

SPORTS SEDAN NEWS

Members Newsletter No. 20102



Chris Jackson 2009 NSW SPORTS SEDAN STATE CHAMPION



Simon Copping 2009 ASSA NSW CLUB CHAMPION

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Your Committee

The ASSA NSW committee continues to work hard on increasing grid numbers and overall member participation for 2010. Some strategies discussed at previous meetings and mentioned in the last newsletter have already been adopted, and further avenues are still being explored to make Sports Sedans in NSW more competitive, more rewarding and more accessible.

The committee have been individually contacting members and Sports Sedan owners, to ascertain who will be on track for 2010. The results have been good, with over 20 starters geared up for the opening round of the championship at Eastern Creek.

If you have not yet been contacted by phone by a member of the committee, please contact Andrew McKellar or Anthony MacReady by phone or email as some competitors' details are out of date and we would like to hear from all members and Sports Sedan owners about a number of issues.

The ASSA NSW committee for 2010 is:

President	Andrew McKellar	0430 717 622	toymaxx@bigpond.com
Vice President	Sean Sullivan	0419 851 085	seansull@au1.ibm.com
Secretary	Chris Jackson	0409 209 480	jacksonc@internode.on.net
Treasurer	Herbert Gattermeier	9879 7557	hergat@bigpond.com
MRAP Delegate	Chris Jackson	0409 209 480	jacksonc@internode.on.net
Committee	Jeff Brown	0418 640 495	brownjt@tpg.com.au
Committee	Anthony MacReady	0421 010 380	anthony@agmengineering.com.au
Committee	Erik Gattermeier	0408 296 501	erik@bavariacars.com.au

President's Report

So here I was, sitting in the garage. And I was really pondering what else could go wrong in the building of a Sports Sedan. I mean, it was probably enough that the thing had been on fire before it even looked like going near a track; that two engines had been destroyed by the, um, ex-Mrs. President during one of those "bitter phases"; that I've moved house three times since the build began, each time seemingly losing more tools, car parts and patience; that everything (of course) costs three times what you budgeted for; and that the rest of life just sometimes, well, gets in the way.

The garage in the new place is pretty good, considering I'm in a rental. It was advertised as a 6-car garage, which of course caught my eye, and I wasn't too concerned with the rest of the property details. It turns out those six cars must have been really, really small ones, but there is enough room for the Soarer and all its parts, all the tools, the workshop gear and one of the road cars. Even enough room to reserve some space purely for engine rebuilds, which came in handy when I discovered I had two to rebuild.

It's a neat Colorbond structure, and because I happen to be in the second hottest suburb in Sydney and the garage is not big on ventilation, it happens to be like working in an oven. At least the paint dries quickly.

So here I was, sitting in the garage. I was hot, and I was finishing off some bits on the engine. All was well with the project – it was only eight months behind schedule. And then it started raining. Really raining. That's a good thing, because it started to get a bit cooler, and when it's cooler I can get more done on the car. The work rate lifts, there's less drink breaks and my mind focuses on the job a little better.

Or it should have, had I not discovered a certain design fault with this particular garage, right at that moment. Within two minutes of me praising the heavens for the onset of the cooling rain, I was standing in 3 inches of water. So too was the car (fortunately on axle stands), at least one engine, tools, parts and just about everything else that you would find in a garage. Seems the water could get in really easily, but had trouble getting out. How do Councils get away with approving these things to be built in the first place?

So here I was, sitting in the garage. Wet. Slightly miffed. And trying to grasp the concept that this car may never, ever be completed. So it made me wonder, what type of people are we, us Sports Sedan people? What on God's green Earth possesses us to do what we do? Are we insane? Are we masochists? Do we hale from a different planet? What makes Sports Sedan people tick? What turns us on, or off? What do we want out of racing Sports Sedans?

It seems our Vice President has been wondering the same thing, or something similar. I can't say whether he thought of it while watching some of his precious belongings floating down the driveway, but I do know he wants to learn a bit about our members, and what they hope to get out of our club. In fact, your whole committee wants to know more about you. So have a think about it, because you will be asked and your feedback will be used to shape the events your club runs and participates in, amongst other things.

The ASSA is your club. Don't wait to be asked; contact a committee member and give some feedback. And please come along to this year's first General Meeting in March – with all the latest club news and updates, guest speakers, sneak peeks at the Oran Park DVD and more, there is no excuse not to come along and get involved.

And if anyone has a spare 150 tubes of silicon sealant please contact me.

Cheers,

Andrew McKellar
President
ASSA NSW



ASSA (NSW) CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2010

- ~~Tuesday 5th January – Committee Meeting~~
- ~~Tuesday 2nd February – Committee Meeting~~
- Tuesday 2nd March – Committee Meeting, **General Meeting**
- 6th/7th March **Nationals Round 1** Wakefield Park
- 13th/14th March **NSW Round 1** Eastern Creek
- Tuesday 6th April – Committee Meeting
- 10th/11th April **NSW Round 2** Wakefield Park
- Tuesday 4th May – Committee Meeting, **General Meeting**
- 22nd/23rd May Super Lap Event Eastern Creek (ASSA Static Display)
- 29th/30th May **Nationals Round 2** Mallala
- Tuesday 8th June – Committee Meeting
- 19th/20th June **NSW Round 3** Eastern Creek
- Tuesday 6th July – Committee Meeting
- Tuesday 3rd August – Committee Meeting, **General Meeting**
- 14th/15th August **Nationals Round 3** Morgan Park
- 28th/29th August **NSW Round 4** Wakefield Park
- Tuesday 7th September – Committee Meeting
- 11th/12th September **Nationals Round 4** Eastern Creek
- Tuesday 5th October – Committee Meeting
- 23rd/24th October **NSW Round 5** Eastern Creek
- 23rd/24th October **Nationals Round 5** Sandown
- Tuesday 2nd November – Committee Meeting, **Presentation Night and Annual General Meeting**
- Tuesday 7th December – Committee Meeting

ASSA Membership for 2010

Membership fees for 2010 have been reduced significantly to \$70. New membership forms are available on the website or can be sent out on request. Membership fees can also be paid via direct deposit into the ASSA account. If you would like a new membership form to be sent to you please contact Chris Jackson.

CSJ ENGINEERING



Chris Jackson

Director

Ph 0409 209 480 Fax 02 46284676

Email: chris@chris-jackson.com

Club Meetings for 2010

An open invitation is extended to all ASSA members to attend committee meetings, which are held on the first Tuesday of each month, from 7pm.

In addition, all members are invited to attend general meetings to be held in March, May and August. These meetings will include guest speakers and lots of information for the benefit of all members.

The Presentation Night and Annual General Meeting are scheduled for November. A schedule of events with all meeting dates and State and National rounds is included with this newsletter.

The venue for all committee and general meetings has changed for 2010. The venue is:

The Gondola Room, Marconi Club

Marconi Plaza

Prairievale Rd, Bossley Park NSW 2176 (Off Cowpasture Rd)

[March General Meeting](#)

The March general meeting is nearly here. Please make the effort to come along to the first general meeting of the year. Have your say, meet up with your fellow Sports Sedan competitors and be an active member of your club.

Tuesday 2nd March at the Marconi Club.

***** THERE WILL BE A GUEST SPEAKER AT THE MARCH GENERAL MEETING. PLEASE COME ALONG TO HEAR HIS INTERESTING TALE AND SUPPORT YOUR CLUB. *****



www.bavariacars.com.au

Meeting Agendas and Minutes

The committee meeting minutes from the February meeting are included with this newsletter. All meeting minutes will be sent out as soon as possible after both committee and general meetings.

If you would like anything included in the agenda for either a committee meeting or a general meeting please submit it to Andrew McKellar at least a week prior to the meeting if possible.

Eastern Creek Entries

Entry forms for Round 1 at Eastern Creek are now available on the Eastern Creek website here:

www.eastern-creek-raceway.com/entry_forms.htm

New Website

The new ASSA website has been uploaded to a new hosting site. The domain name has been re-registered, so the new website will have the following web address:

www.sportsedan.com.au

Our thanks go to Martin Koen who has spent a good deal of time designing the new website, and will continue to provide technical support and updates for the site in the future. The efforts of Terry Denovan who has been involved in the domain logistics and technical support are also very much appreciated.



Newsletter Format

With some delays in getting the website fully operational, the newsletter format will remain the same for now. Once the website is properly running we'll look at incorporating the newsletter.

AGM ENGINEERING

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Newsletter Submissions

Was that one race just more spectacular for you? Did you get your best result ever? Did you go through three engines and a gearbox in one weekend? Why not tell everyone about it?

Member contributions for articles in the newsletter are most welcome. Our enormous editing staff (well, there's two of us) can help you out, so you'll always have an article that is in the newsletter format. Even bad spellers (like your esteemed President) can be made to look good here.

So why not have a go? Tell us your story. Get involved.

Classes for 2010

We are still waiting on feedback from all members about the class structure for 2010 prior to deciding on any changes. If there are any, changes will be announced prior to the opening round of the championship. If you have an opinion about the class structure in NSW, contact a committee member – we welcome everyone's input.

Have Your Event Entry Fees Paid For

For 2010 a new "lottery" will be included for each round. All members who enter an event will automatically go into the draw, with one member from each round having their entry fees for the next round paid for by the ASSA, thanks to the generosity of the businesses that have come on board this year as Round Sponsors.

Once you have been drawn out at one event, your name gets removed from future draws, so everyone who enters an event gets the chance to win. How easy is that?





New Point Score

The new, compressed point scoring format has been submitted to CAMS for approval. Some concern was raised that by incorporating points for Qualifying we would encourage drivers to race each other during the qualifying sessions. Racing drivers wanting to race each other? Hardly.

So it may be that the points for Qualifying will need to be removed, but we have to wait on word from CAMS in relation to the matter. As soon as the committee is notified either way, we'll confirm it with all members.

Remember, the point score format for 2010 is:

PLACE	POINTS
1 st	20
2 nd	18
3 rd	16
4 th	15
5 th	14
6 th	13
7 th	12
8 th	11
9 th	10
10 th	9
11 th	8
12 th	7
13 th	6
14 th	5
15 th	4
16 th	3
17 th	2
18 th	1

Oran Park DVD

For those who competed at the last State Championship round at Oran Park in October, your DVD of the weekend is nearing completion and will be distributed soon. Martin Koen has edited footage that was obtained from a combination of mobile, static and on-board cameras, and has so far completed Qualifying and Races 1 & 2.

The committee viewed some of the results of Martin's work recently, and the DVD will be worth the wait.

Round Sponsorship

A number of businesses have already signed up to lend financial support to the ASSA and the championship this year, and we also welcome some new sponsors on board. Advertisements for our sponsors will appear throughout the newsletters and on our cars at each round of the championship. The committee would like to thank the following businesses:

- CSJ Engineering
- AGM Engineering
- Bavariacars
- Syd-Fab
- Koen Photo
- Air Technology Australia
- Jim Aitken & Partners
- Doulman Automotive

If you own a business or have the influence to persuade a business to buy Round Sponsorship, the committee would like to hear from you. Round Sponsorship costs \$500, with business stickers placed on all cars at every round of the championship.

Safety Equipment

Don't forget to check the expiry dates on your fire extinguisher and safety harness before your first event this year. With an increasing emphasis placed on safety by CAMS, you don't want to miss out on an event because your equipment is out of date.

CAMS have also introduced new safety standards for driver's apparel. For the most part the apparel you already have should be sufficient to meet the new standards, however you should confirm that *all* of your apparel complies with the updated Schedule D of the CAMS Manual. There is also a moratorium on some aspects of the changes. For details on the moratorium and the new standards, you can access Schedule D at:

www.cams.com.au/Media/News/2009/~//media/E06D22FE8F154A8BA4B6C9C0938F1143.ashx





SYD-FAB

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Oran Park Closure

Well, the end of January saw the final race meeting at Oran Park, and it was sobering to note how quickly “progress” moved in after the chequered flag had dropped for the last time. In fact, within three days of that last race meeting, several of the iconic features of Oran Park were gone – either demolished or removed from the site. Here are a couple of photos of the place, just for a reminder, together with how the place looked less than one week after that last race meeting:



And you know, it doesn't seem that long ago that Amaroo Park suffered the same fate. Here's what "progress" has done for that circuit:

Back Then



Now



2010 Best Presented Award

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, 2010 will see the commencement of a "Best Presented" award. The award includes a perpetual trophy and an individual trophy each year. To be eligible all you have to do is turn up and race, having put a little pride and preparation into your beloved Sports Sedan. An independent judge representing one of our sponsors will allocate points at each round of the championship for the cars deemed to be best presented, with the winning car being that with the most accumulated points over the year.

So what are you waiting for? Get out to the shed and start polishing!

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www.airtechnologyaustralia.com.au

The Final Word

For each newsletter a member will be asked to contribute a short article, on a subject matter of their choice. The article will be published as the final word, to cap off each newsletter. For this month's submission we welcome:

Simon Copping, 2009 ASSA NSW Club Champion

JUST ANOTHER WALK IN THE PARK...

Fellow racers, if we can get this year to start off like last year finished and keep it going anywhere like that, it will be great result for NSW Sports Sedans. But more on that in a minute.

Last year's Round 5 at Wakefield Park was a mixed bag for us as a team. In Friday practice the car was going well, and after fixing a couple of minor issues all was looking good for the weekend.

Then in Qualifying on Saturday we broke 3rd gear. Some timed laps were already down, so despite the setback we qualified in 3rd. After Qualifying we decided to pull out the gear box and remove all the broken bits. It took a bit of time but we got it back in the car for Race 1. In that race we started and finished in 3rd position, without any 3rd gear. Has anyone ever tried to drive Wakefield Park without 3rd gear? It was entertaining, to say the least.

On Sunday, Race 2 was the same result which we were happy with. So you would think that if Race 3 goes according to plan there would be a good chance of 3rd in the trophy race. Well, no such luck! On Lap 3 at the end of the straight, I go to down-shift and before you know it I've spun off the track and ended up facing Turn 1. Bugger, the boys will be pissed! No trophy! Even worse than that, the reason why it spun was the engine had dropped a valve. Oops!

There was a lot of time, effort and dollars put into the car between Wakefield Park and Oran Park's final Round, with major engine and gearbox overhauls.

But having said that, it was well worth it because it was the best race meeting I have had! The reason for that is there were so many cars to race (there were 32 starters after all), and it didn't matter if they were faster or slower it was all great fun.

So anyone out there with a car get it out and put it on the track! Whether Space Frame or Floorpan or whatever you will have a ball and someone to race.

Cheers,

Simon Copping

