

## A vintage Indian, Yamaha 80 and “Down under Scott”

What do the three motorcycle marques of Scott, Indian and Yamaha all have in common?

I have just bought this 1967 Yamaha 80 (pictured). It has a story attached to it, and here it begins:



My very first motorcycle, bought in the '70s, was a very similar model Yamaha 80, though when I bought it, it had been somewhat butchered by the previous owner (who turned it into a trail bike). I learned to ride on this bike, and with it began my interest in motorcycle mechanics. Being my first, it was very much loved, and still holds many sweet memories. At some stage it was sold, but Yamaha 80s never really left my heart.

About two years ago, while with the family on holiday at Warracknabeal, a country town in northern Victoria, I was watching a parade of agricultural equipment when a very nice example of a 1940s Indian went past. Being a motorcycle nut, out came the camera for a few snaps for the collection (things like this really make your day).

Now jump forward to a Scott motorcycle gathering only some six months ago. Propped up against the bar, talking with a couple of fellow members, one of them happened to mention he was from Warracknabeal. Asking the inevitable question about that Indian I spotted some 18 months earlier, one of the other members, a Silk owner, replied: 'Yes, that's my bike, and I was riding it that day'. A small world indeed.

So how does this all tie in with the Yamaha 80?

One day, while leafing through my copy of Just Bikes classifieds, I spotted the Yamaha, and rang the owner, who happens to be in...

You guessed it: Warracknabeal.

After talking about the bike for a while, I asked if he knew a colleague of mine from the Scott Owners Club. He said he did. In point of fact, the person I was asking about was his father. Then he asked if I would like to speak to him, given he was sitting right there, having breakfast! Taken as a sign from the Gods, and after comparing photos of his bike and mine, I bought it.

It's a small world indeed. And that's what the Scott, the vintage Indian, and the Yamaha motorcycle marques all have in common.

Now I have to mention two further coincidences.

I bought the bike during a weekend visit to our Colac property, the place where my first bike, the Yamaha 80, spent nearly all its riding days. The day we were in Warracknabeal, though, we bumped into our neighbours, whose family come from the same town. That was the first coincidence. The second? The day I rang to initially enquire about the bike, my neighbour's business partner made his first visit to my accounting practice. . .

Clutching at straws? Maybe. But even my wife conceded that this bike was meant to be — a mighty concession indeed.