

ROUND 2 RUAPUNA



ORIX Team Racing maintains top ten position in NZV8 standings

The BNT V8s Championship headed to Powerbuilt Tools Raceway outside Christchurch over the weekend of 27 and 28 November for the first of three South Island rounds on the 2010/11 calendar.

More than 500 guests, including 70 children, enjoyed a stunning day of action at the Can-

terbury circuit with the ORIX hospitality team.

The ORIX team and driver Paul Manuell welcomed guests of ORIX Team Racing and their wider sponsor group which includes Crown Equipment, Castrol Edge, Century Yuasa Batteries, Konica Minolta, Dunlop Direzza, New Balance, Smith & Smith Glass,

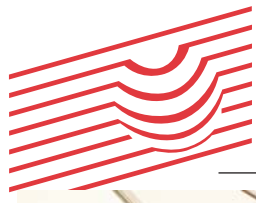
The Gear Box Factory, Wynns, Top Gear Autotech and PWR.

"We were also delighted to host guests of Andy Booth Motorsport, Andrew Anderson's ITM Racing and John McIntyre Racing," said Glenn Middleton, ORIX New Zealand's Operations Manager.

"With plenty of great action on the track as well as food, refreshments and entertainment for the children, a great day was enjoyed by all."

The drivers – Paul, Andy, Andrew and John – visited the ORIX hospitality suite at lunchtime to talk with guests and draw the winners





Calendar of Championship Rounds

Round	Date	Circuit	Location
3	14-16 January 2011	Teretonga	Invercargill
4	21-23 January 2011	Levels	Timaru
5	11-13 February 2011	Manfeild	Feilding
6	11-13 March 2011	Taupo	Taupo
7	15-17 April 2011	Street Circuit	Hamilton

of a special prize pool.

"It's always great to meet up with those we know and make new acquaintances during these relaxed days at the track. Whether you're a Holden or a Ford supporter, there's always something to watch on the track so it's an entertaining, family-friendly way to spend a fine Sunday and mix in a little business networking along the way," said Glenn.

The ORIX Racing team looks forward to the next NZV8 rounds in Invercargill, Timaru,

Feilding and Taupo, starting with the back-to-back weekends in Invercargill and Timaru from 15 January.

On the track...

...things were pretty tough for ORIX Racing's Paul Manuel. The former NZV8 champion traditionally does very well at Powerbuilt Tools Raceway (Ruapuna Park), but a combination of factors meant Paul's overall championship position eased from sixth to ninth after three very hot, dusty races on the Can-

terbury circuit.

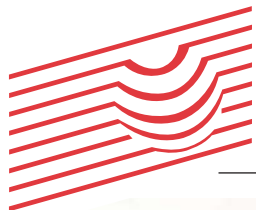
Paul says there is plenty of pace in the ORIX-Castrol Edge Commodore. "We had a sensational race car and qualified the fastest Holden."

Saturday's top ten shootout saw Paul seventh-quickest and all set for race one on Sunday.

The first 10-lap race on Sunday morning quickly got fierce, with competitors bumping and pushing their way around the circuit's

numerous tight turns in increasingly hot conditions. Paul had to contend with at least one incident right in front of him where taking evasive action was the only prudent option. "We were a victim of an incident with John McIntyre and Andy Knight, and that really threw our weekend."

His run to the chequered flag in eleventh position was the best result possible in the circumstances. The uncommon occurrence of John McIntyre being disqualified from the



ORIX Team Racing

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race results saw Paul promoted to tenth position.

After another hot 10-lap race and the ORIX-Commodore running strongly, Paul managed to improve his finishing position to eighth. The combined race results put Paul in the back half of the field for the reverse grid race, the final race of each round. Unfortunately for ORIX Racing supporters, another competitor – a rookie – took Paul out of contention on the first lap, leaving him strand-

ed on the side of the track with broken steering. He was understandably gutted that his race was over through no fault of his own.

“The third race is so often a lottery and this weekend, we didn’t come up with the winning numbers,” said Paul.

“We were really appreciative of the amazing Canterbury crowd; they were all in fine form and spirit considering hardships the place has been through recently.

“One positive is that we have come away

from the weekend with a great bank of Dunlop tyres which will mean a lot in the New Year when we head south again in January for our traditional back-to-back weekends of racing in Invercargill and Timaru.

“While I have the opportunity I would like to wish everyone a safe and relaxed Christmas. Thank you for your support. I promise you all we won’t be resting, we will be very busy getting the ORIX Commodore faster yet again – looking for every hundredth of a

second of car speed – for the next two South Island rounds. We will relax when the war is over!

Stay tuned for more news on the ORIX-Commodore.

Photos by John Miller and Graham Blow

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