

2 May 2010

Festival Events Set New Records

Over sixty souped up, throaty racing machines took control of Barcaldine's main street on Saturday night as part of the Tree of Knowledge Festival Street Cruise.

A large crowd lined both sides of the main street to take in the amazing sight and sound of cars of all shapes, sizes, makes and models as they idled their way down the street then park for a Show and Shine.

It was just one of the highlights of the first day of the festival which also featured horse races, markets, shearing, goat rides and a monster Street Party which saw bands performing under the Tree of Knowledge Memorial until midnight.

Festival organisers are rapt with the success of the festival thus far, saying participation numbers and the atmosphere are far better than those of previous years.

The Festival kicked off on Friday night when over 200 guests attended the Sports Dinner which featured rugby union legend, Chris "Buddah Handy", jockey and Footy Show personality, Allan Robinson, Olympic Hockeyroo, Nikki Hudson and Bronco's star, Justin Hodges.

The same night also saw the highly successful staging of the inaugural Miniatures Art Exhibition which received over 80 entries from all over the state.

Saturday morning saw the town's main street and highway to the west, closed off to traffic with markets and the staging of a popular new shearing display called "The Run".

All the workings of a shearing shed in full swing were on show when six shearers took to the stands to shear 250 sheep in under two hours.

Even the local Major, a former shearer himself, Rob Chandler shored a few for old time's sake.

The Tree of Knowledge Horse races also enjoyed a record crowd with over 900 passing through the gates.

One of Australia's top jockey's, Allan Robinson, generated a lot of interest among punters as he featured in four races but in contrast to his usual form, was unable to secure a win.

The main event, the Tree of Knowledge Cup, worth a massive \$13,000 was taken out but Decerto trained by Henry Foster of Ilfracombe.

Saturday night saw the highly popular children's band, Dougie the Dungbeetle and Friends, return to their birthplace of Barcaldine and take to the stage.

A huge crowd of both children and adults alike gathered to enjoy their high energy and entertaining performance which set the party atmosphere for the rest of the evening.

Yesterday morning, the gates opened early at the town's aerodrome which had been transformed into a drag race track for the Festival's Revfest.

An even greater crowd than at last year's event passed through the gates to take in the spectacular of drag racing which this year saw organisers turn nominations away as entries were capped at 75 for the day.

In the afternoon the action got underway at the showgrounds with junior league games commencing at 12 noon.

A definite highlight of the afternoon was the Ross "Nut" Hazel Golden Oldies game between the Barcaldine and Sarina old boys.

Over 20 Sarina Golden Oldies travelled to Barcaldine for the game which saw many familiar league faces of Barcaldine's past take to the paddock.

Today the traditional May Day parade will fill Barcaldine's main street with organisers once again expecting a record number of floats.

This will be followed by another performance by Dougie the Dungbeetle and traditional foot races before Australia's Richest Goat Races get underway.

This year's Tree of Knowledge Goat Races have attracted record nominations and boast prize money of over \$10,000.

Miniatures Art Exhibition



South African Stall at Food Expo

