

Local news



BIG RIGS: Trucks of every description line up for inspection at the 5 Mile Hotel, South Grafton during Saturday's Weekend of Trucking event.

PHOTO: LYNNE MOWBRAY

Truckers proud of their big rigs

Crowd revved up at weekend truck event

By **DOMINIC ZIETSCH**

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GRAFTON was full of chrome, custom paint jobs and a healthy dose of big-rig pride on Saturday as the Grafton Weekend of Trucking event rumbled into town.

The annual event sees truckers and their beloved rigs converge on the Valley for a parade through Prince St, a hotly-contested competition with trophies and pride at stake and also the annual trucker's ball.

Grafton Truck Drivers Social Club President Don Wall said Saturday's event was treated to clear, blue skies (all the better to make that chrome shine) and

healthy crowds for the various events.

He said the turnout of trucks wasn't bad either.

"We had about 85 trucks in total of all different sorts - they came from Sydney to Brisbane and everywhere in between," Mr Wall said.

"So we had a really good day - we had a lot of stuff on for kids and they were having a blast too so that was good to see."

However underneath the friendly social veneer, the weekend also has its competitive side with judges awarding trophies to some of the best specimens on show - Mr Wall said the judges had some tough decisions this year too.

"We had some very flash looking trucks here over the weekend," he said.

"The hours some of these guys spend just cleaning them up, washing and shining them is just unbelievable, it's not just like washing a car, it takes about ten times as long."

Mr Wall said weekends like this were important social events in the trucking community.

"It's an important event in the sense that it brings all the truck drivers together on that one night of the year, so it's an opportunity for all the drivers to mix and also to show off their trucks because they do take a lot of pride in them," he said.

Ned Kelly came to town but he left empty handed

By **DOMINIC ZIETSCH**

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HE ADMITS it's been done before but Brisbane's Andrew McSweeney reckons the Ned Kelly theme on his truck sits heads, shoulders and iron helmets above all the others.

Mr McSweeney's Western Star rig was turning heads at the Grafton Weekend of Trucking with its impressive Kelly-themed custom paint job and its unique dashboard which includes switches and buttons fashioned out of brass shell casings of various calibres.

While this attention to detail made his truck a hit with the punters, Mr



SUCH IS LIFE: Andrew McSweeney of Brisbane with his Ned Kelly themed truck.

PHOTO: LYNNE MOWBRAY

McSweeney - who co-owns Scuzzytrans container transport - said it didn't move the judges for the truck awards competition.

"We brought four trucks down but unfortunately we didn't manage to take home any awards in the end," Mr McSweeney said.

There's Nothing Like It...



5th July - Westlawn **Prelude Day**

8th July - Black Auto **Ladies Day**

11th July - WHK **Ramornie Day**

12th July - Maclean Bowling Club **Cup Day**

15th July - Maclean Bowling Club **Family Day**

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