

## THE AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SCOOTER RALLY 2010

By Stephen Bardsley

The Australian National Classic Scooter Rally 2010 was a four day event for classic manually geared scooters, co-organised by the Lambretta Club of Australia and the Melbourne Crusaders Scooter Club. The event was held from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2010 in Daylesford, Victoria, a picturesque country town on Lake Daylesford, where gold was first discovered in 1851. The theme for the Rally as the official Rally Patch shows was therefore one of a Scootering goldmine. Australia is a big Country and Scooterists had travelled up to 2000 miles to attend this much awaited event, which was a sell out three months before the starting date. The official count was 228 Scooters with over 350 people in attendance and so the event was officially recorded as the largest Scooter Rally Australia has ever seen. The event attracted interest not only from every major Australian Scooter Club and riders from every State and Territory of Australia, but also from Asia, with one of the major sponsors being the Saigon Scooter Centre of Vietnam.



Leading up to the Rally the weather was appalling with rain for almost two weeks, but fortunately the event was blessed not only with a record attendance, but also by a break in the weather, which delivered near perfect riding conditions for most of the long weekend. The Rally was supported by fifteen sponsors and the itinerary delivered scooterists a long weekend packed with socialising, scooter riding, partying, a huge show and shine with trophies and prizes and thanks to the generosity of the major sponsor LML Australia, one lucky Scooterist would win a brand new LML Star 150 Scooter. The program of events went something like this:

### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October – Meet and Greet - Early Birds Sights of Melbourne Scooter Ride.**

The big ride to Daylesford would take place on the Saturday morning, prior to this though there was much merriment with the official Meet and Greet of scooterists from all around Australia taking place on the Friday evening, the early arrivals also enjoyed courtesy of the Melbourne Crusaders Scooter Club, a sights of Melbourne scooter ride, followed by lunch in the waterside town of Port Melbourne and then a further ride to an exhibition of 30 classic scooters from virtually every Country in the World, which was presented by the European Vintage Scooter Club of Victoria, the scene had been set, this was going to be a bumper scootering weekend.



Friday Meet & Greet, Pugg Mahones, Carlton

### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October – The Big Smoke (en masse Scooter ride from Melbourne to Daylesford)**

Over 200 scooters gathered on a beautiful sunny morning to prepare for the 120 klm ride to Daylesford. There were scooters of every type, including the biggest gathering of classic Lambrettas and Vespas ever seen in Australia. Ten Scooter clubs had brought riders from across Australia. The Paradise Lost Scooter Club from WA had travelled the furthest, the tyranny of distance proving no object, they had brought 37 Scooters and over 50 people, an incredible turnout for a Club required to travel over 2000 miles.

The PLSC were joined at the starting line by the Melbourne Crusaders, Scooterhead and the European Vintage Scooter Club from Victoria, the Border Line Nuisance, the Canetoads and the Brisbane Lambretta Scooter Clubs from Queensland, the Lambretta Club of South Australia, the



Scooters at the South Melbourne departure point Saturday morning

Sydney Crusaders, the Canberra Swarm, the Hobart Scooter Club and the Lambretta Club of Australia. Scooterists of Australia were united, Melbourne was alive with the sound of 2-stroke engines, chrome and mirrors flashed in the sunlight, engines revved eagerly and suddenly they were off, the roar of over 200 scooters emerged from a huge cloud of smoke and the Australian NCSR 2010 was officially underway.



Scooters head towards the first hurdle, the busy West Gate Bridge

Thanks to the Marshalls and support crew, all scooters arrived in Daylesford safe and sound; the 120 klm ride had gone almost according to plan. A few scooters had arrived on Trailers but there had been fewer breakdowns than anticipated, providing little work for the support vehicles.

The journey had however taken slightly longer than anticipated, but there was still time for a few refreshments on a perfect sunny afternoon outside the local pub, with scooterists relaxing and sharing tales of the ride in to Daylesford.



Scooters have all arrived safely at Daylesford; it's time for well deserved refreshments

#### Saturday evening - See you at the Go-Go!

There was much anticipation of the big night of entertainment ahead, a line up of DJ's from all around Australia entertain a crammed Daylesford Town Hall (which appropriately resembled a mini version of Wigan Casino). The Saturday night event could have been mistaken for a two tone tonic suit convention, scooterists had swapped their Parkas and flight jackets for their glad rags.



The dance floor bounced all night long to Soul, Northern Soul, Motown, Reggae, Ska, Mod and all the traditional scooter rally favourite tunes. The barman explained he was going to be busy tomorrow bringing in new supplies, as the revellers had polished off the whole weekends supply of drink in just one night.

### **Sunday Morning - Ballarat here we come!**

Like Daylesford, Ballarat is a town founded during the 1800s' Australian gold rush, the days ride was to be a rush of another kind though and remarkably everyone appeared to have recovered from the previous night's revelry. The ride from Daylesford to Ballarat is 45 klms, so the return trip would take around 2 hours. The Australian countryside roads were mainly free of traffic, the weather was again perfect and so conditions combined to create the ideal setting for scooterists eager to take their classic scooters out onto the open roads. A bad batch of fuel saw several scooters retire early, other than this, there were no mishaps and the familiar sound of two stroke engines could be heard far away as scooters negotiated the challenging twists and turns of the open country roads. A few riders broke from the pack and put on a dazzling display of scooter riding that would have amazed even the most seasoned of scooterists.

### **Sunday Afternoon – Show and Shine**

Thanks to the Sponsors, including LML Australia, the Saigon Scooter Centre, Carters Classic Scooters, Casa Lambretta Australia, Gasoline, Vespa House, GPS, Scooterlabs, Draggin Jeans and SS Scooter Engineering who donated prizes and also the trophies, there were rewards aplenty to be presented at the Show and Shine presentation ceremony.



**A table full of prizes and trophies awaits the winners of the Show and Shine awards**

The ‘Best Scooter in Show’ was won by a magnificently restored 1958 Lambretta Li 150 Series 1 owned by Neville (Nifty) Cope from NSW.



The “Best Series 3 Lambretta” was won by a 1964 TV 200 owned by Pete (Bolty) Southern of the PLSC. The “Best Mod Scooter” was won by a 1966 Lambretta Li 150 Special owned by Steve Cowburn of the Melbourne Crusaders and the “Best Vespa Post 1977” was won by a beautiful 1978 Vespa Rally owned by Steve (Yorkie) Beaumont also of the Melbourne Crusaders Scooter Club.



The award for the best represented Club (this cannot be awarded to the host Club) went to the Paradise Lost Scooter Club of Western Australia, who also fittingly received the “Tom Tanktop Trophy” a perpetual award given in remembrance of a fallen PLSC Member



### Sunday Evening – The Big Party Continues

There are not so many tonic suits tonight and everyone is rushing to buy Raffle Tickets at the last minute in the hope of winning the brand new LML Scooter, which is proudly displayed at the front of the stage. The night offers another great DJ line up with special guest DJ's Pierre Baroni from Radio 3PBS, Snowy from the Melbourne Soul Club and Doug from Scooterhead, who is famous for playing the last set at Melbourne Scooter gigs. A behind the scenes hiccup occurs as the representative from the Sponsor Gasoline Scooters, who is scheduled to draw the Raffle cannot be found, the Raffle is delayed, but the party goes on.



The Show and Shine awards are presented by MC Snowy; there are a few surprised and delighted winners. Sponsors and Clubs are thanked for making the Rally possible and the Raffle draw for the new LML Scooter finally gets under way.



**Jason of Gasoline on stage with Snowy about to announce the winner of the LML Scooter Raffle**



**and the lucky winner is.....**

MC Snowy teases the crowd before announcing the winner is **Paul Vella** from the Melbourne Crusaders Scooter Club. Paul is a popular winner being one of the Melbourne Crusaders who has worked hard all weekend to support the interstate guests attending the Rally.



**Paul Vella and crowd celebrating his win of the new LML Scooter**



**Lucky winner Paul tries out his new LML Scooter**



**Jason of Gasoline congratulates winner Paul**

There excitement and celebrations were frantic as everyone wanted to congratulate Paul on winning the brand new LML Star 150 Scooter from LML Australia. Jason of Gasoline the NSW LML distributor was there to present the prize in person; this really was a popular win. The celebrations continued on through the night as the big party went on and the NCSR 2010 was the only place for Australian Scooterists to be.

Yes there were some anxious backroom moments over the weekend, but nothing that could not be overcome and at 1.00am on Monday morning, the trophy for next year's NCSR is handed over to the Paradise Lost Club Scooter Club, yes folks it's all on again in 2011, this time on the other side of the Country in Perth, Western Australia.



The NCSR perpetual Trophy is accepted by PLSC who will host the event in WA come 2011



That's all folks, see you 2011 in WA as the last track is played by Doug of Scooterhead

Three days of the NCSR 2010 come to an end as Doug from Scooterhead plays "just one more" track, all that's left now is to pack everything up, say goodbyes and prepare for tomorrow's 120 klm ride back to Melbourne.

#### **Monday – Farewells and ride from Daylesford to Melbourne**

All good things come to an end, the Melbourne Crusaders had been busy early Monday morning packing up the sound equipment and tidying up the Town Hall. After breakfast it was time for Scooterists to say their goodbyes, many new friendships had been made, alliances formed, even a new Club for NSW had been founded and the NCSR 2010 was officially the largest gathering of Scooterists Australia had ever seen.

Many thanks to the beautiful Melbourne Crusader ladies, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes supporting their partners and helping organise the NCSR 2010.



**The rain comes on the last day as riders prepare to leave Daylesford**

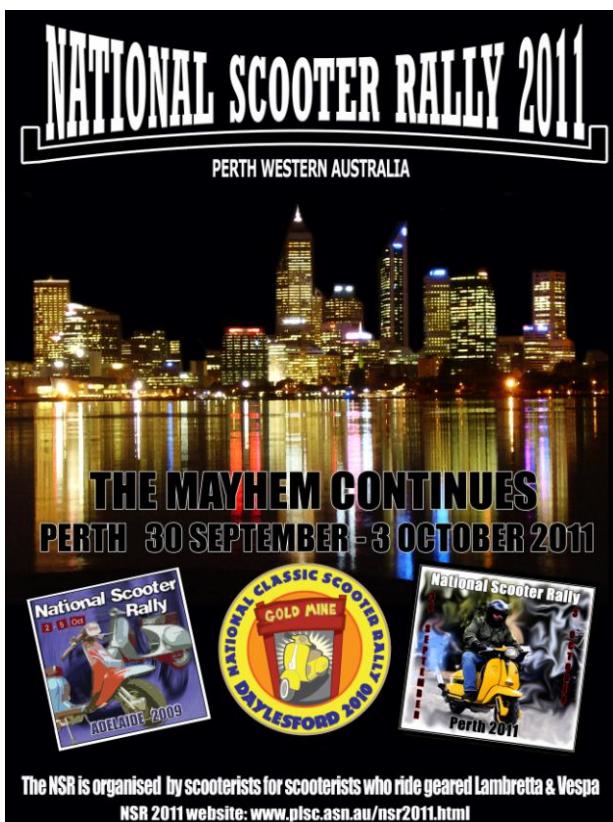
It somehow seemed fitting that after three days of perfect weather, the moment Scooterists began riding out of Daylesford the rain began to fall. It didn't matter though, Scooterists may have been wet, but they were happy and looking forward to doing it all again next year in Western Australia.



## SPONSORS

LML Australia  
The Saigon Scooter Centre  
SS Scooter Engineering  
Carters Classic Scooters  
Gasoline Australia  
Vespa House  
Casa Lambretta Australia  
Grand Prix Scooters  
The Retro Scooter Palace  
Scooterlabs  
Draggin Jeans  
Celemetrix Pty Ltd  
Chalk and Cheese  
Magnum Audio and Lighting  
The Lambretta Club of Australia Incorporated

## NEXT YEAR (2011)



The NSR is organised by scooterists for scooterists who ride geared Lambretta & Vespa  
NSR 2011 website: [www.plsc.asn.au/nsr2011.html](http://www.plsc.asn.au/nsr2011.html)

The National Classic Scooter Rally 2010 was co-organised by the Melbourne Crusaders Scooter Club and the Lambretta Club of Australia. Full public liability insurance cover was provided for all participants and all Raffles were conducted with the authority of the Victorian Commission for Gambling Regulation. Both the Melbourne Crusaders and the Lambretta Club of Australia take the opportunity to thank all Clubs and individuals who participated and extend their gratitude to the following Sponsors and Scooter Clubs:

## CLUBS

The Melbourne Crusaders Scooter Club  
The Lambretta Club of Australia  
Paradise Lost Scooter Club  
The Lambretta Club of South Australia  
Scooterhead  
Border Line Nuisance Scooter Club  
The Canberra Swarm  
The Hobart Scooter Club  
European Vintage Scooter Club of Victoria  
The Cane Toads  
The Brisbane Lambretta Club  
The Sydney Crusaders  
The Hardly Normal Scooter Club

## SHOW & SHINE WINNERS

- Best Scooter in Show  
1958 Lambretta Li 150 S1 - Neville Cope (NSW)
- BestMod Scooter  
1966 Lambretta Li150S – Steve Cowburn (VIC)
- Best Series 3 Lambretta  
1964 TV "GT" 200 – Pete Southern (WA)
- Best Vespa post 1977  
1978 Vespa Rally – Steve Beaumont (VIC)
- Best Vespa pre 1977  
VNA RGD 02 - (NSW)
- Best Scooter other than Lambretta or Vespa  
Durkop Diana – Klaus Wolf (VIC)
- Best Customised Scooter  
"The Jam" – Geoff Ventres (SA)
- Best Lambretta Series 2  
Arry Mobley - IDM184 (WA)
- Best other Lambretta  
LC 125 - Stefan Baumgartner (VIC)
- Best unrestored scooter  
Lambretta Li125 S3, FG596 (VIC)
- Furthest Scooter Ridden  
Lambretta Lince – Siobhan Ellis (NSW)
- Best represented Club at Rally  
Paradise Lost Scooter Club (WA)