

## A DAY ON THE GREEN- CARS OF AUSTRALIA EVENT – STRATHALBYN – 26 JANUARY 2015

There is a lot of energy and organization goes into putting a major event on in a country town, but it is amazing how everyone rallies to help to make the event work!

Strathalbyn; a country town 54 kilometers from Adelaide, according to the clock near Woolworths - where time stands still!

Over at the Sports Complex at 07.00 men and ladies from the Strathalbyn Auto Collectors Club were very busy getting the oval ready to receive all the vintage and veteran cars, vans, utilities, and sports machines due to arrive within the next couple of hours having been given a blank canvas but plenty of continuous support from the Caravan Park Manager who knew all the workings and contacts to do with the oval, much appreciated!

I must say that the oval looked the best I have seen it looking and the ground staff did a wonderful job to get it to look so wonderful, and to help by line-marking for our marshals to use as a guide- brilliant and many thanks!

Our thanks must also be given to the Strathalbyn Football and Cricket Club-members for being so supportive in allowing us to use their facilities, even if there was a “building site look”.

I would find it very hard to estimate the number of Australian flags waving in the wind, from little ones on a stick to huge ones on small flagpoles, and some draped over their windscreens!

We are very fortunate that there are SACC Club-members prepared to help and this was evident with the Setting Up group who needed to get all the gazebo’s erected and then all the tables and chairs out of storage and onto the grounds.

There were many different traders to be settled to allow them to set up, plus the food vans to be positioned; also we were awaiting the arrival of the man with the little train, the bouncing castle and the band members.

There are so many different areas of involvement necessary to make the day a pleasure for the entrants to enjoy.

The administration tent was set up on the oval at the northern end of the roped off cricket pitch and beside this was the PA van as the centre point of communications.

Our team of volunteers ready at the gates and our team of marshals on the oval to direct the cars to their spot for the day worked tirelessly as well.

The weather on the day played such a good part into making the day such a pleasure for everyone, although it was only about 20 degrees to start with and a bit of a wind chill and a few minutes of drizzle later on but it did fine up after lunch.

Because of the way that the lines had been painted on the oval we were able to give each of the bigger models their own part of the oval resulting in the Holden's all lined up on one side of the access lane and then Fords on the other side.

There were a huge contingent of various models of Chrysler's so they had their own area on the other side of the cricket pitch, our own Club's cars situated prominently on the Eastern side of the Cricket pitch and a number of the smaller Clubs filled in between.

It was pleasing to have the Victor Harbour Club cars represented with considerable numbers and they were parked together as a group to the west, closer to the edge of the oval.

A number of the Clubs displayed their banners and these helped to make the displays so colourful together with individual owners having photo displays of the restoration work to get to what was the finished machine. It is a given that the invoices for all the work involved in this restoration are never added up!

The Judging occurred during the day and the following were the worthy winners on the day:

**BEST AUSTRALIAN BUILT COMPETITION CAR**

1971 XY GT Falcon    Andy Cutts Falcon Owners Club -Entry # 262

**BEST VEHICLE - HISTORIC**

1950 48 – 215 Holden    Lynton Schwark Entry # 103 – 48 FJ Holden Club

**BEST CLUB DISPLAY**

The Chrysler Car Club                          (on behalf of) Ian Carlin – 1970 CF Valiant Entry # 157

**BEST STREET MACHINE**

Ford Mainline Ute    Craig Smith Entry #150-Private Entry

**JUDGES CHOICE**

Vauxhall Cresta    Brian Chapman Entry # 7 – Strathalbyn Auto Collectors Club.

There were some 235 vehicles assembled on the oval and there was a continuous number of motor bikes coming and going. Also there were a total of 1488 pedestrians who came to see the spectacular display of mainly Australian made or assembled vehicles in attendance.

After the details of the prize winners were announced there is normally a rush of drivers keen to head off home but it seemed that everyone was happy to delay their departure because they appeared that

they did not want it to finish but gradually the cars started to be packed up, gazebo's collapsed and collapsible chairs put back in their little sleeves and into the respective car-boots.

The band played on for a time while our members set to the task of giving the oval back to the oval management in a similar state to before we started. This being a huge job but one which was completed by 08.00 pm thanks again to the help of all concerned.

All in all a very successful day for all drivers and passengers who came along and enjoyed Australia Day in Strathalbyn!

Mike Greenwood – For and on Behalf of the Strathalbyn Auto Collectors Club Inc.