

# AUTO ACTION'S 2023 PRE BATHURST 1000 SUPERCARS TEAM-BY-TEAM EVENT GUIDE

**HAPPY BATHURST DAY! THE MOST SPECIAL WEEKEND ON THE AUSTRALIAN MOTOR RACING CALENDAR HAS ARRIVED AND IT IS TIME TO DISCOVER WHO WILL WRITE THEIR NAMES INTO HISTORY BY WINNING THE 2023 BATHURST 1000 AND LIFTING THE PETER BROCK TROPHY.**

THE 2023 event will not be just any race around Mount Panorama, it marks sixty years since the Great Race first ventured around the breathtaking 6.2km circuit, plus the first time Gen3 Mustangs and Camaros will tackle the mountain.

How drivers adapt to wrestling the new and unpredictable cars over the top and down through the Esses will be one of the biggest mysteries.

More unknowns such as how the soft tyre reacts and the strategic battle without a minimum number of fuel stops will also be big factors, whilst the compulsory brake rotor change cannot be underestimated after teams overlooked them in Sandown.

For the first time in five years teams arrive at Mount Panorama with an enduro already under their belt.

The Sandown 500 made a celebrated return, but it produced a familiar result as Erebus and Triple Eight continued their season-long arm wrestle.

In the end Broc Feeney and Jamie Whincup prevailed by just a second over championship leader Brodie Kosteci and David Russell following a late-race duel.

Not even a P19 start could prevent Shane van Gisbergen and Richie Stanaway from still scoring a podium after a costly mistake by Will Brown.

Best of the rest honours went to Andre Heimgartner, while the leading Ford was the impressive #19 car of Matt Payne and Kevin Estre.

The championship leading duo's dominance suggests fans should expect more of the same at Mount Panorama.

Being the race everyone wants to win, the parity debate has been

raging on behind the scenes with Ford trying to get some aero tweaks made at the last minute, but ultimately denied.

What is certain are new wheel nuts being rolled out following Garth Tander's scary Sandown crash, plus lighter Mustang panels and Centre of Gravity changes for both makes.

Perennial podium finisher Cam Waters will be hoping he has the tools to chase an elusive Peter Brock Trophy after many poles and near misses.

Last year was full of chaos and the combination that overwhelmingly prevailed were van Gisbergen and Tander.

They dominated Sunday to give Triple Eight a record equalling ninth Bathurst 1000 win.

But the pair will be on opposite sides of the fence in 2023 with SVG alongside Stanaway in car #97 while Tander is suiting up for his first Great Race away from a Commodore.

Fans will be relieved to hear there will be much less rainfall at Mount Panorama this weekend after last year's soggy affair.

Some showers are forecast for Thursday morning, but the skies should clear by the time Supercars hit the track in the afternoon.

The important Friday and Saturday qualifying days are all clear, while for race day sunny skies and 20 degrees are forecast.

But the great thing about Bathurst is that no matter the weather, something special always unfolds.

That is what 60 years of mountain memories have taught us. Bring it on.



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# ROUND NINE BATHURST 1000 - OCTOBER 5-8

THERE IS good reason why the 6.213km of Mount Panorama is one of the most famed in the world. Originally constructed in 1938 as a scenic drive, the track has everything from tight, fast and breathtaking corners, undulation, straights and unforgiving walls. Each corner is iconic with chapters of history to tell, while the sight of seeing a Supercar fly up to Skyline before dropping down to the Dipper never ceases to amaze. It is the ultimate test of skill and endurance, but the Mountain always has the final say.



## TRACK STATS

### QUALIFYING LAP RECORD:

- Chaz Mostert 2:03.3732
- Walkinshaw Andretti United
- Holden ZB Commodore (2021)

### RACE LAP RECORD:

- Chaz Mostert 2:04.7602
- Tickford Racing
- Ford Mustang GT (2019)

## TRACK FACTS



TRACK LENGTH:  
**6.213KM**



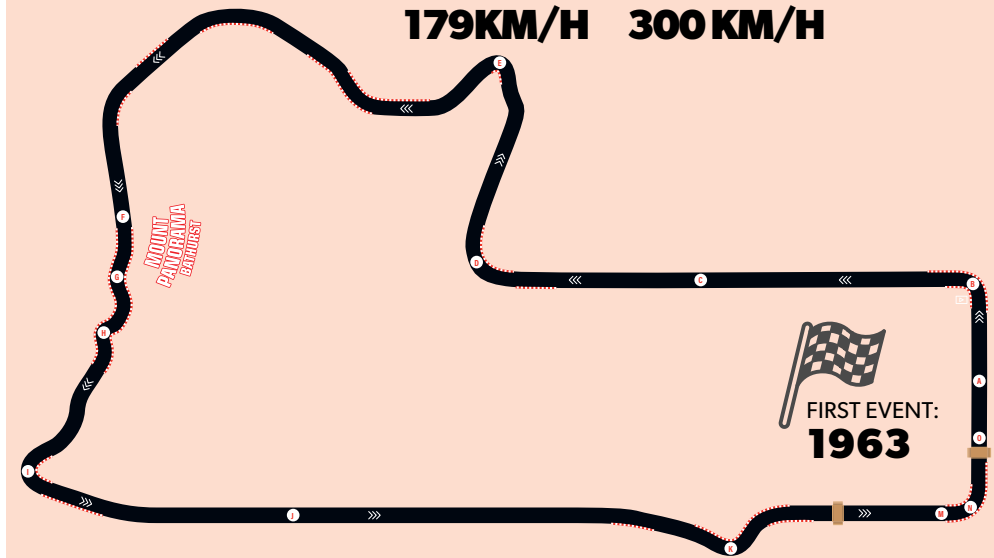
DIRECTION:  
**ANTI-CLOCKWISE**



AVERAGE SPEED:  
**179KM/H**



TOP SPEED:  
**300 KM/H**



## TRACK SCHEDULE (ALL TIMES AEST)

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5

TIME	CATEGORY	SESSION
0725-0745	Sport Sedans	Practice 1
0755-0815	V8 SuperUtes	Practice
0825-0845	Toyota 86	Practice 1
0855-0945	Porsche Carrera Cup	Practice
1000-1040	Dunlop Series	Practice 1
1055-1115	Sport Sedans	Practice 2
1125-1145	V8 SuperUtes	Qualifying
1245-1305	Toyota 86	Practice 2
1320-1420	Supercars	Practice 1 (All Drivers)
1450-1530	Dunlop Series	Practice 2
1545-1605	Porsche Carrera Cup	Qualifying
1615-1635	Sport Sedans	Qualifying
1650-1750	Supercars	Practice 2 (Co-Drivers)

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6

TIME	CATEGORY	SESSION
0725-0745	Toyota 86	Qualifying
0755-0815	Sport Sedans	Race 1 (6 laps)
0825-0845	V8 SuperUtes	Race 1 (6 laps)
0855-0910	Dunlop Series	DS3 Qualifying
0920-0935	Dunlop Series	DS2 Qualifying
1000-1100	Supercars	Practice 3 (All Drivers)
1115-1135	Sport Sedans	Race 1 (6 laps)
1235-1255	Toyota 86	Race 1 (6 laps)
1305-1405	Supercars	Practice 4 (All Drivers)
1420-1500	Porsche Carrera Cup	Race 1 (15 laps)
1515-1600	Dunlop Series	Race 1
1615-1655	Supercars	Qualifying

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7

TIME	CATEGORY	SESSION
0815-0840	V8 SuperUtes	Race 2 (8 laps)
0855-0910	Dunlop Series	DS3 Qualifying
0920-0935	Dunlop Series	DS2 Qualifying
1000-1100	Supercars	Practice 5 (Co-Drivers)
1115-1135	Sport Sedans	Race 3 (6 laps)
1300-1400	Supercars	Practice 6 (All Drivers)
1415-1435	V8 SuperUtes	Race 2 (6 laps)
1445-1505	Toyota 86	Race 2 (6 laps)
1515-1540	Porsche Carrera Cup	Race 2 (9 laps)
1555-1640	Dunlop Series	Race 2
1705-1750	Supercars	Top Ten Shootout

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8

TIME	CATEGORY	SESSION
0725-0745	V8 SuperUtes	Race 4 (6 laps)
0800-0820	Supercars	Warm Up
0830-0850	Toyota 86	Race 3 (6 laps)
0900-0920	Supercars	Drivers Parade
0930-0955	Porsche Carrera Cup	Race 3 (9 laps)
1005-1025	Events	Legends Parade
1115	Supercars	Race 24 (161 laps)

## LIST OF RACE RESULTS

- 2022: Shane van Gisbergen/Garth Tander
- 2021: Chaz Mostert/Lee Holdsworth
- 2020: Shane van Gisbergen//Garth Tander
- 2019: Scott McLaughlin/Alex Premat
- 2018: Craig Lowndes/Steven Richards
- 2017: David Reynolds/Luke Youlden
- 2016: Will Davison/Jonathon Webb
- 2015: Craig Lowndes/Steven Richards
- 2014: Chaz Mostert/Paul Morris
- 2013: Mark Winterbottom/Steven Richards

- 2012: Jamie Whincup/Paul Dumbrell
- 2011: Garth Tander/Nick Percat
- 2010: Craig Lowndes/Mark Skaife
- 2009: Garth Tander/Will Davison
- 2008: Craig Lowndes/Jamie Whincup
- 2007: Craig Lowndes/Jamie Whincup
- 2006: Craig Lowndes/Jamie Whincup
- 2005: Mark Skaife/Todd Kelly
- 2004: Greg Murphy/Rick Kelly
- 2003: Greg Murphy/Rick Kelly



### MOST SANDOWN 500 WINS

- 9 Peter Brock
- 7 Jim Richards, Craig Lowndes
- 6 Larry Perkins, Mark Skaife



### MOST SANDOWN 500 PODIUMS

- 14 Craig Lowndes
- 12 Peter Brock, Jim Richards, Larry Perkins
- 10 Mark Skaife



### MOST SANDOWN 500 POLES

- 6 Peter Brock
- 5 Mark Skaife
- 4 Allan Moffat

## LIST OF POLE POSITIONS

- 2022: Cam Waters
- 2021: Chaz Mostert
- 2020: Cam Waters
- 2019: Chaz Mostert
- 2018: David Reynolds
- 2017: Scott McLaughlin
- 2016: Jamie Whincup
- 2015: David Reynolds
- 2014: Shane van Gisbergen
- 2013: Jamie Whincup
- 2012: Will Davison
- 2011: Greg Murphy
- 2010: Mark Winterbottom
- 2009: Garth Tander
- 2008: Garth Tander
- 2007: Mark Winterbottom
- 2006: Mark Skaife
- 2005: Craig Lowndes
- 2004: Steven Richards
- 2003: Greg Murphy



**1ST BRODIE KOSTECKI/DAVID RUSSELL - 2171 POINTS**

The championship leader is having a breakout season, and he'll be looking to continue that form at the track where he made us all pay attention a couple of years back. The Erebus team has been on the money since the start of the year and is perhaps the only team that looks to have a full handle on Gen3, with Kostecki yet to have a rough day in the office. David Russell is a gun co-driver and brings more to the table than you would think, there are not many better at the craft than him.



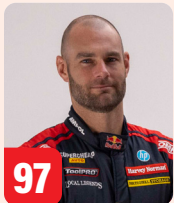
**BRODIE KOSTECKI**  
 AGE: 25  
 DEBUT: Bath 2019  
 STARTS: 94  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x7)  
 PODIUMS: 21  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x6)  
 B1000 STARTS: 5  
 BEST B1000: 3rd 2022



**DAVID RUSSELL**  
 AGE: 41  
 DEBUT: Bath 2003  
 STARTS: 29  
 PODIUMS: 3  
 BEST RESULT: 3rd  
 B1000 STARTS: 14  
 BEST B1000: 3rd 2022

TRIPLE EIGHT RACE ENGINEERING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

**2ND SHANE VAN GISBERGEN/RICHIE STANAWAY #97 2016 POINTS**



**SVG**  
 AGE: 33  
 DEBUT: Oran Park 2007  
 STARTS: 506  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x50)  
 PODIUMS: 176  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x81)  
 B1000 STARTS: 1  
 BEST B1000: 1st 20,22

**STANAWAY**  
 AGE: 31  
 DEBUT: Sand 2016  
 STARTS: 62  
 PODIUMS: 3  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)  
 B1000 STARTS: 5  
 BEST B1000: 11th 2022



The two-time Bathurst winner is paired with a resurgent star in the team with the best modern-day track record in the sport. Van Gisbergen has been off his game in qualifying of late, but he still races as well as anyone in the field, and it is hard to see him not being fully focussed for what might be his final Bathurst. Stanaway emerged from his self-induced exile last year with a stunning wildcard run, his temperament is different to when he was last a full-time driver, and now he is out to make a statement.



TRIPLE EIGHT RACE ENGINEERING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

**3RD BROC FEENEY/JAMIE WHINCUP #88 1967 POINTS**



**FEENEY**  
 AGE: 20  
 DEBUT: Bath 2020  
 STARTS: 57  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x3)  
 PODIUMS: 13  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x5)  
 B1000 STARTS: 3  
 BEST B1000: 5th 2022

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



Post Sandown all the cliches around the master and apprentice have been rolled out, but there is more to this pairing than just that. Feeney has emerged this year as a rising star of the sport, and we're pretty sure even the GOAT will accept he is ready to lead the charge at the rare double of the Sandown 500 and the Bathurst 1000 in the same season. There's not much between the two Triple Eight cars, so track position and avoiding double-stacks will be critical.



EREBUS MOTORSPORT // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

**4TH WILL BROWN/JACK PERKINS #9 1877 POINTS**



**BROWN**  
 AGE: 25  
 DEBUT: Sand 2018  
 STARTS: 97  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x4)  
 PODIUMS: 14  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x5)  
 B1000 STARTS: 5  
 BEST B1000: 10th 2022

**PERKINS**  
 AGE: 37  
 DEBUT: Sand 2006  
 STARTS: 152  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)  
 B1000 STARTS: 17  
 BEST B1000: 3rd 2019



The second Erebus car has been a little less consistent than the sister car, hence the lower rating, which pretty much matches its performance at Sandown – fourth. Brown is a jet when he is on his game and is more than capable of fighting with the best, but doesn't seem as consistent as his teammate. Perkins, as a co-driver, is a race winner and will have to be at his very best if the #9 car is going to challenge for a win.



BRAD JONES RACING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

**5TH ANDRE HEIMGARTNER/DALE WOOD #8 1680 POINTS**



**HEIMGARTNER**  
 AGE: 27  
 DEBUT: Bath 2014  
 STARTS: 239  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x3)  
 PODIUMS: 15  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)  
 B1000 STARTS: 9  
 BEST B1000: 9th 2017

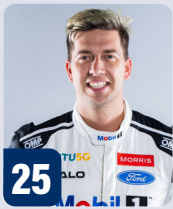
**WOOD**  
 AGE: 40  
 DEBUT: PI 2008  
 STARTS: 158  
 PODIUMS: 1  
 BEST RESULT: 3RD  
 B1000 STARTS: 15  
 BEST B1000: 4th 2017



Another driver pairing with a 'sleeper' co-driver, Wood's name is not as big as many in the field but year in, year out he keeps getting the job done. Heimgartner has been one of the better performers of the year with six podiums, but there has been an element of hit or miss for the #8 Brad Jones Racing Car. In the pits and with race strategy, there are few better teams in pitlane so that elusive Bathurst win is always a chance.



6TH CHAZ MOSTERT/LEE HOLDSWORTH #25 1660 POINTS



**MOSTERT**  
 AGE: 30  
 DEBUT: Perth 2013  
 STARTS: 315  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x23)  
 PODIUMS: 86  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x21)  
 B1000 STARTS: 10  
 BEST B1000: 1st 14,21

**HOLDSWORTH**  
 AGE: 40  
 DEBUT: Sand 2003  
 STARTS: 511  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x4)  
 B1000 STARTS: 19  
 BEST B1000: 1st 2021



Two years ago in a ZB Commodore, this pair put together one of the greatest Bathurst performances in the 60-year history of the race. Holdsworth was a gun that day, and his performance set up the race win and allowed enough slack for the strategy to play out after a tyre issue. Mostert is a two-time winner of the race and the leading Ford in this year's Championship, but he is yet to look like he is ready to win a race in the Gen3 car. Had an off day at Sandown that is unlikely to be repeated.

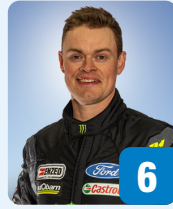


7TH CAM WATERS/JAMES MOFFAT #6 1550 POINTS



**WATERS**  
 AGE: 28  
 DEBUT: Bath 2011  
 STARTS: 246  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x20)  
 PODIUMS: 44  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x9)  
 B1000 STARTS: 11  
 BEST B1000: 2nd 20,21

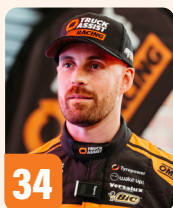
**MOFFAT**  
 AGE: 39  
 DEBUT: PI 2010  
 STARTS: 231  
 PODIUMS: 6  
 B1000 STARTS: 13  
 BEST B1000: 2nd 14,21



After a few years of struggling to get off the line, Moffat was good at Sandown, until a bouncing wheel landed on the rear of the car and broke the wing off. Only in Tickford-land would something like that happen. That said, Waters is one of the fastest drivers in the field and is a real shot at pole, and he'll race with the best. If the car is in a competitive position when Moffat's day is done, Waters will back himself in the low-drag era to have a crack at those in the Championship hunt.



8TH JACK LE BROcq/JAYDEN OJEDA #34 1385 POINTS



**LE BROcq**  
 AGE: 28  
 DEBUT: Sand 2015  
 STARTS: 193  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)  
 PODIUMS: 3  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x2)  
 B1000 STARTS: 8  
 BEST B1000: 4th 2016

**OJEDA**  
 AGE: 24  
 DEBUT: Bath 2020  
 STARTS: 10  
 BEST RESULT: 17th  
 B1000 STARTS: 3  
 BEST B1000: 19th 2020



MSR has been a revelation this season, with the second-generation Stone-led operation taking its first win and shaping up as a legitimate contender in the more even playing field. Le Brocq has taken to the new cars and is fast and steady, while Ojeda is a good co-driver now with three Bathurst runs under his belt. We expect them to qualify inside the top 10 and race with the leaders for most of the day.



9TH WILL DAVISON/ALEX DAVISON #17 1375 POINTS



**DAVISON**  
 AGE: 41  
 DEBUT: Winton 2004  
 STARTS: 541  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x28)  
 PODIUMS: 79  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x22)  
 B1000 STARTS: 19  
 BEST B1000: 1st 09, 16

**ALEX DAVISON**  
 AGE: 43  
 DEBUT: Sand 2004  
 BEST RESULT: 3rd  
 B1000 STARTS: 18  
 BEST B1000: 4th 2014



A similar story to car #11, but with a co-driver we believe is just a little bit rustier due to a lack of racing during the season. That said, the return of the Sandown 500 allowed the cobwebs to be blown away. Davison - Will - is quick, but so far this year appears to have struggled with the Gen3 DJR car, but then, on the Ford side, he is not alone.



10TH ANTON DE PASQUALE/TONY D'ALBERTO #11 1314 POINTS



**DE PASQUALE**  
 AGE: 27  
 DEBUT: Adel 2018  
 STARTS: 175  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x16)  
 PODIUMS: 30  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x9)  
 B1000 STARTS: 5  
 BEST B1000: 7th 2022

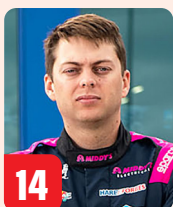
**D'ALBERTO**  
 AGE: 37  
 DEBUT: Sand 2006  
 STARTS: 201  
 PODIUMS: 2  
 B1000 STARTS: 18  
 BEST B1000: 3rd 2017



De Pasquale has proven his speed and is the only on-track winner in a Ford this year, albeit assisted by a tyre advantage from a Saturday DNF at Townsville, and D'Alberto is a bit of a co-driving gun. You get the feeling DJR is building for this one, but there remains a question mark over the Mustang and whether there is enough parity to allow it to get the job done.



11TH BRYCE FULLWOOD/DEAN FIORE #14 1314 POINTS



**FULLWOOD**  
 AGE: 24  
 DEBUT: Sand 2018  
 STARTS: 124  
 BEST QUAL: 3rd (x1)  
 PODIUMS: 1  
 BEST RESULT: 3rd (x1)  
 B1000 STARTS: 5  
 BEST B1000: 5th 2021

**FIORE**  
 AGE: 39  
 DEBUT: Adel 2009  
 STARTS: 173  
 BEST RESULT: 3rd  
 B1000 STARTS: 14  
 BEST B1000: 6th 2017



Fullwood has been good this year, but he's also been a little inconsistent. While Fiore has plenty of experience but perhaps lacks seat time in 2023. We know the ability of Brad Jones Racing to get the strategy and pitstops right, but double stacking could become a factor.



TEAM 18 // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

12TH MARK WINTERBOTTOM/MICHAEL CARUSO #18 1294 POINTS



**WINTERBOTTOM**  
 AGE: 41  
 DEBUT: Sand 2003  
 STARTS: 616  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x36)  
 PODIUMS: 118  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x39)  
 B1000 STARTS: 20  
 BEST B1000: 1st 2013

**CARUSO**  
 AGE: 40  
 DEBUT: Bath 2006  
 STARTS: 329  
 PODIUMS: 9  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x2)  
 B1000 STARTS: 17  
 BEST B1000: 3rd 2009

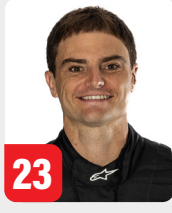


Winterbottom broke his losing streak this year and put Team 18 on the top step of the podium in Darwin, and on his day, we still see the speed that took him to a championship and a Bathurst win a decade ago. Caruso was good at Sandown and appears to like the new cars. There are plenty of good brains out the back of the garage, but the team is perhaps the unluckiest we have seen in a long time when it comes to Bathurst.



PREMIAIR RACING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

13TH TIM SLADE/JONATHON WEBB #23 1209 POINTS



**SLADE**  
 AGE: 37  
 DEBUT: Adel 2009  
 STARTS: 422  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x2)  
 PODIUMS: 17  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x2)  
 B1000 STARTS: 14  
 BEST B1000: 5th 2020

**WEBB**  
 AGE: 39  
 DEBUT: Sand 2006  
 STARTS: 152  
 PODIUMS: 8  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x4)  
 B1000 STARTS: 16  
 BEST B1000: 1st 16



Webb was dropped in as a last-minute replacement for Joey Mawson and has been relishing his return to the sport, but he'll be a little rusty albeit capable. Slade hasn't really shone at PremiAir and will be looking for a big weekend to save his drive for next year, there is nothing like hunger to bring out the best in a driver... or to make them overstep. He's plenty experienced now, so the former is more likely, it is just a matter of how much the Peter Xiberras-led squad is evolving.



TEAM 18 // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

14TH SCOTT PYE/WARREN LUFF #20 1170 POINTS



**PYE**  
 AGE: 33  
 DEBUT: Sand 2012  
 STARTS: 335  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)  
 PODIUMS: 10  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x1)  
 B1000 STARTS: 11  
 BEST B1000: 2nd 1718

**LUFF**  
 AGE: 47  
 DEBUT: Qld 2002  
 STARTS: 131  
 PODIUMS: 11  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x3)  
 B1000 STARTS: 23  
 BEST B1000: 2nd 1718

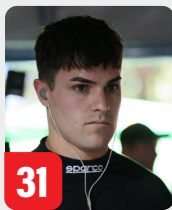


Luff is the Bathurst co-driver of all co-drivers, with a stunning record at Bathurst, he has done everything but win the race. Pye on the other hand has had a rough year or two, and this will likely be his final Bathurst as a lead driver. The team itself could do well, but we'll have to see Pye return to his best to maximise the outcome.



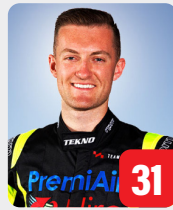
PREMIAIR RACING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

15TH JAMES GOLDING/DLYAN O'KEEFFE #31 1146 POINTS



**GOLDING**  
 AGE: 27  
 DEBUT: Sand 2016  
 STARTS: 94  
 BEST QUAL: 3rd (x1)  
 PODIUMS: 0  
 BEST RESULT: 4th (x2)  
 B1000 STARTS: 7  
 BEST B1000: 8th 18,20

**O'KEEFFE**  
 AGE: 25  
 DEBUT: GC 2019  
 STARTS: 5  
 PODIUMS: 0  
 BEST RESULT: 11th  
 B1000 STARTS: 3  
 BEST B1000: 11th 2020



PremiAir Racing borrows IP from Triple Eight and Golding is more than up to the task, as is O'Keeffe as a co-driver. We've seen flashes this year, but not as many as last year so they'll need a much more consistent weekend than any of the other outings this year. Golding is an outside chance for the Shootout.



GROVE RACING // FORD MUSTANG GT

16TH MATTHEW PAYNE/KEVIN ESTRE #19 1139 POINTS



**PAYNE**  
 AGE: 20  
 DEBUT: Bath 2022  
 STARTS: 24  
 BEST QUAL: 5th (x2)  
 PODIUMS: 0  
 BEST RESULT: 6th (x3)  
 B1000 STARTS: 1  
 BEST B1000: 6th 2022

**ESTRE**  
 AGE: 34  
 DEBUT: Sand 2023  
 STARTS: 1  
 PODIUMS: 0  
 BEST RESULT: 6th  
 B1000 STARTS: 0  
 BEST B1000: N/A

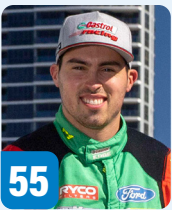


Matt Payne is the standout rookie of 2023, and it is now obvious why team boss Stephen Grove has placed so much faith in the young Kiwi. Frenchman Kevin Estre was impressive at Sandown, but Bathurst is a different story... or so everyone says. At the end of the day, it is just another racetrack and he will get the job done. Grove Racing has been working towards this race and had the best Fords at Sandown.



TICKFORD RACING // FORD MUSTANG GT

17TH THOMAS RANDLE/GARRY JACOBSON #55 1139 POINTS



**RANDLE**  
 AGE: 27  
 DEBUT: Bend 2019  
 STARTS: 74  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x1)  
 PODIUMS: 4  
 BEST RESULT: 2nd (x1)  
 B1000 STARTS: 4  
 BEST S500: 7th 2021

**JACOBSON**  
 AGE: 31  
 DEBUT: Sand 2017  
 STARTS: 117  
 PODIUMS: 0  
 BEST RESULT: 6th (x1)  
 B1000 STARTS: 5  
 BEST B1000: 8th 2017



Randle has been a revelation of late and Jacobson, despite being sacked from PremiAir last year, has lost none of his speed and is out to prove them wrong. Three podiums at The Bend have put Randle right in the frame, and this Tickford car will benefit from living in the second garage where it is less likely to be impacted by double stacking.



TICKFORD RACING // FORD MUSTANG GT

18TH JAMES COURTNEY/ZAK BEST #5 1127 POINTS



**COURTNEY**  
 AGE: 43  
 DEBUT: Sand 2005  
 STARTS: 549  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x10)  
 PODIUMS: 65  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x15)  
 B1000 STARTS: 17  
 BEST B1000: 2nd 2007

**BEST**  
 AGE: 21  
 DEBUT: Bath 2021  
 STARTS: 9  
 PODIUMS: 0  
 BEST RESULT: 5th  
 B1000 STARTS: 2  
 BEST B1000: 15th 2021



James Courtney seems to like the new cars, and despite only having one podium for the season is one of the leading runners in a Ford. Zak Best we know is fast and he'll do a great job in the co-driver's seat. But can Tickford put it all together in Tim Edwards' last Bathurst at the helm?



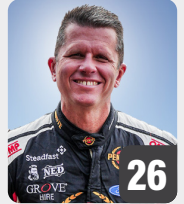
GROVE RACING // FORD MUSTANG GT

19TH DAVID REYNOLDS/GARTH TANDER #26 1038 POINTS



**REYNOLDS**  
 AGE: 37  
 DEBUT: Sand 2007  
 STARTS: 427  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x16)  
 PODIUMS: 40  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x7)  
 B1000 STARTS: 16  
 BEST B1000: 1st 2017

**TANDER**  
 AGE: 46  
 DEBUT: P1 1998  
 STARTS: 643  
 PODIUMS: 100  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x57)  
 B1000 STARTS: 25  
 BEST B1000: 1st 00,09,11,20,22



Both these drivers have won Bathurst and know what it takes, and we don't have too many concerns aside from the Ford badge. Tander is the best of the co-drivers on our ratings, and the Grove Racing cars seem to have benefited from some testing in the lead-up to Bathurst and Reynolds looked like he had returned to the early season form that saw him as the leading Ford driver on pace.



BLANCHARD RACING TEAM // FORD MUSTANG GT

20TH TODD HAZELWOOD/TIM BLANCHARD #3 981 POINTS



**HAZELWOOD**  
 AGE: 27  
 DEBUT: QR 2017  
 STARTS: 180  
 BEST QUAL: 1 (x1)  
 PODIUMS: 1  
 BEST RESULT: 3rd (x1)  
 B1000 STARTS: 6  
 BEST B1000: 8th 2021

**BLANCHARD**  
 AGE: 36  
 DEBUT: P1 2010  
 STARTS: 183  
 PODIUMS: 0  
 BEST RESULT: 6th  
 B1000 STARTS: 12  
 BEST B1000: 9th 2021

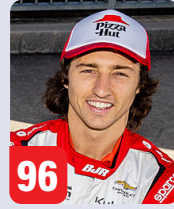


It has been an inconsistent year for Hazelwood and the Cooldrive team, and we are hoping they turn up at the top of their game as they explore being a two-car team with a wildcard entry. Having a second car for the first time will help them get on top of the set-up. Hazelwood is one of the most likeable drivers in the pitlane, but that isn't always enough. For Blanchard, as a team owner, the time clock is ticking on his career in the driver's seat.



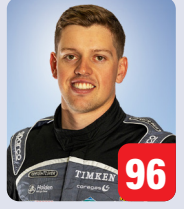
BRAD JONES RACING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

21ST MACAULEY JONES/JORDAN BOYS #96 910 POINTS

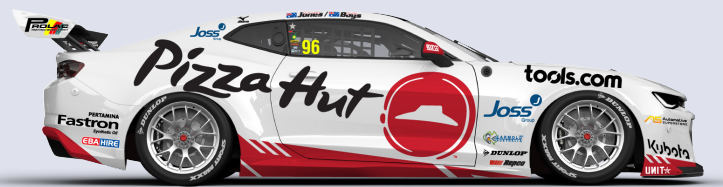


**JONES**  
 AGE: 28  
 DEBUT: Sand 2015  
 STARTS: 169  
 BEST QUAL: 8th (x2)  
 PODIUMS: 0  
 BEST RESULT: 6th (x2)  
 B1000 STARTS: 8  
 BEST B1000: 7th 2018

**BOYS**  
 AGE: 25  
 DEBUT: Bath 2021  
 STARTS: 9  
 PODIUMS: 0  
 BEST RESULT: 11th  
 B1000 STARTS: 2  
 BEST B1000: 13th 2022

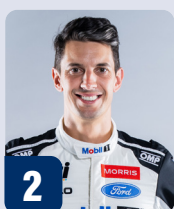


Jones has had plenty of years in the sport but has only ever given the occasional flash that says he deserves to be there. He's always been at his best for Bathurst though, and there is no reason to expect anything else this weekend. Boys is popular with the Albury-based team, but he doesn't get much seat time.



WALKINSHAW ANDRETTI UNITED // FORD MUSTANG GT

22ND NICK PERCAT/FABIAN COULTHARD #2 891 POINTS



**PERCAT**  
 AGE: 34  
 DEBUT: P1 2010  
 STARTS: 311  
 BEST QUAL: 1st (x2)  
 PODIUMS: 6  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x2)  
 B1000 STARTS: 12  
 BEST B1000: 1st 2011

**COULTHARD**  
 AGE: 41  
 DEBUT: OP 2004  
 STARTS: 417  
 PODIUMS: 57  
 BEST RESULT: 1st (x13)  
 B1000 STARTS: 19  
 BEST B1000: 2nd 2022



Percat has struggled on his return to the Walkinshaw camp, and will no doubt be looking for better times when he joins MSR next year. That said, WAU is always good at Bathurst, and you just don't know when he'll get it all together. Coulthard is a steady hand as a co-driver and he is still hoping for a main-game reprieve so he will be at the top of his game.



BRAD JONES RACING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

23RD JACK SMITH/JAXON EVANS #4 805 POINTS



**SMITH**  
 AGE: 23  
 DEBUT: Tas 2019  
 STARTS: 128  
 BEST QUAL: 10th (x2)  
 PODIUMS: 0  
 BEST RESULT: 10th (x1)  
 B1000 STARTS: 4  
 BEST B1000: 17th 2021

**EVANS**  
 AGE: 26  
 DEBUT: bath 2022  
 STARTS: 2  
 PODIUMS: 0  
 BEST RESULT: 18th  
 B1000 STARTS: 1  
 BEST B1000: 17th 2021



We've seen little from either Smith or Evans to suggest they'll leave much of a mark on this race, but there is a bit more of the unknown with Evans who is proving himself to be pretty adaptable. Evans did get the car into the top 10 during the Sandown 500, so this one could go either way.



TICKFORD RACING // FORD MUSTANG GT

24TH DECLAN FRASER/TYLER EVERINGHAM #777 794 POINTS



**FRASER**  
AGE: 23  
DEBUT: Bath 2022  
STARTS: 24  
BEST QUAL: 16th (x3)  
PODIUMS: 0  
BEST RESULT: 8th (x1)  
B1000 STARTS: 1  
BEST B1000: 8th 2022

**EVERINGHAM**  
AGE: 22  
DEBUT: Bath 2020  
STARTS: 3  
BEST QUAL: N/A  
PODIUMS: 0  
BEST RESULT: 13th  
B1000 STARTS: 2  
BEST B1000: 16th 2022



Fraser has had a tough rookie season and hasn't matched the heights of his Super2 Championship winning season, and next year is without a drive. Everingham is back for his third run at Bathurst but hasn't yet really shown us what he is capable of. Double stacking could be an issue.



MATT STONE RACING // CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

25TH CAMERON HILL/JAYLYN ROBOTHAM #35 771 POINTS



**HILL**  
AGE: 26  
DEBUT: Bath 2022  
STARTS: 23  
BEST QUAL: 5th (x1)  
PODIUMS: 0  
BEST RESULT: 8th (x1)  
AVG 2023 FINISH: 17.4  
BEST \$500: N/A

**ROBOTHAM**  
AGE: 20  
DEBUT: Bath 2022  
STARTS: 1  
BEST QUAL: N/A  
PODIUMS: 0  
BEST RESULT: 18th  
BEST \$500: N/A



Hill's rookie season has been good, and Robotham is a bit more of an unknown than he should be after doing well in the feeder series and debuting last year in the Matt Chahda wildcard. Hill is improving, but this is his first Bathurst as a lead driver, and he has a lot to get his head around.



TRIPLE EIGHT RACE ENGINEERING - CHEVROLET CAMARO ZL1

WILDCARD CRAIG LOWNDES/ZANE GODDARD #888



**LOWNDES**  
AGE: 49  
DEBUT: EC 1996  
STARTS: 676  
BEST QUAL: 1st (x43)  
PODIUMS: 169  
BEST RESULT: 1st (x110)  
B1000 STARTS: 29  
BEST B1000: 1st 96,06,07,08,10,15,18

**GODDARD**  
AGE: 23  
DEBUT: Adel 2020  
STARTS: 46  
PODIUMS: 0  
BEST RESULT: 7th  
B1000 STARTS: 3  
BEST B1000: DNF



If Whincup is the championship GOAT, there is a good argument that Lowndes is the Bathurst GOAT, even better than Peter Brock. He comes into his own on The Mountain, and despite his age and relative lack of on-track activity, once the lights go green on Sunday morning he'll be as good as ever. Goddard was unfairly maligned after last year's opening laps crash, but we feel he is well and truly good enough to be a main game regular and we think he will shine this year. Goddard will qualify the car.



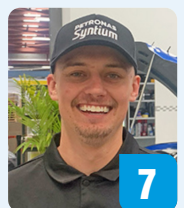
BLANCHARD RACING TEAM // FORD MUSTANG GT

WILDCARD AARON LOVE/JAKE KOSTECKI #7



**LOVE**  
AGE: 19  
DEBUT: Sand 2023  
STARTS: 1  
BEST QUAL: 27th  
PODIUMS: 0  
BEST RESULT: 25th  
B1000 STARTS: 0  
BEST B1000: N/A

**KOSTECKI**  
AGE: 23  
DEBUT: Bath 2019  
STARTS: 83  
PODIUMS: 0  
BEST RESULT: 5th  
B1000 STARTS: 4  
BEST B1000: 13th 2021

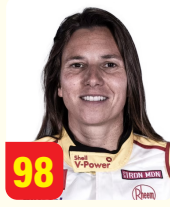


Love has looked pretty good in Super2, but stepping up to lead a main game car at Bathurst is a big ask. He is learning and will be all the better for it on what might be a very visible job interview for next season. Kosteci has plenty of experience now and is only out of a main game drive for reasons other than his ability. He'll be seeing this as a redemption opportunity.



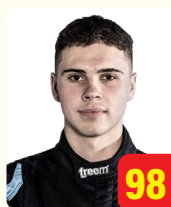
DICK JOHNSON RACING // FORD MUSTANG GT

WILDCARD SIMONA DE SILVESTRO/KAI ALLEN #98



**DE SILVESTRO**  
AGE: 35  
DEBUT: Bath 2015  
STARTS: 91  
PODIUMS: 0  
BEST RESULT: 7th (x1)  
B1000 STARTS: 5  
BEST B1000: 13th 2019

**ALLEN**  
AGE: 18  
DEBUT: N/A  
STARTS: N/A  
BEST QUAL: N/A  
PODIUMS: N/A  
BEST RESULT: N/A  
B1000 STARTS: 0  
BEST B1000: N/A



De Silvestro has plenty of experience at Bathurst and is a pretty accomplished driver in her own right, but not running Sandown and a bout of appendicitis has limited her time in the new car. Allen is a highly-rated rookie who we'll be watching as a future star.



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