

October 19 2013

REVIEW



CANBERRA'S WEEKEND ON WHEELS

SPIN SATURDAY

CENTENARY OF CANBERRA

The 12th of March 2013 celebrated 100 years since Lady Denman, wife of then Governor-General Lord Denman, stood upon the newly laid Foundation Stones and officially named the new Australian capital, 'Canberra'. To mark this anniversary, the ACT Government the ACT Government appointed renowned festival director Robyn Archer AO, as creative director of a year-long program of celebration and commemoration. The program sought to embrace all facets of the ACT community, bringing to light the diverse endeavours in sport, arts and culture, architecture and design and community building and participation that made the national capital and continue to grow Canberra as an innovative 21st Century city. The Centenary of Canberra program encouraged an increased recognition of Canberra as the national capital of Australia overseas. It encouraged all Australians to re-visit and re-mix their ideas about Canberra. Especially it encouraged the people of the ACT to celebrate through an emphasis on the passions and skills they bring to the making of their community.

SPIN SATURDAY

SPIN Saturday was an 11 hour program of community and arts projects presented on 19 October 2013 to celebrate Canberra's love of Cars. It was the flagship event of SPIN: Canberra's Weekends on Wheels, which ran throughout October to demonstrate Canberra's love of all things on wheels or that spin, including motoring, cycling, caravanning, spin bowling, frisbee and other sports and even political spin.

Canberra is a land-locked city with a number of large satellite suburbs and surrounding towns. Since the founding of the city in 1913, its residents have worn well-driven paths to the nearby NSW South Coast and Snowy Mountain regions. A love affair with the car is instilled in Canberra, finding regular expression through Canberra's highest participation in car clubs, per-capita, of any city in Australia and the annual Summernats event for which it has become famous.

A large, working industrial depot, complete with a disused 1940's hangar was identified as the SPIN Saturday site. With her experience in large-scale, outdoor, community-oriented public arts projects, Donna Jackson was asked by Robyn to work with some of Canberra's best artists and its car lovers, as well as the raw potential of the industrial site, to create SPIN Saturday.

"ONE OF MY FAVOURITE EVENTS FOR THE YEAR ... AN OCCASION WHERE THE AUDIENCE WAS PRIVILEGED TO WITNESS TRUE GENIUS AT WORK"

CANBERRA WEEKLY



"I LOVED THE DIFFERENT BITS OF ENGAGEMENT, GREAT LAYOUT AND THOUGHTFUL ENTERTAINMENT FOR EVERYONE.

... THIS IS THE KIND OF COMMUNITY EVENT THAT SHOULD BE PROMOTED AND HELD MORE OFTEN! SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE IN A FUN, CREATIVE ATMOSPHERE"

ATTENDEE

SPIN Saturday was developed over 18 months, as Donna worked with the Centenary of Canberra to get to know Canberra's arts and car communities. Though not used to working together these two communities came together around projects allowing each to express their craft or passion, while simultaneously developing an understanding of the other. For SPIN Wear, a wearable art fashion parade, three costume designers extended their use of materials to use car parts, visiting wreckers and seeking their advice. A video artist revealed the love affair of six Canberrans with their treasured cars. The operator of a SIMS Metal car compactor tailored skills developed over 25 years in an excavator to an entertaining performance of car compaction for the public. Universally, both artists and community participants in the program believed their collaboration had been beneficial. The artists involved appreciated extending their practice into a community setting, communicating with an audience not familiar with their work. The car community reported feeling very invested in their collaboration with the artists, becoming passionate about their SPIN Saturday project and seeing new dimensions to their relationship with cars.



DAYTIME PROGRAM 12PM – 5PM

Audiences were free to roam across the site between 12 – 5pm to enjoy a range of different entertainment to tell the story of cars and Canberra, including:

The Wheel History of Canberra – riffing off a car from each decade of Canberra's history since 1913, local professional and amateur dance groups presented a dance from that era



SIMS Car Crushing – the local SIMS depot put on a choreographed demonstration of car crushing, evoking 'wows' from kids and families

Windscreen – local artists Janice Kuczowski and Joseph Falsone made a beautifully wrought film in homage to six Canberra car lovers

ACTION Cinema – Canberra public transport provider ACTION loaned their vintage bus Matilda to be converted into a cinema to show three car-inspired films from local artist Adam Lynch

Warehouse Circus – a local Canberra troupe performed spinning routines of skipping and a German Wheel

Show 'n' Shine – a car wrangler from within the car community sourced a selection of stunning vehicles for a SPIN Saturday Show 'n' Shine

Beat the NRMA Patrolman and NRMA Car Trouble – the presenting partner of the event shared their car skills with the community



SPIN Gallery – a local air brush artist worked on Canberra-themed spray painted bonnets throughout the day, among a gallery of spray painted panels by CIT students

The Fuelers – a local band performed live alongside their restored A Model Ford

CIT Demos – students and staff from the CIT Fyshwick trades skills centre, just down the road, brought along their big truck and engines to show the public what they can do



TWILIGHT PROGRAM 5PM – 7PM

Supported by The Fuelers and their frontman Ed Radclyffe, the Canberra Roller Derby League re-mythologised the creation of Canberra through the tales of their foundation teams and staged a series of demonstration matches for the crowd to enjoy.

NIGHTTIME PROGRAM 7PM – 11PM

SPIN Wear

SPIN Wear is a fashion parade inspired dance performance directed by local choreographer Adelina Larsson. Three local fashion and costume designers Alison Bogg, Linda Davy and Suzan Dlouhy created 17 costumes, from the svelt to the sculptural, primarily from car parts. Seventeen local performers, from dance, circus or modelling backgrounds presented the costumes to music compiled by local sound designer Shoeb Ahmad and footage prepared by local film maker Adam Lynch. Equal parts sexy and skilful, the performance was capped off with angle grinding sparks from CIT students to a rousing reception from the crowd!

Windscreen

Local film artist Janice Kuczowski, and collaborator Joseph Falsone, put a call out through ACT motor clubs for car lovers interested in being part in a film about them and their car. From dozens of responses, the selection was whittled down to six people. From a Cadillac limousine from Chairman Mao via the Ghanaian Embassy, a Summernats award winning Commodore and a racing Formula Holden from the local hill climb club, the cars revealed the personalities of their owners and their attachment to Canberra.

The Petrolsexuals

The Petrolsexuals rocked the SPIN Saturday hangar stage! A band created especially for the event by Hunters and Collectors frontman Mark Seymour, and featuring special guest artists Felicity Urquhart and local group the Brass Knuckle Brass Band, they took the enthusiastic crowd on an odyssey of car-inspired songs. The music was interspersed with personal reflections by Mark and Felicity about their cars; a groovy end to a day celebrating the expressive power of the car.



CREDITS

Principal Partner



Presenting Partner



Supporters



SPIN Saturday was directed by Donna Jackson of Hubcap Productions and produced by the Centenary of Canberra.

Generous support for SPIN Saturday was provided by SIMS Metal Management, CIT Trade Skills Centre, ACTION Buses, Council of ACT Motor Clubs & Canberra Region Morris Minor Club.

SPIN Saturday is a Centenary of Canberra project, proudly supported by the ACT Government

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