

COMPETITOR FEEDBACK

[Bob Watson](#)

The Heartland is a real Rally and all Historic Rallyists should support it. Long stages, night running, just like it was in the golden days. I have paid my deposit for next year. Hmm... one year to fit a turbo to the R16TS. 🙌🙌🏆

[Geoff Holloway](#) is with [Brian Catt](#) and [Rick Hood](#).

The rally was an organisational triumph, the course took us through some amazing landscapes, and the officials, competitors, service teams and locals were all friendly and helpful. One of the very best.

[Mark Nelson](#)

Well, AGL rally of the Heartland is over for another year. Results will show a win for Stuart and me. His first. What a great event. Top organisation, great officials and the AGL lunch was awesome.



Stuart BOWES/ Mark NELSON 1975 Mercedes 450SLC Photo John Douch

[Kent Lawrence](#)

Well that marks a milestone. Day #1 of the AGL Rally of the Heartland done and dusted. A few little issues here and there but nothing that [Ross Stewart Perry](#) and [Brad Hurford](#) couldn't fix and keep our event going. [Nathan Long](#) did a magic job on those bloody long stages. Seriously 84km in the dark, blind! I felt like we were both driving and I just had the wheel. Overall we're holding 5th, however we've had some power steering issues. However, super stoked and having a ball. All new experiences and very enjoyable!

On to day two tomorrow - bring it on ☐

[Burra National Trust](#)

Thank you to [AGL Rally SA - Rally of the Heartland](#) for showcasing some of Burra's Nationally Heritage listed sites. We love seeing these historic sites activated, and visitors and locals alike, enjoying our beautiful town 🚗🚗

[Mike Mitchell](#)

The AGL Rally SA - Rally of the Heartland really connects with the local community. All competitors and service crews donate toys and educational stuff to the local schools. Here we have [Ian Reddiex](#) and [Kent Lawrence](#) getting into the spirit.



Ian Reddiex on left with Kent Lawrence at the toy distribution

[Kent Lawrence](#)

Beware - long post ahead! Proceed with caution.

I'm not sure how to put words around this weekend at the AGL Rally of the Heartland. First up, thanks to all the organisers, officials and volunteers. You put an awesome event on. [Ivar Stanelis](#) big shout out to your whole team.

[Nathan Long](#), what can I say! You didn't miss a trick all weekend. Operated flawlessly, kept me on point and made my role pretty easy. Our ability to get in a rally car once in a blue moon and gel is pretty darn cool and I truly look forward to The Alpine and many more classic events. Both you and I can mark that 83km's at night as a milestone stage!! That was bloody long!!

To all the other place getters, Stuart Bowes and his team, [Ian Reddiex](#) and [Mike Mitchell](#), Jason Simms and Co. well done!! You two up front, you were something else.

Lastly, it's been a massive achievement for everyone involved. It takes dedication, hard work and a lot of resource to make these moments happen. For that I can't thank each and everyone of you enough that have helped in making this real. Till next time all.

[Brian Catt](#)

What a team of officials, all working tirelessly to put on an awesome event deserving of more competitor support. Thank you one and all and the little band of Excels down the back drove their wheels off and had the best rally ever. A great variety of cars was good to see and the Rallysafe gave us

[Mike Mitchell](#)

And a very big THANK YOU to each and everyone involved as an official, organiser or competitor. The event was a resounding success and most enjoyable.

[AGL Rally SA - Rally of the Heartland - Damian Reed](#)

Mr Rowan Ramsey MP our local Federal Member of Parliament holding the seat of Grey in South Australia, flags away the first car - the 1975 Mercedes 5.0L 450 SLC crewed by Stuart Bowes/ Mark Nelson and a crisp Saturday morning in Burra.



Rowan Ramsey waves of car 1

Thank you, Rowan, we really appreciated your time and your lovely introduction and warm welcome to the region and are thankful of the support offered to our event by not only yourself, but the whole region.

[AGL Rally SA - Rally of the Heartland](#) We know that this is a special place, and it's a rare privilege to be able to run a special stage there, and so close to Burra. Thanks to all involved [Regional Council of Goyder, Northern Argus](#)

[John Carney Burra National Trust](#) thanks for having us, we will be back over in a few weeks for a better look. Loved the town and surrounding district

[Kent Lawrence](#)

It was a pleasure to be part of the battle. An amazing experience and event. Thank you!

[John Carney](#)

Thanks John Douch , what a fantastic set of photos, glad you could be out there. I couldn't have done it without the team, very grateful to have had Tracey Dewhurst , Chris Stone and Graeme Wise. The AGL Rally SA - Rally of the Heartland was one of the most enjoyable events I have done. Many thanks to Ivar Stanelis and his band of happy officials.

Brett Baldwin

This event is one of the best events I've competed in since I started rallying over 20 years ago long stages and some awesome roads would highly recommend entering only trouble now is trying to find another rally with as good of bang for buck well done 👍 Ivar and all officials.



Graham Wallis to Historic Rally Association

A few words on the Heartlands:

A really great event, the vast experience of Ivar and his team showed through, this was a huge operation. I loved the route this year, the use of the roads to the North East of Hallet was excellent. Those 4 stages were all different in character even though using basically the same roads. "North to South", just north of Burra and running right next to the Barrier Highway at times, then TL at spectator point situated at the "Midnight Oil House" was probably the most fun for me.

The 85 km night stage was the hardest work but possibly our best result and gave us the place over John Carney. Over 440 km competitive, it hardly seems worthwhile entering a State round after doing this?

I entered the first Rally of the Heartlands (2017) in a totally unsorted car, had race spec engine, no brakes to speak of (non-boosted balance bar setup simply didn't work), a bad misfire that started on the start line and came and went over the weekend, finished second last but had a great time when the engine ran cleanly. I have been refining the car for two years now and it was very rewarding to be able to go there this year in a car that was reliable and easy to drive then take out 7th O/R and first Victorian. Thanks to Brian Ward for a great job co driving as always and apologies for giving you my cold! Also, thanks to Graeme Wise for carrying a spare tyre to Hallet for me, pity about the slow leak, lucky we didn't need it!

Peter Corkran What a beautiful historic and friendly town, second time over for the AGL Rally of The Heartland and my friends are all keen to visit I have pumped the place up so much!

Jason Sims / Lisi Phillips)

We sure did have a ball. Such a unique event showcasing the state's mid-north region. The terrain offers a challenge for the crews which requires them to be able to transition from high speed smooth roads to the hard to read creek crossings to the mesmerising off camber crests under the windmills. There is something for everyone and we will certainly be back in 2020!



Jason SIMS/ Lisi Phillips 1976 Datsun 180B

Michael, Justin and Phil Coates

Hi Ivar,

I just wanted to thank you and your cast of thousands for a fabulous event.

I couldn't make the dinner unfortunately due to poor stomach Andrew missed the chance to thank you all on the night.

Even though we had 1973 original fuel pump and axle issues (they don't make things like they used too-fancy only getting 46 years and over 20000 rally k's out of those components!)we were very happy we kept up the tradition of driving to the event and driving home on second hand tyres and were pleased in that company to set 10th and 11th fastest stage times.

Well done and THANKYOU.

Michael, Justin and Phil Coates

B Team Rally Media: [AGL Rally SA Rally of the Heartland 2019](#) — in [Burra, South Australia, Australia](#).

What a great rally!

Many thanks to Ivar Stanelis and his band of organisers and officials. The event is for 'classic' rally cars, and covers a wide range of road types, from fast 'shire' roads to back country minor roads with dips, jumps and dry creek beds. And not forgetting the two iconic stages held high up on the ridges of the AGL wind farms. The world at your feet!

The event is every bit as much about the country it passes through, as the actual competition.

Bruce Lake - Thanks for the Fun

Ivar and Geraldine, a very big thank you for the weekend's entertainment and also to all your hard-working volunteers. A huge effort to make it all happen let alone make it work well. Impressive.

Despite being new to gravel/dirt we had a great weekend. Should have started decades ago. Lovely town, stunning stages alternating between lots of fun to lots of surprises but all good. We'll be back. Best regards, Bruce Lake & Peter Hall - Datsun 240Z



Bruce LAKE/ Peter HALL 1973 Datsun 240Z

Mike Mitchell We competitors salute the officials and organisers who enabled us competitors to have such an enjoyable weekend. Thank you!



Ian REDDIEX/Mike MITCHELL 1971 Datsun 1600 SSS

Emma Smith N Jones Thank you to everyone for putting on an amazing event! My second ever rally and it was fun and challenging! Hopefully one day I'll improve enough to get out of the intro class! Will definitely be back again though.

David Wilson Thanks Ivar for a fantastic weekend of Rallying. It was a great weekend of volunteering with WICEN and utilising our skills, it was a great a meal as well at the Burra Hotel and catching up with the locals for a beer or two. Cya next on the Adelaide Rally

BRETT ROSS (Ross/Hague)

After hearing all the hype about Rally of the Heartland for the past few years we thought we should give it a go this year.

We were not disappointed- fantastic selection of roads, organisers went out of their way to make everything as simple and relaxed as possible.

Great value for money as well. We'll be back in 2020 for sure.

(Ross/Hague)

Photo credits to **Matt Talbot-OzSports Photography** and **Twin Cam Media**



Kent Lawrence Awesome event! Thank you to all the organisers, officials and volunteers. Definitely no easy task standing up a multi-day 450km competitive event. Well done!

Mark Nelson Well done Ivar and team. Top event, great roads and well put together.

And so good to have all the interstaters come over. Seems they all enjoyed themselves.

Next year it will grow in entry numbers. Not a bad comment was heard all weekend. I would be locking in a date for next year.

Mike Mitchell Thank you for the full team of volunteers - across all aspects of our sport. We salute you 👍👍

Nicola Testa Thank you all for your effort and commitment to make this one the great classic motorsport events and for allowing us to come and play in [AGL Rally SA - Rally of the Heartland](#) CAR17 NISSAN 240RS Thanks to Ivar and your team for another fantastic event. Despite the lost time recovering our departed bonnet in SS5 we managed to keep it together for the final day to finish 12th outright. Will be back next year, bigger & better. 😁



Nicola TESTA/ Nigel WATERS 1982 Nissan 240RS

Photo JOHN DOUTCH

Shane Attwell

After all the rebuilds and the shaking down and the re-re-builds, we are ready to get out into the SA desert for the Rally of the Heartland. Gotta be one of the best rallies in Oz. Great people – all they want to do is make the rally easy for competitors. Documentation and scrutineering is the easiest, slickest we've seen. They actually accept that there are other people in the rally world who can scrutineer cars and sign them off before the event 😊. Well done Ivar and his crew! Looking forward to catching up with a few of the lads from the "Sydney to Almost London" again also. Everyone is absolutely STOOOOOOOOOOKED and looking forward to this awesome event.



Shane ATWELL/ David MOIR 1971 Ford Falcon GT

Photo Ryan Schembri

Donna & Terry Trewern

The inaugural "Spirit of the Rally" awards were presented to a competitor entry, and to an Official. Both represent a person or persons who go above and beyond, go the extra mile, help others, demonstrate energy and passion for the event and embody team spirit in a fun, caring and supportive way, between all members of the event

The competitor winners were Donna and Terry TREWERN, who turned back in stage when they became aware of an incident behind them in the Long night stage, and then stayed on site to assist their fellow competitors and our Car 99 and the MIVs tasked to attend. Good outcome too, with safety equipment working as it should. Well done guys, going back was impressive, and selfless.

Congratulations and thanks, Ivar Stanelis

Wow we have received the trophy, it's awesome. Thank-you for organising the most memorable rally we have ever participated in. Knowing that the team in car 26, especially the co-driver, were okay was certainly reward enough for us. We would like to think that any other team would have done the same.



Terry TREWERN/ Donna TREWERN 1973 Toyota TE 27 Levin

We are certainly hoping to make the trip again next year, it is a huge undertaking for us driving 2,500 kms (return) and finding appropriate accommodation for my brother who is our service crew manager was a bit of an issue as he is a paraplegic and the accommodation away from Paxton Square for him was not great. We are hopeful though that things will fall into place as we would certainly like to be there again :-)
We loved the blind event just for the record :-)

We have attached a pic of us and the car with our trophy as you requested.
Good luck with your prep for next year too.

Hilary Evans

What a great event the AGL Rally SA – Rally of the Heartland is. Ivar and his directing team need to be congratulated on staging one of the best rallies in Australia. This is a true competitor rally that is ideally suited to modern and classic rally cars.

Rally car teams are treated to and tested by a variety of brilliant roads and varying conditions. This rally delivers all sort of speed tests from short technical to long distance stages that most teams enjoy. How often do you get to speed along an exhilarating mountain ridge line and feel like a WRC driver on what could become a classic iconic stage in Australian rallying - The Wind Farm Stages!!

From the wind farm stages, the rally moves to semi desert scrubby areas with long stages and jumps designed to test 5th or 6th gear.

The rally is centred around the well catered Burra region that delivers excellent accommodation and food with a central service at the start line.

I cannot speak more highly of this rally as it does not disappoint and is well worth the effort of competing as there is no other rally like this on the Australian calendar.

We will be back as we have unfinished business after our gear box cried enough.



Hilary EVANS/ Doug FERNIE 1971 Datsun 1600 SSS - photo Ryan Schembri

Tracey Dewhurst

Hey Ivar, apologies for the delay, as you know it's all busy currently, but I just wanted to send my thanks for a great event and it's nice to get to parts of the country that really enjoy us being there and a beautiful landscape to boot. Thanks again for all your hard work and please send my gratitude on to all your officials out in the field on some particularly cold times! Trace



The Podium 2019

1st Outright

5 Stuart BOWES (SA) - Mark NELSON (SA) Mercedes 450SLC 5.0L 1975

2nd Outright

4 Ian REDDIEX (QLD) - Mike MITCHELL (QLD) Datsun 1600 SSS 1971

3rd Outright

8 Jason SIMS (SA) - Lisi PHILLIPS (SA) Datsun 180B 1976