



WELLINGTON CAR CLUB (INC.)

Bulletin October, November & December 2008

Hello to all for the October, November and December Bulletin.

To say we have been busy is an understatement. Not only with club matters, but also with our other lives, some call it the real world, but most of us understand it as the world that exists to pay for our pleasure in the motorsport universe.

So our apologies for not having sent out a Bulletin for the last few months. Therefore a catch up is in order.

WCC AGM

The AGM was a very pleasant evening, with nice food and a few beverages at JJ Murphies. There was excellent discussions on many issues, including the possibility of additional events, future use of and work to do to the clubrooms, how to encourage people into motorsport, revenue streams for the club, and the club assisting in the running of a major hillclimb event up the Turoa Mountain Road.

As with all good ideas it takes people power to investigate and implement. Therefore we are pleased to say that the following people have agreed to assist the committee on specific issues and or events. Brett Plim, Don McLean, John Lucas, Jono Begely, and Catherine Dobbie. Thank you to these people for volunteering, and we have already received some of their help in running Shelly Bay.

As you will see from the contacts list opposite, the committee has had a little shuffle around, but the core team has remained. So together, with the assistance of those above, we are looking forward to a good year, and beyond.

Shelly Bay Sprint

What a wonderful event. Thank you to all those who supported the event, by entering, by assisting, or through sponsorship. With a good entry of 33 competitors the day went well, with everyone getting their runs in, plus some extra for marshalls and others.

Committee

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After a couple of years without any major incidents, this time we managed to kill three cars. Demonstrating why the event is roll cage only, all drivers are ok, if a little sore and bruised.

Well done to Ron Scanlan who won the event in convincing style, setting a new record of 1:11.92, the first time we have had a sub 1:12 run.

Also well done to Jeff Ward who has moved to the dark side of tractor racing and promptly showed he was on the pace, taking second in 1:14.30

The other big surprise was Nick Tollemache who took third outright in his 1600cc Corolla, 1:16.57.

It was also good to see Ron Scanlan back out racing so soon after getting back from Germany after his treatment.

Also have a read of the excellent report by Catherine Dobbie at the end, to get the inside info on her day.

Alexandra Road

The next event is Alexandra Road, which we are organising for Sunday 15 March. More info to come next year.

Targa

Yes, Targa did come back to town. Unfortunately the weather also came back and a gale force storm battered the region the same day as competitors went for a spin round our roads. The weather forced the cancellation of the Shelly Bay stage, and others were very slippery by all accounts.

Again our own Joe McAndrew was the favourite, and indeed he lead for much of the event, including going into the last day, despite being pushed hard by the fella from over the hill, Richard Mason. Those of you who followed the event would know that the battle they had coming all the way down the island was an epic one.

Unfortunately the end wasn't so epic with the officials deciding the result after belatedly looking into timing problems way back on the first day. The effect was that Joe thought he had done enough to win the event, only for it to be reassigned to Mason by the officials. It doesn't appear that anyone was happy with the way it played out, least of all Joe.

However Joe's record on the event is still second to none, with two firsts and two seconds in four years. Well done Joe.

Also well done to Craig Shepherd and Lew Henderson who came home 23rd out of 74 competitors in the Modern Class.

While in the Wellington Region, Targa also offered the opportunity for locals to enter for the last day only. A number stepped up, including Margaret van Ansem, John McAndrew, Anthony Parolli, and Jeff Ward. Jeff distinguished himself by setting top 10 stage times, as well as winning Stage 32 – Moonshine Road – outright. Yes he beat Joe, Richard and Emma.

Of the one day wonders, the finishing order was Jeff 1st, Anthony 2nd, and John 3rd. Good one guys.

Obituaries

Something that is never nice to write about, however we do want to recognise two people who have an association with our club.

Our thoughts go out to Julie Sammut and Craig Shepherd on the passing of Julie's father.

Then just a day after being at the Shelly Bay event, Martin Fothergill (aka Fluffy) passed away after having a seizure. Martin has been a club member in the past and has spent many years crewing for Joe McAndrew and recently assisting John McAndrew. Our thoughts go to his family and all of his friends in the motorsport community.

Coming Events - 2009

18 Jan	Port Rd Seal Sprint	HVMC event
23-25 Jan	A1GP	Taupo
1 Feb	Classic Hillclimb	Wallaceville, Upper Hutt
1 Feb	Mag & Turbo Track Day	Manfeild
1 Feb	Autocross	Harbour Capital event, venue TBA
21 Feb	Circuit Sprints, Taupo	Triumph Car Club Event
22 Feb	Barton's Line Rallyspint	Date to be confirmed
28 Feb – 1 Mar	NZV8s at Manfeild	
8 Mar	Race to Windmills	Dannevirke CC event
7-8 Mar	Targa Bambina	
7-8 Mar	NZ Clubsport Champs	Stratford, South Taranaki CC event
15 Mar	Alexandra Road	WCC event
22 Mar	Gravel Sprint	Tea Creek, Wairarapa
29 Mar	Autocross	Donnelly Park, Levin
29 Mar	Nat Race Meeting	Manfeild

A Day at Shelly Bay

By Catherine Dobbie

Sunday started off with a freezing southerly - but I was still convinced it was a nice day and so left the warm coats at home. Arriving at 7.45 to help with the set up I wished like hell I had bought a coat! ... and then I saw Gordon and thought "he's mad", as there he was running around in shorts! But, maybe he knew more than me because as the day wore on the sun came out and apart from the wind it was it was a great day for sprinting around one of the shorter and quietly tricky roads we have run motorsport events on.

From a drivers perspective the day started pretty much on time and with the reccie and practice runs all being incident free we thought the day was going to run like clockwork - just like last year.... hmmm famous last thoughts! Watching the support crews get into action so fast once a call was received that a car had stopped was amazing. It

was all go - tyres spinning, ambulance racing (well when I say racing.... as much as a vehicle can race when it is shaped like a snail) with spectators and waiting drivers sitting in their dust wondering what had happened. It was great to see that the running of the event is so well polished now that it all just "happens".

... and then it was my turn. There I was minding my own business, feeling like I was maybe driving the car a bit better because it wasn't cutting out the way it had been when 'I' was driving - getting the revs and gear changes right...

when it was that dreaded infamous corner that got me... a wee combination of under steer, taking the corner too tight and running out of runway (whoops mixed metaphors - roadway) and bang!! into the bank!

All I could think about as the car tumbled over was - we're heading for the water - shit!!! Then we stopped, upside down, on the road - phew! Then the realisation of what I had done hit me - "oh NO, NOT the car".

Then as my first words were "I am sooo sorry" I realised that Murray was a bit quiet... hmmm... you ok I asked? Got a muffled response that was probably a few f's and blimings.

By the time we had figured out how to release the belts and not drop into the glass of the broken windscreen and crawl out through the side windows there were people almost there to check we were ok.

A huge hug to check we were both alright and then we turned to inspect the wreck. More "oh hells" on my part!!!! Picking up a wing mirror that has nothing left to salvage is quite sobering. I can now really relate to all those times when I have been in a car that has crashed and how the driver REALLY feels.

As most in the club know I am the one who is always in the silly seat... co-driving for various drivers, completed a national championship, competed in four internationals and "raced for the sky".

Yep and I have had my share of being upside down, hitting concrete culverts, and frustrating breakdowns. So there is one thing I want to take this opportunity to put straight.

Murray was NOT driving the car as everyone first thought. I seem quite capable of smashing up cars on my own now - thank you very much !!

And one more thing while I am at it...

of all the drivers I have sat with (most of them excellent drivers too) I know, when I get in a car with Murray there aren't many 'whoops' he can't get out of.

AND I think we all know he wouldn't have hit 'that' bank !!!

Right-o... now I've cleared that up, you guys can continue getting stuck into him again !!!!

Thanks to all the guys that put a huge amount of effort into ensuring this event runs at all and for making it a fun day for all (well it was fun until the last run).

One last thing... Huge congratulations to Ron! Not only winning but winning in style and setting a new record. Just awesome!!