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Pedders Racing Media Release

for immediate release

18.10.13

Multiple Australian Rally Champion joins Pedders Racing in title hunt

As Pedders Racing continue their year of development with the globally hyped Toyota 86 in the Australian Manufacturers Championship, this weekend's Round 4 sees another opportunity for development as four-time Australian Rally Champion, Neal Bates, joins the team.

Bates, having driven with Toyota Australia for more than two decades, knows the Toyota product likely better than any other, and has joined the Pedders Racing team to ensure that the local Bendigo outfit are right on the money with setup and pushing the race package successfully to its limits in order to give regular drivers Phillips, Turpie and the #86 the best chance at securing another world first, a national production racing class title.

Completing three practice sessions at the Park in the lead up to tomorrow's official start to the Shannons Nationals Motor Racing Championships weekend, Bates was positive with the preparation of the Toyota entry, saying,

"It's great to be part of this team and the car felt really good from the outset. It feels really good, probably goes better than I expected, it stops better than what I expected with standard brakes, the handling, and everything about it was perfect, I couldn't have asked for more.

"The car is not only fantastic, it's very quick. With some new tyres, it'll be well into the times the team are aiming for which is unbelievably fast for a two litre naturally aspirated car. It's an amazing car and I'm really happy to have joined Pedders Racing for a quick visit and to have come and had the drive.

"I've done a lot of production car racing, and it's something I really enjoy. Grant (Phillips) keeps thanking me for coming along, and I keep saying thanks for having me, I really enjoyed it.

"The weekend is back over to the boys (Grant Phillips and Andrew Turpie) now so we've gone through the track and discussed a lap, so now I'll be over the moon if they can dip into the 1:09's because I know that the car and the drivers are capable of that."

Team Principle and regular driver, Grant Phillips, was encouraged that the team are well on their way to securing a third consecutive class championship in the Australian Manufacturers Championship, and with Bates in the team, explained,

"We came into this weekend with a good feeling, and to now have someone of Neal's expertise in the team is yet another way for us to keep learning and keep our performances improving.

"This season was always going to be a tough one. A local team completing a world first exercise, but it's all been worth it so far and with only this weekend and our finale event to go, we hope that Neal's presence and knowledge is going to help us secure a strong finish to the 86's debut season."

Regular driver and Wakefield Park debutant, Andrew Turpie, is thrilled to see the team climb the ladder of experience, and hopefully success, under the watchful eye of Bates, saying,

"Having someone like Neal who knows the circuit and the car so well, means that we can learn more in one session than we would in a weekend of testing – it's invaluable.

"Neither Grant (Phillips) or I know this place. I've never been here, and it's been years since Grant's state outings, but after having completed the early sessions, seeing Neal's (Bates) lines, braking points, then discussing how he throws the car around the track, it's all making me a far better driver and giving us a better chance to really make this season count."

Having copped a heavy hit in the drivers' side during the second session, Bates returned to the wheel for one final outing, showing the true strength of the Toyota package to take the #86 entry to a Class fastest time of the Park with a 1:09.09, the confidence shining as the team look ahead with hopes of a now clean weekend of racing.



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The Pedders Racing Toyota 86 will be back on track tomorrow for Round 4 of the Australian Manufacturers Championship for official practice and qualifying, rounding out the opening day of competition with the first of two 200km mini-endurance races at this, the penultimate round of the 2013 season.

Pedders Racing are proudly supported by Pedders Suspension, Bosch Automotive, Pitman Trucks, AMG Australia, Oz Racing, MRT Performance, ECUTEK, Evans Waterless Coolants, Dixcel, PBR, Whiteline, Project Mu, Grafico Auto Disegno, Heidi Yi Mineral Cosmetics, Valvoline, Exedy, Reliable Rack & Pinions, Nameless, Cobalt Retail, Freak Fabrications, GMP Racing Products, ARB, Bartercard, Fluidive, M&C, Pedders Bendigo, J&A Light Freight and CIMA Media.

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