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January 2011 - Newsletter

Hi to all our sponsors, supporters, crew and LSR enthusiasts, welcome to our January 2011 Newsletter.

The Aussie Invader Team hope that you had a great Christmas and New Year and that you got to spend time with family and friends and recharged your batteries ready for the year ahead. We are looking forward to a great productive 2011 and are hopeful it will be a real BLAST for us all.

This month has seen the team perform various jobs on Aussie Invader, including the skinning of the topside of the car and preparation for the "V" underbelly to be started early in the New Year.



It has been awhile since I have mentioned the good work Rocket Lab in New Zealand is performing for us. These guys are some of the cleverest people I have been involved with and have been quietly working away on our rocket motor development.

I did mention that last year at about this time I was privileged to attend Rocket Lab's and New Zealand's first official rocket launch which was achieved from Great Mercury Island off New Zealand's North Island's east coast. Boy what a sight it was to watch the launch and this feat put New Zealand firmly in the record books and has landed Rocket Lab some US rocket development jobs. Brilliant!



<http://www.rocketlab.co.nz>

Our Aussie Invader 5R was originally going to use 4 x 15k lbf motors using hydrogen peroxide as our oxidiser and bio kerosene as our fuel. The idea of the four motors was to sequentially fire them in order acting as a throttle arrangement and more importantly to be able to shut them down in sequence to prevent our wheels exceeding their speed rating.





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The idea of smaller motors also meant that we could develop and test a small motor a lot easier than one big one, as New Zealand did not have a facility to test a big 65k lbf motor, but they are now working on one.

One of the big dramas for the hypergolic motor using HTP over liquid oxygen (LOX) is securing the initial 10 tonnes of oxidiser for testing and a further 20 tonnes to run the car with after testing. We had two different sources to supply this product but there were some huge importation and end user dramas that would scare off anyone, even the folks at Boston Legal. Thrown into the mix was one of our suppliers suffered an explosion at their plant and are no longer in the business of producing this oxidiser.

We are still working on several venues in various countries to run our race, most of these countries have thrown up road blocks to us importing 85 - 98% propulsion grade HTP. So the guys at Rocket Lab suggested we do an about face and switch to a 65k lbf liquid oxygen / bio kerosene throttleable motor using space proven technology with some brand new ideas for a pressure fed horizontally fired motor, using an ablative carbon fibre nozzle. Exciting stuff and the development of this motor is well underway, so more pics and information soon.



<http://www.dicandilo.com.au/>

We are also completing engineering drawings and design ideas on our front end and must mention the great support Di Candilo Steel City have once again given us. John Di Candilo and Peter Walsh have gone above and beyond with all of the 4140 round bar and steel product we need to get our car on wheels. Thank you guys.



<http://www.totalcam.com.au/>

We have Total Cam Solutions on standby to carry out all our machining work on our axles and suspension links and are as keen as mustard to get this all fitted and working.





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<http://www.locotv.com.au>

Our newest team member Alex Blain from Loco TV has had a very busy month with several meetings with potential sponsors and trips to Sydney putting ideas across the table and doing his best to get us some much needed funding.

We are in the final stages of agreement for a four part documentary with a major documentary maker. Fingers crossed and thanks must go to Alex for all his hard work and enthusiasm in helping to sell what we already know will be riveting viewing.



<http://www.kcsg.org.au>

Once again I have performed several motivational talks and appearances this past month. My favourite which has become a regular fixture on our calendar is the Kids Cancer Support Group Christmas picnic, held at a local park in Perth. Once again a huge group of caring people made this day a big success; boy those guys and gals from the GWN Trek are a hard act to follow, thank you all so much for your fantastic support!



Wheel Bearings

We are now on a mission to try and find suitable wheel bearings to carry our car to 1000 mph but could do with some help in finding these. Does anyone out there know of a bearing technician who could offer us some help in this area? Once we can find a bearing that will handle high rpm's and the required loads we can then FORGE ahead with construction of our solid race wheels.

Western Australia Location

We have wanted for a long time to find a suitable location in Western Australia (WA) to make trial runs of the car and possibly attempt an Aussie record. WA is a big place and we need help and resources to find such a place and are currently talking to State Government departments, mining companies directly as well as the AMEC (Association of Mining and Exploration Companies). We hope to have some potential locations identified early in the New Year. Any readers that may be able to help can contact Mark Read at mark@aussieinvader.com.





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Merchandising Update

This is a hot topic as we are regularly getting asked about when we will have merchandise to sell? We are in the final stages of selecting a suitable merchandising partner for the venture and finalising designs. We aim to have first runs of Aussie Invader merchandise ready for sale in February / March. This will involve setting up an online store with a proper distribution network, so bear with us, but you will be able to buy T-shirts, caps, etc. very soon.



Above is an example design, actual t-shirts designs may vary slightly

Sponsorship Packages

We are in discussions with two high profile brands regarding sponsorship for **The Australian International Motor Show** held in Melbourne from the 1st – 10th July 2011. The expected audience is 250,000 plus and exposure will be massive to this international event. Good value sponsor partnerships are available now and as the venture gains momentum so will interest for a great position on the car, the merchandising materials and exposure via the planned TV series. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to be a part of Australian and world motor racing history and be etched in the record books forever.

The team and I wish you all a fantastic and healthy New Year. Thank you all for your continued support and until our next newsletter, be your very best.

Rosco McGlashan OAM
Fastest Aussie on Earth

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