



Words: Glen Williams, Pics: D New/Peter Callen

STREET RACING

In The Wild West

Greymouth kicks off the New Zealand street racing calendar and the 2008 event was a cracker! BRM's reporter Glen Williams was there to bring you all the action.

Street racing on the West Coast is done the old-fashioned way – with good humor, great resolve and very much in the interests of everyone having a damn good time.

The Greymouth Street Races were first held in 1989 when the locals had an idea that an event like this could raise funds to support the community with their recovery from the severe 1988 Greymouth floods.

2008 was the 19th year of the

event being run and was held as usual over Labour Weekend in October. It was supported by full fields in all eight classes ranging from Buckets through to the Formula Greymouth Open class and with rider ages spread from 16 years through to 73. The weather to say the least was stunning, even though there were dire stories of snow and ice in Christchurch and a wet and wild weekend for much of the North Island, it was clear

blue skies and 20+ degree temperatures that greeted the crowds and riders in attendance for dry and warm racing on the Sunday.

The weather also brought out the crowd and by midday they were spread around the compact street circuit's full circumference in places two-to-three deep. The motards as always were a great crowd pleaser and this year (like last year) they had their very own dirt-section built into the track. As expected it was Auckland's Steve Briggs who won the day in the Motards class on his trick KTM machine. A wide variety of race bikes turn up at Greymouth and this is one of the highlights of the meeting, with classic and BEARS bikes having a particularly strong following on the Mainland.

One of the key organisers and club captain Steve Hyde commented, "The day pretty much went completely to plan, we started the practice and racing on time and had minimal incidents all day.

"It was a great effort by a team



Bruce Hansen Temuka Ducati 748, hit a dislodged manhole cover...



of very dedicated West Coasters and it included the help of the local kart club to assist in the set-up and breakdown of the track safety fencing, and hay bales. In return for this the kart club got to hold some races of their own as part of the program and by all reports they were again a crowd pleaser. The track is located in the very center of Greymouth's township with part of it running along the town's main road – a little bit like Paeroa's Hacksaw layout. Its compact nature with short straights and a few bumps here and there keep

petitive with the larger machines and keeps the racing tight.

The laid-back, easy-going atmosphere surrounding the meeting makes it all the more enjoyable. The team in Greymouth are already planning next year's 20th Anniversary event and knowing them it will be that little bit better again in 2009.

So you racers and riders out there make a note in next year's diary around Labour Weekend to visit one of the best little street races in the west. I for one look forward to going back and having another crack at it.

BRM



RESULTS

- Post Classic**
 1st Chris McMeeken (Suzuki GS1000)
 2nd Neil Batchelor (Honda CBX550)
 3rd Brendon Booth (Yamaha RD350LC)

- F3**
 1st Glen Williams (Suzuki SV650)
 2nd Andrew Rangī (Suzuki SV650)
 3rd Eric de Boer (Kawasaki ZXR400)

- Buckets**
 1st Brendon Booth (Suzuki FXR150)
 2nd Alastair Hoogenboezem (Honda CBR150)
 3rd Tom Bos (Suzuki FXR150)

- Supermotard**
 1st Stephen Briggs (KTM450SMR)
 2nd Casey Bullock – (KTM505SX)
 Mitch Rowe – Yamaha (YZ450F)

- Formula 1**
 1st Glen Williams
 2nd Hank Randal (Honda CBR1000RR)
 3rd Andrew Rangī (Suzuki SV650)

- Classic Pre-63**
 1st Adrian Walker (Aermacchi 350)
 2nd Barrie Gurdler (BSA)
 3rd Ian McGregor (BSA)

- BEARS**
 1st Brendan Hayman (Triumph 675)
 2nd Merv Orford (Triumph 675)
 3rd Lee Munroe (Ducati 999)

- Formula Greymouth**
 1st Glen Williams
 2nd Hank Randal
 3rd Daniel Mckenie (Honda CBR929R)



Steve Hyde - race organiser and club captain found time to have a play on race day.