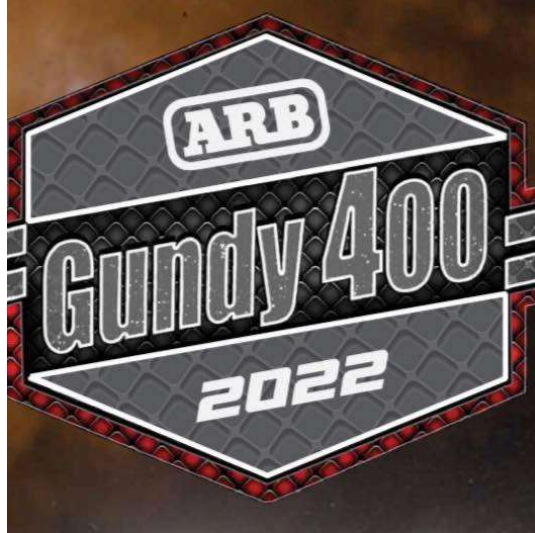


Blockbuster Battle Awaits ARB Goondiwindi 400

TC Media

The members of the Goondiwindi Motor Sports Association have worked tirelessly over the past few months to prepare for the mammoth 89 crews who will converge on the QLD border town for this weekend's 2022 ARB Goondiwindi 400, playing host to Round 3 of the ARB Australian Off Road Championship and Round 6 of the Mickey Thompson Tires ARB QLD Off Road Championship.



For some, it will be the first time since 2019 they have ventured north to tackle the infamous melon holes of Goondiwindi, and the club are excited to be hosting an ARB Australian Championship round again at the new start finish pit venue at Torridon, after the recent relocation from their old home at Malapnyah.

With the track in perfect condition and a quality field spearheaded by current ARB Australian championship leader Brent Martin #120 in his Class 1 Jimco who is fresh off a 3rd at Hillston, and an outright victory at the Big Desert 480, it is guaranteed to be a spectacle of off road racing.



Three time Goondiwindi 400 champion Danny Brown #42 (2015/16/18) and 2017 winner Aaron James #93 will be amongst the major contenders tackling the newly named 'Pucka Punya Run', likewise North Queenslanders Talbot Cox #16 and Michael Marson #32 who are both seeking a breakthrough Gundy title in their respective Racer machines.



After two years of border restrictions the New Zealand contingent are back on Aussie soil and are ready to make some noise at Goondiwindi, led by the experienced Raana Horan #89, who alongside John Morgan #54, Richard Crabb #98 and newcomer Paul Hackett #39 will be ones to watch.

Queensland championship front runners Stuart #17 and Clayton Chapman #15 are both genuine threats, and it will surprise no one to see one of the Chapman brothers on the Goondiwindi podium. Other outright contenders to note include local hard charger Michael Napier #11 who will be hoping for a clean run in his Alumi Craft, the ever entertaining Greg Gartner #410 in his Geiser Bros TT who will look to put aside his bad luck from Hillston, 2018 runner up Andrew Brown #45, plus Class 1 flyers Robert Plant #128 who claimed a breakthrough victory at last year's ARB Pooncarie Desert Dash and Tony Fehlhaber #138 who secured a well-deserved 2nd outright at the last edition in 2020.



Goondiwindi has always had a strong connection with high flying Class 4 trophy trucks over the years, and those set to push Gartner on the weekend include 2021 Don River runner up Justin Montesalvo #484 in his Get Performance TT, local president Justin Knight #439 in his debut drive of the ex-Luke Hall Chev Silverado, Australian class championship leader Peter Sibson #412 and QLD pace setter Steven Kildey #412 in his Holden Colorado.

Steven Graham #1065 will head the Class 10 field in his Alumi Craft, the Griffith competitor is a serious outright podium chance after falling on the final lap at Hillston, with others to watch including QLD class leader Steven Orr #1051, Brayden Mifsud #1026 and David Mendham #1070.



The ever popular Class 6 field is again one to watch this weekend, 16 year old Kye Camilleri #666 is a star on the rise and will headline the field on his long course debut fresh off his outright victory at Moranbah. Christian Rich #619 has had a breakthrough QLD season to date and is a key player, ARB Australian class championship leader Glenn Pike #675 cannot be discounted, likewise NSW veteran Phil Lovett #697, Queensland regular Richard Tassin #691, the impressive newcomer James Mogford #6195, and Victorian Darren Frankling #678.



Russell Hartnett #245 is the sole Class 2 competitor, his outstanding 5th outright at Hillston, off the back of a 3rd place finish at Goondiwindi in 2020 provides the perfect platform for a major assault. Sam Nicoll #305 will take to the track in his Class 3 Rivmasta, so too Michael Ranson #507 and Tyler Youman #527 who will lock horns in Class 5.

Current 2nd place sitter in the QLD championship Brice Derrick #696s will be a firm favourite in the stock standard Class 6s category, he will take on the likes of Leila Chapman #616s and the father and son duo of Darren #689s and Luke Brandon #690s for the Goondiwindi silverware.

North Queenslander Chris Land #6601 will look to carry on his run of form from Hillston in his Class 66 Yamaha, though will face stiff competition from the likes of Brad Hancock #6671 and Ross Newman #6681.

Michael Topfer #722 and Norman Parker #798 are set to duel it out for Class 7 honours, whilst Queenslander Christian Trusz #816 in his Patrol will seek to outlast his fellow Class 8 rivals Michael Baxter #848 who leads the Australian class championship, Owen Ward #832 in his Nissan Navara and Luke Peterson #878 for another Goondiwindi title.

The format will be similar to previous years and includes the return of the Sunday night presentation dinner, with tickets to be purchased online at offroadracing.com.au.

Activities kick off on Friday with competitors undertaking main track reconnaissance before heading back into the Goondiwindi Showgrounds for documentation and scrutiny, which is a great chance for the public to get up close with the race cars and teams as they go on display.

The prologue will kickstart proceedings Saturday morning with the first cars leaving the start line at 10:30am, the Top 10 Shoot Out will immediately follow the prologue, before the afternoons one lap 80km dash across the harsh Goondiwindi terrain. Sunday sees a further four laps of the gruelling circuit, which is certain to be a test of man and machinery to the chequered flag.



The Goondiwindi 400 would not be possible without the support of the championship partners ARB 4X4 Accessories and Mickey Thompson Tyres along with event sponsors Trueline Earthmoving, Knight's plant hire, Goondiwindi Tyre Service, Gundy Comms, Diesel Care, Marschall Group, Border Tyres, Browns Bobcat Hire, Bugspark, Xtreme Klean, Silitack Excavations Johnstone Quarries, Farmer Fencing Contractors, plus many many more.

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

With the ARB Australian Off-Road Championship, QLD Championship and Goondiwindi silverware on offer, this year's edition poses as one of the best yet.

Stay up to date with live results across the weekend on offroadracing.com.au!