

Racing Around Australasia

This issue the spotlight is on Pine Hills RC Car Club in Brisbane where you'll get regular 1/10th scale Electric and Nitro Off Road Action!

TEXT & PHOTOS JEFF CHANDLER

Pine Hills R/C Car Club is in the leafy suburbs on the Northside of Brisbane. Joe Ballam, who is still a regular racer, established the club at Arana Hills in 1983. We have enthusiastic people of all ages and numerous father and son teams. Every month I am delighted to see new, excited faces at club racing.

The strongest class is 1/10th scale electric rebuildable Stock which is due to the number of relatively new drivers. This is my fourth year in Stock so I suppose I am a slow learner. Brakes! This thing has brakes? Only last year did I start using brakes.

Next is electric Modified in which we have the likes of Darren Perry who won 2WD Modified at the 2001 Off Road Nationals and Aaron Vass, our Vice President who took out a seventh placing in the Nats.

Team Associated and Losi buggies and trucks dominate electric racing. Due to popular demand, we introduced off road nitro racing late in 2000. The rules for nitro are pretty relaxed for now. So any 1/10th scale 12/15 engine nitro vehicle is welcome. This class is steadily growing with enquiries nearly every week from new people. But, if you ask me, electric is the way to go!

Some of our drivers are that keen they come from all over Brisbane and as far away as the Gold Coast (1.5hrs), Maryborough (4 hrs) and Laidley (1.5hrs).

The part that impresses me the most about this Club is the

members willingness to assist other drivers. I often see members helping newer drivers to get their car setups right. Also, if you break your car during a race meet there are usually people inquiring what part you need and offering it to you.

Enough about the people, let's get on the racetrack!

Early in 2000 we took a radical approach and bulldozed the whole track flat. The idea was to have a track that is capable of the layout being changed easily. Before the "flatten", the infield areas were big rough hollows which made layout changes a major project. Now the track area is generally flat with plenty of jumps, moguls and berms.

Our track directors, Darren Perry, Steve Perry and Scott McBride, instigate quarterly layout changes so the racetrack is always interesting.

We kicked off this year with a crossover jump which I believe is the first for off road racing in Australia and possibly the world! Darren and Scott created this fun feature. However, watch your head when marshalling!

The Hills Enduro

This is an annual popular fun event which consists of a 45 minute race with tag team drivers. Pairing up of drivers is by lucky draw. One driver will drive until their battery is about to dump. Then pull into the pits, cars and drivers swap, then the mayhem continues. Great fun!



Contact us

Check out our website at www.gofast.to/race or www.users.bigpond.com/smeg666
Jeff Chandler ah 07 3355 7476

Our thanks...

...go to our sponsors for their support in 2001:

- JBS R/C Supplies
- Mr Toys
- Team Associated
- Hobby One
- Hobbyrama