

GRUMP2 tears up Powercruise 10

Sporting the fresh new paint job and renewed vigour of heading into its second season as a PAC customer, the McKern Racing team made its first trip to Queensland Raceway since Powercruise 5.

Traditionally, the GRUMP2 beast strapped enthusiasts into the passenger's seat to experience the thrill and the rush of the 13B powerplant. However with the busy schedule the team experienced last year with competing in 19 events across Australia, the Powercruise has fallen on weekends that made it very difficult for the team to attend.

Powercruise 10, however saw the return of the green monster with a 20B powerplant for the first time and the team was again eager to strap those lucky chosen souls into the passenger's seat for the ride of a lifetime. For something a little extra, the team also entered the car in the Competition class of the Show and Shine at the event.

The crew carefully selected 14 passengers to take over the three days of Powercruise which included crew, family, friends, enthusiasts and sponsors and even a lucky spectator took a ride on the Friday by being in the right place at the right time! All passengers were briefed and strapped in by the McKern Racing crew in preparation for their one lap dash around the Queensland Raceway circuit. Whilst we could go into detail of the lap, we might leave it to a passenger to describe the experience in his own words:

This Saturday just past, I, along with several other members of this great little forum, were very privileged to be taken for a lap of Queensland Raceway in **GRUMP2** at the Powercruise !!!!!



WOW!!!!!!

As a non-racedriver myself I must admit to being a little anxious at first, but knowing Damien's penchant for safety and love of his "little green rocket", actually felt quite calm once locked into the welcoming arms of a 5 point racing harness. The thorough and reassuring attentions of Arron, (Damien's tireless crew chief) helped as well.

This little car is definitely a "wolf in sheep's clothing" as it started and drove sedately down pit lane, and certainly gave no indication of the "hell that was to be unleashed".

The "Rrrp, Rrrp"s on the throttle certainly commanded attention and then suddenly it was onto the track, where without warning the sedate little sedan turned into some insane methanol breathing monster that assaulted the senses in a seamless display of Rotary power !!!!!

The acceleration is both stunning and mindboggling !!!! On Damien's side of the car there is a

flurry of movement as he pulls the next lever on the five speed Lenco,while struggling to keep the car straight on it's puny 28x9 🤔🤔🤔, tyres and avoiding other cars on the track.You can feel that the tyres are overcoming traction and actually spinning on the bitumen,but the acceleration continues to climb unabated.It appears to know no limits but then it is hard on the brakes as the end of the straight appears out of the blur that is your surroundings!!!!

I had tried to imagine what the sensation of being in potentially the first 7 second ST289 Rotary in Australia would be like,but nothing can prepare you for the ferocity of it !!!!! That a little 3 Rotor engine could out- accelerate anything on the track is just brilliant.I have a whole new respect for all of you who pilot these little monsters !!!!!

All too soon it was over and all I could do was laugh at the sheer exhilaration of the whole experience and shake Damien's hand for being prepared to share his passion with others.Mr.McKern,I salute you.

Over the course of three days I believe 14 other people were treated to the same "rocket ride" I was and I know they would have come away feeling much as I did.

To Damien,Arron,Brooke and the whole McKern racing team,thank you for the experience of a lifetime and being prepared to share it with others.Your generosity and warmth is very much appreciated !!!!!

To Rocky,"how was your handiwork"???? To answer that,there is only one word - STUNNING !!!!!

To sum up in Damien's words,the whole experience of the Powercruise can be defined in one word - CARS.All the divisions and barriers fade away in one glorious celebration of CARS !!!!!

Long may they live,for they define all of us who love them !!!!!

Regards,

Paul.

85 litres of methanol, 3 full sets of drag racing slick tyres and 14 laps later, the GRUMP had disposed of score's of tough cars including the prized scalp of Chris Hollingworth (sorry Holley!!) and was widely regarded as the "quickest car on the circuit" even though it was wheel spinning around most of the circuit. The car was sent out with low boost numbers and even so, as soon as Damien hit the 'loud' pedal, the resulting bushfire from the rear guards made even the most passionate V8 supporter stare in disbelief at the power that the little 'rice burner' produced.

All in all, the team thoroughly enjoyed the weekend which was capped off with the car also winning "Top Judged" in the competition class of the show and shine. The award was a vindication of the hard work and effort that George and the boys from PAC Performance, Danny and the team at Custom Bodyworks along with the McKern Racing team put into getting the car

together in time for the Jamboree and producing an immaculate, award winning race car.

The McKern Racing team wishes to thank again, PAC Performance and Custom Bodyworks for the hard work put into the car to make weekends such as Powercruise 10 possible. Following the Powercruise, the team decided to give the car and the team a rest (having raced 5 weekends in a row) even though they were entered for the Australian Nationals. The next event on the calendar is the Boostcruising Track Day, this year known as 'Drag Time' on the 28th October, 2007 at Willowbank Raceway.

