



# IN THE PITS

www.pdnracing.org.au

DECEMBER 2007

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

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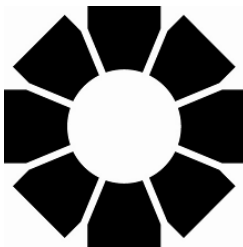
## MERRY CHRISTMAS!

It's hard to believe but another year is almost over – it has gone so fast. Heaps has happened during the last 12 months and PDNR has continued to maintain it's position of being the biggest and best RC club in NSW. We have once again held many events in 2007 and drivers have completed over 100,000 laps around our temporary tracks in the last 12 months!

Our course towards securing a permanent home continues, and thanks to the ongoing loyal support of PDNR members and drivers we are the closest we have ever been to getting a more permanent track. Although we are not there yet, the progress is in the right direction and hopefully 2008 will be the bearer of good news!

This is the final issue of *In The Pits* for 2007, and it's a huge one! We have a recap on some of the 2007 highlights, final championship points for Spring, Constructors (Hobby Shop) points and Club Champion results. We also give you a heads up on the plans for 2008, and important dates to add to your calendar.

On behalf of the 2007 Management Committee we thank all members and drivers for their support and look forward to racing again in 2008. Have a safe and happy Christmas holiday... fingers crossed Santa will be good to you all.



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## EL PRESIDENTE'S REPORT

Another year has come and almost gone. I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas, and look forward to seeing everyone in the new year...yes... even all the buggy drivers!!!

This year still has one Tuesday night event remaining with the Test and Tune Drag Night on December 11, and one major event with PDNR's Grand Finale being the Charity Challenge at Oran Park on Sunday December 16.

I would like to thank again those helpers who week after week help with track set up and pack up, your assistance goes a long way to ensuring that each night starts off smoothly.

Also, a big thanks should go to the outgoing committee members for 2007. I feel that PDNR is the number one club in Australia and this is due to the great efforts of the committee, and the loyal support from our drivers and members. A job well done to all of you.

Tonight after the presentation and other formalities is the Annual General Meeting (AGM). I urge all drivers to attend the AGM and find out not only who your new committee will be for 2008, but to also find out what the club is aiming for in the future. You never know, you might want to be part of the new committee yourself!

I would also like to give a big thank you to our sponsors for their support throughout the year. I encourage all drivers to support our sponsors when possible and you can see their adverts throughout the *In The Pits* newsletters or on the sponsors' page of the PDNR website.

And for all the drivers that have been attending other race meets, keep it up, you are not only improving on your skills but doing PDNR proud.

Until next we meet, a very Merry Christmas to all.

*El Pres*  
Kevin



## 2008 – HERE WE COME!

2008 is shaping up to be bigger and better than ever. The action kicks off on Tuesday January 8 with practice and registration for the 2008 Summer Championship. The following week, January 15, will again be registration and control practice (with transponders). The Summer Championship officially starts with Round 1 on Tuesday 22 January. If you haven't got your copy of the full 2008 event calendar, download it from the PDNR website.

There will once again be three championships held in 2008, but thanks to the way Tuesday's fall, each championship will consist of 14 weekly rounds. This is one more than the three 13 round championships we had this year (2007). Each driver's worst round result will continue to be dropped and there is no change to the way the championship points score is calculated.

In addition to Tuesday night events, PDNR are again planning to hold their two famous endurance events – 2.4 Hour Le mans in March, and 3 Hour Classic in November. The annual PDNR Challenge will be held in August which will again be part of the Nitro Interclub Series (NIS). The NIS if you aren't aware is a series that PDNR started two years ago where clubs compete against each other at major RC events. There are several rounds remaining in the current series to satisfy the beginner, intermediate and experienced club racer.

There are new plans for PDNR Drag Nights in 2008 with more rounds added during the year. There are plans to hold a total of 6 events, which will be divided into a Summer and Winter season with trophies awarded after each season. The Drag Nights are mostly on Saturday nights, but some are on Friday nights due to the availability of facilities. See the Drag Night feature in this newsletter for more details.

On the social side, PDNR are again planning to hold a Trivia Night to help raise funds for the club. This is sure to be a great night out for the whole family, so start thinking of who you'd like to have on your table. The Trivia Night is being held in June.

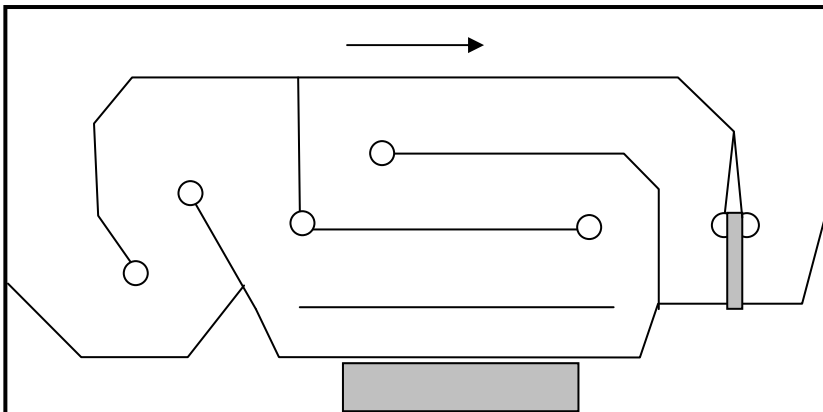
Hopefully you can make it to some or all of these events, and remember to download your full 2008 event calendar from the PDNR website – [www.pdnracing.org.au](http://www.pdnracing.org.au)

## 2008 SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP

There are some minor changes being introduced for the 2008 Summer Championship, and the following is a quick overview of what to expect.

### TRACK LAYOUT

Expect the track configuration for 2008 to change slightly. A track design will be trialled on the Practice Night – January 8. The favoured suggestion at the time of printing is to extend the front straight into the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the chicane, and extend the middle straights to fill the space of the 1<sup>st</sup> half of the chicane. The 90 degree left hander after the bridge would also be chamfered to create a more flowing track for 2008. An example illustration is below.



### DIVISION SEQUENCE

The race order will continue to rotate each week, and the sequence has been changed to: Nitro Kit, Buggy, Pull Start, Outlaw, Pro Tourer, Truck, and Open Pan. Novice will remain the first session immediately after the drivers brief. The school holiday Kids Class will also return in 2008.

### HEAT B FIRST

When there are enough entries to have two heats, a system where Heat B will run before Heat A will be trialled during 2008. The idea behind it is to allow the Heat B drivers to marshal during Heat A's race, and hopefully gain some tips and pointers to help improve their driving and car setup.

## RAFFLES & FUNDRAISING

### CAR RAFFLE

Generously donated by  
**GRAHAM'S HOBBY CENTRE**

Tickets are a \$1 each

The car raffle will be drawn on  
the Spring Presentation Night on  
December 4, 2007.

*If the winner is not present, they  
will be notified to claim prize.*

*Raffle Tickets are available from Race Control or wandering sales representatives*



*Left: Graham presenting the  
winner of the Kyosho Inferno MP  
7.5 Raffle Car.*

This Championship's Raffle Car  
is the awesome belt drive  
Kyosho V-One SIII – the most  
popular chassis in Pull Start!

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Here are some of the upcoming events you may be interested in attending. More information and entry forms are available from the PDNR website – [www.pdnracing.org.au](http://www.pdnracing.org.au) – but in the meantime add these to your diary.

- **DECEMBER 11<sup>th</sup>** Open Test & Tune Drag Night
- **DECEMBER 16<sup>th</sup>** PDNR CHARITY CHALLENGE (Oran Park)
- **JANUARY 8<sup>th</sup>** REGO & PRACTICE 2008 SUMMER
- **JANUARY 15<sup>th</sup>** REGO & CONTROL PRACTICE
- **JANUARY 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>** SUMMER NATS (Fairy Meadow)  
– Nitro Interclub Series Round 4
- **JANUARY 22<sup>nd</sup>** START 2008 SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP  
Note: Bunt off car park Mon PM / Tue AM
- **FEBRUARY 8<sup>th</sup>** PDNR DRAG NIGHT – Round 1 (SIRC)
- **FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>** SYDNEY GP (Whalan)  
– Nitro Interclub Series Round 5

For more 2008 events, visit [www.pdnracing.org.au](http://www.pdnracing.org.au) to download and print out a copy of the calendar for the fridge!

### **2008 SUMMER CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Round 1 – Tuesday Night – January 22<sup>nd</sup>**

#### **Pre Registration:**

- Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup>
- Tuesday January 15<sup>th</sup>

## CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

The 2007 Spring Championship has concluded on a slight anti-climax with the final round washed out with many positions due to be decided on the final round. Congratulations still goes to the top three in each division who thoroughly deserve their podium finish.

Division Sponsor JPM RACING : RB : ATS : CASTER		
OFF ROAD BUGGY		
P	Name	Pts
1	Chris Abela	285
2	Ray Azzopardi	241
3	Chris Young	228
4	Matthew Oxford	189
5	Ron Sant	172
6	Darrel Knight	167
7	Allan Crane	153
8	Nathan Egan	152
9	Flavio Cataldo	145
10	Greg Rossiter	136
11	Charles Pilotto	135
12	Stewart Kaysmith	81
13	Andrew Thackary	72
14	Graham Fletcher	63
15	David Troitsin	54
16	Don Bishop	50
17	Gary Webster	41
18	Jamie Fellowes	30
19	Barry Gavin	26
20	Dean Webster	25
21	Josh Crowne	20
22	Michael Fellowes	17
23	Peter Tsunias	12
24	Kurt Seychell	10
24	Darrell Bennett	10
26	Josh Scarcella	7
27	Scott Palmer	6
28	Daniel Trouve	5
29	Joel Casey	0
29	Nathan Johnstone	0
29	Mark Falconer	0
29	Dean Micallef	0
29	Darren Bennett	0
29	Leigh Naylor	0
29	Brad Parker	0
29	Alex Sidique	0
29	Jerome Drylie	0
29	Leith Copas	0
29	Rob Loface	0

Division Sponsor AUSWIDE HOBBIES		
OFF ROAD TRUCK		
P	Name	Pts
1	Jonathan Freund	336
2	Roy Hanmore	277
3	Graham Fisher	268
4	David Bush	222
5	Darrel Knight	108
6	Charles Pilotto	48
7	Allan Crane	33
8	Fabiano Ruffo	24
9	Daryl Kaltenbacher	22
9	Andrew Thackary	22
11	Mark Russell	20
12	Justin Caruana	19
12	Darrel Bennett	19
12	Adam Van Velzen	19
15	Justin Page	18
16	Don Bishop	16
17	Michael Fellowes	12
17	Ryan Richardson	12
19	Iain Miller	10
20	Graeme Chater	7
21	Anthony Berends	0
21	Tony Berends	0

Division Sponsor TOOL AUS		
OPEN PAN		
P	Name	Pts
1	Michael Turner	324
2	Steve Valletta	272
3	Steve OConnor	252
4	John Reilly	155
5	Kevin Maton	146
6	Ronald Clare	144
7	Rod Albronda	141
7	Darrel Thompson	141
9	Graham Fraser	116
10	Phil Northey	105
11	Chris Abela	100
12	Michael Stone	94
13	Dennis Mitchell	84
14	Grahame Jones	81
15	Scott Van Der Dray	68
16	Roy Hanmore	46
17	Ron Clare Snr	40
18	John Trotter	26
19	Barry Gavin	20

Division Sponsor <b>FREESTYLE BARBER SHOP</b>		
<b>OUTLAW</b>		
<b>P</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Pts</b>
1	Rod Morgan	251
2	Jonathan Freund	249
3	John Reilly	220
4	Shane Middlemass	187
5	Chris Stanley	180
6	Scott Marks	163
7	David Lo Iacono	159
8	Scott Van Der Draay	142
9	Charles Pilotto	136
10	David Bush	113
11	Ronald Clare	109
12	Grahame Jones	97
13	Barry Gavin	79
14	Joel Casey	64
15	John Trotter	60
16	Matthew Russell	36
17	Darrel Knight	32
18	Luke Gunton	22
19	Ron Clare Snr	21
20	Sam Grima	19
21	Kevin Maton	18
22	Brad Parker	16
23	Laurie Grima	15
24	Cameron Downing	0
24	John Jeffery	0

Division Sponsor <b>GRAHAM'S HOBBY CENTRE</b>		
<b>PRO TOURER</b>		
<b>P</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Pts</b>
1	Tony Firth	334
2	Matthew Russell	274
3	Nathan Ryan (S1 - R1r1)	226
4	Steve Valletta	207
5	Ray Azzopardi	179
6	John Bates	172
7	Shaun Kaltenbacher	170
8	Ray Wallace	147
9	Brett Quarm	124
10	Wayne Thomas	109
11	Rod Morgan	103
12	Steve O'Connor	78
13	Philip Woodbury	76
14	Shane Middlemass	62
15	Luke Gunton	43
16	Mark Mitchell	32
16	Brad Stuart	32
18	Kevin maton	28
19	Mark Oconnor	20
19	Nathan Johnston	20
21	Sam Grima	9
22	Rob Parrington	6
23	Laurie Grima	5
24	Charles Pilotto	0
24	Nathan Hargraves	0
24	Barry Gavin	0

Division Sponsor <b>GRAHAM'S HOBBY CENTRE</b>		
<b>NITRO KIT</b>		
<b>P</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Pts</b>
1	Jonathan Lo Iacono	320
2	Graham Fisher	274
3	Graham McMillan	261
4	Darrel Knight	247
5	Paul Checuti	242
6	Greg Rossiter	206
7	Joel Casey	86
8	Adam Heaney	77
9	Steve Earl	70
10	Chris Pett	64
11	Ron Clare Snr	41
12	Michael Ogston	35
13	Kris Albronda	31
14	Josh Freund	26
15	Barry Gavin	23
16	Daryl Kaltenbacher	17
17	Graham Fletcher	14
18	Dennis Mitchell	10
19	Ben Serrao	8
20	Anthony Berends	0

Division Sponsor <b>PIRTEK AUSTRALIA</b>		
<b>PULL START</b>		
<b>P</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Pts</b>
1	Matthew Russell	350
2	Nathan Ryan	243
3	John Bates	241
4	Shaun Kaltenbacher	194
5	Chris Stanley	193
6	Steve Valletta	192
7	Joe Patane	175
8	Chris Earl	163
9	Rod Albronda	152
10	Grahame Jones	87
11	Wayne Thomas	66
12	Nathan Johnston	51
13	Michael Turner	46
14	David Ricketts	40
15	Frank Deek	24
16	Corey Gurney	15
17	Dennis Mitchell	10
18	Charles Pilotto	9
18	Jonathan Lo Iacono	9
20	Joel Casey	6
21	Sean Harvey	5
22	Luke Sutton	0
22	Alex Sidique	0

## PDNR CLUB CHAMPION

2007 saw the introduction of the PDNR Club Champion. This award recognises the most successful member at PDNR during a year of competition, and it is calculated by adding the points scored in all three championships together. Drivers competing in multiple divisions, only have their primary division counted. After a year and 39 rounds of competition over 3 championships, here are the top 20 results for the inaugural PDNR Club Champion.

2007 PDNR CLUB CHAMPION					
Name	RANK	TOTAL	TOTAL SUMMER 2007	TOTAL AUTUMN 2007	TOTAL SPRING 2007
Tony Firth	1	1106	392	380	334
Jonathan Freund	2	962	379	334	249
Roy Hanmore	3	953	408	268	277
Ray Azzopardi	4	942	375	326	241
Graham Fisher	5	841	327	240	274
John Bates	6	826	260	325	241
Chris Earl	7	811	312	336	163
Nathan Ryan	8	753	329	181	243
Chris Stanley	9	741	288	273	180
Steve Valletta	10	730	283	255	192
Chris Abela	11	717	170	262	285
John Reilly	12	706	234	252	220
David Bush	13	678	276	180	222
Michael Turner	14	677	108	245	324
Steve O'Connor	15	668	251	165	252
Shaun Kaltenbacher	16	647	230	247	170
David Lo Iacono	17	592	259	174	159
Matthew Russell	18	562	0	212	350
Darrel Thompson	19	561	192	228	141
Joe Patane	20	555	200	180	175

## CONSTRUCTOR'S POINTS

The Constructor's Point score as it is affectionately know as now days, started as a bit of a gee-up a few years ago. Now, many drivers wait eagerly to see how their Local Hobby Shop has placed in the Constructor's Points. There are no trophies or official recognition for this achievement – just bragging rights until the next event. Here are the complete 2007 results.

Pos	CONSTRUCTOR	SUM	AUT	SPR	TOTAL
1 <sup>st</sup>	Graham's Hobby Centre	21	16	14	<b>51</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Auswide Hobbies	15	12	14	<b>41</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Barclay's Hobbies	12	13	9	<b>34</b>

## CONTACT DETAILS

There will be a number of new contact details following the election of the 2008 Management Committee at the Annual General Meeting and we will publish these details in future editions of the newsletter. In the meantime, here are the main contacts for PDNR.

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

Club mail: The Secretary, PO Box 420 Kingswood NSW 2747

Track: P1 car park, Sydney International Regatta Centre  
Old Castlereagh Rd Penrith (Gate A – General Entry)

### **Next Event...**



## **Penrith District Nitro Racing Inc. CHARITY CHALLENGE**

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

**ORAN PARK RACEWAY**

*Entry Details available on [www.pdnracing.org.au](http://www.pdnracing.org.au)*

[www.auswidehobbies.com.au](http://www.auswidehobbies.com.au)  
**AUSWIDE**  
HOBBIES AND COLLECTABLES

**199 High Street Penrith**  
(next door to Jaycar)  
**02 4732 5133**  
[www.auswidehobbies.com.au](http://www.auswidehobbies.com.au)

## RUBBISH BINS & WASTE FUEL

You may think we harp on about this issue, but it is very important that we leave the car park as clean (if not cleaner) than it was when we arrived. PDNR request that all drivers and spectators put all rubbish (and broken parts) in the bins provided. PDNR are guests to the car park, and it must be left in the same state as when we arrived.

It is especially important that WASTE FUEL is disposed of correctly. There is a waste fuel drum at the big trailer for any drivers wishing to dispose of waste nitro fuel. Please ensure this is used at all times.

The other bugbear is cigarette butts. Please do not drop them on the ground, please stub them out and put them in a rubbish bin.



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## REGATTA CENTRE RULES

To continue the use of the Sydney International Regatta Centre, SIRC, facility, it is important that all PDNR club members, visitors and spectators observe the following rules;

- **All drivers and spectators are required to stay within the area of the island (P1) car park where racing is held.**
- **Drivers and spectators are not allowed to wander around the regatta complex or anywhere near the lakes, bridge, grandstand or ANY pontoon.**
- **ALL children are to be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times and please no scooters, bikes, rollerblades etc.**
- **The island car park is on an island, i.e. it is surrounded by deep water with steep banks. The water is dark and cold. Please keep yourself, and any children away from the water and banks. Do NOT let your children play on any of the pontoons.**
- **Place all rubbish in the provided bins.**
- **If you can not adhere to these rules, you may be asked to leave the venue.**

Toilets are located at the centre of the boat sheds. This is found immediately east of the island car park, across the grassed area.

### **FREESTYLE BARBER SHOP**

Shop 4, 429 High St, Penrith

**Ph 4722 8884**

Mention PDNR when you visit Roger for your next hair appointment and you will receive a **DISCOUNT RACE FUEL VOUCHER TO THE VALUE OF \$5.00**

(See in store for full details)

## TRIVIA QUESTION!

The trivia question for this issue of *In The Pits* is a quick and easy one.

Who said the following?

***“It’s lap 26 of 58, which unless I’m very much mistaken is half way”***

The first 5 correct entries handed in to Race Control will win a prize!

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## STATS n STUFF

It’s a pet interest of one of our committee members to twist our brain with random stats about our hobby. Over the past few years we have been informed how many litres of coca-cola we have consumed, how many litres of fuel we used and how far we have travelled. Well, in the same trend as these, here are some more useless stats on our hobby from our chief number cruncher Tony Firth.

- In 2007, a total of 57,101 race laps were completed on Tuesday’s nights.
- With an average of 90 entrants, that works out at 16.2 laps per entrant per night.
- In a typical 5 minute race, a piston will travel through 125,000 revolutions (based on an average of 25,000 rpm)
- A stroke of 13.7mm will mean that a piston will travel 3.425 Km in a 5 minute race – That’s the distance from the Regatta Centre, to the new Bunning’s Warehouse on Castlereagh Road. (it works out at an average of 41 Km/h)
- If you lined up 1/10 touring cars nose to tail, it would take 8,155 of them to equal that distance – and that’s just a 5 minute race for one car!
- A set of foam tyres would typically last around 200 laps (5-6 weeks).
- That means that 285 sets of tyres would have been used at PDNR this year.
- If you get 6mm of wear per set, that would equal 0.018 cubic meters of tyre foam worn this year. That’s 18 litres of tyre foam.

## 2008 DRAG RACING SERIES!

The Drag Racing calendar for 2008 has received a much needed boost, with a total of six events scheduled for 2008. After a heavily rain affected 2007 where only 1 event was held successfully, the extra events in 2008 should help all the RC drag racers get their straight line fix – assuming the weather is on their side.

Round 1 of the 2008 Summer Drag Series is on Friday Night, February 8. The classes and format will be confirmed closer to the event, but organisers anticipate a shift towards catering more for dedicated dragster type vehicles with the number of drivers owning/building such vehicles having greatly increased over the last year. 2008 events will be split up into two 3 round series, with a point score system used to determine the winners of each series.

### SUMMER SERIES

ROUND 1	February 8 (Friday)
ROUND 2	April 4 (Friday)
ROUND 3	June 14 (Saturday)

### WINTER SERIES

ROUND 1	July 12 (Saturday)
ROUND 2	August 30 (Saturday)
ROUND 3	September 27 (Saturday)

**WANNA 40m DRAG RACE...**

**FRIDAY NIGHT + FEBRUARY 8<sup>th</sup> + 6.00pm**

**DRAG NIGHT – Round 1**



Visit [www.pdnracing.org.au](http://www.pdnracing.org.au) for more details

## RACER SPOTLIGHT

It was a big hit when we re-launched the Racers Spotlight feature in last months *In The Pits*, so we are pleased to introduce you to another two RC racers.

### WHO IS MR CONSISTENCY?

You may have heard race commentators describing the following driver as Mr Consistency, and he certainly has the results to back it up. Although he has only been with PDNR a relatively short length of time, he has taken home plenty of silverware and is a pleasure to watch no matter what class he is racing!

**Name:** Chris Earl

**Been racing at PDNR for:** 15 months

**Current Division:** Pull Start

**Current Car:** Hyper GPX4

**Current Radio:** Hyper (Kit Standard)

**Current Engine:** Techwell

**Career Highlights:**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nitro Kit - 2007 Autumn

- 1<sup>st</sup> Buggy - 2006 Spring

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Buggy - 2006 Autumn

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Buggy - 2007 Summer

**Age:** 35

**Home Suburb:** Erskine Park

**Occupation:** Excavation

**Marital Status:** Married with 3 daughters.

**First RC Car:** Tamiya Hornet (The original one!)

**Total Number of RC cars:** 2

**Other cars include:** Kyosho Inferno MP 7.5, Hyper GPX4

**Favourite RC Car:** Sand Scorcher

**Favourite Movie:** Field of Dreams

**Childhood Hero:** My Brother

**Biggest Disappointment:** Moving to the UK

**What makes you angry?:** Negativity

**Who would you most like to meet?:** Jim Carey

**What's the only thing better than RC racing?:** Real 1:1 car racing!

**If you had front row seats to any sporting event what would see?:** Bathurst 1000

**Any Comment/Advice about RC:** All you need is consistency



## THE SPEED MACHINE!

There aren't many drivers at PDNR that have been around longer than the next driver featured in our spotlight, and the first thing that comes to mind when you think of this driver is speed - he is always super quick in whatever he drives!

**Name:** Ray Azzopardi

**Been racing at PDNR for:** 7 years

**Current Divisions:** Pro Tourer, Buggy

**Current Cars:** Mugen MTX4, XICR

**Current Radio:** Futaba 3PK

**Current Engines:** RB Matrix, Sirio

**Career Highlights:** His personal highlight is finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> behind Kyle Hazzel in his first attempt at Top Gun - 2005 Spring. Others:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Open Pan - 2007 Autumn
- 1<sup>st</sup> Open Pan - 2007 Summer
- 1<sup>st</sup> 2 Speed - 2004 Winter
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Open Pan - 2006 Autumn
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Outlaw - 2005 Autumn
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Outlaw - 2005 Summer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 2 Speed - 2004 Summer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> 2 Speed Pro - 2001 Autumn
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Buggy - 2007 Summer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Open Pan - 2006 Spring
- 3<sup>rd</sup> 2 Speed Pro - 2004 Spring

**Age:** 37

**Home Suburb:** Kellyville

**Marital Status:** Married with 3 daughters

**First RC car:** Tamiya TGX

**Total Number of RC cars:** 3 (so he says!)

**Other cars include:** Mugen MRX4

**Favourite RC car owned:** 1/10 Dragster (Rail)

**Favourite Movie:** Fast & Furious

**Biggest Disappointment:** Injuring Knee in football

**What makes you angry?:** Work / Pressure

**If you had front row seats to any sporting event what would see?:** Parramatta Rugby League Grand Final.

**Who would you most like to meet:** Casey Stoner

**Any Comment/Advice about RC:** Play it safe & Don't drive aggressive

**Dream Car:** 1969 Mustang Fastback



# HELP THE KIDS – REGISTER NOW!

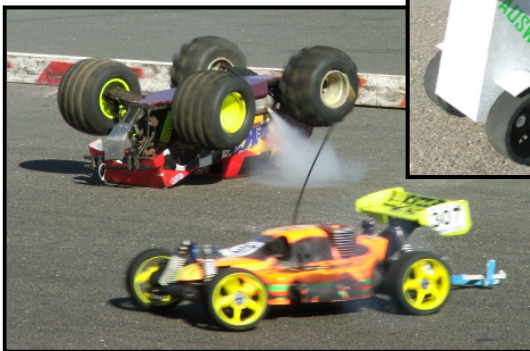
## 2007 CHARITY CHALLENGE

We featured this event in the last edition of this newsletter, but we see it as such an important and worth while event, we thought we would run it again. The 2007 Charity Challenge will be PDNR's 5<sup>th</sup> year of being involved in this charity event. This is a significant achievement and one that I doubt any of the organisers would have imagined when Steve O'Connor first suggested we put on a display day!

In addition to the typical RC action, the highlight of past years has been the DEMOLITION DUNNY DERBY. If you are confused at this point, please see the following images.



**2007 Charity Challenge  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December**



Entry Forms are available  
from the PDNR website.  
**!! REGISTER NOW !!**

1/10 scale dunny's, made from balsa wood are strapped to the back of unsuspecting RC cars, trucks and buggies with the objective – destroy all other dunnies. The winner is the last dunny standing!

## ARE YOU A NEW DRIVER?

If you are relatively new to racing RC cars, here are a few hints and tips.

**TAKE IT EASY** - You will not win a race by smashing your way around the track. It will damage your car, our track, other cars and most importantly your hip pocket.

**SLOWER IS FASTER** - Slow down well before a corner, turn in smoothly, and then accelerate away from the corner. The less you have to brake hard, the more momentum and mid corner speed you can carry and this will drop you laps times much more than having a faster straight line speed.

**ROOM FOR ERROR** – When you are first starting out, stay towards the middle of the track, there is more room for error in the middle. Don't worry if you aren't right on the apex of the corner, it's much better to finish the 5 minutes than break you car trying to cut the apex.

**BE CONSIDERATE** - Give others that are faster than you room to get around. It does not do anyone any good to get tangled up – it could well put both of you out of the race. If a faster car is approaching, just run slightly wide to allow them to pass. Never swerve from one side to the other to get out of the way, just hold your normal line as best as possible.

**HOLLER FOR A MARSHALL (NOT)** - Don't yell at the marshals. It was most likely you who made a driving mistake in the first place. If your car does require marshalling, DO NOT rev the engine. It is dangerous for the marshal, and may damage your car. If your car leaves the track put on the brakes immediately. Wait for a marshal to return your car to the track.



## ARE YOU A NEW MARSHALL?

If you register to race as a driver, you are also agreeing to be a marshal. It is important that you marshal the race immediately after your race. PDNR has a penalty system for those who fail to marshal. If you are a new marshal, then a few hints.

**SAFETY FIRST** - Your safety is number one. Never put yourself in a dangerous situation. If you need to marshal a car, don't rush it. Always look both ways before you enter the track.

**FOCUS** - During the race, watch the area of track near your marshalling position, don't get distracted watching the leaders.

**WHERE ARE YOU?** - Wear your fluoro safety vest, but remember it is not a suit of armour nor does it have a built in force field. It does however help race control and drivers notice if you are out on the track.

**SCENIC ROUTE** - If a car needs to be removed from the track, return it to the pits by passing it to the next closest marshal around the track. Avoid the temptation to run the car back to the pits across the track, this can interfere with other cars in the race.

**HANDLE WITH CARE** - If a car is upside down or beached on a barricade, pick it up usually by the rear (wing on the buggy class) or front. Be careful on the sides as often the exhaust pipe is very hot.

**DON'T RUSH OFF** - Wait for all cars at the conclusion of racing to enter pit lane before leaving your marshalling point, and on the way back, check that the track is in the correct position – if it's not, then please fix it up so the next race don't have any surprises!



## PDNR TEAM WEAR

PDNR have a variety of merchandise available for purchase. See Race Control for more information.

Race Jacket	:	\$90.00
Polo Shirt	:	\$35.00
Moto (Torque) Shirt	:	\$60.00
Race Cap	:	\$15.00
Stickers	:	\$ 2.50



# RACING AROUND TOWN

## 2007 IN REVIEW

2007 at PDNR has been another huge year. We have once again had record entries and the loyal following continues to grow, and that is a great thing to see. As is typically the case we started the year not knowing what divisions would be popular, and as it turned out Off Road (Buggy & Truck) along with Nitro Kit would be the most popular. This is understandable considering how many cars Santa delivers at the end of December!

The Summer Championship also saw the first full trial championship for Man Truck. This was a new control class for a new release 1/14 scale truck from Thunder Tiger. The crowd enjoyed this class while it lasted with drivers adding LED's to improve realism. Its glory days were short lived as low support didn't warrant it's continuation into the Autumn Championship.



*The MAN Trucks...RIP*



*PDNR even had a visit from Red Bull*

The Autumn Championship experienced a slight drop in attendance as the colder weather got the better of some racers, but it still had some great racing. Off Road Buggy wasn't decided until the final race, and many other podium places were decided on the final round. Nitro Kit was again the most popular division, but a clear trend was emerging with the standard of racing and level of competition increasing. All classes were having great on-track battles that were fast, close but most importantly, clean.

The Autumn presentation night was a huge success being held off site for the first time at the Nepean Rowing Club and this concept of having an off site presentation is something certain to return in 2008.

During the year there were a mix of other events, and PDNR were represented at pretty much all of them. The NSW State Titles, Nitro Interclub Series events, Nationals and major PDNR events ensured that you couldn't get bored if you were into Nitro RC – and for the record, PDNR took away more than its fair share of trophies along the way!



*1/8 Podium at PDNR Challenge*



*Mr MH is a regular at away meets*

We also held a Trivia Night to try and raise funds for PDNR. Although very poorly supported by PDNR members, it was a great family night out and we hope more of you will get a table together for the next one in June 2008.

During 2007, PDNR made a number of improvements purchasing 2 marquees, 3 new flood lights, a new microphone and speakers, 37 sticks of crayon to mark the track, 1 toner cartridge, 6 reams of paper and an old truck – which was then swapped for the F100!



*PDNR's new F100*



*You can never have too much light*

It's been another great year, we hope you have enjoyed being involved in the hobby of Radio Control and we look forward to your continued support in 2008!

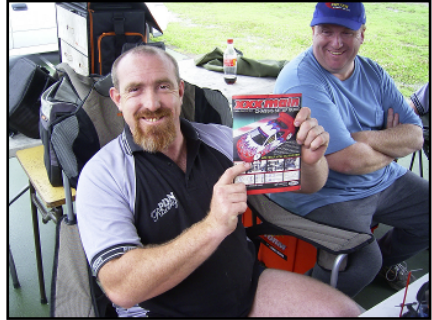
## MINGARA CUP

– NITRO INTERCLUB SERIES (Round 3) –

The next event to feature in the *Racing Around Town* section looks at the 2007 Mingara Cup. The Mingara Cup was held on November 10 & 11 at the Wyong track operated by the Mingara Central Coast Radio Control Club. It was to form Round 3 of the popular Nitro Interclub Series, of which PDNR were leading.



*Joe and His Pit B...Lady!*



*Shaun K consults the RC Bible*

A huge group of PDNR representatives made the trip up to the Central Cost, many making a weekend of it which was obvious by the hang overs on Saturday morning! The cars hit the track on Saturday morning but rain during the control practice heats forced a delay. The rain passed and the track was just about dry, when another shower put an end to the day.



*The Conco's' line*



*See, it was sunny...for a short while!*

Drivers returned on Sunday to perfect conditions. Mingara RC Organisers managing to squeeze in 3 rounds of qualifying followed by all finals, which put a smile on drivers faces. PDNR once again recorded some great results, and remain undefeated in the Nitro Interclub Series after another convincing win.

Here are the stand out results from the Mingara Cup by PDNR drivers:

- 1st Pull Start - **Matt Russell**
- 1st 1/8 Scale - **Tony Firth**
- 2nd Nitro Sport - **Graham McMillan**
- 2nd Pull Start - **Steve Valletta**
- 3rd Pull Start - **Nathan Ryan**
- 3rd 1/8 Scale - **Barry Gavin**

In other NIS results, good finishes from home club Mingara RC gave them 2nd (which jumps them into 3rd overall) and consistent results from NSWRCRCC (Moorebank) brought them home in 3rd place for the event.



*Barry's 3<sup>rd</sup> Place*



*Yo Bro - Dis photo could be a CD cover!*

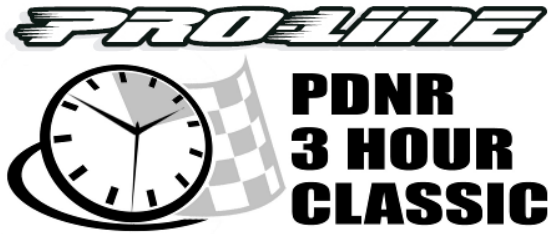
So after three rounds of NIS competition, here are the results.

Pos	Club	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8	TOTAL
1	PDNR	20	20	20						<b>60</b>
2	NSWRCRCC	16	16	14						<b>46</b>
3	MINGARA	9	12	16						<b>37</b>
4	LRCCC	12	14	9						<b>35</b>
5	SORMCC	14	8	10						<b>32</b>
6	GOSFORD	10	10	12						<b>32</b>
7	ORANGE	8	9							<b>17</b>
8	SMA	8								<b>8</b>

Full Results on the Nitro Interclub Series are available at [www.interclub.org.au](http://www.interclub.org.au)

## PROLINE 3 HOUR CLASSIC

– Steve O'Connor –



In this bumper edition of *Racing Around Town* we also recap the recent Proline 3 Hour Classic. This event was held on Saturday, November 17, and as the drivers and pit crew arrived at the track they realised they were about to face a gruelling 3 hour endurance race. The location was the P5 car park at the Sydney International Regatta Centre and this was the first time an event had been held on this surface. This year, 12 teams would compete to become the champions of the 2007 Proline 3 Hour Classic. This event was once again sponsored by Proline and their exclusive Australian agents HEI International who supplied each team with a Proline FX Enzo body.

There were some great paint schemes, and many teams used bright colours realising that this event would run into the night. There were some other supporters of the event who donated prizes for teams to choose from, and so we thank: Graham's Hobby Centre, Auswide Hobbies & Collectables, JPM Racing, Tool Aus and Scott's Auto One (Penrith) and we would also like to mention Kennard's Hire (Penrith) who helped us out with temporary lighting and generators.



*The Winning Car – Team RB*



*All the trophy winners!*

As the teams started arriving most took the chance to get some practice on the track. A new layout and surface awaited and any advantage gained by finding a setup and learning the layout was too good to pass up. Practice time disappeared very quickly and the time to Qualify arrived.

Team RB (Russell/Firth/Umenberger/Umenberger) set the early mark followed by Auswide Racing (O'Connor/Freund/Jones/Freund). Most teams got out early to try and get the best lap and the honour of taking TQ. With only a few minutes remaining in the qualifying session WSV (Thomas/Donnolly/Lo Iacono) took the track for the first time. Team RB and Auswide Racing still held the top two spots and no other teams were getting close. WSV didn't have a lot of opportunity left but the gamble of waiting for a clearer track paid off. With literally only seconds remaining they recorded a blistering lap and knocked off Team RB to take TQ by 0.1 sec, and relegated Auswide Racing back to third.

With qualifying over it was time for the Proline 3 Hour Classic to begin. All drivers and pit crew were ready for the start. When the flag dropped Team RB, Auswide Racing and Nitro Madness (Azzopardi/Clare/Trotter/Clare) all got away well and after a few laps Team RB got to the front and started to stamp some authority on the race. Nitro Madness struck problems early and fell back through the field. Auswide Racing also lost pace and drifted back. WSV and JPM Racing (Ryan/Bates/Lo Iacono) took advantage and moved toward the top spot. Auswide Racing made a recovery and at the 10 min mark it was Team RB, WSV, JPM Racing and Auswide Racing looking to race away. Auswide Racing then stripped a gear, lost a heap of time which they never recovered.

Val Morgan Racing (Valletta/Morgan/Bartlett) overcame a terrible start where they dropped more than a lap to settle towards the front of the pack. The race went on with most teams having their share of problems, but the front runners powered on. On lap 76 WSV took the lead until Team RB took it back on lap 144. Val Morgan Racing also moved up in 2<sup>nd</sup> place relegating WSV who were having gear problems back to 3<sup>rd</sup>. The only other team at this stage that was still in striking range was JPM racing. The top 4 teams maintained the gap between the rest of the field for the remainder of the race. There were plenty of battles going on at the rear for positions and no one was going to throw in the towel. Team RB looked unbeatable at this stage and WSV had the smart money for 2<sup>nd</sup>.

All eyes were on Val Morgan and JPM Racing for the last podium spot. Both teams had massive dramas in the last half hour and it was more of a battle in the pits than on the track. In the end it was Team RB taking line honours with WSV 2<sup>nd</sup>, JPM Racing in 3rd and a terribly unlucky Val Morgan Racing in 4<sup>th</sup>.

Organisers would like to thank all teams for competing and also the club members that came down to help make sure the event ran smoothly. Once again the event went without a hitch and we look forward to the next one.

Here are the final placing's for the 2007 Proline 3 Hour Classic.

PROLINE PDNR 3 HOUR CLASSIC - FINAL RESULTS									
Pos	Car	Name	Details	Laps	Total Time	B/Lap	A/Lap	STDev	
1	2	Team RB	Russell / Firth / Umenberger / Umenberger	575	3:00:09.239	15.324	18.798	8.451	
2	1	WSV	Thomas / Donnolly / Lo Iacono	493	3:00:15.157	15.181	21.937	9.658	
3	9	JPM Racing	Ryan / Bates / Lo Iacono	443	3:00:17.125	15.445	24.417	6.688	
4	8	Val Morgan Racing	Valletta / Morgan / Bartlett	430	3:00:41.999	16.618	25.213	1.253	
5	6	Grahams Racing Team	Fisher / Jeffery / Maton / Fisher / Becca	389	3:00:00.008	17.118	27.763	2.989	
6	10	Wait Up Racing	Pilotto / Sant / Naylor / Johnston	372	3:00:01.153	16.217	29.035	0.875	
7	3	Auswide Racing	OConnor / Freund / Jones / Freund	359	3:00:28.445	15.667	30.162	5.702	
8	11	Team SL And CS Promotions	Lear / Callaghan / Lean / Lear / Gavenlock	339	3:00:12.839	18.091	31.896	8.243	
9	7	Team Tool Aus	Marks / Heaney / Rossiter / Ford	303	3:00:07.746	17.441	35.669	9.724	
10	4	Nitro Madness	Azzopardi / Clare / Trotter / Clare Shr	291	2:51:20.537	16.187	35.328	5.298	
11	12	Team Ghost Rider	Crane / Thackray / Cataldo / Brown	232	3:00:02.173	19.069	46.561	9.783	
DNF	5	The Wrecking Crew	Kaltanbacher / Cunningham / Parrington	373	3:01:47.112	16.771	29.241	6.488	

Full race results are available on the PDNR website – [www.pdnracing.org.au](http://www.pdnracing.org.au).

Once again, another huge thank you goes to the following sponsors and supporters of the 2007 Proline 3 Hour Classic.

**PROLINE**



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

The PDNR website is updated regularly with news and results.  
You can also download entry forms and event calendars.

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