



## 'LEGENDS OF DIRT FESTIVAL'

MARCH 22-23 EASTER SATURDAY-SUNDAY 2008

Venue: WANGANUI JOCKEY CLUB COURSE INFIELD

### THREE WORLD CHAMPIONS FOR WANGANUI

Following the success of the British Bike Dirt Day in March 2007 the 2008 Event has expanded to include International Guest & Double World MX Champion Jeff Smith MBE, who will ride in both the Saturday Scramble and the Sunday Trial. On the Saturday evening Jeff will be the keynote speaker at the 'Legends of Dirt Dinner.' The Wanganui District Council is funding Jeff's Trip and some promotion and event overhead costs. World Road Race Champion, former professional European Motocross Rider and 11 times NZ Off-road Champion Hugh Anderson MBE will ride at the event. World Motocross Champion and Kiwi Legend Shayne King of New Plymouth, with over 50 NZ Junior & Senior MX titles and Supercross titles will ride a Pre 75 machine. Other former NZ Trials and Motocross Champions are attending the event and the Legends Dinner.

The Weekend Event includes a Classic Scramble/TT with a selection of parades and races for Pre '65, '70 and '75 British machines, with a guest class of up to ten Pre 75 Japanese and European machines by invitation. 'The Wanganui Jockey Club have generously allowed the use of their racecourse for the hosting of this Historic motorcycle event, but with restrictions of a maximum of sixty parade and race machines, and I respect their decision completely,' says event organiser Robert Cochrane. 'It is a privilege to be able to use their grounds and to hold the Legends Dinner at Infusions venue during the evening. Jeff Smith is an internationally acclaimed speaker.'

Other static displays will include scramble and trials motorcycles of the Pre 1980 era including British, European and Japanese machines, historic speedway machines and a Fifty Years of the Triumph Bonneville display with trophies to be won. Jeff Smith will arrive at the venue on Saturday morning at 10am and inspect a guard of honour of over 20 BSA Gold Star machines. The Bonneville and Gold Star are two of the most famous names in motorcycle history, both being named amongst the top ten most important Motorcycles of the Century in media polls and books published across the world. It is 50 years since the Triumph T120 650cc Bonneville was launched at Earls Court in 1958, named after the Bonneville Salt Flats where Johnny Allen had set the motorcycle world at 214mph in 1956 on a Triumph 650cc

streamliner. In 1938 BSA had released the first of the famous Gold Star models, a 500cc sports single after Wal Handley on a tuned Empire Star 500cc single had lapped the famous Brooklands speed bowl at over 100mph and had been awarded a traditional Gold Star pin. During the 1950's the Gold Star was to become BSA's most famous model.

The Legends Dinner will include the Saturday race prize giving and the presentation of the Jeff Smith Trophy for New Zealand's outstanding Gold Star. Life members from the NZBSA Owners Club will assist Jeff with the judging and Wellington and Auckland based members will mount a BSA display to mark the club's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Jeff Smith is a current Board member of the American Historic Racing Motorcycle Association (AHRMA) and was Executive Director from 1990 to 1999, a period of strong growth for the organization with membership topping 7,000 cover road racing, trials, motocross, cross country and flattrack. In addition, Jeff served multiple terms on the AMA Board, the governing body for motorcycle sport in USA with 232,000 members. Jeff Smith was inducted into the AMA Sports hall of Fame in 2000.

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> a classic and twinshock sporting/observed trial will be held at a venue near Wanganui with competitors expected from around the country. As a young rider Jeff Smith competed as a Works BSA rider in trails in the United Kingdom, winning the Scott Trial, the Scottish Six Day Trial and over 35 major trails. Today he continues to ride classic trials in USA and has won a number of National AHRMA titles. 'The Wanganui appearance by Jeff Smith as a rider and speaker is a New Zealand exclusive appearance as he will be in town for at least three or four days of his 7-10 day visit as he has extensive engagements in North America,' says event organiser Robert Cochrane