



## President's Annual Report

### Summary

2016 was an eventful year. There were quite a few changes for Viper in 2016, with new faces on the Committee, various developments ongoing behind the scenes, new race classes and different tracks, along with good number of new members to the club.

It was a steep learning curve for the new Committee members, with a new President, Treasurer and Secretary taking up their positions for the first time, and learning the ropes in relation to MA rules and planning events. Our outgoing President, Peter Gruber, remained on the Committee, and both he and Mick Hughes, the previous Secretary were always on hand to answer any questions that we may have had, so thank you to them.

2016 saw the introduction of some new natural terrain tracks, including natural terrain tracks, Seymour, Buln Buln and Trafalgar.

In Otboer Viper attended the first State of Origin (hosted by Heaven VMX) and though we only had 7 riders, when it came to the pre 95 class we won first place! It is really positive that we are building these relationships with Inter-State clubs and broadening our vintage events.

A group of Viper members attended Round 8 of the National Titles in Shepparton, we had a Viper stand and a selection of bikes, and were able to spend the day promoting our club. There was a lot of interest in the club on the day and this resulted in some new entries to our Clarkefield event and membership enquiries.

We increased the number of sponsors this year, and this enabled us to have some great prizes at our end of season presentation. Thank you to all our Sponsors.

Finally, the club is run entirely by volunteers, both the committee and other people, who put in a lot of their own time to help organise events and on race days. Without them, we wouldn't be able to run the club, so a big thanks to all involved.

### Competition

It was decided by the Committee at the beginning of the season to have 7 rounds during 2016, with all points counting, rather than dropping points as in the previous season. We also agreed to award trophies from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> place in each class, rather than just the top 3.

A new class, Vintage All Eras – Non-Expert, was added to the race schedule. It provided those committed riders of our staple classes to compete in a race that pushed and balanced their abilities equally. Throughout the season it grew into a popular class with strong numbers at most events.

Pre 95 still proves to be an evolving class, inspiring riders to build and restore and era of bikes that haven't been raced for a lot of years.



Pre 85 and Pre 90 Over 45's remained staple classes.

To supplement the race classes, in 2016 we also ran two recreation classes, one for Juniors, and one for Mini Bikes. Juniors, aimed at under 16, remains a great way to engage younger attendees to race and ultimately supports Viper's family friendly, all age environment.

We had good, consistent numbers for all of our events throughout 2016 – however Carkefield won again for being our most well attended event of the year, and a great weekend was had by all down to a lot of organising, and the help of our hosts, Shane and Lane.

Viper Club showed resilience and commitment to racing through all conditions this season. Thank you to the members for great attitudes in all weathers.

## Development

There was ongoing development to promote the club more effectively and to help our members.

Carl did a great job in running the Viper Facebook page, which now has a massive 981 members, with more being added all the time. This is a great medium to provide information to our members, let them have their say, and get the club's name out there to potential new members.

In addition to the Facebook page, we also spent time in developing the Viper website, and this was constantly maintained throughout the season with details of events, up to date information and news stories, results and photos, which again proved to be very popular with our members, and a great way to promote the club to new members.

The website was also developed to introduce a new online event entry form, which made it a lot easier for members to enter events, and for admin to sort out entries and race schedules prior to each event.

A more automated lap scoring system was developed. Whilst lap scorers were still required, this took away the arduous job of manually calculating positions, scores and results, and enabled us to get more accurate results out to everyone much more quickly following each event, for the specific event and the overall season.

## Membership

It was pleasing to see the membership numbers continue to rise, and there was an increase of almost 20% compared to the previous season.

We kept the annual membership fees @ \$70, the same as the previous year, and everyone seemed thrilled with their new Viper hoodies which they received as part of their membership.

We are already seeing requests for membership forms from brand new members for this coming season, and hopefully we will see another increase.



## Committee Update

Our Secretary, Vanessa Kent, has resigned from the Committee and has offered to do whatever she can to assist with the handover to the new incoming Secretary. Vanessa has proven to be an integral part in helping to formalise our Viper committee with her extensive knowledge of process and time committed to detail.

Mark Schwarze has given resignation, thank you Mark

Others: XXXX

***Peter Elliot - President***