long drawn-out crackle, a droning hum and a black speck would vanish into the south-east. Returning, the spectators saw a frantic flag-wagging on the rise a quarter of a mile down the road, a black object coming out of space like a projectile and then the motorist arrived.'

For this 100th Anniversary, we may not see any space born projectiles, but with all the clatter and bang, there will be the thump and purr of countless beautiful machines. It's the love of motorcycling that will drive this event and the respect we have for those who navigated through the early days to make the event possible. There may, however, be interruptions to the heavy thunder, of a quiet whoosh from those who glide over the finish line, having motored along for the last 10 or 20 metres, on little more than a wing and a prayer – because they have run out of fuel.

Celebrating the 100th anniversary of this great race, will offer the chance for those who are happy braving our June temperatures, to replicate the event of 1924. The ride will cover a triangular circuit from where Mountain Ash and Windellama Roads meet, to Windellama, then to Bungonia, and back to the starting point.

This is a distance of around 80 kms, over which, there will be a display of motorcycling through time. Starting with the period bikes from that 1924 race, there will be a steady flow of motorcycles, released in groups of chronological order over the decades.

It will take place 100 years to the day from the original Grand Prix Race held in Goulburn ... a ride different to the first in that it will mirror the difference of our time, but identical of heart and *our* opportunity to recognise those young riders of 1924, described then, as – just a little bit crazy. They most certainly were adventurous, and most likely, running on sufficient adrenalin not to notice the minus range temperature that day. Their passion was infectious, one which set the path for others to follow, one which showed us all how it can be done.

.... on Sunday 23 June 2024, we will remember those who raced 100 years earlier, by retracing the original route. Riders coming together for this occasion – with the wind in their faces and the dust behind them – or perhaps the ice spray off their rear tyre – will again create history.

They will do it wearing an all day smile. With confidence, we can say, they will also, all, be just a little bit crazy.

