



Variety Bashes

THE VARIETY CLUB, which raises millions for children's charities through its fun motoring 'bashes' has a big year coming up. The New South Wales bash, which was begun by Dick Smith in 1985 and always starts and ends in destinations beginning with B, will this year run for 11 days from Baulkham Hills (Sydney) to Buccaneer Rock (Broome, WA), leaving on August 6. Entrants must use a two wheel-drive, pre-1974 vehicle and are encouraged to decorate it as wackily as possible. A donation of \$8500 to Variety gets you in.

Also in NSW, the six-day Gong to Gong 4WD Adventure, which starts in Wollongong and ends in Gerringong via bush tracks, sand dunes, fire trails and dirt roads. The cost is \$6850,

which includes \$3000 Variety donation, entry for one car/ two people, accommodation and meals. In West Australia, the four-day Variety Creative Car Cruise departs from Fremantle on March 30, bound for Cervantes and mystery destinations before returning to Freo. It's open to classic, muscle, modified and sports cars and the entry fee is a \$4000 donation.

A smaller, but no less important charity event, the Pitman Classics Family Car Day, will held on March 4 to aid the Isabella and Marcus Fund to research brainstem tumours in children. All classic and muscle cars welcome. Competition entry \$5 per car and special guest will be Fletch from C31's Classic Restos show. Contact Tony on 0412 581 691 for more details.



Turbo Timing

Ford has released the specifications of its long-awaited Ecoboost Falcon. The 2.0-litre turbocharged four produces 179kW at 5500rpm and 353Nm at 2000rpm, compared to 195kW at 6000rpm and 391Nm at 3250rpm from the venerable 4.0-litre six. Acceleration is a little slower (7.2 vs. 7.0sec to 100km/h) but fuel consumption drops from 9.9L/100km for the six to 8.1L/100km. The downsized Euro donk is a no-cost option on XT, G6 and G6E models.

Rising Sun Returns

Ford and Holden's 20-year duopoly on V8 Supercars racing is over with the news that Nissan will be joining the series from 2013. Kelly Racing will run up to four cars with full factory backing, liveried in Nissan's classic red, white and blue colour scheme, last seen on the R32 GT-R in 1992. While confirming its involvement, however, Nissan is yet to decide what model car they will use as the Maxima is currently the only suitable model on sale in Australia.

Forest(er) Rally

Sydney tuning company MRT Performance are set to debut the world's first turbo-diesel Forester rally car at the opening round of the Australian Rally Championship, Rally Calder, held from March 2-4 at Calder Raceway. The Forester will be entered in the new-for-2012 SUV class, aimed at tempting new manufacturers to rallying.

Please attend!

The Australian Confederation of Motor Clubs invites all enthusiasts to attend the 2012 Motor Enthusiast Conference, held at Eastern Creek Raceway on February 26. The conference seeks to clarify new rules regarding modified cars in New South Wales. Enthusiast delegates will have a chance to engage in discussion with the Minister for Roads in NSW. Delegate registration is \$25, for more information e: secretary@confederationofmotorclubs.org.au.

