



In the past 30 years there have been six outstanding BMX freestyle riders in my book. Bob Haro, Eddie Fiola, Mat Hoffman, Dave Mirra, Jamie Bestwick and Ryan Guettler. When I say outstanding I mean just that.

They have the entire package. Great rider, fantastic personality, very driven, amazingly focused. Basically a marketing companies ideal sportsman. To achieve this you have to have the entire package. It seems to be every five or so years someone just stands out from the crowd. I have seen it, I have lived it.

Now I am privileged to say I believe I have found the next thing in BMX freestyle. Jaie Toohey! This kid has it all, height, style, originality, consistency and to finish it off he has all the most difficult tricks out there under his belt already. Jaie has an amazing personality, he is fun, caring and very considerate of others. So anyway, enough about me lets meet the real Mr Jaie Toohey!

Intro by **John Scottish Bultjens** Interview by **Holmes**

Tell me a little bit about who you are, your start in BMX and how you got to where you are now?

I live on the Central Coast of NSW, I have just turned 18 yrs old and live to ride BMX. When I was very young my Dad and Mum took me BMX racing. I did that for a little bit, but I was always building jumps in the back yard and on the corner of the street. I was always trying to do tricks.

Can you remember the time when you got the taste of riding BMX and doing stuff other than just riding around?

When I was about 10 years old I got a Diamond Back. I thought it was great, all I wanted to do everyday was ride my bike. I'd go up the local skate ramp, ride for hours and keep trying new tricks.

So who did you look up to BMX wise when you were young?

The people that I looked up to were Ryan Guettler, Cam White and Dave Mirra.

And how about now?

I have to say that even after going to America and meeting heaps of guys it still has to be Ryan, Cam and Dave.

Who's your local riding crew?

Local boys Andrew, Luke and Mitch.

Your local scene seems pretty strong, what are your top 3 local spots?

Most of the guys are riding very well up here now. My top three spots that I ride are Slam Factory, Wadalba and The Entrance.

The last year or so has seen you boosting higher than everyone in Australia, where did this super boost come from? Springs surgically planted in your knees or what?

To tell you the truth I have no idea how high I get, I just love big quarter pipes. And pedaling as fast as I can at them and going high. I would have to say it's my favourite thing to do.

Run us through your daily routine when you're at home?

Daily routine goes along the lines of sleep until about 12, then go eat some Macca's, then go ride my bike for the rest of the day and try to get some new tricks down.

You just turned 18 and got your license yeah? So will BMX come second to drinking, cars and girls like it does for so many potential world class riders from Australia?

No way! BMX will always come first in my life. I have to keep doing what I love doing, there will always be time to party with the boys after a good day of riding.

You've come up fast in the ranks, what's it like being pro as opposed to a regular rider at a park?

Yeah it seems like that, but about pro and regular, when I ride different parks kids are like 'that's Jaie Toohey', and I'm just like 'nah that's not me'. I love kidding around sometimes.

You hit up the US last year, where did you get to, what was it like? Was it all it was cracked up to be?

Going to the US last year was the best ever, even better than the previous year. I went to Woodward for a couple of weeks and then to the Dew Action Sports Tour. I also went to Cologne Germany for the event there. John (Bultjens) organised for me to stay 10 days with Ryan Guettler and I ended up living with him for the whole time I stayed in the states, like five months. Thanks Ryan!

Who were some of the riders you got to ride with?

Pretty much all the Greenville crew, Guettler, Mirra, Darden and Harrington.

Any funny or memorable moments from the trip you can share with us?

Probably the BMX Masters in Germany. That whole trip I will never forget. And I've had some great times with Guettler and Diogo in the US.

You're off to the States again this year. What's the plan? Where are you staying and how long are you away for?

Yeah back to the States at the end of May. Heading back to stay with Ryan. Also I am planning on going out to Vegas and stay with Cam White for a few weeks. I will stay until November, then back home for the Australian contests.



BMX Games 2009
PHOTO Dan Peters



Local knowledge. Jaie inverting another huge three over the spine.
PHOTO Holmes



Yep. No shoes. WTF?
PHOTO Cooper Brownlee

What comps are you hitting up over there? Just staying in the states or travelling further?

Dew Tour for sure. Then off to Germany for the Worlds and I'll hopefully get to the NORA Cup too. I'm doing the Vans Pro BMX camp in July and any other comps that come up and I can get to while I'm over there, I'll do em.

So, at 18, you're heading to the states again and living and travelling with Ryan Guettler. Did you ever expect to have gotten this far in a couple of years?

There is no way in the world that I would ever have expected to get this far and be living with Guettler, I never thought that would have happened in a million years.

Do you reckon if you make it over there, and follow in the footsteps of Guettler, Mackay, Bohan and the rest of the Aus crew over there now, you'll help a young killer rider from back home get a foot in the door?

I would definitely help anyone get over if they wanted it bad enough. That's if I ever make it! I would help out any Aussie rider just like all those guys did for me.

You had to jump through some hoops to get an athlete visa sorted in time for your trip this year. Was that a stress? How'd you get all that through?

The visa is so hard to get, you have to have so much information about yourself. Letters of support by companies and more. I was fortunate enough to get help from Vans and got some great references from editors and other people.

You've got a pretty solid support crew in the form of your family, they're pretty important to you yeah?

My family helps me out so much, they have always been there for me and have given a lot up so I can follow my dream, thanks heaps Dad and Mum.

And your sponsors seem to be offering you more than just product support. Forgotten and Vans have some pretty good people looking out for you behind the scenes yeah?

I am stoked to be sponsored by Forgotten BMX. And Vans help me out in the states. Very happy and very lucky to be a part of their teams..

How's it been having John Buultjens on board helping out?

Having John as my manager is heaps good, he helps me out so much.

You've been doing the Forgotten thing for a while now, any sign of any signature bits, frames or bikes?

Forgotten Bikes has been really good to me and I'm stoked, no signature stuff, just getting the Forgotten name out there.

You seem to dig the competition vibe, especially now you're placing at the top in Pro all the time. What keeps comps fun for you?

Yeah, I love comps a lot more now! You get to ride with everyone but you always gotta stay focused on your runs and have a good time.

What was the first comp you ever went to?

It was a Red Bull comp in Black Hill, near Cessnock organized by Brett Pople. Brett was the first rider that helped me on the way to where I've got to today.

On Red Bull, the Dirt Pipe event last year, you were killing it all weekend and then ate it in the final, I reckon you could'a won that easy. Would you ride that thing again if it was on?

That place was so amazing, I would do anything to ride that place again cause it was so big and fast. I loved it heaps.

Do you reckon BMX needs some more varied events like that?

Yes for sure. We need way more events like the dirt pipe and other park comps, there aren't enough comps going on in Australia.

And to more recently, the 2009 BMX Games. You stomped it in park and dirt, I half expected you to ride flat too. You liked the park course by the looks of it?

I was stoked on the BMX Games this year, I rode really well. The park course was good, just really windy, very different than last years event at Monster.

And then the dirt event on the final day of the BMX Games, you seemed to be able to still kill it regardless of the ridiculous wind?

Dirt was far too windy, but that seems to happen every year at the BMX Games. I still tried to ride the best I could no matter what. That said, it seemed like everytime I dropped in, so did the wind. But it was the same for everyone.



Huge boost at Rampfest.
PHOTO Cooper Brownlee



Has it been weird riding against crew you looked up to and in some cases making a final over them?

It's really weird. I've been really nervous riding against the people I have looked up to for a long time. When I make the finals with them it is an amazing feeling.

What's your dream, what are you shooting for?

My dream is to ride bikes, do well and buy Guettlers Chrysler 300C off him!

And what keeps driving you to progress your riding?

Lately seeing Mark Webb and Harry Main. Those two guys are out of their minds. They just want to make you get up and go out there to try and learn new stuff.

What's your top 3 tricks right now?

Flair whips, fakie front flips and up-side down 360s.

And what's been the hardest trick for you to learn? Is there one that's always bugging you?

Probably the fakie front flips. You've got to get the fakie so right so you can pop straight off the coping to come around and land perfectly.

I saw you handling that 180 at warp speed into a fakie front flip at Slam, is that going to be unleashed on the AST Tour?

Well maybe if I get the time to take my sprocket bolt out so I can roll backward without pedaling, yes!

What's the best video part you've seen lately?

Probably would have to be Endsearch, Josh Harrington's section for sure. Amazing.

Any word on a Jaie Toohey video part anytime soon?

That would be an awesome dream, but unfortunately nothing like that yet. Maybe in a few more years time!

What would you be doing if you weren't killing it on a 20 inch?

I would be racing supercross for sure.

What kind of advice would you offer to anyone out there that wants to follow in your footsteps?

Just don't get into BMX for the money. Get into freestyle riding for the love and passion of riding.

So, any thanks?

Mum, Dad and my family. Thanks so much for believing in me and for everything you have done for me. Forgotten BMX and John Buultjens, without the confidence that you have in me I would not have gotten as far as I have today, thanks mate! Vans shoes for doing heaps for me in the States and with my visa, Jerry Badder's thanks man. And Les from AA cycles, Charmhaven. Having Corey always there to check my bike over. Richard from Slam Factory's, it's a great place to ride. Thanks heaps to the guys at Jet Pilot for the past 6 months and to my new clothing sponsor Unit. I am so looking forward to being your newest team member. Huge thanks for all the people who help me out, please forgive me if I have forgotten anyone! Peace!

Going big in the infamous aqueduct.
PHOTO Cooper Brownlee



Knox bowl has been home to many an amazing session, but never before has it seen anyone go this big.

PHOTO Cooper Brownlee