



## RACE REPORT

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### National Superstock 1000cc Championships, Round 5, Mallala, SA

28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August 2009



*Talking to the crowd after a podium finish*

#### BEAU GRABS TWO PODIUM FINISHES AGAINST THE ODDS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

North Coast V-Twins Race Team's first time at Mallala in South Australia brought mixed results. Beau had only two 20 minute practice sessions to learn the track and set the Ducati's suspension and gearing for the weekend of racing. The team knew it was going to be tough to be on the pace. Beau also had to contend with less than favourable weather conditions with cold, icy and raining conditions on Friday and Saturday.



*Beau focuses on the challenging weekend of racing*

Friday's practice went well with Beau being able to put the Ducati into the 1m 10s lap times. Unfortunately a heavy storm hit the track minutes before his qualifying, so it was decided it was not worth the risk and it was best to wait for round two of qualifying the following morning. This strategy worked well and Beau was able to put the Ducati on the front row of the grid for the 5<sup>th</sup> time in five rounds this season.

Beau's first race wasn't until late Saturday afternoon and the constantly changing weather was hard to predict.

A short time before Race one, another storm hit. The team fitted wet weather tyres and made some minor suspension adjustments to the bike. After this, Beau lined up on the grid for his first race at Mallala.

Race one saw Des Darby from QLD take the start from the second row. Beau was back in 4<sup>th</sup> and fighting for the front and was soon in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Beau was riding a good consistent race when on lap six of ten he fell foul of the conditions and crashed on the back straight at almost 170km/h, fortunately unharmed, but the Ducati was unrideable. Just before this incident, Beau had just set the fastest lap of the race and was closing fast on the lead bike. This race was Beau's first DNF in the Superstock series this year. Des Darby, Pat Medcalf & Jordan Burgess took the honours.



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Race two was another story on Sunday morning. With the track still damp, cold and still declared wet, Beau went out on the Dunlop GP209 control tyres that are usually run on the bike. Beau had traction control set higher than normal. Although giving added security in tricky conditions, it was difficult to launch off the line. Beau made the best of the start but was swallowed up a little and was back in 6<sup>th</sup> into turn one and two. He soon recovered to come through to finish the race 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Race 3 was nearing and Beau was still not completely happy with the Ducati's gearing. Mark "Doc" Downie, our Team Technician for this meeting, made the necessary changes to the bike. With traction control back to normal settings Beau was able to get a good start. Although doing his best ever lap time of a 1min10.1sec for the weekend, Beau was not able to stay with the two front riders, Honda's Jordan Burgess and Yamaha's Pat Medcalf, who were only a couple of seconds off the superbike lap times. Beau rode a controlled and comfortable race to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> to the more experienced Burgess and Medcalf at the Mallala track.



***The Ducati 1198s leading the field***

Beau and North Coast V-Twins Would like to thank our sponsors and supporter crew for all their assistance in getting the North Coast V-Twins Race Team to Mallala, SA for this meeting:

- North Coast V-Twins
- Teknik Suspensions
- Agip Oils
- Beaton's Home Appliances
- Victor Rullis Marriage Celebrant
- Barry Blacker Pumps
- Radguard
- Skin By Finn
- DP Brake Pads
- Regina Chains
- KFL Technologies
- Cassons
- NF Imports
- Spyke
- Ducati



***SA support crew: DOC, Ashley, Beau, Ross, Peter C, Peter T, Chiso***

The long distance from Coffs Harbour to South Australia created its own challenges. A special thank you must go to the race van Drivers, Pete Caley and Pete Titcume, and also to Mark "Doc" Downie for all his efforts and assistance as the team technician for the weekend.

Our next meeting will be at Wakefield Park, Goulburn 25<sup>th</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> September 2009 for the Round 3 finale of the Formula Xtreme TT Series.