

THE RETURN TO LAKESIDE.

Well it took eight years but finally we made it back to Lakeside. QEMSC was invited to participate in the inaugural "Lakeside Festival of Speed" held on 19/20 September.

Whilst the event was mainly for cars, historic solos up to Period Four were eligible. About twenty members attended and whilst the "spirited demonstrations" weren't "real racing", every rider had a thoroughly exciting and enjoyable weekend. All classes were combined and rolling starts were the order of the day. The rolling starts are designed to keep the noise levels down and I guess we will just have to get used to that if we want to play. However this did not prevent us from getting "stuck in" and no speed restrictions were in place.

The new track surface can only be described as excellent. This along with the much improved amenities and pit bays confirms Lakeside as still the best little track in Australia. Furthermore being able to spectate from inside the pits and to watch the car racing was nothing short of spectacular. For the old hands there was a wonderful sense of dejavu and for the newer members - well they just couldn't get enough of it. Everyone agreed that the hassle free manner in which the meeting was conducted (no log books required for example and a twenty dollar licence) is reminiscent of the good old days of club level racing.

Governing bodies from both cars and bikes could learn some lessons here - turn up, compete, go home - no sweat - no BS. Along with the riders, a good number of "old hands" turned up to see what it was all about. Some of them visited both days and had that "red mist" look in their eyes. I would not be at all surprised if they are now considering dusting off the leathers.

I truly hope that this was the first step towards us returning to Lakeside on a regular basis and encourage all members to support any opportunity provided. Who knows, this might just be the "shot in the arm", our sport needs so desperately to survive. Finally, thanks to the management of Queensland Raceways for inviting us to participate and congratulations for the very professional manner in which the event was conducted.

Regards, Milto.