

RIP Adelaide 500, long live action at The Bend

CARA JENKIN



David Reynolds driving the number 26 Penrite Racing Ford Mustang during yesterday's action at The Bend Motorsport Park yesterday. Photo: Daniel Kalisz/Getty Images

A LITTLE bit of rain was never going to stop the motorsport faithful from converging on Tailem Bend yesterday for a thrilling day of Supercars racing.

Crowd figures for the second day of the three-day event were not available at the time of publication, but spectators started flooding through the gates from 8am.

Many started their drive to the circuit in the early morning darkness to ensure they could soak in as much racing as possible. They included Chris Eastham, of Port Noarlunga, with his son, Hayden, 6. He said there were a lot more off-track attractions than previous years, such as the Hot Wheels Stunt Team, which made its first appearance this year and was a favourite of Hayden's.

"There's a lot more happening compared to previous years, with the extra kids area and stuff like that," he said.

"(Hayden) was pretty disappointed when the Adelaide 500 was cancelled because (Hot Wheels) didn't go to The Bend before. Heather and James Montgomery, of Warradale, have attended every Supercars round held at The Bend, usually staying at the hotel above pit lane. Ms Montgomery said they would attend all three days only because they could stay at the venue.

The Bend's marketing manager, Michael Rossi, said it was heartwarming to see so many hardy fans enjoying the OTR SuperSprint despite the wet weather.