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## March 2011 - Newsletter

G'day to all our Sponsors, Supporters and newsletter readers, welcome to our March edition which I hope you will enjoy.

Boy what a busy month for our entire team. Although it is only a short month we have made huge progress, lots of new developments with the car, some good television, newspaper and printed stories as well as motivational talks thrown into the mix.



**Bearing Issue Solved** - After exhausting all avenues in Australia to find a suitable wheel and bearing combination for our car we decided to seek help from our loyal supporters via last month's newsletter. Our great mate and mentor Dick Keller (co-designer of the famous Blueflame LSR car) came straight back to us with a good contact of his in Timken Bearings, USA.

**TIMKEN**  
Where You Turn

<http://www.timken.com/>

Timken were so impressed with our car and project that they are on the job developing a bearing that will exceed all of temperature, load and speed ratings we require. We are all very excited to have such a dynamic and committed company working with us. I will report more about this next month.

**Wheel Development Moving Ahead** - In the meantime we have been searching the world to locate a company that can forge our solid aluminium wheels and this has proved a real task. Australia produces some of the world's best aluminium, but we do not have the right size feed material to make 900mm x 200mm diameter, solid, tireless wheels, and we could not find moulds anywhere that were big enough for the job, although we were quoted \$30k to build a mould.



<http://www.mettis.com/>

After realising that we could not get our wheels built in Australia we contacted our friends at Mettis Aerospace in the UK. These people built our solid aluminium wheels for Aussie Invaders 2 and 3 and we were most impressed with their workmanship.





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With the help of our design engineer John Ackroyd, a meeting was arranged in the far north of England to discuss the construction of our solid, hubless wheels which will be fitted with Timken bearings and seals. The building of these wheels will require close work between Mettis, Timken and the Aussie Invader team, and will update you on progress soon.

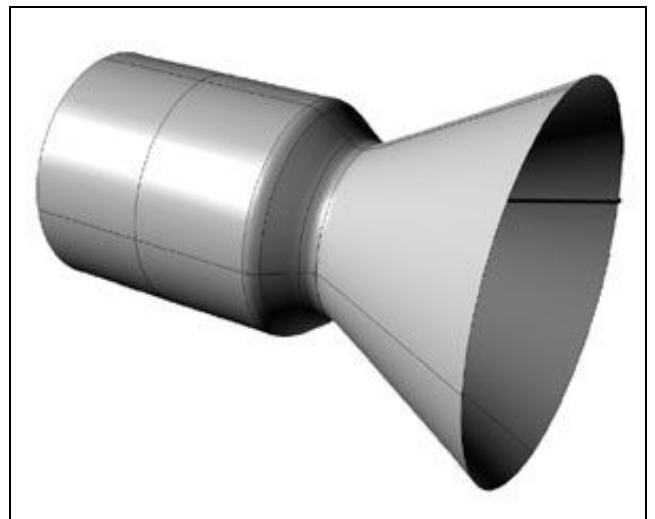
**World in Shock** - No doubt you have seen the TV stories on the devastation caused by an earthquake in New Zealand's South Island. We were really concerned for our Kiwi friends in Christchurch and our Rocket Lab people, some of whom live in this city. Lots have lost their homes but thankfully still have their lives and loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone affected by this and other recent disasters here and abroad. I just hope our world disaster quota has maxed out. Please lord give us a break!



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

**Rocket Nozzle** - Speaking of Rocket Lab these guys have been working with our team member Mike Annear to design our ablative rocket nozzle which has a silica phenolic throat insert.

This design work has come about with the change from our original 4 hydrogen peroxide rocket motors to our single, throttleable liquid oxygen motor. Great work guys.



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



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

**Front End** - Our friends at Di Candilo Steel City supplied us with the 4140 steel we needed to complete our suspension and Total Cam Solutions have expertly machined it so our whole front end is ready for welding.





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<http://www.advanced.net.au/>

**Welcome Visit** - We were honoured to have a visit to our shop by our great sponsors and supporters Advanced Electrical Equipment last week. Gavin Hedges and Peter Roberts have been a godsend to our project with their financial support of the project and their dedication in helping us achieve our LSR goal.

I am looking forward to making their investment in us the best sponsorship dollars they have ever spent.



**Blokes in Sheds** - Whilst we were talking with the Advanced Electrical guys, a film crew unexpectedly arrived to do a segment on our shed (workshop). This shoot was to have taken place the previous Friday, but the film crew were stranded in our states far north due to flooded roads caused by a recent cyclone.

We had not heard from this crew for some time and were concerned about their well being until a truckie mate of

mine who drives Perth to Darwin every second week came across them and offered to put their car onto his truck to get them through the floods. Bob Henderson you are legend. The TV show these guys are filming is called "Blokes in Sheds" and is about what people have in their sheds. It should be a great story.

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**Guest Speaker** - One thing I really enjoy is meeting young people just starting out in their chosen career.

I was asked to perform a motivational talk last week for Newmont Asia Pacific. This was a graduation dinner for their up and coming young mining professionals. This was a great night and I had the pleasure of rubbing shoulders with some of Australia's newest and brightest engineers, surveyors and geologists.



Newmont Asia Pacific graduation dinner

**Aussie Invader Turned Over** - We inverted our car this week to commence work on her "V" underbelly panels which are being formed by WA's most competent car restorers and metal fabrication guru's, Rowe and Sons in Maddington, WA. Our car will be belly up for some time but once she is rolled upright, we intend to have wheels on and sitting on the ground for the first time.



Aussie Invader 5R slowly be rotated until it is upside down for the fitting of the "V" underbelly panels



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

Another big thank you also has to go to our mates at Powerlift for the use of one of their forklifts to turn Aussie Invader 5R over, which is not for the fainthearted. Bill Borsboom and Paul Newton have helped us out many times with the loan of their equipment to move heavy parts and equipment around and without their valuable assistance we would be grounded, thanks so much guys.



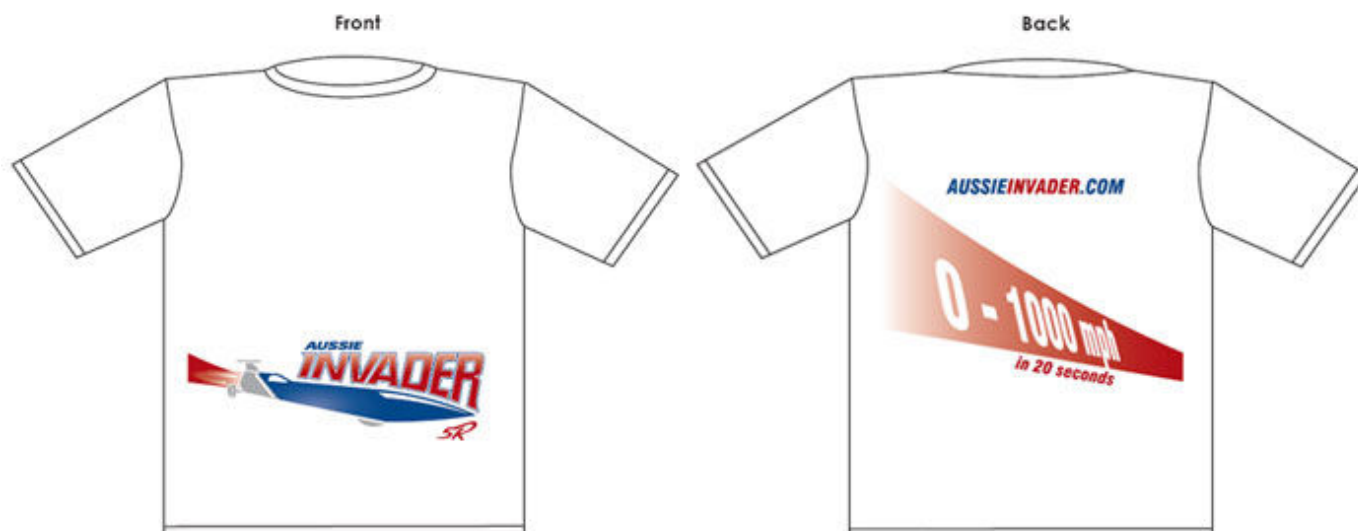
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<http://www.aeromechanics.com/>

**Sound Advice** - I must say a special thank you to Leon Eversfield from Aeromechanics in Wales, UK. Leon has been helping me out for many years with finite analysis predictions on our cars structural members. He is an absolute genius with his FEA work and travels the world working for some of the biggest and best aeronautical and aerospace companies. I asked Leon the other night how he manages to keep up with his huge workload and how he stays on top of this, finding time to do my unpaid work. He said "start by throwing your TV set away". This is very valuable advice for anyone out there trying to achieve great things.

**Merchandising Update** - We aim to have first runs of Aussie Invader merchandise ready for sale by the time the next newsletter comes out and you will be able to purchase t-shirts, caps and stubbie holders online. Other merchandise is planned in the future.



Above is the t-shirt design, there will also be writing on both sleeves – photos next month

**Melbourne Motor Show** - I must apologise to the VACC and all our followers, we have had to make the hard decision to not appear at the Melbourne Motor Show. It was always going to be touch and go, as the amount of work needed on the car to get it ready was immense.

Understandably the organisers needed us to make a cast iron commitment to say we were going, and with so much work and money needed, we could not guarantee to fulfil that commitment.

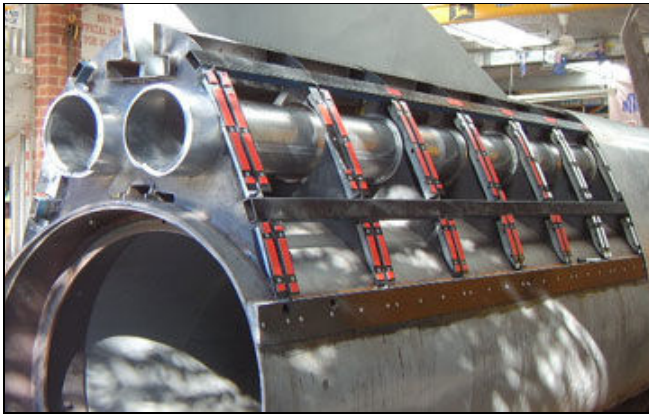
Non appearance was not an option once we had said we were going to be there the car would have had to be shown in whatever state it was at the time. We were not prepared to have it at the show with the world's media judging us, unless it looked 100 percent. Rushing anything or cutting corners is not the way we work.



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Couple this with the extremely high temperatures Perth has been suffering over the summer, with my crew finding it almost impossible to work past 2 pm, it is too hot and unproductive to push yourself in temps in excess of 40c and gone are the days of working till 2am every day. We hope to appear the following year and the car will definitely be ready to be shown to the world.

**Aussie Invader 5R** – Big progress this month, here are some more pictures of the car.



Thank you all for your continued support and until our next newsletter, be your very best.

*Rosco McGlashan*

**Rosco McGlashan OAM**  
Fastest Aussie on Earth

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