

Where will the next Nat's Be?

More to the point where would the members like to see the nats go?

Everyone put your thinking caps on! Yeppoon in Queensland, Mt Gambier in South Australia, even Benalla Victoria was mentioned as possible places to host the 2011 Pontiac Nationals & the choices are not limited to just these.

2011 will bring it's own set of challenges. Cost is likely to go up but with that, hopefully, more to see & do. The Nat's has essentially been running along the same formula for the last 21 years & has worked very well for us. People have had a great time, but I would have to say it may be time for a change.

One of the main criteria for selecting a place to hold the Nationals is that it should be central to the membership. This is why the locations for past events have been located in or near the south of NSW. Narrandera, West Wyalong, Cowra, Gundagai, Cootamundra, Benalla (Vic) have all served us well. Facilities like a paved surface & area suitable to hold driving events, accommodation, food outlets, function centers that can cater for upwards of 250 people & a friendly atmosphere are also essential to host what can be 120 to 150 cars.

If you look on a map we have pretty much visited every appropriate sized town in the southern NSW without going too big & getting lost in say, Wagga Wagga. Although it is a town that pretty much meets our needs it falls short on the friendly small group atmosphere we have enjoyed previously.

Do you want to go to another state?

Yeppoon Qld was suggested by Ken Watson of the QLD chapter. Granted, it is a bit of a hike for some if not most of the members, but a change is as good as a holiday, or so they say.

Ken has put forward his ideas to me on the town and surrounds as a possible place to host the Nats. Ken has also done a lot of the initial leg work. He has visited the Police, local Council, local accommodation and various businesses, all keen to see an event like ours being brought to their town. Initial pricing has been sought & is one of the things that can still be worked on even at this early stage. He is also mindful to the fact that the numbers of cars & people attending the event will be down against previous events due to the distance involved.

One thing that will change is the sprints. In it's place would be a motokahna event where the driving events would focus on the skill of the driver & not the all out speed. More audience/member participation orientated activities would also get the entrants families/wives/girlfriends/children involved & having fun. With plenty to see & do in the area &

the bulk of the entrants, if not all, accommodated in the same large facility I think that most people would enjoy themselves & wonder where the time went they were having such a good time.

Another town that was suggested was Mt Gambier in S.A. . Located between Melbourne & Adelaide it would be a longer drive for the Queenslanders & NSW members but would also offer the accommodation & function facilities we are after. A picturesque town with plenty to see & do before, during & after the event.

Benalla.... Another town that was mentioned as well. We would be going back to a town that we have been to 2 times already. On the plus side is that we know everything works well, the facilities are good & the town knows us.

We are open to any more suggestions along the lines of what has been suggested. But time is running out.... Even now it is now less than 2 years till the next event.

Please tell you state chapter Chairman your thoughts, concerns or suggestions. I hope to have a clear decision on where the next Pontiac Nationals will be held on or just after the end of May. Many of you have been discussing between yourselves about this very subject & a decision will be arrived at quickly.

Tim Connell the Vic Chapter Chairman has mentioned to me that the Vic Chapter would be willing to throw their support behind SA if they host the next one as was offered by Mark on the presentation night. Below is part of the email Tim sent me after the Nat's.....

We will certainly throw our support behind SA if they host the next one as was offered by Mark on the night.

Our thoughts were also that if SA did host the 2011 Nationals then they probably would not want to run another "Pontiac Gathering" as they did in 08. A couple of our guys attended and thought it was a great weekend and if SA are doing the nationals I expect they wouldn't want to run this event again. If it goes this way we may decide to run a "Pontiac Gathering" in 2010 and we'll need to get the plans underway fairly soon so just looking to see what's happening with 2011.

As soon as the decision is made It will be posted up on pcca.org.au as well as each chapter chairman being notified. & then posted in the next Torque.

Till Next Time
Stewart Griffiths
Outgoing National President