



GERACE RESTORATIONS

Gun Capital Management

Sponsors of

The 13th Falcon GT Nationals

ADELAIDE 10TH-13TH APRIL 2009

Proudly Hosted by the Falcon GT Club of SA

EVENT SUMMARY

The initial planning for this event began about 4 years ago when the Falcon GT Club of SA knew that it would be hosting the 13th Falcon GT Nationals in 2009. A Nationals Committee was formed about 3 years ago, and a clear outline of how the weekend was to unfold was becoming much more defined. Final proposed arrangements were outlined to the NAFGTC Delegates meeting in Adelaide just over a year ago, and the stage was set, with the final detailed arrangements to be put into place.

Easter is the ideal time to hold the event as the 4 day break allows people to travel from interstate and return with minimal disruption to their normal lives, and so it was decided to stick with tradition and schedule our event over the Easter period in 2009. This is also a time when the weather in Adelaide is usually fine and mild, so we had our fingers crossed that we would be lucky that the elements would be favourable when Easter 2009 rolled around. As it turned out, we could not have asked for better weather, with fine, calm, sunny days, and temperatures in the mid 20's before, during and after the weekend, providing perfect conditions for the event, as well as for those travelling to and from Adelaide – some Entrants drove from as far as WA and Mackay in northern Qld, and there was a good contingent who flew over from NZ as well.

WEDNESDAY

The event began in earnest when **Registration** for early arrivals opened on Wednesday afternoon, with many taking advantage and getting their Entrant goody bags and merchandise shopping out of the way early. We also conducted some early **Scrutineering** at the hotel for cars that were not being judged in the Concourse.

THURSDAY

Registration was open again early in the morning, and continued all day, with a steady stream of Entrants keeping the girls busy – merchandise sales were also going strong, with some items selling fast, and back orders being taken already.

More early **Scrutineering and Pre-Judging** of cars entered for the Concourse was held at Gerace Restorations on Thursday afternoon, followed by more scrutineering of non-judged cars at the hotel later in the day.

FRIDAY

Scrutineering and Pre-Judging continued all day at Maughan Thiem Ford, with minimal waiting time for Entrants, who were very impressed with the setup, which for the first time allowed judges the use of pits to closely inspect the undercarriages of all judged cars.

Registration continued all day, closing at 4pm, and it was obvious by the number of goody bags left unclaimed that there were a few Entrants who did not make the cut-off. These were all followed up later, and arrangements made for them to get what they were entitled to.



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A **Meet-n-Greet** function was planned for Friday evening – the intention was for everyone to enjoy some casual food and a few drinks, and informally mingle around the hotel and the cars, however a mix up in arrangements by the hotel meant that this didn't quite go as planned. Most people did have an enjoyable evening anyway.

SATURDAY

Concourse Day arrived, which for many is the whole purpose of the GT Nationals. The setting at Elder Park on the banks of the Torrens River was absolutely stunning, and the weather was just perfect. With around 300 of Australia's finest GT's and GTHO's on display, the various trade stalls humming, and a band keeping patrons entertained when they weren't drooling over the cars, just about everyone declared this to be probably the best Nationals Concourse and Show-n-Shine ever.

The **Supercruise** on Saturday night was very well attended, with the sight of so many GT's out on a fine and mild night proving to be a big attraction.

SUNDAY

Entrants had a choice of activities for the day, with some even managing to do both!

Mallala was hosting a Historic Race Meeting, organised by the Sporting Car Club of SA, and the GT Nationals were invited to take part in a Regularity event, with around 20 Entrants competing on the day – thankfully there were no casualties. Unfortunately some overzealous security staff on the gates made entrants pay a higher entry fee than we were supposed to, however the SCCSA will send refunds to those who registered on the day that they had been overcharged.

A highlight of the day was the appearance of 2 XYGTHO race cars fully restored to their 1972 Bathurst 500 racing glory, and the 2 original race drivers of those cars in 1972 - Murray Carter and John French. Both drivers did quite a lot of laps in their cars at high speed, bringing memories flooding back of those great days when HO's were dominant. It was quite remarkable to see those "old boys" still going hard at it, even though they are both well into their 70's. To simply say they enjoyed themselves would be a huge understatement.

If the motorsport option didn't appeal, then a visit to the **Birdwood Motor Museum** was the other alternative. A cruise through the Adelaide hills to this motor enthusiast's icon was very well patronised, with special parking and a discount entry fee arranged at the museum.

The Presentation Dinner was held at the convention Centre on Sunday evening, with the presentation of trophies to the Concourse category winners and placegetters. The venue was spectacular, the food was beautifully prepared and plentiful, the drinks flowed, and the music from the band was fantastic – every time they played, the dance floor was instantly full. The auction was very successful, with the monies raised contributing significantly to the overall amount which will benefit our preferred charities.

MONDAY

A farewell brunch was held at Glenelg, which was quite well attended by those in no hurry to head for home.

Many have declared the 13th Falcon GT Nationals to be one of the best ever, which is great feedback for the Nationals Committee, whose intention was to put on an event of the highest standard possible.

The Falcon GT Club of SA thanks all Entrants for their patronage and overwhelmingly positive feedback on our event, and we look forward in anticipation to the 14th Falcon GT Nationals in Queensland in 2011.



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