

Trials Tales

Summertime Blues

By Greg Cramond

January is a time where all trials riders are walking around the house twisting their wrists and manipulating invisible clutch and brake levers with their itchy fingers. Some are even reduced to making brrrm, brrrm noises as they negotiate their way over domestic obstacles.

The festive season is done and many of the lucky ones have shiny new bikes in their shed. Some of us don't unfortunately, but all can feel that expansion in the abdomen area that is the result of all that Xmas cheer.

How many of us have just snuck into the shed more than once to admire our gleaming steed, and yet thought?: No, if I fire it up and go for ride then I'll just have to clean it afterwards.

The excuses are dragging our feet: The trials season is still months away. The hot weather is still here. With water restrictions I have to water the garden with a bucket. And there are so many other jobs around the house. I must show the partner that for at least two months I'm not the selfish bike-obsessed oaf.

So now we've taken to moping around the house, grumpily fixing the fly-screen on the porch door, or dragging our carcass through another bloody shopping mall as the significant others spend their Xmas voucher cards.



I feel better already

Now to the actions required to once and for all put those summertime blues behind us. Fire up that bike and get some ringing in your ears other than the cries of admonishment from the significant other.

Now take the bike outside, yes that's it, right out into the elements. Now make some slow turns, even do some hops if you're not quite normal. Twist that wrist now, manipulate those fingers...feels good doesn't it.

Wow, there's a log - you know what to do. Now you're getting the hang of it. New bike owners, stop gibbering on about run-in periods, give it the berries, you know you want too.

Dust? What dust?

So if you're looking for the cure to the summertime blues, which I know you are because this is Trials Australia and it's January, do what I did last week, you won't be sorry.

Pictures taken at a secret location in the Adelaide Hills where it was hot and water was imbibed at a frightening rate, which must explain my not-so-reduced girth.



Oh no, my bike's getting dirty!

The Trials Australia website

is the refuge of some who endlessly trawl through the posts and messages looking for other lost souls. Magazines and dealers websites are paged through endlessly looking for interesting new gear or information on new bikes. Some of us infected tragics have no doubt memorised the exact carburettor jetting specifications on each of the manufacturer's bikes. Say it's not true!

Admit you are infected with the "summertime blues". It will help because it will help you understand that you need therapy. And there is only one cure for the summertime blues.....

Yes, that's right it's standing in the shed right now. It's clean now, but unfortunately the therapy will entail it gathering some dirt. I know this is a problem, but consider this, summertime dust is easier to remove than mud!

Now the therapy may also entail us building up a sweat. Yes, I know it's bloody hot and might even be seen as hard work by our flabby over-indulged bodies, but this is something we'll have to face later regardless. We might even be forced through the course of the therapy to imbibe a not so familiar at this time fluid, called water. It's alright, water is often found (in much more manageable proportions) in other festive season fluids that we have become so familiar with. Surprisingly though, water is a necessary part of the therapy, and should be handy at all times, because without it our excuse of it being too hot does gain some credence.



Completely cured!