

PRESIDENTS REPORT....Remember your Membership is due..

The Nat's in Cootamundra.... After the best part of 2 years planning, worrying, more planning etc the 2007 Pontiac Nationals in Cootamundra at Easter went off without to many problems.

Back when Peter Milton proposed the NSW country town of "Coota" back in 2005 as the town for the 2007 Nat's I knew that we would be in for an entertaining time. Pete has been a "local" in Cootamundra for some time, with that and the contacts around town he pulled together what turned out to be, one of the largest & most successful events that the town has seen in recent memory.

You would have to say that the crowds in the main street watching the parade would have had to have been 4-6 deep in places. Plenty to see & do on the Saturday at Fisher Park. Sunday with the sprints at the airport went off really well. With a great surface, plenty of room with nothing much to hit, a tarred return road & staging area plus a grand stand for the spectators it all went towards making a great day for the (around) 1,000 spectators (over the day).

For those that made it to the Drive Inn on Friday night it was something different. Never tried before at a Pontiac Nationals, the drive inn idea came about a few months before the Nat's as something to do for those that wanted something else to do when they got into town.

What we tried to do is take some of the best parts of the Nat's gone by and combine some new ideas for this event. For the most part it went off really really well. As with every new town we were an unknown quantity & there were some teething problems but nothing that couldn't be sorted out. Since the Nationals I have been given 2 letters from members one from Brenda Griffith & the other from Ron Arnts. Both letters gave a view of the nationals not available to the organizers. There was a lot of points bought up both good & not so good. Many of the points that were bought up are now on the board for improvement or change for the next event. Without "constructive criticism" we can't improve on what was a great show, & I thank both Brenda & Ron plus the many others that I have spoken to since Easter for their comments.

Just to give people an idea of how big the event was to the town these figures were given to me from the council a few days after the nats. *Directly, money bought into the town \$500,000... Indirectly.... \$1.5- \$2 million over the Easter weekend. That is equal to a new business opening up in town & employing 30 people for 12 months.* For a town that is in the grip of a drought it certainly was a shot in the arm that the town needed.

We have been definitely welcomed back into the town for the 2009 Nat's if we decide to go back. With all the comments that I have had during & after the event, I would have to say that Cootamundra is the town for 2009. None the less, I am opening it up to the membership.... Do you want to go back to Cootamundra for 2009? If not, where would you like it held? I would like to have the results in the next Torque & so that planning can start for '09. Please get back to me either by mail or phone (details in the front of the magazine) by the due date.



Lance took Tamara for 2 laps of the track.



Mick from S.A. in the convertible 65 took Tamara for a ride around town.

Over the weekend a couple of members were able to brighten 10 year old Tamara's day with a ride in both their cars. Tamara has Cerebral Palsy. There is not a lot in a country town for children like her, but with the Pontiac's coming to town it provided the opportunity for her to enjoy something different. Tamara's favorite cars of the weekend were Lance Isdale's '60 & Mick's '65 convertible. Tamara's mum & dad were manning the Riding for the Disabled BBQ at various places over the weekend.

The AGM was also held at the start of the Sunday night function. One result of the AGM was that the changes to the constitution has now been passed. A copy is included on page 9 of this magazine as well as on www.pcca.org.au. The other was that the election of office bearers was also held.

The results were **President is Stewart Griffiths, Vice President is Peter Milton & the job of Secretary/ Treasurer as been taken over by Marianne Cuttle.** John Edwards has been doing the Sec/Tres position now for 14 years & I thank him for all the time & effort that he has put in over the years. It certainly is a big job & not many people have the time to put towards it. The Sec/Tres keeps the club functioning, coordinating membership, mailing lists etc & I am happy to say that Marianne Cuttle is as keen as mustard to be taking on the job. Marianne will have some help in the form of her husband Alan, essentially we will have 2 people working together in the Position of Secretary/ Treasurer.

The new National Board takes over on the 1st of July 07. In the next Torque you will notice a new P.O. Box for the Secretary/ Treasurer. The old one will be operating side by side with the new one for some time yet.

The email address to get in touch with the National Secretary/Treasurer or the National Board remains the same (nationalboard@pcca.org.au).

Please, if you have the internet have a look at www.pcca.org.au as you will find all updated details as they come to hand posted up plus much more.

Thank you again to the many people that helped out in some way over the weekend. Peter Milton, Liz Carr, Steve Mc Phee, Daniella Zuchetto, Terina Burn, Terry Bell, Sue Bell, Andr'e Johnson, Frank Karbe plus many others.

To all that attended the Coota Nat's. Especially the Qld chapter members that attended. They take the time, 2-3 days, to travel to the Nat's then decorate the hall with some of the best signs we have seen. Thank you again

With such a big event there is always people you do forget to thank. To those people..... Thank You.

Lets see this event go back to Cootamundra for 2009 & for it to be bigger & better the 2nd time around.

*Stewart Griffiths
National President
and member since '88*



PONTIAC NATIONALS COOTAMUNDRA '07

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SECRETARIES REPORT

This will be my last report as I will no longer be Sec/Tres. After 14 ½ years as Sec/Treasurer I feel I need a break.

Marion Cuttle will take over from me as from the 1st July 2007.

I have enjoyed been Sec/Treasurer for all those years.

The Pontiac Nat's was really great and my hat off to Peter Milton and Stewart Griffiths, also those who worked hard in the background. Was a bit of a shock for Cootamundra to have all those Pontiacs in their Town for the weekend, and maybe we will be back in 2009.

Remember that your membership is now due.....!!!!

John Edwards

Letter to the Editor.

... Having been overseas till late in the afternoon on Easter Friday... my time at the Cootamundra Pontiac Nats was limited being up at 6am again to get on down the road. I had entered but... sometimes work MUST come first for all of us ..

My observations from Saturday were that the organisers had the job covered.. .. the pre-staging for the street parade ..was good.. gave more people time to talk and get familiar with each other in their respective car era groups... be that indecently .. but socially good. The Street parade showed some flair.. ... with the pipers & police leading.. and another local musical group playing from the back of a moving truck.. gave spectators the great "entry" we have often achieved and see at good events.. The lines of people 2 & three blocks long.. attested to the entry .. Well Done...

The show at the oval was neat.. the locals help tremendously with the fair and charities in place.. one on which I helped out probably the most on their day.. but they deserved the help and GOOD ON THE CLUB ORGANISERS for having them there.

The rest the weekend.. from most all reports went off well.. which is hard to have happen with a NEW town with a bunch of guys who have never had to do the entire job before.. so linking the skilled with the semi-skilled and .. the learners.. Great move..

All up.. 10 points for effort guys.. Well Done.

Dave Clee
Past National President



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