GYMPIE QUEENSLAND **17–19 APRIL 2026** RALLYQUEENSLAND.COM.AU

MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release
14 April 2026

GYMPIE SET TO HOST ONE OF AUSTRALIA'S BIGGEST MOTORSPORT EVENTS THIS WEEKEND

The countdown is on, with the Accent Benchtops Rally Queensland, part of the EROAD Australian Rally Championship, arriving in Gympie from 17–19 April for what is set to be one of the biggest events the region has ever seen.

As the opening round of the 2026 championship, Rally Queensland will transform the Gympie CBD and surrounding forests into a multi-day motorsport and entertainment experience, drawing thousands of visitors to the region.

This year's event introduces a highlight: the first-ever full-scale street stage in the heart of the CBD, alongside the traditional forest rally stages. This debut street stage is a major draw, bringing rally action directly to Gympie's centre.

Beyond the CBD, Rally Queensland's forest stages will continue across the Imbil, Amamoor, Brooyar and Glastonbury regions, delivered within HQPlantations-managed forests that form a key part of the event's world-class rally stages.

Across the weekend, stages including the Queensland Hydro Special Stage and Gympie Gold Special Stage will feature as part of the rally's forest program.

A MULTI-PRECINCT EXPERIENCE ACROSS THE CBD

Rally Queensland 2026 has been designed as a connected CBD experience, with each location delivering something different.

VELMEC AUTOMOTIVE WHEELS ON MARY

Velmec Automotive Wheels on Mary is the hospitality and entertainment precinct, driving activity into the heart of the CBD.

If you're looking for food, drinks, live music and atmosphere — Mary Street is where it's at.

This year sees an extended Wheels on Mary program, with Saturday building on Friday night's activity. Day two will feature a Show & Shine presented by the Cooloola Classic Car Club and South-East Motorsports Inc, showcased throughout the primary food, beverage, entertainment and retail precinct.

Throughout Friday and Saturday, the Aurum Pacific Stage (Gold City Centre Stage) in Mary Street hosts live performances featuring popular artists such as The Mary Rivers, Calan Mai, The Humbuckin Pickups, Alex Kosenko, 8 Ball Aitken, and more, making it a key local entertainment destination during the rally.

VELMEC AUTOMOTIVE WHEELS ON MARY PROGRAM

Friday 17 April

5:00pm – Event starts

5:30pm – First rally car arrives

6:00pm – Autographs

7:30pm – First rally car departs

9:00pm – Event closes

Saturday 18 April

All day – Car displays, food and drinks

10:00am – Street Machine & Classic Car Parade

6:00pm – Street Machine & Classic Car Cruise

CAMPBELLS SUPER SPECIAL STAGE – THE CENTREPIECE OF THE EVENT

The Campbells Super Special Stage will transform the Gympie CBD into a high-intensity motorsport arena, offering spectators a rare opportunity to experience motorsport at speed on a purpose-built street circuit.

The stage runs around the Memorial Park precinct and surrounding streets, bringing fans closer to the action than ever before — with trackside viewing available along the entire circuit, allowing spectators to experience the event from a wide range of vantage points throughout the course.

The Sunshine Coast Motorsport Club will be running street sprint racing on the stage across Saturday and Sunday from 8:00am, delivering continuous on-track action throughout the day.

The program will also feature the Luke Fink Street Invitational, with high-energy drift demonstrations integrated into the street stage schedule.

Spectators can catch the action from key vantage points across the stage, including the Gympie RSL Bar, Offaly Civil Switchback, Gympie Web Design Chicane, and Horizon Living Hairpin.

“It’s a huge undertaking to bring something like this into the CBD,” Craig Campbell said.

“A lot of work has gone in behind the scenes to make it happen, and we’re proud to support something that will bring real energy into the town.”

CAMPBELLS SUPER SPECIAL STAGE PROGRAM

Saturday 18 April

8:00am – Competition racing commences

8:00am–11:30am – Street sprints & drift demos

12:00pm – Rally Super Special Stage commences

12:30pm – Loop 1, first rally car on stage

2:00pm–5:00pm – Street sprints & drift demos

6:00pm – Loop 2, first rally car on stage

8:30pm – Fink Street Invitational demo

Sunday 19 April

8:00am – Competition racing commences

8:00am–9:30am – Street sprints & drift demos

10:00am – Rally Super Special Stage commences

10:40am – Loop 1, first rally car on stage

TELSTRA SERVICE PARK – RALLY CENTRAL COMES TO LIFE

In the Telstra Service Park at Galvaniize Insurance Rally Central, spectators experience a key attraction: witnessing teams work on their rally cars in real time—a behind-the-scenes look central to the weekend.

Open all weekend, the Service Park is a hub of activity as rally cars return for servicing, repairs, and preparation.

Visitors can get close to teams and witness rally operations firsthand under pressure.

TELSTRA SERVICE PARK PROGRAM

Friday 17 April
9:00am – Village open

Saturday 18 April
6:00am – Village open

8:50am – First rally car departs

Sunday 19 April
6:00am – Village open

7:30am – First rally car departs

2:00pm – QRC Podium

4:30pm – ARC Podium

The precinct includes a fan zone, food and drinks, VIP area, podium activity, media zone, and service bays.

AMBASSADOR PROGRAM AND SPECIAL GUESTS

This year also marks the introduction of the Rally Queensland Ambassador Program, bringing together respected figures from across international and Australian motorsport.

The ambassador lineup includes:

Taylor Gill — current WRC2 driver

Chris Atkinson — former WRC driver

Dallas Dogger — motorsport media personality

In addition, Accent Benchtops Rally Queensland is excited to welcome the iconic voice of the World Rally Championship, Colin Clark, who will be in attendance across the event — bringing global insight and commentary to the Gympie region.

The ambassador program and guest appearances are designed to connect fans more closely with the sport, elevate the event experience, and further position Rally Queensland as a nationally significant event within the Australian motorsport landscape.

FOREST SPECTATOR EXPERIENCE

For those wanting to experience rallying in its natural environment, dedicated spectator points will be in operation across the weekend.

Saturday 18 April — 4TINT2U Spectator Point 1
Location: Derrier Road, Imbil
9:00am – Spectator point open

9:50am – Loop 1, first rally car on stage

3:00pm – Loop 2, first rally car on stage

Parking is available along the side of Derrier Road. Spectators are asked to park courteously, not block other vehicles, and not park in residents' driveways.

Sunday 19 April — Campbells Corner Spectator Point 2
Location: Brooyar State Forest
8:30am – Spectator point open

9:30am – Loop 1, first rally car on stage

1:50pm – Loop 2, first rally car on stage

Parking is available in a designated area on Greendale Road, just before the road closure. Spectators are asked to park courteously and not obstruct residents or access routes.

These locations have been designed to provide safe and engaging viewing opportunities while maintaining the integrity of the rally stages.

EVENT PROGRAM AND SPECTATOR INFORMATION

A full event program, including precinct maps, schedules, forest spectator point information, and key timings, is available in the official spectator guide.

Spectators are encouraged to download the guide via rallyqueensland.com.au or scan QR codes located throughout the CBD event precincts to plan their visit and stay up to date with event information.

The guide includes:

- Gympie CBD precinct overview
- Velmec Automotive Wheels on Mary program
- Campbells Super Special Stage schedule
- Telstra Service Park details
- 4Tint2u and Campbells Forest spectator point information
- Polleys Park and ride details
- Maps and event layout information

ROAD CLOSURES ACROSS THE REGION

Road closures will be in place across both the Gympie CBD and surrounding forest stage locations from Friday, 17 April, through to Sunday, 19 April, to support event infrastructure and rally competition.

GYMPIE CBD CLOSURES

The following roads within the event footprint will be closed:

Mary Street — closed from 2:30pm Friday 17 April, reopening approximately 9:00pm Saturday 18 April

Smithfield Street — closed from 2:30pm Friday 17 April, reopening Sunday evening

Young Street, River Road, Monkland Street and sections of Reef Street — closed from 6:00pm Friday 17 April, reopening Sunday evening

Closures apply only within the immediate event footprint, with surrounding streets remaining open and accessible.

"We've been engaging with traders and residents throughout the planning process — providing information and responding to requests — and will continue to work with those impacted to support access and practical solutions where possible".

FOREST STAGE ROAD CLOSURES — SATURDAY 18 APRIL 2026

The following road closures will be in place on Saturday:

Mitchell Creek Road (Imbil & Upper Kandanga) — 8:30am to 6:30pm

Melawondi Road from the junction of the Melawondi State Forest boundary to Ernst Road junction — 9:00am to 6:30pm

Ernst Road from the junction of Melawondi Road to the junction of Sterling Road (Upper Kandanga) — 9:00am to 6:30pm

Sterling Road to the old Upper Kandanga Creek School — 9:00am to 6:30pm

Woodland Road (Amamoor State Forest) — 9:00am to 7:00pm

Bellbird Road (Amamoor State Forest) — 9:00am to 7:00pm

Colburn Road (Amamoor State Forest) — 9:00am to 7:00pm

FOREST STAGE ROAD CLOSURES — SUNDAY 19 APRIL 2026

The following road closures will be in place on Sunday:

Little Widgee Road (Widgee) from the Glastonbury Forest boundary to property number 255 Little Widgee Road — 6:00am to 4:30pm

Golden Hills Road (Widgee) from the junction of Reid Road to the junction of Reinke Road — 7:00am to 4:00pm

Reinke Road (Glastonbury) from the junction of Golden Hills Road to the junction of Diggings Road — 7:00am to 4:00pm

Diggings Road (Glastonbury) from the junction of Reinke Road to the junction of East Diggings Road — 7:00am to 4:00pm

Greendale Road from the junction of Kewins Road to the junction of Paff Road — 7:30am to 4:00pm

Paff Road from the junction of Greendale Road to the Brooyar State Forest boundary — 7:30am to 4:00pm

Reid Road within the Brooyar State Forest to the junction of the Wide Bay Highway — 7:30am to 4:00pm

During these times, public access to active forest stage roads will be restricted. Residents and visitors are advised to plan travel in advance, follow all event signage, and comply with directions from officials and traffic management personnel at all times.

PARK & RIDE – THE BEST WAY TO ACCESS THE EVENT

With road closures in place and strong attendance expected, spectators are strongly encouraged to use the Polleys park-and-ride on Saturday.

Driving directly into the CBD will be limited due to event infrastructure, restricted access and high pedestrian volumes.

Instead, visitors can:

- Park at Lake Alford or One Mile Ovals
- Parking at those locations is $5, with 100% of the proceeds supporting local community groups and initiatives
- Access additional pickup point at Gympie Central Shopping Centre
- Travel via free shuttle buses, provided by Polley's Coaches
- Be dropped directly at Town Hall, located on the edge of the event zone

All major event areas are within walking distance from the Town Hall drop-off point.

A COMMUNITY-DRIVEN EVENT

Mayor Glen Hartwig said the event reflects strong collaboration across the region.

Gympie Regional Council is a key partner and sponsor of this year's event, supporting its delivery and helping bring Rally Queensland to life across the region.

"At its core, this event has been built by locals — with local businesses, community groups, and supporters all playing a role in bringing it to life."

He said the event has been built through strong collaboration among local businesses and community groups, supported by Council, and would not be possible without that shared vision across the region.

President of the Brisbane Sporting Car Club, Tony Kabel, said the club's connection to the Gympie region runs deep.

"BSCC was established in 1953 and has been running events in the Gympie region ever since — making this one of the longest-standing motorsport partnerships in Australia."

THERE IS STILL TIME FOR PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED IN THE EVENT

Whether it is volunteering as an official, supporting local traders and businesses, performing, showcasing a vehicle, or simply coming in to be part of the atmosphere, Rally Queensland is encouraging the community to embrace the weekend.

Clerk of the Course Brian Everitt said the event is something the region should get behind.

“Whether you’re volunteering, trading, performing, or just coming in to watch — we encourage everyone to get involved and be part of something you don’t see often in regions like ours.”

He said opportunities like this do not come around often, and the event represents something the whole region can take pride in.

For the latest event information, detailed schedules, and the official spectator guide, visit rallyqueensland.com.au. Don’t miss your chance to be part of this unforgettable motorsport weekend—plan your rally weekend today!

ENDS

For more information, interviews or images, please get in touch with our media team via Media@rallyqueensland.com.au

Additional images can be downloaded at: RALLY QUEENSLAND IMAGE LIBRARY