



press clip

## Sisters are doing it for themselves ... and winning

 By **MICHAEL INMAN**

THE WOMEN continued to dominate Summernats' top awards yesterday, with Nadja Lenehan becoming the first female winner of the Street Machine Apprentice of the Year competition.

The win comes a day after Queensland coal miner Angela Dow entered the Summernats log book as first woman to win the Summernats Street Machine of the Year title.

Ms Lenehan, of Mandurah, Western Australia, won a Snap-on roll cab and tools valued at \$8500, and a spot on the Miss Summernats judging panel.

But more importantly, she has gained respect.

"The best thing is now I'm being taken seriously," Ms Lenehan said.

"People will now say, 'Hey, she's for real, she's not just rock-starring around, she actually does it because she likes it'."



**Top apprentice Nadja Lenehan.**

The 24-year-old mechanic first fell in love with cars growing up on a farm in Williams, Western Australia.

A lack of opportunity in the bush forced her to Mandurah, where she

had to fight her way into an apprenticeship.

"It was really hard for me to get an apprenticeship, I didn't get taken seriously at all," Ms Lenehan said.

"They looked at me, laughed at me and said, 'Are you serious?'"

"It was hard to get in there, so I worked other jobs in between. But luckily my boss gave me a challenge and said, 'If you can do this and that, we'll hire you' and he did."

Summernats' co-owner Andy Lopez said the female domination of this year's event was an important milestone.

"Having a female winner for both categories really says, 'This is the way it's going, it's for everyone'," Mr Lopez said.

"That consolidates the fact that this industry is for men and women.

"It crosses socio-economic and gender divides, it's not an industry purely about one group of people."