



MAIN: Pick a snake, any snake! Big Jim's snake show gets underway. 1. "They're not too bad, so long as you know how to handle 'em." Yeah, right, Jim! 2. Feeding time at the zoo for this venomous Taipian. 3. "What's in the box, Jim?" Do you really want to know!

WELCOME TO JIM'S JOINT

IF THERE'S ONE THING a Cape York ride will deliver, it's a massive stack of awesome memories of getting away from it all on a sensational trail ride. There's the tracks, the trails and the kick-arse riding to be had on sections like the Telegraph Track and the CREB Track. There's the guys you meet on tour: you might be strangers when you start, but you'll be piss-swilling buddies by the end! There's the remoteness and that awesome feeling of being so far away from it all. And then there are the characters. Real characters.

I've done half a dozen Cape rides over the years and thought I'd crossed paths with all the crazies of the Cape, but this issue's ride with Dave Williams and the Fair Dinkum Bike Tours Cairns crew dished up another ripper bloke who is as legendary as the Cape itself.

We'd camped out at the Lion's Den between Wujal Wujal and Cooktown, when Dave said: "Before we leave in the morning, we'll duck over the road and you boys can check out Jim's Joint."

Well, what a piece of work Jim turned out to be.

Plonked up on a plateau literally across the road from the Lion's Den Hotel, Jim's Joint featured a menagerie of ducks, geese, chickens, dogs, parrots, pigs and ... wait for it ... snakes!

Yep, Jim's a snake man and what a feast of slimy, slippery and potentially lethal reptiles he has. From harmless pythons through to Death Adders and Taipans, Jim's got the lot. And yeah, he'll grab 'em and poke 'em and generally scare the crap out of you with his antics.

If you're ever at the Lion's Den, be sure to check out Jim's Joint. **TZ**

