

Outback Revfest Competes with Metro Meets 23 February 2010

Barcaldine's Tree of Knowledge Festival Revfest and Saturday night Town Cruise offers drag car racers experiences which other major metropolitan meets just can't compete with, according to Barcaldine Motor Sport Association (BMA) President, Mr Morgan Gronold

"Barcaldine is one of the few places where drag car racers can take their 1000 horsepower vehicle, which is usually confined to the trailer and the race track, for a drive down the main street and that's something which doesn't happen often, if ever, and it gives the owners a real buzz," he said.

Mr Gronold is referring to the Tree of Knowledge Festival Saturday night Town Cruise which will occur on May 1, before the annual Revfest kicks into action on the Sunday.

"This is just one of the reasons why even the serious competitors love coming to Barcy as much or more than the big city events. They love the adventure and they love the things we can offer which the metropolitan meets can't," said Mr Gronold.

Last year the Town Cruise saw over 40 cars and bikes assemble at the town's showgrounds and drive to the main street where they pulled up for a Show and Shine.

"It's a hell of a lot of paperwork to make it happen, but it's worth it, it creates a lot of atmosphere and makes for a fantastic spectacle," said Mr Gronold.

Mr Gronold is expecting the Saturday night cruise to attract even more attention this year from both competitors and spectators alike.

This year the show cars will have a change of venue from the aerodrome, and will assemble in the town's main street at around 4 – 5pm on the Saturday following on from the Tree of Knowledge Festival horse races, while the drag cars assemble at the showgrounds and then drive to the main street.

This is the fourth year for Barcaldine's Revfest and each year it goes from strength to strength with organisers already being inundated with enquiries from far a field.

Mr Gronold said he believes the reason the Revfest has been so successful is because it offers the whole deal to both competitors and spectators.

"It is a country meet so people come to be sociable and interact, it is all about participation and fun.

"In addition to this the prize money is good, last year we had \$5,000 up for grabs and this year should be similar so this attracts some of the more serious competitors.

"Our third draw card is that we have excellent infrastructure and have gained a reputation for this among competitors.

Last year saw the BMA, Barcaldine Regional Council and Boral spend \$120,000 in upgrading the track.

"The upgrade was a massive effort on behalf of these organisations and it has made our facility arguably one of the best non-permanent tracks in the country."

Mr Gronold said Revfest is also all about giving the spectators what they want.

Last year over one thousand people passed through the gates to be thrilled by the sight, sound and smell of drag cars going from standstill to amazing speeds in a matter of seconds.

Laurie Fitzgerald from Roma, clocked the fastest time at the 2009 event when as he covered the eighth of a mile in 5.88 secs and hit the finishing line at a speed of 111mph in his Pink Fiat Topilino.

Mr Gronold said spectators can expect similar and better runs at the 2010 event.

“We have a ute coming this year which runs a quarter mile in 9 secs, so you will hardly see it on the eight, it has serious speed.”

Mr Gronold said it is Revfest’s ability to attract these sort of vehicles acts as a spectator draw card.

“This is one of the few places outside of major metropolitan areas where people can see something like a blown big block Chevy running methanol and people will travel for that.”

However, because the Revfest races are run on handicaps, it also means the family car can be entered and still be competitive.

“Our races are all run on handicaps where you “Dial Your Own” or enter your own time, and it is all about consistently running at that speed.

“So last year we had the family Prado winning classes alongside specifically built “big” cars,” he said

Whether it is on the track or off, Barcaldine’s Tree of Knowledge Festival Revfest is the place to be this May Day long weekend.

For more information or nomination forms contact Morgan Gronold on 46512334 or visit the website, www.treeofknowledge.com