

Taupo – By Leahy

The Taupo 1000, is the toughest, most grueling event on our calendar.

This year CMORC fielded four cars, they were "Phil Watch The Tree's Johnston", "Greg At Least I Got It Off The Trailer Mullins" , Jay How's My Fuel Level Murray and myself Nick Opps I #%#@# It Again Leahy.

We all arrived Thursday to the winter wonderland that would be home for the following four days, I pretended not to notice the snow on the roads entering the forest.

As we unloaded I took a brief look around, straight away noticing just how sorted the Counties crew was. It has to be said that we have some key people that make our club what it is, Matt Koppens, the Halls, the Murrays, the McCormack's, Warren Rogers The list goes on, I'm proud to be part of the best club in the country, and I can't thank everyone enough for their support, not just at the Taupo but every single event that I attend, your all champions in your own rite.

Phil Johnston had a not so good start to the weekend, being bullied into the lumber in the practice session on Friday by some over eager drivers; he would spend the better part of the weekend repairing his car, definately not the run he was lookin for. A disgruntled Greg Mullins would almost have had tears in his eyes when the bottom end let go in his Toyota , Greg has had a shocker of a run with his cars lately , don't give up mate , It'll come right for you soon . So that left Jay and me to wave the Counties flag. Jay qualified 386 towards the pointy end of the field, It's great to see his confidence and ability grow lap by lap, he was the hands down top performer from our club, needless to say he was turning heads and I heard many positive comments regarding his drive, consistency throughout the weekend would see him pick up a podium in class 3, great drive Jay!!

In what was my first Taupo event I was lucky enough to be teamed up with my longtime buddy, two times Challenger national champ and former NZ3 Troy Tuffnell . Troy qualified our car in a respectable 23rd. He also took the driving duties for the first stint. Lap 1 we punctured a rear tyre and buckled a hub, lap 3 a nut worked loose in the nose cone, locking the box in 1st gear, what happened next was what makes me proud to be a Counties member, not one, not two, but ten sets of hands appeared and went about getting us back on the track, it was amazing to watch. We finished day 1 in 43rd, down but not out.

Day two and I had the morning shift , we moved quickly off the start to look for some clean air , jumping from 43rd to 12th in two laps , harsh down changing due to no rear brakes may have then contributed to a valve dropping which ultimately led to us parking the Hiway Stabilizers C87 back on trailer , we'll be back!!

All in all and regardless of our results, we all had a great time, got to meet a whole heap of new people and all stood proud under the Counties banner
Go Counties !!!!!

See you all at the classic round 3

Nick Leahy
C87