



Autumn 2009

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President's Glove Box

I'd like to welcome all members to yet another year of the GTR and XU-1 Owners Club of Qld and hope that we can keep moving forward with the drive and enthusiasm that has been shown so far. From humble beginnings we have grown and prospered, and now have in excess of 55 members who all share the passion for Holden's best-built car, the Torana.

I'd like to extend my apologies to those members who couldn't make last year's Christmas party as this one was the best so far. A lot of friendships were made at this event that will be long lasting. My thanks goes to all the organisers of the event, to Gary and Karen for once again putting up with us, and also Ross and Coral for the late night sing along which was most enjoyable.

The Australia Day run was once again another well-organised trip; this time from Brisbane to Forest Hill where we were joined by the A9X Club. If you can remember the day, the weather was dreadful but we still managed to get 21 Toranas to brave the conditions and shock the on-lookers. Our members won the yabby races and got to take home the spoils which were the winning yabbies. These trophy winning delicacies are now happily swimming and breeding in one of my dams. Reagan has since tried to catch them but they have eluded capture - must be too fast.

Our first monthly run of the year was down to Redcliffe where we met at Pelican Park. We were introduced to Chris Doohan from Torana Spares at Milton. Chris has invited all members to come along and see what he has to offer at his premises. I would like to thank Grahame/Judy/Greg and Leanne for their contribution of soft drinks to the club which was greatly appreciated and also to John / Sandy for their huge contribution of what has now become the club trailer which will be stocked with the new club BBQ/shade sail and accessories. We will also be filling the trailer with car parts which will be

either donated or replace as we use them. These will be a very handy when we go on runs.

This year's AGM was a straight-forward process. I would like to thank the outgoing committee members, Anna Semple and Steve Agius, and commend them both for their time and effort towards helping the club move forward. I would like to welcome our new committee members, Treasurer Gail Steel and Secretary Ron Gordon. I look forward to a bright and prosperous 2009, working with you all.

Big news for 2009 is that we now, thanks to Lance "The Webmaster" Haslewood, have a webpage that is to die for. All I can say to those who don't have access to this web site is that you are missing one hell of a great experience

Lance put his hand up to be our webmaster. We are so lucky to have a member with the drive and commitment that he has in the day to day



Peter Davis.

upgrades and monitoring of this site. Thanks to Lance, our site is one of the most up to date and soon to be informative Torana pages in Australia.

Before I close the glove box, can I thank those members who took on the positions that are non-committee but without them this club would fall on its ear. Firstly and foremost our events co-ordinator, Suzanne Pond, our fundraising co-ordinator, Gail Steel and last but not least Peter Davis, without whose input as our newsletter editor no-one would be reading this. As a great man once said: "Live your dreams".

Closing the glove box for this newsletter.

Darryn

Technical Talk

These front suspension settings were given to me by an XU-1 rally driver many, many years ago. I have used them ever since and find they give good steering response.

Camber: zero to $-\frac{1}{4}$ degrees Caster: $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 degrees

Toe-in: 0 to $\frac{1}{32}$ inch at wheel rim diameter.

For tyre pressures, try about 4 psi higher in the front. Something like F 34 psi R 30 psi. The higher front tyre pressure reduces understeer; particularly useful if you have a rear anti-sway bar fitted.

See Technical Talk in the next newsletter to find out how to modify your clutch rat trap to reduce the effects of pivot wear.

Peter Davis

Easter 2009 at Kingaroy

Friday 10th April Ronnie and Suzanne headed off to Redbank Plains for our first stop to meet up with Peter, Sandra, Nathan, Hayden, Steve, Cheryl, Carissa, Graeme, Judy, Greg and Leanne. From there we went to Fernvale where we meet Acco, Sandy, Peter, Gail, Darryn, Justine, Reagan and Rachael. Greg had a small problem with his car, but after we put in new spark plugs it ran much better. Then off to Esk to catch up with Tom, Kelli and Louise. After some picture taking, we headed off to Moore to meet up with,



Gary, Reedy, Glen, Lance, Karen, Howard and Jannette. Our next stop was the motel at Kingaroy. Scott, Janelle, Dylan and Jesse were waiting for us and a surprise guest, Todd Martin. He had arrived with his friend Gavin

Suzanne and Ronnie.

who had driven a Duchess Gold LC XU-1 all the way from Richmond, north-west Queensland - a one way trip of 2000 km. How keen was that!

We settled into the motel for an afternoon of relaxing good company and a few drinks. We meet Gary and Vicki from Kingaroy (LJ XU-1 Chateau Mauve), who decided we were not such a bad bunch after all, so they joined the club. Todd had a few DVDs of some old Bathurst footage that we watched.

Saturday 11th April Today we headed to the Bunya Mountains. Tom, Kelli and Louise said their goodbyes as they had to go back to Brisbane for a wedding. Peter and Sandra took Gail and Suzanne to the supermarket to buy

FAMILY FUN

I saw six men kicking and punching the mother-in-law.

My neighbour said: 'Are you going to help?'

I said: 'No, six should be enough.'

the wherewithal for us to make sandwiches for lunch. There were a few more photos taken outside the bowling alley while we waited for those who went for fuel, then we followed Scott to the Bunyas. The rain started. The closer we got, the more it rained. The rain set in so heavily that when we stopped, the photos we took looked like

Toranas in the mist. So we could not see much and could not go for a walk.

Instead, we headed back to Kumbia to have lunch. Barry and Margaret (Scott's dad and mum) were waiting for us here. The girls made the sandwiches. The house at the back of the park had a couple of Toranas in the back yard and also sold honey which a few people bought. From there some went to the Lookout, some to get fuel and some to look at the shops. We were joined by John, Alana, Aidan and Polly.

For dinner at the RSL Club, the girls had pink tiaras to wear with their pink shirts. The courtesy bus picked us up. Sandra and Sandy won raffles at the Club and a few of us won on the pokies. On our return to the motel we again watched some of Todd's DVDs.

Sunday 12th April The Easter Bunny came to all the children and to a few of the girls. Gary and Vicki joined us, and we headed off to Jimbour House, Barry and Margaret meeting us along the way. As we got separated

on our way there, a few people waited at each turn-off so that no one would get left behind.

After a quick pit stop we arrived there. Morning tea was waiting for us, after which we did a tour of the property. This was the perfect place for a photo shoot, so we lined the cars up on the airstrip. Many photos were taken of the cars and also the owners. Gary, Reedy, Glen, Peter and Gail left us there to go home. Unfortunately Glen had a few problems with his car and they had to stop at Toowoomba. They got him going and finally got home OK. This was Glen's first run after the completion of his car.

We went to the Bell Hotel for a BBQ lunch. Darryn's wiper came off and Ronnie went back to retrieve it. He was lucky it did not have a scratch on it. Todd arrived with an LJ owned by a local lady. The car had been her husband's everyday driver until his death in January. The boys looked over it, cobwebs and all.

John, Alana, Aidan and Polly left to go home.

As we were about to leave, Ronnie could not get the key into the ignition lock - the barrel had collapsed. But Darryn managed to pull it apart and got it working. Back to the motel where we spent our last night, having a party with Toranas parked either side of us, welcoming Gary and Vicki to the club.

Monday 13th April

Peter, Sandra, Nathan, Hayden, Steve, Cheryl, Carissa, Greg, Leanne, Graeme and Judy left us early to head home. We went up to the peanut van for Sandy to get some nuts and take photos outside the Holden Dealer. We were joined by a Wayne, friend of Scott's, with an EH Holden, then on to the Lavender Farm for morning tea, where the guys bought port and the girls bought lavender goods. We all said our goodbyes there and headed home. We all arrived home safe and sound and a good time was had by all those that attended. Having our CB radios made it easy to communicate with each other. A big thanks to all of you who went to Kingaroy and for your lovely company.

FOR SALE

LJ standard fuel tank & sender unit
1 set of gold zinc plated accelerator linkages (new bushes each end)
1 box of new glass fuses
Large brake booster (not sure of date on it)
Holden one tonner clutch and pressure plate (hardly used)
Contact Ronnie on 3341 8473

Suzanne

Seven hundred and ten?

A few days ago I was having some work done at my local garage. A woman came in and asked the garage man for a seven hundred and ten.

We all looked at each other and another customer asked: "What is a seven-hundred-ten?" She replied: "You know, the little piece in the middle of the engine. I have lost it and need a new one".

She said that she did not know what it did, but this piece had always been there.

The garage man gave her a piece of paper and a pen and asked her to draw what the piece looked like. She drew a circle and in the middle of it wrote 710.

He then took her over to another car, which had its bonnet up and asked: "Is there a seven hundred and ten on this car?"

She pointed and said: "Of course, it's right there!" (Scroll down/turn over a few pages to see the elusive 710.)



John Atkinson.

Thinking of joining us?

The GTR and XU-1 Owners Club of Queensland inc was established in 2006 to assist its members identify and preserve original examples of the GTR and XU-1 Torana, by providing assistance with information on originality of your vehicle and location of parts.

The club conducts social runs, barbeques and special events in conjunction with meetings, and produces a quarterly newsletter, also we approach companies and business for parts and services at special club prices, and our aim is to help our members with questions regarding the GTR and XU-1s.

WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER MEMBERS

Vehicle Identification

We can assist owners and potential owners of either the GTR or the XU-1 Torana in verifying the correctness of their vehicles.

Historic Vehicle Information

Members with cars 30 years or older are eligible for historic vehicle registration as per Queensland Transport guidelines after a qualifying period.

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.

Parts

We have a section in our newsletter, which offers parts for sale or if you need to locate a specific part you can advertise to try and locate that part you require.

Club Activities

Club runs and barbeques are organised throughout the year to bring everyone together for some family fun as well as car shows/swap meets both locally and interstate.

Newsletter

A club newsletter which contains articles such as reprints from magazines, technical articles, history of vehicle and much more is produced on a quarterly basis.

Club Runs

Are held on the third Sunday of each month to a different destination each time. You must attend three runs a year.

Club Meetings

Are held quarterly and are combined with a run.

Contacts

Darryn Merritt (President)	0417 984 487	smiley013@bigpond.com
John Atkinson (V President)	3806 1613	john.atkinson6@bigpond.com
Ron Gordon (Secretary)	5464 6150	rgordon8@bigpond.com
Gail Steel (Treasurer)	3288 8068	
Suzanne Pond (Events)	0413 501 752	pondy2@optusnet.com.au

Classes of Membership

Full Membership:	For owners of GTRs and XU-1s located in Queensland.	
Fees	1 Year \$60	2 Years \$100

Associate membership:	For anyone who has an interest in GTRs and XU-1s but does not own one	
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Fees	1 Year \$40	2 Years \$60
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Memberships are renewable on 1 July annually and payment covers full year or part thereof.

Payment and Mailing

Payment must accompany **fully completed form**, and cheque/money order made payable to the GTR and XU-1 Owners Club of Queensland. Applications should be forwarded to:

GTR and XU-1 Owners Club of Queensland Inc
PO Box 277, Rosewood Qld 4340

GTR and XU-1 Owners Club of Queensland Inc

- c New Membership Application OR
c Membership Renewal (Full membership or Associate membership)

Surname Given Name

Postal Address

..... Post Code

DOB/...../..... Email Address

Phone Fax Mobile

Partner's Name DOB...../...../.....

Children's Names/DOB.....

Occupation

Year joined Consecutive years of membership

Special Interest Registration..... Yes/No

Vehicle Details

Make (GTR, GTR XU-1) Model (LC, LJ)

Original Colour Present Colour

Compliance Plate Details

Compliance Plate Model

Body

Build Date / Trim

Serial Number Paint

VIN.....

Chassis number (as stamped on inner guard behind battery).....

Original Engine Number Current (if changed)

Speedo Reading Modifications..... Registration number

Signature Date/...../.....

All information supplied on this form is private and confidential and viewed only by the President of the Club.

The French Hell Drivers proved it!



“Torana’s tougher on two wheels than other cars on four.”

-Jose Canga
Manager, French Hell Drivers

Recently the Torana 1900 faced the toughest tests of its life. Jose Canga and members of the French Hell Drivers team punished the car with precision and stunt driving acts - driving on two wheels, 180° skid turns, driving over ramps, obstacle and formation driving.

Result: The Torana 1900 took each test splendidly. With its 102 HP engine, tough body construction, coil springs, servo-assisted front disc brakes, extra large radiator and other standard heavy-

duty components. More than enough proof that the car is by any measure unbeatable and performs better in any way, even on just two wheels, than other cars on four.

You may never have the chance to push the Torana 1900 to the limits set by the French Hell Drivers. But you have the complete confidence that the car will put you in a great way. In performance. In durability. In safety. As your own sports car or the car for your family.



Torana 1900. The great way to move!

GM dealers: Car Motors, Inc. in Irvine, Florida • Southern Motors, Inc. in Bunkie, Louisiana • Motor Corp. in Dallas, Texas • General Corp. in Dallas, Texas • Peugeot Sales West, Inc. in Eugene, Oregon • Toyota, Inc. in Eugene, Oregon • Torrance, Inc. in Glendale, California • Young's Motor Sales in San Pedro • Longway Motors in Laguna Hills
• Cross Southern Motors, Inc. in Dallas • Chrysler de Orléans • Southern Motors of Kentucky, Inc. in Louisville • Auto • Southern Motors of Denver, Inc. in Denver, Colorado
• Metropolitan Motors and Service Corp. in San Antonio, Texas • Motor Sales Corp. in Birmingham, Alabama

But we always knew that!

From the mouths of babes.....

A young family moved into a house next door to a vacant block. One day, a construction crew turned up to start building a new house on the block.

The young family's five-year-old daughter naturally took an interest in all the activity going on next door and started talking with the workers. She hung around and eventually the men, all of them diamonds in the rough, adopted her as a kind of project mascot.

They chatted with her, let her sit with them while they had their smoko and lunch breaks and gave her little odd jobs to do to make her feel important.

At the end of the first week, they presented her with a pay packet containing \$5.00. The little girl took it home and showed her mother, who said all the appropriate words of admiration and suggested they go to the bank and open an account.

When they got to the bank, the teller was equally impressed and asked the little girl how she came about getting a pay packet so young in life.

The little girl replied proudly: "I worked all last week with a construction crew building a house".

"My goodness," said the teller, "and will you be working with them again next week?"

The little girl replied: "I will if those useless ***** at Bunnings ever get off their fat ***** and deliver the ***** Gyprock!"

Don't forget to check your 710!



The Elevator

An Amish boy and his father were visiting a shopping mall. They were amazed by almost everything they saw, but especially by two shiny, silver walls that could move apart and then slide back together again.

The boy asked: "What is this machine, Father?"

The father, never having seen an elevator, responded: "Son, I have never seen anything like this in my life. I don't know what it is."

While the boy and his father were watching with amazement, a fat old lady in a wheel chair rolled up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls opened and the lady rolled between them into a small room. The walls closed



and the boy and his father watched the small circular numbers above the walls light up sequentially. They watched until it reached the last number and, then, the numbers began to light in reverse order.

David Savage.

Finally, the walls opened up again and a gorgeous young woman stepped out. The father, not taking his eyes off the young woman, said quietly to the boy: "Go get your mother."

Your Committee 2009-2010



(L to R) Suzanne Pond (Events Co-ordinator) John Atkinson (Vice President) Ron Gordon (Secretary) Darryn Merritt (President) Gail Steel (Treasurer/Fundraiser).