



NISSAN LINK

the monthly magazine of the Nissan Car Club Australia Inc.



March 2009



Toni Gardemeister does recce
for Rally Monte Carlo

NCCA - the club for Nissan/Datsun enthusiasts since 1968

EDITOR'S REPORT

with Kimberley Woods

It is a small mag for you all this month as the past one has been so terrible. This has effected many people in the club, both directly and indirectly and to these people I send my best wishes.

NOt much to report on this month. We had a good outing at the last MGM with all of us letting our hair down (and relieving some tension) by trying our hands at lawn bowls. Some people had 'it' while others clearly didn't! The club best and fairest players all came from rink number 1 (must have been the teacher) - Mark Millar was a natural, and Nigel and Angela Alves were determined to get it right. All I know is that I ended up just as sore the day after with real bowls as I do with Wii bowls and I am no better at the real thing.

We need to thank Vicki for feeding us all in such a fine manner, and also for arranging for some more of her daughter Sarah's chocolates for the raffle. I heard Sarah's passport has been cancelled so she can't go overseas anymore - something about being required in Australia for chocolate making duties....

Our cars are gethering dust as events get cancelled and postponed. Obviously this has been the best decision for event directors.

I'm after some stories and photos for the last few editions of Nissan Link for this committee. Now we've got a few free weekends it gives everyone time to sit and write!

Kim

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

with Ian Curry

Hi Everyone and welcome to the March edition of the NissanLink magazine.

Let's start on a positive note. The Rally Dinner was a great night, pity that they couldn't locate the correct trophy for the Club. Congratulations to all members of the Club (and there were many) who won trophies for 2008.

We all had a great time at the first club meeting of the year, with a Lawn Bowls Night and BBQ at the East Malvern RSL/Bowls Club. Thanks to Vicki for organising the food and to the Bowling Club for the very helpful and patient instructors. This may become a regular event. Please let me know what you think.

Now, for the more sombre part of my report. Firstly, let me pass on to all members who have been effected by the many fires ravaging our State, our very sincere best wishes and please let us know if there is anything the Club can do to assist you in anyway.

As a consequence of the fires we have cancelled the Challenge of Clubs for this year. It is a disappointment for the Club to do this but we feel that it is in the interest of all for this to happen. Many thanks to John Patterson, Steve Porter, Trevor Woods and the rest of the Directing Team for all the time and effort put into the organising of the Trial for this event. We all know how much time and effort is put into organising a rally. Thanks to all concerned.

Whilst on the subject of the fires the proceeds of the raffle last month plus a bit from the club was put aside till after the Challenge where the total proceeds were to be donated to a fund that supports the care and rehabilitation of the wildlife affected by the disaster. This will be further discussed on Friday.

The George Woods and Cerberus Stages rallies were also postponed to later in the year. Let's hope that they do run and no more rallies are cancelled/postponed.

Hope to see you all at the next MGM on the 13th and maybe we can get our heads together and find something to do to keep our enjoyment in the sport continuing until we can get out into the bush.

Ian

TREASURER'S REPORT

with Gordon Ledwidge

Working Balance as at 20/02/2009 \$18904.18

It would appear that the Bowling Night was very successful with 22 bowlers having a roll on the lawn. Congratulations to the medal winners on the night. We may have to repeat the night at a later date. A huge thanks to the BBQ chefs who carried out an outstanding job, it must have been very good as there was very little left over. I vote for them next time we have that function.

The NCCA is making a donation to Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation of \$250.00. Any club member who would like to donate, please do.

Cheers - Gordon

AUTOCROSS REPORT

with Steve Porter

Well just after telling you we have Kyneton back in VCAS for 2009 it is sad to say that KCC have decided that from 2010 on they will only run road tyres. So the Kyneton meet on March 15th will be the last VCAS round held at Kyneton unless they change the tyre rule. So get your entries in.

The last word on Rnd2 at Deniliquin was it's still on, so hopefully a lot of people attended for a new track experience.

Rnd 3 BCC at bagshot on the 19th April is the next event and no regs out just yet.

Steve

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

with Aiden Peart

Hi all,

I've been very busy with Challenge of Clubs arrangements, but still had time to do a bit of work on the Z in preparation for the first round of the year.

On the membership front it's been really slow! At the time I sent this into cyberspace only 5 of the 35 members due in February had renewed. I guess car club membership has been the last thing on people's minds since the fires. We have a few members who have been affected, my and I'm sure everyone else's thoughts go out to them.

So, if your renewal was due in February you are now over due.


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Rex, Bev and Chris Muldoon
Philip Caithness
Michael Trucano (Snr)
Michael Trucano (Jnr)

April Renewals

Ben, Lachlan Seidel
Debra Cooper
David, Meagan, Ashton, Riley & Cody Sporle
Kim Beckwith, Rob, Tess, Eve Parry
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RALLY REPORT

with Peter Whiteley

In a previous Report I said the rally season had arrived. Well maybe that needs to be reviewed. Because of the disastrous bushfires in many of our favourite forests the George Woods has been postponed until 2nd May and other early events are in doubt. Last night your Committee took the decision to cancel the Challenge of Clubs which was to be held on 7 – 9 March.

After recent fires got within 300 metres of some of the roads John Patterson had planned to use for the event and he had already done a number of route changes and there is no sign of the dire situation in the forests improving in the near future the prudent thing to do was to pull the plug on the Trial. For various reasons the Committee decided to cancel (not postpone) the whole event (Trial, Autocross and Motorkhana) for 2009.

I think the decision to cancel or postpone these early rallies is a good move not only from a point of view of necessity but also to convey to the general public and the local population in these areas that we are responsible forest users and are well aware of the hardships being suffered by these communities.

In relation to the bushfires it may be mentioned elsewhere but I should also pass on that your Club has already made a donation and has more planned.

So no rallies to report on yet, but don't give up. From the Club's point of view we are still going ahead with the Nissan Nightmoves, with the aim being to run it on 20th June, not the 13th June on the calendar. The Organising Committee is also discussing how to make more provision for novices and new competitors to make up for the demise of the Challenge. Stay tuned on that front.

The Australian Rally Commission (ARCom) are conducting a review of Production Rally Car Regulations and are inviting comment through a survey that can be found on the CAMS website www.cams.com.au

Some of the guiding principles they will be following in this Review are to protect participation of existing competitors and allow new participants to be fostered. If you want to make sure this happens you should send in a reply to this Survey.

Some of the interesting questions relate to minimum weights, whether pre 1986 cars should be allowed the freedom to run any engine from the same manufacturer with the same number of cylinders and whether fiberglass panels an/or mild body kits should be allowed on pre 1986 cars. Those who have a Datsun or Nissan and a considerable investment in say a Datsun L series motor of a current complying capacity for their car will most likely have a different view to someone who might want to chase cheaper horsepower with an FJ or SR series motor. Fibreglass panels, as well as aiding performance, also help with sourcing of hard to get parts for older cars, but then if you car is post 1986 you may not be happy at lining up against something older and lighter. Regardless, you should have your say. Responses are due by 30 March.

I guess with the fires here and the world economy in general we can see already that it is going to be as tough year for rallying. On the world front the 2 make WRC continues with Seb. Loeb showing just how great he is by beating the Finns in the snow of Norway. Hopefully next month I will have something local to report on. Until then I guess we will have to dust off our Climb Dance or Vatanen Touch videos to keep in the mood.

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COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

please check with the relevant committee member before committing!

March 15th	Autocross Kyneton VCAS 2
March 21st	Cerberus Stages VRC 1
March 26th-29th	Australian Grand Prix Club Display
April 4th	Bonnie Doon Rally VCRS 1
April 5th	Motorkhana Group 5 at Avalon

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

with Jan Woods

Hi Everyone.

Well, I'm sitting here in front of my computer and I don't know how to start about that horrible Saturday. I am not sure how many NCCA members or ex-members lost friends, family or their homes. I do know that there were some very lucky members. There are very scary photos on the internet from several members.

Craig Jarvie would have to be the luckiest. His house still stands at Chum Creek. He was heard on talk back radio at 3.30am on the Sunday so we knew he was OK. It was very scary listening to talk back radio coming from that area after the rally dinner. Aidan's Mum & Dads house is still standing but the bush around it isn't. Paul Tirant's house was one of the eleven or so left in Marysville.

Dick Denville lost everything in Flowerdale. His neighbour didn't survive.

Derek Reynolds lost his business and residence in Marysville. He then spent the following days helping with the clean up if that's what you call it. This was before the residents were allowed in. He now has fractured vertebrae and leg injuries following a trail bike accident taking a "sanity day" with his police mates. NCCA would like to send him our Best Wishes.

As you know, lots of rally areas have been burnt, so we will have to be patient before we can use them again.

As you have probably read already, the Challenge of Clubs has been cancelled due to fires and fire risk. We could have run the Motorkhana and Autocross but again, this could have been too risky. The last time it was cancelled was after Ash Wednesday.

If you missed the February meeting, you missed a really fun night. A lot of encouragement was needed to get our members to learn something about lawn bowls. Lots of laughter was heard across the rink if that's what it is called. I am not sure what the members of the RSL thought of us as they tried to teach us. I now know that I am too useless to play seriously. We will hold another night later in the year.

Sarah Curry made chocolates for Valentines Day as prizes for the raffle. The Committee has donated the proceeds to the Wild Animal Bush Fire fund. If you have tasted Sarah's home made chocolates, you will know how yummy they are. Make sure you come to the Easter Club Night as she is making the prize again.

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Couple Membership \$55
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Name	Date of Birth	Member Number	Officials' Licence No.	Level

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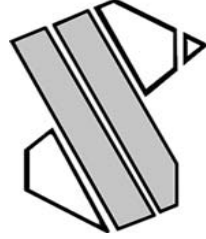
Declaration

In becoming a member or members of NCCA Inc, I/we agree to abide by its rules and those of CAMS

Signed..... Date.....

At NCCA your privacy is our priority. NCCA will list your details on our database. Only the committee has access to these details via the Membership Secretary. For further information, please contact Aiden Peart, Membership Secretary.





Nissan Link

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