



www.pdnracing.org.au

# IN THE PITS

DECEMBER 2004

**THE NEWSLETTER OF *PENRITH DISTRICT NITRO RACING INC. (PDNR)***

## **WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH EVERYONE A SAFE & HAPPY CHRISTMAS**

**PDNR WILL HAVE ITS LAST NIGHT FOR 2004 ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2004**

**WE WILL RESUME RACING ON THE 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2005 AT THE P1 PARKING AREA AT THE REGATTA CENTRE.**

**DURING THE CHRISTMAS BREAK TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS, KICK BACK & RELAX, AND HOPEFULLY SANTA WILL BRING YOU ANOTHER RC CAR SO YOU CAN SET IT UP & BRING DOWN TO RUN IN THE NEW YEAR.**

**TO ALL THE RC WIDOWS OUT THERE, TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO GET HUBBY TO DO THOSE CHORES YOU HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET HIM TO DO ALL YEAR.**

**ONE OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS WIVES TOLD ME THE BEST WAY SHE HAD GOT HER HUBBY TO DO SOMETHING WAS SHE TOLD HIM KEVIN FROM PDNR WANTS YOU TO FIX THAT ITEM. APPARENTLY HE DID IT PRETTY QUICK!!**

**SERIOUSLY THOUGH TO ALL THE DRIVERS THANKYOU FOR A GREAT YEAR & HOPE YOU HAVE MADE MANY FRIENDS WHILST DRIVING WITH US THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.**

**WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE BACK EARLY JANUARY 2005, TO HAVE AN EVEN BETTER YEAR.**



## **ANOTHER YEAR GONE - by El Presidente**

What a year 2004 has been, PDNR has had many obstacles throughout the year and I am glad to say we managed to overcome them and still provide a base for drivers to enjoy their hobby each week.

The year started off with a time restriction put on us for driving, which then was followed by the banning of the P.A System.

Then we thought that after 3 years of building the club to what it was, we would have to shut up shop as Harvey Norman could no longer cater for us to use their complex.

Panic stations set in and we needed to find a new home, after having no luck for the acquisition of land from the council, all attention was put into moving the club to the Regatta Centre, luck was on our side and I think we all agree that our new home is more suitable for our purpose.

Okay we moved in and on the first night all hell broke loose as we upset the restaurant owner, who on that night was holding a function for some doctors.

On the second night again we landed in trouble as we were selling our hot dogs & drinks only to be told that the restaurant had sole catering rights. This was only a set back for 6 weeks as Arthur decided to let us supply all you drivers with grub.

2004 saw PDNR hold some events that have made the RC hobby more popular and enjoyable for all, not to mention put PDNR as a club on the road to better things. The Drag night, Bathurst RC 1000, Activate Day, 2.4 Hour Le Mans & with Charity Challenge at the end of this month, other clubs may have talked about holding events like this but PDNR are getting the reputation of "THE CAN DO CLUB", if its an idea on a race theme, then we try & some how make it work.

I would like to thank all the people who have helped in either setting up & pull down of the track each week, and a big thanks to those who have helped in organising and running of not only each Tuesday night but the Bathurst RC 1000, Drag Night, Activate Day, Le Mans Enduro & Oran Park.

Apart from a few minor driver / racing incidents and having to move home, I feel that we have come out of 2004 a much stronger club and look forward to 2005.

I wish everyone a safe a happy festive season & I look forward to seeing everyone in the new year.

Who knows 2005 might be the year of stepping closer to a purpose built RC Complex.

**Your El Presidente**

**Kevin**

## PDNR SPONSORS

**PDNR thanks our supporters.**

PDNR encourages all our members to seek the services of our sponsors.

- Grahams Hobby Centre - St Marys
- Lite Couriers - NSW
- Barclays Radio Control & Hobbies - Penrith
- Auswide Hobbies & Collectibles - Penrith
- Pirtek Australia - Branches Australia Wide
- Trend Business Equipment - Penrith
- Ivans Butchery - St Marys
- Dexion - Branches Australia Wide

*Thanks again*



## CALENDAR

- DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> - PDNR LE MANS ENDURO - 2.4 HOUR LONG RACE
- DECEMBER 7<sup>th</sup> - PDNR A.G.M TO BE HELD AFTER RACING
- DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> - PRESENTATION NIGHT FOR SPRING 2004 CHAMPIONSHIP
- DECEMBER 14<sup>th</sup> - PDNR AUCTION TO RAISE FUNDS FOR KIDS WITH CANCER
- DECEMBER 19<sup>th</sup> - PDNR CHARITY CHALLENGE - ORAN PARK
- JANUARY 22<sup>ND</sup> - SUMMERNATS - KAMBAH, CANBERRA

## 2.4 Hour Le Mans 2004

Its funny how things turn out, what was originally tossed about as "wouldn't this be cool" became a reality on Sat December 4 at the SIRC. 20 teams ranging from arguably Australia's best in Team Serpent down to drivers that had never raced longer than 5 mins. All entries were filled 2 weeks out from the race, one late withdrawal unfortunately reduced us down to 19 teams for the big race. The drivers & crew for the teams were very keen, it looked like tent city a few hours before the race was due to start as everybody snapped up prime pit positions & began their preparations both mentally & on the machines.

A big thankyou to the drivers that helped set up the monster of a track, a few hearts started racing when this baby was laid out. Due to the size of the track & the required cleaning open practice was slightly delayed which got the nerves at race control a little frayed. Once the cars went out things settled a little bit & it was fantastic to see how some of the teams went about getting themselves ready. At the end of practice all cars were scrutinised & chassis marked. It was very good to see all cars were legal, both from a modification & safety point of view. The chassis were marked so we could tell if any teams switched cars during the race.

After the drivers brief, clarifying all rules & the breakdown of the night, it was time to put on the race face & get cracking. The optional qualifying session started as scheduled (much to the relief of race control). The idea was a 20 min open session with the fastest single lap from each team to count. Most of the teams took the opportunity to qualify so the traffic was like the M4 on a Monday morning. Hats off to all the drivers during qualifying as common sense & courtesy prevailed as faster cars & slower cars kept out of each others way. At the end of the session Team Serpent Australia were the team at the top, just knocking off Helles Angels who led for most of the session.

A short break ensued so the computer could be updated. At just before 7.30 it was time to introduce the teams starting from TQ. As each team was introduced the first driver moved up on to the drivers stand to choose their standing position for the race. Once all the teams were on the stand the floor was marked with the team number & your space allocated. This seemed to be very effective at keeping everyone in their allocated spots & proved to keep any disagreements on the stand to a minimum. The drivers were given a 5 min warm up before being recalled to the pits for a start. The start was a true Le Mans start with cars in the pits & the mechanics standing opposite the cars on the far side of the front straight. The countdown started & after 10 seconds the buzzer sounded. 19 mechanics scurried across the track to fire the cars to life. Once started the cars could be dropped on the straight & start racing. Any cars that started after the lead car had completed a lap were to leave from pit lane. This type of start not only kept in the spirit of Le Mans, but it also stopped the typical 1<sup>st</sup> corner carnage.

Mingara RC were the early pace setters, with Greg Brooks at the wheel. For the first 30 mins the top 3 cars were all on the same lap. It didn't take too long & Team Serpent hit the lead with Darrin Campbell in control. Darrin put an amazing first stint completing over 200 laps, before handing over to Stewart Grant. It would have been an eye opener for most of the teams to see this lot operate; their Mechanic doesn't take his eye off the car for the entire race. Calling cautions to the driver & providing lightning fast pit stops. It comes as no surprise that many state & national titles are held by members of this outfit. Helles Angels were sitting comfortably in 2<sup>nd</sup> place at the 1 hour mark, this team also boasted some of the countries best drivers & the performance on the track showed. A few hiccups had Mingara RC back to 3<sup>rd</sup> position but the early speed & consistency came back & they settled in for the haul to the finish. The surprise packet of the race would have to be Team Grandpa, these guys were flying & held a top 5 spot for most of the race, unfortunately with a few mins remaining the car gave up the ghost & they dropped from 4<sup>th</sup> to a DNF, saying the guys were shattered would be an understatement. It was great to see old Gramps back at Penrith racing again after a forced absence for most of the year. The best of the Locals was one of The Grahams Hobbies entries, (Sam, Laurie, Steve & Fozzie) after a few early problems these guys got it together when it counted & when team Grandpa expired they moved up into 4<sup>th</sup> place. The rest of the field can hold their heads high. The standard of driving by most drivers was very good & the fast & slow cars mixed together well with very few problems. Common sense & patience seemed to be plentiful on the night, of the 19 teams that took off when the flag dropped 15 crossed the finish line within the 90 second window. 3 of the 4 DNF entries expired within the last 5 mins of the race. An outstanding effort by the drivers & pit crew of all teams, you have done yourselves, your respective clubs & the hobby proud. The large crowd seemed to enjoy the event & I imagine most will come back looking for more.

On behalf of the organising committee, I would like to thank all entrants, spectators & club members that were not entered that came down to help. Without you there would be no race. I must make special mention to Micheal Turner, who put in a tonne of hours to pull this off & due to work commitments had to pull out of racing. Although he was still at the track making sure all was well before heading of to work. Also to Tony Firth (Race Director Extrodenere) the race went like clockwork, all the I's were dotted & T's crossed. We can't wait for the next one!!!



## RAFFLES

### RC CAR RAFFLE

Kindly donated by

**GRAHAMS HOBBY CENTRE**

Tickets are a one dollar each and all proceeds  
Help keep the club up and running

This championship GRAHAM has donated a  
fantastic

**GV BV-1 XR8 FORD UTE.**

**\$1 each**

Raffle will be drawn at the presentation night on  
December 14, 2004. If winner is not present,  
they will be notified by details on raffle ticket.

### Meat Tray RAFFLE

Purchased from selected quality  
meats at

**IVANS BUTCHERY**

Tickets are three for one dollar or 50c each.  
All proceeds help keep the club up and running

**3 for \$1 or 50c each**

Raffle will be drawn each night. Due to the nature  
of the prize, if the winner is not present at the  
draw, the raffle will be redrawn until a winner is  
found.

Tickets are available from Canteen or Kevin & Keith (Yellow Vests)

## CONTACT DETAILS

Club website: [www.pdnracing.org.au](http://www.pdnracing.org.au)  
Club mail PDNR, PO Box 4126 Penrith Plaza, 2750

## MERCHANDISE

The following PDNR Club merchandise is available from the canteen or Race Control.

Black Polo shirt :	\$27.50	Hats:	\$15.00
V Neck T Shirt:	\$10.00	PDNR Stickers:	\$ 2.50
Standard T Shirt:	\$8.00		

**Penrith**  
Shop2, 55-59 York Rd, Penrith NSW 2750

Indoor  
Racing  
and Shop

Turn Into  
A Little Window  
Driveway

**South Windsor**  
Unit 26/84 Drummond St, South Windsor 2756

**Steve McDonnell**  
0414 419 265

www.auswidehobbies.com.au

**AUSWIDE**  
HOBBIES AND COLLECTABLES

Tel: (02) 4732 5133  
Fax: (02) 4732 5788  
Email: steve@auswidehobbies.com.au  
Shop2, 55-59 York Rd, Penrith NSW 2750  
Unit 26/84 Drummond St, South Windsor 2756

## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR ALL THEIR SUPPORT

**Grahams  
HOBBY CENTRE**

87a QUEEN ST  
ST MARYS NSW 2760  
M: 0822 289 088  
P: 9833 4044  
F: 9833 5998

**IVAN'S BUTCHERY**

71 Queen Street, St Marys 2760

Ph: 9623 1088  
Fax: 9623 1981

**BARCLAYS RADIO CONTROL  
AND HOBBIES**

PHONE  
**4721 0331**

FAX  
4721 0046

7/354 HIGH ST PENRITH

**LITE  
COURIERS**

ADN 34 062 930 931

**Phone 9677 2001**

Colleen Maree Burcher  
Director  
Email: colleen@litecouriers.com.au

Fax 9677 2440  
PO Box 299  
Glendenning, NSW 2761

**TREND  
BUSINESS EQUIPMENT**

**Joe Rifai** manager Ph: 02 4721 4932

SERVICE CENTRE FOR:

**brother**  
**Canon**

or: 02 4731 4221  
Fax: 02 4732 3072

126 Parker St, (Cnr Stafford St)  
Kingswood NSW 2747

sales / service / repairs / supplies / consumables

[www.pdnracing.org.au](http://www.pdnracing.org.au)

EVERY TUESDAY NIGHT  
SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL REGATTA CENTRE  
CASTLEREAGH ROAD, PENRITH  
(ENTRY VIA GATE A)



Images, pictures and logos are used with the permission of their respective owners.  
This publication is copyright by PDNR Inc.