

# The Orange Times

Bruce McLaren Trust

December / January 2015, Issue #5



## Celebrating 50 Years of McLaren Racing

**December 1964**

In the current F1 calendar for this year the drivers competed in only 19 races and only in F1. In the 60s drivers raced in many different classes. In 1964 Bruce raced in 44 events – 8 Tasman, 17 sports car, 3 endurance and 16 Formula 1. He also wrote an autobiography (with help from Eoin Young) and designed and built a sports racing car which gained a podium finish first time out - the first race by Bruce in a car of his own name. His new team had also won the inaugural Tasman series. Bruce had ten wins, five 2<sup>nd</sup> places and four 3<sup>rd</sup> - 43% podium success for the year. (This was also his career average).

The race year finished in Nassau with a win in the Beach Formula Vee (a small single seat car using VW components) at the race around the Oaks Field Course. Being in the Bahamas, Bruce may have found time to do some water skiing - his favourite method of fitness training.

The 1965 Tasman series cars were completed and shipped and Bruce had contracted Phil Hill to be the number two driver to campaign the eight race Tasman championship.

What a busy year!

## *A Visit from Saint Nick*

T'was the night before Festival and all through the place

Everything was stirring before the big race

Mechanics were tuning McLarens with care

Maseratis and MG's were blasting the air

Ferraris and Triumphs, Jaguars and Porsches

Alfas and Healeys testing their horses

Rapping and barking, exhausts all in tune

Howling straight pipes all baying the moon

When over the palm trees came jolly Saint Nick

Downshifting smoothly ne'er missing a click

His helmet was fastened, his seat belt tight

His smile was so merry, his eyes so bright

He drifted the corners, all heel-and-toe

And on the long straight he really let go

Hands on the wheel 'N eyeing the tach on the dash

With foot in the carbs he was gone with a flash

Now don't be surprised if on Christmas Day

The present you wanted has come your way

Distributor and Carbs that always stay right

A check-point detector, a computer with sight

And a Merry Christmas to all and to all a Good Night!

First written we believe by Hank Cantor, Editor/Tonneau 1959  
Then published by Victory Lane, December 2000  
Fine-tuned by BMT in 2014 (also see graphic, back page)

***“Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from the Trustees, the Editor,  
and all at the Bruce McLaren Trust”***

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**Gulf Oil** **£5000**  
 Howden Ganley Festival 2015  
 brought to you by **Gulf** **NZ FESTIVAL of MOTOR RACING**  
**16-18 & 23-25 JAN 2015**  
 CONTACT jim@nzfmr.co.nz  
**HAMPTON DOWNS MOTORSPORT PARK, NEW ZEALAND www.nzfmr.co.nz**

Yes, it is on again at Hampton Downs in January 2015: The New Zealand Festival of Motor Racing celebrating Formula 5000, and **Howden Ganley**.

Perhaps not as well-known as the 'Trio', Howden went to Europe in 1963 with £25 in his back pocket. He got his first drive with Falcon Cars, drove a Brabham in Formula 3, a McLaren M10 in Formula 5000 and then moved to the big time and drove for BRM, Williams, March and Maki in Formula 1 between 1971 and 1974. He also drove in endurance races and in 1972 came second at the Le Mans 24 hours driving a Matra-Simca with Francois Cevert.



*Howden & Francois, Le Mans 1972*

While in England between races, and needing money, Howden was employed by McLaren Racing cars.



*Bruce, Wal, Bruce H, Howden, Eoin*

Starting as a gopher, he proved his ability to weld, became a welder-fabricator and would travel to Dearborn, Michigan to work on Ford's first GT, the X1.

Bruce made a Formula 5000 M10 available at cost to Howden. Goodyear supplied tyres, Hewland supplied a free gearbox and John Nicholson built an engine. Howden built the car at the McLaren factory in his spare time. The results speak for themselves - 16 finishes from 18 starts, never lower than fourth – and second in the European F5000 championship for 1970.

On the back of this success Howden was able to secure a drive in the third car for Yardley BRM in 1971 and stayed for 1972 - the best results being two 4ths.



The V12 BRM P180 that Howden drove at Monaco in 1972 will be at the festival.

While at the Festival, on either weekend, visit the Bruce McLaren Trust Marquee above turn 9, our usual location, to view our displays on Howden Ganley. You can also enjoy our members viewing area. This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase Howden's autobiography and learn more about his amazing racing career and association with the BRDC. Signing sessions are at 11am daily.

For more information on the Festival and to buy tickets [click here](#). We look forward to seeing you at Hampton Downs next month.

*David Rhodes*

## Recent Visitors

We had two very special visitors to the Trust this month – one very small and one not so. One has been to every round of the F1 championship this year, but did not require a ticket to get in anywhere, the other is 1.2 metres tall and can carry two people!

Both visitors were entrusted to a 'guardian' who looked after their respective needs.

1. **Papa Smurf** (shown here with 'West' – also visiting, far left, with our resident bears) has travelled to every Grand Prix circuit to raise funds for the Henry Surtees Foundation and in memory of Jenson Button's father John Button aka Papa Smurf.



Jacqui Buttigieg and partner Michael had been to the US and Brazilian Grand Prix with Papa Smurf and before returning home to Melbourne wanted to visit the trust. When I got out some of our 'treasure' it made for a great picture. Check out @F1\_PapaSmurf on Twitter and [www.henrysurteesfoundation.com](http://www.henrysurteesfoundation.com)



2. The new **McLaren 650S Spider**. Australian magazine 'Wheels' was visiting Auckland doing a feature on the car and the Bruce McLaren Trust. The car is photographed outside the original home of Bruce and the McLaren family. Look out for the story next year.

*David Rhodes*

## Formula SAE 2014 Entrant

As many of you will know, the Bruce McLaren Trust has been a supporter of the University of Auckland Engineering F:SAE Team since its first year of competition in 2004. On the evening of 26 November Team F:SAE invited their families and friends, and sponsors to the unveiling of this year's entrant into the Formula SAE Australasia competition. This year's model is MO14 and, as have all the previous entrants, proudly displays the Bruce McLaren Motor Racing badge. It almost goes without saying that all of the cars bear the number 47.

To our surprise and delight, Jan and I were asked by team leaders, Isaac Grigor and Michael Wall, to join with others including Professor Gordon Mallinson, who guided the team from 2004 to 2012, and sponsor Ian Murray, in unveiling MO14. And a very fine piece of engineering it is, resplendent in silver grey and looking every bit as professional as a big brother Formula 1 race car.

The competition will be held at Calder Park Raceway in Melbourne. As we write the car has passed Scrutineering. By the time you read this we will know how well they did. Knowing the vast amount of work that has gone into designing and building this year's entrant the Team has every right to be confident. We wish them all the very best.

For those attending it was also a wonderful opportunity to see the new University of Auckland engineering campus on the old NZ Breweries site on Khyber Pass Road in Auckland's Newmarket. And what a grand facility it is . . . modern in every way.

Glass of wine in hand, many of us checked out the new home of Team F:SAE. The spacious new workshops are a delight, supported with the very best equipment, both new and old, in a spotless and well-lit environment. I was told many years ago that, in the workshop, Ettore Bugatti considered "Cleanliness to be next to Godliness". I believe he would be most impressed with the new home of the School of Engineering.

*Mark Donaldson*

[www.fsae.co.nz](http://www.fsae.co.nz) [www.facebook.com/UoAfsae](http://www.facebook.com/UoAfsae)



*The Team with MO14. Prof. Mallinson to the right*

## General News

### Latest from Goodwood

It is now confirmed that the 2015 Goodwood Revival will commemorate Bruce as part of the programme on 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> September:

*"The Revival will pay tribute to the legendary driver, engineer and racing car constructor, Bruce McLaren, with a special parade of vehicles associated with his career."*

For more information on the Goodwood Revival [click here](#) .



GOODWOOD  
ROAD & RACING

### Have you seen this?

Nothing to do with BMT but interesting all the same. The amazing FIAT world speed record car dubbed "The Beast of Turin" featuring purportedly the largest car engine ever built has been recently restored and 'fired up' for the first time in 100 Years. In case you have not seen it already [this link](#) takes you to the vimeo compilation of clips of the rebuild and first running of this awesome machine.

### Feedback on McDNF

You may remember the unusually modified McLaren badge we featured in issue 4, asking for feedback on its origins. Well we did get some feedback and here it is, thanks to Bill Wieben:

*"I remember this badge, it may have been on one of the competing cars as a goading message. It may have featured in Car and Driver or Road and Track as a joke from a competing team. It could have been Lola Can Am or Jim Halls Chapparral. The Can Am teams had a lot of fun teasing each other. One of my favourites was on a red Mazda, the Ferrari shape and colour with a chicken for the horse".*

**Bill Wieben**



## Current Calendar as at December

\*Designates probable Trust involvement

**December 19<sup>th</sup>**

\*Bruce McLaren Retirement Village, Grand Opening

**January 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> 2015**

\*NZFMR Ganley Festival, Hampton Downs

**February 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup>**

Leadfoot Festival, Hahei, Coromandel

**February 18<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>**

Art Deco Weekend, Napier

**March 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>**

VHRR Classic Racing at Phillip Island, Victoria

**March 14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**

VCC Roycroft Vintage Festival, Hampton Downs

**March 12<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup>**

F1 Grand Prix, Melbourne



*"Saint Nick"*



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