

A Win For ARB Bendigo in 2009

The location was the same - Broken Hill New South Wales, but that is where the similarities ended. After Ten great years the Outback 4x4 Challenge took on some serious changes for 2009; A tighter field of 23 vehicles on the start line, everyone competing in the same stages together each day, no groups to rely on, everyone travelling together and the most dedicated group of marshals you can find. There were 17 stages in all, some with DNF times of three and four hours, and when all of these were completed it was Car 22 Greg Scanlon and Liam Nunns with a score of 1462 who took out the title for 2009. Greg who runs ARB Bendigo, has competed on numerous occasions but it was the first time for his navigator Liam who has proven himself already.

Second Place with a score of 1369 went to 'Old timer' Lawrie Sternbeck with Steve Hobbs Co-driving.

Third place was David Cameron and Daniel Dewit. These guys were first time entrants from Victoria and with a score of 1274 they did really well. Especially when you consider they did not finish 3 stages getting only 20 points for each of these. Better watch these two in the future.

The international flag was flown by two teams from Venezuela, Cars 9 (Renny Rodriguez & Daniel Avellaneda) who were competing in Challenge Class, and Car 14 (Nunzio Coffaro & Daniel Meneses) who were taking on Huddy

and Muppet within the Production Class category.

Their placings were admirable indeed, Renny and Daniel placed 12th overall which is extremely well for an international and without years of experience in the Australian Outback. Nunzio and Daniel finished 9th place overall, just one position under Huddy and Muppet who took out the Production Class trophy.

What was apparent throughout the event was that everyone loved the new format. The competitors thoroughly enjoyed competing against each other every day. Having two days in each location also allowed for a larger number of special stages on the varying terrain. Long stages were also well received.

As for spectators - no more early morning starts and they loved being able to watch everyone and make a heap more friends around the campfire.

Marshals loved it too. Sure they had to work a lot harder, but they were able to catch the action at all areas and this tightly knit group of guys and girls really proved they are the best marshals Australia has to offer.

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The dates for 2010 are May 22nd to 28th 2010. Details on how to be a competitor, spectator or buy the DVD can be found on the website.

www.outback4x4challenge

