

# Victoria Newsletter







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#### Introduction President's Word

A warm welcome to 2010 for each and every one of you. It's been a while since we've had a newsletter, however, thanks to some people stepping up to the challenge that is the newsletter, we are (obviously) getting that back on track. Doing the newsletter actually does take quite a bit of time...especially considering the newsletter has seen a total revamp!

Without further a-do the 2010 Committee is as follows:

#### **Executive Committee**

Ash Cosgriff (R31Nismoid)

- President

#### **Bec Pretty (Bec)**

- Vice President / Merchandise
- Motorsport / Sponsorships

#### **Ross Brown (purpler32)**

– Treasurer

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#### **General Committee**

Hamish Hampton (joeyjoejoejuniorshabado)

Events

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Events

#### Dan Hall (Halle)

– Events

#### **Wayne Beaumont (RCHOO)**

- Special Projects

#### **Charles Lin (Charles89)**

- Newsletter Designer / Merchandise

#### Adam Birdseye (Birds)

- Newsletter Writer / Merchandise

#### Aaron Tan (evade)

– Webmaster

#### Ryan Bell (belsil80)

Head of Motorsport

#### **Mat Cross (ttcorona)**

- Motorsport

#### Martin Sullivan (emts)

- Motorsport

So big props to all these guys for putting their hands up to help run the club for you! As you will no doubt notice this Committee has grown in numbers compared to past years. Reason for this is the club is growing and to continue such promising growth the club needs to expand and offer more in every facet: Motorsport, Cruises, News, Merch just to name a few.

We are also looking to expand our club supporters so that you members get more value for your membership dollar, which is always a good thing in my books!

2010 is set to be one of the clubs biggest given the above, so look forward to more cruises and social style events. There has also been a go-kart championship loosely discussed as well as potential for a SAU-Vic vs WRX drag day up at Heathcote...so keep a very close eye on the Event Calendar located in the Events section of the forum. We update it as soon as we have new events coming up that we know about.

I'm really looking forward to the upcoming year and I hope you are too!

Ash Cosgriff President

#### Introduction General Meetings – Jan/Feb/Mar/Apr

Our monthly general meetings so far this year have been a little low in attendance compared to last year. We are trying to find ways to encourage members and non-members to come along and share in all things SAU Vic. If you have any comments or suggestions be sure to let us know. Bell's Hotel have some great food on offer, so at the very least it's Tuesday night's dinner taken care of (and escape from the better half if you need it...or bring him/her along!). We are looking at getting some interesting guest speakers along in the near future and incorporating mini-cruises to/from the general meeting to make coming along more worthwhile for everyone.

General meetings are open to ALL – you do not need to be an SAU Vic member to attend, or even have an interest in cars for that matter (the latter will certainly help you though). They are more of a social get together for new and old faces. If you do not know anyone, DO NOT FEAR! General Meetings are a great way to meet existing members of the club and the club committee, as well as getting a feel for what SAU Vic is about as a car club. We are all a friendly bunch in SAU Vic and will go out of our way to make you feel welcome in the family. No one is left alone wondering why they bothered to turn up! General meetings are also a good way to keep informed about upcoming club events and news about the club, just in case you don't frequent the forums as often as some. We hope to see you at the next one!



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#### **New Members**

Please make welcome our new members for January - April 2010:

First Name

BeEnAr EeLeYe WillL Will

scotty nm35

Cha Chaos Charlie

MrWindsurf **Andrew** 

Miran1313 Adrian

Esther

**Count Grantleyish** Grant

esther

**IMSLY** Leigh

Juan\_2\_3

Cowboy1600 **Aaron** 

mark33gtst Mark

**PIOTREK** Poitr

PrlaN StYleZ Prian

ronu Ronesh

Peter xrotor

Nurb608 Rory

sledgy Chris

Chris johnno

DRFT31 Terence

Takahashi GTR Josh

Nick. **Nicholas** 

scarface\_au Adam

sun33 Naythan

racin8 Matthew

Andrew asrey

Rohan rkinens

Aaron

Michael



Cha\_Chaos



Cha\_Chaos



Bangaz Boy



Bangaz Boy



R32 DRFT4



R32 DRFT4





matticus



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#### Official Event Round 1 SAU VIC Championship (WRX Haunted Hills, Feb 2010)

The 2010 championship kicks off with our friends over at the WRX club. For those who are uninitiated, SAU VIC piggy back our own championship on top of motorsport days run by the WRX club of Vic (www.wrx.com.au/motorsport.html).

So the boys and girls at WRX have organised Haunted Hills as the season opener for another year. The Haunted Hills hill climb track is located in the hilly terrain of Gisppland coal country. The track is positioned on the face of a hill between flanked by Loyang 1, Loyang 2 and then Hazelwood power stations. Negotiating your way around the new track layout in under 60 seconds calls for a sorted car, nerves of steel and a crazy under the helmet.



#### Photograph by mr\_wolf

On a side note, the previous track was purchased by the coal companies and is now a coal mine.

The weather outlook for the day wasn't great. Cool, passing showers, wind and overcast - not the friendliest of conditions for a tight technical layout like Haunted Hills. Nevertheless, the turnout of cars was good (once everyone found the track that's right, it's the first turn off, not the second!).

With WRX cars outnumbering SAU 10 to 1, we had some work to do. The weather held out, for the most part. The only sign of rain during the events was a small sprinkle lasting only a few runs. Winds lasted all day, with cloud opening up to sun in the afternoon. Overall, I think most competitors received frostbite, windburn and sunburn (there were a few of us looking like beetroots at days end).



Photograph by mr\_wolf

The day ran smoothly and without incident for the most part, albeit for a WRX that pushed hard in the early morning sessions, ending up with a love bite and some race tape for his troubles.



#### Photograph by mr\_wolf

As the sun broke through and the surface griped up, track times came down towards that elusive sub 60 second mark (for some of us anyway). The balance between a fast time, coming off, and scaring yourself s\*\*\*less is a knife edge around here.

Article by John (ssxRicho) SAU-Vic Member



Photograph by mr\_wolf

#### Congratulations to the winners:

| Name                      | Car             | Fastest Lap |
|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Class A - MOD GTR         |                 |             |
| Anthony Snelling          | R33 GTR         | 57.92       |
| Class C - MOD 2WD         |                 |             |
| Andrew Cutropia           | Datson 1200 Ute | 64.26       |
| Class D - STD 2WD         |                 |             |
| Martin Sullivan           | 200sx           | 60.77       |
| Class E - AWD 2.5 + under |                 |             |
| Adam Newton               | Evo 4           | 59.66       |



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#### Official Event Valentine's Day Cruise



Wayne (aka RCHOO) was nice enough to put together for a February 14th Valentines Day cruise for the love lorn members of SAU Vic. The premise of this cruise was an around the bay trip (approx 260km of driving) which included a crossing of Port Phillip Bay on the Queenscliff-Sorrento ferry. It sounds like the weather gave the guys and girls a beautiful day of cruising. I was not present at this cruise so I'll let some of the forum comments and awesome pictures wrap it up for us!



Photography by Halle

Thanks again Wayne.

cruise was great and the weather held up till we left authers seat.

i should of brought sunscreen lol. – Dan



Photography by Halle

Well thanks heaps Wayne, was an awesome cruise.

Amazing how time flies when your with good company and having fun.

Thanks to all that made the effort, was good to catch up.

Big thanks to Dave and Shane for the lifts. – Al

Great day yet again!! Thanks for organizing Wayne!

The weather held off nicely and it was really nice just to cruise with good company and my baby on valentines (no not you Al, your company was great too though) lol. – *Shanus* 

Good day sorry had to turn back early...

Car was runnin like s\*\*\* needs a tune bad. Good to meet ya's. - Alex



Photography by Halle

It was a great day and yes the weather was good to us until we headed home.

I didnt make it far before it went BANG CLANG BANG..

I lost the bottom pulley wheel on the air con. So i cut the belt and got it home. -Wayne

We look forward to an even bigger and better cruise next Valentines Day.

Love from,

Article by Adam Birdseye Editor



Photography by Halle



Photograph by Bangaz Boy



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#### Official Event Membership Renewal Day (RE Customs Dyno Day)

We held our annual dyno/membership renewal day in March at RE customs. There was a huge turnout of people throughout the day. We had 10 members take advantage of our 4 year renewal option. Another 17 renewed for a further 12 month period and we also welcomed 9 new members to the club. The rest were made up of existing members keen to run their vehicles up on the dyno or just enjoy the spectacle of so many imports in one place at the same time.

We ran 27 cars on the dyno and the prizes of 2 x \$50 Supercheap Auto vouchers went to:

Most Power AWD – Scott F in his Stagea with 195.4rwkw

Most Power RWD – Hamish Hampton in his R33 GTS-T with 282.2kw

The members sausage sizzle was a great success – a huge thanks to our president Ash for slaving over the BBQ all day to keep us full. Great snags Ash.

Our "guess the killerwasps" competition was back again this year – big thanks to Adz (Adzmax) for lending us his 2010 Audi A4 diesel, which had just a little trouble staying on the dyno. The winner of this competition was Jack Blanas (JAGR33) who guessed 81.2kw with the car making 81.0kw. Jack also went home with a \$50 Supercheap Auto voucher donated by SAU Vic for his nearly spot on guess.

Thank you Ray and the team at RE customs for hosting our day / ensuring everything ran smoothly. Cheers to everyone who came and I hope you all had a great day. See you next year.

Article by Bec *Vice President* 



Photography by willL



Photography by (OO)SKYLINE(OO)



Photography by (OO)SKYLINE(OO)



Photography by (OO)SKYLINE(OO)



Photograph by (OO)SKYLINE(OO)



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#### Official Event Round 2 SAU Vic Championship (WRX Calder, March 2010)

Round 2 of the SAU Vic championship was a twilight round, adding an element of difficulty and excitement to the usual daytime shenanigans. Unfortunately a V8 race ran over time giving us (100 cars) nowhere to park. I cracked a rotor, Marty did his bottom end and Jack went home with blowby. A Series 1 S14 ended up in the wall at turn one. Calder being a very brake intensive track gave photographers some nice photo opportunities with our glowing brake rotors and some rear flame action. Some positive comments from attendees despite our vehicle injuries:

"Had an awesome time! Racing at night really adds a new perspective. I love and I think we should do it more often!" – Matty (shepo)

"Had a great time, luckily no dramas with the car apart from some tired tyres. Would have liked to get a few more sessions in but otherwise a well organised event." – Chris (the Aviator)

"Had a ball! Thanks to everyone involved with running the event." – Anthony (Ant97GTR)

Article by John (ssxRicho) SAU-Vic Member



Photograph by ssxRicho



Photograph by ssxRicho



Photograph by ssxRicho



Photograph by Lee Roach



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#### Official Event Micolour SAU-Vic DECA (March 20th)

DECA is always a fast event, and by that I mean fast to fill. It's the event you really need to keep an eye on the forums for, because all 50 spots are usually taken in the space of 2-5 days. I missed the last DECA because I took a much needed week long holiday from forum arguments, a mistake I won't be making again! The 1st round of DECA for the year was no exception, with skidpan-ners and wang-sters keen to get back into the spirit of things after the Christmas break and filling all 50 spots (plus 5 reserves) in the space of a week.



Photography by emts

I brought up a passenger with me this time round. As if DECA isn't fun enough on it's own, I can tell you it is an absolute blast doing it with friend in the passenger seat. Despite the extra weight in the car, his navigation contributions afforded me better performance on the skidpan where three dimensional cone layouts always look more confusing than they did on two dimensional paper. I promise I'm not making excuses!

Boy has the weather been good to us this year with our events. I don't think I can count one let down. Meterology predicted 27 degrees and she didn't disappoint. The hot sun made pulling off that helmet after each run extra refreshing. The motorsport crew decided to try an old DECA layout for the day, which promised and delivered more skidpan and wang time for everyone with minimal waiting. Though dominated by imports, we always get a nice mix of them - the Skylines/Silvias/Datsuns/Subarus/Mitsubishis and the occasional MX-5. It was a shame we ran out of time in the afternoon to include our traditional knockout and random arvo battles, but it's not like we weren't driving all day anyway. Results for this DECA were as follows:

1st Place Overall – Russell Cunningham 537 points (R32 GTS-T)

2nd Place Overall – Ryan Bell 523 points (Micolour Sileighty)

3rd Place Overall – Ben Robinson 489 points (R34 GTR)



Photography by emts



Photography by emts

Congratulations Russell for taking out top spot and showing everyone that the days of R32 glory are far from over (also that all wheel drive and displacement aren't everything!). Notable performances include Clive Small rocking it in the front wheel drive, albeit turbocharged Lancer CE for 6th place overall...and Marcus Stacey placing 8th in his ripper MX-5.

Massive thanks to Bec and Ryan, all the volunteers who stood in the sun all day for timing, and to MiColour for sponsoring the event. Oh and thanks to Hamish and an unknown assailant for lending me screwdrivers!

Article by Adam Birdseye *Editor* 



Photograph by emts



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#### Official Event Round 3 SAU Vic Championship (WRX Phillip Island, April 2010)

Victorian weather having more than one face per day, Round 3 of the SAU Vic Championship saw rain, ice, hail and sun hit the Island across a morning and afternoon. A WRX ended up in the wall through the hay shed, there were lots of spinouts and red flags, and the damn PA system didn't work all day. Let's just say the day didn't run as well as it was scheduled/organised to. All in all we still had a good day of sprints - congratulations to Chris Thompson, Andrew Aumuller and Anthony Snelling for taking 1st 2nd and 3rd with laptimes of 1:47.35, 1:48.67, and 1:49.63 respectively.



Photography by emts



Photography by emts

"Wow what a mixed bag weather-wise, from hail to sunshine in about 10mins. Overall I had a good day, considering the mixed weather, large entry list etc." Anthony (Ant97GTR)

"I did a track day and didn't break anything. It was awesome!" - Andrew (Snowman)

"A big thanks to all the officials and volunteers on the day out there in the wet." – Clive (mistamidget)

"I just loved the PI track...it's a very fast track compared to Winton...had loads of fun...wish the weather was better..." -Zaver (Zaver)

Article by Adam Birdseye Editor



Photography by emts



Photograph by emts



Photograph by emts



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#### Official Events SAU-Vic Annual Great Ocean Road Cruise

April 17th/18th played host to our annual GOR Cruise, which has risen over the years to become our largest and most popular member-exclusive event of the year for SAU Vic. For the uninitiated, this two day cruise takes members through some of Victoria's best oceanside scenery and spirited twisties as we travel from one end of the Great Ocean Road to the other in a seemingly endless group of cars. Members can choose to do either one or two stages of the cruise, the former returning to Melbourne on the same day after reaching Apollo Bay, and the latter staying the night in Skenes creek just outside Apollo Bay for night time festivities - followed by more GOR cruising the next day and their return to Melbourne.



Photography by montie



Photography by Charles89



Photography by Charles89



Photography by RCHOO

This year's GOR cruise began with early morning (8am) pre-meets in the East and West of Melbourne, later grouping together at the main meeting point – a BP service station on the Princes Fwy just outside Little River. Arriving at the Eastern pre-meet to find 12 cars, I knew that this was going to be a big cruise. My suspicions were confirmed when we arrived at the BP service station. We had no less than 50 vehicles in attendance. It was quite a sight to see and we are thankful that there were no trucks needing a rest stop as we had filled their designated parking!

We departed the service station at around 11am – the cruise down Princes Fwy towards the GOR was a sight in itself. You were constantly surrounded by Skylines and for once the unique vehicles were the daily drivers, who

wore a constant stare. The weather had been very kind to us all day. Not a single drop of rain, just beautiful blue skies. The only time we didn't have this was in passing the statuesque cliff faces that dauntingly overshadow the GOR making for a wonderfully atmospheric driving experience. I have learnt from this cruise that a CB radio with a good range is a very useful investment. Being able to hear others but not communicate back was quite frustrating, I've learnt my lesson. And when there's a slow changing traffic light directing GOR traffic over a single lane bridge and holding up the entire cruise group, it's much better to know than sit there for 10 minutes screaming WTF at the top of your lungs. I felt a sense of Déjà vu for most of this cruise as I had attended an unofficial SAU cruise here nearly 5 years ago before even owning a Skyline or being a part of SAU Vic – I even recognised some of the vehicles from back then.



Photography by RCHOO

I was amazed at how well behaved and coordinated everyone was on this cruise. For such a large event, it is a difficult thing to coordinate a large number of people and keep things running smoothly. We really need to thank the organisers and committee members who put aside some of their fun for the day to ensure that everyone else had a good time.



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#### SAU-Vic Annual Great Ocean (Continued)

After reaching Apollo Bay and stopping for some lunch, we headed into a vacant plot of sand and gravel right near a golf course for some photos. This was exceedingly difficult with the number of cars we had, but we still managed to get some awesome shots in. After the photoshoot the people only doing stage 1 headed back to Melbourne through the Otways. This was arguably the best part of the day with some mind boggling twisties and an unusual signposted speed limit of 100km/h, which if I stuck to would not have me here writing this. Unfortunately being one of the stage 1 people I cannot describe the stage 2 events but from what I heard everyone had an absolute ball partying into the night and taking in some coastal sights the next day before their return to Melbourne. This cruise is simply epic and worth being an SAU Vic member for this alone. Will be attempting both stages next year and I look forward to seeing you all there.





Photography by Charles89



Photography by IMSLY



Photography by Charles89



Photography by Count Grantleyish





Photograph by montie



Skylines Australia
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#### **Upcoming Events:**

By the time this newsletter reaches you I may be dead...um...the events may not still be "upcoming" so to speak. Until we get the newsletter back on track with some sort of regularity (we are trying our hardest!), the upcoming events schedule may be a little out of whack in terms of relevance (read: upcoming events may already have passed.

Take for example, this March-April newsletter being posted early July...it makes sense to leave out the events that happened in May/June (though they will be reviewed in our May/June newsletter). Note that some club events are organised within weeks of their set date and therefore cannot be published here in time.

Therefore events posted in this section will usually be major club events with plenty of notice behind them. I recommend checking the forums regularly for information on minor club events. So without further ado, some hopefully relevant and upcoming events:

- 3rd July SAU vs WRX Club Drag Day @ Heathcote Park Raceway \$60 to race and \$20 to spectate. You need to be an SAU Vic member to compete in this event. Non-member spectators are welcome.
- 20th July SAU Vic Monthly General Meeting 8PM Bell's Hotel, Sth Melbourne
   All welcome.
   Link: <a href="http://www.skylinesaustralia.com/forums/General-Meeting-Tuesday-t328396.html">http://www.skylinesaustralia.com/forums/General-Meeting-Tuesday-t328396.html</a>
- 24th July Round 5 Winton SAU Vic Motorsport Championship
   You need to be an SAU Vic member to compete in this event.
   Link: <a href="http://www.skylinesaustralia.com/forums/Winton-Sat-24-July-2010-t328010.html">http://www.skylinesaustralia.com/forums/Winton-Sat-24-July-2010-t328010.html</a>
- 31st July Arthurs Seat Cruise Organised by Hamish (Events Coordinator)
  You need to be an SAU Vic member to drive this cruise. Non-member passengers are welcome.
  Link: <a href="http://www.skylinesaustralia.com/forums/Sau-vic-Members-Arthurs-S-t324142.html">http://www.skylinesaustralia.com/forums/Sau-vic-Members-Arthurs-S-t324142.html</a>
- 14th Auguest DECA Round 3
   First in best dressed, maximum of 50 entries plus 5 reserves. You do not need to be an SAU Vic member to compete in this event. You will require an AASA or CAMS licence, however (can be purchased on the day). Link: <a href="http://www.skylinesaustralia.com/forums/Micolour-Sauvic-Deca-Moto-t328657.html">http://www.skylinesaustralia.com/forums/Micolour-Sauvic-Deca-Moto-t328657.html</a>

Article by Adam Birdseye *Editor* 



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### Member Profile Up Close And Personal



Name: Jamie

**Age:** 26

Member For: Over 12 months

Ride: R32 Skyline GTR

Owned Since: August 2005

#### **Modifications:**

- Intake / Exhaust
- HKS Air pods
- Aftermarket down and front pipes
- · High flow cat
- Veilside cat-back exhaust
- Splitfire coilpacks
- Direct ignition bridge
- Suspension & Wheels
- Cusco fully adjustable suspension
- Front strut brace
- Floor brace
- 17" Volk Racing TE37 Wheels
- ICE
- HKS Boost gauge
- Turbo timer
- Exterior
- Nismo front bar
- Nismo side skirts
- R32 GTS-T rear pods
- Repairs/replaced:
- Rear diff, brakes, turbochargers, clutch.

- **A:** What was it that initially attracted you to your vehicle?
- J: The price was good for what you get...power was easy to gain...great performance and still today it looks great.
- **A:** What were the other candidates/ options in mind at the time of purchase?
- J: Nissan Silvia S13 K's.
- **A:** What keeps you in love with it? What do you hate about it?
- **J:** I love the performance/looks and hate the fuel consumption.
- **A:** What does your girlfriend/mother like/hate about your car?
- **J:** They like the look but hate the bumpy ride.
- **A:** I bet she does. Have you ever tried to impress a girl/boy with your Skyline? Did you succeed in doing so?
- **J:** \*laughs\* Yeah, as you always do... and still trying with the girls.
- **A:** Amateur! Ever done "Chap laps" in it? If so, how many laps before you made the realization that you were wasting fuel and no one was looking anyway?
- J: \*laughs\* I did the occasional lap when I had my Lancer GLi back in 2002...but ever since I got my Skyline, I never went back there. I only drive down Chapel Street if I need to get to a friends place...I try to avoid it at all times.
- **A:** Sure. Ever used your Skyline for something besides driving? Hint, hint...
- J: \*laughs\* It's on the 'to do' list...

- **A:** It's very difficult in a Nissan, trust me. Have you had any accidents, car or pants related?
- **J:** Soccer mum rear ended me, sandwiching me into the guy in front of me.
- **A:** *I...see.* Was that car or pants related? What is your favourite meet location or cruising destination?
- **J:** Anywhere not too far...we usually meet up at the Monash Uni car park in Clayton.
- **A:** What's wrong with good old restaurants and Fiji? Did you notice a significant spike in demerit points since owning the Skyline?
- J: Surprisingly no.
- **A:** Interested in taking some points for me? How much money would it take to part with your car?
- **J:** Enough to buy a nicely tuned R34 GTR or R35 GTR...let's just say a lot.
- **A:** What's on in the CD player right now?
- **J:** The bands "Her Nightmare" and "Walls of Jericho".
- **A:** Nice! I've...never heard of those bands. How often do you wash it? And how often do you wash your car?
- **J:** Usually once a week on a Saturday morning.
- **A:** Like my psychotic ex-girlfriend, has a significant other ever shown jealousy at the attention you give your car/s?
- J: No, not really...they just make fun of

Interviewed by Adam Birdseye *Editor* 





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Product Review
Tein Super Street Coilovers
(R33, Japanese spec)



Height and damper adjustable coilovers are nothing new; neither are Tein SS for that matter. I'm reviewing Tein SS because there will always be someone in the same position I was: one Skyline + a yearning for lower ride height / better handling (tech note: the former does not always equal the latter; quite the opposite in some cases). And as long as Tein SS are still on the market then I quess this is relevant. Anyway, onto it:

I thought I would give Tein SS a go... my current coilovers were rooted and I wanted to retain the freedom to adjust firmness. Handling wasn't a major priority for me, but it is nice to be able to track your car once in a while and have something to work with...and afterall, the Skyline is a sports car...it might as well feel like one too. Height adjustment was perhaps the deciding factor between a set of lowered springs and shocks or the adjustable coilovers. It sure took the guesswork out of which size springs I would need for the perfect height if I could change this anytime I liked. Compared to the rest of the market offerings, Tein SS were very cost effective at circa \$1500 AUD. Here we have a reputable Japanese brand, not so cheap that slinkies from Toys R Us sound like a good benchmark...but not too expensive that it hurts to think about the cost of said modification relative to the cost of the vehicle itself. Most reputable Japanese coilovers retail anywhere from \$2000 to \$5000 AUD depending on brand and purpose.

The beauty of Tein Super Street is that, as the name implies, they are

a performance suspension package designed for the street. I guess the straightforward interpretation is a bump-friendly set of suspension that you can take for a spin around the mountains without feeling like you're at the helm of a ship. Utilising a twintube design, unlike the conventional mono-tube found in most aftermarket coilovers, Super Street's damper effect is increased somewhat. Coupled with low spring rates, the result is a fitting compromise between racing car and daily driver. I must point out that there are two versions of Tein SS available, an Australian spec and a Jap spec. The Australian spec cost a bit more and are harder to repair / find replacement parts for...although the consensus for performance comparison is that the difference between the two is not that great (please do not quote me on this!). My weapon of choice was the Jap spec.

On the road: When I purchased my vehicle (R33 GTS-T 1.5), the GAB coilovers that came with it were just awful in terms of ride quality. This may have been largely due to the fact they were stuffed and leaking - so perhaps it would do well to keep in mind that me changing from this to anything softer is going to feel great. Hell, the ride was so bad at the time I was certain just

repairing them would do something for me. Regardless, the GAB are a true racing Japanese coilover with very high spring rates...subtlety on public road was not really part of the design process. Now, I'm not egocentric enough to guarantee you'll enjoy the ride quality of Tein SS like I do...afterall, you may be making the

transition from factory suspension, in which case you and your passengers will certainly notice more bumps and cracks in the bitumen...(this usually resulting in whinging better halves) but I have not had a complaint from anyone who has ridden in or driven my vehicle since installing them. Only on the bumpiest of tram track roads (\*cough\* Toorak/Riversdale) will you find yourself complaining. You still need to take speed humps slower than factory suspension, but provided you haven't adjusted ride height too low to the ground...it's not the sub-walking pace I used to use with the GAB coilovers. I will warn you that those only familiar with factory suspension in vehicles will find even the softest settings on Tein SS take some getting used to. Handling wise, they are terrific. The R33 feels flat and sticky to the ground, the way it should be (though some would argue this vehicle more at home in Port Phillip Bay – ha ha). Perhaps most noticeable is the confidence this suspension setup inspires in controlling the vehicle. I took this car to the skidpan after installation and during moments of traction loss the correction was spot on – it did exactly what you wanted it to do.

Article by Adam Birdseye *Editor* 

