



Capital Roundel

Magazine of the BMW Car Club Canberra

Issue 1/2024



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Keep up-to-date!

Catch up on the latest news, club activities and photos



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@bmwclubcanberra

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Cover: *The E28 528i of Dale Tomes*

Photo: Jon Havelock



BMW Clubs
International Council



www.bmw-clubs-international.com

Disclaimer

The opinions published in *The Capital Roundel* are those of the individual correspondents, and are not necessarily those of the BMW Car Club Canberra. Technical articles, and such information where provided, are for the use at the discretion of the individual members, after warranty, and are not intended to detract from genuine BMW spares or accessories.

From the President

Luke Wise
President

This year started in a hurry. With an impressive 10 events held already. We will be at Pheasant Wood for our second track day on April 6, I for one can't wait!

There are some fun events coming up, including:

- Page Community Day - April 13
- Driver Training: Skidpan - April 14
- Tech night at Stay Tuned Performance - April 17
- 10th Anniversary of Wheels of Wamboin - April 20

There is much more in-store however, we'd love to see everyone out and about this month. The Page community day is sure to be a fantastic event and will support a great cause - the Belconnen Men's shed. Proudly sponsored by our very own Kim and Jason Duncan, they are providing some fantastic prizes as well! If you'd like to know more please check your emails on the event.

BMW Clubs Australia AGM

As mentioned at the end of 2023, there are some changes coming for how clubs operate at a national level. With the AGM is coming up, if you have any questions about what BMW Clubs Australia does or anything you would like to see change, please don't hesitate to contact me.



Your BMW story

Starting with the next issue of the Capital Roundel, we'd love to share your BMW stories. Be it how you fell in love with Sheer Driving Pleasure or efficient dynamics, your first time driving on the track, a memorable moment, what drives your passion for your car/s or the current garage project, we want to hear it! If you are happy to be featured can you please put some words together along with some photos, it would be greatly appreciated. **CR**

From the Editor

Jon Havelock



One of the major controversies in the BMW world right now is the constant stream of criticism of the company's design language by outsiders. Head of BMW design, Domagoj Dukec, describes this as meaningless as BMW continues down its own unique identity path with the new Neue Klasse concept.

Dukec has said the brand will keep its designs "clean, simple, and elegant regardless of what social commentators say or what other brands do". He

likened the negative reaction of some to the new design language to what Chris Bangle experienced in the early 2000s with some of the designs of the period.

According to Mr Dukec, the BMW design philosophy has always stayed true to its core, producing shapes that have stood the test of time. I guess the next decade will be testament to whether this will prove to be the case for BMW design in the 2020s.

The Neue Klasse's design language will go into production in 2025, first as an SUV before other body types follow.

The club calendar for the first three months was jam packed with a wide variety of events. This issue focuses on most of the key meets and what a variety they have been. From runs to the coast, the ever successful cars and coffee events and the annual Shannons Wheels extravaganza.

So sit back, relax and I hope you enjoy the read!
CR



Sapphire Coast Run

6 January, 2024

Words & Photos:
Graham Ball



Our first event of the year kicked off with a lunch run and a visit to the *Sapphire Coast Historic Vehicle Club (Car Club)*.

Meeting at our usual spot when heading south, we headed to our first stop at Cooma for some coffee. We then headed towards Bombala via Maffra Rd/ The Snowy River Way. After a quick pit stop and re group, we then headed onto Pamula via Mount Darragh Rd for lunch. This drive we employed a two group driving arrangement (Spirited and Cruising), having a lead and "tail end Charlie" car for each group worked out amazingly.

Our lunch stop was at *Wheeler's Seafood Restaurant & Oyster Bar*, the weather was perfect to sit outside in the leafy surrounds to enjoy some delicious seafood while having great conversations. It also has an oyster farm and a gift shop, it's one of the best fish and chips shops on the South Coast - worth a visit if you're ever down that way!

After our bellies were full, our cars needed filling up also, so we headed to get some dinosaur juice before heading to our final stop to visit the Car Club. When we arrived, we were
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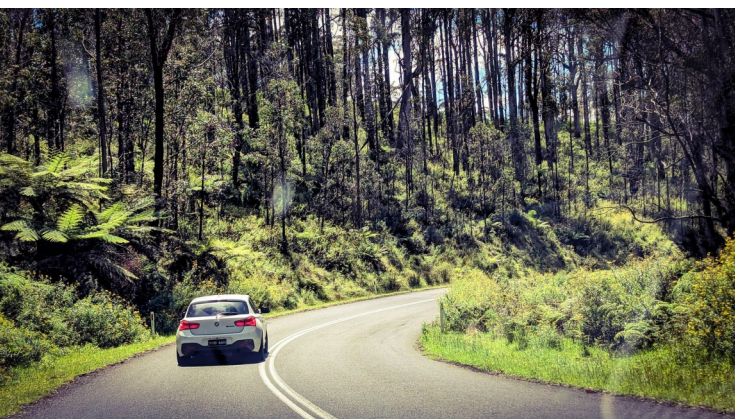


Sapphire Coast Run

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directed to line our cars up front of the many sheds so we could get a good photo, clearly, they know that we like a good photo of our cars haha. Craig the President of the Club gave us all a guided tour of the two pavilions displaying over 60+ vehicles from the 1900s to 1980s (telling us some great history and facts about the cars along the way) the Clubrooms and Workshops which are encompassed by beautiful lawns and gardens. It would be the dream for any Car Club to have a home base (club house), especially with all the facilities this Car Club has.

The scenery and roads were spectacular, and we'll be definitely doing this drive again in future! **CR**



Eurotech Canberra Night

17 January, 2024



Words: **Graham Ball**
Photos: **Jon Havelock**

We kicked off our first tech night of the year at Eurotech Canberra. For those who don't know, Eurotech is Canberra's newest European service workshop, they offer a comprehensive range of services catered to meet the unique requirements of European engineered vehicles.

We started off the night enjoying pizzas, drinks, a great chin wag and having a look at Eurotech facilities. Master Technician/owner VJ kicked off the official part of the night with speaking about the unique service and preventative maintenance of European vehicles, including BMWs!

VJ discussed the importance of testing things like radiator fluid, brake fluid and certain oils to make sure they are in 'spec', rather than waiting for then the manufactures recommended change intervals. As certain climates, how you drive the car etc. can affect

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Eurotech Canberra Night



(Continued from page 6)

all of this. He even had some “show and tell” examples that he presented.

VJ also advised how important it is to update modern cars software and how not updating it can affect how your car performs. After the talk, we checked out the BMW M2 Comp that was on the hoist. Members were able to ask more questions while we checked out the car, not often you get to check out a car from underneath!

A big thanks to VJ, and the crew at Eurotech for hosting us, it was a fantastic evening. **CR**

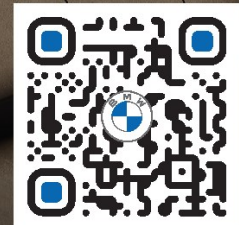




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BMW strong at Mount Panorama in 12 hour endurance race

Words & Photos:
Jake Radloff

16-18 February, 2024



A little over 3 hours to the north of Canberra is one of the world's best racing circuits - Mount Panorama. The open to the public street circuit is completely closed 5 times per year for motorsport events, with many being endurance events. For the better part of 20 years the 12 hour race has been held at the "Mountain" and this year again proved to be a hugely successful and entertaining fixture that was broadcast all over the world over the weekend of 16-18 February.

BMW was represented again by the WRT Racing Team from Belgium who regularly field a pair of G82 M4 GT3 cars in endurance races all over the world. Their drivers are a select mix of international professional grade steerers including former motorcycle champion Valentino Rossi. The "Vale Yellow 46" army was out in force with many fans donning Rossi merch over the weekend.

After the Friday and Saturday practice sessions both cars were looking good. Qualifying was on Saturday and conducted in two sessions of 5 cars each. At the end of this the #32 car finished quickest with a lap time of 2.01.98 minutes ahead of an armada of Mercedes - AMG GTs, Porsche GT3 cup cars, Audi R8 GT3s as well as Rossi's #46 M3 GT3.

The Sunday race started in near darkness at 5.45am. The field of 29 cars across multiple categories had a rolling start with just the headlights of the cars providing the drivers a view of the challenging 6.2km circuit. All started well for the #32 car with plenty of strong laps. Even as the rain set in around lunch time sending all the cars diving into the pits for

(Continued on page 10)



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some wet weather tyres both BMWs were in the top few cars.

That all came to an end for #32 on lap 121 when a bold move by Charles Weerts to overtake a backmarker at the notorious "Cutting" led to a rather spectacular crash. The BMW was spun around and mounted the wall, in a somewhat of a skateboard manoeuvre. That triggered a safety car, and the end of the race for the pole sitter Shell Helix #32 Team WRT entry.

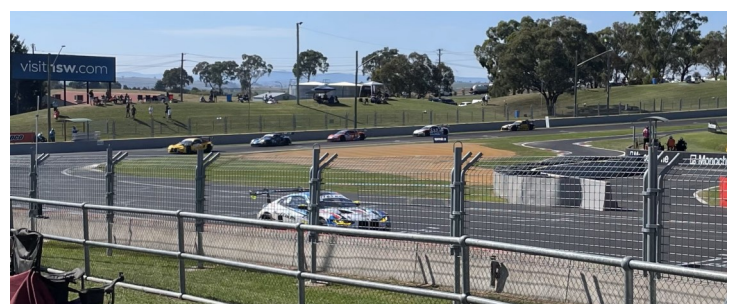
In the end the #46 WRT BMW of Maxime Martin, Raffaele Marciello and Valentino Rossi finished in a well placed 5th position, after a close battle in the final couple of laps that might have landed them on the podium!

BMW was on display all across the pit and spectator areas. BMW provided the Safety Cars with a pair of black and gold livery hybrid XMs on duty throughout the weekend. The medical, safety and course cars were also BMWs with a range of X4 and X5 vehicles. In addition BMW Australia bought along the new M3 Touring and M2 vehicles to the display tent.

Elsewhere around the grounds was spotted beautiful and rare G82 M4 CSL in Brooklyn Grey and a F87 CS in the stunning Misano Blue. Also there was the Chemical Guys F87 M2 Competition "Shine Department" in a striking transformer-esque police livery wrap.

The Bathurst 12 Hour is now an annual fixture at Mount Panorama in the early stages of the year. With 47,333 fans visiting over the 3 day program it certainly is one of the most popular motorsport events in Australia. This year saw a "Bathurst Superfest" with the Supercars 500 race on the following weekend with many fans returning to the mountain again or simply staying and enjoying the local offerings of the Central West of NSW.

If you are keen to see some fast GT3 race cars plus an array of international and local drivers (including Canberra's Superbarn Mercedes AMG GT driven by local James and Theo Koundouris) conquer the mountain - this is the event to check out next year! **CR**



Cars & Coffee Meets

21 January & 25 February, 2024

Words & photos:
Jon **Havelock**

It may sound like a cliché from way back when, but cars & coffee is alive and well in Canberra and indeed around the world apparently.

These events have really begun to take off since the end of the dark days of covid restrictions. And what better way is there for auto enthusiasts to get together, look at ordinary cars, sports cars, classic or collector cars while enjoying a fine Ethiopian or Colombian roast?

In fact, the coffee part is flexible; it's mostly there just to give your hands something to do. The real attraction of these events is two-fold. First, of course, you have the cars, but besides that, you also have the social aspect. It's always great to find oth-

ers who can share and appreciate your own love for things automotive.

C & C events are pretty much a permanent fixture in our club calendar. Firstly, thanks to a local group of organisers who are now holding the event monthly, at least through the beautiful warmer weather we have been enjoying these past few months. Secondly, a lot of club members seem to make every effort to join in on these Sunday morning events in great numbers. While you members turn up, we as a club will continue to organise a presence at these events,

The collection of photos you see here are highlights of members and their cars from the January & February 2024 events. **CR**



Cars & Coffee Meets





Jon Havelock Photography



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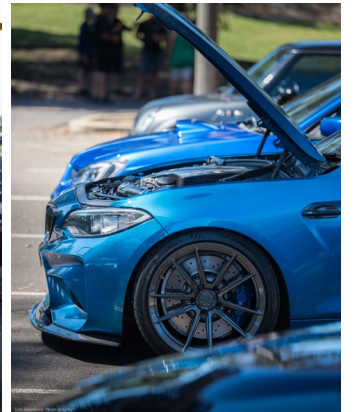
Jon Havelock Photography

Cars & Coffee Meets

21 January & 25 February, 2024

Photos:
Jon Havelock

Cars & Coffee Meets



Shannons Wheels 2024

18 February, 2024



Words & photos:
Jon Havelock

Shannons Wheels was advertised as the largest annual regional motoring enthusiasts' display bringing together veteran, vintage, historic, classic, and modified cars and bikes as well as modern and electric vehicles from across the region. I think that very much proved to be the case this year.

The annual display is organised by the Council of ACT Motor Clubs for it's 78 affili-

ated clubs. Of course, the BMW Car Club Canberra had a really great presence on the day.

It was fantastic to see a wonderful range of cars in the club line up—from an E12 5-series from the late 70's, all the way to a brand new G87 M2. Well done to all those who attended as the club certainly put on another great display! **CR**





Shannons Wheels 2024

CANBERRA BMW'S CAR MAINTENANCE INFORMATION NIGHT FOR LADIES.

IN CELEBRATION OF
INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.



Words: Lorna **Kunz**

5 March, 2024

The other presentation by Mike (BMW Genius Manager) and Bas (Workshop Manager) was on car software updates and general servicing requirements respectively.

After the presentations, everyone regrouped in the main area where the presenters were joined by

Sales Consultant, Amy for a lively panel discussion where the members of the audience asked questions of the panel members.

The questions covered a range of issues from the impact of the closure of the 3G network on older models (you may like to consider checking with Mike at Canberra BMW about this) to how often should the electric BMW models be serviced.

It was a fun and educational evening for the ladies who attended.

Congratulations and thanks to Dealer Principal, Patrick, and the Canberra BMW staff for this initiative. **CR**

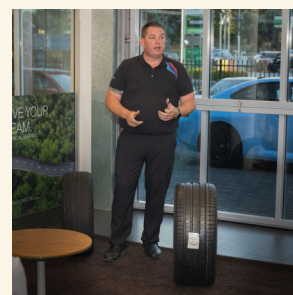
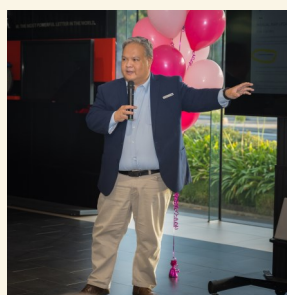
A number of BMW Car Club Canberra's lady members had the opportunity to attend the Car Maintenance Information Evening for Ladies hosted by Canberra BMW on Tuesday evening 5th March in recognition of IWD.

Everyone who attended were treated to Champagne and other drinks with finger food provided by Daana Catering. It gave everyone an opportunity to mingle with other BMW vehicle owners before the presentations started. Following an introduction by the Marketing Manager, Izi, the fifty plus attendees were divided into two groups.

Shane (Service Manager) gave one presentation on tyre identification and proper maintenance—do you know how to tell when a tyre is manufactured? I know now.



Photos: Jon Havelock



Left: Club members Kat Savina, Amanda Bilobrck, Lorna Kunz & Yvonne Wise at the Information Night.

BMW M TEAM WRT FALLS SHORT AT BATHURST

16-18 February, 2024

The Intercontinental GT Challenge series (IGTC) opened its 2024 season with a twelve-hour race on one of the coolest tracks in the world, the Mount Panorama circuit in Bathurst, Australia. BMW M Team WRT came to the race with a loaded roster of works drivers in their pair of M4 GT3s, which proved to be some of the quickest cars on the track but could only come away with a fifth-place finish.

The race weekend started out great for the BMW team, as the cars were quick in practice and were given a balance of performance weight reduction before qualifying. The trio of Sheldon van der Linde, Charles Weerts, and Dries Vanthoor got into the final pole shootout (which was for the top ten cars in the previous qualifying sessions) with the #32 M4 GT3, where van der Linde put it on the pole with a 2:01.9810 lap. "Coming back to Bathurst and driving this track is an honor for sure," said van der Linde after qualifying. "To be on the pole in my second running in Bathurst is unexpected. I'm very happy with my lap and we have a really good race car."

The #46 M4 GT3 driven by Maxime Martin, Valentino Rossi, and Raffaele Marciello (who was in his first race as a BMW driver) also got into the pole shootout, where Martin qualified in eighth with a 2:02.8230 lap. The top eight cars were within one second of each other. It was a birthday weekend for Rossi, as he celebrated his 45th birthday on the Friday before race day.

The Bathurst 12 Hour is a unique race in that it starts in the darkness at 5:45 a.m. The pair of BMWs had a strong start to the race, with van der Linde holding the lead for his entire first stint until pit stops, while Martin gained a position and stayed within the top seven. After the first round of pit stops, Valentino Rossi and Charles Weerts ran in formation



Above: Sheldon van der Linde celebrates his pole position.



in the top five and within reach of the leaders, and the two cars stayed in the top three or four positions in the first four hours.

Around five hours into the race, Maxime Martin was running in second place in the #46 car and was followed by Charles Weerts in the #32. Disaster struck when Weerts made an overly aggressive move to get around a Ginetta GT4 car going through the very fast and very narrow uphill section and clipped the front right of the Ginetta, which launched the rear of the BMW into the air and onto the edge of the wall. The rear end of the BMW rode along the wall for several feet before coming off and going backward into the wall, ending what was a very promising run for the pole-sitting car. "At the start of the race, everything went according to plan, we were always in the mix to fight for the lead," said Weerts. "Then I unfortunately had this contact with a backmarker. It was quite unlucky to get that traffic at that exact spot. Looking back now for sure I would have waited a bit longer, but at the end of the day we are racers and if we see a gap we go for it. It was very unfortunate for our car and I feel sorry for my teammates, my team, BMW M Motorsport and also for myself because that was not the goal after everybody's great work."

The accident for the #32 left the #46 as the only BMW in the race, and that car stayed in the hunt through the second half of the race through other accidents and a long period of

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rain. It dried up for the last hour of the race, and Maxime Martin was fighting among the top four cars and got into second place before going wide and dropping back to fifth place in the final laps, which is there the car ultimately finished.

The race was won by the Manthey EMA Porsche 911 GT3 R. One of the winning drivers in the Porsche was factory driver Matt Campbell, who was also one of the winning drivers in the Porsche Penske Motorsport 963 that won overall last month at the Rolex 24 at Daytona.

The Bathurst race was a disappointment for BMW M Team WRT after such a promising start. "We started with a pole position, which was a good thing," said Team Principal Vincent Vosse. "Of course, it is a difficult one to swallow because we had two strong cars. There were some mistakes; it is a difficult race on a difficult track. Finishing fifth is of course not what we are looking for, especially as at one stage, ten minutes from the end, we were fighting for P2. It's a very tough race and a very tough championship. There are some strong cars out there. Now we need to analyze

where we lost it. This is not a race that you win but one that you lose. And that is what happened."

The IGTC series consists of four rounds and two of them are the best GT endurance races in the world, with the Nürburgring 24 Hour coming up on May 30th – June 2nd, followed by the Spa 24 Hour at the end of June. The series finale will be at Indianapolis this year with the Indy 8 Hour in early October. Here's wishing BMW M Team WRT better luck through the year and hope they take another shot at the 'mountain' in 2025! [CR](#)



Araluen Pub Run

24 March, 2024

Words & photos:
Graham **Ball**



On a beautiful Autumn's day, We started our drive at the Sutton Bakery. Where some of us enjoying some delicious coffee and pastries.

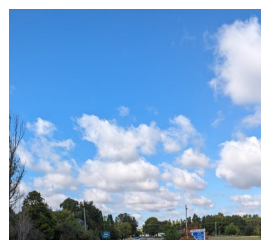
After the drivers briefing we hopped into our cars and headed towards Araluen, well the long way there, via Shingle Way Road, Bungendore, Tarago (We stopped for a quick pit stop), Braidwood > Araluen Pub for lunch/ final stop.

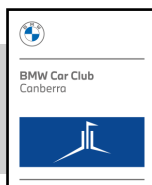
Whilst watching out for the inevitable potholes, We enjoyed picturesque scenery along the way, especially when we got closer to Araluen. The twisty road leading into the beautiful Araluen valley was enjoyed by all.

The Araluen Pub was very happy to host/see us and has welcomed us back again. They said things are only starting to get back to normal after the bushfires, road closures and Covid. Whilst the food took some time (they where short staffed), nevertheless it was definitely worth the wait for the delicious classic country pub style meals.

After lunch and a good chinwag, we headed back home. We were itching to drive that twisty road again. Some of us stopped in at Braidwood to visit various shops including the model car shop.

It was a fantastic day, enjoyed by all and it was great to catch up with everyone. See you at the next run! **CR**





The **BMW Car Club Canberra** would like to welcome the following new members.
We look forward to seeing you at an event soon!!

Member name(s)	BMW
Tony Carey	2023 iX3 Msport
Ali Ayache	1984 E30 323i
Michael, Pepper & Maximus Sullivan	1989 E32 750iL
Peter Sheppard	2009 E82 135i
Kym & Jason Duncan	2023 G83 M4
Tim Slarke	2024 G87 M2
Anton Tereykovskyy	2024 G20 M340i
Aleksandar Zlatar	1996 E39 525i 6.0 litre L98 Chev
Philip Kimpton and son	2015 F83 M4 3 series
Tony & Maree Winmill	2017 F80 M3
Yianni Johns	E85 2004 Z4
Anthony Sarri (Associate m'ship)	2020 Audi S3 Sportback 1971 Mazda RX2 Sedan 1973 Mazda RX2 Coupe 1998 Mazda RX7
Carmel Dunlop	2023 G02 X4 X-Drive 30iM
Simon Skinner	2016 F87 M2
Bob Moore	1989 E30 318i
Gregory Farrugia	2024 G05 X5 XDrive40i
Jeff & Jen Barnes	2016 F87 M2 E36 318is race car
Leszek Stawski	1982 E21 318i
Adrian & Tessa Carter	2023 G20 M340i
Felix Humphries	1980 E23 733i
Simon Wade	2004 E46 M3
Virginia Neave	2008 E92 325Ci Sport 2016 F32 430i Coupe
Aaron Williamson	2013 F20 M135i
Gary Boucher	E39 528i
Shyamal (Sonny) Singh	2015 F80 M3 2008 E88 135i
Rob Withers	2002 E46 M3 1986 E28 M535i

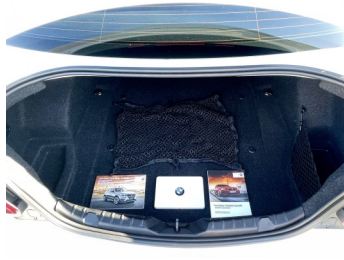
Not a member ... why not join us?!

Full membership details are here on the club website >
<https://bmwclubcanberra.org.au/join-us>

For Sale

2016 BMW 220d Currently sitting at 99,XXX K's. It is a one owner car, purchased new from Canberra BMW. It has had PPF applied from new. Ceramic brake pads, so no dust! It has always been garaged and meticulously maintained. Full service history. Amazing economy, a dream to drive and rare to find.

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ATA offer all automotive repairs & complete servicing for your BMW. Their services revolve around general repairs and maintenance and provide Autologic diagnostic and Autoland Scientech scans. They can also do performance upgrades to certain model of BMWs.

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