

FROM OVER THE POND

A member's article from 'over the pond'. Club member Simon Horder, who now lives in Australia, lost contact for 30 years with his 'old buddy from his teens', Gary Cobb, known to many as, "Cobby". 8 years ago when he was over visiting the UK, he tracked 'Cobby' down in Portsmouth.

When 'Cobby' found a 1972 Suzuki T500J JFH 99K in the back of a friend's motorcycle shop, it was unrecognizable, covered in dirt. Gary started work on it and found that under the grime the bike wasn't too bad after all. He did a few jobs on it to get it going, engine refurbishment and some chroming. Simon bought the bike and after shipping the bike to Australia, Simon registered it using the original UK registration plate making it a personalized plate in Oz. Simon then restored it over the next 10 months.

Cobby had a huge involvement with Simon's next project as he sorted out the GT750 forks and discs plus the tank and shipped them off to Australia. The bike a 1974 Suzuki T500M 1GW 843 Special

Painted in 73L colours, was made from bits and pieces (there were a lot of spares left over from the T500J) the expansion chambers, rear sets, and seat hump were all supplied by Tim and Paul of Titan Performance UK, the restoration was recently finished and took 18 months.

Simon's 3rd bike is a 1972 Suzuki GT750J KETTLE, originally a Lemans US model which I bought as a barn find from Antique Motorcycles in Melbourne, who ship over containers full of bikes from the States, selling as they arrive. Simon describes his bike as "mine was pretty shocking". The restoration took 8 months, Simon worked on it every day as he was redundant at the time.

All three bikes have won the best in their class at the All Jap Bike Show in Western Australia.

Simon is due to visit the UK in late June, for a couple of months, he will of course be looking up his old chum 'Cobby' and the lads from the south. Perhaps Simon will come to the AGM?

