

MEDIA RELEASE:

Black Lightning among historic bikes on show at the Cootha Classic

The fastest motorcycle of its time will be on display at the iconic Cootha Classic when the historic 1949 Vincent-HRD Black Lightning takes to the Mount Coot-tha track on Saturday, September 5.

The 1000cc bike is one of the fastest historic motorcycles in Australia and Queensland Early Motorcycles Sporting Club Vice President Ian Milton said it was one of 15 that will light up the 1440-metre track as part of an exhibition round.

Among the other motorcycles will be the British-manufactured 1938 Excelsior Manxman and a 1959 Norton Manx M40.

“The Excelsior is an extremely rare bike and the Cootha Classic will be the only opportunity many people will get to see it in action,” Mr Milton said.

“Both of these bikes were built to race the Isle of Man and the Norton Manx won more races than any other motorcycle even into the modern era with the introduction of Japanese bikes.”

Mr Milton will also run his 1962 Triumph Sidecar in the Cootha Classic, teaming up with Vicki Butler to form one of Australia’s oldest sidecar partnerships.

“We’ll be one of two sidecars on show and between me, Vicki and the bike there’s almost 180 years,” he said.

However, the Black Lightning will surely be a standout at the Cootha Classic. The bike’s owner, Glen Challis, said it was simply an exotic motorcycle.

“My father was into British bikes in the 50s and he always talked about how fast they were and how no other bike could ever keep up with it,” he said.

“The one I’m racing is a 1949 model which has had its engine rebuilt and a new paint job, so it’ll be something to keep an eye on.”

The other bikes will include a 1962 Ducati Monza, a 1972 Honda CB K2 and 1974 Harley Sportster.

Cootha Classic event director James Payne said the event would bring a sense of refinement to motor racing while celebrating Brisbane's festive spirit in one of the city's most iconic locations.

"This is a truly unique event taking place right where motorsport started in Brisbane in 1916 and we've revived it with a fine-tuned format designed to thrill mainstream audiences both on and off the track," said Mr Payne.

"On top of the master showcase of cars and bikes, there'll also be vintage food and drink stalls and live music – all at one of Brisbane's most iconic venues."

For further details visit www.cootha-classic.com.au.

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