

**STREET MACHINE  
SUMMERNATS**

# Standout cars from **Summernats** Part 1

With the current stay at home deal and no events, I thought I would reflect on 33 years of Summernats and come up with 15 standout cars. They are not necessarily the top judged, nor do they meet any particular standard, but they are cars that changed the scene.

There are many cars that are built to Elite standard and have won many top awards – that may be for another day – but these are cars that changed the overall scene, benchmark cars that gave the builders ideas and new goals to strive for. I'm definitely not living in the past, but when I did my research and went back through the years, the majority are from quite a few years ago. That doesn't mean there are not great cars today, just more of the same that are better refined and detailed.

We acknowledge the support of Street Machine Magazine and thank them for the opportunity to reproduce these stunning images.

## **Wayne Pagel** **Black 69 Monaro** **GAS 69**

Pro Street style was just breaking through at the first Summernats in 1987 and Wayne had the meanest, toughest looking pro streeter of the event. This also started the trend, with six awesome pro street cars built and on display at the next Summernats. Definitely a ground breaking car of its day and still one of my favourite cars of all time.



## **Howard Astil** **XA Falcon Sedan** **Rock Solid 2**

I first saw this car in 1988 at Wagga, but really took in the build at Summernats 1. Howard was always a forward thinker and he built this XA with smoothed engine bay, detailed undercarriage and smooth body lines. This car inspired me to build my XY with smoothed and detailed engine bay, undercarriage and interior. This went on to another rebuild and is still around today as Rock 3.



## **Mick Fabar** **33 Ford Coupe** **RAWR**

Another hot rod, completely different to Les Lawry's Victoria. Mick had a vision to build a car that represented a true hot rod, fighter plane, V8 Supercar and muscle car. Mick wanted this car to be tough: exposed tig welds, baseball stitched interior, gloss and satin grey with black highlights – therefore the name “RAWR”. The 460 Ford engine runs supercar injection with all lines and electrics hidden for that clean look but still showing the skilled engineering. This is one of my all-time favourite cars and is still way ahead of many builds today that claim innovation!



## **Gary Myers** **Black 66 Mustang**

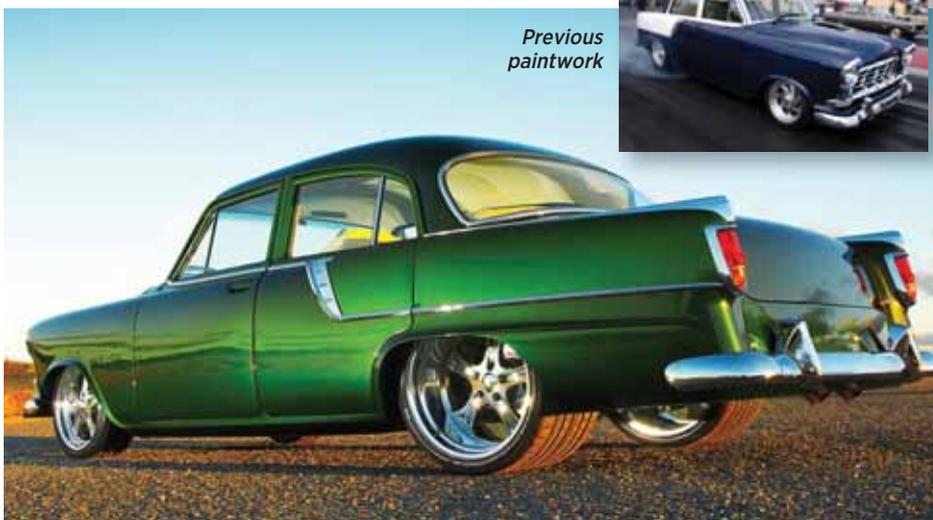
I couldn't go past this historic car. Gary had this car at the first Summernats in plain black with a blown 302 Windsor and 5-slot chrome wheels. This car went on to have an awesome flame job and then became Australia's best-known burnout car, winning many titles including “World burnout Champion” at Summernats in 2000. It has since been handed down to Jake, Gary's son, and gone on to win the burnout masters in his young hands.





### **Peter Fitzpatrick FC Holden**

Again, I couldn't go past Fitz's FC for many reasons. Firstly, it was the first Grand Champion winner at Summernats 6 and he has gone on to win the coveted sword six times. The FC started in white and blue, rebuilt to blue and white and finally in 2-tone Organic Green Kandy. The FC has been improved on each build, going on to win Car of the Decade at MotorEx 2010. Peter was also one of the first to show the scene that not only does your car have to judge well, it has to perform and be driven well to win the sword at Summernats.

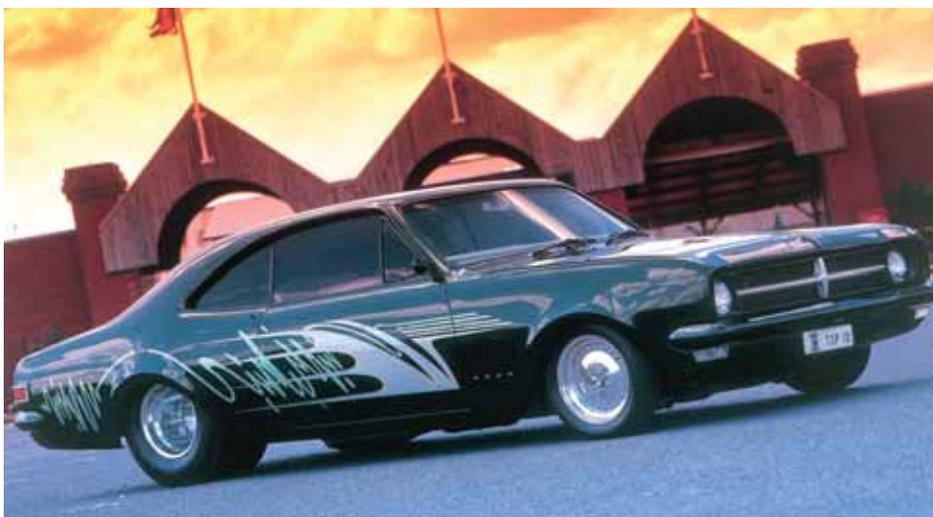


Previous paintwork



### **Brian Wills HK Monaro**

Brian's Monaro was a real game changer as the first Australian car to have same graphics on the undercarriage as well as the body. It also had a completely smoothed undercarriage and engine bay with everything hidden. Many people thought it didn't run at the time. It also had a fully trimmed US style interior, which hadn't been seen in this country before. Brian went on to win Grand Champion at Summernats 7, still owns the car, and this car is still highly regarded as one of the most innovative and influential builds of the last 30 years.



### **John Taverna Pearl Pink Camaro**

This car was ground-breaking for many reasons. Who would dare to paint a tough pro touring car PINK? The one and only John Taverna would. He always pushed the boundaries and was way ahead of his time. He built this car in under 12 months and debuted it at Summernats 4 after driving it from Melbourne for its first outing! John built many cars and was one of the first real personalities of our industry. This big block Camaro proves he was always thinking ahead, inspiring other car builders to keep up.



*Well, that's about it for this month. In the next issue we will complete the Top 15 of yesteryear. Until then, stay safe and healthy.*



Owen is a leading figure within the auto re-styling and vehicle modification industry and a Lifetime Achievement Award inductee. He is Technical and Training Manager at Concept Paints.