

# ON YER BIKE

31 August to 25 November 2018



ARTSPACE MACKAY, MACKAY REGIONAL COUNCIL



Installation image: *On yer bike*, FIELD Engineers Gallery, Artspace Mackay. © Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

Cover image: **Dale Kennedy with his 1928 BSA Sloper**  
© Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

## On yer bike

*We wash them, we polish them. Sometimes we even name them.*

*But above all, we ride them.* Mackay has a long and rich history of motorcycling from the sand racing on the Northern Beaches in the 1920s to the speedway at the showgrounds, at its peak in the 1970s. The tradition of collecting and restoring is alive and well in Mackay and *On yer bike* explores an eclectic mix of motorcycles along with the stories of their owners.

Anyone who has been on a long ride knows that motorcycling is physically and mentally challenging and unlike a car ride, is rarely ever boring. The feeling of the wind and sun, a palpable connection to the road through the riders' hands and feet, leaning hard into the curves, there is no sensation like it. Perhaps Robert Pirsig said it best in *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*: "You're completely in contact with it all. You're in the scene, not just watching it anymore, and the sense of presence is overwhelming."

But what is of greater importance, and usually without boundaries, is the sense of camaraderie experienced by those who ride. Ask any rider about "the wave" - the pointed finger or movement of the hand that acknowledges another rider as he or she passes- greeting strangers simply because they also share the passion. Drawn together through a common interest, motorcyclists have a basic underlying respect for anyone else who rides. Regardless of what you ride, the fact that you do ride gives you common ground.





**Mick Ryan and his 1985 Honda Super Cub C90 step thru**  
© Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

Spanning over a century of production the motorcycles in the exhibition show technological progress as well as illustrating cultural and economic factors that define and characterise motorcycling from the 1900s through to the 21st century. The decision to include each particular motorcycle was made on the combination of aesthetics, innovation, social impact and most importantly, just how interesting the story of the owner was. All of the motorcycles in the exhibition are a product of more than one of these criteria, some, like Mick Ryan and the Honda Super Cub or Bob Higgins and his 1917 Triumph, are a combination of all four.

Bob Higgin's Triumph 'Junior' is a perfect example of both innovation and social impact. Designed for women to ride at a time when they could not even vote, the 'Junior' was as much about independence for women as it was a mode of transport. And as for the Honda Super Cub, well this little gem paved the way for a complete revolution in motorcycle sales from the moment it burst on to the scene in the 1960s. At the time, the Honda Super Cub was much derided- 27 million Cubs sold to date, the Cub has cemented its place in transport history.

Motorcycles will always retain a unique romance and provide a form of mobility and freedom in a manner that cars can no longer do. Whether the motorcycle is new or old, restored or in pieces the devotion of an enthusiast plays an important role in a throwaway society. All the participants in *On yer bike* are part of a strong community that are not loyal to a marque but rather loyal to Pirsig's idea that "The test of the machine is the satisfaction it gives you." And aren't they a satisfied lot?

Julie Skate, Curator, *On yer bike*.



**Andrew Gauld with his 1915 Indian Hedstrom C-3 Big twin.**  
© Jim Cullen Photographer 2018







**Peter and Helen Douglas with their 1967 Yamaha YR-1**

© Jim Cullen Photographer 2018



**Dale Murray and his 1954 Dot Scrambler**

© Jim Cullen Photographer 2018





**Ronnie Stayt and his 2002 Kawasaki 1200 Z-X12**

© Jim Cullen Photographer 2018



**Denise Scott with her 1955 BMW R25**

© Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

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## *List of works*

Andrew Gauld

**1915 Indian Hedstrom C-3 Big twin**

Bike courtesy: Andrew Gauld

Image: © Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

Bob Higgins

**1914 Triumph 'Junior' and 1969 Triumph Daytona**

Bike courtesy: Bob Higgins

Image: © Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

Dale Kennedy

**1928 BSA Sloper**

Bike courtesy: Dale Kennedy

Image: © Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

Dale Murray

**1954 Dot Scrambler**

Bike courtesy: Dale Murray

Image: © Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

Denise Scott

**1955 BMW R25**

Bike courtesy: Denise Scott

Image: © Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

Helen and Peter Douglas

**1967 Yamaha YR-1**

Bike courtesy: Helen and Peter Douglas

Image: © Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

James Nathaniel

**1955 Harley Davidson Panhead**

Bike courtesy: James Nathaniel

Image: © Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

John Hand

**1982 Suzuki PE 175**

Bike courtesy: Tony Bellert

Image: © Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

Ken Cullen

**Circa 1970 Bulhonda**

Bike courtesy: Ken Cullen

Image: © Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

Linda Genninges

**Honda Super Cub C90**

Bike courtesy: Mick Ryan

Image: © Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

Lucky Keizer

**5000cc Merlin**

Bike courtesy: Lucky Keizer

Image: © Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

Mick Ryan

**2004 Triumph Rocket 3**

Bike courtesy: Mick Ryan

Image: © Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

Ronnie Stayt

**2002 Kawasaki 1200 Z-X12**

Bike courtesy Ronnie Stayt

Image: © Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

Ron Single

**Circa 1965 Greeves Motocross**

Bike courtesy: British Motorcycle Owners Association Mackay

Image: © Jim Cullen Photographer 2018

Sheryl Head

Image: © Jim Cullen Photographer 2018





Image: Bike owners Andrew Gauld, Mick Ryan and Arthur Scott admiring Dale Kennedy's 1928 BSA Sloper  
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FREE ENTRY 10am-5pm Tuesday-Friday / 10am-3pm Weekends (Closed Mondays)



On yer bike is an Artspace Mackay exhibition, curated by Julie Skate.