

# **GTR**

**T O R A N A**

# **XU-1**

**CAR CLUB OF WA Inc**

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 33 Winter 2015



**Whiteman Park  
Phillip Island Classic  
All Australian Car Day**

# GTR Torana XU1 Car Club of WA Inc.

## Executive Committee

President: Natalie Kais  
Secretary: Marleen Naylor  
Treasurer: Ken Parker

## Committee Members

Liaison Officer: Alan Bajada

Club Merchandise Officer:  
Jo-Anne Allchin

Show Organiser: Trevor Peters

Spare Parts Officer: Kim Jeffery

Newsletter Editor: Martin Sibley  
sibhs@iinet.net.au

Property Officer: Trevor Peters

Website: Jo-Anne Allchin

Librarian: Stuart Cairns

Club Registrar (Concessional  
Licensing): Ken Parker

Scrutineers: Russell Rouse

Special Projects Officer:  
Mark Pitt

Social and Runs Officer:  
Bill Jenaway

Club meetings are held on the first  
Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm at  
East Victoria Park and Vietnam Veterans  
RSL Hall, 1 Fred Bell Parade,  
East Victoria Park WA

Contact: 0433 729 818

Email: [gtxcarclub@gmail.com](mailto:gtxcarclub@gmail.com)

PO Box 3038

Bassendean / Morley DC

Western Australia 6942

**Disclaimer:** The GTR Torana XU1 Car Club of WA Inc. does not accept responsibility for the truth or accuracy of any articles or advertisements appearing in this newsletter. It is incumbent on the reader to satisfy themselves as to the truth or accuracy of any of the articles or advertisements. All articles and advertisements are accepted in good faith by the club.

## Why become a member of the GTR Torana XU1 Car Club of WA Inc?

### WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER MEMBERS

A club is only as strong as its members. The GTR Torana Car Club of WA Inc. is no exception to the rule. Its main assets are its members. There is a diverse range of technical knowledge and skills and all members willingly contribute to the club information base and, we are proud to say, willingly help each other.

### Vehicle Identification

We can give advice to owners and potential owners of either GTR or GTR XU-1 Toranas.

### Information

We provide information relating to the GTR and XU-1 Torana. If you need to know something we can in most cases provide an answer, or at least put you in touch with someone who can assist you.

### Concessional licensing

Club concessional licensing, where upon inspection - if passed - a much lower State licensing fee is charged.

### Quarterly newsletter

Advertising up and coming events, free For Sale section, free Wanted section, free advertising for your business, interesting club run articles, club-attended car show articles and technical articles.

### Club Activities and runs

Club runs and barbecues are organised throughout the year to bring club members together for some fun. The club also attends many of the larger car shows in WA.

### Club Meetings

Club meetings are held monthly and are a great source of information

### Club merchandise

Exclusive GTR Torana XU-1 Club merchandise. Polo shirts, t-shirts, hats, beanies, jackets, stubby holders, decals and key rings.

### Discounts

We are able to offer club members discounts at participating businesses.

**For membership please visit the club web page for an application form**

[www.gtrtoranaxulcarclubinc.com](http://www.gtrtoranaxulcarclubinc.com)

# President's Report

Leaving for work in the dark, coming home in the dark, little use for sun glasses.

This can only mean ..... footy season, Yay!, tax time, cold wet days, heaters and our AGM.

Our AGM has been tentatively booked for 28th June 2015 @ 10am. This will be confirmed via our Club Secretary and all relevant renewal forms, voting slips and further details of the agenda of the day will be distributed. We hope to see as many members as possible and once again, all positions will be open to be filled.

Thinking back over the (almost) 12 months, I was making a list of some of the things that were achieved and other memorable events. Here are a few to give you an indication that we haven't been sitting idle:

Club computer – Marleen organised two hard drives to save the expense of purchasing a whole new computer set-up. This will be monitored and the decision may still be made to upgrade completely at some time in the future.

Enviroshades – the ongoing saga of ripped enviroshades has finally been resolved through the efforts of a few members offering suggestions and seeking quotes. Thank you to Trevor who finished it off by actually getting them repaired. They had a good work out at Whiteman Park and stood up to the test. We are forever grateful in not having to hear about it again!

Club runs and Car Shows attended – there seems to have been a lot of activity this year and I have been overwhelmed at the turn up of members we have had to each of our events. We have even been surprised at seeing some of our more remote members and the addition this year of partners to many events. This often comes down to our Social Event and Show Organisers. Great effort guys and I hope this support for the Club will continue into the next year.

Recognition – we've even had club cars awarded prizes and trophies for their stunning displays at these shows, not to mention cars that were finished and debuted after many hours of blood, sweat and tears in the garage.

Quality magazine continued – AMAZING



Our never ending (profitable) raffles and constant quality of prizes – everyone has a heap of fun during these and we're always eager to have our tickets drawn. There are no words other than THANK YOU, CAT

There are still some things that are in progress or yet to be commenced:

Merchandise refresh – in progress and putting in measures to move old stock

New-member pack – our special projects man has been onto this. Just some finishing touches required and then, of course, drumming up new business so we can issue them!

Web site – ongoing work in progress to keep updated, relevant and informative

Membership card design – tweaking these for the new financial year and improving the process so issuing is more automated.

Club phone – Hmmmmm .....

But let's not dwell on this page, we've got another jam-packed mag to get through.

Happy reading .....

**Natalie Kais**

# Editorial

**S**hitboxing! That's what I've been doing for two weeks.

What a great experience, driving through the desert in a two wheel drive car worth under a \$1000. All in the name of charity, and fun!

My co-driver and I covered five states and over 7500kms in a Daewoo Lanos, 1000kms of that was on gravel roads that are renowned for breaking 4wds. What a car! It took a real pounding along the Birdsville track but never gave us any trouble.

The Daewoo, covered in tennis balls received plenty of attention making the Canberra Times and ABC television. It's tough to stand out with over 200 decorated cars but I think it helps when you look ridiculous.



If you ever get the opportunity to do this Rally, take-it. Well organised and the largest community fund raiser for Cancer Council raising \$1.4 million this year. Numbers are limited and many teams miss-out.

Thanks to Brian for his story on his first XU-1. This is one of the highlights of my two years as Editor. Brian has entrusted me with the original police photos from his stolen car. These 43 year old pictures are absolute gold. I'm publishing these at full size so that all you enthusiasts can have a real good look at them. An excellent record of an unmolested car giving black-outs and XU-1 spec parts. I can't thank you enough Brian.

Ladies beware! For the first time we have a centrefold, Six of our members are featured for your enjoyment. Check-it-out, where-else, but in the middle of the newsletter.

Russell and Cat have sent in some pictures from their day at Big Al's and also a story and pics from their day at the drags and visit to Melbourne. Thank-you guys, makes my job a lot easier when members send in material for the newsletter.

Waroona! All Australian Car Day! Unfortunately I didn't get to this show due to the weather and time commitments. Thankfully Ian has sent in an article about his day at the show. Sounds like it was a good day in the country with minimal rain.

Thanks to Natalie and Marleen for their combined photos and story from Whiteman Park. With loads of members showing their car, this has become one of the big days on the show calendar.

Unfortunately this could be my last newsletter due to an upcoming seven month adventure around Australia. Also with the AGM rapidly approaching which is usually time for changes in the committee.

I have really enjoyed this position, the responsibility of informing members of what's happening in the club scene has been very rewarding. A great way to get to know fellow Torana nuts too. :-)

***Martin Sibley***

# Big Al's Poker Run

Photos: Cat & Russ



# All Australian Car Day

Waroona, Sunday April 12th 2015

On the morning of the show, it was still raining. Actually it had rained non stop all night. However I had not driven the Torrie in over six weeks so I was getting pretty keen for a drive. Besides, it's always good to keep the wheels in motion!! So Waroona it was.

The meeting place was the Caltex in Byford on the South West Highway. Here, Helen myself and Mark Pitt met up with Trevor and Steve Renolds with the club trailer in tow. (many thanks to Steve). Soon Natalie & Darren, Sally & Steve Gunn & family in the SS (Monaro) arrived.

After the mandatory coffee, we all headed off down the highway for an hour or so.

Cruise was good apart from a little drizzle which tested our reliable wiper switches and wiper motors. No really, they all worked ok!!

As we arrived in the beautiful town of Waroona the welcoming sun broke through the clouds and was mostly a fine day onwards, although at times, some stormy looking clouds just bypassed us throughout the day. 'Lucky us'.

We set up the cars firstly Steve Gunns Red SS then the three not so lonely Lone'O'Rangers and then to add a different colour my Chateau Mauve on the end. (The question was heard "do XU-1 s only come in Orange"? ha ha)

Once set up we investigated the local stalls which had a variety of things for sale from old mechanical parts cleverly welded together as garden ornaments to various foods for sale.

There was generally a good turnout of all cars with everything from hot rods, customs, a few motorbikes and some more modern cars also.

Lunch time came around quickly and it was decided most of us were ready for a couple of drinks and a pub meal. The food was yummy and company good.

All in all it was a great day enjoyed by all and recommended for next year.

*Ian*





# My first XU-1

I bought the car from Sydney Atkinson Motors, which was a big Holden dealer in Perth. It cost about \$3500.

It was love at first sight. A beautiful Yellow Dolly LC with a black interior. I used to use it for everything. I'd just started speedway at the time and even used to use it to tow the hot rod to Forrestfield Speedway. Much to my sons' disgust now, at my putting a tow bar on an XU-1. Back then, this was just another quick Commodore.

A funny side note. I had the car up on ramps at one stage, and noticed that it had a strap underneath the tail shaft. I was less than impressed thinking it had been used as a race car and promptly raced back to Sydney Atkinson's to demand an explanation. I was very cross, I bypassed all the floor staff quite irate and demanded to speak to Sydney himself. He very diplomatically explained to me that my racing strap was standard issue on the XU-1s. I slowly crawled back into my shell.

In those days I had a second job working as a bartender at the old Melbourne hotel to pay for my speedway habit. I'd grabbed a lift to work that night with a mate, leaving my car at home with my wife. She took the car to visit a girlfriend. I received a phone call around midnight at the hotel saying the car had been stolen.

They had been watching a movie on TV when the girlfriend heard a car start up and remarked, 'that sounds like your car doesn't it?'

My wife replied, 'yeah, it does'. And they went on to finish the movie. Afterwards they went out only to find the shadow left under the street light.

The car was found at the 26mile peg along Albany Highway, just out of Armadale and half a mile in the bush. The inside had been vandalized with the touch up spray paint I kept in the boot.

They'd smashed the locking wheel nuts off and stolen the mags. They'd turned the car onto it's side so that the roof and bonnet were all dented. Windows were smashed, head, carbies, gearbox and diff removed. It had a brand new battery that had been smashed against a nearby log.

I cried myself to sleep for weeks after this.

The vehicle was insured with the RAC and I lost quite a bit of money on it. They refused to let me keep the car and pay me for the damage. I was not happy but had no option but to let it go. It was bought by a wrecker and a few years later I saw it racing at Ravenswood Drags.

I ended up buying an LJ XU-1 soon after but it never measured up to my first one.

The photos you see here are actual police photos and the car was only two years old when stolen.

*Brian*

*Brian ensures me the car was very original apart from the tow-bar. Take note of the exhaust, no resonator and the muffler is a one-in-one-out. Ed*













# Phillip Island Classic 2015

Another adventure for the GTR XU-1 Club members and the ‘Magnificent 7’. Attending the Phillip Island Classic in Melbourne, Victoria.

We met at the airport for a ‘I can’t believe it’ “midnight flight” to Melbourne and were soon all sitting in the front row keeping the crew on their toes for the journey.



Breakfast at the golden arches in Melbourne Airport and then into our trusty “black” XU-1 tour bus and off to our Phillip Island accommodation. Here we meet the rest of the GTR XU-1 car clubs from the east, some 25- 35 members hangers-on’s and plenty of car candy.



Our first full day at the track saw the ‘Magnificent 7’ called upon to help prepare the Penrite tent and drive cars to and from static displays. We met Steve’s friend who also ran the whole show and fitted us out with the official yellow vests with VHSS (see centrefold) and asked us to help dummy grid all the cars competing over the weekend.

Talk about putting six blokes right in to the candy store! We would of paid for this kind of access! Kenny Kinder got so excited with the events, we all tried to calm him down, but he insisted on going on a chauffeur driven ride in a Mercedes to the next town and back with three ladies. Just because he could!

Many cars to inspect, and racing of the historics was fantastic from our VIP vantage spot on top of the Penrite 18 wheeler!



The “XU-1 Propeller Heads” were in demand, not just for our ‘fix anything’ attitude but also photo shoots (people just couldn’t get enough of us). The highest price over the weekend for one of our special hats was \$100.00 cash! Of course we turned it down.

We decided to stay the extra night at Phillip Island. So we partied with all the other Torana people with a massive pizza night and glasses of water. hic.....hic.

Our official mascot got a work out at almost every opportunity and even jumped out the XU-1 tour bus with a squeal of excitement and Kenny had to retrieve him before he got us into more trouble.



All meals from the local restaurants or the fantastic RSL, eating out every night and day.... We all had a fantastic time and possible this might become an annual tour??

We all enjoyed ourselves immensely and would love to do it again. Until the next exciting tour.



*Mark Pitt*

*Special external tour guide to the GTR XU-1 Car Club*





*Feeling right at home sitting in the 24C car.*











©Shaun Paine 2015

# Whiteman Park Classic Car Show



The timing of Whiteman Park was much appreciated by all, in that the weather was so much milder to the usual sweltering, dry and dusty day it is when held earlier in the year. Though pushing it back to the later Autumn months is a risk with the weather not being so predictable.

Well the organisers couldn't have picked a better day (for the most part). Though a little cool, we had perfect weather to gather at the fuel station and make our way in a long colourful line of 2 doors, (coffees in hand)!

We had our set-up volunteers already at our usual display spot with our trailer, BBQ and marquis' all in place, just awaiting our arrival to direct us where to park. It wasn't until we were all settled

and cars in place that it was realised, not one LC on display. What was that all about? A great turn out of numbers nevertheless.

Once again, Whiteman Park Classic Show attracted an array of stunning cars and displays and the organisation of the day gets smoother and smoother every year.

Cat had worked her magic with an enticing display of club merchandise, raffle prizes and even a Mothers' day hamper. There was a steady stream of visitors to our area and much interest shown in the items we had on offer. I believe we even handed out a few membership forms and received some too.



The day went like clockwork and each time there seemed to be a lull, we had our on-site chefs on the case. No one went hungry. Though maybe they would have been even more content if someone had of mentioned the salad was in the esky-bag on the floor. The perils of jumping in early to get a feed. Oh well, the cook and I enjoyed a steak burger with the lot!



The afternoon was coming to a close, the raffle had been held and it was great to see a member of the public won the Mothers' Day hamper.

Packing up at the end of the day seemed to go even better. All hands were on deck and everything was packed away in what seemed to take about 20 mins.

Now to join the line and move on out of the park. Looking up, those black clouds that had been threatening on and off all day, looked like they were coming in to settle. Can I get the car home before it rains? Out of the park. Yes. Hit Tonkin Hwy. Yes. Onto Morley Dve. Yes. Passing through Dianella. Oh no! Well, at least I got to test my wiper blade installation skills of only the day before – they held on.



*Natalie*



# Nostalgia Drags & more

Sunday 19th April 2015

Race preparation consisted of checking the oil and replacing the 30 year old spark plugs at about 10pm the night before the drags, then changing the rear tyres and removing the air cleaners at the track.

The first problem we encountered was at scrutineering. Not being a regular at the drags, I didn't realize that the standards for helmets had changed, rendering both of my helmets useless (note: helmets must now have standard AS/NZS 1698 on them).

Back in the pits, I hit up the guy next to us (Steve) for a spare helmet. He said his son was bringing some and that I was welcome to use one. His son turned up with 5 helmets, but only 2 of them met the standard. When he came back from scrutineering he had managed to lock his helmet and boot key in the boot of his HQ Monaro, so I helped him out by breaking into it for him.

Three rounds of qualifying saw 14.01, 14.19 and 13.93 time slips. After qualifying there was a lunch break and a super cruise for all the cars that were in the show'n'shine (saw Steve Harvey and Marleen cruising in the Brock replica).

First round of eliminations saw a 14.04 sec win on a 13.90 dial in, thanks to my competitor (10 sec SLR Torana) red lighting. Round two saw me red light, but I ran a 13.98 sec pass. I went and lined up for the grudgies and was supposed to be

lined up with a blue LC Torrie with a 3.8L EFI V6, but something got lost in the translation and I ended up running with an El Camino and ran a personal best of 13.92 secs.





Happy with my times we changed the tyres, fitted the air cleaners, returned the helmet, loaded all the crap back into the car and headed home for some sleep (had to get up at 4am for a 6am flight to Melbourne).

(Continued next page)





While we were in Melbourne we visited the Phillip Island Circuit and Museum where we saw an original 2850S LC GTR. We also went and checked out the Shifting Gears Exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria (Federation Square) where we got up close and personal with Holden's

Efjy, Hurricane and GTR-X (my favorite). A fun few days as far as I was concerned.

*Russell Rouse*  
(Photos by Cat)







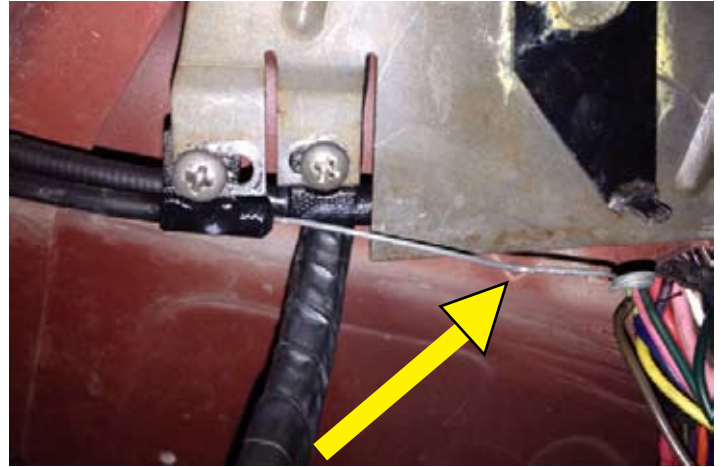
# Torana Tricks

## Heater Cable Modification

Tired of your heater cable bending and being unable to turn off the heat? This common problem has gone unsolved, until now!

Here's what I did to fix the problem.

I picked-up some new lawn mower control wire. This wire is 1.4mm thick compared to the original of 1.15mm. Even though it's thicker it still slides freely inside the casing, but gives you much more strength.



Using a piece of timber as a template I marked out the correct distances by laying the genuine casing and wire, then marking the casing area and drilling 5mm holes where the curly wire ends finish. Then fit two 5mm removable pins into timber. (Ikea cabinet joiners work a treat)





Remove the old wire from casing and give the casing a good clean-out. Wrap the new wire around the pin to form a curly-end like original and trim off excess. (this can be done in a vice or whatever suits and some brute force with pliers).

Now thread the wire through casing and test for smoothness. Fit curly end to pin on timber and lay out and bend remaining end around other pin. Once the wire is wound around pin and trimmed, the pins are removed to reveal another factory finished cable end.



Heres the finished product. Looks like original only stronger. It also feels more responsive, so you get quicker movement. More power to you.

This method could be used to renew a wire while casing is still in the car. Tricky but do-able!

*Martin*

*If you have any Torana Tricks you can share please send them in to the Editor.*



## Wanted/For Sale

**Wanted  
or  
For Sale**

**Get your ads  
in and find the  
parts you need  
or help someone  
else.**

### **Wanted**

IJ GTR steering wheel  
complete in good used condition

Thanks in advance


Warren: Ph: 0439 843 028



# Bits & Pieces



**COUNCIL OF  
MOTORING  
CLUBS**  
INCORPORATED IN N.S.W.



**THE  
COUNCIL OF MOTORING CLUBS**  
PRESENTS THE

## 2015 QUIZ NIGHT

IN AID OF THE MOTOR MUSEUM  
BUILDING EXTENSION FUND

**FRIDAY 31 JULY 2015**  
CANNING AGRICULTURAL HALL  
Cnr ALBANY HIGHWAY & STATION ST, CANNINGTON

**DOORS OPEN 7PM FOR A 7.30PM START**  
**TABLES OF EIGHT OR TEN AT \$10 PER HEAD**  
*BYO drinks and nibbles. Tea & coffee available.*

RUN BY VOLUNTEERS OF THE MOTOR MUSEUM WITH THE  
SUPPORT OF QUIZ MASTER, THE INIMITABLE GEOFF MOOR

MANY PRIZES TO BE WON  
AND A MAJOR RAFFLE OF A  
**2 PIECE ROLLINGTOOL BOX value \$650**

**BOOK YOUR TABLE NOW**  
AT THE MOTOR MUSEUM ph 9249 9457  
OR AT THE DOOR. Pay by credit card available.

## 9249 9457

## Could it be?

Hi members, I was stripping down an M21 gearbox for Alan, and when I was cleaning up the parts, I noticed this stamping on the extension housing.

“Any theories?”

Cheers, *Russell Rouse*



## No.1 in 1972 Hot Hits



## Under the Scope



How well do you know your Torana parts? If you don't recognise this bit, the answer is later in the newsletter.

# Club Preferred Businesses

These are businesses that support our club

**RARE PARTS**  
Vintage Enthusiasts and Restoration Products

**TODD GARDNER**  
45 Welchpool Road, Welchpool WA 6106  
Phone: (08) 9470 1117 Fax: (08) 9470 4448  
Email: sales@rareparts.com.au

**PETERS SECURITY SCREENS**

**TREVOR PETERS**  
Mobile 0-403 333 691

66 McCoy Street, Myaree WA 6154  
PO Box 4071, Myaree BC WA 6960  
Ph: (08) 9317 1717 Fax: (08) 9317 1970  
Email: psecure@hwarp1.net.au

**CLEAR VISION SECURITY - STAINLESS STEEL MESH**

**HAMILTON SAWMILLS PTY LTD**  
A.B.N. 44 063 994 909  
**QUALITY JARRAH & KARRI: Export, Trade and Retail**

**Alan Bajada**  
Director  
Mob 0407 302 200  
Tel (+618) 9302 2022  
Fax (+618) 9302 2023  
326 Gnaragara Road, Landsdale WA 6065  
Email: info@hamilton-sm.com.au

**SUDDEN IMPACT SIGNS**  
signs • design • display

*Michael Dear* Proprietor

Ph 08 9371 0337  
Fax 08 9371 2649

140 King Street, Bayswater 6053  
Mobile 0421 042 116  
email sudden@git.com.au  
web: suddenimpactsigns.com.au

**AUSWEST LINEBORING SERVICES**  
DOUG

Fax: 9964 6268 . A/H 9964 6267  
0417 182 142 . 0428 125 772  
Email: ausline@westnet.com.au  
*Mobile Service We Come to You Over 10 Years Experience*

**PROSEC**  
SECURITY AGENT LICENCE 00197  
**PROFESSIONAL SECURITY SERVICES**

**MARK W. PITT**  
"30 Years Experience in Security"  
**1300 ProSec - 776 732**  
24 HOUR

markpitt@prosec.com.au www.prosec.com.au  
P.O. BOX 2191 WARWICK WA 6024

**HELPING YOU THROUGH THE SECURITY MAZE**

**Hankook**  
PERFORMANCE TYRES

**MYAREE TYRE & MECHANICAL**  
Ph: 9317 2400

**Johnathon Eade**  
Proprietor  
47c Norma Road, Myaree Western Australia 6154



**If you know of any other business that has supported our club please let me know so they can be included.**

# Calendar of Events

## June

3rd Club Meeting - Vic Park

## July

19th Winter undercover Auto Jumble Sale, Cnr Ranford & Warton Roads Canningvale.  
Commences 6.30am

## September

20th ToranaFest - Maitland Showgrounds NSW

27th Mid-West Show & Shine - Geraldton

## October

7th-11th Muscle Car Marathon - Bathurst NSW

18th Jumble Sale - Cannington Showgrounds

## November

TBA Motorfest Busselton Car Show

The sportiest Holden yet

**BRABHAM** Torana



# Club Merchandise

**Club merchandise available to club members:**

Stubby holders

T-shirts

Polo shirts

Jackets

Beanies

Hats

Key rings

Assorted Stickers



**For purchasing please see our club merchandise officer Jo-Anne Allchin.**

*Note: club merchandise is generally available at each club meeting and events attended.*

**Parting pic.....** What happened on the trip, should of stayed on the trip!

