

ROCKYFNATS NEWS



Rockynats makes its huge return to Rockhampton.

Rockynats is on!

By Liam Emerton

Welcome to Rare Spares Rockynats 02 - this year we're bigger, better and FASTER than ever.

Whether you love the drags, the burnouts, the drifting or the show and shine, there is something for everyone.

Last year's inaugural event was extremely successful with more than 40,000 people walking through the gates throughout the long weekend.

Over 1000 vehicles showed up for the Summernats sister-event including over 800 for the street parade which was a massive hit with kids and adults alike.

This year it's believed those numbers will

boom to even greater heights and there are some stunning vehicles to look out for.

For those into the Show and Shine, the McDonald's Showgrounds Precinct is the place to be.

With a number of beautiful cars and bikes on display you can truly get a sense of how much love and affection the car enthusiasts have for their pride and joy.

For the people who live life an eighth-mile at a time, look no further than the street and pro drags which will be out in force this year.

After having their competition cut short at the inaugural Rare Spares Rockynats, there's no doubts that those keen on straight-line racing will be revving and ready to go.

But if you prefer sharp corners and sliding into bends then the drifting precinct will be your avenue.

Added viewing below has been set in place for easier access for fans and so all can get a great view of the action.

But if you're a two-wheel (or even three) lover, then the free bike precinct will be your favourite area.

The Bob's Bulk Booze Bike precinct was popular for those who love motorbikes from all eras.

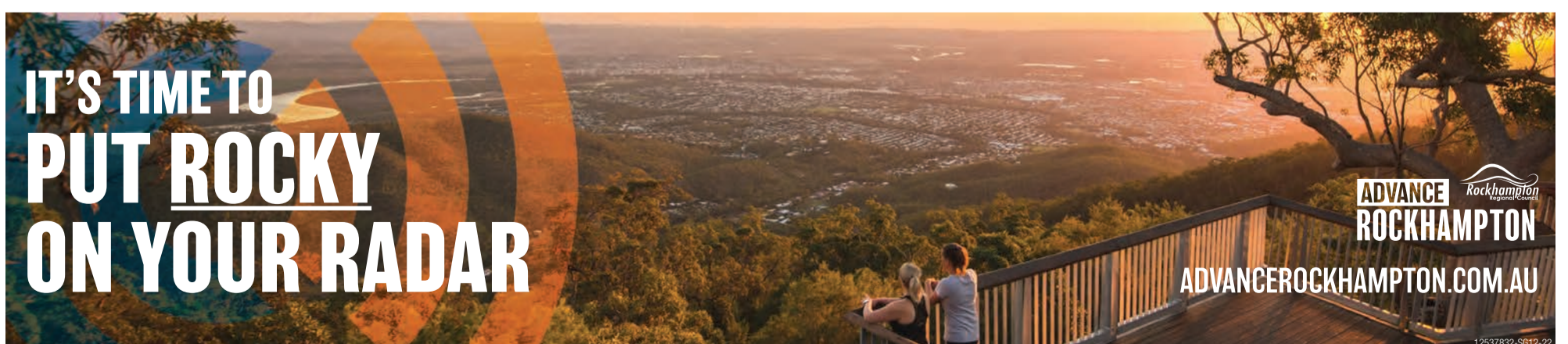
And of course how could you not love the smell of burning rubber, the sight of smoke and the pop of bursting tires all playing out in front of the gorgeous Fitzroy River.

The Buddy's Fire burnout precinct was always packed full of spectators and it will undoubtedly be one of the most popular events once again here at Rare Spares Rockynats 02.

Beyond the cars and the main attractions, there's plenty more to do at Rare Spares Rockynats 02.

Why not see the filthiest and luscious mullets at the new Mulletfest competition? Or make your way down to see the Miss Rockabilly-nats pin up competition.

There's so much to do at Rare Spares Rockynats 02 so enjoy yourselves and delve into the hottest event of Easter.



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Tourism Minister's welcome

**By the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement
The Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe MP**

Welcome to Rockynats Car Festival, a wonderful opportunity to immerse yourself in Rockhampton's local culture and community, and hopefully explore some of the superb tourism experiences on offer here.

The impacts of the pandemic have provided incredible challenges, but thanks to the hard work of Queenslanders our state was one of the first to put in place a COVID Safe Event Framework which paved the way for events such as this one to take place.

The Queensland Government is proud to support Rockynats Car Festival, through Tourism and Events Queensland's Destination Events Program and it is a feature on our It's Live! in Queensland events calendar.

Events are an important part of our state's economic recovery from the pandemic because they attract visitors to the region which stimulates the local economy and supports local jobs.

Events are also an important opportunity for communities, friends, families and visitors to come together, creating community pride and reconnecting us.

Congratulations to the event organisers and all those involved in organising this event – may it be a successful one.

If you are visiting for the event, I encourage you to make some time to explore the diverse tourism experiences on offer in this beautiful region.



The Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe MP



Rockhampton Regional Mayor Tony Williams.

Message from our Mayor Williams

By Rockhampton Regional Mayor Tony Williams

Welcome to the 2022 Rare Spares Rockynats Car Festival – the biggest dedicated car and bike festival in the state!

Following an extremely successful inaugu-

ral event in 2021 held amid the challenges of a global pandemic, Council is excited to once again partner with the Summernats Team to bring Rockynats back to our region. With the 2022 program promising to be an even bigger and better showcase of all things high-octane, it'll be an event that's sure to satisfy the inner

rev-head in everyone. On behalf of our community, local businesses, and Council's Advance Rockhampton team, I hope you enjoy the incredible line-up of cars and bikes that'll be on display throughout the weekend and, if you're visiting, enjoy your stay in our beautiful region.

Greg Bowden welcomes Rockynats 02

By Advance Rockhampton Executive Manager Greg Bowden

From Beef Week, one of the world's biggest cattle events, to our annual River Festival, Rockhampton is known for hosting one-of-a-kind events that attract thousands of locals and visitors alike.

As Queensland's biggest car and bike festival offering three days of high-octane fuelled action, Rare Spares Rockynats truly is an event like no other and a proud addition to Rockhampton's burgeoning events calendar.

With more than 45,000 people having passed through the precinct gates during Rockynats 01, albeit in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, this inaugural event not only helped to put Rocky on the Radar for thousands of intrastate visitors but also provided a welcome boost to our local bars, cafes and restaurants, tourism operators, accommodation providers, and the wider community.

Now it's second year, the 2022 event will be even bigger and better than the last, with thousands set once again to enjoy the Easter long weekend in the Rockhampton region.

From burnouts, bikes and drag races to the Miss Rockabilly-Nats Competition and pro-wrestling, the 2022 Rare Spares Rockynats festival program has something for everyone to enjoy. Whether you've travelled from as near as Frenchville or as far as Dubbo or Darwin to attend Rockynats this weekend, I'd like to say a big 'thank you' for supporting this incredible event and the countless vendors, businesses, and families you help support as a result. I also encourage you to take the opportunity that the long weekend presents to #ExploreRockhampton and the wider region – from meerkats and riverside cafes to mountain views, national parks, professional bull riding and pristine beaches.



Advance Rockhampton executive manager Greg Bowden.

ROCKYNATS NEWS

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CQ Today produced in partnership with Advance Rockhampton
 Published by Central Queensland Media PTY LTD
 5-9 Hempenstall Street North Rockhampton QLD 4701
 Printed by Today Print
 5-9 Hempenstall Street North Rockhampton QLD 4701
Publisher Paul Thomas



Rare Spares retail operations manager and national sales manager Joe Xuereb and Rare Spares general manager Lance Corby.

Rare Spares backs 'nats

By Liam Emerton

Rockynats 02 naming rights sponsor Rare Spares is back on board for this year's massive event.

The business, which specialises in restoration products for Australian made classic cars are incredibly keen to be back supporting this amazing weekend.

It all started when Rare Spares retail operations manager and national sales manager Joe Xuereb took a trip out to Red Centre NATS and had a chance encounter with former mayor Margaret Strelow.

From there a conversation bloomed about the inaugural Rockynats which was set for 2020.

However due to uncertainty around the Covid pandemic that event was postponed until 2021, and Rare Spares were still extremely keen to be involved.

"She was so positive about it. I was on the board at the time and I made a report about Red Centre Nats and then Rockynats came up," said Mr Xuereb.

"Lance and I came up here and thought it

was a good fit.

"We thought it was going to be a good platform for us.

"We then got involved and apart from the weather and a few hiccups with freight companies it was great.

"It gave us an opportunity to talk to our core customer base and lets them put a face to the guys who are running the company."

"For us the demographics are fantastic and I have to say it's such a laid back atmosphere here that it is great for us."

Rare Spares general manager Lance Corby said there was no doubt in their minds that they would be back this year.

"One of the reasons that we're back here today is because whenever we go and partner with an event, whether that be Summernats, we've been with for 31 years and other events, Rockynats was another natural one we had to be involved in," he said.

"But we go in with a long term view, we never go in and see what it's like one year and then decide.

"We were committed this year and we are committed to future years as well.

"It was a good event for us last year, as Joe said there were a few things that weren't quite right but it was the first event per the team here in Rocky.

"We think they did a fantastic job from what they did. They would have learnt a lot and we learnt a lot too."

Mr Xuereb added to Mr Corby's thoughts, believing this year will be even greater than the inaugural event.

"Rockhampton Regional Council has relied on a lot of feedback from us and we got a lot of feedback from last year's patrons.

"There were minor things that were negatives but the conversations that we've had, the council has really been addressing those and put an emphasis on things like spectator viewing points.

"I'd like to see some better weather haha! I think the crowd will increase from last year.

"The word is out amongst other people not just in Queensland, last year it was like a Queensland-centralised event but after the first one, there was very good feedback.

"We will get a mixture of states this year. Last year we had the Covid lockdown and peo-

ple couldn't get out of Brisbane till Thursday.

"If we end up with a better weekend weather-wise you'll find it'll be even more successful."

Rare Spares is undoubtedly the biggest car restoration company in Australia, especially in terms of Holdens and Fords, with team members as passionate as their loyal customers.

Generally, most of their staff are car enthusiasts and know what they're talking about when it comes to their client's pride and joy.

Without the work that Rare Spares does, some projects might never turn out as well as they currently do.

From a restoration standpoint, the company has over 10,000 part numbers in their range and even their smallest store has 4,800 individual parts on display in the front of house.

The team is currently working on roughly 300 projects, from small to large, which can take months or even years to complete.

"We don't rely on what we've got, we're always looking ahead," said Joe Xuereb.

"People really appreciate what we do.

"The key to what we do is introducing new products to the marketplace."



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Ben Barnes is ready to put on another show this year.



Ben Barnes enjoyed all that Rockynats had to offer.

Ben Barnes bringing joy

By Liam Emerton

Sliding around a circuit and drifting into corners isn't everyone's cup of tea but for Ben Barnes it's a life passion.

A Rockhampton local, Barnes cruised the streets of our city one day hoping that he'd have his chance to shine on a big stage.

Barnes started getting into the sport when watching it on the internet and his passion only grew from there.

Barnes' father was very supportive and helped by buying a SS Ute, which he still has today, for Barnes which was the catalyst for his love of drifting.

But never did he imagine that he would be drifting in his hometown in front of over 40,000 onlookers.

Especially not in a car park adjacent to the stunning Fitzroy River.

But that's exactly what took place at the inaugural Rare Spares Rockynats and, despite the rain slowing him down just a touch, it was one of his favourite experiences ever.

"This first year was really good fun. All of us boys had a really good time showing off drifting as a sport," said Barnes.

"For people who haven't witnessed it or seen it in person before it was a good honour to be able to demonstrate the sport to everyone.

"Everything was good, even though it was the first event.

"We have a good team this year so it'll be good to get out there and please the crowd again."

Even though Barnes has been involved in drifting for a number of years, the experience



Ben Barnes sliding around the track.

of Rockynats was certainly unique.

"Rockynats was different for me at first because it was classed as a demonstration," he said.

"We did a set course and managed tire-wear, managed the cars, so make sure they weren't getting too hot and pace yourself in that aspect.

"It was very constant and very full on the whole weekend so it was good.

"It was different to what I'm used to be-

cause normally it's a free-for-all and you can go whenever you want.

"You get to the track and pay your money and have a good time with your mates.

"It was certainly different but it was very fun at the same time."

Hopefully this year will see some better weather for our drifters, who mainly had to deal with a constantly slick track due to the rain on the course.

That did impede the drifting team in areas

and somewhat took away from the spectacle of it all.

But Barnes is confident that the squad is going to shine no matter what mother nature throws at them.

"After we were laying rubber down all day Saturday it made the course a lot more slippery," he said.

"With drifting you can work your way around that kind of stuff.

"It's the art of balancing the vehicle while it's in a state of loss of control but still under control.

"You just had to be more careful with the vehicle and it was a lot slower around the track.

"But you learn as a driver to drive around these things."

As a local Barnes has found himself counting down the days for Rockynats 02 and said drifting around his home is something he wants to continue to be a part of.

"It was good fun and it was good to be able to do it in front of my hometown with all my mates as well," he said.

"It was a big honour and I feel very thankful and grateful to be asked back to drive with some high-quality drivers from across the country.

"We've got boys coming up from Melbourne, Sydney and the Gold Coast, so it's pretty good.

"Last year obviously Covid made it difficult for a lot of the drivers so unfortunately a lot of them couldn't go.

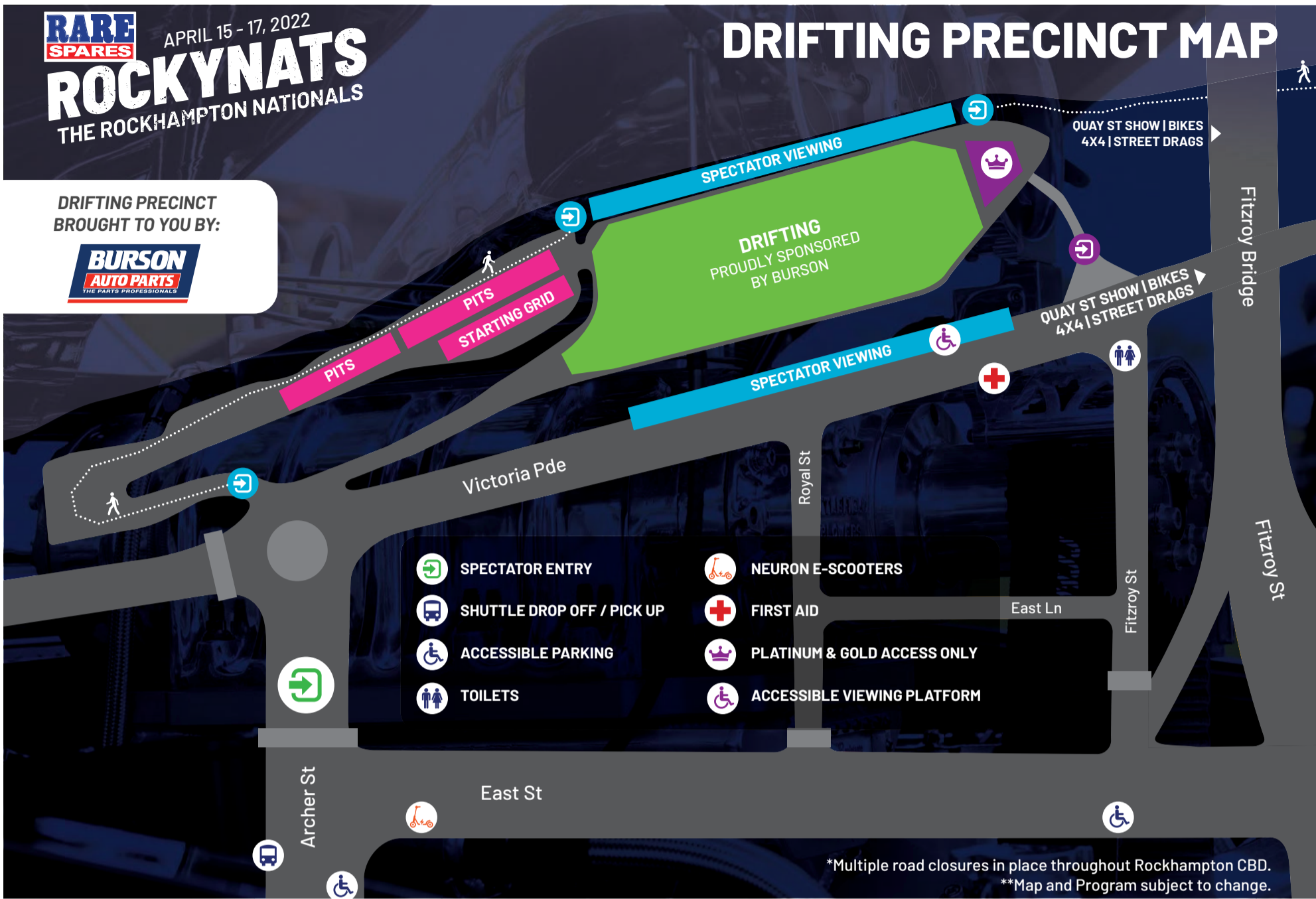
"But this year we have got many, many, many more drivers expected to be here.

"I couldn't tell you the exact figure but it's definitely going to be more than last year."

RARE SPARES APRIL 15 - 17, 2022
ROCKYNATS
 THE ROCKHAMPTON NATIONALS

DRIFTING PRECINCT MAP

DRIFTING PRECINCT
 BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



Buddy ready for huge event

By Liam Emerton

Without committed and ready fire crews there cannot be any burnouts and once again thanks to Buddy's Fire we will have just that.

The team has come on board to support Rockynats 02 after a very successful inaugural event.

For owner Michael 'Buddy' Hearn, it's all about safety and he's been able to add even more people to the roster this year.

"We sponsored it last year and we're on again this year, it's just in our blood," he said.

"We sponsor the burnouts but we are there for the whole Rockynats like the drifting, the street parade and everything.

"We had a couple of real bad fires last year. But no one got hurt and that's the main thing.

"We had 35 people over at the burnouts last



The Rockynats fire crew, sponsored by Buddy's Fire were crucial to last year's success.

year but we've got another 10 going over this year. So we've got 40 people in Buddy's fire-proof outfits to make sure we don't have any

issues at all. We're there from the start, and we have fire gear over at our shop as soon as the cars start getting here."

Away from the fires and their products, Buddy said the event was great last year and it showcases the very best of Rockhampton.

"I've been involved with cars ever since I was 15 and I won two Speed Machine of the year titles," he said.

"I've been to nearly every car show in Australia and I do a lot of judging at car shows.

"It's the best thing out. This year's numbers will be great.

"We're the second-biggest car event, behind Summernats, and this is only our second year. That's saying something for sure.

"My family loves it, my wife loves it and my kids love it. They'll bring their family along because they've been involved with cars for as long as I've been. I just love it and if I can get on board next year I'll be doing it again."

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1 TUF HG will be ready to smoke the competition this year.

Champion wants 02 title

By Liam Emerton

Last year's burnout champion is back and he's ready to burn rubber for the massive crowd once again.

Warren Gersewski took out last year's title and he's ready to reclaim it but he faces stiff competition once again.

The Burnout precinct was arguably the most popular of all the events at the inaugural Rockynats, so at the Rare Spares Rockynats 02 there's even more pressure to perform.

With the high quality shown by all competitors there's no doubt there's going to be a target on Gersewski's back but he isn't worried.

"It's going to be good, it was a bloody awesome weekend last year," he said.

"Every event there was on the streets of a public bit of bitumen so it was a really big drawcard.

"I'll definitely be back, don't you worry about that.

"There's going to be a heap more competitors there this year especially with the borders being open.

"Everyone is heading there this year so it'll be good to have even more competition there this year."



The winner's trophy from last year.

Gersewski, who is from Toowoomba has been racing for over three decades but his love of burnouts truly began at the original prime racing event.

"We've been circuit racing and running events at The Downs here in Toowoomba for thirty years," said Gersewski.

"Around 12 or 13 years ago, I made the trip down to Summernats, just as a spectator.

"Twelve months later we built the ute, my 1 TUF HG, and then we entered the following year and haven't missed one since.

"You get to travel around Australia and you meet some awesome people from all across the country which is good.

"And you get to see the world as well while competing at the events."

A veteran of all the 'nats' events, Gersewski said he was really impressed by the inaugural year of Rockynats.

"It's unique on its own because the event like I said, is on a car park and boat ramp," he said.

"There's no other event that does it on a bit of road.

"Rockynats, every event is on the streets, so it's a uniqueness of that event which is great.

"All the drags on the street in front of a pub, how good is that!"

Giving Rockynats News some tips on what it is like to be in the car during an incredible burnout, Gersewski said it's 50/50 skill and

luck rolled into one.

"You go into your tip-ins and you have a rough idea of where you are," he said.

"Don't get me wrong there's a lot of guesswork and a lot of risks taken.

"As the sport is evolving it's not just a static burnout, it's moving all the time and moving fast.

"You have to move around the pad at high speed so there is a lot of risks taken.

"The guys are putting \$100,000-plus cars on the line to put on a show and win the comp.

Nighttime is good, you use lights as a reference point. But during the day you've got the grandstand but there's certainly a lot of guesswork."

Even though Gersewski said there's a lot of guesswork going into a strong burnout, there is plenty of pre-planning beforehand.

That includes things like the weather and which was the smoke is travelling, with watching and learning from people before you key to your own success.

And the best feeling in the world for Gersewski is hearing that crowd cheer when he's in the middle of the smoke and skidding his tires for their entertainment.



Barry O'Rourke MP
Member for Rockhampton

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BURNOUTS PRECINCT MAP

LEGEND:

- SPECTATOR AREAS
- SPECTATOR ENTRY
- SHUTTLE DROP OFF / PICK UP
- PLATINUM & GOLD ACCESS ONLY
- ACCESSIBLE VIEWING PLATFORM
- FOOD & BAR
- OFFICIAL EVENT MERCH
- FIRST AID
- ACCESSIBLE PARKING
- TOILETS
- FREE WATER TAXI
- NEURON E-SCOOTERS

*Multiple road closures in place throughout Rockhampton CBD.
 **Map and Program subject to change.

BURNOUTS PRECINCT BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
BUDDY'S FIRE

Entering the ring of fire

By Liam Emerton

Ryan 'Bubba' Lofts became a sensation in CQ Today when his car 'Or What' was captured on fire at the inaugural Rare Spares Rockynats.

CQ Today's photographer was up in the grand stand when Bubba's car caught fire in a seriously scary scene at the burnout precinct.

The photo tells an incredible story of when Bubba and his passenger realise what is occurring in a blink of an eye.

The moment also showcased the great work of the Buddy's Fire crew who were able to extinguish the blaze quickly and effectively.

That meant Bubba only ended up with a small burn to his arm, with even the car only sustaining very minor exterior damage.

Rockynats News caught up with Bubba prior to the Rare Spares Rockynats 02, to talk about that wild experience.

"All I thought was Holy S*** I'm on fire," he said.

"I shut off the car straight away. It was also my first ever proper fire.

"[The experience besides the fire] was awesome and it was something different.

"It didn't take us two days to get there, which is always great."

Bubba will be back this year after he said that it was a great event that was planned out well.

"I'm just trying to finish a skid without a fire this year," Bubba said chuckling.

"The pad was pretty grippy but as the weekend went on it got better.

"But the event had a good layout I reckon.

"My car's in the paint shop right now so it'll be brand new ready for it."



The scary scenes from last year's Rockynats involving Bubba and Or What.

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Page's champion chapter

By Liam Emerton

Shane Page was the inaugural winner of the Pro Drags competition in 2021 and this year he will be at the Rare Spares Rockynats 02 to defend his title.

Although he would be keen on keeping the title as Rockynats' best pro drag driver, there's just hope everyone competing can get through the entire comp this year.

The first-ever Rockynats' drag competition was cut short last year due to the wet weather but this year there's hope it will be all sunshine for those driving down the eighth of a mile strip.

Page said he is eager to get out in front of the Heritage Hotel and take on an extended field.

"I've had a lot of people hit me up and want to take me out this year so I've had to do some upgrades and get some more traction to the ground so hopefully take out number two," he said.

"When you're in the car you're not really noticing too much around you but obviously when you're there and watching other people and people are on the balcony cheering you on, it's actually quite good.

"It was good, it was a pretty big success for their first time."

With the bonus of no potential covid lockdown, and people being more alert to the prizes on offer, Page said that this year will be a lot stronger in terms of competition.

"A lot of people didn't realise the prize money they gave. I had a \$5000 voucher and \$500 cash," he said.



At Rockynats 02 we welcome back the champion.

"Once they knew about that they all thought, wow, I'm into it next year. It's educated a lot of people to come and give it a go this

year. It'll be interesting this year, that's for sure.

"I've had one of the guys who came second, Luke, he's done a fair bit of work to his car and

I've done the same to mine.

"We went down to a local track and I beat him in the end so he turned around and said it was time to get back to the drawing board.

"So I don't know what he's going to do now but he's gotta come up with something else to try and get me this year."

Touching on the preparation for Rockynats 02, Page said there was a lot of time and effort put into making sure everything runs smoothly.

"With the car, there are a few things you look at," he said.

"With off-street drags there's no prep so you have to sort out tire pressure and shock adjustments to make it work its best on the street.

"But there's a lot of things you have to play with. Cars that don't have that adjustment and just running standard get hurt a little bit with trying to get traction down.

"There's always a bit of everything, making sure suspensions right, pressures right, making sure you have tread and then sending it down the track.

Page has always been into all things with a motor since he was a kid, starting with motorbike racing when he was young. He then gave that up after seven years and began racing four-wheel-drives for seven years.

And then after one thing led to another his love for tough cars grew and now he's poured the most expenses into his current car.

And that's proved to be fruitful for Page, who this year will be keen to regain his trophy as best pro drag racer at the Rare Spares Rockynats 02.

Days behind the scenes all worth it

By Liam Emerton

Melissa Mackay and her team work so incredibly hard for the Rare Spares Rockynats to be amazing that without them it might have never been the same.

From preparing the track to making sure everything is sailing smoothly, there aren't a bit of the drags that Mackay and the team doesn't influence.

Around 15 people will be behind the scenes, working hard to make sure the drags run properly but beforehand at least 30 people will be involved in the prep work.

All of that work clearly doesn't happen overnight so preparation is key to making the event as good as it was in the inaugural Rockynats.

"I'm hoping it doesn't get cut short like last year due to the rain," said Mackay.

"Everyone enjoyed it, I didn't expect so many people to turn up but now there's even more viewing for people.

"It was just massive last year, the drags and everything else of course.

"We were lucky last year because we



What a view our drag crew has.

didn't have any mishaps on the tracks, which was really good."

Within those people behind the scenes there's no doubt that there are plenty of women who work hard to make sure the drags are as close to perfect as possible.

"I think a lot of people underestimate the women but they're the ones who really pay attention to the details," said Mackay.

"A lot of us are drivers ourselves. If you have someone who knows all about drags it makes everything a lot easier.

"All the girls who work with us have all been in the drags scene for at least 30 years so they're all well-known drag people."

The influence of women in the sport is on display during the weekend as well.

Mackay is the starter, Kylie Smith is the



Back: Noel Smith, Kylie Smith, Toni Cowan, Stan Smith. middle Russell Mackay, Carol Smith and front Melissa Mackay.

person who brings all the cars up into line against each other while others help keep them in a line down the street.

"I really like [being the race starter], it's good fun," said Mackay.

"You can only hold cars so long before they start cracking up at you.

"You've got a front-row seat and you can see everything going on so it's really good."

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ROCKYNATS
THE ROCKHAMPTON NATIONALS

STREET DRAGS PRECINCT MAP

STREET DRAGS PRECINCT
BROUGHT TO YOU BY:Garrett
ADVANCING MOTION

The Core of drag success

By Liam Emerton

The street drags section of last year's Rare Spares Rockynats were incredibly entertaining and the champ is coming back for his crown.

Jye Core took out the section last year and he's ready to repeat that feat come the Rare Spares Rockynats 02.

"The car's all good to go so we're coming back to have a crack at it for sure," he said.

"It was the first time for me, the street racing event, and it was different.

"Trying to control it, get it out of the ground and get it all happening was great.

"I reckon it was a massive success."

Speaking on the experience of dragging down the main street in front of thousands of people, Core said it was a surreal experience.

"It was a funny feeling watching all the

buildings fly past," he said.

"And especially going next to the river, it's such a good spot.

"It was excellent and an awesome experience.

"We had no idea and we weren't chasing [first place].

"We knew we were going okay but it was a shock when we won it.

"We haven't done much to the car."

Overall, Core said the whole event was really well put together, particularly the street parade.

"I really enjoyed that street cruise atmosphere, that was unreal," he said.

"The different parts of the events in different areas of town were really cool because we were just cruising in the car everywhere.

"And then all we did was drop the tire pres-



Jye Core will be back into the action this weekend.

sure down, get the helmet on and we were racing again."

There will be added competition for Core

this year with more people heading into Rockhampton without a Covid lockdown affecting proceedings in 2022.

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Elite: Her LX is special

By Liam Emerton

All you need to know is that it's HER LX.

Judith Menso's first car is unlike many others, and the love she has poured into it is second to none.

That's because Menso's 1977 Holden LX Torana has been restored into a beautiful purple beast.

Menso and her husband Rodney were able to unveil the LX at the first Rare Spares Rockynats and they'll be back to display it at the Rare Spares Rockynats 02.

But it wasn't always the way it is now, Menso told Rockynats News that the Torana found itself almost unrecognisable.

"This year, in 2022, I've had it for 30 years and it was my first car," she said.

"It was a blue four-cylinder opal. It was bought for me by my parents, they gave us a couple of thousand to buy our first car.

"It was a little bit more so I had to pay the difference and then it was my car and I could put a V8 in it.

"Over the 30 years, it stopped being my daily drive and after sitting shed for a fair while it got into a state of disrepair.

"But someone was talking about Torana-fest and so we started working on it and we had grand plans of taking it to Summer-nats and getting it in the top 60 elite section.

"Since January, after we unveiled it at Rockynats 01, we got into the top 60 elite which was our ambition. And we actually ended up in the top ten and won the top two-door section."

Despite their amazing success at Summer-nats Menso is looking forward to getting back up to Rockynats and enjoying our own signature atmosphere.

"Rocky is a great spot for the Easter long weekend," she said.

"We're really looking forward to it this year, hopefully it just doesn't rain as much."



HER LX was unveiled in front of the Rockynats crowd in the first year.

The purple colour was a head-turner for Menso when she first saw it and after a discussion with Rodney, she knew it was going to look good on the Torana.

"I love purple, not going to have everything

in my life purple though," Menso said laughing.

"As soon as that colour came out I just turned my head every time I saw it, so I just loved that colour.

"And the interior, I had a picture in my head

but I just couldn't find the perfect colour.

"But we actually found it in furniture leather rather than an auto upholstery.

"So it's a bit thicker than normal but we love the overall effect of it."

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APRIL 15 - 17, 2022

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SHOWGROUNDS PRECINCT MAP

-  SPECTATOR ENTRY
-  ACCESSIBLE PARKING
-  INFORMATION
-  SHUTTLE DROP OFF / PICK UP
-  ACCREDITED VEHICLE ENTRY/EXIT
-  FOOD & BAR
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CHECKING INTO PRECINCTS

The Check-in QLD app will be used for contact tracing at Rare Spares Rockynats 02. All attendees will be required to check-in at each event precinct. This can be done by scanning the QR Code at each entry gate.



COVID SAFE MESSAGES

COVID Safe messages may be delivered before, during and after events. Listen out for information and follow the directions.



MAINTAIN 1.5M PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Help reduce the risk of COVID-19 infection by keeping your distance from other people where possible and avoiding close contact with people you do not live with.



PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE

Wash your hands frequently and thoroughly (at least 20 seconds). Hand sanitiser is available at all venues and we encourage its use.



STAY HOME IF UNWELL

Please stay home if you are unwell, have a cough, fever, sore throat, fatigue, shortness of breath or any other flu-like symptoms.



FEELING UNWELL AT THE EVENT

If you become unwell during the event, notify event staff or first aid.



RIGHT TO REFUSE

Businesses have the right to refuse service and must insist that anyone displaying COVID-19 symptoms leaves the venue.



COVID SAFE SIGNAGE

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CROWDS

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**Subject to change.*

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From left to Right: Gavin Randall, Brian Blokker, Mark O'Connor

Can't wait for the RockyNats!

With over 20 years of experience, Brian Blokker is passionate about servicing the Central Queensland community.

Brian is the current owner of Bill Blokker Spraypainting, inheriting the business from his father Bill, the original owner in 2019.

From spraypainting, rust repairs, custom paint jobs, and car restorations, Bill Blokker Sprayingpainting enjoys working with all things automotive.

"My dad was working at another shop doing this work before running his own business," Brian said.

"In 1999, he moved to this current location, and we have been here ever since.

"He was passionate about wanting to start his own business and provide quality service, which is something that I have always valued as well.

The Business name means a lot to me, Everyone knew my father and this is what he started, so i'll be continuing it on for him. People even call me Bill, i used to correct them but not anymore.

Brian has been involved in the business since high school helping out when he can before joining full-time in 2001.

Currently, Brian works with two other employees but is always looking out for people interested in the career.

As a lover of cars, Brian enjoyed seeing RockyNats and the creativity of workmanship.

"Overall, my favorite Event was the 'Street Drags'

Over the years I have had the pleasure to have restored lots of Holdens and Fords. XY GT mock

ups, 2 door Monaros, SLR 5000 mock ups, HQ sedans and utes, VL Commodores and plenty more other types of cars.

Its one of the jobs where not many people see where all the hours of hard work goes into but the final result speaks for itself.

Growing up and seeing Summernats on TV, wishing one day i could get there was a dream. Now its actually here in our home town and i never thought that would happen. Hearing all the cars drive around on the street parade is just an eye opener and how many car enthusiasts are around.

This business has always been my dads passion and I'm continuing on this business in memory for him

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Noel Smith on hand at the first-ever Rockynats.

Smudge prepped for 02

By Liam Emerton

Lead scrutineer Noel 'smudge' Smith was named as the officials' official last year but he is solely focused on his job.

Smith's job is all about making sure that everything runs safely and smoothly when they're out on the track.

And that includes the Street Parade which will see nearly all the Rare Spares Rockynats competitors travel through the streets of Rockhampton.

With so many cars and bikes to check there's no doubt that Smith has all his work cut out for him and his team.

"Scrutineering is all about safety for each car," said Smith.

"Every car that's entered has to be scrutineered. I think we did about 1200 last year.

"From tires, steering wheels to brakes, just to give the cars a complete look-over.

"We have a list that I write out for each scrutineering person that we have and last year we had about 20 scrutineers."

Without the scrutineering checks, there would be no possibility of Rockynats and that's a certain fact.

For Smith it's undoubtedly the most important aspect of Rockynats, to keep drivers and entrants safe.

And even if people were told they had to purchase new equipment people remained in high spirits and took care of the issues at hand.

"You've got to do it, it's a must," Smith said.

"Ninety per cent of people are trustworthy but you just can't take their word for it, you have to check.

"Right down to the date of the helmets. Helmets that they're wearing for the drags can't be older than 10 years old.

"The standards of the helmet have to be of a

high standard too.

"A few of them had helmets that had been in the chook shed.

"They had to go and buy a couple of new helmets.

"A few people hadn't checked the dates of their fire extinguishers for their burnout cars but Buddy's Fire had some there that they could buy."

Speaking on last year's scrutineering process, Smith said the structure will remain the same but there's hope that it will be a much smoother ride this year.

Last year a Covid lockdown in Brisbane meant there was a mad dash on Friday to get everything ticked off before the amazing Street Parade which took over Rockhampton.

That's where Smith and his team had to step in to complete the crucial safety checks before that deadline on Friday.

"There's a fair bit in it but for me, it comes easy because I've been doing it for so many years," said Smith.

"For some of the people that are helping us they haven't done it before so I help train them up a bit but it doesn't take long for them to grasp on to it.

"Covid bugged us last year because nobody could get out of Brisbane until Thursday afternoon or Thursday night.

"We had people who drove all night.

"We had scrutineering Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 7 o'clock in the morning till 9 at night.

"But for all the cars that came from Brisbane we had 250 cars on Friday morning.

"We got there around 6 in the morning just to get them through so they could go on the cruise. Nothing will change this year, there were no dramas or hassles last year."



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CBD PRECINCT MAP

DINE-IN AND TAKEAWAY FOOD VENUES ARE OPEN THROUGHOUT THE CBD. CHECK THE APP FOR LOCATIONS AND OPENING TIMES.

STREET DRAGS PRECINCT BROUGHT TO YOU BY: **Garrett**

DRIFTING PRECINCT BROUGHT TO YOU BY: **BURSON AUTO PARTS**

BIKE PRECINCT BROUGHT TO YOU BY: **Bob's BULK BOOZE**

4x4 DISPLAY BROUGHT TO YOU BY: **SWL Racing**

*Multiple road closures in place throughout Rockhampton CBD.
 **Map and Program subject to change.

The SICKEST street parade

By Liam Emerton

Disappointingly missing out on last year's Street Parade, Billy Shelton and Paul Butler are ready to enjoy the complete show at the Rare Spares Rockynats 02.

Shelton and Butler have been toiling hard on 'SICKEST' VL Commodore which was unveiled at the first-ever Rockynats last year.

But they're just excited to be rolling it through the street this year in the cruise around Rockhampton after everyone told them how wonderful it was.

The pair were unable to get up to Rockhampton in time for the Friday event last year because of the Covid lockdown which was



On display last year - Sickest will be cruising the street this year.

lifted on Thursday.

But this year the duo, who were working on SICKEST when Rockynats caught up with them, are giddy that they get to experience

the full show.

"We're really looking forward to doing the cruise this year," said Butler.

"Unveiled cars obviously don't do the

cruise at the start of the weekend. So we missed out on that but we will 100 per cent be doing this year. Everyone was telling us how good it was so we're dirty that we missed out.

"It's a really good community that we know who all own cars and they all came back and said it was the best cruise that we've ever done.

"I think that's the special part of this show, when you can do a cruise and the people get behind it it makes it so much better."

There are also big plans for SICKEST this year with the pair looking to be named grand champions at the Rare Spares Rockynats 02.

You can read Shelton's story including his beautiful custom Softail bike on page 25

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PARKING & TRANSPORT

*Subject to change.

Please refer to the precinct maps for exact locations.

FREE SHUTTLE BUSES

Event shuttle buses will be in operation to transport patrons between Precincts. Patrons must present their Rockynats wristband for access to this free service. Buses will run between the following locations:

- McDonald's Showgrounds Precinct (Gate 10 - New Exhibition Road)
- Burson Drifting Precinct (Cnr. Archer & East Sts)
- Buddy's Fire Burnout Precinct (end of Reaney St)
- NAB Bank Bus Stop (Cnr. Fitzroy & East Sts)
- Bob's Bulk Booze Bike Precinct (Cnr. Alma & William Sts) - *excluding Friday*

Shuttles run every 15 minutes between these times:

- Friday 2pm - 7.30pm
- Saturday 9am - 10.30pm
- Sunday 10am - 6.30pm



TIP! Look out for the giant wavy man at each Shuttle Stop.

TAXI

Temporary taxi ranks have been created at each event precinct near the Shuttle Bus stops for pick up and drop off.

Pre-book with our Event Partner *Black & White Cabs* by calling 133 222 or download the *Black & White Cabs Australia* app.

FREE WATER TAXI

A free water taxi will operate between the SWL Racing 4x4 Display / Garrett Motion Street Drags Precinct and the Buddy's Fire Burnout Precinct. This water taxi will run continuously during high tide 10am - 3pm.

NEURON SCOOTERS

The bright orange Neuron E-Scooters will make travel between Rare Spares Rockynats 02 Precincts a breeze!

How much does it cost?

Riders will be able to book and use the e-scooters through Neuron's app, which can be downloaded from the App Store or Google Play and set up in a matter of minutes. Single trips will cost \$1 to unlock the e-scooter and 45 cents per minute thereafter. Daily and 3-day e-scooter passes are also available in the Neuron app.

E-Scooters can't be used within the event precincts.

ACCESSIBLE PARKING

There are a number of accessible parking spots available at all precincts. Patrons must clearly display a current Government issued Disability Parking Permit to access these parking spots. Accessible parks will be monitored and enforced by Council's Local Laws Department.

PRECINCT	LOCATION	OPERATIONAL
Burson Drifting Precinct	Cnr. Archer & East Sts	Sat & Sun
CBD Precinct	East Street (near World Gym)	Sat & Sun
Bob's Bulk Booze Bike Precinct	Cnr. William & Alma Sts	Sat & Sun
Buddy's Fire Burnout Precinct	Jockey Club Car Park	Fri - Sun
McDonald's Showgrounds Precinct	New Exhibition Road & Exhibition Road	Fri - Sun

SPECTATOR PARKING

- Buddy's Fire Burnout Precinct | Gold Coin donation parking at Rockhampton Cricket Grounds (on Goodsall St access via Lakes Creek Rd)
- McDonald's Showgrounds Precinct | Free on-street parking
- CBD Precinct | Free on-street parking

Illegal parking, or parking causing an impediment for a local resident to access their home or business will be monitored and will result in a fine or the vehicle being towed (at owners expense).

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KEY INFORMATION



OFFICIAL MERCH

Get your official Rare Spares Rockynats 02 merch at Burnouts, CBD and Showgrounds Precincts before it sells out!



EVENT WRISTBAND

Your e-ticket will be redeemed at the event for a wristband that will be used to gain entry and re-entry for the days that your e-ticket covers. You will void your entry if your wristband is removed or broken.



CBD BUSINESS OPENING HOURS

A number of businesses located in the CBD Precinct will be open over the Easter Weekend. Visit www.rockynats.com.au/CBD or check the event app for details.



ACCESSIBLE ACCESS

Parking - There are a number of accessible parking spots available at all precincts. Please check the event app or maps located in this publication for the locations.

Viewing Platforms - Accessible platforms are located at Burnouts, Drifting and Street Drags. If you require assistance accessing these platforms please approach Event Staff, Volunteers or Security. Check the maps for locations.



EXPLORING ROCKHAMPTON

We'd love to see your experiences when visiting Rockhampton, so be sure to share your stories, photos and videos of your time with us by using the hashtag **#explorerockhampton**

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OFF-TRACK ENTERTAINMENT

We've got a jam-packed event program with something to suit everyone! Check out some of our off-track entertainment below and be sure to view the full schedule and event details at our website or on the 'Rockhampton Events' Rockynats app.



MISS ROCKABILLY NATS PINUP COMPETITION

FRI 2.30PM - 3.30PM
McDonald's Showgrounds Precinct

Support entrants of all shapes, sizes and walks of life to show off their individuality, personality and rockabilly style.



REV IT UP RACING

FRI - SUN
McDonald's Showgrounds Precinct

Kids can step inside a virtual race car or have a go at the Pit Stop Challenge!



PRO-WRESTLING SHOWS

SAT 12PM, 2PM, 4PM
SUN 12PM, 2PM
McDonald's Showgrounds Precinct

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REDBACK INK TATTOO COMPETITION

SAT 4.30PM - 6.30PM
McDonald's Showgrounds Precinct

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SAT 6.45PM - 9.30PM
McDonald's Showgrounds Precinct

See you there for a fun-filled ride back in time to experience classic rock 'n' roll at its best!



SWL RACING 4x4 DISPLAY

SAT & SUN 9AM - 6PM
CBD Precinct below Street Drags

Come down and say "Hi!" to Sam Eyles from Built not Bought and Dave Casey from SWL Racing.



CARS, COFFEE & CRUISING

SAT & SUN 10AM - 2PM
CBD Precinct

Check out the CBD Cruise Route in East Street with entrants cruising the route all day. *Café trading hours vary.



MULLETFEST

SAT 9AM - 11AM | ADULTS
McDonald's Showgrounds Precinct
SUN 10AM - 11AM & 1PM - 2PM | KIDS
Buddy's Fire Burnout Precinct

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CHECK OUT THE PROGRAM IN THE EVENT APP



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The app allows you to see the full program of events and mark your favourites so you will get notifications straight to your pocket when events are about to start.

To download, go to the app store and search "Rockhampton Events" and select [Rockynats](#).





Explore ROCKHAMPTON

Rare Spares Rockynats 02 may be the biggest horsepower party of the year, but if you take the time to explore Rockhampton over the weekend, you'll find there's a lot more on offer.

But where do you start?

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Jelfs' bike is beautiful

By Liam Emerton

Casey Jelfs is possibly the most passionate bike owner as many we've come across in the Rockynats scene.

His gorgeous Soft Tails Slim S was one of the top elite entrants in the inaugural Rare Spares Rockynats and it'll be making its triumphant return this year.

The work, pride, love and passion that Jelfs has put into his stunning bike wowed everyone who entered the elite pavilion in 2020.

And when talking to Jelfs you can hear it in his voice how much the event and being able to display his gorgeous project meant to him.

"Last year was a bit of a blast and having my bike completed for the show and being picked to be in the elite hall was a pretty big achievement on its own," said Jelfs

"And then obviously getting to see some people and talk to people about the bike was great.

"Now number two is coming up and getting selected to be back in it again is really good.

"There's good people and a good atmosphere.

"Getting my bike licence to get into the bike scene to go on cruises and charity runs, giving back to people, it's all been great.

"[The best thing is] the family that comes along with that community and now building a custom Harley and being able to show like-minded people, that's just good to have that culture.

"I get to talk to the older people and younger people which is awesome."

Touching on his bike in particular, Jelfs revealed that he wasn't the biggest lover of the stock-standard chrome that is usually displayed within a bike build.

Instead he let his creative freedom take over and with the help of a few friends, he was able to take his design to the dark side.



Casey Jelfs' bike on display at Rockynats.

"I've always had a love for those low-rider mexican chicano style bikes as well as their cars," said Jelfs

"I haven't always been a massive fan of chrome so I spoke to one of my buddies who's a bike builder, Tom Hernandes, and we worked out on the Soft Tail Slim S which is predominantly black motor and black parts.

"We used that as our foundation and he fabricated all of my fenders and got them all sloping as well as beautiful line works.

"We worked in collaboration with Nathan from Living Loco garage and he did a killer body paint job on it.

"It's something that I've always wanted, it took a few years and a lot of time but we got to where we wanted."

And he's not close to done with the design. Jelfs is constantly talking about new additions to make his ride even more unique.

"After Rockynats and seeing some of the other bikes I put some feelers out there with

some other people," he said.

"There's another gentleman named Matty down in Wollongong who does engraving.

"So I've now stripped the bike down again and sent a whole bunch of parts away to get engraved and add some copper coating.

"They're coming up soon to be reassembled so hopefully I make it in time for Rockynats."

You will be able to catch Jelfs beauty in the Elite hall of the showgrounds precinct where it will be on display again this year.

TAKE THE LEAD



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Billy is bringing double

By Liam Emerton

Billy Shelton loves his cars and bikes so much that he's bringing two entries to Rare Spares Rockynats 02 this year.

Shelton owns a Candy Apple full airbrushed 2006 Harley Davidson Custom Softail that ran in second in last year's elite bike section.

It was a successful year in 2020 for his Harley when Shelton took out the Red CentreNats with the same bike.

And this year Shelton and his team are coming for the top spot in the elite bikes and are hoping to take out the overall grand champion with the car 'SICKEST'.

Rockynats News caught up with Shelton before his big weekend here in Rockhampton and asked him what it was like to have so much praise for something he has put so much work into.

"It's unreal, that's the whole reason you do it," he said.

"The people who did the bike up for me, Andrew McConnell built the bike and Mick airbrushed the bike.

"So it's good mostly for them to be honest, to show off what they've done for it.

"The bike's actually 16 years old but we've added a custom Softail, stretched and raked the frame.

"We put upside-down forks, 250 rear ends, we made the bars, we made the swingarm so pretty much everything is fully custom."

While he has a good focus on the bikes, Shelton has a desire to also be the best of the best at Rare Spares Rockynats 02.

"Paul Butler built the car for me, we had a great year last year," he said.

"We've got the car coming up and the bike as well so we're going to go for grand champion.

"It was unveiled last year so we couldn't see



Billy Shelton's candy apple airbrushed Harley Davidson Custom Softail.

it but we want to drive the wheels off it this year and do a fair bit of cruising.

"[Rockynats] is going to be unreal this year.

It was off the Richter Scale last year so I can only imagine what this year is going to be like."

Look out for both Shelton's car and bike in

Rockhampton this weekend and keep up to date with the results to see if he can score that grand champion accolade.

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Corvette hits the streets

By Liam Emerton

When we talk about gorgeous cars being at Rare Spares Rockynats 02, look no further than the brand new Corvette C8 Stingray being showcased by Lawrence's GMSV.

The beast can go from 0 to 96km/h in 2.9 seconds but you'll have a chance to see it up close and personal.

The V8, 6.2 litre Corvette will feature in the Street Parade on Good Friday before heading to the McDonalds Showgrounds precinct.

Dealer Principal at Lawrence's GMSV Trent Dunn said it's an exciting car to display at Rare Spares Rockynats 02.

"General Motors Specialty Vehicles are now the official suppliers of Corvette to Australia," he said.

"The C8 Corvette now in the mid-engine style that it is, is the first factory right-hand drive Corvette in history.

"It's the first time a Corvette has been available through a dealer in Australia without having to import the vehicle.

"It certainly gives us the opportunity to showcase the vehicle to the crowds.

"We're only getting four per year and we already have years of pre-orders out at this stage.

"Considering the price-point of them it certainly [has been popular].

"It's a car that certainly turns some heads and it has the power to match the looks.

Touching on Rare Spares Rockynats 02, Trent said they're looking forward to the street parade in particular.

"It's a great event and we've supported Rockynats since its inception," he said.

"It certainly brings some quality cars to town and it also brings a great buzz to the town around the event.



The team at Lawrence's GMSV are bringing this beautiful Corvette to the Rare Spares Rockynats.

"The main event that we're looking forward to is the street parade on Good Friday.

"At the moment there's only about 60 in

Australia where there will only be about 200 a year to come to Australia."

And if you're looking for a new car you can

give the team at Lawrence's GMSV a call on 4930 5111 or visit www.lawrencsgmsv.com.au.

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Paul Hart's XR Fairmont finished as grand champion at the inaugural Rockynats.

The Hart of a grand champ

By Liam Emerton

The first-ever Rockynats grand champion will be returning to Rockhampton and is looking forward to seeing what others have got.

Paul Hart and his XR Fairmont were announced as the grand champions despite starting off with last year in the worst possible way.

After losing reverse almost immediately after day one, the 1967 Ford was rapidly rebuilt and then to the shock of Hart, the vehicle was named the best of them all.

The grand champion said it was a huge shock to him that he came out on top but said it was a great feeling after putting so much effort into building his stunning vehicle.

"It was pretty cool, it was a massive surprise," said Hart.

"It was just a surprise more than anything mate and a fair bit of fun.

"I bought the car off Facebook in 2014 and I was just going to flip it.

"It took about five years to do but then I kept it.

"Even though the event had the whole Covid lead-up and there were restrictions, the quality of cars up there was good as Summer-nats or any other event in the country.

"So to give it a rumble was fantastic."

Hart will be back again this year but said it might not be the same result as 2021 but it might be a more special weekend with the bor-

ders opening up to allow him and his father to catch up.

"The car is sporting a few more stone chips and wear and tear so I don't think I'll pick up the title," he said.

"But I'm looking forward to having another chop at it and having a bit of fun.

"Now the borders are down I have my dad flying over from Perth so I'm hoping to take him out there and scare the pants off him.

"Hoping to give him a good weekend and let him have a good time."

Speaking of Rockhampton as a city, Hart was full of compliments including one for a mechanic who helped him out on Good Friday last year.

"We broke the gearbox on Friday but one of your local workshops opened up for me and helped us out which was really great," he said.

"We like the whole area, we live in Brisbane but we love getting out of town.

"Rocky is a great spot and the Criterion does a killer steak.

"I've been up there a few times for work and I love it up there."

After finishing up our interview with Hart, he was just really excited to see the new builds and the cars that weren't able to come up last year.

You can find Hart and the XR at the McDonald's Showgrounds Precinct this year.

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MARK VAN DER TOGT

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Ford XW Sedan

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Torana Sedan

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Holden HK Ute

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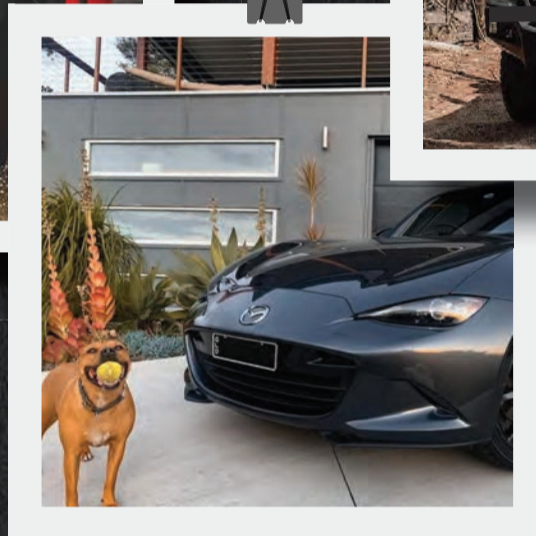
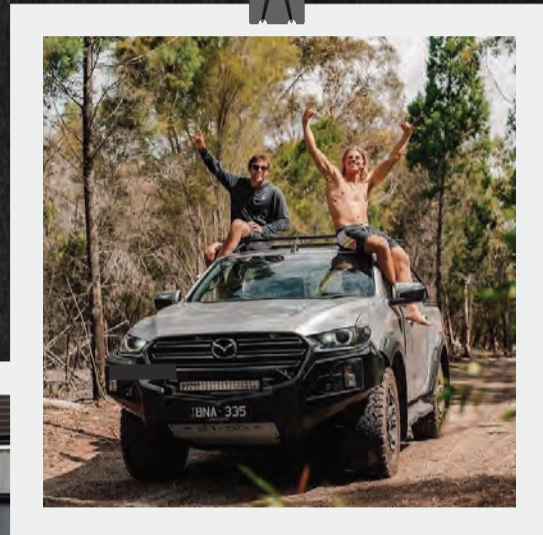
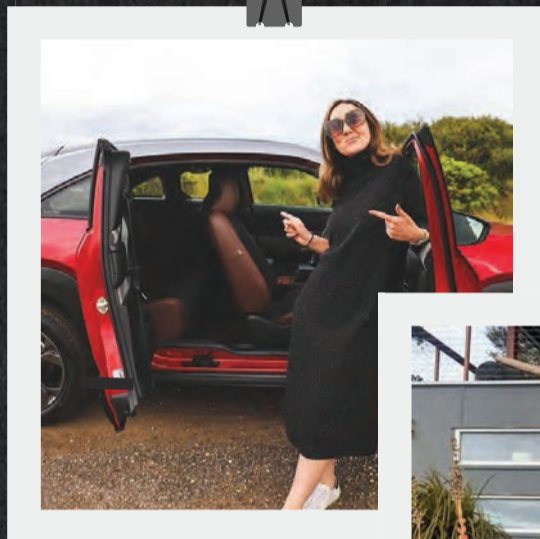
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Rockynats 02's best ink

By Liam Emerton

Tattoos and those who love their street machines go together like peas in a pod.

The cars and motorbikes have inspired artworks ever since they transformed from just vehicles to people's pride and joy.

And of course, it works the other way too, with fresh paint jobs inspired by tattoo artists' style contributing to some of the most beautiful machines on the planet.

This year that collaboration becomes stronger than ever with a tattoo competition at Rare Spares Rockynats 02 set for the big show.

Owner of Redback Ink Tattoo Studio Kelly Montague-Elliott believes that the tattoo competition at Rockynats 02 will be a shining example of a great combination of two brilliant industries.

"I thought it was a great opportunity and something fun to do," she said.

"It goes hand-in-hand with the culture of Rockynats.

"The content of the tattoos are usually inspired by people living the way they want to live.

"Tattoos are a lot more socially acceptable these days in the general public and most workplaces.

"I hope that it continues to grow. Our industry is very busy right now.

"I'm hoping this event is positive in nature for our industry in general and not just us.

"Full credit and mentions will go to those who did the artworks from anywhere across the country.

The competition will be looking deeper into styles instead of the usual competition rules like male versus female or big versus small due to the time frame of the event.

"We've got a few things in line to streamline things on how they run given the shorter time frame," said Montague-Elliott.



Owner of Redback Ink Tattoo Studio Kelly Montague-Elliott is excited for Rockynats 02.

"I am so excited and nervous all at once about the opportunity to bring it forward for our industry.

"This is the first council-run event that in my eyes and my knowledge has welcomed a tattoo show as part of an event.

"I think that is very positive for our industry and I hope I do it proud."

People will nominate which categories they

will go into for judging.

And entrants will have the ability to be called up and have their tattoo on display.

"The stage will be having a big screen that we will be able to show what's being judged at the time," said Montague-Elliott

"It allows more crowd participation and people can see what is being judged as well.

"I also don't want someone to miss out on

the competition because they have to be at their display at the same time so they can submit a photo with their application.

The competition will certainly be hotly contested and it won't be an easy choice for our judges this weekend.

Not entered? Pop over to the Showgrounds Precinct on Saturday and see the Redback Ink team in the Walter Peirce Pavilion.

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Glam, colour to take over

The inaugural Miss Rockabilly-Nats Pinup Competition is set to bring plenty of garage glam to this year's Rare Spares Rockynats festival when entrants take to the stage in what will be the first major pinup pageant of its kind to be held in the Rockhampton region.

Open to entrants aged 18 and over, competition host and 10-time pinup champion, Billiejean Sweets, said it's an opportunity for everyone to express their individuality, personality, and rockabilly style.

"Pinup is all about dressing up, having fun, and expressing yourself with no judgement. It's not like a beauty pageant where your performance is based on your height, body type or size," said Billiejean, who hosts and competes under the name 'Miss B Sweet'. "Literally anyone and everyone can do it and it's the most open, accepting environment to be a part of."

This is something she's experienced firsthand, having won her first pinup competition with no prior pinup experience.

"I've been part of the car scene for as long as I can remember, and my love of pinup started when my father and I bought a 1953 Chevy together back in 2017. I bought my first dress from my friend Tegan at Atomic Vintage and somehow, despite just showing up on the day and giving it a go, I walked away with the 2017 Classics by the Coast Pinup crown," she explains. "I was hooked, and that one pinup dress has since turned into a collection of over 120!"

Billiejean has since gone on to add several pinup titles to her name and now competes with her son, Beau, who has special needs.

"My favourite thing about pinup is that

you're part of such a great, supportive community. Everyone is encouraged to get up, have a go and just be themselves up on stage. You're allowed to be who you want to be."

As a born and bred Rockhampton local who made the move to Brisbane in 2019, the city holds a special place in her heart and the inaugural Rockabilly-Nats Pinup Competition is something she couldn't be happier to see come to fruition.

"I'm so excited to be back in my hometown and to show the pinup world what our little city is capable of," she said. "We don't have a big pinup scene up here and so bringing such as high calibre pageant to Rockhampton is something I'm incredibly proud to be a part of."

"It'll also be one of the few pageants attached to a street parade, which makes it even more exciting. I know girls who are travelling from all over to be a part of it."

"The sponsors we've been able to get on board are amazing, with prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and two encouragement awards" said Billiejean.

Prizes include vouchers and hair products from Cut Throat and Curls Hair Studio, clothing vouchers from online vintage retailer Rumbling Hearts and a photoshoot for the Retro Lovely Magazine courtesy of Elite Photo Studio.

As for tips on nailing this year's theme, Billiejean said channelling a glam garage look will be key. "Think race car drivers, Rosie Rivert and take inspiration from that," she said. "At the end of the day though, just be confident, don't second guess yourself and have fun!"



Billiejean Sweets can wait for RockabillyNats.

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Mullets make a comeback

By Liam Emerton

The resurgence of the luscious mullet has been witnessed across Australia in the last year and at Rare SparesRockynats 02 we are going to celebrate the famous haircut.

We saw some cracking mullets at the inaugural Rockynats but this year we're going to be witnessing the best of the best.

It's going to be a mulletfest - quite literally.

We have no idea how many mullets will show up for the Mulletfest competition but it's certainly going to be a massive part of Rockynats 02.

The competition is part of the new events scattered throughout Rockynats this year and it could seriously be a show-stealer.

Thieves & Beggars' Evan Treacy and Brooke Wassell, who will be helping judge the event, are super excited for the brand new competition.

"As a shop we've done very similar things," said Treacy.

"To be asked to do this is pretty awesome. It was cool to be approached and locally recognised.

"Either way it's going to be great fun and hilarious.

"There will be some people with your standard mullet but there will be some people with skulls and I'm expecting to see some pretty extreme mullets out there."

When asked about the resurgence of mullets the duo said it's becoming a common occurrence in the shop.

"We do at least one a week and you could probably say we do one a day," said Wassell.

"When I started barbering or hairdressing nine years ago, I don't think I did a mullet for the first three years," added Treacy.

"They were so uncommon and you never saw them and then it started out as one person getting it as a practical joke almost and now they're a serious style."

Treacy said it was an interesting first year of Rockynats but it truly hooked him into the atmosphere around the event.

"I walked around Rockynats last year, and it shocked me.

"I went into it thinking it was going to be a bogan car event and cars aren't my thing.

"I was pleasantly proven wrong. It was a great event and seeing how the community got involved was really cool to see."

Similar to Treacy, Wassell was unsure about Rockynats at first but the event certainly grew on her.

"I was the same. I didn't want to go to Rockynats last year because it just wasn't my thing at all," she said.

"But I happened to be in the shop doing a little bit of work when the parade came around.

"So I ran across the road and watched. I was there for a solid hour watching.

"And I remember seeing lots of mullets last year."

The pair will be Rockhampton's local influence in the competition's judging panel, which they just cannot wait to be a part of.

Thieves & Beggars' Evan Treacy and Brooke Wassell can't wait for Mulletfest.



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A rumble at Rockynats

By Liam Emerton

Rare Spares Rockynats 02 let's get ready to rumble!

Step away from the cars and the bikes of Rockynats 02 and step into the world of professional wrestling.

The Queensland Wrestling Alliance (QWA) Rockhampton are ready to put men and women on a collision course all to entertain the crowd at the premier event.

The crew from QWA are so eager for this moment because it will be one of the biggest crowds they've performed in front of.

Usually wrestling out of the Indoor Sports Arena, or putting on shows for charity, this will be the first event where the region has been able to give back to the QWA.

And it's well-deserved for the Wrestling Alliance, who have always tried their hardest to keep the crowds entertained.

"Throughout the last three years we've supported a lot of businesses by selling tickets through them and advertising them and it's just really nice to get a win where we can get some big exposure ourselves," said QWA star Colt Winchester.

"It's going to be the biggest crowd and biggest advertisement that we've had for ourselves here in Rocky.

"This is going to be a launching platform for us to get to that next level.

"This is the biggest opportunity we've ever had and we're going to take advantage of it.

"All of our guys are excited for it."

The QWA Rockhampton crew will have five sessions with three to four matches per time slot.



All the high-flying action will be available on Saturday and Sunday.

Winchester is currently in a heated rivalry with Sam Cannon which could spill over to Rockynats 02 this weekend.

But a guarantee for the Rockynats crowd is a match for the newly formed QWA Rockhampton tag titles which will be defended at the event.

You can check out the high-flying action at the McDonalds Showground Precinct on Saturday and Sunday.



Colt Winchester is ready to impress the Rare Spares Rockynats 02 crowd.

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Olman's EH transformed

By Liam Emerton

A transformation of a car is a special thing, but when you get to work on it for a huge event like Rare Spares Rockynats 02, it becomes even more exceptional.

Neil Olman has been toiling away for over a year on bringing an old veteran back to life.

After sitting in a paddock for over two decades, Olman found an EH Holden Premier Wagon and knew he had to do it justice.

"I've been working on the car for over 12 months to get it ready for it," he said.

"I found this old premier wagon in a paddock that had been there for 23 years.

"I brought it home and started on it but it was too rusty so I had to get another body for it.

"So I found another body and rolled the two into one and it's a great build.

"It's been eight hours a day for the last 14 months, five days a week, that's how long it's taken me.

"It's all painted, all together, the wheels have arrived and I've painted them.

"I pulled the whole floor out of the automatic and put it in the manual to put it in the original automatic prem.

"It's all new floor, new dog legs, fixed the roof, it was just a huge job."

A huge job is an understatement and you can see the transformation that this car has been through.

Taking a rusted shell to a full functioning stunner is enough to make even the biggest car enthusiast's eyes water.

Rockynats News would like to say thanks to Neil for sending in the great photos from start to (almost) finish of this gorgeous wagon.



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Rockynats 02 is here

In this special edition of Let's Talk Sport, 4RO's **AARON STEVENS** and Rockynats News' **LIAM EMERTON** discuss what they're looking forward to the most about Rare Spares Rockynats 02.

Liam: Rare Spares Rockynats 02 is coming up it's going to be such a spectacular event. It was so big last year. Are you looking forward to hopefully getting down there this year?

Aaron: Do you know the incredible thing about Rockynats this year, and you have to take it into context, is that last year we were just coming out of lockdown.

The lockdown ended towards the end of that week just as we led up to Rockynats 01. But still, 40,000 people turned up last year when really we didn't even know at some stages in that week if we would be able to leave our homes.

Obviously, the borders were closed so nobody from interstate could come.

All of a sudden we have an event that attracted forty thousand people virtually in lockdown.

How many people are going to be there this year? That's amazing! So yes I will be there along with hundreds of thousands of other people.

Liam: Yeah it's going to be huge. It's just massive, it's grown in just one year.

It was very successful last year. The council looked at what they had to do. They've made some little tweaks and changes to make sure it's even better.

And you're right this year is going to be huge. I've heard that there are a fair few people coming from WA and they have been in lockdown for the better part of two years and they are going to be excited to be here.

A lot of people have come from Brissy of course including down south in Victoria and New South Wales.

There are so many different little things. I



Liam and Aaron are looking forward to the street parade.

mean there is Mulletfest, Aaron, there is Wrestling, there's a pin-up competition, there is just so much more to do this year.

I don't think three days will be long enough. We will have to start looking to go a little bit longer.

Aaron: They might have to run it over the whole four days of Easter in the future years.

I mean obviously having it at Easter time is a massive advantage too because you do have that freedom, especially with school holidays.

And look I didn't get a chance to grow my mullet in time for the Mulletfest but let's face it, we love our cars and love that sort of stuff

in Central Queensland.

I remember the Mayor at the time Margaret Strelow telling me that they had secured this and you knew it was going to be a success.

It was always a great bet for the council. Just to see it grow in one year, and once again to defy all the odds against it last year with Covid, you just know that this year is going to be special. It all starts with the street parade on Good Friday and you just know how impressive some of the car show and shine events are around Central Queensland.

To bring that all together in one event and with more from interstate around Queensland,

you just know how impressive that is going to be.

People will line the streets for the parade and then you move on to the likes of the drags and the drifting. It's just a car enthusiast delight.

Liam: It is a car enthusiast delight. And just before I touch on anything else Aaron, we haven't seen each other in a long time but I actually have a mullet at the moment, so I have grown it out for the team so don't worry about that.

Aaron: Thank you for that, I appreciate that. Thank you very much for lifting up that side of the duo.



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