



ORANZ Nationals Round 2 2011 Palmerston North

373 is now Class 3 National points leader 2nd Overall National points (116)

The Palmerston North shortcourse track was not what we were expecting! The sandy base meant that this was a horsepower track, something we are a bit short on. A nice track though, well laid out and prepared, and a credit to the Palmerston North club. We tried different tyre sizes for each race and although Paul could stay with NZ1 and sometimes pull along side there was to be no passing and we finished day one with 3 second places.

We arrived early for the Sunday Enduro. What a magic place! That track would have to rate as the best enduro track in the world. Paul had qualified 5th and was lined up behind Nick Hall in 561 for the start. 30 laps of 5km, single file start, our strategy was to stay with the leaders and seize any opportunities that were presented. That strategy evaporated on lap 2 when Paul pitted with collapsed front suspension. We lost three laps in the pits and Paul went out with instructions to ensure a finish (18 laps). NZ1 put his car on the trailer about lap 15 with no second gear and we signaled Paul that he was now leading Class 3 when NZ1 came out again. We believed 373 and NZ1 were now on the same lap with Paul leading and we gave Paul the sign to increase pace to keep NZ1 behind. NZ1's race ended shortly after and our 1st class 3 position was secure but we were 6 points down from day one and had to beat NZ1 by 5 places to get the overall class win for the weekend so we left Paul on race pace to see how many places he could make. When the results were announced Paul had made 3rd overall and NZ1 faded to 9th which gave 373 a 8 point advantage.

So we left Palmerston North a happy driver and crew, leading Class 3 National points and with 2nd Overall National points, 6 points behind Nick Hall's tally of 122.

A great weekends racing with a great result!