

I love it, but just cant get away from it. What would I do if I stopped?

Jack Rudd
1914-2002

Jack Rudd developed a love of machinery at a very early age, and competed in his first motorcycle race at the age of 12. He wanted to turn this love into a profession, and by the time he was 16 he was apprenticed to Motor Repairs Pty Ltd of South Melbourne as a mechanic.

He must have saved all his money for in 1932 at the age of 18 he purchased a 1929 Douglas motorcycle (straight off the boat from England) and a 50 year love affair began.

By 1936 Jack was racing competitively and he had modified the Douglas to include a side-car which he used predominantly for hill climbs.

Races were held all over Victoria, including at the famous grass track on Mildura's Olympic Park Stadium, a venue that Jack was to visit again in 1995.

Jack's racing was interrupted by the Second World War during which time he served in the Ministry of Munitions as a 1st Class Machinist. His skills were such that Jack was kept in Australia to work on valuable war machinery. For him this was a double edged sword - he wanted to serve with his brother and mates, but also wanted to be with Joyce, the woman who would become his wife.



Jack Rudd, 1947
All Power Sidecare Open Championship
Whittlesea
Passenger, Bill Dobson- 'They were unbeatable
in its class as a partnership.' Bruce Dailey

Jack and Joyce met through racing and some would say it was a perfect match, however it was cut short with her death in 1942, two years after they were married. Jack continued to serve out his time for the length of the war, but with a new born child to look after, his racing career was put on hold until the late 1940s.





1982, Amaroo Park

When Jack finally returned to racing he dominated in his class, and held the Victorian Side-car Championships title for five consecutive years in the late 1940s and early 50s.

After a trip to the UK in the mid 1950s he changed to 'Vintage' racing and made a major modification to the bike by putting in a Norton gear box. In the 1960s Jack bought his second Douglas from fellow speedway rider Cliff Bysouth and used this machine to keep the 1929 model on the road over the coming decades.

For the next 30 years, Jack raced on and off with a number of side-car passengers, many of them women. In 1986, he married Betty Dobson, the widow of Jack's old racing partner between 1941 and 1945, Bill Dobson.

In 1998, at the age of 84 Jack suffered from a stroke as he was loading his precious Douglas onto a trailer ready for another race meeting, this time in Swan Hill. He was never to ride again.

Jack passed away in 2002.

A snapshot of the titles and awards Jack received in his racing career.

- 1939** Preston Harley Combined Hill Climb
- 1939** Preston Motorcycle Club Hill Climb Championships
- 1945** Harley Club 350cc solo scratch race - equal second
- 1947** Harley Preston Hill Climb
- 1978** Winton - Historical Vintag Bosch Trophy
- 1981** Hartwell MCC Winton (Classic Handicap 1930-1940)
- 1982** Classic Mac Park 1st Solo Vintage Scratch
- 1983** All Historic Amaroo (Pre-war Allpowers)
- 1984** Classic Mac Park (2nd All powers Class A Handicap)
- 1988** Competitor Grand Prix Bathurst Sport
- 1990** Lap of Honour TT 1990 Isle of Man TT Races
- 1994/95** Myrtleford Speedway Veteran an Sidecars

