

# Bathurst 12-HOUR

## There's no Holt...ing Garry

### 12-HOUR RACE

By BRIAN NIGHTINGALE

THE reigning Australian Performance Car champion, Garry Holt, has chosen wisely for this weekend's WPS Bathurst 12-Hour Showroom Enduro.

He has entered a BMW 335i twin turbo in Class 1, Penrite Rear Wheel Drive Performance Cars, and secured the services of two very experienced and fast drivers.

The two drivers, Paul Morris and Craig Baird, will join Holt in the BMW for the revival of the 12-Hour Race at Bathurst, both hungry for victory and with a point to prove.

Two former factory BMW drivers, Morris and Baird, are hungrier for victory than most, for they have tasted success in a BMW at Bathurst only to have it taken from them.

That was in the two-litre AMP Bathurst 1000 of 1997. Victory was too short as they were disqualified shortly after taking the chequered flag.

They had violated an endurance racing rule that prohibits any one driver driving longer than 210 minutes in any one stint. Victory was then handed to the Brabham brothers, David and Geoff, also in a BMW.

Joining Holt behind the wheel this weekend, Baird and Morris bring a wealth of Bathurst and endurance racing experience to the team.

Both are veterans of the Bathurst 1000, while Baird has recent endurance racing experience behind the wheel of a Porsche Turbo in Dubai and in the famed Nurburgring 24-Hour event in Germany.

Morris also finished third in the Bathurst 24-Hour in 2003 driving a Porsche 911.

Morris is currently driving his Sirromet Wines Holden Commodore in the V8 Supercar Championship Series, while Baird is again contesting the Carrera Cup, which he won last year driving for VIP Petfoods.

Holt won last year's Performance Car Championship and is very consistent, having finished inside the top three of the championship in each of the last four years.

He has also raced V8 Supercars with two Bathurst starts, and has competed in the Bathurst 24-Hour Race.

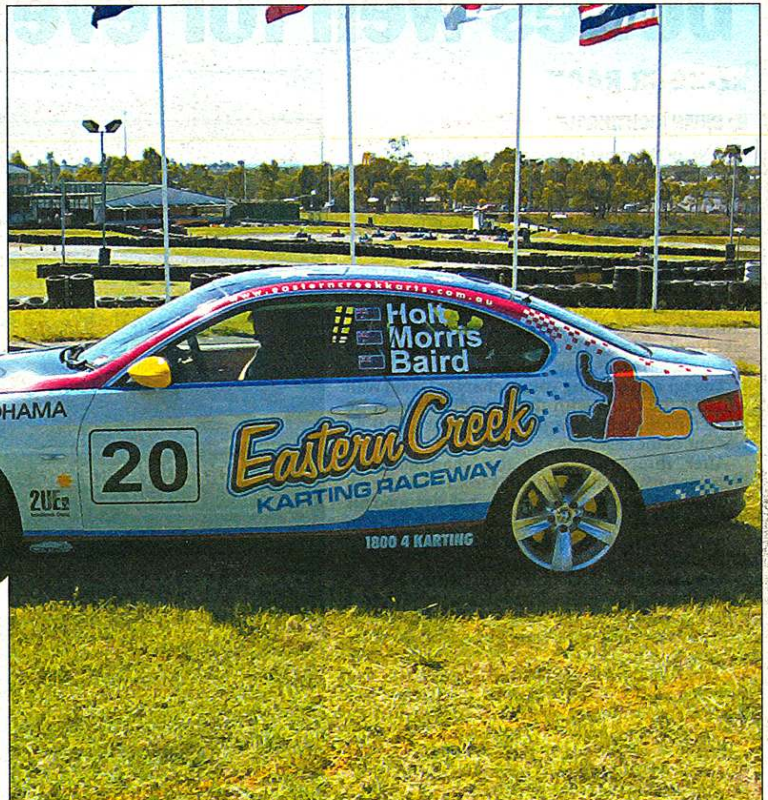
He believes he has the right package to put in a bold showing in the WPS 12-Hour Race, particularly with the 335i which will be making its worldwide racing debut at Bathurst.

The car is a 3.0 litre straight six that produces well over 300hp.

The Eastern Creek International Karting Raceway entry has been constructed by renowned engineers Bob Riley - formerly the chief engineer for Ralliart Australia - and Nigel Bolling, who has engineered many successful cars including Holt's Championship winning Mitsubishi Lancer last season.

Holt said he believed the car would be pulling around 280 to 290 kph down Conrod Straight. He also said that because it is turbocharged and produces a lot of torque, it will be ideal for climbing the mountain.

The WPS Bathurst 12-Hour Enduro looks like being one of those races that everyone wants to compete at.



TOP ENTRY: The BMW which will be driven by Garry Holt, Craig Baird and Paul Morris at Mount Panorama this Easter.