



NATIONALS *wrap*

compiled by garry o'brien



ISLAND THRILLS AND SPILLS

BEAUTIFUL WEATHER conditions blessed the annual Island Magic event at Phillip Island across the November 23-24 weekend. While the usual 50K Plate for Sport Sedans was the headline act, there were sensational storylines across all categories and a spectacular accident during Saturday's Sports Car race.

SPORTS CARS

WHAT WAS set for 2 x 1-hour races was marred by a high speed accident and a number of badly wounded race cars.

Race 1 went under Safety Car on lap 1

after Michael Garner spun his Porsche and was T-boned by Lachlan Harburg's 997 GT3. Just 20 minutes had elapsed when Gary Higgon's Audi and Brad Schumacher's Porsche came together at pit lane entry, sending the latter into a frightening series of barrel rolls before coming to rest on the outside of Turn 12. The race was declared a non-event.

Despite another safety car after just 5 minutes for Nick Kelly's badly damaged Porsche, it was another Porsche of J. Martin and Aaron Tebb that saluted in Race 2 ahead of Andrew Macpherson and Ben Porter's GT3R, with Gary

Higgon and Dean Canto's Audi fading to third after suffering a deflating tyre on the last lap while challenging for the lead.

SPORTS SEDANS

IT APPEARED that Alex Williams' Mazda RX-7 would take it up to Daniel Tamasi's Calibra Chev if qualifying was anything to go by. But the RX7 wouldn't take any further part after mechanical gremlins struck the Tasmanian's car.

Tamasi was brutally uncompromising in Race 1's 8-lapper, winning by almost 26 seconds. Michael Robinson stormed

through the field to finish third - less than a 10th behind Dean Camm in second.

Robinson fought back for a hard-earned Race 2 victory over Camm and Richard Newman, with Tamasi finishing 8th after starting from the pit lane.

The stage was set for a cracking 50K Plate race. Several non-starters at the front of the grid allowed Tamasi to blitz his way to the lead in the early laps and build a seven second gap over Robinson which he never surrendered, with Camm a further 4 seconds back. The result meant the #9 Calibra Chev won for the

SUPERSPRINTS CLOSE OUT SEASON

THE WARWICK District Sporting Car Club hosted the 2019 Super Sprint State Championship at Morgan Park on the November 16-17 and was won by Jason Hore driving his Dallara Formula 3.

Unfortunately, Queensland's severe bushfire situation and the closure of some roads deterred a number of competitors from participating in the event. In sweltering conditions Saturday's three runs were completed using the K configuration of the Morgan Park circuit.

The adverse weather conditions ended the weekend for many drivers and teams, forcing early retirements. The Top 10 Shootout held on Saturday afternoon was an exciting new initiative, ten competitors were drawn from a hat and were each given a one lap dash using a handicap system to even



Drawn from a hat, the contenders for the Top 10 Shootout line up under a blazing sun on Saturday afternoon.

second year running in the hands of a different driver both years.

FORMULA VEE

WITH DEFENDING 2018 winner Jake Rowe a notable absentee, the race for the Phillip Island Formula Vee Trophy was wide open.

Reef McCarthy took his first ever pole in Formula Vee and led home Heath Collinson and Adam Slattery in Race 1. Race 2 saw McCarthy start poorly, but still come out on top by 0.0055 after a fast five lap sprint from Nick Jones and Heath Collinson.

But it was the final race that delivered the entertainment with any one of seven drivers in contention right to the end. The timing screen ruled a 0.0045 win to McCarthy over Davin Field with Jones in third, but the video review ruled the race a dead heat and thus McCarthy and Field shared the trophy – the first ever dead heat result for any category at Island Magic.

FORMULA FORD

QUALIFYING AND all three races were dominated by Cody Donald's Spectrum 014b, winning all three races and leading home Kyle Gurton and Ben Bargwanna in the final race of the weekend.

The 1600 class win went to Richard Davison after Luke Ellery became a non-starter for the final event, with Mark Sampson and Malcolm Coleman completing the podium.

HISTORIC TOURING CARS

AMERICAN MUSCLE dominated the weekend with Darren Collins (Camaro) taking pole ahead of Andy Clempson's and Michael Micelli's Mustangs.

The top three qualifiers would finish where they started in Race 1, but disaster struck Collins in Race 2 – stalling on the start line



Darren Collins won the first historic Touring Car race in his immaculate Camaro. Brad Schumacher had a massive accident after an altercation at pit lane entry (left). Images: Rebecca Hind/Sarita McCabe.

and handing the podium positions to Clempson, Micelli and John Mann (Camaro). Clempson would retire from the trophy race on lap 7 allowing Micelli to cruise home by 18 seconds from a hard-charging Collins (who started last) and Mann's Camaro.

IMPROVED PRODUCTION

THE ABSENCE of defending winner Ray Hislop meant a new name on the Matthew Flinders Plate was in order for the first time in 5 years.

Adam Poole's Monaro was a heavy favourite and posted an impressive pole time, but a pit lane speeding penalty earned him a two-place grid penalty, dropping him to third. His weekend would only get worse: black flagged for a restart infringement in Race 1, recovering from 22nd to 5th in Race 2, and blowing an



engine in the final race.

SA compatriot Scott Cook (Nissan Silvia) headed Keven Stoopman (Mitsubishi Evo) and Andrew Butcher (BMW E36) in the opening two races, but a delaminating tyre ended his Race 3 charge on lap nine of 10, leaving Butcher to take a maiden plate win ahead of

NSW's Lachlan McBrien (BMW E46) and QLD's Drew Lawrence (Nissan 200SX)

PORSCHE 944 CHALLENGE

DESPITE TAKING an expected pole, Beller was under constant siege from John Kennedy, James Westaway and Richard Howe in Race 1, and eventually it was Howe who came home just ahead of Beller and Westaway at the end of eight laps. Beller returned to serve in Race 2 to best Howe and Kennedy by almost two seconds in a hotly contested five-lapper.

The Endeavour Cup race was a four-way fight to the very end, with John Kennedy ultimately prevailing by five seconds over Richard Howe, with Anthony Westaway getting the better of Beller on the last lap to steal third place by the chequered flag. **Steven Devries**



Jason Hore was crowned Qld State Super Sprint Champion his his Dallara. Images: Trapnell Creations

out the contestants. The inaugural winner was junior competitor Jett Graham driving a Hyundai Excel.

The E configuration layout was utilised for Sunday's running, a shorter and more technical layout than the previous day's K arrangement. The weather remained warm for the second day of competition as haze and smoke from the bushfire-affected areas

continued to sweep over the circuit. It was predicted the V8-powered cars would lose out to the nimbler rivals.

After two days of solid running, Hore was crowned Queensland State Super Sprint champion, pipping Steven Woodbridge and Vikki Paxton. Awards were also handed out for the fastest three drivers in each class over the course of the weekend.



OUTRIGHT RESULTS

Jason Hore
Steven Woodbridge
Vikki Paxton
William Norman
Bruce McKenzie
Jae Collins
Steven Faulks
Dan McCarthy
Mark Wright
Saxon Moyes

The Warwick District Sporting Car Club would like to thank all the volunteers and staff as well as the competitors who helped make the 2019 State Championship such a great year and look forward to seeing you all again in 2020.

For more information and for what events are coming up, visit www.morganparkraceway.com.au