

around the west

Gearing up for challenge

By JO JOHNSON

IT was a case of lights, camera, Audi in the centre of Bathurst yesterday morning.

The cast and crew from popular television series Top Gear Australia rolled into town to film an episode for its upcoming fourth season.

They brought with them an Audi R8 V10, worth almost \$400,000, and the sleek new Volkswagen Amarok.

The motoring series - which is fuelled by extreme stunts, super-charged cars and celebrity interviews - is hosted by high-profile petrol heads Shane Jacobson,

Ewen Page and Steve Pizzati.

In the episode, due to air in May, the trio will race from Bathurst to Hill End in an on-ver-sus-off-road challenge.

Pizzati will stay on road in the R8, travelling to the historic village via Wellington. Jacobson and Page will test the Amarok off the beaten track in a more direct, cross country route.

Jacobson, also known for his role as waste management guru Kenny and as the newest ambassador for Jenny Craig, said he was looking forward to discovering a different side to Australia's "mecca of motorsport".

"We've filmed a few episodes here before, but we were looking to do something different," he said.

"This episode isn't about fang-ing it around Mount Panorama in a V8. We're going four-wheel driving, so the Mount isn't the best place to do that. We'll be taking to the roads in registered cars. And we'll be sticking to the speed limit."

The opening sequence of the episode was filmed in front of Bathurst Court House from 7am. It interrupted the flow of traffic in Russell Street for a number of hours.



TOP CREW: The race is on for Top Gear Australia presenters Shane Jacobson, Ewen Page and Steve Pizzati (sitting), who were on location outside Bathurst Court House yesterday morning.

Photo: BRIAN WOOD 040711topgear1