

PISTON SLAP

**MONTHLY MAGAZINE
OF THE THORNLEIGH
CAR CLUB INC
ESTABLISHED 1954**



Ernie Boston

January / February 2021

**More Dakar Craziiness
Ernie Boston Tribute
And more....**



PISTON SLAP

THORNLEIGH CAR CLUB INC – OFFICE BEARERS 2020/2021

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When calling an Office Bearer, please remember that this is a voluntary position. It would be greatly appreciated if calls were made outside of business hours (after 5pm) and a voicemail message is left where the call is not taken.

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Andrew & Nicole Crowley	Touring Events	Jim Richardson & Greg Yates	Geoff Horler	Dominic Connolly
Phil Coffey				Karen Yates
Alana Dean				

Monthly Meetings: Second Thursday of each month except January
Pennant Hills Leisure & Learning Centre, 8 Warne Street, Pennant Hills
Video starts at 7:30pm, Meeting starts at 8:00pm

Magazine Articles to: Email: thornleigh.editor@gmail.com
Appreciated 2 weeks BEFORE the monthly meeting

Motorsport Australia (*Confederation of Australian Motorsport, trading as Motorsport Australia*)

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PRESIDENTS PAGE

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2021

Welcome members to a new year as we turn over a new leaf and look forward to spinning some tyres at our events in 2021.

At the end of 2020 we were notified of the sad passing of Ernie Boston. Ernie has been a long standing member of Thornleigh Car Club and has been heavily involved in both the competition and organisation of events for the majority of that time. Even when he was no longer able to compete, Ernie still loved his annual Ernie's Revenge Motorkhana and regularly wrote articles for Piston Slap. Competing in a variety of vehicles over the years from his Volkswagen Beetle to Honda Civic, the King of Motorkhanas loved his sport, helping others find enjoyment and passing on his knowledge so everyone could improve their times. As a long time member of TCC he has definitely had an impact on all of us and will be sadly missed.

The 2021 calendar is being compiled and events finalised. If you know of a great event from past years and haven't already told Glenn Inkster, please let him know so we can include it on the calendar.

The TCC presentation evening is going ahead on Friday 19th February. Murfield Golf Club has a COVID safe plan in place and we have our booking set for the evening. Please confirm your spot as soon as possible so we can notify the club of the numbers attending.

I, like all of you, look forward to a year full of motorsport events again as the COVID precautions become part of everyday life now.

Stay safe and see you at the meeting (and presentation night).
Matt Rath



Cover Photo – Ernie Boston at a State Motorkhana at the Nirimba Education Precinct. Photo by Bruce Moxon.

February Meeting:

Supper by **Matt Rath**

Raffle by **Jim Richardson**



EDITORS REPORT

I am incredibly glad 2020 is over, and if 2020 couldn't get any worse, it ended with the news that TCC had lost one of its legends with the passing of Ernie Boston. I am dedicating this magazine to Ernie Boston in recognition of what he has done for TCC, for motorsport and for us all. He was a great mentor for those wanting to know more about motorsport, particularly motorkhanas, a great advocate for the sport and most importantly a great friend to many of us.



Ernie, you will be missed. There is a section of this magazine that is a tribute to Ernie and includes many photos, memories and thoughts from friends, motorsport achievements, some of his T.C. and Friend cartoons and his first ever Bits from Boston.



For those who don't know much about the history of Bits from Boston or his TC and Friend drawings, the following is a snippet from Ernie's last article in March 2019.

"When I joined TCC back in 1968, I really enjoyed everything motorsport and TCC and that's why I'm still a part of it over 50 years later! In 1971, Tom McKendrick (Editor at the time) and I had this idea for a cartoon in the magazine. It would always be about race, rally or drivers etc. New jokes, old jokes and silly things that club members did would be the theme. The main person would be a driver. Seeing it was about Thornleigh Car Club, he was called T.C. The long suffering friend/helper/navigator, like all drivers' friends, helpers and navigators of the time, would go un-named and he still is. It never seemed to matter what T.C. and friend did, he never got it quite right, so it shouldn't have been too much of a surprise to anyone that if you have ever done anything silly, strange or funny, I will have seen it and then you could see who T.C. really was.... You!

The T.C. and mate cartoons feature in almost every magazine from May/June 1971 (the page is labelled May but appears in the June magazine!) to 2004 when books of all of the cartoons were created by the club, for it's 50th birthday celebrations and as a thank you to me for the cartoons. Since 2004 to now my cartoons appear more sporadically, although I have still seen many members do silly, strange and funny things that will never be captured by my cartoons, so think yourselves lucky!

My first article was 'Odd Bits' in March 1975, and then in April 1975 my regular 'Bits from Boston' started. I've been writing bits about everything ever since. I can't quite tell you what writing Bits from Boston has brought to me. It has been immensely enjoyable..."

Our Presentation Night for 2020 will be held on Friday, 19th February 2021 at the Muirfield Golf Club, like in previous years. A booking form has been included with this magazine. Please ensure you RSVP before Sunday, 14th February to Alana Dean so that the venue can be given final numbers for catering. Please note that the night will be different in some respects due to Covid-19 and the restrictions in place at the time of our event. This includes payment for the dinner which will need to be done predominantly by EFT payments before the night to reduce the amount of cash changing hands, etc, on the night. Additionally, I am still working on a number of videos of events from 2020 for the night, so if you have any photos, videos or in-car footage from any motorsport that you managed to do and that you would like included, please let me know so that I can arrange to get the photos and footage off you.

As always, we need more articles! Reduce your stress in the latter months of the year, by getting your article done earlier!!

You only get out of it, what you put in.

Nicole & Andrew Crowley

Important Editorial Dates To Remember

Next Piston Slap Edition:

March
2021

Submissions required by:

Friday
26th February

Collation Night:

Thursday
4th March

CLUB CAPTAINS REPORT



Hello everybody, we made it through 2020, and after what was a very trying year for a lot of people, hopefully 2021 will be a great year with plenty of motorsport. Talking of motorsport, what was a very slow start from me (Sorry everybody) I do have a Calendar ready.....yes, it is true! It is still very much a draft but I can say that February and March events are definite unless something unforeseen happens. As always, I have tried to get a mixture of events, in different disciplines, from a mixture of clubs that can fit into the year with minimal clashes. If anybody knows of any events that would be good to include in the calendar, please let me know and I will do my best to try to fit them in. As of writing this, there are still a couple of events that will be on the calendar that currently have no date. Once these have been finalised, they will be added into the calendar and other events shuffled around, so keep your eyes open for any changes later in the year. Righto, enough BS, time for the upcoming events. Some info may be scarce, so I apologise.

Upcoming Pointscore Events

Thurs 11th February

TCC Monthly Meeting

Pennant Hills Leisure and Learning Centre, 8 Warne Street, Pennant Hills. 7.30pm start time with supper and raffle afterwards.

Fri 19th February

TCC Presentation Dinner

Type Social
Club Thornleigh Car Club, TCC
Venue Muirfield Golf Club, Barclay Road North Rocks
Time 6.45pm for 7pm Start?
Cost \$50 per person

Come along to help celebrate the achievements of our members during what was a trying year. There will be great food, great company and most likely tall tales, not only from 2020 but years gone by. A yummy Chinese Banquet Menu has been selected and as always vegetarian and other dietary requirement options are available. A separate under 12 kids menu is available for \$15pp. A flyer and booking form has been included with this magazine. Please send in your booking form to Alana Dean on alana.m.dean@gmail.com or 0447 634 913 along with payment details no later than Sunday, 14th February. I believe the night will be slightly different, thanks to COVID, but will still be a great night.

Sat 20th February

CL Rudd Motorkhana

Type Motorkhana
Club Hills District Car Club, HDCC
Venue Richmond Race Club (Greyhound Track) - Londonderry
Cost Estimate around \$50 Adults

I haven't had time to get information on this event but it will be exactly the same as every HDCC Motorkhana they run. This will be held out at the Richmond Race Club in Londonderry which is a fantastic venue. It will be a cracker day that shouldn't be missed. Keep an eye out for the Supp Regs and Entry Form on the HDCC Facebook page and Website. www.facebook.com/groups/114162541937942
www.hdcc.com.au

Sun 21st February

Dave Johnson Historic Rally

Type Touring Rally
Club Classic Rally Club, CRC
Venue Mittagong
Entry \$100 (lunch not included)

Starting and finishing from the Mittagong RSL Club, the Dave Johnson Historic Navigation Assembly will be run over 300km. There will be four classes with Masters and Apprentice crews having OLD maps to comply with, and about 15km of gravel. Tour and Social crews who will enjoy a fully route charted drive over sealed roads. First car starts at 8.30am with an expected finish of 4:30pm approx. with the Mittagong RSL Club opening for breakfast from 6.00am (pending Covid restrictions). There will be NO Registration at the start venue, all registration will be online. Please check the CRC Website for info, Supp Regs and Entry www.classicrallyclub.com.au/index.php/the-club/calendar/djh-2021

Sun 7th March

New Year Khanacross

Type Khanacross
Club Hills District Car Club, HDCC
Venue Hampton

Yet again, need I say anything about HDCC and the Khanacross they run. It will be another great event that shouldn't be missed. No specific details at the moment but I can guarantee it will be run in true HDCC fashion out at Hampton. Keep checking the HDCC Facebook Page and HDCC Website for more information. www.facebook.com/groups/114162541937942 or www.hdcc.com.au

Thurs 11th March**TCC Monthly Meeting**

Pennant Hills Leisure and Learning Centre, 8 Warne Street, Pennant Hills. 7.30pm start time with supper and raffle afterwards.

Sun 14th March**Grip N Slip Motorkhana**

Type Motorkhana

Club Thornleigh Car Club, TCC

Venue Nirimba Education Precinct, Eastern Road, Nirimba Fields (Quakers Hill)

Cost \$60 Adult, \$40 Junior

A selection of great tests will be chosen and modified for maximum enjoyment with a few completely new/made up tests thrown in! Providing that there are no water restrictions in place, some of the tests will be wet down (similar to the advanced driver training organisations that use the grounds) for even more fun, though fingers are crossed for the rain that we had during the 2019 event!! Passengers welcome, so make sure you keep this day free! Keep an eye on the Facebook page and TCC website as Supp Regs and Entry Forms will be available shortly. If you are not competing, get your officiating requirement out of the way early on!!

Sat 27th March**Bulahdelah Rally**

Type Forest Rally

Club AMSAG

Venue Bulahdelah

No information at the moment but if you are interested keep an eye on the AMSAG website for info, Supp Regs and Entries. www.amsag.com.au/events

Sat 27th March**Shoalhaven Shuffle**

Type Touring Rally

Club Classic Rally Club, CRC

Venue Shoalhaven Region

No information at the moment but if you are interested check the CRC website for Flyers, Supp Regs, Entries. <http://www.classicrallyclub.com.au/index.php/the-club/calendar/shoalhaven-2021>

Upcoming Non-Pointscore Events

<i>Sun 14th February</i>	<i>NSW State Motorkhana Rnd1</i>	<i>WAC</i>	<i>Awaba</i>
<i>Sun 21st February</i>	<i>NSW State Khanacross Rnd1</i>	<i>WAC</i>	<i>Awaba</i>
<i>Sat 6th March</i>	<i>NSW State Hillclimb – The Esses</i>	<i>BLCC</i>	<i>Mt Panorama</i>
<i>Sun 7th March</i>	<i>NSW State Hillclimb – Mtn Straight</i>	<i>BLCC</i>	<i>Mt Panorama</i>
<i>Sun 7th March</i>	<i>NSW State Motorkhana Rnd2</i>	<i>WAC</i>	<i>Awaba</i>

Glenn Inkster

Thornleigh Car Club's 2020 Presentation Night

*Friday 19th February 2021
Muirfield Golf Club, North Rocks Road,
Muirfield*



Booking form and details included with this magazine

Calendar V1

Day	Date	Month	Event	Venue	Club	Type
Thurs	11	February	TCC Monthly Club Meeting	Pennant Hills	TCC	Meeting
Fri	19	February	TCC Presentation Dinner	Muirfield Golf Course	TCC	Social
Sat	20	February	CL Rudd Motorkhana	Londonderry	HDCC	Motorkhana
Sun	21	February	Dave Johnson Historic Rally	Mittagong	CRC	Tour
Sun	7	March	New Year Khanacross	Hampton	HDCC	Khanacross
Thurs	11	March	TCC Monthly Club Meeting	Pennant Hills	TCC	Meeting
Sun	14	March	Grip N Slip Motorkhana	Nirimba	TCC	Motorkhana
Sat	27	March	Bulahdelah Rally	Bulahdelah	AMSAG	Forest Rally
Sat	27	March	Shoalhaven Shuffle	Shoalhaven Area	CRC	Tour
Sat	3	April	WRX Supersprint	SMSP Brabham	WRX	Speed
Thurs	8	April	TCC Monthly Club Meeting	Pennant Hills	TCC	Meeting
Sat	17	April	Awaba Khanacross	Awaba	WAC	Khanacross
Sat	1	May	Minidulla Rally (CRS, HRS)	Shallow Crossing	SKDAC	Forest Rally
Sat	8	May	Dirt / Tar Khanacross Day / Night	Ringwood	MGCCN	Khanacross
Thurs	13	May	TCC Monthly Club Meeting	Pennant Hills	TCC	Meeting
Sun	16	May	Sheep Station Rally	TBA	CRC	Tour
Sun	30	May	Ringwood Hillclimb A2A	Ringwood	MGCCN	Hillclimb
Sun	6	June	NSW State Motorkhana Round 5	Nirimba	TCC	Motorkhana
Thurs	10	June	TCC Monthly Club Meeting	Pennant Hills	TCC	Meeting
Sun	13	June	WRX Supersprint	Wakefield Park Raceway	WRX	Speed
Sun	20	June	Tour d' Course	TBA	AROCA	Tour
Sun	4	July	Awaba Motorkhana	Awaba	WAC	Motorkhana
Thurs	8	July	TCC Monthly Club Meeting	Pennant Hills	TCC	Meeting
Sun	11	July	NSW State Khanacross Round 5	Awaba	WAC	Khanacross
Sat	17	July	Rally of the Bay (NSWRC. CRS, HRS)	Batemans Bay	NSSCC	Forest Rally
Thurs	12	August	TCC Monthly Club Meeting	Pennant Hills	TCC	Meeting
Sat	14	August	Narooma Rally (CRS, HRS)	Narooma	BMSC	Forest Rally
Sun	22	August	TCC Luddenham Track Day	Luddenham	TCC	Speed
Sun	29	August	NSW State Motorkhana Round 7	SMSP Skidpan	MX5	Motorkhana
Sat-Sun	4-5	September	Alpine Classic Rally	TBA	CRC	Tour
Thurs	9	September	TCC Monthly Club Meeting	Pennant Hills	TCC	Meeting
Sat	11	September	TCC Matts Khanacross	Colo Park	TCC	Khanacross
Sat	18	September	Blue Range Rallysprint 2	Canberra	LCCC	Rallysprint
Thurs	14	October	TCC Monthly Club Meeting	Pennant Hills	TCC	Meeting
Sat	23	October	Kosciuszko Automotive Monaro Stages Rally	Cooma	LCCC	Forest Rally
Sat	6	November	HDCC Motorkhana	Londonderry	HDCC	Motorkhana
Sat	6	November	Speed Weekend Supersprint	Mt Panorama - Bathurst	BLCC	Speed
Sun	7	November	Speed Weekend Mountain Straight Hillclimb	Mt Panorama - Bathurst	BLCC	Hillclimb
Thurs	11	November	TCC Monthly Club Meeting	Pennant Hills	TCC	Meeting
Sat	20	November	NSW State Khanacross Rnd 7 (Club Captains)	Hampton	HDCC	Khanacross
Thurs	9	December	TCC Monthly Club Meeting	Pennant Hills	TCC	Meeting

More Dakar Crazyess!

Last year I started off my Dakar Rally article with the following quote by Dakar Rookie Sebastien Cojean “We are not crazy, we are living an adventure”. I disagreed then, knowing that competing in Dakar definitely would be one hell of an adventure, but believing all participants in Dakar are also definitely crazy! This year further reconfirmed my thoughts!

There were many times Andrew and I would go “ooh” or “aagh” (and sometimes even used expletives!) watching competitors at full speed launching over blind sandhill crests, suddenly coming upon other competitors especially trucks coming up on bikes or riding/driving over massive rocks and boulders. They are definitely crazy!

This year’s Dakar ran from the 3rd January to the 15th January, covering a total of 7,812km (4,688km competitive and 3,124km transport) over one prologue and 12 stages in Saudi Arabia. The Prologue whilst used for the starting order of the competitors, the time was to now be included in the competitors’ overall time. 555 competitors and 321 vehicles entered the event which included 129 bikes and quads, 70 cars, 54 lightweight vehicles (prototypes and SSV’s), 42 trucks and 26 classic cars. Of the 555 competitors, 16 were women, 49 different nationalities were covered, 144 Rookies were undertaking their first ever Dakar and 83 Legends were starting after already participating in at least 10 Dakar events.



STAGE	DATE	START AND FINISH	TOTAL SPECIAL
Prologue	Saturday, January 2	Jeddah > Jeddah	129 km 11 km
1	Sunday, January 3	Jeddah > Bisha	623 km 277 km
2	Monday, January 4	Bisha > Wadi Ad-Dawasir	685 km 457 km
3	Tuesday, January 5	Wadi Ad-Dawasir > Wadi Ad-Dawasir	629 km 403 km
4	Wednesday, January 6	Wadi Ad-Dawasir > Riyadh	813 km 337 km
5	Thursday, January 7	Riyadh > Al Qaisumah	662 km 456 km
6	Friday, January 8	Al Qaisumah > Ha'il	618 km 448 km
Rest Day	Saturday, January 9	Ha'il	
7	Sunday, January 10	Ha'il > Sakaka	737 km 453 km
8	Monday, January 11	Sakaka > Neom	709 km 375 km
9	Tuesday, January 12	Neom > Neom	579 km 465 km
10	Wednesday, January 13	Neom > AIUla	583 km 342 km
11	Thursday, January 14	AIUla > Yanbu	598 km 464 km
12	Friday, January 15	Yanbu > Jeddah	447 km 200 km

This year saw the first Classic Category, based around consistency rather than speed of vehicles in Dakar or that had been popular in rally raids before 2000. There was a great mix of vehicles including a Volkswagon Iltis, VW Baja, Skoda LR130, Peugeot 504 pick up, Mitsubishi Montero (Pajero), Buggy Sunhill, the only all-female team in a Porsche 911, Mercedes G-320 and Mercedes and Renault trucks. These were all very popular with the spectators and other competitors and for the Porsche especially, it was incredible to see how low to the ground it was (and how it would have previously competed) compared to the “cars” competing today.





The Sunhill of Marc Douton and Emilien Etienne (229 – centre photo) came first in the Classics with 961 points. Juan Donatiu and Pere Serrat Puig in the 209 Mitsubishi Montero (top right photo) finished second with 2650 points and Lilian Harichoury, Luc Fertin and Laurent Correia in the Renault Truck 420DCI (right middle photo towing the Peugeot 504 Pick Up) finished third in the Classics on 5205 points.

The crew in the Volkswagen Ittis (bottom left photo) have been wanting to run their car in Dakar for quite a while, considering it was a car previously used in Dakar but due to the soft sides of the car/doors, it was never allowed to compete as safety measures and precautions had changed a lot since it was used competitively. With the new Classics category, it once again got the chance to compete.

With safety improvements always being made, there have been several changes to the 2021 Dakar to continue to ensure the safety and well-being of its participants making the event slower but technically harder. There are new audio warnings for participants to warn them of danger zones allowing them to keep alert. Additionally, there are other difficult areas classified as “slow zones” which are speed limited to 90km/h. Airbag vests are now mandatory for all bikes and quad riders. These air bags detect a fall and inflate around the riders shoulders and neck to reduce the severity of injury in the event of a serious crash.

There is also a new rule that there is no changing of tyres allowed in the marathon stages as well as elite bike riders only being allowed a total of 6 rear tyres for the entire rally. Toby Price seen repairing his punctured rear tyre with cable ties.



At the refuel stop at 229km in the special stage, Toby realised that there was only one zip tie still around his back tyre. He was surprised to have come second on the stage, only a minute down on first place, with only one cable tie remaining in place by the end of the 375km stage! Unfortunately for Toby Price, he crashed in Stage 9 and needed to be airlifted to hospital for a check over. He announced on Facebook that he has now broken his 30th bone and has a pretty sore collarbone, shoulder and hand which will need surgery. He is back in Australia at the time of writing and still waiting for the surgery.

When accidents like this occur, especially in a place that is so remote, it’s comforting to all participants to know they aren’t alone. All participants use the Iritrack system (like Rallysafe) which sends real time data of their movements in Saudi Arabia to Paris where there is continuous monitoring of all crews. If a vehicle is

stopped, communication is made through the Iritrack system initiated by people in Paris. If no response is received, or a response advising that the crew are injured, a message is sent directly to officials at the bivouac who can then send a medical team (helicopter or ambulance) to assist. The Iritack system is also capable of having messages sent to nearby competitors who are then instructed to go to the location to support/assist the competitor.

The mutual assistance between competitors is key and part of rally DNA. Rally organisers ensure that there is no penalty to competitors who are providing assistance in the way of lost time. Additionally, Dakar has asked all competitors to undertake first aid training to allow a quicker response to injured competitors. Dakar proudly acknowledges that assistance to any competitor can be within 20 minutes which is much faster than that achieved in Paris.

To show how committed the Dakar is to competitor safety, the medical team at the Bivouac consists of 50 people. This includes two surgeons, four emergency doctors, two radiologists, three nurses, one anaesthetist, four logisticians, two regulators, eight osteopaths, ten medical helicopters with ten doctors, eight medical cars with sixteen doctors and one medical plane with three doctors. Additionally, there are doctors at the start and finish of every stage as well as firefighters with extraction equipment.

While I won't give away too many of the results, some of the outstanding people to watch include Cristina Gutierrez who won Stage One in the Lightweight Vehicle class and becomes only the second female to win a stage. Whilst gearbox trouble forced her to retire from the rally, she certainly showed the world who she was and that she is very capable behind the wheel.



Seth Quintero from the USA was competing in the Lightweight Vehicles in a prototype, who at the age of 18 became the youngest winner of a Dakar stage. He then went on to win another stage to show that he is a definite rising talent.



When there is talk about an Australian who is talented and fast with an impressive mullet, everyone tends to think of Toby Price, but there is another Australian who also fits the bill. Daniel Sanders, 26, is an enduro specialist, outright International Six Days Enduro winner and Australian Off-Road Champion in 2019 from Melbourne who competed in his first ever Dakar. With minimal experience, it was amazing that there were also minimal errors in his navigation. Daniel is definitely one to watch in the future and he and Toby Price make great teammates.

There were plenty of big names competing again in 2021 including Carlos Sainz, Sebastien Loeb, Kris Meeke, Stephane Peterhansel and Nasser Al-Attiyah to name a few. The whole of Dakar can be watched on SBS On Demand and there is also a phenomenal (pdf) book on the history of Dakar that can be accessed at https://storage-aso.lesquippe.fr/ASO/motorSports_dak/DAK21-GuideHistorique-UK.pdf



Sam Sunderland
© Julien Delfosse / DPPI



Giniel De Villiers
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A. Mardeev, D. Svistunov, A. Galiutdinov
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Sebastien Loeb
© Florent Gooden / DPPI



Carlos Sainz
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Nicole Crowley

Vale Ernie Boston

9th February 1943 – 22nd December 2020

It was with great sadness that we learnt of Ernie's passing just prior to the Christmas break and although we knew that his battle with Parkinson's disease was getting harder because he had bounced back from the brink a few times already, we thought he would do it again but alas this was not meant to be this time. Ernie was a long-time member of TCC having joined in 1966 and that set him on a path of great enjoyment and the club became a big part of his life. It was in fact such a big part that Ernie's wife Sandra often joked that the car club was his mistress, and she took a back seat!!

That of course was not true as Ernie loved his family and took great pride in the two Boston boys Michael and John taking up motorsport and being good at it with John of course going on to make a career out of it. Our sympathy goes to the family for their loss.

Many TCC members attended his funeral along with representatives from other clubs, fellow competitors and Andrew Collier representing the Motorsport Australia NSW Autotest Panel.

I first met Ernie at a motorkhana at the old Willows Picnic Grounds just after joining TCC midway through 1975 and he taught me how to do a handbrake turn. He must have been impressed with my new car (a Holden Gemini) as he bought the next model, not sure if my driving at that point impressed him!

Around about that time Ernie must have decided Motorkhanas and Khanacross were the way to go and he was quite competitive in his normal road cars but stepped up a notch when with the help of his good friend Hans Klaack he got a dedicated club car.

First up was a VW Beetle which must have known its own way around the old Leppington Motorkhana Grounds then a very quick VW Golf and finally the Honda Civic all driven with great verve and skill. Ernie cared about the sport and gave up his time at various stages to be on the Motorkhana Panel and pushed hard for freedom for juniors to compete and spent countless hours at Leppington doing maintenance work and at home controlling bookings and collecting monies for the St Andrews Boys Home on whose property we were allowed to play. He was also instrumental in developing the rules for Khanacross events.

All of his behind-the-scenes work resulted in an award from CAMS as the Club Person of the Year and whilst Ernie never made a fuss, he had every right to be proud of that award as he was not known as Mr Motorkhana for nothing!

Ernie's favourite event was his own ERNIES REVENGE MOTORKHANA where he would have no reversing tests and a variety of events a little different to the standard fare. We ran the event together for more than twenty years and had a lot of fun along the way.

Ernie you will be missed but as long as TCC exists there will be an ERNIES REVENGE MOTORKHANA in some form to remember you by.

Phil Coffey



Ernie Boston Tribute

Can you tell us how you became a car nut?

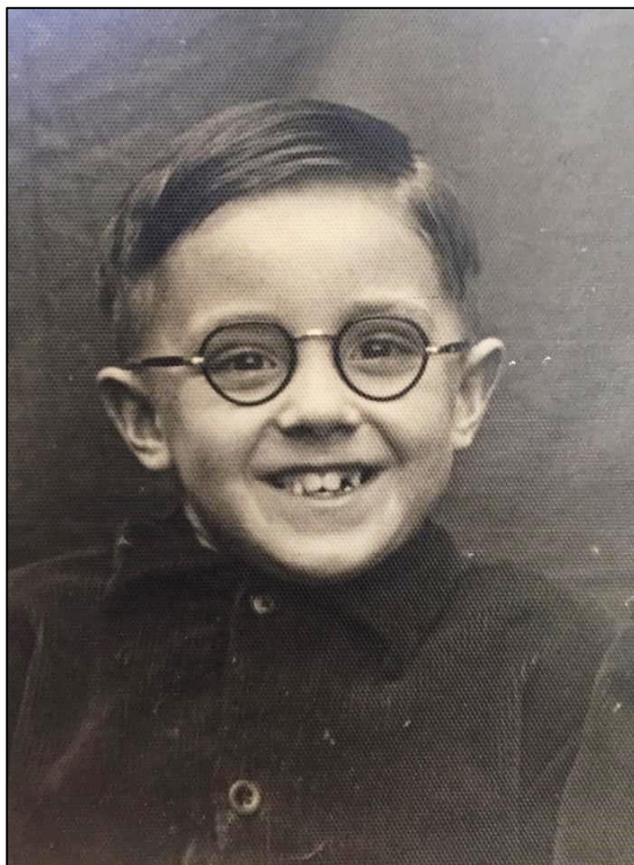
In 1943 I was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Cars were rather rare and in our street there were only 2 so it was a bit of a surprise when we arrived in Sydney. We went to live at Bondi. The street was full of cars and then there were the Redex trials that started at Bondi. I sat up and took an interest in cars. I started reading about other cars because British was best. I was soon checking other cars to find out about other makes. My dad bought a new Simca because the gear stick was on the steering column and taught himself to drive. Yes, he had an Irish licence but there was no test in Ireland and in NSW they just handed you a licence if you entered Australia with a licence from another country. By the time I got to Bathurst for the first Bathurst 500 in 1962 I was a car nut.



And how many cars have you owned since then and how many do you have now?

I bought an EH. I fitted it with a 2" exhaust, wide wheels and lowered it a bit. The EH had one problem, it over heated a bit. The heat killed the motor so out went the 179 and in went a 186. It still over heated. I then joined TCC, got married and bought a house (still live in that house). I sold the EH. Next was a cheaper VW bug and got that forever feeling. I was a Dad by then and I had met a friendly bloke with a garage and VW bug. I still go there today. I bought two more VWs and won the Club Championship. The next car was where the story starts. New member Phil Coffey had a Gemini and he let me have a drive of it. I went out and bought one and it had a mighty hand brake!

I had heard about the NSW Motorkhana Championship so I went to round one at the Sydney markets and won the class. In fact, I won the class at every event for the first 3 years and was top of the class until Garry Elliott came along! I bought a Holden Camira. It was a target. You waited for the next car to hit you and you drove with one eye on the temperature gauge in case you lost another radiator hose. I called in to Klaack Motors one day and in the driveway was a VW bug with a set of fancy wheels and a roll cage. Hans fitted an 1800 motor and twin carbs, exhaust etc. and when I asked how much, he said "give it back to me when you are finished with it", then came the Golf. In went an 1800 motor, weber, struts and give back when you finish. 12 years later I gave it back! My next race cars were Hondas. First was a 12 valve. I won the state class B in 2010 and then a 97 long wheelbase hatch that I still use. So far I have had 14 cars but only owned 2 at a time.



What was your first car?

My first car was a Morris Minor 1000 van. I went everywhere in it. It was fitted with a Lukey exhaust, lowered and an Oxenford head and spot lights. My uncle was the service manager for a Vauxhall dealership and that was my downfall! They called it Vauxhall Viva and it was quick for its day and had an appetite for gear boxes. It was good and I was given the pick of the best of the left over Pirelli tyres from Bathurst. The Viva went after 2 years.





Ernie was a great part of Thornleigh's history. Always remembered for his skill behind the wheel, the King of Motorkhanas. - Matt Rath

Ernie is a true legend of our sport and will always be remembered so fondly by so many but especially our family. - The Easts



Ernie was always a gentleman and was always willing to help, assist and teach many people whenever he could. It wasn't until you spent one on one time with him (particularly in a car when he just jumped in and filled in as navigator etc) that you really got to know him. He will certainly be missed and Thornleigh Car Club has certainly lost one of its best. - Ken Barnwell



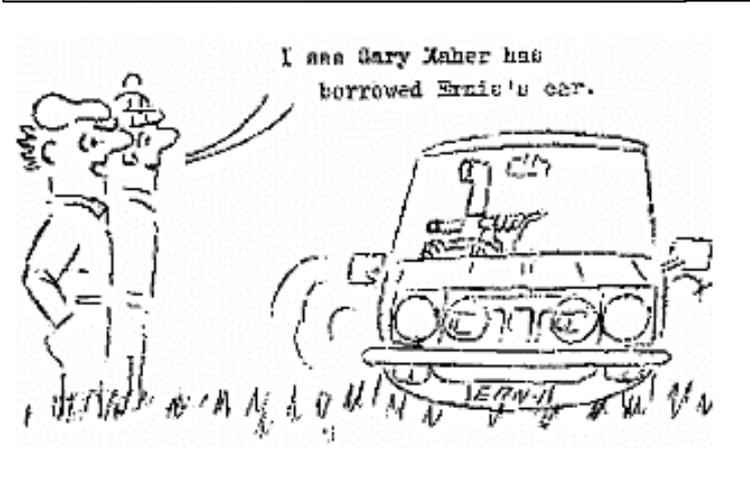
So many memories of the great man Ernie - my first motorkhana at Penrith in 1998 when I was so nervous I thought I would spew, he always sat in the front row at club meetings with the shopping bags full of Motorsport VHS tapes to lend out, his awesome cartoons in Piston Slap, marveling at his speed as a competitor in motorkhanas and loving Ernie's Revenge Motorkhana every year. In later times working together on the NSW Motorkhana Panel, doing set-up at Ansell Park the day before events, driving him to Awaba in the later years and double entering the Civic when he could still kick my arse, always willing to help me out as an official at my Wakefield events and khanacrosses and the 'surprise dinner' when he got CAMS NSW Official of the Year. A quiet achiever that had as much time for new club members and juniors as he did for old friends. We will miss you Ernie. - Andrew Crowley

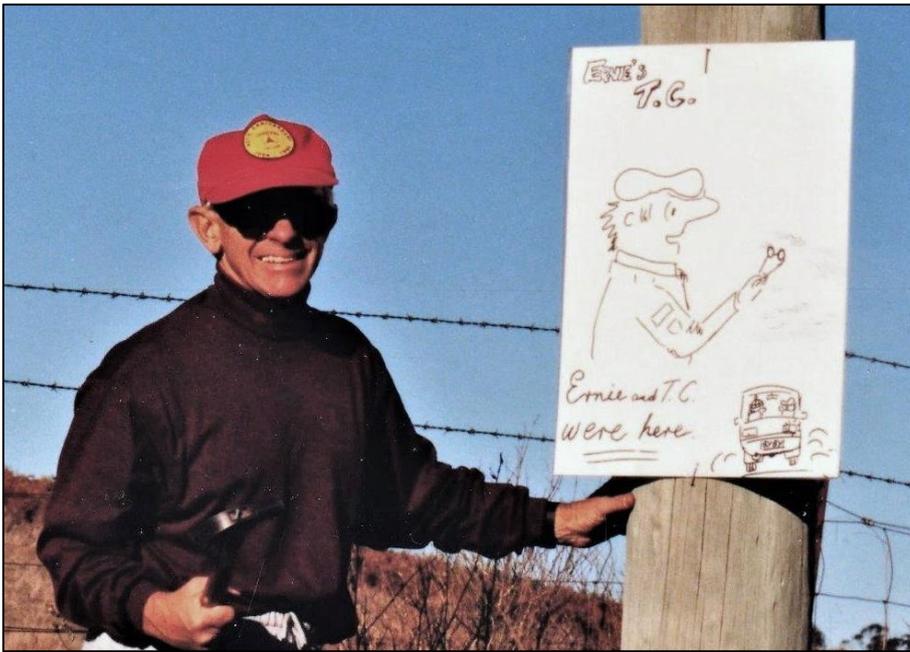


Ernie was the best at jamming as many driving lights, fog lights, insect screens, badge bars and bonnet straps on his car than anybody else. – Don Adams (from earlier magazines)

I have known Ernie for such a long time and it's hard to think he is gone. I came across some old Piston Slaps recently and his TC cartoons are just as clever and funny now as they were then. Such a legacy to leave. – Heather Adam

Thornleigh Car Club and motorsport will never be quite the same without "Mr Motorkkana". His decades of enthusiasm as both a competitor and an official and his regulator contributions to "Piston Slap" will long be remembered. I feel privileged to have known Ernie for over 40 years. – Greg Yates





The Story Behind This Photo

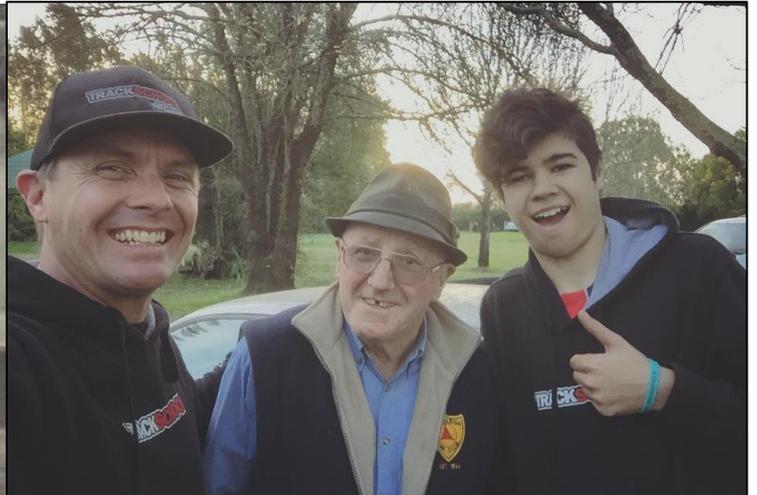
We ran a series of Touring Assemblies titled 'Targa Thornleigh' – the first being run in October 1993 as a prelude to the club's 40th anniversary celebrations.

This was a two day event with an overnight stop at Hampton. The second, known as 'Targa Thornleigh 2', was run in July 1995 and the overnight stop was at Berry. As the third one was only a one day event, it was known as 'Targa 2.5' and was conducted in the Southern Highlands in June 1997, finishing at Sutton Forest. There were a number of places where we wanted to ask the usual Passage Questions but nothing was available, so we asked Ernie to draw one of his cartoons. Ernie drew the cartoon shown in this photo and the question was:

Who was here? The answer, of course, being 'Ernie & TC'.

This was so topical as Ernie (and TC) were 'EVERYWHERE' that The TCC went and he gave so much to the club. On the day that Ernie passed, Ian actually found one of the original Passage Boards in his garage. This sent tingles down his spine when we passed on the sad news to him the following day. Ernie will be sadly missed.

- Gary, Wendy, Andrew & Ian Maher



Always a gentleman. I know I will miss his face at the canteen.
– Jo-Anne Batt

Ernie "The King of Motorkhanas" was an incredible man. He was so friendly and welcoming and was always ready to help anyone. He was a fabulous competitor and one of the best Event Directors! He has contributed so much to Thornleigh Car Club and motorsport as a whole and I will always be grateful for that. I have enjoyed his T.C. drawings, his Bits from Boston articles and will miss hearing his Honda Civic pull up out the front when he dropped off his articles or photos etc. Mostly I will miss his friendship and his sense of humour! Ernie's legacy will live on in TCC with his Ernie's Revenge Motorkhana and Ernie Boston trophy. – Nicole Crowley



Having been involved with Ernie for over 50 years in "Kannas" from passenger flag pick-ups and novelty events at Mitchell Park to state level competition he always had some trick or skill to stay competitive. Who could forget our working bees at his beloved Leppington ground where his Irish wit and unique organising skills made for great outings. – Jim 'Richo' Richardson



One of my earliest memories of Ernie was at an Eastern Creek Skidpan CAMS come and try Motorkhana event. Ernie had his Honda Civic there to give demonstrations in. He took me out between one of the groups to demonstrate Spiro Slalom (properly) to me. We shot off out of the start gate. First, rev it out, quick change to second, hold it on the redline then a quick flick and tap of the handbrake to slide around the two top markers, keeping your foot on the gas so it didn't bog down. I was quite impressed. Hold second to the redline and a quick flick and tap of the handbrake for a sharper turn round the single flag. Back to first, redline, second, hold the redline and another precision tap of the handbrake to make around the two flags then into the slalom. Accelerate in a straight line, but not so much you need to brake to turn round the next flag. Ernie had this well and truly down pat. Once we finished the test he pulled back into the start garage, I thought excellent, another ride. No. Ernie took off his seat belt and said "Now it's your turn". Lets just say he made it look too easy. Three attempts at the course later I had a semi respectable time, though not before after spinning his car twice and taking out a flag with the rear passenger 1/4. Ernie didn't bat an eyelid. It was all part of learning in a safe environment. Having not known Ernie for that long, I was surprised at how he was very happy to let me drive his car, push it hard, slide it around and even got up me for shifting too early (I didn't want to hold the redline). His generosity of knowledge, genuine care for others, willingness to assist and love of no BS grassroots motorsport in the club he loved so much will never leave me.
- Matt Rath

NOW I KNOW HOW STEVE GOES SO FAST BACKWARDS - HE'S PUT THE BODY ON BACK TO FRONT.



Ernie Boston, one of the great characters of NSW Motor Sport.

It was very sad to learn that Ernie Boston passed away quietly on Monday, 22nd December, 2020, following a long battle with Parkinson's Disease, and more recently with dementia.

Because Ernie was mainly a Motorkhana guy, and I'm a Road Racing enthusiast, our paths rarely crossed on the track, but when I helped out at my first couple of TCC Motorkhana events, I came to quickly realise that Ernie was one of the most fierce and well respected competitors in the sport. It seemed to me that Motorkhana events just revolved around Ernie. He, more than anyone else, really set the standard which his fellow competitors had to aim for to be successful.

But perhaps, one of the truly great things which Ernie achieved in the course of his Motor Sport journey was the number of long lasting friendships he created along the way. Many members of our club have developed very close relationships with Ernie over many, many, years, in particular, Phil Coffey, Neil and Joy Hood, John Crowley, Gary and Wendy Maher, Garry Elliott, Greg Yates, John and Sue Littler, and Jim and Bev Richardson. Over the past couple of decades, Ernie was very close to Andrew and Nicole Crowley, Dave Masing, Matt Rath, and Aron Elliott. And that's not to mention the many members of other Car Clubs whom Ernie had formed long-standing relationships since he began competing.

Finally, I'd like to pay tribute to his wife, Sandra, and sons, John and Michael, who have spent heaps of time with Ernie as his health slowly failed over the past three or four years, or so. As the grieving process slowly fades over the coming months, and years, Sandra will probably feel that a great weight has been lifted from her shoulders. John will feel the same way, I'm sure. And Ernie will certainly no longer have to endure the frustrations and suffering which his failing body and mind have had to deal with.

And now, of course, he'll be setting fastest times around the great Motorkhana grounds in the sky!

So, R I P, Ernie...you have certainly left many memories for all of us to talk about when we are gathered at the next Motorkhana, or Car Club meeting.

- Geoff Horler



Ernie Boston had many achievements in motorsport, including many class wins at State Motorkhana events. Within TCC he won the Drivers Championship in 1976 and 1999. Won the Navigators Championship in 1976 and 1977. He won the Motorkhana Championship in 1980, 1982, 1990, 1998 and 1999. Ernie was also awarded the Clubman Award in 2016 in recognition for his commitment and service to TCC and motorsport as a whole.

Within TCC, Ernie held a number of positions during the time he was a member including:

- Social Committee Member: 1971-1972
- Competition Committee Member: 1973-1974, 1977-1982 and specifically motorkhanas from 2005 – 2020.
- Vice-President: 1973-1974
- Secretary: 1975 – 1981
- Editorial Committee: 1983-1986 and then 1990-2006
- Leppington Committee Member 1987 although was the main person looking after the bookings and payments, etc, throughout the use of the grounds.
- Assistant Group 7 Delegate: 1986
- Group 7 Delegate 1988-2010
- Alt. CAMS Delegate: 2000-2006

And whilst Ernie was never the Meeting Officer, he did look after the TCC video library and made sure there was always something interesting to watch at a TCC Club meeting.



Ernie Boston was known as "Mr Motorkhana" in all the years I have been associated with TCC. When Andrew was the editor of the magazine, I would help him by typing up Ernie's hand written article that he sent religiously two weeks before the printing night every month. I found that his hand writing was not very clear and his mastery of the English spelling took a little sorting out. I was never very good at English at school but I did know the two spellings of "there" and "their" and where to use them in a sentence. His early delivery of his articles was good as this gave me two weeks to decipher the contents of his article and turn it into a readable article. The story was always accompanied by the famous Ernie cartoon relevant to his subject matter for that month.

One of Ernie's skills was to write up past events including a mention of every one who had run on the day. He would analyse results in great detail with comments on how the competitors ran in the tests. I learnt early in my typing days to make sure I got a copy of the motorkhana results so when I could not read Ernie's hand writing I could look up the competitor's names and results and get the story right. When Ernie eventually got a computer his words were a little easier to read but he never learnt how to use the spell checker.

Thanks to Ernie he always came good with an article every month in all the years I have been a member and helped with the TCC magazine.

- John Crowley



BITS FROM BOSTON

Datsun's inertia reel seat belts don't work as far as I can see. They don't lock.

A lot has been said about GM and how they finish the Holden. They should look at Ford, I reckon.

See 'Torque' the other week? Testing push bikes. A thing of the future?

The SCC is buying Falcons. I had a look at them and Heaven help us.

Will Gary Russell and Ernie Boston get through the touring assembly and still be friends. (That's if they are to start with).

Tom McKendrick and Ernie Boston have a new opponent, Graham Richardson.

Drove a Marina the other night. Nice car but it doesn't handle.

Gary Russell's new car has been painted - GREY - windows and all.

Next time the scrutineer tells you to get petrol line clips - Trevor Hodgson can tell you where to get thousands of them for free - on the ground, it's the ring pull thing.

Rick Shute was chased by the police and he got away - up Amaroo Hill that is. Rick's time was 29 secs, the police car's time is not known.

Jan Simpson drove the Stinger at Amaroo, poor girl frightened herself first time off. All other runs had much slower starts.

Amaroo Results (the ones that matter): 1st. Tom McKendrick, 2nd. Graham Richardson, 3rd. Ernie Boston.

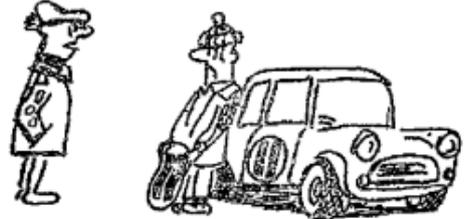
ERNE'S TC

HILL'S SAY THE MUD IS TO BAD

WHAT MUD



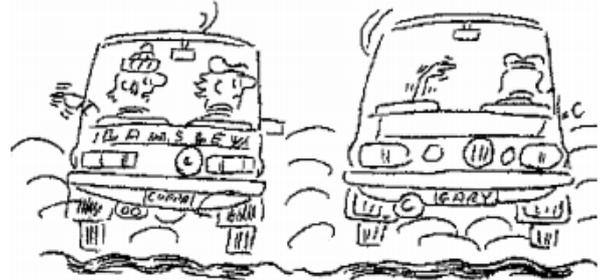
ERNE'S PAGE featuring "T.C."



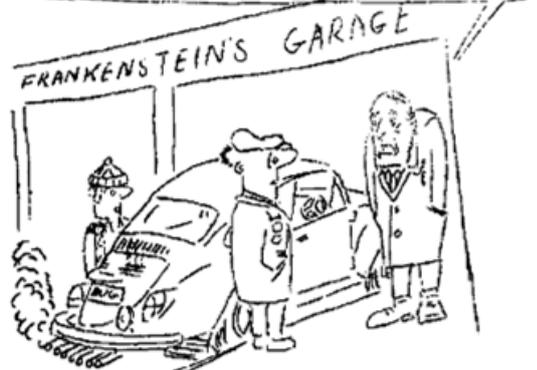
I hope you realize you just put it on upside-down!

I DON'T CARE WHAT GARY'S NEW NAVIGATOR SAYS I KNOW BEST. TURN LEFT

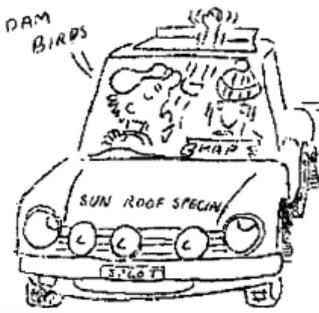
TURN RIGHT IN 200 AND AT THE NEXT STOP CAN I BORROW YOUR PILLOW MATE?



"BODYWORK IS OUR SPECIALITY, ACTUALLY"



THAT RUSSELL PARK JUST IS BAD, AND THAT WE ARE CLEAR, WHICH WAY HOME?



RIGHT ON THE T.R. TORQUE!

IAN HANDED THEM ARE SLOWED! GARY'S THREAT TO THAT THE CAR OFF HIM WORKED



ERNE DID SAY THIS EVENT WOULD BE DIFFERENT





TCC Grip 'n' Slip Multi-Club Motorkhana

Date: Sunday, 14th March 2021
 Time: 8:00am Docco and Scrutineering, 9:45am Driver's Briefing, 10:00am Start
 Location: Parade Grounds - Nirimba Education Precinct, Eastern Road, Nirimba Fields (Quakers Hill)
 Cost: \$60 Adults, \$40 Juniors

With no restrictions on the tests that can be used, a selection of great tests will be chosen and modified for maximum enjoyment. Providing that there are no water restrictions in place, a number of the tests will be wet down (similar to the advanced driver training organisations that use the grounds) for even more fun, though fingers are crossed for the rain like the event in 2019!

Passengers welcome, so make sure you keep this day free!

Keep an eye on the TCC website and Facebook page for more information closer to the event.



TCC State & Multi-Club Motorkhana

Date: Sunday, 6th June 2021
 Venue: Nirimba Education Precinct, Eastern Road, Nirimba Fields (Quakers Hill)
 Cost: State \$70, Multiclub \$60, Juniors (Both) \$40
 Time: 8:00am Docco and Scrutineering, 9:45am Drivers Briefing, 10:00am Start

This event is proposed to be run in the same fashion as 2018 and 2019.
 State competitors will have one reversing test and two runs at each test.
 Multi-club competitors will have no reversing and one run at twice as many tests.

Passengers welcome, so make sure you keep this day free!

Keep an eye on the TCC website and Facebook page for more information closer to the event.



Luddenham Track Day

Sunday, 22nd August 2021

TCC Luddenham Track Day

Date: Sunday, 22nd August 2021

Location: Luddenham Raceway, 821-849 Luddenham Rd, Luddenham NSW 2745

After the success of our previous track days, we are running this speed event again. Info and entry forms will be released in early 2021. All starters to have one 10 minute session per hour and time permitting, we will finish with one quick open session. In 2019, we had almost half of the field get in over 50 laps of the track.

Passengers are welcome! This is a great way to get some on track training, have fun with a mate or to introduce someone new to the joy of motorsport!

Spots will be limited for this event, so make sure you keep this date free. Keep an eye on the TCC website and Facebook page for more information closer to the event.

Motorsport Australia Updates



Motorsport Australia App

This free app is available on the App Store and Google Play, and it is directly linked to your existing Motorsport Australia Member Portal profile. You'll no longer have to wait for your licence to arrive in the mail. And there's no more carrying around another card in your wallet. Your Motorsport Australia profile is now in the palm of your hand. With live information such as your expiry date and licence level, the information will always be up-to-date whenever you need to show it at a Motorsport Australia event.



More Motorsport More Often

Motorsport Australia has today announced significant changes to its licence and permits structure, aimed at improving access to motorsport participation. As part of a new look initiative 'More Motorsport More Often', the changes aim to simplify the licence structure. Motorsport Australia has reduced the existing 34 licence types to 11, meaning less need for competitors to seek out licence upgrades as they progress through their respective disciplines. The Officials licence structure has also undergone a significant restructure, with 78 licence types reduced to 40 so as to better align with the training provided and simplify the advancement opportunities for those Officials eager to rise through the ranks. Event organisers and clubs will also see benefits from these changes, with Motorsport Australia confirming its 172 permit types are being reduced to 61. This change will see more consistency in the cost of permits, with the new permit structure to cast a wider net on events, making the permit process easier and fairer.

For more information go to <https://motorsport.org.au/media/news/detail/2020/12/14/more-motorsport-more-often> and <https://www.motorsport.org.au/membership/licence/changes>

Looking for more ways to interact with Thornleigh Car Club?



Look for **Thornleigh Car Club Inc** on Facebook and Instagram to see upcoming events, photos, results and other motorsport related news.



Subscribe to our channel **Thornleigh Car Club Inc** to see videos of our events. Alternatively, if you have a video that you would like to appear on our YouTube channel, please contact Nicole Crowley.



Want to help TCC go green?



Whilst TCC understands that a number of our members still prefer to receive a hard copy of their magazine, a number of members also equally prefer to receive their magazine electronically.

The electronic magazine has everything the hardcopy magazine has and more. It's in full colour, and gives you links to upcoming events, pointscores, videos and other important information. It is also received before the mailed hard copy.

If you currently receive a hard copy magazine and wish to change to start receiving an electronic copy of the magazine, please let Geoff Horler or Nicole Crowley know. Please also ensure that you have given them your email address. Once this is updated, you'll receive the very next magazine electronically.

THORNLEIGH CAR CLUB HISTORIC VEHICLE REGISTRATION RENEWALS

A quick reminder of the rules and requirements for the renewal of your historic vehicle, with Thornleigh Car Club, under the current Log Book Scheme;

1. A renewed application for recognition must be supplied if any changes to your current supplied details
2. Proof of current financial membership of TCC supplied
3. Proof of current insurance of vehicle
4. Current pink slip for vehicle
5. Completed Historical Vehicle Declaration (as supplied with your renewal)
6. A \$10 fee payable to TCC to cover admin costs
7. A signed acceptance of all current conditions and regulations

Copies of any of these forms are available from the Registrar.

For more information please contact Jim Richardson on 9639 0638 or via email at jimandbev@bigpond.com





Other Motorsport Results



WRC - World Rally Championship - 2020

Driver Standings

	Points
1. Sebastien Ogier	122
2. Elfyn Evans	114
3. Ott Tanak	105
4. Thierry Neuville	87
5. Kalle Rovanpera	80

Points

Last Event: Rally Monza 4 – 6 December 2020

1. Sebastien Ogier / Julien Ingrassia
2. Ott Tanak / Martin Jarveoja
3. Dani Sordo / Carlos Del Barrio

Next Event: Rally Monte Carlo 21 - 24 Jan 2021

ARC - Australian Rally Championship - 2019

Driver Standings

	Points
1. Harry Bates	365
=2. Lewis Bates	242
=2. Molly Taylor	242
4. John O'Dowd	162
5. Luke Anear	161

Points

Last Event: NatCap Rally 27 - 29 November 2020

1. Harry Bates / John McCarthy
2. Molly Taylor / Dale Moscott
3. Clayton Hoy / Erin Kelly

Next Event: NatCap Rally 26 - 28 March 2021

F1 – Formula One - 2020

Driver Standings

	Points
1. Lewis Hamilton	347
2. Valtteri Bottas	223
3. Max Verstappen	214
4. Sergio Perez	125
5. Daniel Ricciardo	119

Points

Last Event: Abu Dhabi Grand Prix 10 - 13 Dec 2020

1. Max Verstappen
2. Valtteri Bottas
3. Lewis Hamilton

Next Event: Bahrain Grand Prix 26 - 28 March 2021

Supercars - 2020

Driver Standings

	Points
1. Scott McLaughlin	2576
2. Cameron Waters	2125
3. Shane van Gisbergen	2095
4. Jamie Whincup	2049
5. Chaz Mostert	1958

Points

Last Event: Bathurst 1000 15-18 Oct 2020

1. Shane van Gisbergen / Garth Tander
2. Cameron Waters / Will Davison
3. Chaz Mostert / Warren Luff

Next Event: Bathurst 500 26 – 28 February 2021



**A NEW RANGE OF
THORNLEIGH CAR CLUB
REGALIA IS COMING
SOON.**

STAY TUNED!

THE CHAMPIONS OF 2019



ARON ELLIOTT
1st Club Championship
1st Driver's Championship
1st Khanacross Championship
1st Motorkhana Championship



GARRY ELLIOTT
2nd Club Championship
2nd Driver's Championship
2nd Khanacross Championship
2nd Motorkhana Championship



ANDREW CROWLEY
3rd Club Championship
1st Rally Driver's Championship



MATT RATH
4th Club Championship
2nd Rally Driver's Championship



JOHN CROWLEY
5th Club Championship
4th Motorkhana Championship



NICOLE CROWLEY
6th Club Championship
1st Ladies Championship

Alana Dean – Eq. 1st Rally Navigator's Championship
Peter Batt – Eq. 1st Rally Navigator's Championship
Dean Tomlin - 1st Speed Championship
David Masing - Ernie Boston Trophy

Michael Whitfield – Novice Award
Geoff Horler - Clubman Award
Tim Woods - Encouragement Award
Ian Polczynski - Junior Encouragement Award
Nicole Crowley - Officials Award