

Clayton Chapman Tames Mt Larcom

TC Media

The 2022 Mickey Thompson ARB Queensland Off Road Racing Championship returned to the track for Round 4 on the weekend, the McCoskers Contracting 100 held at Darts Creek, north of Mt Larcom. Hosted by the Gympie Auto Sports Club, it was 2019 QLD Champion Clayton Chapman #15 who powered his Razorback to a nail biting 17 second victory in dusty conditions, to leap atop the QLD championship.



Chapman used all his experience to negotiate seven laps of the 10km heavily treed Mt Larcom track the fastest, despite trailing the eventual runner up Christian Rich #619 by less than half a second heading into Sunday's final heat. Rich who was victorious at Round 1 of the championship at Federal took the fight right up to Chapman in his Can Am, 2nd outright and the Class 6 silverware his reward. Recent Dalby champion Stuart Chapman #17 consolidated his position in the championship hunt, rounding out the McCoskers Contracting 100 outright podium in his single seater Chenoweth, 17 seconds adrift of Rich.



Christian Trusz #816 has found a liking to the Mt Larcom circuit, after his 3rd place finish in 2021, Trusz campaigning his orange GQ Nissan Patrol fired his way to 4th outright, and additional Class 8 silverware. Last years QLD runner up Richard Tassin #691 made it consecutive 5th outright finishes, whilst securing 2nd place in the hotly contested Class 6 fight.



Property owner Mitchell Upton #999, an instrumental contributor to the event rounded out the Unlimited Class podium in 6th outright. Steven Kildley #412 recorded successive Class 4 titles in his Chev powered Holden Colorado crossing in 7th, 30 seconds ahead of Jason Keane #13 who registered his best finish of the year to date in his new Jimco. In the closest of class battles, Tony Patterson #675s overcome a spirited Darren Brandon #689s by a mere 6 seconds in the clash of the Polaris's to claim the Class 6s title – finishing 9th and 10th outright respectively.



Brett Baker #1013 in his single seater Racer Engineering buggy marched to a Class 10 victory, in front of Declan Cummins #1005 who made it back-to-back class podium finishes in 2nd and Kelvyn Kruger #1030 3rd. Current QLD Class 1 champion and Kadco campaigner Darren Angel #160 claimed his second-class title of the season finishing over a minute ahead of Pat Philp #182 and Rowan Clarke #128, with the two final spots on the podium separated by just 3 seconds.

In Class 2, Mark Andrew #295 pushed the double entered Milk Boys Racing custom built buggy to class glory, teammate Colin Gaven #295a crossed in 2nd, whilst junior competitor Allick Tierney #288 recorded his 2nd class podium finish of 2022 to continue on his rapid rise. Young female competitor Amber Topfer #722 showcased her skills once again, claiming the Class 7 silverware, likewise fellow junior female contender Katelyn Long #6626 who reigned supreme in Class 66. Driving her Bare Bones Racing Polaris, Long took hold of the class lead on Sunday and was never headed, recent Dalby champion Matt Gardiner #6689 and Nigel Pearce #6608 were awarded 2nd and 3rd respectively.

In other class results, Matthew Reed #1177 was victorious in Class 11, Jason Sait #670 closed out the Class 6 podium, Kane Prechelt #694s fought hard all weekend for 3rd place in Class 6s, Luke Peterson #878 finished 2nd in Class 8, whilst Hollie Gardiner #6689 deservedly won the Future Champions Class after successfully completing all allocated laps in her father's Polaris.

Luke Brandon #690s claimed top honors in the Juniors Class despite losing valuable time on Saturday afternoon, ahead of Katelyn Long #6626 and Allick Tierney #288 who drove superbly well all weekend.

Incredibly, in the Ladies Class only 19 seconds separated all three podium sitters. Club secretary Leila Chapman #616s scored another Ladies title, completing her 7 laps 12 seconds quicker than Anna Phillis #624a in 2nd, with another 7 seconds back to Katelyn Long in 3rd.

Notable DNFs from an action-packed weekend at Mt Larcom included Zac Marsh #614, Kye Camilleri #666, Ashley MacMaster #6644, Thomas Rolleston #641, Darren Orr #226, Aaron Phillis #624 and Ross Newman #6681.

The second year QLD event was proudly supported by local sponsors, Farm & Garden Products, Lister Motors, Pacific Blue Pools & Spa, and property owner Mitch Upton from Upton Engineering and is certain to be a feature of the 2023 QLD calendar.

The Queensland Off Road Racing Championship would like to again thank their major naming right sponsors ARB and Mickey Thompson Tires for continuing their strong partnership throughout 2022, whilst expressing full gratitude towards the other championship sponsors, which include Fraser Coast Sand & Gravel, Lucas Papaw Remedies, North Lakes Best Western Hotel, Chapmans Performance Dyno Tuning, Comiskey Mining Services and Method Race Wheels Australia.

The 2022 ARB Mickey Thompson Tires Off Road Racing Championship will now turn its attention to Round 5, to be held at Moranbah over the 16th and 17th of July.

