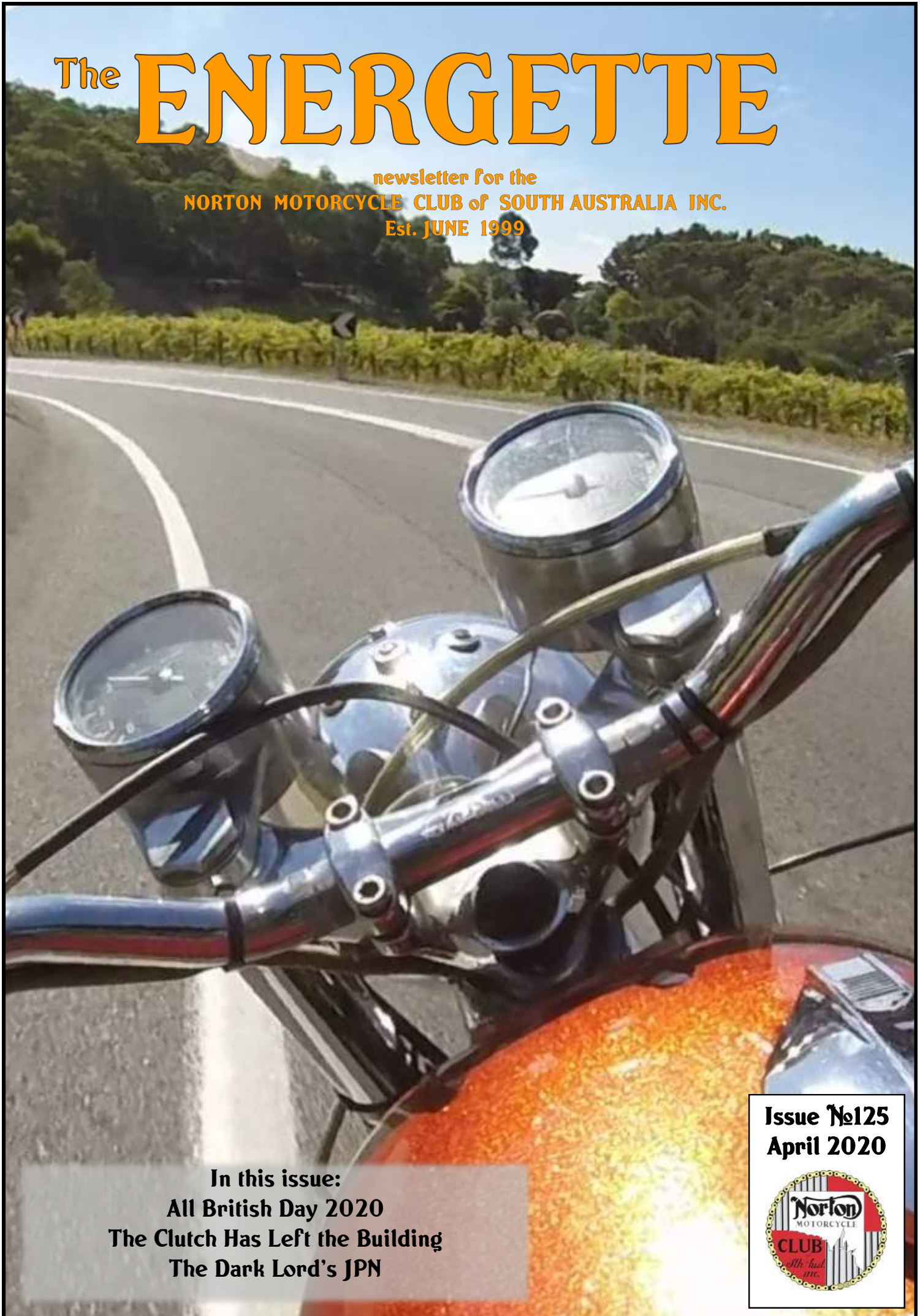


# The **ENERGETTE**

newsletter for the  
**NORTON MOTORCYCLE CLUB of SOUTH AUSTRALIA INC.**  
Est. JUNE 1999



**In this issue:**  
**All British Day 2020**  
**The Clutch Has Left the Building**  
**The Dark Lord's JPN**

**Issue No125**  
**April 2020**





**WEBSITE:** [www.nmcsa.org](http://www.nmcsa.org)

**MEETINGS** held on the 1st Monday of the month, 8.00pm start  
**NO MEETING IN JANUARY** and on Public Holidays  
when the meeting will be held on the following Monday



**We meet at the:** VELOCETTE CLUBROOMS  
74 DRAYTON STREET, BOWDEN

**ENQUIRIES TO SECRETARY:** NMCC of SA, 74 DRAYTON ST, BOWDEN SA 5007  
**Or EMAIL:** [secretary@nmcsa.org](mailto:secretary@nmcsa.org)

**ALL NORTON OWNERS, ENTHUSIASTS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE WELCOME**

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**Mobile** 0433 318 503  
**By email** [editor@nmcsa.org](mailto:editor@nmcsa.org)

Members wanting any events, services, classifieds, rides, etc. in the ENERGETTE please contact the editor with details for inclusion in future issues.

But don't stop there, this newsletter is about  
The Norton Motorcycle Club of SA,  
THAT'S YOU.

If you just want to have a picture of your bike in print, or a shot of the latest mod or repair, send it in! Supply as much info as you can and I'll do the rest. Look at Dave Meldrum's comparison of the different Commando tanks in issue #93. A passing observation in the shed filled a whole page and gives great perspective on different options for someone's bike.

**Cover photo:**  
**Cockpit view of Editor's bike through a bend in the Hills**



## President's Blurp

Dear Members,

Welcome to the April edition of The Energette... in May. Ya, sorry about that, eh.

Well, it goes without saying some weird stuff is going on around us. It seems like only yesterday we were having a yarn at the pub in Yankallila during our March ride. At that point we had only just started hearing rumblings of social distancing in South Australia. Little did we realise that was the last time we'd meet as a Club until further notice. But things are looking up, our mighty State is looking healthy and some restrictions are already starting to ease, so we may yet meet again sooner rather than later. Geez, I never thought I'd miss seeing you bunch of mongrels so much!

I managed to get out for a couple good rides during March, the Commando running and handling beautifully. I decided to give my GoPro camera a try during a ride with our Secretary, Jerome, and some of the footage turned out great. The cover on this issue is a screen shot from one of the videos. Near the end of that ride my clutch started to go out of adjustment, which I was able to compensate for on-the-fly with the barrel adjuster at the lever. This only lasted a short while and I found myself with intermittent clutch function until we got back to Jerome's. In the driveway I checked the clutch cable at the operating lever through the gearbox inspection cover, but all seemed well. I then removed the clutch adjustment cover from the primary to see if the pushrod adjuster had come loose, and again, all seemed well. I didn't stop to think that perhaps the clutch centre nut had come loose from the mainshaft, foolish mistake on my part.



Is the clutch supposed to stick out that far?

Being only 15 minutes from home I thought I'd keep going, which I did, until I didn't. First, I lost all use of the clutch and carried on in 2nd gear for a brief moment. Then, only 5 minutes from my shed, I lost all drive, and pulled over into a carpark. Pulling the primary inspection cover off again exposed a nasty surprise, the clutch was trying to make an escape! I was going no further with Norton power. Now I say I was only 5 minutes from home, but I live in the hills, so it would be about an hour or so push. I swallowed my pride and rang our Treasurer, Neil, as he lives close by. It wasn't long before we were loading my beautiful bike onto his trailer and made the quick drive to my place. You're a saviour, Neil! What a great bunch of people we've got in our Club.

It turns out the clutch locating circlip on the mainshaft had buckled under pressure, thus allowing the nut to loosen and eventually come off. Not a lot of damage, but what little it did, it did it to a couple of expensive parts. The splines on the clutch centre are stuffed, as

are the threads on the end of the mainshaft. Another gearbox rebuild. Parts are ordered, most have arrived, and luckily Jerome has offered me a mainshaft and clutch centre, which I will replace for him with new once our Aussie dollar claws its way back upwards.

Oh well, a few lessons have been learned. And the ride was bloody great, anyway.

Your Pres, The Editor,

Donald



Immobilized in a carpark, waiting for Neil to rescue me



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Vincent Norton Matchless AJS Triumph BSA



# Norton Events

All British Day - Echunga 9/02/20

It was another job for the NMCSA official support vehicle, my old Land Rover. Picked up Jerome and his JPN, and found there is a right way and a wrong way to fit it on to the trailer with my Roadster. We made the trip to Echunga and found our spot in the centre of the main oval, set it up the table, tent and banners with Rocky and Leslie, then waited for the rest of the Club entrants to show up. As bikes filtered in we placed them strategically to give the tent solid anchor points, he he.



In total we had 11 bikes, 13 were entered, but it ends up Dicky somehow entered his ES2 3 times. We had a decent mix of models this year, with Con's International, Dicky's ES2, along with the JPN and Mark's beautiful 961 Commando, interspersed with a lovely selection of Commando Roadsters, Fastbacks, and Interstates.

The weather was spot on, as it has been for just about every ABD I can remember, and the variety of vehicles did not disappoint. It was great to see the Robert Dunlop Norton rotary back on display after it caught fire last year. I spoke to Steve, the owner, and luckily the damage was limited to the bodywork, which he was desperate to save due to its originality and history. He worked hard to repair it and bloody hell, you wouldn't know the machine had been engulfed in flames only 12 months ago! The only part he had to replace was the windscreen, which he made himself. He also had a new Norvin and Rob North Rocket 3 on display, what a life!

Well done to the ABD organisers and all the volunteers. It's a massive event and must be a nightmare to put on. Thanks to all our Club members who entered or came round to visit. Hey, let's see how many pre-65 bikes we can get entered next year! - **Donald**



**Top:** Three legendary bikes, the Norton rotary RCW588, a 'Norvin' by JMC Classics, and a Rob North BSA Rocket 3 in the background.

**Above:** Kate's wedding gift to Dicky, the venerable ES2.

**Left:** Mark's 961, a matching little brother to his 850 at home.



**Clockwise from Top Left:** Plenty of punters came round the Norton display to have a bo peep. Con's beautiful Featherbed Inter stands proudly out front; Stunning JMC Classics new Norvin; Kate and Dicky are always smiling; Normally it's like herding cats, but we managed to get a group photo of a few us. Pretty god shot with Jerome's JPN at the front; Con, Dicky, and Donald having a chin wag

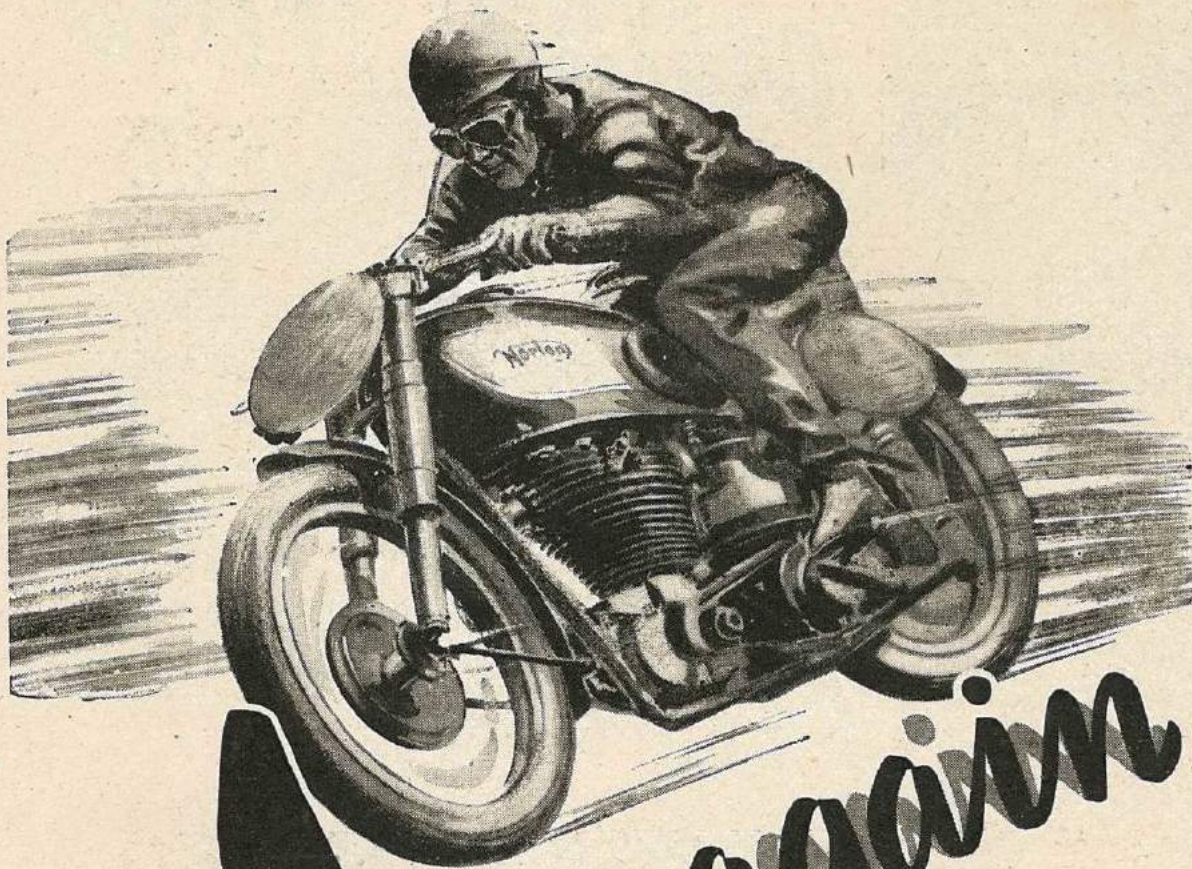


# Norton Marketplace

**For Sale** - Con has a restored ES2 and a rough but running 16H for sale. If interested, please contact him through the Club

**Wanted** - JOE SEIFERT CS650 After any magazine articles and pictures  
Dave Meldrum Ph: 0423 191 620

## JUNIOR T.T.



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# Norton Rides

Southern Ride - 15/03/20  
And Other Semi-Related Ramblings



The gang at Top'o'Taps discussing what could possibly be holding up their President

The week leading up to our March ride had me digging through my still not fully unpacked shed (it's been two years since we moved in!) trying to find my welder and various other bits needed to replace the rear oil tank bracket which had broken. VP Steve had cut some thicker steel to the requested width for a new piece, so I just needed to drill and shape it ready for welding. Picked up the steel Tuesday night, found the welder on Wednesday night, prepped and MIG'd the bracket Thursday night, quick coat of black enamel paint Friday during smoko. I figured since I had the tank out I may as well replace some of the tired oil lines, as well as clean up the routing of the engine and tank breathers. Previously I'd tried to fit some nice braided line Ricko had given me but a few of them were a bit too short to clamp comfortably, so I had to ring around a few auto shops to find the correct 3/8" oil line.

Saturday was spent fitting the new oil lines and repaired tank, from which I left the bottom mount bolt out, letting it rest on some shock absorbent rubber instead. A new oil fil-

ter was fitted, cleaned and re-oiled the K&N air filter, and fitted a small filter to the end of the new and rerouted oil tank breather. I also took the opportunity to tend to a couple other small tasks I'd been meaning to get to. Cleaned up a bit of wiring, replaced a couple mismatched bolts with correct fasteners, checked the alignment of the primary belt was still good, and re-jigged the battery strap to be more secure. Finally, started her up to be sure oil was flowing correctly, took 3 kicks, 2 more than usual, but everything seemed fine. Let her run for a while before shutting down and heading to the house for dinner.

Ride day, and I'm geared up ready to go... but the bike ain't starting, she keeps back-firing through the carb. My mind immediately goes to electrics, thinking I'd wiggled something loose last night. I go through all the areas I'd worked on, but found no misplaced wires or terminals. Eventually, I ring Meldrum to let him know I may not be at Top 'o' Taps for the ride. I continue on trying to start the bike, but I get frustrated and make myself a coffee. At ride time, I get a call from Meldrum to ask if I tried new plugs. Duh! Of course I SHOULD have. I run to the shed, throw in some new plugs and she starts up first kick, all is right in the world again. I ring back and ask where they're stopping first and say I'll meet the gang there.

Off I go, blasting down to Willunga the quick way to meet up with the boys. I arrive to find them just parking up, eager to get their morning coffees and snacks. A decent turnout, with ride captain Molly, Phil Allen, Eddy, Con, Neil, Yorkie, Murray Norton, Jerome, and one of our newest members, Phil on his immaculate 1951 ES2 sidecar outfit.

After ordering inside, we settle ourselves on the patio for a lot of yibber-yabbering.

As we start gearing up to ride, I'm tempted to leave my Commando there and hitch a ride in the chair with Phil, I reckon that would be a great way to take in the scenery on a lovely Sunday ride down south. But I figure the Easy-2 is gonna have a hard enough time during the hard slog up Willunga Hill, it doesn't need me weighing her down.

Our Club ride rule is we travel at the pace of the oldest bike, and it was a nice change from the usual gang of blistering Commandos to have an old Norton single with us. I really enjoyed the relaxing journey we took along



Phil looking ahead to Willunga Hill, lining his ES2 combination up for a strong run up





to Myponga, and as usual, I encourage more riders to dust off the old thumpers for Club events.

We stopped in at the Myponga market to find the old tool seller is no longer there, Con was devastated! We continued on down Main South Rd towards Yankalilla. Phil led the way on the combo, he was pushing it into some of those corners fairly hard, I suppose he thought he needed to keep the speed up for the rest of us... or maybe he was keen to get to the pub for a feed. I love coming down the hill into Yankalilla, not only is it a great riding road, but the views opening up onto the Bungala River valley are beautiful.

Finding the correct door into the Yankalilla Hotel, we push our way in and find a table big enough for the lot of us. The barman quickly finds 10 thirsty Norton tragics mumbling something about glasses full of beer. The \$20 pint and parmy deal was popular, though I must admit to food envy when Yorkie and Phil Allen's deserts came out, an added bonus with the roasts they ordered.



Feed done, we fuel up down the road and head through Carrickalinga and North along Forktree RD towards Reservoir Rd before crossing the Myponga dam wall. Jerome on his Ducati, and Murray on his BMW had blasted ahead of us and were waiting at Main South Rd. From there we retraced our steps on Pages Flat Rd towards Willunga Hill, however Phil's ES2 started showing signs of overheating so we pulled over for a break. Phil gave it a few minutes, kicked her to life again and took off down the road, with the rest of us expecting him to come back.... He didn't. Oh well, we suited back up and continued on to Victor Harbor Rd. While everyone else headed North towards home, I went South and turned at Nangkita Rd to hook up with Bull Creek Rd for one of my favourite stretches of twisties. I had a dream run all the way to Meadows! A perfect way to end a great Club ride. Thanks Guys. - **Donald**

**CW from Top:** A few of our machines lined up, with Phil Allen's Featherbed Commando in the foreground; Having a feed at the Yankalilla Hotel; Jerome's Ducati 999 and my Commando, worlds apart technologically, but the thrill is the same. Which exhaust note is better, though? Ya, the Norton



Let us know what's going on in your shed! Full engine rebuild, restoration, chasing elusive mechanical gremlins, even just basic maintenance or race prepping. Share your experiences with us, it just might help someone else solve a problem or learn something new!

Contact us with the story, and pics if available.

Send your info to the Editor at [editor@nmsa.org](mailto:editor@nmsa.org)



# Norton Project

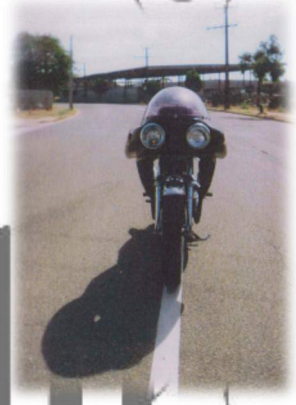
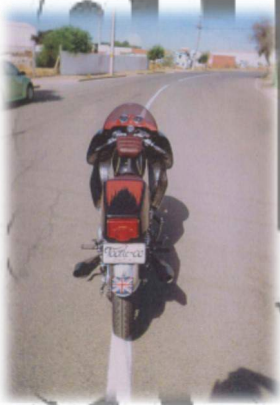
## Black Magic Woman Ricko's Mongrel JPN - Part 666

Our founder and resident Dark Wizard Of Norton Arts has been in his lair, continuing to weave his special blend of potions for his latest creation. The JPN replica, built from spares, is coming together with hand-hewn rearsets, and a fanciful, haunting paint job laid by Ricks magic brush in black and crimson.

Its master is still searching for bits, such as a larger racing tank to contain the tortured souls of devoured Japanese multis, and mirrors to peer back and smile upon the destruction laid in its wake. Only then will Rick set it free to scorch the streets like a bloodthirsty creature of the night. Have you any offerings? Please, if so, make yourself known to Rick, post haste.



Home made rear sets



Sth



**Meeting 230****03/02/20**

**OPENING:** Don Meeting opened at 8.50pm.

**PRESENT: Total :** 19 **Committee:** Don Hosier, Jerome Munchenberg, Neil Gloyn, Steve Richter, Dave Meldrum, Murray, Dave Rocklyn **Members:** Refer attendance book **Apologies:** Lyndi Tietz & Trevor, Ian Delaine

**Guests:** Paul (Owns an Interstate, had British bikes for many years inc. Triumph & BSA. The Norton was bought sight unseen and has had a few teething issues but should be all good, Allan Jeffries (Owns a Norton laydown gearbox. His son, Scotty, wanted to do something for Sellicks beach races so they bought a 1935 KSS 500. Need to be comprehensively pulled apart and repaired).

**PRESIDENT:** Don Welcome to the first meeting of 2020. Already had the 1st club ride!

**TREASURER:** Neil Balance: \$3,989.48 Bank + \$75 Float . Outgoing: Andre for xmas meat, Donald for business cards, & 50 new log books. Numbers are looking good, up about \$1k from last year

**SECRETARY:** Jerome 40th Bay to Birdwood coming up

**WEB ADMIN:** Dave R No news is good news :)

**CLUB CAPTAIN:** Dave M Last club ride up thru the hills, a bit of rain in 2 different spots. Thanks to those who came along. Next club ride this Sunday going to All British Day. Leave Hazelwood Pk at 10am (Howard Tce). Next month's ride is down south - and Don is putting this one together. There will be a few new riders of smaller capacity - Norton 16H. (The smaller/slower bike always dictate the speed of the ride - so no need to stress!)

**EDITOR:** Don new magazine is out. A few roosters on the covers. Some stories of the Mac Park races at the end of December. Ride report. Steve wrote about Don's crack(!). Custom BMW K100 write up from Tony

**REGALIA:** Don for Lyndi n/a. 20th anniversary, stickers, leather patches, some shirts all available. They will be taken to All British Day. New members get a patch

**REGISTRAR:** (Ian/)Dave R New log books were posted out to Ian. Due to fires, they may have been destroyed and may need to be re-ordered

**FEDERATION:** (Ian/)Murray No Federation News

**LIBRARIAN:** Murray We have a new Oily Rag! Woot! As always, plenty to borrow, including DVDs

**GENERAL BUSINESS:** Ian Delaine lost his house in the bushfires just before Christmas. All their animals and sheds are ok. Barry lost some vineyards. Kim, a new member, also lost some vineyards; This Sunday is All British Day. Jerome and Don will drive up and set up the stall, and there are 11 club members who will be bringing bikes. Close to 1,000 vehicles will be participating, so be prepared as possible: The Victorian Norton Club are doing a rally ON OUR TURF! They will be based at Port Elliot at the Big 4 (geddit?!) caravan park in May. Please consider supporting them. They are obviously far more organised than us! :); Steve R reports the Festival of MCs, meeting on Wednesday; V&V Swap Meet at Balhannah on 4th October Long Weekend - BSA will coordinate ride up there. Tuesday is the NMCSA ride day - which we need to organise - but it has been requested we drop by the Birdwood Mill (where we will have free entry). Ducati Club will organise a race day at the Bend. Later BSA Club will also do a ride, etc. It is expected rides will be \$20/day. Movie night also planned at one of the breweries; In November is the Australian Historic Races - did we want to sponsor a race at \$50-\$100? Hell, yes! Dave Meldrum to investigate further; Don is looking for a LHS cover for his bike which looks a bit rough after bouncing down the street due to a forgotten Zeus fastener - can you help? Don is able to secure the original flake and instructions for blending the paint quantities.

**RAFFLE:** Tickets: \$2 for 1, \$5 for 3. Prize is Best's Great Western 2017 Cab Sav. Winner: Allan

**CLOSED:** Meeting closed at 9.07.

**Meeting 231****02/03/20**

**OPENING:** Meeting opened at 8.12pm.

**PRESENT: Total:** 17. **Committee:** Don Hosier, Jerome Munchenberg, Neil Gloyn, Steve Richter, Dave Meldrum, Murray Norton, Dave Rocklyn. **Apologies:** Lyndi Tietz & Trevor, Ian Delaine, Peter Sinfield

**TREASURER:** Incoming: \$25 logbooks, \$85 raffle, \$0.16 interest, Outgoings: Room hire \$40, Balance: \$4059.64 Bank + \$75 Float. Need to pay for patches \$308

**SECRETARY:** 'Oily Rag' from Norton Owners Club of Vic; Sporting Car Club of SA have details of the Barossa Vintage Collingrove Hillclimb to be held 2nd-4th October 2020. We will scan the paperwork and post it to the mailing list

**WEB ADMIN:** Nothing particular of interest. Check 'banner' for next rides. Website renewal was ~\$96 paid by personal cc - need to get reimbursed; Dave won't be around for a bit - he is heading off to Vietnam and Laos where he and his wife will be touring the country by motorcycle. Travel safe, and have a blast!

**CLUB CAPTAIN:** Last club ride just a couple riders came up to All Brit Day. First time a 'new' Commando has been on a ride. 15th March is the next ride - Southern Ride - The President has put this together and will be inclusive of the slower, older rides. Start top of taps by the weighbridge at 10am; Also Dave M won't be renewing his role next year, so start thinking about a replacement; Dave won't be here for next meeting as he will be at the classic races at Broadford

**REGISTRAR:** All good - got a stack of log books

**LIBRARIAN:** We have a new Oily Rag! Woot!

**GENERAL BUSINESS:** All British Day was really good. Don picked up Jerome and both bikes came up on the back of a trailer. The Rotary from last year's mishap had been restored and was back on display - he also had an awesome 'Rob North' BSA triple and a stunning Norvin. Tes Minnett dropped by and gave us some photos of her father's Norton & history; Don has a cracked rear oil mount (pretty normal). Lots of advice about how to avoid that in future. His fork seals are leaking now; Don Pender - www.tritonmotorcycleparts.com - anyone know the quality of his gear? Barry is not too impressed. Otherwise Donald has not heard anything bad online. Good rearsets, 'Lansdowne' dampers; Festival of motorcycling update from Steve. He will keep going with it this year, but some of the guys love to talk, and the meetings go too late. Sat 1st October is the first event - a meet & greet. We have put our hand up to do a ride through the hills. Will have access to the Mill and a guided tour. We may need to do a marshalling course; NOC Vic are doing a rally at Port Elliot SA in May and staying at the Big 4 caravan park; Check out January issue of Classic Bike magazine with a period article called Inside Andover that was never published in 1972 of the Norton Andover factory; Collingrove Hill Climb 29th March. There will also be a ride to promote the Aldinga beach races in February 2021; Adrian Fechner presents his first efforts in making an aluminium mudguard for his LE Velo-cette - great effort for an amateur!; Question from x y: Where do people buy their spares? Murray's Brit Bikes, Andover, Road & Race are both popular.

**RAFFLE:** Tickets: \$2 for 1, \$5 for 3. Nitro 6-pack. Winner: Murray Norton

**CLOSED:** Meeting closed at 9.00



# Ride Calendar 2020



As social distancing restrictions begin to ease, we look forward to catching up for an official Club ride soon. Until then, keep up to date on our website or through our Google mailing list



## ULSTER G.P. & WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP

# 1<sup>ST</sup>

## Norton

### GEOFF DUKE—500 & 350 c.c. CLASSES

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3rd J. Lockett . . . NORTON

Manufacturers' Team Prize (350c.c.) — NORTON



## Events

Sept 27th

### The Distinguished Gentleman's Ride - Ebenezer Place, Adelaide

I know it says "Gentleman's" ride, but yes, even us Norton Club members can attend. Throw on your most dapper bag of fruit and raise money for men's health. See if you can beat Rocky's grand total from last year  
[www.gentlemansride.com](http://www.gentlemansride.com)

Nov 19th-22nd

### Australian Historic Road Racing Championships - MacNamara Park, Mount Gambier

Make the trip down and cheer on our local riders. A few of us are riding down and good times will ensue both at the track and on the town  
[www.ma.org.au](http://www.ma.org.au)