



Dalby primed for QLD opener

On the back of another hugely successful season of racing, the 2023 ARB Mickey Thompson Tyres QLD Offroad Racing Championship will get underway this weekend, with the running of the Pats Diesel Services Dalby 100 supported by Speciality Services QLD.

Hosted by the Gympie Auto Sports Club, a quality field of 70 crews are set to converge on the property Weranga for the events fifth edition. With last years victor Stuart Chapman running the teams Class 8 Triton, his brother Clayton #15 himself a two time Dalby champion not competing and without the damp, muddy conditions that greeted competitors in 2022, there are many contenders poised for the win.



The field is highlighted and led by last years third place getter Zac Marsh #614 who is eager to start afresh after a disappointing end to 2022, young gun Kye Camilleri #666 will also be a leading challenger in his Class 6 Can Am after consecutive top four outright finishes at Dalby. Others expected to be in the mix include hard charger Josh Wiedman #6105 who is destined for an outright title, the ever consistent Richard Tassin #691 fresh off two successive fifth place finishes at Dalby, Kevy Nott #6178 who has returned from his Baja adventure and Tony Fehlhaber #138 who will look to use his years of experience to kickstart his 2023 campaign with a strong result.





Queensland racing has always showcased a close spectacle across all classes, and this season promises to be no different with thirteen classes represented at Dalby. A small contingent of Ultimate Class competitors are set for battle including Aaron Phillis #44, Tom Darlington #22 and Trent Challenger #69, whilst David Loughan #104 set to debut his new Honey Badger machine, David Ellsworth #108 and past QLD champion Darren Angel #160 will represent Class 1.

Steven Kildey #412 behind the wheel of his Killa Trophy Truck was a dominant force at Dalby last year in Class 4 and returns as the class favourite, however will face stiff competition from Dan McKenzie #451, and Michael Bertinazzi #457.



Without 2022 QLD outright champion Brice Derrick in the field, Class 6S will be spearheaded by the father and son Drells Run Racing team of Darren #689S and Luke Brandon #690S, with Tony Patterson #675S, Kane Prechelt #694S and 2022 QLD Ladies champion Leila Chapman #616S all in the mix.

Defending Class 10 QLD titleholder Steven Orr #1051 will tackle his fellow rivals in the Four Orrs Racing Jimco, alongside Rob Stieber #1082, Brett Baker #1013, Declan Cummins #1005 and Andrew Murphy #1013 who will make his return to racing.



Class 8 front runner Christian Trusz #816 will look to continue his hot run of form from last season. Piloting his trusty GQ Nissan Patrol, Trusz will take on Stuart Chapman #815, 2022 QLD Class 8 champion Ross Challacombe #838, Luke Peterson #878 and the short wheel based Patrol of Steven Ash #862 for Dalby honours.

Defending QLD Class 5 champion Tyler Youman #527 will again be the one to watch at Dalby, with Ethan Murray #504, Jack #508 and Tony Butler #520 the other class representatives. Matt Gardiner #6689 leads Class 66 into action amidst a class of many winning chances, including Nigel Pearce #6608 and the ever improving Katelyn Long #6626.

The Milk Boys Racing crew of Mark Andrew #295A and Colin Gaven #295, join Amy Vann #287 in Class 2, whilst Joe Bulmer #1136 is scheduled to make a long awaited comeback in his Class 11 Racer. Female competitor Amber Topfer #722 will show the way in Class 7, John Butler #708, Jack Huxstep #711 and Sebastian Peterson #717 round out the contestants.





Future Champion star Toby Musico #6688 is another looking to hold onto his title this year, joining him in the under 14's category at Dalby is Hollie Gardiner #6689 and Lincoln Wilcox #717 making his offroad debut. The Ladies Championship was well supported last season with eighteen competitors taking to the track across QLD, and 2023 is shaping to be as fiercely contested. Other's entered to do battle at Dalby include Anna Phillis #624, Kate Swinglehurst #631, Lara Brandon #689S, and Cherie Robson #6639.

The Queensland Off Road Racing Championship would like to thank their major naming right sponsors ARB and Mickey Thompson Tyres for continuing their strong partnership into 2023, whilst expressing full gratitude towards the other championship sponsors, including Dynamic Wheel Co, Lucas Papaw Remedies, Premium Soil Conditioners and Fertilisers, Comiskey Mining Services, North Lakes Best Western plus Polaris Farm & Garden Produce.

With perfect racing conditions expected at Dalby, and another jam packed line up, it is anyone's guess as to who will become the next Pats Diesel Services Dalby 100 champion. With full camping and catering available both days, plus free spectating we will see you at the track. Queensland racing is alive and well!
