



observed
section
spirit

60 years

1950-2009

austin 7 club

The President says ...

Sixty Years of Trialing!

It is hard to believe that the sport of Observed Section Trialing is celebrating 60 years of activity in 2009. Introduced by the late John Pryce when he arrived here from the UK it has grown from Austin 7 standard cars, thorough modified Austin 7s with 'simple' rules to specifically constructed Trials Cars with at least 20/25 competitors for the program of events that are held annually. The first trial was at Park Orchards, in what is now suburban Melbourne, with plenty of mud and water especially at Deep Creek Road.

Many notable Motor Sport competitors have been involved from the retired Secretary of the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport ("CAMS"), Donald K Thompson, the founding President of CAMS Maurie Monk, that doyen of racing team managers Harry Firth to motor sport notables like Graham Hoinville and Bob Watson. Many past Presidents have also been keen competitors, such as Doug Veel, Graeme Logan and Ian Wells as well Club Officials like Robert Humphreys, Dale Shaw, Geoff Taylor, Grant Campbell, Frank Walter, John Cox & Fred Undy, along with many of the Club's other Life Members who have served the Austin 7 Club auspiciously.

This aspect of motor sport would have to be one of the longest continuous activities that never seems to have lost the interest of competitors and car constructors. It is a family activity as the entry lists reveal the children of the early competitors actively involved. The constructors of the 'Trials Special' deserve special mention because they have continued the engineering prowess and innovation of which the Club is justifiably renowned and proud.

On behalf of the Club and its members I hope that all who attend the Ball and the Dale Shaw and John Pryce Trials have an enjoyable time and many friendships are renewed as the older generation of 'Muddies' participate in these celebrations. It is a milestone that the Club is proud to celebrate.

Graeme Steinfort 1st August 2009



*Graham Hoinville & Don Thomson
Tadpole Dam*

Observed Section Trials

60th Anniversary Gala Dinner

John Pryce



John was extremely active in all sections of the Club, but in particular with Observed Section Trials, which he introduced into the Club shortly after joining in 1950. John had competed in O.S.T.s in England, and continued to compete in Australia with participation from all members of his family. He served on committee from 1950 to 1958 and on the CAMS Track Safety Committee for a number of years.

Having been President of the CAMS Victoria State Council for some years, John was recognised with the CAMS Award of Merit. Oh yes, and he still had time to be the Competitions Manager of BP Australia. A notably affable and enthusiastic member, his passing was commemorated by renaming the Park Orchards Trial in his honour.

Past Winners of the Park Orchards - John Pryce Trial

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1951 L.Francis | 1966 Stan Rodda | 1982 Grant Campbell | 1995 Grant Campbell |
| 1952 Doug Veel | 1967 Harry Firth | 1983 John Cox | 1996 Grant Campbell |
| 1953 Alan Grosvenor | 1968 Alan Smith | 1984 Grant Campbell | 1997 Geoff Taylor |
| 1954 Doug Veel | 1969 Graeme Hoinville | 1984 Peter Sortwell | 1998 Nigel Newman |
| 1955 Mick Bellair | 1970 Dale Shaw | 1985 Adrian Dekker | 1999 Grant Campbell |
| 1956 Fred Thorne | 1971 Dale Shaw | 1986 Peter Hill | 2000 Craig Hansen |
| 1957 Giff Dorman | 1972 Graeme Hoinville | 1987 Grant Campbell | 2001 Grant Campbell |
| 1958 Frank Walter | 1973 Dale Shaw | 1988 Andrew Stritch | 2001 Sidney Hirst (NZ) |
| 1959 Giff Dorman | 1974 Dale Shaw | 1988 John Cox | 2002 Grant Campbell |
| 1959 John Stevens | 1975 Dale Shaw | 1989 Terry Stritch | 2003 Grant Campbell |
| 1959 Stan Rodda | 1976 Dale Shaw | 1990 Greg Cox | 2004 Grant Campbell |
| 1960 Gavin Stringer | 1977 Grant Campbell | 1990 Nick Wills | 2005 Grant Campbell |
| 1961 Neil Johannesen | 1978 Don Hunt | 1991 Grant Campbell | 2006 Andrew Stritch |
| 1962 Neil Johannesen | 1979 Grant Campbell | 1991 John Martinali | 2007 Grant Campbell |
| 1963 Stan Rodda | 1980 Grant Campbell | 1992 Andrew Cox | 2008 Grant Campbell |
| 1964 Nigel Tait | 1980 John Cox | 1993 Andrew Stritch | |
| 1965 Ian Wells | 1981 John Cox | 1994 Andrew Cox | |



This trophy was made and donated by Dale Shaw in 1977, as a perpetual trophy for the winner or winners of the annual Park Orchards Trial, the feature event in the trials calendar. This event was renamed the John Pryce Trial, in honour of its progenitor, on his passing.

The Geoff Taylor Trophy



This trophy, donated by Geoff Taylor, is awarded to the winner of the O.S.T. Drivers' Aggregate Competition. First presented in 1965, it is regarded as the Championship Trophy for Observed Section Trials

Past Winners

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1965 W. McB Williams | 1976 Ivan Bartlett | 1987 Grant Campbell | 1998 Grant Campbell |
| 1966 Ian Wells | 1977 Grant Campbell | 1988 Grant Campbell | 1999 Grant Campbell |
| 1967 Ian Wells | 1978 Grant Campbell | 1989 Grant Campbell | 2000 Grant Campbell |
| 1968 Ian Wells | 1979 Grant Campbell | 1990 Terry Stritch | 2001 Grant Campbell |
| 1969 Dale Shaw | 1980 Grant Campbell | 1991 Grant Campbell | 2002 Grant Campbell |
| 1970 Dale Shaw | 1981 John Cox | 1992 Grant Campbell | 2003 Grant Campbell |
| 1971 Dale Shaw | 1982 Grant Campbell | 1993 Andrew Stritch | 2004 Grant Campbell |
| 1972 Graeme Hoinville | 1983 John Cox | 1994 Grant Campbell | 2005 Grant Campbell |
| 1973 Bill Morling | 1984 Grant Campbell | 1995 Grant Campbell | 2006 Grant Campbell |
| 1974 Dale Shaw | 1985 Grant Campbell | 1996 Grant Campbell | 2007 Grant Campbell |
| 1975 Grant Campbell | 1986 Grant Campbell | 1997 Grant Campbell | 2008 Grant Campbell |



Observed Section Trials

60th Anniversary Gala Dinner



The Excelsior Cup

The late Donald K. Thomson donated this trophy in 1978. Don was a founder of CAMS, its Secretary General until his retirement, and an avid follower of OSTs and in his latter years a competitor in OSTs. The trophy is awarded to the most improved OST driver.

Past Winners

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1978 Bob Booth | 1986 George Peters | 1994 Geoff Taylor | 2002 Graham Moyle |
| 1979 Barry Osborne | 1987 Kate Bartlett | 1995 Andrew Cox | 2003 Craig Hansen |
| 1980 Peter Sortwell | 1988 Don Hunt | 1996 Geoff Taylor | 2004 Mark Filsell |
| 1981 Ken Venn | 1989 Rinie Wiersema | 1997 Not Awarded | 2005 Dean Hunt |
| 1982 Alan Hall | 1990 Nick Wills | 1998 Not Awarded | 2006 Grant Campbell |
| 1983 Frank Klemencic | 1991 Eric Daffy | 1999 Tim Jackson | 2007 Paul Kane |
| 1984 Terry Stritch | 1992 Eric Daffy | 2000 Craig Hansen | 2008 Ryan Blanche |
| 1985 Peter Hill | 1993 Andrew Stritch | 2001 Not Awarded | |



The Grant Campbell Trophy

This trophy, otherwise known as The Rock, was donated by Grant Campbell as an encouragement award. It is scored as for the Drivers' Aggregate, except that any previous trial winner is excluded, and any win achieved (or is that incurred?) during the season in question also renders the winner ineligible.

Past Winners

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1983 Craig Moyle | 1990 Greg Cox | 1997 Chris Muir | 2004 Mark Filsell |
| 1984 Craig Moyle | 1991 Phil Fitton | 1998 Dale Stevens | 2005 Dean Hunt |
| 1985 Steve Mason | 1992 Andrew Cox | 1999 Tim Jackson | 2006 Greg Cox |
| 1986 John Martinelli | 1993 Phil Fitton | 2000 Kevin Hossack | 2007 Paul Kane |
| 1987 Craig Moyle | 1994 Keith Williamson | 2001 Graham Moyle | 2008 Ryan Blanche |
| 1988 Brad Stritch | 1995 Alan Peterson | 2002 Keith Mitchell | |
| 1989 Rinie Wiersema | 1996 Chris Muir | 2003 Graham Moyle | |



The Dale Shari Trophy

To mark the loss of one of the sport's most influential and keenest constructors and drivers, this award was initiated in 1997. It was made & donated by his son-in-law, Andrew Stritch & his daughter Joanne

Past Winners

| | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1997 Grant Campbell | 2000 Grant Campbell | 2003 Grant Campbell | 2006 Andrew Stritch |
| 1998 Andrew Stritch | 2001 Grant Campbell | 2004 Grant Campbell | 2007 Andrew Stritch |
| 1999 Grant Campbell | 2002 Grant Campbell | 2005 Keith Mitchell | 2008 Andrew Stritch |



Russell Hook & Graeme Logan



Harris Gully Rd



Graham Howville & Don Thomson



Geoff Taylor Deep Creek Rd



*Giff Dorman with Ron Jackson pushing
Observed Section Trials*



*Russell Hook & Graeme Logan
60th Anniversary Gala Dinner*



Ivan & Carlene Bartlett



John & Elaine Cox



Don Smith



Not sure who this is!



Tony & Helen Taylor
60th Anniversary Gala Dinner



Bill Morling
Observed Section Trials

History of the Sport

Observed Section Trials, Mud Trials, or Sporting Trials, as they are known overseas were introduced to Australia in 1950, actually pre-dating the formation of the Austin 7 Club by a few months.

At first all the trials were held in the 'wilds' of Vermont, and later Blackburn, and finally at the Park Orchards Chalet. The first fifteen or sixteen annual events required the cars to be registered and to be driven from section to section along public roads in the area. The first 9 or so 'Park Orchards' trials were preceded by a 'Mudlark' which was a non-scoring 'practice' trial.

The sections themselves were usually sign-posted streets and roads - except that's where the description ended. Sections were given names such as "Deep Creek" "One Old Road", "Rabbit Hole", "Goulash", "Ned Kelly" etc. One such section, signposted at each end as Harris Gully Road was not then really a road but a swiftly running, sometimes deep creek. When droughts or other dry years occurred, the directors often would hire water tankers to ensure the area was as slippery as possible. The '25 acre paddock', now Dorney Reserve in Park Orchards eventually became a regular Trials venue until the 25th Annual event after which pressure from local groups made alternative venues necessary.

'Newsreels' shown in picture theatres often featured the 'glamour' and 'drama' of trials, especially the almost mandatory 'Dam Crossings'.

In around 1960 the first extra trial was run at Lakelands in the precinct of the then Lakelands Hillclimb. Gradually more trials were added as venues were found and the events became popular.

Although the 'formula' was always in place, a 'production' car class was run in the 50's & 60's which saw cars such as Bug-Eye Sprites and MG's. 'Specials' ranging from merely removing the bodies of Austin 7s and Ford 10s to proper space framed devices were always popular and in around 1969, a downturn in interest prompted an addition to the Formula to include rear engined cars. Specifically VWs. Some angst followed the building of successful cars a few years later, but tweaking of the Formula eventually saw reasonable compatibility among the classes.

Currently 12 trials, at many different venues are run, and the sport is considered a buoyant and still enjoyable amateur pursuit.



Dean Hunt



Andrew Strick

Guest Speakers

Graeme Logan
Grant Campbell
John Cox
Jo Stritch
Graeme Steinfort
Mark Taylor
Andrew Stritch
Ken Innes-Irons

Master of Ceremonies - Andrew Cox
Thank you to Peter Foley and the Wesley College Big Band

Menu

Entrée

Thai Fish Cakes
Smoked Salmon & Cucumber Wheels
Turkey & Cranberry Bites
BBQ Chicken Puffs
Roast Beef, Mustard & Rocket Sandwiches
Vegetarian Mini Quiche

Mains

Four point Rack of Lamb with Seasonal Vegetables & Mint Sauce
or
Chicken Apricot & Almond Filo

Dessert

Lemon Tart with Lime Sauce
or
Pavlova topped with Passionfruit, Banana & Strawberries