



QUEENSLAND HISTORIC MOTORING COUNCIL INC.

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CLARIFICATION – IMPROMPTU (MEMBER INITIATED) EVENTS

There is confusion in some clubs as to the requirements for creating valid Impromptu Events. Valid events **cannot** be created one minute before driving the car out the gate.

The requirements for the Special Interest Vehicle Concession Scheme Guide (including Impromptu Events) are clearly set out on the Qld Department of Transport and Main Roads (TMR) website here: <https://www.qld.gov.au/transport/registration/fees/concession/special-interest>

It is a matter for individual clubs as to whether they wish to offer IEs to their members. If they decide to do so, the implementation options are outlined on the TMR Conditions and Restrictions page, which stipulates the following elements must be complied with:

- (a) involves **an invitation to wider club members to attend the event** (see later); and
- (b) is either
 - (i) **endorsed in advance** of the event by the relevant club or Australia Street Rod Federation committee (**Option 1**); or,
 - (ii) where it exists, complies with **published club guidelines as to what is a valid event (Option 2)**; and
- (c) is **listed either in the newsletter, on the website, or social media page** (or in another manner approved by the club or Australia Street Rod Federation, such as the club calendar of events) prior to the event, and .
- (d) **Note:** Incorporated **vehicle clubs should maintain a register of endorsed impromptu events**. This register should contain information on the impromptu event.

Clubs have 2 options, in (b)(i) or (ii).

Option 1 - (b)(i) is self explanatory – the member submits a proposed IE to the committee (or person authorised by the club to “endorse” [or approve] the IE). This alternative is no different from what clubs have been doing for decades anyway – someone suggests an event to the committee and they decide whether to let it go ahead or not. Regardless, there needs to be an invitation to wider club members and a register kept of Impromptu Events.

Option 2 – (b)(ii) requires the club to first set out some conditions which in essence allow an IE to be pre-approved, provided it satisfies club requirements – the “**published club guidelines as to what is a valid event**”. A club needs to be able to produce this document if they wish to allow members to create IEs without getting prior approval for each individual run.

It is up to individual clubs as to what they require – some stipulate notice periods for the creation of an IE. Some require a week’s notice, other clubs 2 days, others hours, and some say “allow enough time between creating the IE and the meeting time for members to get to the meeting point.” What is appropriate will depend on the nature of the proposed Impromptu Event. Obviously, the notice for a club coffee at a café will be less than that required for an overnight IE away from home base, where members will have to make accommodation and other arrangements in order to attend.

The Vintage Car Club of Qld Inc (VCCQ) **PUBLISHED CLUB GUIDELINES AS TO WHAT IS A VALID EVENT** are attached and can be used as a proforma. The QHMC can provide copies of other club guidelines which require eg 48 hours notice between creating the IE and its commencement.

To recap, if a club wishes to offer IEs to members without each event having to be approved by the committee on a case-by-case basis, they need to do the following:

1. Create and publish **PUBLISHED CLUB GUIDELINES AS TO WHAT IS A VALID EVENT**. This must stipulate **date, time and a meeting point**, and advise **sufficient time must be allowed between creating the event and the start time to allow members to get to the meeting point**.
2. Invite “**wider club members to attend**” – this can be via Facebook, text message on phones etc.
3. List the event **either in the newsletter, on the website, or social media page** (or in another manner approved by the club or Australia Street Rod Federation, such as the club calendar of events).
4. Maintain a **Register of Endorsed Impromptu Events**.

Notes:

1. Some clubs have combined 2. 3. and 4. by using Facebook, which enables the creation of an IE and an invitation being sent to other club members simultaneously, with a record automatically being kept. The VCCQ has created a separate Private Members Page for financial members only (in addition to the club’s general Facebook page) for the sole purpose of creating Impromptu Events. This means only club members know when a member will be away from their home (and their valuable cars).
2. Regarding the invitation to wider club members, the invitation must be accessible by a significant number of members. If for example only 2 people want to use Facebook, while OK for creating the event, you will need to come up with an additional method of getting the invitation out, such as by text message or email.
3. While not mandatory, it is prudent for members to take with them evidence of the IE they are on (eg a printed page), which is independent of phones and internet access, as batteries can go flat and there are reception black spots with no internet connection. This is so they can prove to the police if pulled over that the car use is legitimate.
4. Regarding the Register of Endorsed Impromptu Events, this is **critical** as if an accident occurs on such an event, insurers may seek to avoid liability if it cannot be proved that the vehicle involved was on such an event.

Doug Young
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A QHMC INITIATIVE