



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE NECC

THE GOOD OIL

MARCH 2024

MITTA MOUNTAIN RALLY



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2024 NECC EXEC.



President Peter Whitten
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Secretary TBA

Treasurer / Membership Committee Jodi Mann
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Gary Gourlay
Luke Whitten
John Bell
Jodi Mann
Paul Kent
Steve Roman
Kurt Kazenwadel
Ged Blum
Jason Lennane

Pointscorer Stuart Lister

Khanacross Scott Mann

Club Permits Ron Woodward

Club scrutineer Laurie Weston

Good Oil Peter Whitten

The North Eastern Car Club meet at 7.30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month, except January, at the NECC Clubrooms, Nolan Lane, Tarrawingee.

KHANACROSS



ROUND 2
SUNDAY,
APRIL 14

Stratford buries his Mitta demons

Adrian Stratford has taken a remarkable victory in the Mitta Mountain Rally, 12 months on from his horrific accident that injured both he and his co-driver.

Driving his 'Lightning McQueen' liveried Ford Fiesta G4, Stratford and new co-driver, Anthony Staltari, won all but the first stage to take a victory of four minutes.

Second place went to the ever-reliable duo of Wal Lee and David Lethlean in a Mitsubishi Lancer Evo 9, a further two minutes clear of the Ford Escort of Michael O'Hagan and Eoin Moynihan, who also took the win in the East Coast Classic Rally Series round.

The Mitta Mountain Rally was based in the sleepy township of Mitta Mitta at the base of Dartmouth Dam, and received a healthy field of 56 entries.

Run over seven tough stages and 145 kilometres of competitive distance, the event was a real challenge for crews as they faced the up and down nature of the generally tight and twisty stages.

Twelve of the 33 cars entered in the opening round of the Victorian Rally Championship retired due to mechanical problems, including front runners Darren Crozier (Subaru) with suspension failure, the Lancer Evo of Brian Hunt with overheating woes, and Tom Clarke in his Datsun Stanza, who became beached on the penultimate stage.

Stratford would give best to Josh Redhead's Lancer on the opening stage when he had brake problems, but thereafter he put in a dominant display to win every stage.

Readhead then suffered a myriad of problems that eventually dropped him to fourth place overall.

Fifth place went the way of Brad Till and Mitch Garrard in the first Subaru Impreza WRX to finish, ahead of Jody Mill's Lancer, Dave McDonough's Lancer and Ross Stapleton's Nissan.

The event saw the debut of Wayne Stewart's Volkswagen Beetle G4, resplendent in dayglo yellow! Complete with Lancer running gear, the car showed plenty of promise to finish ninth.

The event was conducted the North Eastern Car Club and the Albury-Wodonga & Districts Car Club, and was in its eight year.



Event winner Adrian Stratford in his Ford Fiesta.



Ged Blum and Paul Kent, Hyundai Excel.



Troy Brendel and new navigator Josh Mann.

2024 MITTA MOUNTAIN RALLY



GET ALL YOUR RALLY NEWS EVERY DAY AT
WWW.RALLYSPORTMAG.COM.AU



Michael Trucano Datsun Sunny



MY CAR

My car is a 1979 B310 Datsun Sunny which I have turned into a gravel rally car (some would say ruining a nice vehicle).

I purchased the vehicle in 2008 from the local dismantler and recycler (or wrecker for the older people) after rolling the old 120Y rally car once too often.

When the Sunny was delivered to my workshop it was a very nice low kilometre automatic, but I knew the drive train, suspension and rally seats, etc., from the 120Y would fit. And that would make the new build much easier and more importantly, cheaper.

I stripped it to a shell and it went off for seam and stitch welding and a roll cage fitment. The drive train and suspension were duly fitted, and all the necessary parts were assembled into the vehicle. A local auto electrician wired the car to suit its new life.

I rallied it for quite a few years with varying degrees of success until in the 2015 Alpine Rally when I managed to hit a tree early on, with a reasonable amount of damage.

Fortunately, a couple of rally people had spare B310 cars for sale and over time quite a few panels have ended up on my car.

In the 2017 Alpine Rally the engine ended up with some serious issues.



Fortunately, Les Collins had opened a workshop in my town, and he built a very tough A14 engine for me.

At the same time, we gave the car a new coat of paint in a Ford XR blue. Along the way the car has been developed and upgraded to make it more reliable and competitive.

The car runs the A14 motor, a Ford Escort "Rocket" gearbox with straight cut gears, a Stanza differential with

LSD, MCA rally suspension and Toyota Hi Lux front brakes.

It is a great, fun little car to drive that has become reliable and quite competitive, despite giving away a lot of horsepower to most of its rivals.

The best result so far was sixth in the VCRS at the 2024 Mitta Mountain Rally.

– Michael Trucano



Get on the M.O.V.E.

Join us on Saturday April 6th for a special tour of Southern Rod and Custom Shepperton.

We will leave Apex Park Wangaratta at 9.00 am. There is no charge, but a maximum of 20 people can attend.

To book, contact **John Bell** on **0400 863334**.

After a lunch break, we will do a tour of M.O.V.E. – Museum Of Vehicle Evolution in Shepperton (pictured left).

Group cost \$16 per person, with no limit on numbers.

2024 NORTH EASTERN CAR CLUB EVENT CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
Feb.		
3	Working-Bee	Tarrawingee
7	Show Us Your Wheels Night	Tarrawingee
17	Rally Retro Festival	Melbourne
21	Committee meeting	Tarrawingee
March		
6	General meeting	Tarrawingee
16	Mitta Mountain Rally	Mitta Mitta
20	Committee meeting	Tarrawingee
24	Khanacross Round 1	Carboor
24	Melbourne F1 Grand Prix	
April		
3	General meeting / Guest speaker	Tarrawingee
14	Khanacross Round 2	Carboor
17	Committee meeting	Tarrawingee
May		
1	General meeting	Tarrawingee
4	Intro to Motorsport #1	Tarrawingee
11	NECC Rallysprint - Level 1	Whroo Forest
19	Khanacross Round 3	Carboor
22	Committee meeting	Tarrawingee
June		
5	Private car collection tour	Wangaratta
16	Khanacross - spare date	Carboor
19	Committee meeting	Tarrawingee
22	Nissan Nightmoves Rally	Heathcote

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
July		
3	General meeting	Tarrawingee
17	Committee meeting	Tarrawingee
20	North Eastern Rallysprint	TBC
28	Khanacross - spare date	Carboor
Aug.		
7	Wangaratta Dyno tour	Wangaratta
18	Khanacross Round 4	Carboor
21	Committee meeting	Tarrawingee
Sept.		
4	General meeting	Tarrawingee
7	Intro to Motorsport #2	Tarrawingee
15	Khanacross Round 5	Carboor
18	Committee meeting	Tarrawingee
21	Valley Stages Rally - VRC	Yarra Valley
Oct.		
2	Social Night	TBA
12	TAFE Motorsport tour and drive	Wodonga
13	Bathurst 1000	Bathurst
16	Committee meeting	Tarrawingee
20	Akados Rally	Alexandra
26	Bagshot Rallysprint	Bagshot
Nov.		
6	General meeting	Tarrawingee
20	Committee meeting	Tarrawingee
23	Southern Classic Rally	Marysville
Dec.		
4	Annual General Meeting	Tarrawingee
5	Presentation Dinner	Tarrawingee

Car #	Driver/Co-driver	Car Class	Age Class	Test 1		Test 2		Test 3		Total Pens (s)	Total Time (secs)		Outright Position	Class Position	Under 18 Position	Under 14 Position
				Run 1	Pen	Run 1	Pen	Run 3	Pen		Run 1	Pen				
1	REX LUCAS	E	S	1:44.85		1:34.15		1:30.46		0	563.04	6	3			
2	WILLIAM GOURLAY	A	U18	1:43.06	F	1:34.63		1:33.58		15	595.46	8	5	2		
3	STEPHEN DAVIES	C	S	1:47.69		1:39.37		1:40.79		0	599.75	10	1			
4	JAKE LUCAS	E	S	1:34.87		1:34.07		1:25.88		0	537.32	1	1			
5	ALEXANDER MICAL	A	U18	1:59.10	F	1:57.90		1:54.26		10	699.28	17	11	6		
6	JOSHUA MANN	A	U18	1:51.05	F	1:46.21	G	1:43.15		20	632.13	13	8	4		
7	RYAN CROSTHWAITE	A	S	2:04.65	WD	1:35.35		1:33.68		5	594.74	7	4			
8	HARVEY FITZGERALD	A	U14	2:04.65		1:51.63		1:47.21		0	648.05	14	9	1		
9	PAUL KENT	A	S	1:37.02		1:31.88		1:38.32		0	559.88	5	3			
10	RON WOODWARD	A	S	1:46.54		1:41.89		1:42.22		0	609.26	11	6			
11	STEVEN CROSTHWAITE	A	S	1:35.95		1:32.16		1:30.40		0	550.35	3	2			
12	GRACE WINGRAVE	A	U14	2:02.44		1:58.21		1:58.51		0	696.70	16	10	2		
13	HAMISH MURRAY	E	U18	1:50.30		1:47.28		1:58.51	WD	10	654.71	15	4	5		
14	OLLIE KENT	A	U18	1:47.57		1:40.81		1:40.17		0	614.97	12	7	3		
15	JIMI WINGRAVE	A	S	1:33.58		1:30.27		1:28.01		0	541.08	2	1			
16	RON LIGETT	D	S	1:41.63		1:38.49		1:37.96		0	598.88	9	1			
17	LUKE BROUGH	E	U18	1:33.30	F	1:30.20		1:29.80		15	554.09	4	2	1		

CLUB PERMIT REGISTRATIONS UPDATE

The following members have their club permit registration due on the dates below. Please remember that if you are not a financial member of the NECC, your registration is not valid.

Robert Herbert	07485 H	1/04/24
Troy Brendell	9654 H4	6/04/24
Mark Richards	14531 H4	10/04/24
Scott Spedding	22474H	30/04/24
Evan Sanderson	60429H	24/04/24
Peter Osborne	68946 H	12/04/24
Greg Brown	66431 H	20/04/24
Treavor Delarue	80852 H	21/04/24
Peter Williams	76541 H	13/04/24
David Colman	78045 H	21/04/24
Treavor Logan	76542 H	13/04/24
Chris McInnes	0366 H7	5/04/24
Allan Holland	805YH	20/04/24
Shane Gardner	7178 H9	6/04/24



OVERDUE

Kyle Oxley	76536 H	29/03/24
Phillip Tolliday	77604 H	24/03/24

NECC CLUB MERCHANDISE



Club Caps – \$25



Stubby Holders – \$10



Pens – \$2



Cloth Badges – \$5

Support YOUR club
Available at club meetings

PARTING SHOT

Wayne Stewart facing the wrong way in his VW Beetle at the Mitta Mountain Rally!

PHOTO: CLARE WHITTEN

