AUTO ACTION'S 2023 PRE
SANDOWN 500 SUPERCARS
TEAM-BY-TEAM EVENT GUIDE

FANS CAN rejoice because the iconic Sandown 500 is back after four years away and will breathe new life into the Supercars season.

AFTER EIGHT sprint rounds, Supercars is shifting gears into enduro mode where luck, strategy, patience, plus mental and mechanical toughness will make winning that much harder.

It will be the 49th running of the Sandown 500 event this weekend which has been the traditional stepping stone to Bathurst.

But the event is much bigger than just a warm up being one of the most prestigious in Australian motorsport history.

Since the 500km race returned to Sandown in 2012, Triple Eight has reigned supreme at the high-speed circuit.

It won the first three races after it returned before resuming another winning streak courtesy of back to back wins by Jamie Whincup in 2018 and 2019.

The 2018 race was the perfect symbol of Triple Eight dominance with all three cars locking out the podium.

Triple Eight's supreme Sandown record has also translated into the sprint races held at the track since the enduro disappeared during the COVID-19 affected seasons.

Shane van Gisbergen cleans swept the 2021 event despite starting 17th with a broken collarbone. Meanwhile, back to back wins last year means the Kiwi has won five of the last six races.

However, van Gisbergen has never won the Sandown 500 and 2023 could be his last shot depending on how his American dream pans out.

Despite Triple Eight having the perfect package at the high-speed track across the last two generations of car, there is no guarantee this will continue with Gen3.

Erebus Motorsport is the team to beat and championship leader Brodie Kostecki is flying high from his first clean sweep of his career.

Although he is yet to win at Sandown, it has been a happy hunting ground for Kostecki being the scene of his first Super2 win and Supercars podium, while

Erebus has always been fast in enduros.

Worryingly for Triple Eight both Ford squads Tickford and Walkinshaw Andretti United displayed better pace at The Bend.

Leading the charge was Thomas Randle, who hopes to carry the momentum from a breakout weekend, while Cam Waters will dream of doing something similar to his 2017 masterclass and Chaz Mostert and Lee Holdsworth resume their potent combination.

Cars #88 (Feeney/Whincup) #9 (Brown/Perkins) #8 (Heimgartner/Wood) #26 (Reynolds/Tander) #17 (Alex and Will Davison) are also just some of the contenders, but the beauty of endurance races is anything can happen.

Kostecki enjoys a 137-point lead in the championship, but with 300 up for grabs this weekend the equation could be turned on its head.

Whincup and Lowndes dominated in 2019, but they will be chasing back to back wins in separate cars.

Whincup is back in car #88 with Feeney, while Lowndes has retained #888 in the Supercheap Auto wildcard alongside Zane Goddard.

A second wildcard is also joining the field in the all black Racer Industries #7 Mustang of Aaron Love and Jake Kostecki backed by Blanchard Racing Team.

The new Gen3 cars will not be the only different thing to Sandown 500's of the past.

The Top 10 Shootout returns for the first time since 2007 after the grid was set by a pair of qualifying races.

There will also be no minimum amount of compulsory stops required, while the Super Soft Dunlop rubber could throw another curveball to the engineers.

With three big days of on-track action culminating with 161 laps around a 3.1km track stepped in history, a dream weekend of Sandown history lies ahead.

DOUBLE TAP TO ZOOM

AutoAction SINCE 1971

SANDOWN 500 - SEPTEMBER 15-17

THE HISTORIC Melbourne circuit laid around a horse racing track welcomes back its trademark race and it feels right. A 500km journey around the fast and bumpy 3.1km track will put man and machine to the test. Sandown always produces great racing with its long straights and hard-hitting kerbs. Strategy, co-drivers, refuelling, tyres and weather mean there are plenty of added variables to setup a fascinating race.

TRACK STATS

QUALIFYING LAP RECORD:
- Will Davison 1:07.2078
- Dick Johnson Racing
- Ford Mustang GT (2022)

RACE LAP RECORD:
- Shane van Gisbergen 1:08.2440
- Triple Eight Race Engineering
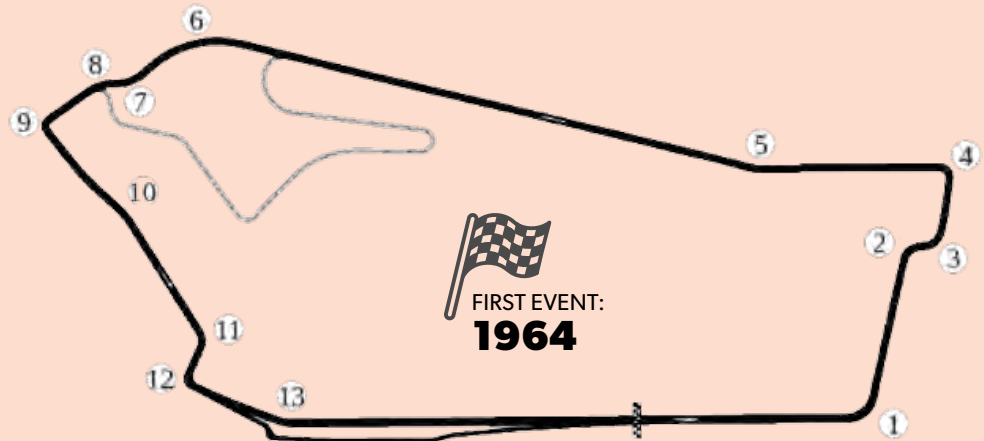- Holden ZB Commodore (2019)

TRACK FACTS

DOUBLE TAP TO ZOOM

TRACK LENGTH:
3.1KM

DIRECTION:
ANTI-CLOCKWISE

AVERAGE SPEED:
164KM/H

TOP SPEED:
270 KM/H

FIRST EVENT:
1964

TRACK SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES AEST)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

TIME	CATEGORY	SESSION	DURATION
0810-0830	V8 SuperUtes	Practice	
0840-0900	Toyota 86	Practice 1	
0910-0935	Porsche Carrera Cup	Practice 1	
0950-1030	Dunlop Series	Practice 1	
1045-1115	Supercars	Practice 1 (All Drivers)	
1130-1150	Toyota 86	Practice 2	
1200-1225	Porsche Carrera Cup	Practice 2	
1240-1310	Supercars	Practice 2 (Additional Drivers)	
1330-1350	V8 SuperUtes	Qualifying	
1405-1445	Dunlop Series	Practice 2	
1500-1512	Porsche Carrera Cup	Qualifying Group 1	
1518-1530	Porsche Carrera Cup	Qualifying Group 2	
1545-1615	Supercars	Practice 3 (All Drivers)	

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

TIME	CATEGORY	SESSION	DURATION
0905-0920	Toyota 86	Qualifying	
0935-0955	V8 SuperUtes	Race 1 (10 laps)	
1005-1030	Porsche Carrera Cup	Race 1 (18 laps)	
1045-1115	Supercars	Practice 4 (All Drivers)	
1135-1150	Dunlop Series	DS3 Qualifying	
1200-1215	Dunlop Series	DS2 Qualifying	
1230-1250	Toyota 86	Race 1 (10 laps)	
1300-1325	V8 SuperUtes	Race 2 (13 laps)	
1340-1400	Supercars	Qualifying	
1420-1445	Toyota 86	Race 2	
1455-1515	V8 SuperUtes	Race 3	
1525-1605	Porsche Carrera Cup	Race 2	
1620-1700	Dunlop Series	Race 1 (7 laps)	
1720-1750	Supercars	Top Ten Shootout	

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

TIME	CATEGORY	SESSION	DURATION
0915-0930	Dunlop Series	DS3 Qualifying	
0940-0955	Dunlop Series	DS2 Qualifying	
1010-1030	Supercars	Warm Up	
1045-1105	V8 SuperUtes	Race 4 (10 laps)	
1140-1200	Toyota 86	Race 3 (10 laps)	
1210-1235	Porsche Carrera Cup	Race 3 (18 laps)	
1250-1330	Dunlop Series	Race 2 (40 mins)	
1415	Supercars	Race (161 laps)	

LIST OF RACE RESULTS

2022
R1: Will Davison
R2: Shane van Gisbergen
R3: Shane van Gisbergen
2021
R1: Shane van Gisbergen
R2: Shane van Gisbergen
R3: Shane van Gisbergen
2019
500: Jamie Whincup/ Craig Lowndes
Q2: Jamie Whincup
Q1: Craig Lowndes
2018
500: Jamie Whincup/ Paul Dumbrell

2017
500: Cam Waters/ Richie Stanaway
2016
500: Garth Tander/ Warren Luff
2015
500: Mark Winterbottom/ Steve Owen
2014
500: Jamie Whincup/ Paul Dumbrell
2013
500: Jamie Whincup/ Paul Dumbrell

2012
500: Craig Lowndes/ Warren Luff
2011
R1: Rick Kelly
R2: Jamie Whincup
2010
R1: Paul Dumbrell
R2: James Courtney
2009
R1: Will Davison
R2: Garth Tander
2008
R1: Jamie Whincup
R2: Craig Lowndes
R3: Jamie Whincup

2007
500: Craig Lowndes/ Jamie Whincup
2006
500: Jason Bright/ Mark Winterbottom
2005
500: Craig Lowndes/ Yvan Muller
2004
500: Marcos Ambrose/ Greg Ritter
2003
500: Mark Skaife/ Todd Kelly

MOST SANDOWN 500 WINS
9 Peter Brock
6 Allan Moffat, Craig Lowndes
5 Jamie Whincup

MOST SANDOWN 500 PODIUMS
11 Peter Brock
10 Allan Moffat, Craig Lowndes
8 Larry Perkins, Jamie Whincup

LIST OF POLE POSITIONS

2022
R1: Will Davison
R2: Shane van Gisbergen
R3: Will Davison
2021
R1: Chaz Mostert
R2: Shane van Gisbergen
R3: Shane van Gisbergen
2019
500: Jamie Whincup/ Craig Lowndes
2018
500: David Reynolds/ Luke Youlden

2017
500: Cam Waters/Richie Stanaway
2016
500: Jamie Whincup Paul Dumbrell
2015
500: Jamie Whincup/ Paul Dumbrell
2014
500: Jamie Whincup/ Paul Dumbrell

2013
500: Will Davison/ Steve Owen
2012
500: Shane van Gisbergen/Luke Youlden
2011
R1: Rick Kelly
R2: Jamie Whincup
2010
R1: Jamie Whincup
R2: Paul Dumbrell
2009
R1: Will Davison

R2: Will Davison
2008
Pole: Jamie Whincup
2007
500: Mark Winterbottom
2006
500: Garth Tander
2005
500: Garth Tander
2004
500: Rick Kelly
2003
500: Marcos Ambrose

MOST SANDOWN 500 POLES
9 Peter Brock
5 Dick Johnson, Allan Moffat
4 Jamie Whincup

EREBUS MOTORSPORT // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

1ST BRODIE KOSTECKI/DAVID RUSSELL - 1895 POINTS

After besting the field at The Bend, Brodie Kostecki is undeniably the man to beat heading into the enduros. Kostecki showed why he is the championship leader by producing a near-perfect weekend to storm into the enduros with three wins on the bounce. Sandown was where Kostecki scored his first podium in just his second full time round. Both he and Russell showed strong pace at Bathurst last year. For Russell he is well aware his best chance at a race win will be this year at Sandown and Bathurst.

99

99

BRODIE KOSTECKI
AGE: 25
DEBUT: Bath 2019
STARTS: 93
BEST QUAL: 1st (x7)
PODIUMS: 20
BEST RESULT: 1st (x6)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 4.86
BEST S500: 16th 2019

DAVID RUSSELL
AGE: 41
DEBUT: Bath 2003
STARTS: 29
BEST QUAL: 5th
PODIUMS: 1
BEST RESULT: 3rd
BEST S500: 10th

TRIPLE EIGHT RACE ENGINEERING //CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

2ND SHANE VAN GISBERGEN/RICHIE STANAWAY #97 1758 POINTS
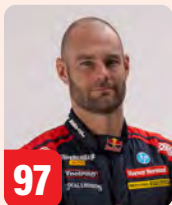
SVG
AGE: 33
DEBUT: Oran Park 2007
STARTS: 505
BEST QUAL: 1st (x50)
PODIUMS: 175
BEST RESULT: 1st (x81)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 3.95
BEST S500: 2nd 16,18

STANAWAY
AGE: 31
DEBUT: Sand 2016
STARTS: 61
BEST QUAL: 4th (x1)
PODIUMS: 2
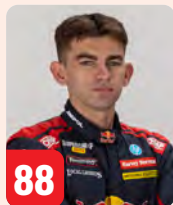BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
BEST S500: 1st 2017

97

97

Despite winning five of the last six championship races at Sandown, Shane van Gisbergen will be chasing a maiden Sandown 500 success. He came close in 2019, charging from 24th to first only to receive a puncture with 11 laps to go. Stanaway has his future secured, but wants to show what he can do at the track he famously won in 2017. SVG hopes the steering issues will disappear.
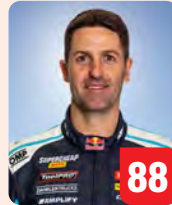

TRIPLE EIGHT RACE ENGINEERING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

3RD BROC FEENEY/JAMIE WHINCUP #88 1667 POINTS

FEENEY
AGE: 20
DEBUT: Bath 2020
STARTS: 56
BEST QUAL: 1st (x3)
PODIUMS: 12
BEST RESULT: 1st (x5)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 6.29
BEST S500: N/A

WHINCUP
AGE: 40
DEBUT: Qld 500 2002
STARTS: 555
BEST QUAL: 1st (x92)
PODIUMS: 237
BEST RESULT: 1st (x124)
BEST S500: 1st (x5)

88

88

Broc Feeney will be looking to make his mark on the enduros stage alongside star co driver Jamie Whincup. Feeney has moved to third in the standings despite not standing on the podium for the last five races, but has remained consistent. Whincup returns for another crack in car #88 as the dominator of recent Sandown 500's.

EREBUS MOTORSPORT // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

4TH WILL BROWN/JACK PERKINS #9 1637 POINTS

BROWN
AGE: 25
DEBUT: Sand 2018
STARTS: 96
BEST QUAL: 1st (x4)
PODIUMS: 14
BEST RESULT: 1st (x5)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 6.86
BEST S500: 10th 2019

PERKINS
AGE: 37
DEBUT: Sand 2006
STARTS: 151
BEST QUAL: 6th
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
BEST S500: 7th

9

9

Will Brown will be looking to make up for lost ground after his championship tilt took a recent nose dive. Opening lap incidents in two races in a row at Sydney and the Bend have seen car #9 drop from second to fourth in the standings, while his pace in comparison to teammate Kostecki has dipped. Has an experienced co-driver in Perkins for company, who has been racing Super2.

WALKINSHAW ANDRETTI UNITED // FORD MUSTANG GT

5TH CHAZ MOSTERT/LEE HOLDSWORTH #25 1582 POINTS

MOSTERT
AGE: 30
DEBUT: Perth 2013
STARTS: 314
BEST QUAL: 1st (x23)
PODIUMS: 86
BEST RESULT: 1st (x21)
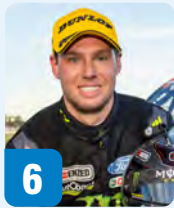AVG 2023 FINISH: 5.96
BEST S500: 2nd 15,19

HOLDSWORTH
AGE: 40
DEBUT: Sand 2003
STARTS: 510
BEST QUAL: 1st (x4)
BEST RESULT: 1st (x4)
BEST S500: 3rd 2019

25

25

The combination that dominated the 2021 Bathurst 1000 Chaz Mostert and Lee Holdsworth have reunited in WAU colours. Mostert remains one of the more potent Mustang runners having collected two podiums at The Bend. Holdsworth is making a Supercars comeback since retiring at Adelaide and stood on the podium as a primary driver at the last Sandown 500.

TICKFORD RACING // FORD MUSTANG GT

6TH CAM WATERS/JAMES MOFFAT #6 1460 POINTS

WATERS	MOFFAT
AGE: 28	AGE: 39
DEBUT: Bath 2011	DEBUT: PI 2010
STARTS: 245	STARTS: 231
BEST QUAL: 1st (x20)	BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 44	PODIUMS: 6
BEST RESULT: 1st (x9)	BEST RESULT: 1st (x2)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 8.95	BEST S500: 2nd 2019
BEST S500: 1st 2017	

Boosted by scoring his first podium since Newcastle, Cam Waters is ready to go full attack in the enduros. Waters showed strong pace at The Bend to get a long-awaited trophy even though he was frustrated by team orders at one point. Got his career going with a big Sandown 500 win in 2017, while he and Moffat have never missed a podium together with the latter fresh from Trans Am wins at Sandown.

BRAD JONES RACING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

7TH ANDRE HEIMGARTNER/DALE WOOD #8 1458 POINTS
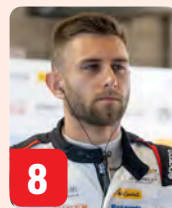
HEIMGARTNER	WOOD
AGE: 27	AGE: 40
DEBUT: Bath 2014	DEBUT: PI 2008
STARTS: 238	STARTS: 158
BEST QUAL: 1st (x3)	BEST QUAL: 5th
PODIUMS: 15	PODIUMS: 1
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)	BEST RESULT: 3rd (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 9.77	BEST S500: 13th 2017
BEST S500: 8th 2019	
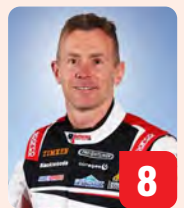
The #8 BJR Camaro of Andre Heimgartner and Dale Wood could be one of the dark horses of the enduros. Heimgartner is having a career best year but lost some momentum at The Bend despite still scoring two top 10 results. The Kiwi also showed speed in the Nissan in the 2019 500. Wood is preparing for his third year co-driving at BJR and first at Sandown.

MATT STONE RACING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

8TH JACK LE BROCQ/JAYDEN OJEDA #34 1271 POINTS

LE BROCQ	OJEDA
AGE: 28	AGE: 24
DEBUT: Sand 2015	DEBUT: Bath 2020
STARTS: 192	STARTS: 9
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)	BEST QUAL: 19th
PODIUMS: 3	BEST RESULT: 17th
BEST RESULT: 1st (x2)	BEST S500: N/A
AVG 2023 FINISH: 10.71	
BEST S500: 16th 2017	

Jack Le Brocq has a golden chance to compile his best season of endurance yet. Although The Bend was a step backwards, Le Brocq kept his steak of finishing in the top 10 of each round this year alive. Best Sandown 500 result remains 16th for Nissan in 2017. Promising co-driver Ojeda will take on his first Sandown 500.
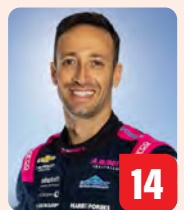
BRAD JONES RACING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

9TH BRYCE FULLWOOD/DEAN FIORE #14 1188 POINTS

FULLWOOD	FIORE
AGE: 24	AGE: 39
DEBUT: Sand 2018	DEBUT: Adel 2009
STARTS: 123	STARTS: 172
BEST QUAL: 3rd (x1)	BEST QUAL: 5th
PODIUMS: 1	BEST RESULT: 3rd
BEST RESULT: 3rd (x1)	BEST S500: 11th 2015
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.23	
BEST S500: 8th 2019	

After an up and down trip around the Bend, Bryce Fullwood will be looking to rediscover his stride at BJR. A solid P8 was sandwiched between two disappointing results in SA. Put in a solid effort as a co-driver at Sandown with current teammate Heimgartner in 2019, while Fiore will aim for a maiden Sandown 500 top 10.

DICK JOHNSON RACING // FORD MUSTANG GT

10TH WILL DAVISON/ALEX DAVISON #17 1183 POINTS

DAVISON	ALEX DAVISON
AGE: 41	AGE: 43
DEBUT: Winton 2004	DEBUT: Sand 2004
STARTS: 540	BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
BEST QUAL: 1st (x28)	BEST RESULT: 4th
PODIUMS: 79	BEST S500: 6th
BEST RESULT: 1st (x22)	
AVG 2023 FINISH: 11.82	
BEST S500: 3rd 13,16	

For the seventh time the Davison brothers will band together, this time for a third trip in the famous #17. Davison made a timely return to the top 10 twice at The Bend and will be pushing hard to unlock the same Sandown speed as last year when he took two poles and a big win. Alex Davison will be gunning for a first Sandown top five.
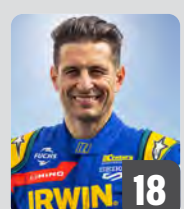
TEAM 18 // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

11TH MARK WINTERBOTTOM/MICHAEL CARUSO #18 1150 POINTS

WINTERBOTTOM	CARUSO
AGE: 41	AGE: 40
DEBUT: Sand 2003	DEBUT: Bath 2006
STARTS: 615	STARTS: 328
BEST QUAL: 1st (x36)	BEST QUAL: 3rd
PODIUMS: 118	PODIUMS: 9
BEST RESULT: 1st (x39)	BEST RESULT: 1st (x2)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.00	BEST S500: 11th
BEST S500: 1st 2015	

Team 18 and Mark Winterbottom will be looking to bounce back from a brutal trip to the Bend where car speed was lacking with best result of 17th. Both drivers have no shortage of experience, while Winterbottom has won the Sandown 500 once in 2015 and is the last driver to take a Shootout pole at the track in 2007.

DICK JOHNSON RACING // FORD MUSTANG GT

12TH ANTON DE PASQUALE/TONY D'ALBERTO #11 1134 POINTS

DE PASQUALE
AGE: 27
DEBUT: Adel 2018
STARTS: 174
BEST QUAL: 1st (x16)
PODIUMS: 30
BEST RESULT: 1st (x9)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 11.9
BEST S500: 10th 2019

D'ALBERTO
AGE: 37
DEBUT: Sand 2006
STARTS: 200
BEST QUAL:
PODIUMS: 2
BEST RESULT: 3rd (x2)
BEST S500: 4th 2019

Consistency is continuing to push Anton De Pasquale up the order as he heads into the season of endurance with some momentum. De Pasquale has a pair of P7s under his belt from the Bend and is now eyeing the top 10 in the standings. Only has one Sandown podium. Co-driver D'Alberto is in strong form after getting a breakthrough TCR win at Sandown just a week ago.

TEAM 18 // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

13TH SCOTT PYE/WARREN LUFF #20 1086 POINTS
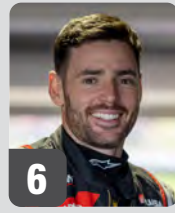
PYE
AGE: 33
DEBUT: Sand 2012
STARTS: 334
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 10
BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.95
BEST S500: 5th 14,19

LUFF
AGE: 47
DEBUT: Qld 2002
STARTS: 130
BEST QUAL: 2nd
PODIUMS: 11
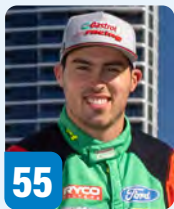BEST RESULT: 1st (x3)
BEST S500: 1st 2012

The successful combination of Scott Pye and Warren Luff is back on at a new home in Team 18. The pair scored back to back runner up finishes at Bathurst, but have not had the same success at Sandown, with just one top five together. Pye is set to leave Team 18, but hopes the experienced combination can end it with a high.
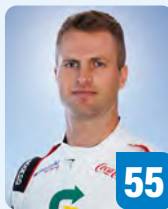
TICKFORD RACING // FORD MUSTANG GT

14TH THOMAS RANDLE/GARRY JACOBSON #55 1079 POINTS

RANDLE
AGE: 26
DEBUT: Bend 2019
STARTS: 73
BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)
PODIUMS: 4
BEST RESULT: 2nd (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 12.95
BEST S500: 3rd 2019

JACOBSON
AGE: 31
DEBUT: Sand 2017
STARTS: 116
BEST QUAL: 7th (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 6th (x1)
BEST S500: 8th 2018

Thomas Randle is flying into the enduros in career-best form after producing some brilliance at The Bend. Randle took his first three full-time podiums and maiden pole on the one weekend and now heads to the only other track he has a trophy at having finished third in the last Sandown 500 with Holdsworth. Next to Jacobson, who is racing for first time since being dumped by PremiAir in 2019.
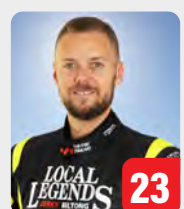
PREMIAIR RACING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

15TH TIM SLADE/JONATHON WEBB #23 1041 POINTS
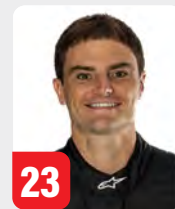
SLADE
AGE: 37
DEBUT: Adel 2009
STARTS: 421
BEST QUAL: 1st (x2)
PODIUMS: 17
BEST RESULT: 1st (x2)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 14.45
BEST S500: 6th 2015

WEBB
AGE: 39
DEBUT: Sand 2006
STARTS: 151
BEST QUAL: 2nd
PODIUMS: 8
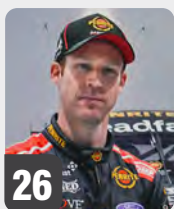BEST RESULT: 1st (x4)
BEST S500: 3rd 15,16

Experience is coming to the fore at PremiAir Racing with veterans Tim Slade and Jonathon Webb sharing the #23 Camaro. Slade did not have the greatest time at The Bend with PremiAir looking to regain its early-season form. Webb jumps on board to the team he sold a year ago in a surprise comeback.

GROVE RACING // FORD MUSTANG GT

16TH DAVID REYNOLDS/GARTH TANDER #26 1038 POINTS

REYNOLDS
AGE: 37
DEBUT: Sand 2007
STARTS: 426
BEST QUAL: 1st (x16)
PODIUMS: 40
BEST RESULT: 1st (x7)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 14.2
BEST S500: 5th 15,18

TANDER
AGE: 46
DEBUT: PI 1998
STARTS: 642
BEST QUAL: 1st (x30)
PODIUMS: 100
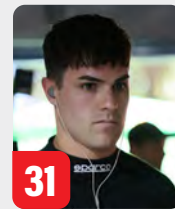BEST RESULT: 1st (x57)
BEST S500: 1st 2016

Whilst Grove Racing has not been a force in 2023, it can be in the enduros with Reynolds and Tander arguably the best co-driver combo. Reynolds on his day is fast and got his first Grove podium at Sandown, while Tander proved last year he can still match with the full timers and is an all time great. The 2016 Sandown 500 winner will look slightly strange in Ford colours for the first time.
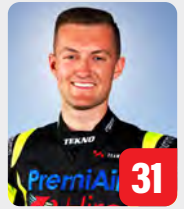
PREMIAIR RACING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

17TH JAMES GOLDING/DLYAN O'KEEFFE #31 1026 POINTS

GOLDING
AGE: 27
DEBUT: Sand 2016
STARTS: 93
BEST QUAL: 3rd (x1)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 4th (x2)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 14.91
BEST S500: 4th 2017

O'KEEFFE
AGE: 25
DEBUT: GC 2019
STARTS: 4
BEST QUAL: 24TH
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 11TH
BEST S500: N/A

James Golding will be looking to snap a eight race gap between top 10 finishes. Golding's last was in Darwin, while he battled for car pace at The Bend. His first Sandown 500 lasted just six corners, but he bounced back well in 2017. Will race with Carrera Cup driver Dylan O'Keeffe for a second year in a row having finished 12th at Bathurst last year but shown promise for more.

TICKFORD RACING // FORD MUSTANG GT

18TH JAMES COURTNEY/ZAK BEST #5 989 POINTS

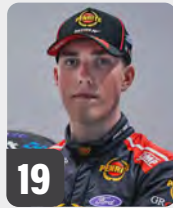|	COURTNEY		BEST	
	AGE: 43		AGE: 21	
	DEBUT: Sand 2005		DEBUT: Bath 2021	
	STARTS: 548		STARTS: 8	
5	BEST QUAL: 1st (x10)		BEST QUAL: 1st	5
	PODIUMS: 65		PODIUMS: 0	
	BEST RESULT: 1st (x15)		BEST RESULT: 5th	
	AVG 2023 FINISH: 13.47		BEST S500: N/A	
	BEST S500: 2nd 2014			

The Bend was a step in the right direction for Courtney with two P11s and a P8. Has one Sandown sprint win in 2010, but has only claimed one podium in the 500 back in 2014. Brings young talent Best on board, who has never raced in the September enduro, but has a point to prove as Dunlop Series leader.
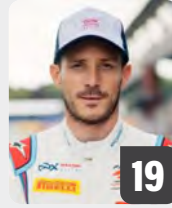
GROVE RACING // FORD MUSTANG GT

19TH MATTHEW PAYNE/KEVIN ESTRE #19 935 POINTS

	PAYNE		ESTRE	
	AGE: 20		AGE: 34	
	DEBUT: Bath 2022		DEBUT: N/A	
	STARTS: 23		STARTS: N/A	
19	BEST QUAL: 5th (x2)		BEST QUAL: N/A	19
	PODIUMS: 0		PODIUMS: N/A	
	BEST RESULT: 6th (x2)		BEST RESULT: N/A	
	AVG 2023 FINISH: 15.95		BEST S500: N/A	
	BEST S500: N/A			

The Bend was a welcome return to form for Matt Payne. After a tough spell the rookie bounced back to get his first top 10 in 12 races while his quali pace was particularly impressive. Won a Super2 race at Sandown last year. French Porsche ace Estre will jump on board for his first crack at Supercars.

BLANCHARD RACING TEAM //FORD MUSTANG GT

20TH TODD HAZELWOOD/TIM BLANCHARD #3 873 POINTS

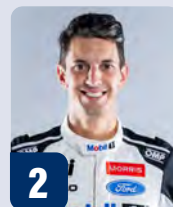|	HAZELWOOD		BLANCHARD	
	AGE: 27		AGE: 36	
	DEBUT: QR 2017		DEBUT: PI 2010	
	STARTS: 179		STARTS: 182	
3	BEST QUAL: 1 (x1)		BEST QUAL: 14th	3
	PODIUMS: 1		PODIUMS: 0	
	BEST RESULT: 3rd (x1)		BEST RESULT: 6th	
	AVG 2023 FINISH: 15.4		BEST S500: 8th 2015	
	BEST S500: 20th 2019			

For the first time since that infamous high-flying crash in 2017, Hazelwood and Blanchard will race together. They will do so in the #3 BRT Mustang which enjoyed a long awaited trouble free weekend at The Bend where Hazelwood got his second best result in the last 14 races.

WALKINSHAW ANDRETTI UNITED // FORD MUSTANG GT

21ST NICK PERCAT/FABIAN COULTHARD #2 819 POINTS

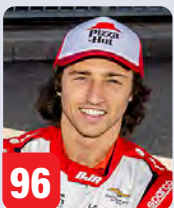|	PERCAT		COULTHARD	
	AGE: 34		AGE: 41	
	DEBUT: PI 2010		DEBUT: OP 2004	
	STARTS: 310		STARTS: 416	
2	BEST QUAL: 1st (x2)		BEST QUAL: 1st (x9)	2
	PODIUMS: 6		PODIUMS: 57	
	BEST RESULT: 1st (x2)		BEST RESULT: 1st (x13)	
	AVG 2023 finish: 16.3		BEST S500: 4th 2019	
	BEST S500: 4th 2012			

Despite losing his WAU seat Nick Percat enjoyed his best weekend in a while at The Bend qualifying and finishing as high as fourth, which was his first top five of the year. Car #2 was quick at Bathurst last year and Percat hopes he and experienced co-driver Fabian Coulthard can create something special such as a first Sandown 500 podium.
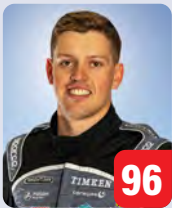
BRAD JONES RACING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

22ND MACAULEY JONES/JORDAN BOYS #96 814 POINTS

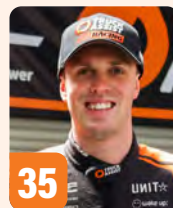|	JONES		BOYS	
	AGE: 28		AGE: 25	
	DEBUT: Sand 2015		DEBUT: Bath 2021	
	STARTS: 168		STARTS: 8	
96	BEST QUAL: 8th (x2)		BEST QUAL: 16	96
	PODIUMS: 0		PODIUMS: 0	
	BEST RESULT: 6th (x2)		BEST RESULT: 11th	
	AVG 2023 FINISH: 17.29		BEST S500: N/A	
	BEST S500: 18th 2019			

For the second straight season Macauley Jones and Jordan Boys will share the #96. They performed well together at Bathurst last year finishing 13th. Jones wants to regain some momentum after a difficult few rounds. Boys has stayed racing fit in S5000 this year and ready to make his Sandown 500 debut.

MATT STONE RACING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

23RD CAMERON HILL/JAYLYN ROBOTHAM #35 771 POINTS

	HILL		ROBOTHAM	
	AGE: 26		AGE: 20	
	DEBUT: Bath 2022		DEBUT: Bath 2022	
	STARTS: 23		STARTS: 1	
35	BEST QUAL: 5th (x1)		BEST QUAL: N/A	35
	PODIUMS: 0		PODIUMS: 0	
	BEST RESULT: 8th (x1)		BEST RESULT: 18th	
	AVG 2023 FINISH: 17.4		BEST S500: N/A	
	BEST S500: N/A			

The sister MSR Camaro headed by Cam Hill and Jaylyn Robotham is looking to sneak under the radar at Sandown. Hill got caught up in the turn one dramas at The Bend, but still gained ground in the other races. Neither driver has raced in the Sandown 500 and only made their enduro debuts last year.

BRAD JONES RACING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1
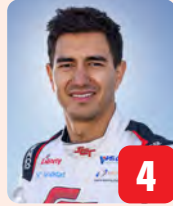
24TH JACK SMITH/JAXON EVANS #4 703 POINTS

SMITH
AGE: 23
DEBUT: Tas 2019
STARTS: 127
BEST QUAL: 10th (x2)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 10th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 19.15
BEST S500: 20th 2019

EVANS
AGE: 26
DEBUT: bath 2022
STARTS: 1
BEST QUAL: N/A
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: DNF 2022
BEST S500: N/A

Jack Smith finished the Bend on a high having risen four spots to finish 14th in race three, his equal best result of 2023. Will be aiming to achieve something similar in his second Sandown 500 alongside returning global Kiwi Jaxon Evans, who raced at the famous Nordschleife circuit and finished 11th just days after testing at Winton.

TICKFORD RACING // FORD MUSTANG GT

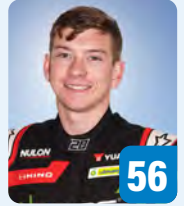### 25TH DECLAN FRASER/TYLER EVERINGHAM #777 662 POINTS

FRASER
AGE: 23
DEBUT: Bath 2022
STARTS: 23
BEST QUAL: 16th (x3)
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 8th (x1)
AVG 2023 FINISH: 18.84
BEST S500: N/A

EVERINGHAM
AGE: 22
DEBUT: Bath 2020
STARTS: 2
BEST QUAL: N/A
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 16th
BEST S500: N/A

Although it has been a bruising rookie year for Declan Fraser, the enduros offer a chance for redemption. Got as high as 14th at The Bend which is his best result since round 2. A Super2 rival from last year in Everingham will share the car with him.

TRIPLE EIGHT RACE ENGINEERING - CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

WILDCARD CRAIG LOWNDES/ZANE GODDARD #888
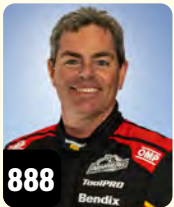
LOWNDES
Age: 49
Debut: EC 1996
Starts: 675
Best qual: 1st (x43)
Podiums: 169
Best result: 1st (x110)
Best S500: 1st 96,97,05,07,12,19

GODDARD
Age: 23
Debut: Adel 2020
Starts: 45
Best Qual: 4th
Podiums: 0
Best result: 7th
Best S500: N/A

The Supercheap Auto wildcard is back with Craig Lowndes joining Zane Goddard. Goddard already has racing laps at Darwin where he had a best result of 21st. Lowndes has been testing and believes the Gen3 Camaro reminds him of the dominant VT Commodore, while he is a defending winner of the famous race.

WILDCARD

BLANCHARD RACING TEAM //FORD MUSTANG GT

WILDCARD AARON LOVE/JAKE KOSTECKI #7

LOVE
AGE: 19
DEBUT: N/A
STARTS: N/A
BEST QUAL: N/A
PODIUMS: N/A
BEST RESULT: N/A
BEST S500: N/A

KOSTECKI
AGE: 23
DEBUT: Bath 2019
STARTS: 82
BEST QUAL: 3rd
PODIUMS: 0
BEST RESULT: 5th
BEST S500: 16 2019

For the first time there will be two Blanchard backed Mustangs with youngsters Aaron Love and Jake Kostecki stepping up in the Racer Industries Ford. Big opportunity for Love, who will make his Supercars debut having transitioned from Carrera Cup to Super2 this year and sits seventh in the standings. Kostecki is more experienced and raced at the last Sandown 500 in a family backed wildcard.

WILDCARD