

Car Clubs of Australia Mountain Regularity Festival

We came, we saw, we conquered!
Well, most did!

18 SDMA drivers had the experience of their life over the Easter weekend at the FoSC Car Clubs of Australia Mountain Regularity Festival at Mt Panorama, Bathurst. Unfortunately, some of the experiences weren't quite what was expected.

The event commenced with Masters Sessions which comprised of three laps of Mt Panorama behind an experienced Bathurst driver. Each Master went out in a pace car followed by 5 other cars. The idea was to learn lines, technique etc. However, if you were unlucky enough to be behind a slow driver (not the Master) then the exercise was pointless as the slower driver lost touch with the Master. Hence, the only lines you got to see were those of the slow driver!! Not conducive to learning the track. It was valuable IF you kept in touch with (some of) the Masters.

This was followed by a 25 minute Practice session. It was surprising to note that many of the drivers set their fastest lap of the weekend in the Practice session. This may have had something to do with the exuberance of the drivers being let loose on the Mountain for the first time.

Each driver was then to have 2 x 30 minute sessions of Regularity on either Monday afternoon and/or Tuesday. This worked out for most but some didn't get past Practice and others their first Regularity. Others were unfortunate enough to get their Sessions mainly in the rain on Tuesday afternoon.

The SDMA teams were:

SDMA 1

Rob Wall

Shaun Crain

Mike Glew

Donovan Suine

Andrew Wall

Peter Wall

Mazda MX5

Porsche 944S2

Nissan 200SX

FSM Niki

VW Golf Gti Pirelli

Monaro CV8



SDMA 2

Brian Fenwick

Lachlan Granger

Steve Haynes

John Maljkovic

Tony Smart

Paul Wyatt

Mazda RX7

Mitsubishi Evo 7

Mitsubishi Evo 7

Mitsubishi Evo 6

Mazda RX8

Datsun 1200 Coupe

SDMA 3

Cameron Milek

Anthony Billerwell

Tony Carrera

Bryan Fitzpatrick

Malcolm McFarlane

Michael Smith

Mercedes 450SE

Berlina V8 S/W

Subaru WRX

Renault Clio

Volvo 850R Estate

Subaru WRX

They say Mt Panorama can be a car breaker. This was definitely confirmed by members of our teams. The following mechanical dramas impacted on the weekend of some of our drivers:

Car 1

Broken drive shaft lap 2 of Practice. Returned to pits on a tilt tray. Repaired went out again in Session 1. Experienced more issues with drive shaft on lap 1. Returned to pits on a tilt tray. Repaired again. Completed 2 Sessions – albeit in the rain.

Car 2

Diff issues experienced during Practice. First diagnosis was Terminal. Turned out the diff oil had been cooked so replacement oil saw the car back on the track to do all its sessions.

Car 3

Broken engine mount on Lap 1 of first session leading to hole in sump and lots of oil on the circuit. Terminal.

Car 4

Collapsed front suspension drivers left on lap 5 of session 1. Terminal.

Car 5

CV issues discovered at the end of session 1. Terminal.

Car 6

Broken drive shaft on lap 2 of session 2. This followed a 'minor' collision with a clubman in session 1. Terminal.

Car 7

Minor panel damage following coming together with a clubman in session1. Able to do all sessions.

Other cars had minor repairable problems over the weekend including brake issues and gear linkage dramas. YES. It pays to be well prepared and have lots of spares. Problem is, you cannot cover every eventuality.

Needless to say, it was the driving experience of a lifetime and the SDMA has already at least 2 teams signed up for next year. Even many of the drivers who experienced problems this time round want a re-run.

Worth it? YOU BETCHA....

Oh, in terms of the Regularity, among our teams SDMA1 was 1st, followed by SDMA3 and then SDMA2. Individually, Rob Wall SDMA1 was 1st (low index of 0.5928), Mike Smith SDMA3 2nd (low index of 0.6798) and Andrew Wall SDMA1 3rd (low index of 0.8414). Full results for the SDMA teams are attached.

Not the Stig!

[Pictures](#)