



SPORTING REPORT

September 2022

The burning topic on motorsport fan's lips is, of course, the future of Wakefield Park. From information gleaned from the Goulburn Post, social media and chats with like-minded folk, here is the latest information as at penning this month's Sporting Report.

Mayor, Peter Walker, says the council is working hard to find a solution for Wakefield Park's ongoing operation. Thank goodness! Braidwood Road raceway's management, the Benalla Auto Club (BAC), announced it was suspending activities from September 1 until the state government found an answer to the NSW Land and Environment Court's July ruling.

BAC Vice President, Mr Bruce Robertson said "We are closed until the state government comes up with an answer. It's out of the council's hands in my opinion."



Wakefield Park aerial view

Wakefield Park employs 10 fulltime and four casual staff. Management was talking to some about the possibility of redeployment or relocation to Winton Motor raceway, but it was not possible for all. "We can't pay the wages bill without activity," Mr. Robertson said.

The BAC would not sell Wakefield Park but "sit on it" until someone came up with a solution.

Goulburn Mulwaree Council has written to Premier Dominic Perrottet, deputy premier and regional NSW minister Paul Toole, the sports minister, planning minister Anthony Roberts and several others, seeking meetings. Cr Walker and council CEO, Aaron Johansson have also met with Goulburn MP Wendy Tuckerman, and shadow ministers, Julia Finn and Mick Veitch.

Cr Walker said the council and Wakefield Park representatives were in regular contact. On the other side of the ledger, the council has met with neighbours concerned about raceway noise.

While the council has flagged with the government Wakefield Park's possible declaration as a Special Activation Precinct (like Bathurst and Newcastle), the mayor said he and planning staff were unsure whether this was legally possible. Potential noise impacts would remain prime considerations said council environment and planning director Scott Martin.

Ms Tuckerman, the local member said it was a difficult situation because the court had made the decision. "We have to be mindful that it went to the Land and Environment Court. That's disappointing; from my perspective it should have been handled by the council, but we are where we are" she said.

Cr Walker told The Post (Goulburn's newspaper) the council had to move fast but carefully. "We are trying very hard to find a solution. Yes, it is detrimental to the economy and that's why we need clarity," he said.



*Hundreds gathered at Goulburn Showgrounds to show support for Wakefield Park.
Photo: Sophie Bennett.*

A *Cruise for Wakefield* event was held on Sunday, August 28. After meeting at the Goulburn Showgrounds, cars and bikes made a slow descent up Braidwood Road and through town before cruising to Wakefield Park. The sentiment from the crowd was that the noise restrictions "didn't make sense" and that it would be a "tragedy" if the track were to shut down.

Bruce Robinson, in a sound bite on 2GB, says he is optimistic the track will re-open BECAUSE of Dept of Defence and Police needs and "support"!



Letters of support for retaining the Wakefield Park circuit as a going concern have been written to the Goulburn Mulwaree Council and circuit management by our own club, individual club members and the CACTMC. Unfortunately, we just have to wait what happens. Let's keep our respective fingers crossed for some sensible, workable and consensus decision to be reached in 2023.



The weather for our third motorkhana this calendar year could not have been better. Despite 3 days (officially) to the end of winter we were greeted with relatively clear skies, a slight breeze and a very comfortable 18 degrees which was quite different to the preceding days and indeed on Monday after the event.

As usual we set up 6 motorkhana patterns over the day, two at a time, on the vehicle manoeuvring Area (VMA) at TISC's Sutton Road facility.

This time the tests were:

- Test 1 Serpentine
- Test 2 Happy Birthday
- Test 3 Bent Slalom
- Test 4 Double loop
- Test 5 Craziest Square
- Test 6 Jellyfish

The test that caused the highest number of WD's (wrong directions!) was Happy Birthday which is reproduced below. I think you can understand why it may have caused some "mis-steps."

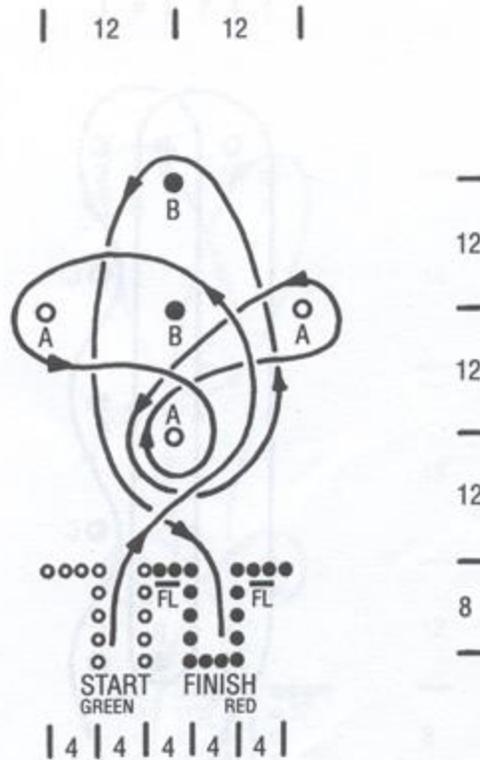
TEST B2 HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Finish timing line (0.5 - 1m) FL

Length 44m

Width 24m

Similar test layouts - 4,34,37,B1



The distance between flags as shown by the numbers is in metres. This pattern certainly tests the memory when driving at speed!

Sutton Road Training Centre has a new Business and Development Manager, Paul Griffiths, who I had the pleasure of meeting on the Friday preceding the event. Paul was also in attendance on Sunday and was joined by his wife, Janet and two grandchildren, Zac and Zoe. The family has moved down from Brisbane where Paul was working. Janet is "Canberra Girl" so it's like coming home. Even better Janet is the owner of an MGF which was her daily driver. The car will, in due course, arrive in Canberra and the family took the opportunity to join the MGCCC. Welcome Paul and Janet!

There were 33 competitors who entered the event but, in the end, only 27 had the opportunity to enjoy the six patterns Chris Hillman had selected. Unfortunately,

one junior was sick, two were just “no-shows” another had a family dog that was struggling, and a vet visit was required, one had a broken big toe caused by dropping a torque converter onto it without protective boots and finally a Covid-19 recipient was isolating!



Our officials do a great job – without them we couldn't run our motorkhanas

Without volunteer helpers we could not run the event which would be great disappointment to many so thank you all for generously giving up your precious time to assist. A number of competitors, indeed most, on leaving the venue said to me “thanks for a great event” and I would like to pass that on to you all as it is a team effort. And all waved cheerily on departure.



MGCCC member Audrey with friend

New competitor Joshua Zwar – all smiles



Two regular officials displaying their usual sartorial elegance and model stature
A copy of the results for members of the MG Car Club Canberra are close by if the Editor can find some space. The biggest disappointment was only 3 MGs were in action with Joe and Audrey McGrail-Bateup using her MG3 and my MGBGT V8. The next motorkhana is on Sunday, 27 November, our “summer” event, so perhaps we will have a few more MGs participating at that time.



Joe McGrail-Bateup approaching a flag in Audrey's MG3

Historic Motor Racing



What's coming up?

It is a bit light on for the next little while but interesting upcoming events worth consideration and recommended for a visit include:

- All Historic Racing at Pheasant Wood Circuit, Marulan – 9/10/11 September 2022

ALL HISTORIC RACING
The **SIGHTS & the SOUNDS** of **HISTORY**

NSU Sparace
14

51

Sept 9-10-11, 2022

PHEASANT WOOD CIRCUIT
(02) 4841 1422
www.pheasantwood.com.au
MARULAN, NSW

TRACK DAY
SATURDAY JULY 30:
FREE ENTRANCE FOR SPECTATORS

- The 2022 HSRCA Summer Festival, which will be held at Sydney Motorsport Park over the third and fourth of December, with private practice on Friday the 2nd.



The Golden Era Auto Racing (GEAR) is back in action and heading to Sydney Motorsport Park (Eastern Creek if you're an oldie). A GEAR flyer to members reads "Entry is cheaper than sliced bread @ \$180.00, including a Pit Lane Garage".

Yes, it's hard to believe, read it again, but believe me, on the 24th of October there is a GEAR Day happening at Sydney Motorsport Park. The event will be running on the Druitt (North) Circuit which is 2.8 km in length.



SDMA Hillclimb

The Southern District Motorsports Association always extends a very warm welcome to their hillclimb events. The next event is on Saturday, 1 October: Practice - NSW Hillclimb Championship Round 9. Practice is from 12:00 PM to 5:00 PM. Then on Sunday, 2 October: NSW Hillclimb Championship Round 9 From 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM.

Spectator entry is FREE and on competition days you will see cars on track from around 9am - 3pm. There is spectator seating and food available as well as washroom facilities. Why don't you consider going along and checking out some local motorsport? Entry off Sutton Road, next to the Driver Training Centre.



A (very) young Matthew Harriott at a Porsche Club Hillclimb, Fairbairn Park

Information on Wire Wheel Repair etc.

To finish with this month here's some advice about where you can have your wire wheels rebuilt/repaired/trued.

Back in the mid 1990's when I was still running my wire wheels on my MGB at race meetings, broken spokes were a regular occurrence. More often than not I would find 4 or 5 snapped spokes in the wheels on the "loaded" side of the car.



At that time we had The Wheel Works in Silva Avenue, Queanbeyan as the go-to place for wire wheel repair. But long ago that business stopped trading when the owner, whose name now escapes me, retired and there was nobody prepared to take on the business. And now, with the demise of the one wire wheel repairer on the NSW central coast due to the death of the owner and no one wanting to take on the company, the only other place I am aware of providing a wire wheel repair service in southeastern Australia is:

DG Wheel Repairs

11 Beatrice Avenue, Heidelberg West, Victoria

Phone: 0409 956 280

Social: [facebook.com/801998656601534](https://www.facebook.com/801998656601534)

Website: www.dgwheelrepairs.com

One of our members has used this firm by freighting the wheel to Melbourne, it was repaired/trued (a number of broken spokes in this case) and freighted back. I understand the costs were quite reasonable and the workmanship top shelf. And the wheel was “turned around” in just 1 week! Excellent service.

Until October’s Sporting Report –

Safety fast!

Kent Brown
Motorsport Coordinator

