

Kempsey Macleay Off Road Club

Annual General Meeting

Kempsey Hotel, Belgrave Street, Kempsey NSW
Monday 9th September 2013 : 7.30pm



2013 Newsletter Number 1

Welcome to the latest Kempsey Macleay Off Road Club Newsletter.

It's been some time since our last Newsletter so let's get everyone up to speed!

The year kicked off with our Annual Presentation night, and although the numbers were down a little, those who attended still enjoyed themselves immensely.

In late 2012 our club had Jim Anderson Dozer Hire come on board as the major sponsor of the Dondingalong Round of the NSW Off Road Championship. Traditionally it has been hard to attract a good field to the March race, as it's the start of the race season and many competitors are still lagging behind with car preparation. This wasn't the case this year however, with the Jim Anderson Dozer Hire Dondingalong Off Road Challenge seeing 38 starters, and Justin Guy / Danny Richardson taking their third outright victory in four years. Kempsey members performed well, with Geoff Page finishing 2nd outright, and Craig Anderson 5th outright. David Nikiforoff placed 6th outright. Anderson and Nikiforoff both won their Class. The race also signalled the start of the inaugural Off Road Warehouse supported Short Course Off Road Masters Series.

Several members than ventured south to Crookwell in April for Round 2 of the NSW Series, and Round 2 of the Off Road Warehouse Short Course Off Road Masters. Justin Guy won his 2nd straight Round, while Kempsey member Derek Rose enjoyed a good weekend, winning Super 1650 Class and finishing 4th outright.

From Crookwell it was back to Kempsey for the Scotts Hydraulic Services supported Wittittrin Round of the state Series on May 25/26. This year's Wittittrin race saw a change to the format, and the event renamed the Scotts Hydraulic Services Kempsey 250. The event was also heading into uncharted waters somewhat, with a mixed team of experienced and inexperienced officials. The biggest challenge however, would prove to be the weather on the Friday morning of the race. After days of persistent, and sometimes heavy rain, the event hung in the balance. With a forecast of clearing weather moving through KMORC Officials 'rolled the dice', and opted to proceed as per the schedule. As fortune would have it the sky cleared Saturday, and despite the track being boggy in sections, the race went ahead with 41 cars participating. The race continues to build in statue, and in 2013 it was the Chris and Len Levi (both Kempsey members) Super 1650 Buggy taking outright victory in a

storming drive, making up for 2012 where the car broke while leading. A big crowd packed Wittitrin both days, and added to good crowd numbers at Dondingalong two months earlier, made for a highly successful race season in the Macleay Valley.

The success of the two local races at Dondingalong and Wittitrin is as much dependant on sponsors, as it is the number of entries and spectators. Put simply, without our sponsors we could not hold these races. Please remember to support our sponsors whenever you can, and don't forget to mention how much we value their support.

Special thanks also to the property owners, the Kemp family at Wittitrin, and Maurie and Robyn Fuller at Dondingalong.

In June Kempsey members Chris Browning and Chris Clarke, with a new Super 1650 Buggy imported from the USA, travelled over to Alice Springs for the Finke Round of the Australian Championship. Despite a few minor car issues, the team performed well, coming home 29th outright in a field of 99, and claiming 3rd in class. In August the Team travelled to Goondiwindi (Albins ARB Goondiwindi 400) and finished 13th outright and 2nd in Class in a 63 car field.

June also saw Mark and Katherine Wellings become parents for the first time, following the birth of son Reid. Congratulations Mark and Katherine. Could it be the start of a new generation of Off Road racers in the 'General Lee' camp!

Round 4 of the NSW Off Road Championship saw the state's best racers travel to Griffith July 13/14 where Victoria's Glenn Owen and Matt Ryan bested a big field. Once again a sprinkling of Kempsey members were in action with David Nikiforoff the highest placed, in 17th outright (4th in Super 1650 Class).

The attention of local racers now turns towards the next two races on the Off Road Calendar. The Hedweld Milbrodale Mountain Classic on August 24/25 is Round 5 of the NSW Series and a hugely popular race that sees many Kempsey members in action.

In September a new Off Road race is born, with the inaugural 'Rally Australia Off Road' event being held north of Coffs Harbour. The event, to be held September 14/15, is Round 4 of the Australian Off Road Championship, and will run in conjunction with the World Rally Championship Round the same weekend. A number of Kempsey teams are intending to compete, while many local recovery crews will also be working the course.

The club will also be involved with the upcoming 'Kempsey Business & Leisure Expo' at the Kempsey Showground on Fathers Day Sunday September 1. Gates are open 9am to 3pm, with admission being \$10 for a family, and \$5 for an individual.

Monday September 9 will see the KMORC hold its Annual General Meeting at the Kempsey Hotel (Belgrave Street) commencing at 7.30pm. Fresh faces on the Committee often bring a fresh perspective, so please consider standing for a position.

Don't forget to visit the Club website at www.kempseyoffroadracing.net for the latest Off Road news, and if your into 'Social Media' a reminder that we also have a Facebook page (Kempsey Macleay Off Road Club).

Back later in the year with another Newsletter.

Rod Thurgood
Media Representative
Kempsey Macleay Off Road Club
18th August 2013