

## **2011 BENCUBBIN 300**

### **STYLES IN BACK TO BACK WINS**

A record 59 competitors lined up for the start of Round 3 of the 2011 Western Australian Off Road Championships last weekend at Bencubbin. After scrutineering of the quality field was completed the action got under way with Prologue to set the starting order. Racing proper got under way on Saturday afternoon with two laps of the 48 kilometre track. In some incredibly close racing last year's winner Ken Styles in his Holeshot buggy was leading over Eric Phillips and Darren Agrela. The margin between the three Pro Buggies was a mere three seconds with a host of other cars hot on their heels. Brad Cooper and Mal Yeardey rolled the Bat Pro Buggy onto its side but were able to get the car back onto its wheels to complete the section. Harleigh Uren and Simon Cain in their Performance 2WD Nissan Navara Ute drove a great section to finish well inside the top ten.

Sundays racing saw two sections of two laps each of the fast and demanding track. Dirk Van Geest drove a consistent race to take out Extreme 2WD in his modified Nissan. In the Production 4WD class Greg Pickersgill and Uwe Kreuzsch piloted their Toyota Landcruiser through a trouble free run to win the class. A strong Super 1650 Buggy contingent started the race but most fell into trouble, with Rob Galloway winning the class in his Toyota powered Bullet Buggy and John and Jenni Flynn finishing second in the older style Bullet Buggy. Owen Davies had a stunning debut with his brand new Nissan Patrol Extreme 4WD bringing the vehicle home first in class.

Hard luck stories included Rod Barton in his Super 1650 Buggy who overcame a holed sump, wiring ripped out by a fence and a shock absorber bolt that came loose among a long list of other problems only to come to a halt on the last lap with steering issues. Gary and Jarad Howe in their Performance 2WD Commodore also came to grief on the last lap when they rolled their car.

Third outright and First of the Prolite Buggies across the line were Dave and Jarad Percival who were on the pace all weekend driving their Rimco Buggy to its limit. Rumour has it they have a Toyota 3.5 litre engine sitting ready to replace the Toyota 3 litre so they can push for outright victory in the future. Harleigh Uren and Simon Cain produced an outstanding drive to win the Performance 2WD class and take out second outright, a great result for that class of car in this quality field. The winners for the second year in a row were Ken Styles and Joshua Ellis who overcame a flat tyre in the Chev powered Holeshot Buggy to take out the Pro Buggy class and the Bencubbin 300 Trophy.

The Western Australian Off Road Racing Association would like to thank the property owners, Shire of Mt Marshall and the people of Bencubbin for their efforts and support in running the event. A special thanks to the sponsors, organisers and officials in allowing the club to run the best attended State round for many years.



Winners Ken Styles and Joshua Ellis



Zeb Casey and Ryan McPherson

(Production 4WD Nissan Patrol – 2<sup>nd</sup> in Class)



Gary and Jarad Howe

(Performance 2WD Commodore – DNF rolled)



Chris McMannas and Jason Colyer-Long

(Pro Buggy – 3<sup>rd</sup> in Class)



Darren Beckett and Matty Weir

(Extreme 2WD – 2<sup>nd</sup> in class)

Followed by Craig and Marcus Wells

(Razorback Pro Buggy – 2<sup>nd</sup> in class)



Peter and Corrina Lindeboom

(Raptor Super 1650 Buggy – DNF Gearbox)

Source – Dave Cowan

Photos – Emma Howe