

Blame it on Grandpa

By MIKE WARREN

IT WAS the long weekend in January 1973 and I was commentating at Bunbury Speedway.

The main attraction was five times world speedway champion Ivan Mauger.

I thought he was the main attraction until I heard the erratic sound of an ancient Abingdon King Dick motorcycle, complete with wicker basket sidecar.

It came tearing around the track with a very nervous looking Ivan Mauger clinging to its cane work.

Hanging onto the handlebars with all the aplomb of an accomplished speedway rider, was Wayne Patterson's Grandpa, 64-year-old Harold Braund. And did he have the crowd in raptures? You betcha!

And now Wayne takes up the story;

"I was born in Sydney in 1953 and lived with my Grandparents until we all came to Bunbury in 1968.

Grandpa (Harold Braund) was passionate about motorcycles and I can recall, at three years of age, sitting in the sidecar of his Livis motorcy-

cle.

Grandpa imported a new Vincent Black Lightning into Australia in the 1950s for around £1100 and that was a huge amount of money back then.

Especially if you consider blocks of land, right on the Collie River at Australind, sold for £200 each.

He used to take me to Mount Panorama (Bathurst) and the Sydney Royal Speedway and I loved the racing, the noise and the excitement.

Grandpa was also successful in a number of races and finally handed in his license on his 87th birthday".

And so the motor cycling lineage was indelibly printed deep into local Ducati dealer, Wayne "Wheelie" Patterson. Wayne and his wife Glenda have been running their very successful Ducati Motorcycle Dealership in Bunbury since 1993.

But as Wayne recalls there was a fair amount of rubber left on the road prior to this.

Following stints with Ray Trebley, Ken George Yamaha, Paul

Motors and his motorcycle riding school, Wayne with wife Glenda, their son Todd and his wife Tammy now have one of the most successful Ducati Dealerships in WA.

The history of Ducati is just as colourful with the Ducati Brothers founding the company in 1926 (when Grandpa was 17-years-old) but it was only to manage electrical components.

During the Second World War the Italian government took over the Ducati Company and started the development of motorcycles.

That's nice and easy to say in a few words but those early years were a constant struggle and in 1946 Ducati produce a clip-on 50cc bicycle engine which sold well.

Under supervision of Fabio Taglioni, Ducati would start to produce many great motorcycles, including the Desmo, which was very successful on the racing circuit.

The Desmo roadster line included a 250, 350 and 450cc engines with simple styling.

The 1964 Mach 1 (250cc) model was also very capable of winning



Tammy, Todd, Glenda, Wayne and grandson Kane Patterson in the Bunbury Ducati Motorcycle Dealership. Wayne says his Grandpa is to blame for the family obsession with motorcycles.

races due to it's light weight and suburb handling.

Ducati produced the 900ss as the most naked bare legal super bike that was on the market in the 70s. It was a raw racing bike and everything on it was designed for speed.

Ducati ran into financial problems during the beginning of the 80's and

in 1985 was bought by Cagiva.

Under guidance of Cagiva the 851 Strada was introduced. The engine was enlarged to 888cc and the foundation for the very successful 916.

The 916 was such a success in design, power and riding comfort that it soared Ducati straight to

the front of the super bike scene.

A smaller version of the 916 was also developed the 748. However the 916 didn't change in design up till 2002.

With many world championship successes the Ducati stable now houses models and capacities to suit most riders. And like most

things Italian there's a lot of tradition when it comes to design, colour, flair and performance.

Ducati, in a few words of Italian, 'una molto bella macchina!' You can work that one out for yourself, or ask next time you visit an Italian restaurant, or you can stump Wayne Patterson by asking him to explain.



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Grandpa leads the pack!

Grandpa on his Abingdon King Dick

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