

EVAN'S NEW KTM DUKE 890R

Back in 'the day', I earned a lot of money and I would change my motorcycle every two years. I always bought new as I didn't want anyone's problems, and I would have a new bike warranty.



I had always wanted a Yamaha **XJR**, even when they were a 1200, so when I finally got one, I knew that I would keep it longer than normal. I bought a new 2014 model (*that was the last model that was imported here. Elwyn*) in 2016 whilst in Tasmania. I spent about \$3k in accessories and loved it.

After 5 years I decided that I wanted a bike with newer technology. I almost bought the new Ducati 935 Monster until I went online and checked out every manufacturer's models that were sub \$20k (Triumph are getting a little carried away with their prices).

I stumbled across the KTM **Duke 890R** and went and sat on one. I then read and watched a million reviews before deciding that this was the bike for me. It was about 50kgs lighter than the XJR, 22 more hp and only 8 less Nm of torque. The Brembo brakes and WP suspension are top notch as well as the slipper clutch, cornering ABS and various other bits. 'Sports' mode is brilliant and it always remains in that.



Of course, I have hit the accessory bin. The KTM screen is extremely effective and the decat pipe (made by Verex in Tasmania) has completely removed the need for a slip on. I have removed the majority of orange decals (I appreciate the "if it's not orange, then it's a lemon" ideology from KTM, but there was too much orange) and have

had custom black decals made. The obligatory foam grips are on, as well as a tail tidy (also made in Tasmania, by Mustard Bikes). A comfort seat is fitted as KTM supply you with a plank. Bar end mirrors which are excellent, KTM belly pan and other small bits. The bike comes standard with a black seat cowl which I had painted white and you get a box with the rear seat and pillion pegs (which will probably never be fitted).

Score - 9/10... because no bike is perfect.