

Small Bikes, Big Smiles — Goulburn's Classic Riders Welcome the Next Generation

On a crisp, sunlit autumn morning in the Southern Tablelands, the Classic Riders Club of Goulburn rolled out something a little different... and it paid off in spades.

The club's inaugural LAM's and Small Capacity Ride, held on the 18 April 2026, brought together twenty-two motorcycles and twenty-five people for a day that proved you don't need big horsepower to have big fun.

Belmore Park in Goulburn provided the perfect staging point, with a line-up that drew the attention of curious locals even before engines were fired. The display was a reminder of just how broad the "small bike" category can be. From a humble Honda 70 step-through and the ever-reliable postie bike, through to a classic Yamaha DS7, a charming 1952 Jawa 250, and even a thumping Yamaha XT 500... the variety alone was worth the visit.

But this ride wasn't just about the bikes.

The idea behind the event was simple: create a welcoming entry point for newer riders, particularly those on LAM's-approved machines, to experience the camaraderie that has long defined the club. At the same time, it gave seasoned members the perfect excuse to dust off their smaller machines before the winter chill sets in.

Judging by the turnout, the concept struck a chord. New faces mingled easily with long-time members, and by the time helmets were fastened, the group already felt cohesive. Several non-members expressed strong interest in future events and joining the club—arguably one of the day's biggest successes.

The route from Goulburn to Taralga set the tone for the day. Riders naturally spread out along the road, a thoughtful approach that kept traffic flowing and avoided the all-too-common issue of large groups becoming rolling roadblocks. It made for a safer, more relaxed ride for everyone involved.

At Taralga, the group regrouped before continuing on to Crookwell via Laggan, where lunch awaited at the local pub. A pre-booked table ensured riders could swap stories, compare machines, and enjoy the social side of motorcycling.

The return leg via Kialla and Range Road showcased the Southern Tablelands at its autumn best. Rolling countryside, rich with seasonal colour, provided a stunning backdrop. On smaller-capacity machines, the pace naturally slows... and in doing so, allows riders to take in details often missed at higher speeds.

Behind the scenes, the club ensured the day ran smoothly. A support vehicle with a breakdown trailer followed the group, crewed by a qualified first aid officer. Fortunately, neither was required. The ride concluded without incident or mechanical trouble.

A highlight of the day was the presentation of the "Most Outstanding Rider and Bike Combination" award, which went to Janette Bailie aboard her beautifully presented 1974 Yamaha YB 100.

The day didn't end there. Riders gathered later at the Goulburn Golf Club for dinner, where good food and easy conversation rounded out the event.

Looking ahead, the club is building momentum. A new website is set to launch in May, alongside an active Facebook presence, helping promote the club and its activities to a wider audience.

Next on the calendar is the Distinguished Gentleman's Ride on 17 May, supporting men's health and suicide prevention... followed by another first for the club the "Black and Dirty" ride on 31 May, featuring both sealed (black top) and unsealed (dirt) routes, including the iconic Swallowtail Pass.

If this inaugural ride proved anything, it's that inclusivity and simplicity can reinvigorate a club. By welcoming newer riders and celebrating smaller machines, the Classic Riders Club of Goulburn has tapped into something important...

Ensuring the future of the hobby, while honouring its past.

And judging by the smiles at the end of the day...

They've got the formula just right.