

MAY
2008

NEWS!!!

Edition
One

QLD Excel Series Website Launch!

The GSL RallySport QLD Excel Series website was launched this month! The interactive webpage (powered by the ever popular social website, Facebook) provides the Excel Series with web presence with a difference. The use of Facebook makes the site interactive for competitors, spectators and officials, allowing them to become fans of the series, upload their own photos or videos and find event reports and upcoming events.

It also provides a place for potential and current competitors to ask questions, find out more about the series and how to get involved in it!

Check it out!
www.qldexcelseries.com

Next Excel Series Meeting

May 21st 2008
GSL / MSA Workshop
14 / 69 South Pine Rd
Brendale QLD 4500

Free Sausage Sizzle
and drinks from 6pm!

Calendar of Events!

With all the last minute calendar changes this year, both within the QRC and also the ARC, and the postponing of The Border Ranges Rally, it's been a quiet start to the year! The Excel Series was set out to follow the Clubman Rally Series to keep costs down, and also allow the cars to compete in a like-minded series without the need to do further events or competitive kilometres. With Rally Rockhampton unfortunately cancelled, its turned out to be a short 4 event series this year, and isn't due to kick off until Aug 2nd at the Jimna QRC. The other two events are in Nov and Dec, with the Border Ranges Rally also due to be run at a date TBA!

QLD Excels In Action!



Jan 13th - 2008 Season Launch at Suncorp Stadium! The day was a good opportunity to promote the series, and provide a marketing niche for potential sponsors into the series, as well as put rallying in the public eye as a whole!

March 8th - KCF 1 at Jimna wasn't an Excel Series round, but was a good chance for the two built excels to shakedown before the series got underway. Greg Latham and Justin Sinclair (pictured)

took to the forest with Justin, in his first rally taking top honors! Greg retired early with electrical dramas, whilst Justin went on to post some respectable times towards the end of his first rally! It'll be great to see both cars back in action soon!

APPOLOGIES

PHOTO REMOVED DUE TO EXCESSIVE COPYRIGHT FEE

SPONSOR



The A1RM compound provides QFM with its club sport track pad and its ideally suited to club level rally cars. It is ideal for high performance street cars that take to the track or forest to test

the limits, whilst still being a streetable pad. The A1RM is ideal for club level rally and hill climb where brakes are required right from the first corner! Its temperature rated from 0-780 degrees, and provides fantastic bite and progression across the entire temperature range. The A1RM retails for \$149, but distributor GSL RallySport is sponsoring Excel Series cars with pads for \$95! Already 3 Excels are running the A1RM with great results! All other rally cars can be A1RM-shod for a discounted \$110 per set! For more information www.qfmperformance.com

Charity Ride Day - Aratula

By Shaun Dragona... 12th April 2008

Just to let everyone know about a bit of PR (and fun) some rally teams did on the weekend.

A group of us went out to Aratula to Camp Crystal which is a respite weekend for families with children suffering with cancer. This event has been running for 19 years with the help from the Childhood Cancer Support, the RAAF and the Bush & Beach 4wd club. This year I was approached from Luke and Rod to see if we could get some rally cars to go out and take the kids for rides. After a couple of calls we got 4 cars together and Rod got 3 others.



The property owner that the camp is held on out at Aratula organised a track to be cut in one of his paddocks that was 1.7 km long. This track had a bit of everything in it with a quick little straight and a couple of hair pin turns. Annette, Margot and Lorrelle got together and wrote some pace notes so the kids could have the full on rally experience. We ended up taking approx 200 people for rides in the rally cars and had a great time. It was fantastic to see the faces on the little ones and on the parents, a lot of whom came for rides as well. We hope to be invited back again next year so it would be great if we could get more cars out there if and when we go.

The rally teams that helped out were:

- Shaun and Annette Dragona in the Datsun 1600
- Simon and Margot Knowles in the Red Mitsubishi Lancer EVO 6
- Steven and Lorelle Tonna in the White Mitsubishi Lancer EVO 5
- Alan Brown and Glynis Saunders in the Suzuki Baleno
- Greg 'Latho' Latham in the Hyundai Excel
- Grant Brecknell, Cliff Brecknell and Sharon in the Gemini's



Ed: The electrical dramas that have plagued Latho thus far returned at Aratula, and forced the (not so) mighty Excel out mid-day.

QLD Excels In Action!

NDSCC Jimna Test Day

By Nathan Phipps

APPOLOGIES

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Jimna forest once again bared witness to the sights and sounds of rally cars with a fantastic test day organized by the Northern Districts Sporting Car Club, comprising of a 7.5km section of forestry road to the north of Jimna township. With a casual and relaxed approach to the day and a quick driver's briefing the cars convoyed out to the special stage for a couple of reconnaissance runs for those wishing to practice writing pace notes. The stage itself had a bit of

everything, starting with a heavily wooded and flowing section of road in reasonably good road condition that was inviting to the drivers, but at the same time told you to be careful with the trees not far from the road surface. The road then burst out of the that forest block to square right and straight in an insane set of four triple cautions in a row just to test man and machine's ability to cope with an extreme change of condition. Needless to say, a couple of older cars succumbed to fatigue exiting this testing sections with a hairpin left and onto a main road with a magnificent view to the right off into a valley of rolling green hills. Now on a fast piece of road with narrow fast corners for a kilometer or so, the driver's attention was immediately focused back on the task at hand by instantly being confronted by a very slippery off camber turn left at T junction! The road followed into a right then a long sweeping left down through a wet causeway before the road began to open up to a quick section of road with open bends on crests with a couple of DON'T CUTS!!! thrown in for good measure. Back in to the heavily wooded forestry block to work their way down to a valley floor and back up again to a narrow flowing approach to the flying finish! Back down to join into the queue to start to do it all over again, and or pull over and share a story or two with the others!

My day was punctuated with rides in four different cars, the old faithful Gemini coupe was one that succumbed to the fatigue on the triple cautions on only its third run of the day. I was then treated to a ride in what I believe is or is becoming a Group B Celica from the some point in the 80s and with the exception of a 4 gear moment this was a first class ride between the trees! But perhaps the biggest birthday present of the day was a ride in a piece of Australian Rallying history in the original Murray Coote Datsun 1200 Coupe!

Not to be out done was the mighty Excel series rally car! The canary yellow Excel piloted by former motor crosser Justin Sinclair demonstrated just how good these cars really are! With a massive amount of traction for a front wheel drive and the fresh ridged body shell of a late model car this little machine handled everything thrown at it with ease! It galloped over the triple cautions without the crashing and banging we seem to have become accustomed to in our aging fleet of Datsuns, Escorts etc. With the cost of these cars being so cheap and the Excel Rally Series enjoying support from Hyundai Genuine Smash Parts on a national level, as well as a stack of local sponsors in each state series, we may well see more and more of these great little cars being used in all sorts of motor sport events in the near future.

Ed: Failed to mention the fender bender Nathan?!

Interstate News... Apparently there's other states too!



BATTEN WINS CERBERUS STAGES!

With 40 starters the field consisted of 20% Hyundai! The event took place in the forests around Noojee/Powelltown on roads that looked to be in excellent condition.

In a generous gesture, John Ernst offered Paul Batten/Glen Raymond his car due to the non-appearance of the HMCA/Kangan car and in true Batten form they creamed many of the purpose built rally cars (I noticed on one stage Bats was only 39 seconds slower than Darren Windus!). Jimbo was two places behind in the Lantra and then Ross & Scott Allan, who had complete rear shocker failure after 6 stages. Emma Cugley/Jo Robison were 19th outright and the third Excel followed by Tony Moore, Fiona White and Peter Morrison. On a day of high attrition, Daniels car failed to finish the last stage due to fuel pump failure.

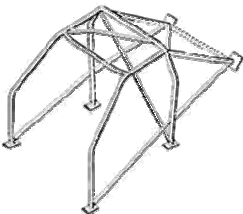


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Brendale QLD 4500
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Want to go Rallying?

Join the fastest growing rally series in Australia and enjoy motor sport with the support of Hyundai Genuine Smash Parts and the low cost spares they offer to Excel Rally Series competitors.

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From \$2500



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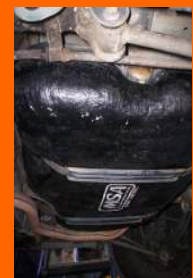


Racing seat mount
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Reinforced rear lower
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\$82.50 each



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The Motor Sport Revolution!

The QLD Excel Series is organised and promoted by GSL RallySport. All inquiries, administration, newsletter submissions, and media and sponsor information should be directed to GSL RallySport, info@qldexcelseries.com or (07) 3881 1215.