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NOVEMBER 2007
BMW OWNERS NEWS

Twisting Throttle Australia

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Written by Mike Hyde, *Twisting Throttle Australia* is a first-person daily journal style account of a native New Zealander's trip around the perimeter of Australia in six weeks on a 1000cc Suzuki V-Strom. Each chapter outlines one day of riding including various encounters with local wildlife (mostly road kill), cuisine (mostly sausage rolls) and people as Hyde's collection of souvenir fridge magnets grows. His goal of traveling the entire perimeter of Australia in six weeks alone and on a minimal budget leaves no time for sightseeing meaning that this book is certainly not to be mistaken as a travel guide of Australia.

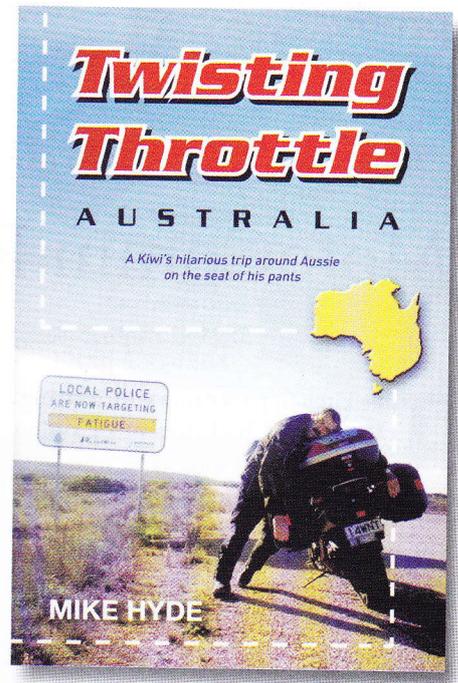
Hyde's journey begins outside Luna Park under the shadow of Sydney Harbor Bridge. Soon after embarking on his journey Hyde is thrilled to be welcomed into the Australian brotherhood of travelers when the driver of a Holden Commando gives him the one-fingered "Aussie salute." Through the first leg of Hyde's trip, the reader accompanies the author north from Sydney, through Walcha and up the Gold Coast to Cairns. As the scenery transitions from winding inland roads to a beautiful coastal trek, the reader is introduced to Hyde's inner monologue of obsessions; including the lives of road kill and the "gray nomads" (RV's).

The second leg of the journey is across

the top of Australia from Cairns, through Darwin to Broome on the western coast. Through the barren landscape of the North Hyde becomes obsessed with the protocol of waving to other vehicles; feeling elated at successful waves, dejected at unreturned waves, and guilt at snubbing the next subsequent driver's wave. Encounters with road-trains, the loss of a traveling companion named "Glovey" and the love/hate relationship with the 496 songs on Hyde's iPod help him to pass the time until he returns to the "civilization" of the more populated areas of the country.

From Broome, Hyde travels south through Perth to Jerramungup. The desolation of northern Australia continues along the western coast where Hyde's mental boredom is interrupted by a failed attempt at negotiating his way out of a ticket, and a trip interruption when the police officer notices that Hyde's rear tire is so badly worn that the cord is showing through. After a two-day delay to replace the tire, Hyde is back on the road. As he heads south of Perth the scenery again changes from hot and desolate to cold yet plush.

The final leg of Hyde's trip takes him along the southern coast from Jerramungup through Ceduna to the madness of Melbourne, across a ferry to Tasmania, and back to the mainland for the final



trek back to Sydney. As the population increases through the south Hyde recounts several humorous encounters with the locals as he sharpens his riding skills with the increase in traffic, ending in the triumphant return to Sydney, where he misses his exit and ends up riding under instead of over the Sydney Bridge.

Hyde a.k.a "Mr. Throttle" shows a witty edge and comedic sarcasm in his writing that is well tempered with a positive outlook making this book an easy read. What *Twisting Throttle* lacks in regional details it makes up for with obscure facts and personal insights familiar to riders covering long distances alone. Taken for what it is, a personal journal not a travel guide, *Twisting Throttle* is entertaining and would make a fine addition to any rider's library. But beware, because the author warns, "Long periods in the saddle with only insects for company can affect a traveler's state of mind."

Buy this ripping motorcycling yarn!

Twisting Throttle AUSTRALIA

WARNING NO FUEL FOR 500km

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Twisting Throttle AUSTRALIA

This unorthodox story about a solo rider down under is a must-have for any motorcycle tourer. More details & purchase online at www.twistingthrottle.com