

## An overview of the



The Pontiac Car Club of Queensland was formed in 1975 by a small number of enthusiasts in Brisbane. The club grew steadily during the late seventies and eighties, gaining members from all over Queensland. In early 1990 it was decided to merge into the 1987-formed Pontiac Car Club of Australia, becoming its Queensland Chapter.

Currently the Queensland Chapter has close to 140 members, with around 115 in the South-East corner of the state. Nationally, the club has almost 400 members. Every two months, the national body produces a full colour magazine known as 'Pontiac Torque', while every two years, a Nationals event is held over the Easter long weekend.

The club's annual membership fee is only \$50. A \$10 joining fee applies. It is also worth noting that club membership is not just limited to Pontiac owners, with a number of other American car owners being involved as social members. A few of our Pontiac-owning members also own cars of other American marques. While we have no minimal attendance requirements, we would hope that most members would be able to participate in at least a couple of club events each year.

The aim of the club can be summarised in three words - 'enjoying our Pontiacs'. We seek to maintain a non-political, family-friendly environment, with an emphasis on participation. We aim to have a calendar of frequent events throughout the region that the whole family can be involved in. These values have been consistent throughout the history of the club. The range of Pontiac models within the club has been another strength, promoting the wide diversity of cars built by the maker over the years.

Monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday night of each month (except January), commencing at 8pm at the Beenleigh Tavern, just off the M1. Full details and a map are on our website. Meals are available before the meeting, and there is undercover parking. We encourage members to bring their cars out for the meetings, which are also a social occasion.

Other than the meetings, communication in the club is achieved in three forms - our website (<http://www.qldpontiac.com/>), the national magazine 'Pontiac Torque', and a weekly email newsletter. The magazine covers all state chapters, and has been the traditional way of keeping members informed.

Our club website has been active for over seven years, and features one of the most comprehensive events listings for the region. It lists not only our runs, but many of the other shows and swap meets of interest to American car owners. Membership application forms and a link to our National Body are located on our front page.



Club cars on display at a Lakeside American Day. Over 30 member's cars are seen at these events

On our website, we have published a five page document outlining the Special Interest Vehicle Scheme (or club rego). This contains the policy, as well as how we apply it and the various processes involved. In Queensland, participants can use their cars in many aspects of the hobby, including their own club's runs, another club's runs, and all other car displays and events. All events listed on our website are approved for the use of club registered vehicles. In many cases there are several events on each weekend. The scheme results in substantial registration savings for active club members. In addition, members can receive substantial insurance savings, both for being club members, and for participating in club registration. Many members register and comprehensively insure their cars for less than \$500 per year.

Also available for download from the website is our 'Directory of Pontiac Resources'. This is a reference list of suppliers and service providers, located locally, interstate and overseas. The list is divided into a number of categories, and provides full contact details including weblinks.

A Census of Queensland Pontiac registrations was undertaken in May 2010, courtesy of the Transport Department's Statistical section. It revealed a total of 700 registered Pontiacs in the state, with an update in 2011 showing little change. Full details are published on our website.

Our email newsletter has now been operating for five years. This has allowed more regular contact with members than the national magazine. Run reports, event coverage, reminders, marque news, cars for sale and member's news are some examples of topics covered. Over a hundred people are on our initial distribution. It has been the most effective means of communication in recent times. Please email us if you wish to subscribe.



Pontiacs on display at our annual Sanctuary Cove 'Pontiac and Cadillac Show'

#### Activities :

South East Queensland contains a wide variety of driving experiences. Our annual calendar incorporates around 4,000 kilometres of touring in the region. These activities can be placed into three groups :

- 1) the monthly meeting nights
- 2) monthly cruise nights
- 3) club outings and special events

A night cruise commenced in the Brisbane southern suburbs in early 2009. At present, this attends the Eliminators Club BBQ night at Loganholme on the last Friday night of each month. A northside cruise, to the Emporium Milk Bar at Old Petrie town, commenced on the third Friday night of each month in August 2009.

The club outings generally take the form of a daytime event, and are usually on Sundays. Around 15 are held each year. These can also be categorised in a number of ways :

- 1) Major car show attendance - mainly the Queensland Autospectacular in April, 'Back to 63' at Ipswich in August and Eliminators Show at Beenleigh in September.
- 2) American car cruises - we participate in the Thunderbirds Club's Independence Day Run in July and the Yankee Doodle Cruise in November.

3) Other event attendance - Lakeside American car days (two per annum) are a new feature which commenced in 2010. We take the lead role in co-ordinating over 15 clubs for these. On occasion, we also attend various historic racing events and local airshows.

4) Our annual Christmas Party

5) 'Touring runs' - these are day trips that focus on a particular region, with visits to attractions, interesting driving and a lunch stop, often at a local pub. We have expanded the runs by inviting similar interest clubs along. Examples of some of our touring run destinations include the Gold Coast Hinterland, Boonah District, Northern NSW, Brisbane Valley and Mount Mee.

6) Our own annual show at Sanctuary Cove, held in conjunction with the Cadillac Club.



Part of the 2011 Nationals Car Show at Warwick - over 100 Pontiacs on display

7) the Nationals - these are held every two years at Easter, involving the four state chapters of the club. The event is now being rotated between the chapters, and therefore will be in Queensland every eight years. Following our very successful event at Warwick in Easter 2011, the next Nationals will be held at Shepparton in Victoria at Easter 2013. NSW will host the Nationals in 2015, and it will be back in Queensland in 2017.

Our calendar (<http://www.qldpontiac.com/calendar.html>) contains full details of all upcoming events.

In summary, we believe that our blend of activities and values results in a positive, lively and enjoyable club. It provides plenty of driving experiences in a variety of local regions, as well as attending interesting events and social contact with similar car owners. We always seek to help members further enjoy their hobby. As Pontiac used to say in their advertising, 'We are driving excitement'.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have further enquiries about the club, or require assistance in the membership application process.