



MEDIA INFORMATION

8 June, 2012

AUSTRALIA CLASSIC 2012 CAIRNS - Saturday, 30 June & Sunday, 1 July 2012-



This AC Cobra is one of five participating in the Australia Classic 2012 Cairns later this month

All the colour and chrome of a classic car rally! When it is held in Cairns at the end of this month, the inaugural Australia Classic 2012 promises to turn heads with a spectacle of rare and valuable cars that currently equates to \$1.5 million. The precision car rally is a first for Australia and will take place over two days on Saturday, 30 June and Sunday, 1 July.

Set to make an entrance are a collection of five AC Cobras, an extremely coveted and beautiful Porsche Speedster from the 50s and a whole host of other gems that include a VW Karmann Ghia, Corvettes, Trans Ams, MGs, Mercedes and Aussie muscle cars.

Currently 34 cars are registered however there is availability for further entrants with a limit of maximum 60 starting positions.

While organiser, Zoltan Vandulek, is hoping for further, last minute registrations he is happy with the response in the race's first year.

"As an entrant myself I saw firsthand when this very popular European movement was adopted in Hungary: they only fielded 24 cars in their first race. The feedback was fantastic and in the following year they reached 60. Nowadays, the Hungarian season (called the "Oldtimer Supercup") consists of eight races every year with entries of around 100 cars in each. Of course that can't compare to the biggest multi-nationals such as the Mille Miglia in Italy; their annual race was just held in May with 400 entries, each paying a registration charge of around \$10,000", he said.

"All three dinners will be hosted at the 5-star Shangri-La which is a very classy venue to match the appeal of this world class event. This rally will be more like a rolling car show; the route will touch on all important nearby towns to bring a display of cars rarely ever seen together in this part of the world. We know the spectators will remember this rally for a long time and will be anticipating for the next years to deliver an increasingly exciting spectacle", added Zoltan.

Local Participation:

From a local perspective, this event features a line up of well-known and prominent Cairns business people that include the following:

Joe Vella, Joe Vella Insurance Brokers - 1957 Porsche 356 Speedster

Built on 1957 Porsche Speedster chassis and running gear, then totally rebuilt in 1974 with a fibreglass body by Peter Baily of Chesil in Dorset, England. Joe imported the car for his 50th birthday in September 2010.

David Ireland, Ireland's Holden - 1977 Holden Torana A9X hatchback

#47 of only 93 built.

Ken Harris, The Union Jack Hotel - 1979 BMW 3.0 CSL (E09)

Ken has owned this right hand drive, English import for the past two years. This model is the first BMW Motor Sport car produced but never carried an 'M' badge. BMW 'M' are celebrating their 40th anniversary in 2012 and this is the model that started it all.

Alan Wallish, Passions of Paradise - 1951 MG TD roadster

Alan has entered with this classic MG convertible but Passions of Paradise has also nominated another vehicle, a 1966 Chevrolet Chevelle SS Convertible piloted by Scott Garden.

Jurgen Eschholz, Total Embroidery – 1977 Chevrolet Corvette

James Hiddlestone, Cleanaway – 1980 Ford Escort RS 2000

Rik Stott, Coral Coast Air Conditioning – 2004 Shelby Cobra replica

Female Participation

All-female teams to challenge the “boys' club” include:

Ronni Summer Leigh and Lisa Dunkerton - 1960 Volkswagen Karmann Ghia

Rebecca Jordan and Laura Altschwinger - 1971 MGB Roadster

Backgrounder: Classic Cars Converge in Cairns

On Saturday 30 June and Sunday 1 July, 2012 the streets of Cairns will become a rolling parade of lovingly restored vehicles (pre-dating 1983 but with current registration) participating in Australia's first precision classic rally.

Organiser, Zoltan Vandulek said he is excited that Cairns will be home to Australia's first regulation rally that is modelled on Europe's well known events such as the legendary Italian “Mille Miglia” or Austria's “Silvretta Classic”.

Since this precision rally is organised for the first time in Cairns, Australia Classic 2012 Cairns will be managed by a visiting team from European timing sponsor, Chronomoto who have pledged to broadcast coverage of Cairns' rally in Europe.

"These races are sort of a gentlemen's rally, they're not about speed and taking risks, but as the name suggests, precision driving. In short, drivers and their navigators will be given a roadbook from which they will follow a 600 kilometre course that is completed over two days and comprises 14 timed coordination stages. The objective is to be on time to the 100th of the second and vie for each stage prize as well as three major prizes up for grabs," he said.

Australia Classic will be held on public roads, alongside regular traffic, and as such, will be required to adhere strictly to all road rules.

The route, which is kept secret, until the morning of the event, crosses diverse far northern landscapes and picturesque scenery from Cairns to Port Douglas, the Atherton Tablelands and Innisfail.

Zoltan said that since the event was launched last month, they have already secured more than 30 race registrations but are looking to double to reach the maximum limit of 60 cars.

"We are appealing to Australian classic car owners as well as local members of our community to experience the thrill and enjoyment of a precision rally. The beauty of this event is its low risk factor that allows motorists to compete in safety while showing off their valuable car."

The entry fee is \$550 per vehicle that includes the enrolment package, decals, ID tags, five meals for driver and navigator and a chance to win any one of the 14 stage and three major prizes.

To register or for more information, contact Kristina Jahshan on tel: 0420 533 622 or email: info@australiaclassic.com.au

About the organisers:

Founder of Australia Classic, Zoltan Vandulek, is a member of Cairns Porsche Club and in charge of recruiting participants. Before moving to Australia five years ago,

Zoltan raced in five classic rallies in Europe. His partner, Kristina Jahshan, focuses her efforts on the rally's event management and sponsorship. Formerly an organiser of major events from corporate retreats to festivals, concerts to boat parties, Kristina promoted Australia and Cairns in European media in 2002 - 2004 with the support of Tourism Australia and AusTrade.

Andras Noszvai will visit Cairns next month as the rally's Technical Director. Andras organised over 24 similar classic rallies in Europe and has also raced as a participant in many similar events including winning the "Paul Pietsch 100th Anniversary Rally" in Germany in 2011.

Peter Majoshazi will also visit Cairns as Timekeeper. From his base in Europe, Peter is Director of Chronomoto Ltd; European timekeeper of over 900 motorsport events.

Rally Objectives

A Great Community Event:

To provide the community of Cairns and its region with a safe and enjoyable precision rally experience.

Showcasing Cairns and its region:

By inviting classic car motoring enthusiasts nationwide to participate and to raise awareness of our national heritage and showcase the picturesque backdrop of this region.

National and International Exposure:

To promote TNQ internationally with the support of our overseas media partners, as well as adding the Australia Classic 2012 Cairns event media footage to the European promotional material of Classic Car Events, thus inviting classic car motoring enthusiasts to visit Cairns and its region.

About Australia Classic 2012 Cairns timekeeping partner:

Chronomoto has provided timekeeping for over 900 motorsport events in several countries across Europe and the Middle East since 1998. Chronomoto has excellent

references in timekeeping of European championship events, providing live Eurosport broadcasts, as well as holding the relevant international licenses.

Chronomoto will provide the TAG Heuer Photocell systems, ALGE speed measurement and Mylaps transponder system equipment for the Australia Classic Cairns Rally.

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