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High-resolution pics available on request

POLARIS CHAMP WINS CLIFFHANGER

“RZR rocks crowd at Extreme 4x4 event ”

The Outback is an awesome, endless, unforgiving place. So vast that emergency radios are your lifeline and the locals measure distances by tanks of fuel. The tracks are so punishing that only a real 4X4 will go the distance. Sounds like the perfect place for a week long race then hey?

You drive for ages across the 190,000 acre Tambua Station, near Cobar in Outback NSW. You finally get used to the dust and the rocks and the goats, and there it is, a makeshift basecamp for some of Australia’s keenest Extreme 4x4 enthusiasts. New for 2011, Polaris RZR teams came along, forming a Side by Side class.



Over 6 days, the 4X4 Comp Trucks and the Polaris RZR teams blasted across Tambua Station’s endless rugged plains and along punishing 4x4-only tracks. There were 3 main types of stages which were mixed throughout the week.

Extreme Winching: Winching up otherwise impassable ridges and washouts.

Navigation: No trails, just “bush bashing” to find hidden markers with GPS systems.

Rally: Day and night stages belting along rough 4X4 only tracks. These were always a challenging combination of dirt, dust, sand, rocks and washouts.

After three Australian Rally Championships and four Asia Pacific Rally Championships with Subaru, Cody Crocker has taken on some pretty scary terrain at incredible speeds. “RZR Racing is just awesome fun. The sport is a lot more affordable compared to elite level rallying and Extreme 4X4 motorsport,” said Crocker.

“It is natural for some people to see it as a competition between the RZR teams and the comp trucks. But that’s not what it was about,” says Crocker. “The 4WD community and the Off Road Racing community has been very welcoming, we just want a place to go and have fun with our RZR!”

Despite there being two different classes, it was natural for comparison’s to be drawn between the two classes as these completely different vehicles took on the Outback together. Here were some of Crocker’s comments about the various stages.

Winch Stages:

- You need to invest \$30k+ on a 4WD for it to go where a standard RZR will go.
- The extra ground clearance on the new Polaris RZR XP helped us climb much further than we could last year during climbs like the Highway to Hell at Bulla and the winching stages at Tooborac Victoria last year.



Navigation Stages

- With a top dollar winch and navigation device, I suppose a RZR Team would have a shot at winning certain 4X4 Events outright. But Polaris don’t want ‘cheque book racing’ so can’t see it being ‘Comp Truck vs RZR’ these events. It’s just about giving RZR owners another way to have fun.
- A RZR can easily go where you would not attempt in a standard 4WD.

Rally Stages

- There was a pretty long rally stage on Day 5. We took just over 14 minutes, which was about 30 seconds faster than the fastest 4WD Truck. It’s just physics. RZR has the power to weight advantage, allowing us to brake later and maintain faster cornering speeds.
- The entry and exit angles are another advantage for the RZR. With next to no overhang, a RZR can charge into some of the dips, where the big trucks had to slow right down to avoid bottoming out

General Comments

- Tambua Station's owner asked us plenty of times to leave the RZR at his place until next year. That's always a good sign! We easily got across terrain where he'd never take his tractors, trucks or trail bikes. He'd probably pay for a RZR in a year or two with the extra goats he could muster!

The welcoming spirit and generosity of the Off Road Racing and Comp Truck community has been awesome at every event RZR owners enter. We hope that RZR Racing can be a class at lots of events in the future, RZR should actually help grow both sports. If it grows like it has in the USA, then we will attract plenty of people.

Cody Crocker and Navigator Iain Hughes took the chocolates, with Crocker's championship winning rally skills making the difference on the longer stages. Phil Swindale and Scott Eyb from ARB Tamworth took second, pushing the RZR teams all the way. Fellow NSW Team Craig Hartin and David Manwaring placed third with consistent scoring all week long.



Crocker remains undefeated in a Polaris RZR, having won in NSW, SA and Victoria over the past two years. "It's all about helping spread the word. I'm wrapped RZR racing has happened all over Australia now." There are plenty of options now, but some modifications to your RZR may be required depending on whether CAMS, Cross Country Drivers Association (CCDA) or Motorcycling Australia (MA) is sanctioning the event. Here are some RZR Racing options:

NSW:

- CAMS governed KharnaCross events around Australia are now an option for RZR owners to get involved with. Contact Ryan Flanagan ryan@snakeracing.com.au who can let you know about regular RZR racing (rally-style) opportunities around Sydney.
- The organizers of Cliffhanger will also welcome RZR owners at their other events. Contact Rudi Paoletti navrun@navrun.com.au

North QLD:

- RZR owners regularly feature in CAMS sanctioned events throughout North Queensland. Contact Brian Moohin (07) 4954 1705. retreat@active8.net.au

NSW/QLD:

- RZR owners are always welcome at the 4X4 Challenges regularly arranged by Dave Metcalf 0418 745 830 info@extreme4x4sport.com.au

NT:

- RZR Owners are welcome to enter the CAMS governed Finke Desert Race. Contact admin@finkedesertrace.com.au

SA:

- SA is the home for the awesome Thumb Pump Desert Race (MA) and other recreational opportunities: Contact Dave Hann 08 8353 2888 gotimeout@gmail.com

VIC / TAS / SA / WA:

- Contact the CCDA to register your interest in the SXS (Side by Side) class at upcoming events. email info@ccda4wd.com.au

WA

- Have a blast in the dunes at CCDA endorsed RZR Challenge events near Esperance. Contact Scott Higson scmscott@bigpond.com

Like the idea of racing a Polaris RZR? See your local Polaris dealer to discuss your ideas. RZR Enthusiasts will enjoy the dozens of photos at



http://www.holeshotimages.com.au/images/cl_uploads/polaris/polaris/index.html

Pic 1 caption: Crocker won several rally stages

Pic 2 caption Get up that? The final stage on day 6.

Pic 3 caption: Piece of cake. The basic Polaris winch did it's job all week.

Pic 4 caption: Polaris' Cody Crocker approaching a winch point

For more information: 1300 654 142, www.polarisindustries.com.au

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