



Media Release
23/9/13 – For Immediate Release

POLARIS RACING - ON TOP IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Last weekend proved to the Australian and New Zealand Off Road Racing community that the Polaris Racing Teams in both countries are a formidable force leading a charge against other Off Road Racing class vehicles and proving that SXS class racing is here to stay.

Australia

In Australia was the third ARC (Australian Rally Championship) SXS challenge round for the year at Rally Australia in Coffs Harbour. This event proved to be an amazing spectacle, thousands of spectators got to enjoy world class Rallying with the Coffs Harbour event playing host to the Australian leg of the WRC (World Rally Championship) alongside the ARC. From the Roulettes, Red Bull Air Race stunt planes to last



year's XFactor winner Samantha Jade performing right next to the Polaris service area the event wasn't short of action.

The Polaris Racing Team with lead driver Cody Crocker and co-driver Greg Foletta led the Polaris Racing charge against arch rival Can-Am. An extremely competitive three days of racing saw the Polaris Racing Team win day 1, Michael Guest and the Can-Am team win the second day and going into the third and final day of racing being the decider saw Can-Am take the win by just over 5 seconds!

"Apparently sometimes you don't win, what's that all about haha? Well done Guesty and Greeny, great drive guys, too quick in the last stage!" said Cody Crocker.

"It is great for the SXS class of racing to have such close and competitive racing, we had heaps of fun and we are looking forward to putting the pressure back on in Victoria in November" continued Crocker.

The weekends racing saw six SXS (four RZR XP 900's and two Can-Am Mavericks) battle it out over many forms of terrain including tarmac in the city centre of Coffs Harbour where a Super Special Stage was set up. This stage shocked the Rallying community where the ARB Tamworth Team of Iain Hughes and Adam Barnes won the stage on two out of three nights beating Rally veterans Cody Crocker and Michael Guest.

"We really pushed it on the Super Special Stage and it was awesome fun! I am sure Cody and Michael will get us on the Forest stages though,





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they put a little bit more effort into their stage notes than we do!” said Iain Hughes.

Another highlight for all of the SXS teams was the long 50km “Nambucca” special stage. Being the longest single stage of any Rally event this year it was uncharted territory for the SXS vehicles.



“The only issue we had which wasn’t an issue for this stage but rather the one directly after it was the extraordinary rear tyre wear we suffered. We had a brand new set on for this stage and the rear tyres were both finished by the end of the stage! The stage surface was hard packed and quite warm and our softer tyres didn’t appreciate it much however we finished this stage in 34:59.4 placing second by 11 seconds to Guesty but it was by far the most enjoyable stage we have run this year!” said Greg Foletta

Polaris Racing are currently leading the SXS Challenge with maximum points heading into the Victorian round in November.

For more information on the ARC and SXS challenge visit:

www.polarisindustries.com.au

www.rally.com.au/news-and-information/polaris



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New Zealand

In New Zealand Polaris Racing NZ Driver Ben Thomasen placed first in the UTV class and fourth overall in the grueling two day 1000 km off-road endurance race – The ENZED Taupo 1000.

Over the two days Ben dual drove with Phil Campbell with Ben driving 700km of the race and Phil the other 300km.



On the Friday prior to the weekends racing Ben took part in a 15-minute individual class qualifying session on a 2km sprint track where he qualified first in the UTV class. Ben then took part in a top 10 shoot out as he got the seventh fastest time of all 125 entries across all classes. Ben placed ninth in the shoot out, the other nine off roaders in the shoot out had an average horsepower figure of about 400hp. The Polaris RZR XP 900 was the only UTV in the shoot out and with 88hp to be in the top 10 is a truly remarkable result.

Saturdays racing of 10 laps of the 50km track started out muddy in the morning and dried out throughout the day.

“The track was a little faster than we had anticipated, with 8 km being slightly up hill logging road the higher horsepower cars had an advantage over us being able to sit on 220kph most of the way up the road, but with the remainder of the track being forestry roads, tight bush tracks and flowing sandy fire breaks, the RZR was in its element, and we were able to out pace the higher horsepower, \$200,000 + machines in the tight to medium sections with ease!” said Ben Thomasen.



The team finished day 1 in sixth place overall and first in class.

The Sunday and final day of racing saw another 500km worth of racing. Polaris Racing NZ finished the race 4th overall and 1st in class.



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“The RZR really did prove itself and to tell the truth amazed us by how it handled the rough track and how it coped being flat out for just over 13 hours and 1000kms without missing a beat. We are very happy with this result and I think we have proved that the Polaris RZR really is a top contender against the high horsepower and high cost trucks and buggy's” said Ben Thomasen.

The next race and final round of the NZ Off Road Championships will take place at the end of October in Hamilton.

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