



Officials Newsletter Wrap-up May 2021

AGL Rally SA – Rally of the Heartland 2021 has been run and won

The Rally was centred in the state's mid-north around Burra with stages stretching from Mallett in the north East to Ulooloo in the north, then west towards Jamestown and Booborowie with stages around Hallett and Hallett Hill, and with a couple of new stages added – near 400 km competitive

The Service Park in Burra was at the Towns historic Paxton Square Cottages and was again a real feature. There are not many places, if any, where competitors can step out of their accommodation straight into their competition car. Additionally, the Community school's oval was deployed for the first time and was a real bonus

Another feature was the fourth year that full competitive stages were run in the centre of Burra in the Heritage Monster Mine precinct, a rare privilege, and spectated by hundreds of locals.

New and old Wind Farm stages were also featured, with their deeply competitive technical roads providing strong challenges

It was "Rallying. Done Right"" and again turned the clock back for the sport in South Australia, as only the fourth blind event for many, many years.

Pace notes/Recce were not allowed, and that showed in the pace of the event – most stages under (some well under) 120kph average – a result that event management was hoping for, and one that was very similar to last year – so, nearly 70 crews, nearly 400km competitive, 17 stages, and zero incidents – a great result

The local paper, the PLAINS PRODUCER had a great article about us that went straight to the heart of our approach



RALLY OF THE HEARTLAND



Event ambassador Mark Beard from NSW with Sam Hill in their 1200 Coupe, pictured in the one of the wind farm stages in 2018. PHOTO: B TEAM RALLY MEDIA – JOHN DOUTCH

Car rally with community heart roars back in Burra

BURRA'S beloved Rally of the Heartland is back after a COVID-induced hiatus, with a focus on community engagement and spectacular stages.

Rally director and clerk of the course, Ivar Stanelis, has been involved in motorsport for more than 30 years, but Rally of the Heartland remains a standout event.

"It's really quite special," Mr Stanelis said.

"This rally is probably one of the most interesting, it travels over impressive country and it gets great support from the community.

"It's quite unique, not many rallies in the world are having competitions through wind farms."

There are a variety of rally cars participating, including four and two-wheel drives made locally and overseas.

Ivar said that the popularity of the rally has increased significantly, with the number of entrants doubling in the four years that the event has been held.

Barb Button, community development manager at the Regional Council of Goyder,

Isabella Carbone reports:

said that the rally has been evolving over the years to be a community-minded event.

The town of Burra will be setting up market stalls and hosting community meals across the weekend in addition to the car rally.

The weekend will open with a breakfast hosted by the Burra Community School after the Member for Stuart, Dan van Holst Pellekaan, officially opens the rally at Paxton Square Cottages.

The Burra Markets will kick off Saturday at 9am in Market Square and run over the weekend.

A community lunch will be held Sunday at the Burra Monster Mine rally spectator site.

"We're creating a real festival feel," Mrs Button said.

"People can come see the drivers take off and then enjoy the morning looking at what the markets have to offer.

"Many of the stallholders are local busi-

nesses organised by Jodie at That Country Store with a range from produce to jewellery to dog treats in the mid north region."

According to Ivar and Barb, people flock from all over Australia to attend the rally in the Mid North.

"It's definitely been a growing event that brings a lot of support to local businesses and organisations," Mrs Button said.

"The rally is family friendly and great for people interested in cars but it's also fantastic for the people who have an interest in heritage spaces. To see them activated for other activities such as the rally is quite amazing.

"To see the cars go up through the Burra Monster Mine site is quite a beautiful sight."

Barb said with accommodation in the region booked out from Eudunda right through to Terowie, the rally was a major tourism drawcard.

Rally of the Heartland will be held Saturday and Sunday May 8-9 in Burra.

For more information visit rallysa.com.au/events/rally-of-the-heartland/

The event had a nice retro feel to it, and many commented on the relaxed ambience of the weekend. Our aim, with your help, was and is to make it easy for the competitor to enter and run

The stage results are here: - www.rallyresults.com.au/roth/2021

OFFICIALS

Events cannot happen without volunteer officials, and huge, huge thanks go out to the 200+ people that worked tirelessly to help execute our event. Our Stage Management Teams, Service Park Manager, Course Car Manager, Chief Safety and the MIVs, the A Team and their various groups of officials all did a great job.

All stages were fully manned, and ran largely on time and the **UNFAILINGLY PLEASANT** mantra has got through for sure

It's a tough gig, it really is, and we really appreciate you all. I thank you all too for the positive impression you left with competitors, residents and spectators alike.

Equally, the managements of naming rights sponsor AGL, the landowners and residents along the route, and the local Goyder and Northern Areas Councils all contribute to enable things to happen. Thank you one and all – we know that we are privileged to rally in the windfarm precincts, the Mine heritage area particularly, and in the district generally, and hope we contributed to the region positively

More than 10 official photographers captured the action and scenery of the Rally of the Heartland over the weekend. Many of their shots are shown on our Facebook page

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/rallyheartland/>

I would like to thank our various sponsors and supporters as well – without them, events like this would suffer, so let's applaud AGL ENERGY, LIGHTFORCE PERFORMANCE LIGHTING, SHANNONS, BOILEAU, CMI TOYOTA, MITSUBISHI MOTORS AUSTRALIA LIMITED, and ARTCRAFT. Please buy from them or use their services whenever you can to show your appreciation of their support for our sport.

So too, our friends at The Regional Council of GOYDER, NORTHERN AREAS Council and WICEN, SAPOL, CFS, CAMS, all the RESIDENTS along the route, and of course all OUR ARMY OF VOLUNTEER OFFICIALS.



Photo TONY MOTT

2021 AWARDS

Awards have been allocated. Lots of discussion and the final choices follow.

The Official of the Year Award

As always it was a difficult decision to pick a winner

There are many, many people putting in enormous amounts of effort and time. Beth and Bill Baillie in the Service Park, Scott Thompson with the MIVs, Tony Rowe with equipment, Iz Singe with course cars, the list goes on

After a lot of consideration, the award has been issued to **Ros Fisher**. Ros goes the extra mile in many and varied areas and has provided the leadership over 20 consecutive years that got over 1000, **yes 1000** kilometres of Special stage set up and run. Impressive indeed. She is now retiring as a Stage Commander and this final accolade is richly deserved. We will miss you running a stage, but look forward to seeing you in other areas

Best Stage Award

Awarded to the Stage Commander of the stage judged as best set up by a range of observers, including the crew of 00. **The winner is NEWBIE and BOOBOROWIE** (equal best).

Congratulations go to **Phil and Sandra Matthews**, and their team. This has yet again been a decision based on very marginal factors – all stages performed well, and everyone should be more than pleased with the jobs they did, and the way they were carried out. Close second were LONG, and MORE VIEWS. Well done to all

SPIRIT of the RALLY

Awarded to the person judged to have typified our event in attitude, helpfulness, willingness, just turning up and having the “can do” every event need

The award goes to JARED WALDRON. Thank you – you were everywhere!



TOY STORY

All competitors and service crews at the AGL RallySA - Rally of the Heartland were asked to bring toys to the event as part of their entry requirements. Well, everyone excelled at that, and many of Burra's children were delighted with them at a toy handing over event at the Burra Early Learning Centre ahead of the start.

Check out the kids in the pictures. Thanks everyone, it was a great thing to do for a community that supports us – and is now the tradition going forward



Photos by Wayne Hough

Here is Wayne's comment

At the weekend the Rally was staged around Burra. One of the most delightful community events was the distribution of toys, on Friday, at the Burra Early Learning Centre. The Rally crews donate toys for the children of the district, the local Hospital and the Town Library. A big thank you to car 48, Hilary Evans and Doug Fernie and car 51, Glenn Bakker and Cathy Elliot for

providing their Rally cars for the children to investigate. The photographs show how much the children enjoyed the event.

On a final note, everyone can and should be proud of our efforts in the Heartland, and I look forward to working with you all again.

Cheers Ivar



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**The Winners
Andrew and David Travis 1984 Nissan Gazelle**



Photo by John Douch – in the final stage – MORE VIEWS