

Honda CB900FB Bol D'or 1981

I purchased my CB 900 as a 19 year old from Neville Smith at the Power Centre in Goulburn on May 2nd 1982 for \$2995.

I had my heart set on a Black and Silver model when I walked into the shop to start negotiations with Neville. However the bike I bought was an end of model run out from 1981 and Neville told me that the only one available was a red one. I had never seen a red one but I thought I would snap it up.

I clearly remember seeing the bike for the first time and I was smitten. It was parked out the front of the shop on the street in the sunshine and it was beautiful. The bike was run in as per specifications but from time to time the tacho needle was given a big workout.

At one stage I was working in Yass and travelling on the old Hume Highway and clocking up 1000 km a week travelling back and forth each day. I was wearing out my rear tyre every 3 weeks.

One night riding home to Goulburn I had an alternator failure leaving Yass and had to ride home with just a park light on in total darkness and in the rain. I was following a car through the Cullerin range when the driver, blinded by the lights of oncoming semi trailers, ran off the road. I followed him and hit the mother of all pot holes on the gravel edge of the road which had me performing a handstand on the handlebars. I was left with 2 large flat spots in my wheels which I had rolled out, but the evidence of this close call with death can still be seen today.

I rode the bike for many years before my family came along. The bike had quite a reputation and I received many offers from people to buy it, but my intention was always to restore it some day.

In about 2003 I stripped the bike back to the bare frame and rebuilt it from the ground up. I have always loved the bike and still get lots of enjoyment from riding it to this day. I have no idea how many kms are on the bike as I have had about 6 different speedos over the years as a result of the needle being weakened by UV and snapping off. I would estimate though that the bike would have north of 200,000 kms.

Chris Thrower



