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Our First Road Trip

AGP - MELBOURNE

Eg and I picked up Michael (my son) from school Tuesday afternoon and headed for Melbourne. This was the first road trip for our new truck. We were making good time as the truck was faster than I expected. We reached Nhill by 6.30pm and had only used 2/3rds of a tank. Horsham was only 90kms away so we decided to continue on before stopping to refuel and have dinner. Not far out of Nhill, the fuel gauge was dropping rapidly!

We were to learn that you can only do 85kms on the last third of a tank.

It was almost dark when the truck rolled to a stop 5kms from Horsham. We then unloaded the racecar fitted the number plates, loaded a 60 litre drum in the front seat and headed for Horsham. In the total dark we filled the tank and learnt how to bleed the injection system, re-loaded the car and moved on. We arrived at our motel in Ballarat to a smell of burning rubber. Checking the source of the smell we found we had a flat tyre with several pieces missing. I decided to change it in the morning.

Next morning we headed for Albert Park, arrived around 10.30 and unloaded the car.

THURSDAY

Today is our busiest day with one practice, one qualifying and one race.

PRACTICE

I was the first car out and wanted to put in a good time straight off. After many laps on the play station the week before I expected be on the pace early. I took off like a rocket and flew through turn 1 and 2, full noise down to turn

three I was looking for the brake markers but couldn't see them as they were orange markers on a red wall.

Admittedly I was looking for white ones.

All of a sudden the corner was there and I couldn't stop spearing off into the sand pit. Very embarrassed, I was towed out after the second attempt as the tow tractor pulled the tow hook clean out of the car, then continued around for the session. I finished ninth fastest.

QUALIFYING

We changed the set up for the car and headed out, the car felt much better and we finished fifth fastest but I wasn't happy with any of the laps so far.

RACE 1

I started from fifth and had a reasonable start. As we approached the first corner I was pushed wide on to grass and lost about four positions. The Fords were very fast out of the corners and down the straights and were hard to beat while the traffic was heavy. The Holden has better corner speed but you need a clear track. I slowly made my way back thorough the field and up behind Chris Pither. As I went to take an outside line on him he moved across to stop me and turned me around. The car stopped across the track and I was lucky not to be hit from the cars behind. I recovered and finished tenth.

RACE 2

I started from ninth position, a lot further back than what I had hoped. But I was faster than all the cars in front. I got a great start and went to go around the car in front only to have them block the gap and I had to take the long way around.



