

## The Red CentreNATS

Obtaining Government support for Motorised Sports is difficult at the best of times, and one of the key reasons for the existence of groups such as ours. It's therefore refreshing to read of a Government that not only sees the economic and social value of an event, but is prepared to share the funding burden. The inaugural Red CentreNats, held in Alice Springs on the Father's Day weekend, was such an event. Organised as a sister event to the annual Summernats in Canberra, it had a very successful debut with a feature show (over two days), street cruising, a parade, movie night, concert, grass driving events, drag racing at the local motorsports park and presentation night function. There were a range of ticketed events with the ticket prices subsidised by the Northern Territory Government, to make it an affordable, family experience. Children 13 years and under were admitted free.

In the event's program, the Northern Territory's Chief Minister, Adam Giles, had this to say: "The Northern Territory Government is proud to present the inaugural Red CentreNATS that'll take centre stage in Alice Springs from 3 to 6 September. Red CentreNATS is Australia's newest automotive lifestyle festival, a motor show for those who love all things cars. Presented in association with Summernats - Australia's favourite horsepower party - the event will feature something for everyone including precision driving and street cruising, show n' shine, drag racing and an official Burnout Masters Qualifier. There is also the Rock n' Rumble concert on Friday night featuring Chocolate Starfish and Dr Elephant, as well as plenty of activities for children at Blatherskite Park.

Set against the backdrop of the spectacular MacDonnell Ranges, the event will be held at two iconic venues: Blatherskite Park, and the Alice Springs Inland Dragway. The Territory Government has invested \$1 million in the Red CentreNATS and has allocated a multi-million dollar package of sports infrastructure spending across the Territory, including expansions and upgrades for the Alice Springs Inland Dragway and the Central Australia Drag Racing Association (CADRA).

The Territory Government is also providing entrants with the unique opportunity to show off their prized possessions on the streets of Alice Springs. We've set up designated cruise routes and are giving drivers the ability to apply for a temporary license to drive an unregistered vehicle and cruise the town to show off their muscle and style.

I would like to thank all of the officials, volunteers and everyone involved in bringing this great new event together.

The Red CentreNATS will sit alongside existing iconic events including the V8 Supercars and the Finke Desert Race, collectively bringing thousands of interstate visitors - especially motoring and racing enthusiasts - to the Northern Territory. We hope to see you in the Red Centre and may you enjoy the festivities and fun offered by the inaugural Red CentreNATS during this Father's Day weekend. We hope you'll be back next year as the event gets bigger and better."

See <a href="http://www.redcentrenats.com.au/">http://www.redcentrenats.com.au/</a> and their Facebook page for more info. Glad to see this Government got the message!

Check out our new web site at QMSC.org .au. Keep informed and support QMSC by clicking on the face book icon and like the QMSC face book page. Help build a strong QMSC community.

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www.qmsc.org.au e: secretariat@qmsc.org.au

t: 07 3285 1763 m: 0418 794 479

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