

Motorfest 26 Report

The planning for Motorfest 26 commenced in February 26 by an enthusiastic committee. Strong support from both sponsors and contributors was a feature of this year's event with Bennys Grafton Smash Repairs again being the major sponsor together with Clarence Valley Council. The full list of sponsors and contributors is shown below.

The efforts of committee members set the standard for what has been another successful Motorfest at Jabour Park and on-site preparations were on Wednesday 19th August and completed on Saturday 22nd August. Thanks to all involved with setting up the site.

The weather gods were kind to us by delivering a perfect day and on Sunday 23th August 26 the gates opened at 6:00am to welcome the first cars to Jabour Park. President Kim Dahl introduced Local Member and Club Patron Richie Williamson who opened Motorfest 26 and welcomed all to enjoy the day and commended the club for it's involvement with the community and the event. Acting CVC Mayor, Greg Clancy also attended and the support given by CVC is appreciated.

In excess of 266 cars came through the gate, with 236 entering the judging for best vehicles. There was no featured marque this year so the 'best of' trophies were hotly contested. The invited judges had a lot of work to do, and the trophy classes and winners are listed below.

The Clarence Valley Historic and Enthusiasts Motorcycle Club created an interesting addition to the event and there were 35 motorcycles on display during the day ranging from vintage to the latest available. Trophies were awarded for the several classes judged on the day.

Loving Life FM103.1 broadcast all day from the site and multiple interviews kept the crowd informed and entertained.

The event attracted a large number of people (est. 5,500) coming and going throughout the day, including many families with young children, which is pleasing to see as the event is a family event. This year the jumping castle, stationary engine display, model aeroplanes, Army Reserve and Naval Cadets added to the variety of attractions. A group of tractor owners also attended the event.

Grafton SES dismantled a Mercedes Benz sedan to demonstrate a real-life crash recovery situation, and Grafton City Rural Fire Service and South Grafton Fire and Rescue displayed equipment and undertook interactive firefighting demonstrations. Grafton Police Highway Patrol were present providing an insight into their operations. These activities were both entertaining and educational, especially for the younger attendees.

Again this year, the Grafton Sporting Car Club displayed a number of race cars and it is good to have the opportunity to share common interests. A group of tractor owners also attended the event.

The Club canteen, food vans, coffee vans, ice cream outlets were all very busy on the day keeping the food and refreshments up to all, and a special call out to those helpers in the club canteen as it is always a big day – well done all.

The markets were well attended with a wide range of market stalls and there was a constant crowd passing through that area. The markets were busy all day and the free children's 'face painter' added to the family enjoyment. There was a lot of competition from other market-oriented events on the weekend and Helen Smith did well to put together a varied market that was well received.

Sponsor displays by Ongmac and AESON Power were well attended and the Committee is looking to expand the number of commercial displays in future events.

The judges had a big task as the large number, types and quality displayed this year was outstanding with many entries coming from beyond the Clarence Valley. Photos of the day are on the Club's website and Facebook page.

The presentation of trophies was by Graham Benn for major sponsor Bennys Grafton Smash Repairs.

The following table lists of the award winners for Grafton Motorfest 26. Congratulations!

Category	Name	Details
Best Holden	Paul Attard, Wollongbar	1973 GTR XU1 Holden Torana
Best Ford	Col & Karen Shepherd, Codrington	1956 Ford Ute
Best Chrysler	Graham Benn, Clarenza	1976 Chrysler Charger
Best Japanese	Ian Button, Swan Bay	1995 Honda NSX
Best European	Andy Keen, Lawrence	1977 VW Kombi ute
Best British	Rachel Bennett, Jackybulbin	1958 Morris Minor 1000
Best Hot Rod	George Canny, Moonee Beach	1939 Ford pickup
Best Muscle Car	Nick Campbell, South Grafton	1968 Chev Comaro
Best motorsports car	Ian Beadman, Waterview Heights	1962 BTU Brabham
Vintage Car	Greg Gallagher, Gulmarrad	1926 Clyno
Vintage tractor	Rod Green, Waterview Heights	1968 Massey Fergusen
Vintage caravan	Robyn Nixon, Grafton	1959 Sunliner Caravan
Vintage truck	Marty Guffogg, South Grafton	1929 Ford AA truck
Most original	Lee Bowling, Swan Creek	1962 Dodge Phoenix
Encouragement	Les Pitman, Nana Glen	1966 Ford XP Falcon
Top Five (all in)	(blank)	(blank)
1	Ryan Gorton, Corindi Beach	1970 Holden LC GTR Torana
2	John McNamee, Coffs Harbour	1980 Ford Falcon Dick Johnson Grand Prix Replica
3	Erron Hennessy, Junction Hill	1968 Holden Monaro
4	Ian Chalker, South West Rocks	1966 Ford Mustang
5	Shane Pratt, Braunstone	1967 Holden Premier
Motor cycles	(blank)	(blank)
Pre-war	Geoff Meller, Coutts Crossing	1928 JD Harley Davidson
Post war – 1969	Mark Smidt, Seelands	1955 Triumph T110

1970 – 1996	Graham Winters, Grafton	1975 Honda GL1000
Modern (post 1996)	Tony Foulstone, South Grafton	2020 Indian Dark Horse Vintage
Best competition M/C	Steve Elliott, Waterview Heights	1991 Honda CBR250RR

Thanks to our generous sponsors for this year's event and your contribution is valued and most welcome. Media (including print, radio, and social media) has been actively used to identify the support from the businesses listed below and recognise the support.

Benny's Grafton Smash Repairs was the major sponsor again this year together with Clarence Valley Council. Sponsors included Ron Skinner, Loving Life FM103.1, Grafton Toyota, Abbey Motor Inn, Clarence Valley Tyre Centre, Wykes Tyrepower, Westlawn Mechanical, Clarence Coast Motors, Motortorque, Sea Breeze Motors, Battery Barn, Inspiration Paints, Smith's Auto, Ongmac, Diggin' the Clarence and Grafton Brewing Group

Contributors included Repco Yamba, NRMA Grafton, Als Mechanical, Grafton Fast Photos, CDA Eastland Supplies, Grafton City Batteries, Snap-on Tools, Hardware Shed, Book Warehouse, BCF, Hip Pocket Grafton, Flexihire Grafton, 2GF and FM104.7.

It was a great day and the feedback from those that attended has been very positive.

I would like to thank all that made this event possible, whether they be on the Motorfest 26 Committee, helped on the day (50+ members), our sponsors, or in any other way. It is only with your support and dedication that this event is the success that it is. This was the 8th Motorfest event that the Club has held and they are getting better each year.

The presentation and donation of \$5,000 (being the gate takings) to the Westpac Rescue helicopter service will be made to close out the event in the recognition of this great community service.

As chair of the Motorfest 26 Committee I would like to thank the members of the committee for their efforts to set a framework that guides the event, the sponsors and contributors that supported the event, the members that have provided input into this event behind the scenes, and all those that helped with the preparation and with the activities on the day.

Most of all, thanks to the community for supporting our event, we hope you had a great day.

See you all next year!

Well done all!

Dave Andrews

Chair, Motorfest 26 Committee

24/08/26

Members of the committee are: Helen Smith, Kim Dahl, Leigh Harding, Judy Andrews, Mike Stack, Peter Arnull, Doug Clark, Alan Marsh, Ken Norton, and Laurie Fitzpatrick.