



EVENT COVERAGE



OZROCK ROUND 2 - WALBUNDRIE - 2007

Round 2 of the ever popular Ozrock series was held once again at Walbundrie. This is the same site that was used for the 2006 finals in December last year. Any round at Walbundrie brings with it an unusually high rate of casualties and this round was no different!

The joint entry from ABT4x4, M&M Custom Engineering and **Team DGR** was blessed with a new set of 40" Procomp tires in their sticky competition compound direct from the USA. Whilst the increased traction of the new compound was a blessing, the unpredictability of new tires introduced another set of variables.

The first two courses resulted in consecutive roll overs. The roll cage copped a battering in the first roll which resulted in a deformed "A" pillar where it impacted a rock under the full weight of the vehicle. The damage required the vehicle to head back to the pits for repairs before the safety marshals would allow the team to continue.

As luck would have it, the second course ended up in a similar fate. After attempting a particularly aggressive line, the front tires lost traction, resulting in a sideways slide off the rock face and onto the roof.

After two roll overs in as many courses, it was time for some damage control! After much discussion between driver and spotter, it was decided the new tires were in fact "too new". The best course of action was to hit the burnout pad and roughen up a few edges. Fifteen minutes spend alternating between front and rear wheel burnouts not only created a thick cloud of tire smoke, but also scuffed up the surface of the tires and smoothed off the leading edges. This resulted in a huge benefit to the traction of the tire on the rocks and gave back that competitive edge that was missing.

The remainder of the weekend went exceptionally well with strong placings every course. The eventual placing was 2nd behind a very strong competitor in the Firebug.

Should the opportunity arise again, **Team DGR** would be delighted to assist ABT4x4 and M&M Custom in pursuit of that elusive Ozrock rockcrawling crown.

