

Horsepower



Newsletter of the South West Touring Car Club

President's report

Welcome to Round 5 of the Autocross season bought to us by Shannons. Shannons have been supporting the SWTCC for quite some years now and I know it is appreciated by all the members. We all need to continue to support all our sponsors as much as we can.

As we move towards the latter part of the season it we have to look at what is happening next season. At Wednesday general meeting the committee will be working out the dates for next year's autocross events, to submit to CAMS for approval. The club will also be looking for a new secretary as having done the role for the last 7 years Michelle has told me that it is time for her to have some time to herself and I fully support her decision. So with this we need someone else to step up and have a turn. Contact Michelle or myself if you think you would like to give it a go.

I am still amazed at the different winners we are having in all grades this year so who know whose names will be at the top this round.

Ron Ferguson



Blast From The Past

This month's blast from the past shows the style and commitment needed to be the track record holder . Former Club President Sean Stone was the driver everyone was chasing for the early part of the current tracks history and wowed spectators with his smooth flat out driving . His choice of car was a Mitsubishi Galant powered by a grunty 2.6ltr Sigma engine .



Club History

The South West Touring Car Club (SWTCC) evolved in 1973 from the Blue and White Car Club (formed in 1970). Membership levels ranged from the 40 members at the beginning of the club to as low as 6 members. Membership numbers are now very strong, and growing at every event, with both competitors new to the sport and members continuing a tradition of family participation.

Club members were originally involved mainly in State Navigational Rallies with many successful in gaining State Titles in those events. But when membership numbers fell the club committed to a membership drive that included events such as Sunday family treasure hunts. With the growing number of members the club was able to run its first State Rally round. The event was called The TOCOAN (They Only Come Out At Night) and was the first of many. Club members soon became involved in State Rallies, motorkhanas and autocross events, as well as the occasional hill climb.

The club also ran dawn ANZAC day motorkhanas at Hoffmans Mill where the competitors used street or rally car. In 1988 the club had the opportunity to establish their own Autocross track in Benger. This enabled the club, in conjunction with the Light Car Club of WA, to run a regular event program. The track operated on two different private properties in Benger before moving to the third track, known as Sandalwood Park, in 1992. During the Benger era the club also ran a number of hillclimb events at Wellington Dam and Meelup, which were part of the CAMS WA Speed Event Series. In 2002 the club ran the Cape to Cape Rally which covered 500kms touring throughout the South West on tarmac roads. In 2008 the club moved to its current track at the Bunbury Motorsport precinct where it continues to host motorkhana events and a six-round Autocross Series. The Bunbury track is a 1.08km dual loop track with long open corners and tight hairpins which suits both front and rear wheel drives.

The club has been involved with other motorsport ventures including the establishment of the Collie Motorplex and the Youth Driver Training Program and currently shares facilities with the Bunbury Speedway. Members continue to compete in club run Motorkhana and Autocross as well as state and national level, gravel and tarmac rallying, historic circuit racing and drifting. The SWTCC encourages the involvement of youth teams, long term competitors and those new to the sport, and strives to continue a tradition of family participation while promoting entry at a grass roots level to the exhilarating sport of rallying.



Above Left . 2 drivers prepare to take the start at the Sandalwood Park Autocross track in Benger .

Centre . Long time member Mal Thompson tackles the current track in his 120y . Mal and his wife Di are both tireless workers for the club and the state rally series and are life members of the SWTCC .

Right . Rex Rattenbury and yours truly competing in the Experts Cup Rally in the Wellington Dam forest in 2015 .

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Mud made Ben's corner tricky early on . John Marshall (top) in the long serving Corona . Brendan Quartermaine (Mid) in deep and Jason Gardiner (Bottom) in the Commodore !!! Lanos , I am not sure , take the challenge . All 3 went on to good results for the round .



Autocross Round 4

Trade Hire sponsored round 4 of the SWTCC Auto X Championship and former junior champ and WA Rally Championship competitor Kody Reynolds returning to the track to represent the sponsor (Mum and Dad) . Kody slipped straight back into the Magna putting in some great times including second in the final run giving him 5th overall . The wet conditions at the start of the day tested all drivers but typically aggressive drive on the first run by Brendon Quartermaine set up what would be a great day for the Nissan driver taking out first in Experts . Hard luck story for the day was Kyle Grant who started the day 4th fastest and was chasing down Brendon in the last run when a driveshaft failure put an end to his day . Andrew Jansen showed his speed in the Hyundai Excel with times in the top 3 or 4 all day , second place was his reward while Peter Dixon continued his good form taking 3rd . Adam Barret ended the day on a high with fastest time of the day a 1.16.16 . Jason Gardiner almost took a clean sweep of grade 1 winning the first 3 runs . Second in the 4th run giving him the grade win proving that the Lanos not only looks fast , it is fast . Mitchell Bradford took second place with Les George a well deserved 3rd .

In grade 2 Matt McComish started steady in the wet condition but bounce straight back with fastest time on run 2 . He stayed in the top 3 for the rest of the day and grabbed the win . John Marshall had a good day in the old Corona . Fastest on run 3 securing second for the day . The Corona (pictured above) has a very long Auto X history having been driven by commentator and expert driver Rod Barrett in the Sandalwood Park era . There are not too many tyres out there that the car hasn't hit but well driven it is still fast . Third place went to Dean Pfitzner in the Lantra .

Adrian Hewitt was fast straight off the start in Grade 3 winning the first 3 runs then second in run 4 ensured the overall win . Bruce England showed that consistency pays . He was 3rd fastest on every run and second for the day . Second fastest time on the first 3 runs was shared by 3 different drivers . Glen Cawood was second on the first run and this time would carry him through the day for 3rd place . Mal Watson again did the quickest grade 3 time for the day on the last run 1.22.96 . I think Mal will go well on a dry day . Luke Millar and Kathy Miles both had a clean sweep of Juniors and Ladies winning easily . Camron Pfitzner 2nd and Nathan Quartermaine 3rd in Juniors . The Gerdei girls battled all day with mum Jenny getting the edge in run 1 and 4 while Kelsey continued to improve beating mum on run 2 and 3 but Jenny's times gave her second overall , Kelsey 3rd .



Meet Your Club Member

If there has been one driver at any of this years rounds that has worked harder than most its 30 year old Rohan Vening . Driving the V8 powered VB Commodore keeps Rohan’s hands busy and the car has had a few brushes with the tyres so far this year . Rohan had a mentor in his younger days back in NSW that rallied a Datsun 180b and it was him who sparked Rohan’s interest in rallying and he hopes that after a few years of Auto X he can do some rallies himself .

Obviously when I asked Rohan what his ultimate motorsport would be it was rallying (I need to think of another question as that most peoples answer) and his ultimate car would be a HSV GTS or a kitted out Landcruiser . I also asked Rohan what he likes about Auto X and he immediately answered “ I don’t like the tyres “ but he does like how it is building his skills as a drive .

When Rohan is not straightening the corners of the Commodore he is busy helping his wife look after their 3 kids under 5 (2 boys and a girl) and working as an electrician at Harvey Beef .

SWTCC Manufacturers Championship

Points awarded based on 4, 3, 2, 1 for overall position in each class .

	Rd1	Rd2	Rd3	Rd4	Rd5	Rd6	Total
Toyota	16	18	20	18			70
Hyundai	11	20	11	16			58
Mitsubishi	9	7	5	10			31
Ford	1	5	9	6			21
Subaru	7	2	6	2			17
Nissan/Dat	7	-	3	4			14
Daewoo	3	4	3	4			14
Holden	2	3	3	-			8

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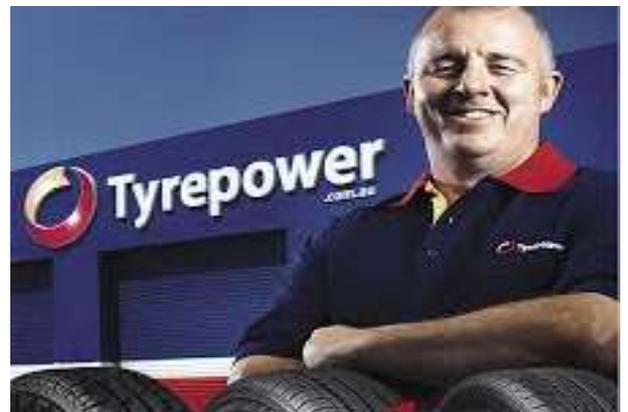
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SWTCC Out and About



Targa West

Graham and Kathy Miles recently competed in the Targa West Tarmac Rally on road in and around Perth . This is the premier tarmac event in WA . It was the first time the Miles's have entered the rally and It is a long haul with a lot of driving over 4 days . They finished the event but it wasn't without a drama on the last day with a holed radiator . Some quick work by Mark and Rex got them home .



BORMSA . Those of you looking for more auto x action the **Beverly Off Road Motor Sport Association** runs events at the Beverley Track . If you want to know more details catch up with Adrian Hewitt (Top Left) Mark Stoner (Top Right) and Rohan Vening (Bottom) and I am sure they will be happy to share their experience .