



ANNUAL MUSTANG NATIONALS

What's it all about!



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Over the Easter long weekend each year, the Mustang Nationals is held and hosted by one of the Australian State Clubs.

All Australian States/Territories participate and host the event on a 5-year rotational basis:

- South Australia / Northern Territory
- Queensland
- Victoria / Tasmania
- NSW / ACT
- WA



The inaugural Mustang Nationals event started back in 1981 and was hosted by the South Australian Club at Swan Hill VIC where all State Clubs affiliated under the banner of the Mustang Owners Club Australia (MOCA) Inc were present. When Victoria formed their Club in 1974 and SA in 1976, VIC and SA rotated each year a weekend where members gathered to share in the Mustang passion and have their Mustangs judged in various categories with the best cars receiving awards.

These events were generally scheduled over the October long weekend, but with the formation of the MOCA National Body consisting of 2 Delegates from each of the 5 Affiliated Clubs in 1980, a decision was made that the best option to run this event was over the Easter weekend where all States/Territories had a 4-day break enabling ease of travel and encouraging families to use this time for their annual holiday. This annual occasion has been a memorable, enjoyable and well attended event ever since and the quality of cars in attendance has been breathtaking over the years. The real show is what goes on behind the scenes. The people, the cars and the lifelong passion for the Mustang is the theme for the weekend.

When travelling interstate, we enjoy travelling as a group in convoy, generally taking one, two or three days to get to our destination with pre-booked motel stays, experiencing local eateries after pre-dinner carpark nibbles and drinks where we share some travel stories and have a few laughs along the way.

All bookings are usually finalized in advance and so once we arrive at our destination it's time to relax and allow the level of excitement to unfold. We meet the local and interstate members at the Hotel chosen for the weekend's accommodation and the friendships are reignited.

We generally plan our arrival a few days before the weekend so that any mechanical issues can be dealt with in readiness for the event and we can do some sightseeing prior to the Easter weekend activities commencing on Good Friday.

Here's a run down of what happens and what to expect over the weekend.

Tues, Wed, Thurs



Early arrivals - When travelling interstate, it's generally planned for arrival a couple of days before Easter, this allows for a nice relaxing group dinner for members checked into the Hotel and local members wishing to join us for the evening get togethers. It also allows any maintenance and cleaning of the cars to be arranged in readiness for the weekend activities.

After a few relaxing days, we're ready for a weekend of good company, lots of laughs, local cruises, dinner and dancing and the most important part a fantastic car show.

Friday



Official start to the Mustang Nationals weekend, the Meet and Greet night with the theme being Club Shirt. After breakfast, most will mill around the Hotel waiting for registration to open. This allows registered members to check-in for the weekend events, collect their goodie bag of surprises and information on the weekend, buy any merchandise on offer and catch up with old friends and make new acquaintances.

Once registered, the day is yours to fill-in. This could be spent chatting with friends that you've not seen for a while, chatting with new ones, cleaning the car or take in the local scenery or shops within the immediate area.

Later on in the afternoon it would be time to change into your club shirt for the evening meet and greet event. This evening sets the scene for the weekend, with the Host State President and the MOCA President welcoming all members and guests to the event, amongst a relaxed environment chatting with friends old and new. There might be raffle prizes to win or a guest speaker may make an appearance on the Friday night.

The MC for the night will update everyone on any items of interest for Saturday, like the meeting place and time for the cruise that might be arranged, and the meeting place and time gathering of Concours entrants for departure to the judging venue. This information should also be in your goodie bag.



Saturday

Fun filled day and evening.

After breakfast, there are a couple of options available to you for the day. One option is attending the Concourse judging, either because you've entered your vehicle, or you just want to go down to the judging venue and see what happens. More detail about Concourse Judging can be found further into the brochure.

Option 2 is to participate in the cruise that should be organized for the day. This generally will take off from the Hotel and include a morning tea or lunch stop and return you back to the Hotel before 3pm, giving you a couple of hours or so to rest before the evening event.

Or, depending on which state the weekend is being held, you may just like to spend the day sightseeing the area since you've not been there before. The choice for this day is completely up to you!

Others might spend the day cleaning their car from travelling ready for the Show'n Shine and Display Class judging on Sunday.

Saturday night's event is a time to let the hair down and have a wonderful time. This night is a themed evening with the venue decorated accordingly, you'll be decked out to the theme and enjoy a lovely dinner, drinks and if we're lucky some dancing.

There are more raffles on offer Saturday night with a silent auction area where items are viewed and you are able to register an offer on the item until closed, with the best offer taking ownership of the item.

Other more unique Mustang memorabilia forms part of the open auction during the evening and it's handy to have the credit card in the pocket as you just might have to make a bid on the item up for sale. These larger items are often special ones that are not always available.

As mentioned, if there's enough left in the tank for a bogie, a DJ is on hand to play some tunes to get us up and dancing the night away.



Concourse Judging

Judging consists of MOCA members who have volunteered their Saturday to judge all cars registered in the classes listed. The day is hosted at the local Ford Dealership and is only open to MOCA members.

Judging is sectioned out by the different areas of the vehicle and a score sheet is used to identify period consistency in Original and Thoroughbred classes, levels of modification is

the Modified and Resto Mod classes and then cleanliness. The score sheet is out of 1000 points and with 3 levels achievable.

Example for vehicles registered for judging in the following classes;

- Original Class – Open to Mustangs with a manufacture date of 10 years or older at the entry close date. Vehicles entered into this class for judging will have been restored to original specifications of the year and model, and be detailed to an acceptable level.
- Modified Class – Open to any year modified Mustang powered by a Ford engine. Vehicles entered into this class for judging will have been modified in areas including engine, body, interior and running gear, and be detailed to an acceptable level.
- Resto Mod Class – Open to any year modified Mustang powered by a Ford engine. Vehicles entered into this class for judging will have been modified in areas including engine, body, interior and running gear, and be detailed to an acceptable level.
The idea behind the introduction of the Resto Mod Class is to cater for those vehicles that are mainly street driven with modifications that are not at the level expected of a Concours Modified Class entry or Concours Original Class entry.
- Thoroughbred Class – Only open to MOCA Original Class Gold Award and highest points recipients in the Original Class since 1996. Vehicles entered into this class will have been top Original Class winners previously.

If you've entered your vehicle in for Concours Judging, you will be with your vehicle at the Ford Dealership on Saturday from arrival until given permission to leave. Once finished and released, you can return to the Hotel for some downtime before the evening event. At the end of the judging on Saturday, these vehicles are done and will go on Show for everyone to see on the Sunday at the main show.

Saturday evening will start with a pre-dinner drink at the bar and then once seated in the function room the MC will proceed with the line-up for the night.

The night will consist of some funny stories, maybe a guess speaker, auction of special items, dinner and time to mix and mingle again with friends and even get in a dance or two at the end of the night.

As this evening is a themed night, it's always a wonderful time to go all out with the wigs, fancy glasses, period costumes or clothes and be absolutely fabulous!



The MC for the evening will give any updates needed for the Show on Sunday, for example the timing for arriving at the show ground to be parked up before the public are able to enter the grounds.

Sunday

Fun filled day and presentation evening.

An early breakfast will be arranged as this is an early start to get all cars down to the show ground as soon as possible.

Once at the show ground, marshals will be at the ground to manage all vehicles coming into the grounds and ensuring all movements are managed in a safe and orderly fashion. Cars will be parked for the Show'n Shine, Display Judging Classes and the Concours cars arranged in their respective groups.

Display Judging classes at the Show

If you have entered your vehicle for judging on Sunday, it will be in one of the following classes. These classes are judged by MOCA member volunteers and a score sheet is used.

Example for vehicles registered for judging in the following classes;

- Early Model – Open to Mustangs with a build date of 1964½ - to a date relevant to the hosting of the event designated by the MOCA National Body. Originality and Modifications are not a consideration in this class only “Condition and Presentation” of the car at the time of judging.
- Late Model – Open to Mustangs with a build date range relevant to the hosting of the event designated by the MOCA National Body. Originality and Modifications are not a consideration in this class only “Condition and Presentation” of the car at the time of judging.
- S550 Model – Open to Mustangs with a build date of 1 July 2014 - to present. Originality and Modifications are not a consideration in this class only “Presentation” of the car at the time of judging.

(There is no under car judging in these classes only judging of exterior/body, engine, interior, boot and wheels)

It's recommended to have a couple of chairs and the cold esky in the boot for the day if possible. Once you've walked around all the cars, you may want to have a seat by your vehicle or take up shade under a tree or within the public seating area and if it's a nice warm day having those cold drinks on hand can be very welcome.

Generally there's food and drink vendors onsite for everyone to purchase goods from and sometimes there will be other merchandise available also. This depends on the State hosting the weekend and what they might have arranged.

If the show grounds are within close proximity to the local area, you can wonder off for a few hours to sightsee if you so wish. Or the hosting Club may have made available a mini bus to transport registered members from the grounds to the shops or the hotel and back again.

The show generally finishes around 3pm and everyone is free to leave at this time and return to the hotel. This allows a couple of hours to relax and get ready for the presentation evening event.

Sunday evenings semi-formal event will start with a pre-dinner drink at the bar and then once seated in the function room the MC will proceed with the evening's presentations of awards.



The evening is a time to share and acknowledge the hard work everyone has put into their vehicle for judging both from Display Judged and Concourse and share in the excitement of those members who have been acknowledged with a trophy for their efforts.

The end of the weekend is near, but not quite over. After a full 3 days so far, most are ready for a lazy Monday or may start their journey home depending on where home is.

Monday

There may be a cruise organized for the Monday for all of those still at the Hotel or want to participate on their travels home. This generally is pre-arranged, and you will have registered for it on your original entry form.

This is the time for the farewells and extending best wishes to your interstate friends for the safe trip home and looking forward to catching up next Easter!

Depending on the State hosting will depend on the travel home as some may choose to take some detours and travel home alone for more sightseeing or go back direct with the group.

All in all, the weekend is packed full of good times, laughs, good company and fantastic cars.

We do hope that this information has been informative and sparks some excitement in you to attend the next Mustang Nationals that comes up, whether it's in our State or an away trip.

