

## VICTORIAN ROAD RACING

## SALI SAILS TO VICTORY

Victorian C-grader Chris Sali was the big winner at the opening round of the Victorian Road Racing Championships, held at Broadford circuit on 9-10 February.

Sali's consistency saw him take the Superbike honours on his Suzuki GSX-R1000 with one win and two seconds in the three heats, before adding the silverware from the 56th Harvie Wiltshire Trophy to his list as well.

B-grader Dean Oughtred (Dynoverks/Pro Coat Yamaha YZF-R1) finished runner-up to Sali in both the championship points table and feature race, with Glenn Taylor (Suzuki GSX-R1000) doing similarly with third in both.

Supersport honours went to Andrew Brooks (NC Technologies Yamaha) with three wins from three starts in the combined Supersport/Superstock events, while ASC regular Alistair Reid (Kawasaki ZX-6R) did likewise in the Superstock category, missing out on the win in the final heat by just 0.129sec.

Rhys Moller (Honda RS125) prevailed in a field of 13 125s, with Jed Metcher (Angelo's Aluminium RS125) taking a win off Moller in the opening heat before Moller took the next two victories to claim overall honours.

The meeting also hosted the second round of the Victorian Metrakit Junior Series, with Adrian Stafford extending both his Under-16 and 80cc series leads with six wins from six starts.

Ron Marten and Rod Bell took sidecar honours on their Suzuki GSX-R1000-powered outfit, with Duane Wans (Megacycle Kawasaki ZXR400) victorious in Formula 400 over Wayne Forrest (Mastercoat Honda CBR400).

Full results available at [www.computime.com.au](http://www.computime.com.au).

Ken Wootton

## DRAGS

## SUMMERNATIONALS ROCK WSID

The 2008 Summernationals at Western Sydney International Dragway on 15-16 February was one of the best, if not the greatest, drag races ever held in Australia.

In Top Bike, the current champ Jay Upton again struggled to record a good number and didn't qualify. This opened up the opportunities for both Athol Williams and Leonard Azzopardi. But let's not forget those thumping V-twin Harleys. With 10 entries, qualifying was always going to be very exciting. After the smoke had cleared, Williams was on top with a 6.56 ET at 197mph. Azzopardi was second with a 6.72, followed by Brett Stevens (6.79) and teammate Troy McLean (6.83). The bump was held by rookie Sam Parker, while his dad Phil and Upton were on the outside of the field.

In the first round Phil Parker, who replaced his son, was unable to catch Williams' 6.60. Azzopardi put away Rodney Salvestro with a 6.81. McLean stayed ahead of Neville Smith with a 6.91, and Stevens put Dennis Grant back on the trailer with a 6.80.

The semi-finals featured four six-second bikes. Williams went through to the final with a 6.56 win over a 6.87 from McLean while Stevens got a

break with Azzopardi broke.

The final was a great drag race to the end. Stevens was on kill but his 6.71 was short of Williams' 6.65. The Jack Daniels Harley also set top speed of the event with a 208.91mph blast. Three rounds remain, with McLean leading the charge on 383 points, Stevens on 300 and Williams third on 283.

The entry list for Pro Stock Motorcycle was a little on the thin side, but those that did show were the best riders and teams in the country.

It was a busy first day with three qualifying sessions on the Friday. After the final session, Peter Cochrane punished the field with a quick 7.165/184.90 aboard the S&S Buell of Brett Stevens. Quite a bit back was second place holder Jason Lee with a 7.34/179 on the Suzuki of Trevor Birrell.

Cochrane went out in the semi-finals on race day when his Buell slowed in the bottom of the track.

The final was anti-climactic when Michael Gilbertson's Hog's Breath Suzuki broke, and Jason Lee took the solo win with a 7.29 best.

The win moves Lee into second place with one round remaining.

John Baremans



Athol Williams on his impressive run of 6.65

## DAKAR UPDATE

The director of the Dakar, Patrice Clerc, announced that the 2009 Dakar Rally will take place in Argentina and Chile on 3-18 January. A 9000 kilometre course is planned, including 6000km of special stages. The 2009 rally will mark its first time in South America.

## MLADIN VS SPIES

The 2008 AMA Superbike Championship looks to be a replay of last season. Rockstar Makita Yoshimura Suzuki's Ben Spies and Mat Mladin dominated the final gathering at California Speedway prior to the early March curtain raiser. Spies finished the test with an unofficial best lap of 1:22.4, well below the 1:23.117 lap that earned him pole for last April's race. Mladin dipped into the 22s, but was mostly in the low 23s. He lost the front-end late in the final day, and despite escaping injury, he did not continue. *HRA*

## SAN CARLO GRESINI

Gresini Honda has landed a new title sponsor for the 2008 MotoGP World Championship season, with Italian snack food company San Carlo joining the squad to make it Team San Carlo Honda Gresini. The successful privateer team has been without a title sponsor since 2006 when it was sponsored by Fortuna.

## ADAMS' KEY

Mildura speedway star Leigh Adams was awarded the keys to the city by the Mildura Rural City Council as part of its Australia Day celebrations. Adams was honoured for his exploits on the world speedway stage. After receiving the award, Adams left immediately to conduct clinics conducted by Motorcycling Australia at Olympic Park, both of which were a great success. *PB*

## AJ INJURED

GHR Honda Team rider, Anthony 'AJ' Roberts, has injured himself while training near his home on Bribie Island in Qld. Doctors have confirmed that the current champion has fractured his tibia and will require a minimum of six weeks recovery time. "I was just going through a creek, came off and landed hard on my knee, fracturing the leg," said Roberts.