



Great events on the eastern seaboard



Street parade Summernats 33.

It looks like the only event we will complete this year is the Red CentreNATS, which was run in early September in Alice Springs. By late September however, there was an announcement that reverberated around the event-starved automotive industry.

Announcements

The first announcement is that MotorEx, which was initially moved from July to November 2020, has been rescheduled to 6 and 7 February

2021 in Melbourne. As this event draws closer, there will be regular updates on how it will be structured and details on the feature events within the show.

Most significant was the announcement that Summernats 34 has been postponed until January 2022 in Canberra, predominately due to the size of the event and the restrictions around mass gatherings that are expected to still be in place this coming January. However, it was not all doom and gloom as the

promoters have been putting together several smaller events to fill the void well into next year.

Andy Lopez, owner of Summernats, announced the rescheduling of events for the remainder of the year and into the early part of 2021. These plans have been worked through with the various state and territory governments, and the promoters' area managers and are now "locked and loaded", provided that the COVID-19 situation stabilises



Andy Lopez making the announcement.

or improves in the coming months.

In making the announcement Lopez said, "ACT Health is using Exhibition Park in Canberra as a COVID-19 testing facility until the end of November and can't confirm we'll have our venue back, which is an unmanageable risk to our event. Combined with ACT Health's recently released protocols that exclude outdoor multi-day festival events of more than 5,000 people, a pathway to a January Summernats is impossible."

He added that they have fought really hard for their event for the last six months, but just couldn't find a way to get it over the line. "Our team is very disappointed, the street machine community is devastated, and the same goes for our loyal staff, contractors, and the accommodation, hospitality and associated businesses that normally benefit from the \$30 million the 'NATS brings to the ACT

economy every January. However, everyone across Australia is suffering, and ACT Health and other agencies are doing their best to keep everyone safe. We respect the great job that's been done to get the ACT to such a good position."

New schedule

The first event for 2021 will be a custom show and driving event on the weekend of 9 and 10 January, Summernats Slam at Sydney Dragway, ideally located between Parramatta and Penrith in western Sydney. This is the weekend originally chosen for Summernats. There will be show and shine, driving events and burnouts, and much more, with more details as we get closer to the day.

Then it's straight to Melbourne for MotorEx in February, the first time this event will be held in summer, so we are all looking forward to that.

Then we will be back in Canberra from 5 to 7 March for the "show and go" event, Summernats Rex Rock 'n Roll. There will be plenty of unveils, cruising, a Burnout Masters final and show with a grand champion announced on the Sunday. This will be smaller in entrants and crowds compared to the Summernats but will still be an awesome event at Exhibition Park in Canberra.

As soon as that's done, we will be off to the much anticipated Rockynats from 2 to 5 April, and as this is in Queensland, there are already over 1,000 entries and quite a few unveils ready to go. I'm really looking forward to this event as it has been in the planning stages for over two years now and will have all the elements to make a really special event.

Of course, the first weekend in September we will be off to Alice Springs again for Red CentreNATS



1947 Stylemaster at MotorEx 2019.



36 Ford Coupe at Summernats33.



Ford Escort at MotorEx 2019.



Josephine had her eye on this beast at MotorEx 2019.

5 Minutes with ...



Kerrie Goodall
U-POL

When did you join the industry? I joined the automotive industry 20 years ago

What was your first job in the industry? Demonstrator for Rose Wheeler's Lightning Hand Cleaner range

What do you do now? Retail brand and channel management for U-POL, brands like Raptor and ISOPON..

What do you like about the industry? Down to earth and that I know it well. And U-POL's amazing products and people

What don't you like about the industry? Was a 'boys club' back in the day but not so much now.

What music do you like? Depends on my mood I guess: from Faith No More to Kasey Chambers to Funk Rock.

Your Favourite Artist? Gaudi and Dali - I was blown away when I visited Spain.

Your favourite food? Pizza

Your favourite drink? Good red wine... OK any wine ☺

Your hobbies? Boat stuff

Who in the world would you most like to meet? Jane Goodall, Sea Shephard's Captain Paul Watson or Steve Irwin. Amazing 'doers' for a better world.

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2021, and after such a successful event this year I'm sure it will be even better attended by entrants and spectators next year. The guys are working on a few other events across the country and we will keep you posted on details of these exciting events once they are locked in.

Staying connected

Another thing we have been doing to keep the industry connected is the Summernats podcasts. For those who missed them, we did 17 one-hour shows leading into Red CentreNats, interviewing some of the best-known car guys and celebrities in the industry. A few of the people interviewed were: Troy Trepanier and the Ring Brothers from the USA, two of the best car builders on this planet, and race drivers John Bowe, Jim Richards, David Reynolds, Victor and Ben Bray and Rocky Reyham, all at the pinnacle of their field during their careers.

We also had a chat with a few sports legends (Rod Wishart, Australian rugby league representative and Barry Hall, AFL legend) along with some past Summernats Grand Champions (Peter

Fitzpatrick, Howard Astill, Rob Beauchamp and Gary Myers).

Some of the craziest interviews were with the Burnout guys. One night we had 12 of them together on Zoom. What were we thinking? Anybody who missed these can go back and check them out on the Summernats live site on YouTube. We will be having the podcasts again intermittently so keep an eye out for the updates and some cool information.

These sure have been crazy times, especially for all the Victorians. I truly wish everyone, especially our great industry, all the best and hopefully we will move forward positively for the rest of this year and into 2021. Get along and support whatever event you can as the guys and girls have worked hard to get these events up and running and will also support the economy in these towns. See you there.



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.



Hot Rods a plenty at Rockynats 2019.