

NUMDUC 2009 RALLY

In January for the past 5 years, Sam Kekovich of AFL fame has hosted a TV commercial for the Meat and Livestock Australia Association promoting to all Australian's that "they should eat lamb on Australia Day".

Sam in his 2009 annual Australia Day address focussed on the economic crisis at the "Australian Chop Exchange". He clearly blamed the global credit crisis on "un-Australianism, Wall Street wankers and bottom-feeding, billionaire bankers, stuffing their wallets at the expense of NUMDUC Rally battlers – it's about as un-Australian as it gets" says Sam. He went on to inform us mere plebes of the solution; "the only recipe to fix the fiscal fiasco is with a lamb chop in one hand and a coldie in the other at the NUMDUC 2009 RALLY". Here here I say!!!!

Sam closed with his now infamous quote: "YOU KNOW IT MAKES SENSE".

With this firmly in mind Big Bad Beatts and I set about organising the 2009 event as we have done since 2003. We decided to place special emphasis on this rally being our 10th anniversary NUMDUC. As usual Beatts was our front man due mainly to his charm, wit and ability to get along to meetings with myself pulling the strings in the background coz I am a good puller. Planning drifted along through the early part of the year with all the usual pre-event shite that needed to be done. The Task Schedule flew around various members and was continually tweaked and updated. This sort of event doesn't just happen and many willing members did their bit as they KNEW IT MADE SENSE!

A few obvious changes to the NUMDUC site included Tonka Tuff's house now having being erected and the relocation of DOCWA HQ. In addition to this relocation was a re-build of the fire pit and bbq which now includes a wood fired pizza oven – now known as the G Spot Pizzeria (Sully et al). Smack me with a cactus if DOCWA HQ doesn't also now have onsite: water (Tonka Tuff); power (Coops); double sink and 20 ltr Urn ??? (Beatts); gas bbq, table and fridge (Jack) and a kick arse spit (Bert). What next ??? Some suggestions have been: Jacuzzi; Hairdressing Salon; Whisky Still; Chemical Lab:

DOCWA HQ will continue to improve with more trees and shrubs having already been planted around the site and dare I say a grassed area. DOCWA is hard core but are we going soft ? HTFU.

So..... I was despatched to the site early on the Wednesday of NUMDUC Rally weekend as the forward talent scout knowing full well it made sense. "Beatts.... the only sheila's in the pub are workin' behind the bar and they talk funny". Thus soft cock Beatts delayed his departure until Friday morning along with a few other of our motley crew.

There was a steady stream of "early arrivals" rocking in on the Friday – you know the type, they are like basketballers and tend to "dribble before they shoot". Most explained themselves with a simple comment – I just get too excited and have to come early, and I know it makes sense.

Friday was all about the usual site set up and many thanks to all who assisted. Pee Pee stepped up in true DOCWA fashion and had the Gate Entrance happening and ready for NUMDUC Wannabee processing. A special thanks also to Mama Marie and Jihad Jeff for their assistance with gear transportation (not to mention JJ's rally riding skills). Saturday saw the Punters begin arriving and camp erections taking place and a hasty decision was made to relocate the Caterers site due to the wind direction and the inevitable dust storm. This being nearer Tonka Tuff HQ also removed the requirement for separate power generation.

From all reports the NUMDUC clientele were well pleased with the additions to the MX track and the "new" flat track adjacent to the camping area. Stay tuned for the various track upgrades and relocations etc in readiness for NUMDUC 2011. Whilst on the "clientele", feedback was fantastic in relation to the amount of firewood available which makes all the effort put in by DOCWA clubbies on various preparation weekends well appreciated. There were complaints from a few tossers after a big Tonka Tuff style log was positioned across the track near the old DOCWA HQ in an attempt to slow the folks down around the campsite. What were we thinking – putting the safety of fellow campers at the fore front?

We also had a first in relation to the toilets. In NUMDUC's past we have survived with 8 toilets (and with 450 odd rallyists). On that occasion we had the toilets pumped out on the Sunday morning and were advised they would have survived without it. This year we had 12 portables, 1 outside Tonka's and his inside toilet. I was advised by the dunny company that 12 would more than suffice for 450 people over the 3 day journey. By mid Saturday we had about 7 toilets full. Go figure. Two possible explanations are firstly due to the increased numbers on the Friday night and secondly the tanks were much smaller than previous years. Bottom line is that shit happens. Anyway plans are in place to have permanent ablutions before NUMDUC 2011.

The Ambos this year were pleasingly quiet save for one major incident on Saturday night. Whilst the young fellow was in serious trouble for a time all reports are that he is making a full and complete recovery.

The Sunday morning Gymkana saw the usual "quality stupidity" taking place. A big thanks to Loose Bruce for doing his loud hailer bit and ensuring a good show with typical well timed humour. From all reports the number of punters putting their hand up to have a go was down a little but you get that. Missing from the Gymkana this year was a big chunk of the side car boys who were off on a splinter group mission and this also reflected in our overall attendance numbers.

Sunday also saw the return of the NUMDUC screen printing scenario. A motley crew of assistants gave me a hand to get this thing happening which was well received by the punters. The most difficult part of this whole caper these days is actually finding someone to prepare the screens – with most businesses in computerised mode. "you want what – a screen print screen ???"

A particularly pleasing aspect of NUMDUC 2009 was the attendance of the 2 buggers who got this whole NUMDUC thing off the ground back in 1999. I expect that Bulk and Belly would have been quite chuffed to see that their initial, and considerable efforts were not in vain. NUMDUC continues to be the biggest, and some would say best Motorcycle Rally on the WA calendar. Bulk and Belly provided the blue print that we continue to work from and

DOCWA's continued strength and place in WA Motorcycling is due in no small part to their efforts. THANKS guys!!!!

We will need to re-consider vehicle access to Tonka Tuff's residence over rally weekend as there were the inevitable (and fair) complaints concerning cars onsite over the weekend. Our "rally" numbers were swelled over the weekend by a steady stream of some 40 odd friends of Tonka's and these numbers are not represented in the Rally attendance figures.

The NUMDUC fireworks display continues to be a highlight and has now assumed LEGENDARY status. Whilst the \$ figure associated has a significant impact on our bottom line I believe it is money well spent. As yet I have not seen the final figures on this year's event however Beatts and I were of the early opinion that so long as we broke even this year all was good – it being the 10th anniversary. We also spent a fair amount of cash on infrastructure (like power and water) this year. I was also particularly keen to ensure fair recompense to Tonka for the considerable fuel bill associated with firewood collection, MX and flat track preparation etc etc.

So whilst NUMDUC has proved to be a good money earner in years gone by I expect this year to not be so. I also expect future NUMDUC's to see us back in the black. Further to this I would like to see a NUMDUC levy included in our annual club fee structure (say \$10 per year) which would include free entry into NUMDUC. Many club club rallyists are probably not aware that all club rallyists pay their entry fee in addition to their time and effort before, during and after the rally. It seems only fair that those who have contributed to raising funds for the club through their efforts are not "penalised" for doing so, especially when we consider that those funds help to keep our annual fees down. You know it makes sense!!

The NUMDUC.com.au honchos have recently been discussing several issues namely: a family friendly "offsite" camper section for campervans, caravans etc; ablutions design and location; access road location; firewood collection; and we would be interested in hearing the thoughts of other NUMDUC Rallyists on these and any anything else.

So in closing NUMDUC 2009 RALLY is over but NUMDUC never sleeps. We solved many of the world's problems over the weekend, and created a few more. DOCWA of the TREES is now "carbon neutral" again so I expect to see youse all at the upcoming tree planting weekend (tba) so we can move back into "carbon credit". Many thanks again for all and every club member, especially the new ones, who had some input in what was yet another memorable rally.

Gary Whitcombe aka Jack