

# Run Report

## XU1's on the Mountain – Bathurst 2012

### **Thursday**

After 12 months of planning, meetings and getting cars ready, Thursday morning finally arrived and those going to Bathurst met outside of Branxton eagerly anticipating a great weekend away. We had 13 toranas and Kevin towing the club trailer which had enough spare parts to fix any potential problem that could arise. Rick & I were the lead car and so we set off, not far down the road we nearly had a real life "Boo Hoo Super Roo" nearly run into us so that close call was always in the back of our minds as we travelled to the Putty Cafe for morning tea.

We arrived at Lithgow for lunch, some of us got caught up in slow traffic across the Bells Line, so it was good to have another break and wait for everyone to catch up. Then, it was onto the final leg to Bathurst, arriving into Bathurst there were torries cruising everywhere, the "Moof Mobile" caught the eyes of the law and they were ushered into the breath testing area, once pulled over the constable must of got suspicious of the driver and his techno-savy passenger and then directed him to the drug bus, once cleared they joined the rest of us at Bathurst Showground.

At the showground, we registered and were given stickers for our cars, large "Shannons" stickers for the windscreens and stickers to be placed on the drivers door (long deep breaths Dane!), putting large stickers on cars was a little frustrating but eventually we all accomplished this task. Looking around at all the great looking torries this was going to be an exciting weekend.

So, it was off to check into our accommodation & pick up a "comedy" bus to commute from the farm stay and night functions. Back into the Bathurst Showground that night for a welcome function & weekend briefing from Todd Martin when we were told that half the torries entered would be on display on Saturday and the other half on Sunday.

### **Friday**

As the sun was rising over Brokeback Mountain, it was shaping up to be a good day for a "Tarmac Rally", none of us knew what we were in for so we headed off early as Rick & I were entrant No.1 (& 1.5) and had to leave at 7.30am sharp, all other torries were then allocated 20 sec apart time slots. Huddo got into the spirit of the event and dressed up, the drivers suit he was wearing was 2 sizes too small so I hope he didn't cause a permanent injury! everyone loved it.

7.30am and Todd handed us our instructions (and a map in a sealed envelope if we got lost) and off we went, it didn't take long for Dane (Entrant No.2) & his navigator Douggo to catch us, we were travelling at good pace but we could see an orange XU1 in the distance fast approaching us who had obviously overtaken Huddo (Entrant No.3) with Jason, maybe Huddo couldn't keep up with us as his suit was cutting off circulation in the groin area. Anyway, Craig from the NSW GTR/XU1 club caught up with us and the three torries had a very memorable tarmac rally. Some of the directions were a little confusing, and it doesn't help when directions are in kilometres and our cars are in miles, there were also a lot of tricky questions you had to answer along the way and I think a lot of people gave up, but Mel and his navigator Kevin were determined that accuracy and not speed were going to get them over the finish line.

We ended up at Carcoar Dam near Blayney for a morning tea stop, unfortunately to get to the dam was a 5km dirt road (keep breathing slow Dane), Dane had to back off as rocks and dust was flying everywhere, those trailer driven torrie owners would not have been happy. After a 30min mandatory break, everyone was then allowed to set off on the 2<sup>nd</sup> stage of the rally ending back at Bathurst showground. With people starting to arrive back, there were stories of torries heading off in every direction and getting lost, we'd heard that Ray had broken down with fuel issues at Millthorpe but he did make it back and then repairs were carried out. With cars covered in dirt the local car wash made a small fortune, unfortunately Ricks battle scar was the high pressure gerni taking off a small section of paint on the driver side flute, off to Super Cheap for some pink spray paint to touch up the bare patch.

Not sure if there was a result from the Tarmac Rally, but everyone who participated had their own stories to tell and it certainly kept our conversation going over dinner.

After our dinner at Yarrabin Farmstay, Douggo & Huddo entertained us with their Townsville road trip after picking up Douggo's GTR, great video put together but I can't let on too much as it was a private viewing.

### **Saturday**

With half our club on display at the Bathurst Motor Racing Museum, they headed off early to set up and the rest of us headed to the mountain in the bus. Getting there early the club members ventured over to the pit area where Laurels dream came true when she cornered Craig Lowndes on his way to breakfast and got a photo taken with him (move over Dave!), Pete got to also thank Jamie Whincup for taking the time to do our Toranafest Video. Unfortunately, the potential parade lap was cancelled, there were lots of great torries on display, plenty of action on the track and lots of merchandise tents to visit so there was plenty to fill in the day, as we had a dinner function to attend that night we headed back to the farmstay to watch the Top 10 Shootout.

Back at the Showground for a "Legends Dinner", Todd had Colin Bond & Ian Tate on stage for a chat, Bev Brock was also in attendance selling & signing her new book on Peter. Pete made a presentation to Todd on becoming a HVTC Honorary Member and issued a club shirt & hat to him which he happily accepted. Another part of the night was that clubs in attendance were asked to nominate a "favourite" LC and LJ Torana, we nominated a Mediterranean Blue LC and a Neville Bridges LJ Torana to receive an award. Congratulations also to Dane who was awarded by the Victorian Torana Club for his LJ.

### **Sunday**

Race day – we were all very tired but excited, the torries that were on display left at 5am for the 25min drive to the track, because of daylight savings it was still dark when we got to the track and we told security we knew where we had to be on display, so they let us in and we all drove straight onto the race track down Pit Straight, our lap was short lived as around turn 1 the road was blocked, so we turned around and drove to the museum to set up. We set up our chairs on a good spot on the hill at the last turn before Pit Straight and were able to watch a large screen TV, Mel was having fun photographing members nodding off in their chairs before the race started. At 8am we were informed by Todd Martin that V8 Supercars had cancelled our potential parade lap also, so, we then watched the pre-race entertainment and the start of the race.

We spent the day watching the race, talking to people about our cars, and headed up the mountain for a look, not sure how Douggo & Huddo got everyone on the mountain shuttle bus to sing "Happy Birthday" to a lucky young bloke that nobody knew. Most members headed off around 2pm to go back to the

farmstay to watch the remainder of the race, we stayed at the track with Jarrod, Andrew, Ray & Julie and watched the exciting & close finish to the race.

After the race, Rick & I got out of the track quickly and decided to head to the showground and see if there were any XU1 entrants there, we ran into Grant from the NSW GTR/XU1 club who was helping his fellow member George whose car had to be trailered from the museum with an oil pump failure, and who do you call when your torrie breaks down??? that's right you ring the HVTC who happen to have a mobile parts workshop with them and have the oil pump ready to be installed, he'd made a call to Dane earlier in the afternoon and drove out to where we staying (now our secret farmstay hideaway was no longer secret), part picked up & installed, they were on their way back to Sydney later that evening.

After Sunday nights dinner, the guys watched the 1972 race and we had a quiet night as it had been a long day.

### **Monday**

Last day, we were all extremely knackered, after breakfast we thought we could do our track parade, Mick & Dane headed off to Bathurst to return the bus and were met with a massive traffic jam of people trying to get off the mountain, Bathurst was in gridlock, wanting to head for home and fearing we might get caught in the traffic jam we headed to the showground as we had met Richo & Neddie from the Victorian Torana Club over the weekend and they were wanting to follow us to Branxton to visit relatives, they were trailering a Yellow Dolly LJ.

We got some last club photos of cars & people, and Mick was then asked by Todd would he drive his race car back to Newcastle instead of leaving it at the museum, what a highlight for Mick to drive one of Peter Brocks "little" Torana home, you couldn't take the smile off his face (I wonder if he'll trade in the sunbird!), so now we've got 14 toranas and another on a car trailer. We had a great trip home with stops at Kandos & Denman.

### **Attended**

Rick & Yvonne  
Dave & Laurel  
Pete & Mick  
Huddo & Jason  
Douggo  
Dane  
Mel  
Dave & Kerryn  
Jarrod & Andrew  
Ian & Graeme  
Steve, Ryan & Daniel  
Ray & Julie  
Ian & Jeanette  
Kevin (support vehicle)  
Steve & BJ (no torrie)

### **Summing up**

What a weekend, Yarrabin farm stay was very relaxing (they knew nothing about our horse power!!) and Annie and her staff looked after us very well.

A few people had some minor car problems but nobody was going to be left behind, I'm sure after travelling around 1,200 kms that most cars will need some attention, especially cleaning.

Pete was proud to hear from people that our club members were friendly, helpful and seen to be having a great time together.

After spending 5 days together I can't go into detail about everything that happened, everyone had a great time and they have their own stories to tell and fond memories.

Thanks

Yvonne Yates

