



MEDIA ALERT

March 4, 2008



Australia's best off-road motorcycle racers begin the battle for national title

Media conferences will be held March 14 (next Friday) and March 16 (next Sunday):

Times: 11am Friday and 3pm Sunday

Location: Hasting Valley Motorcycle Raceway
170 Pacific Highway, Port Macquarie

Interviewees:

- Local hero, Port Macquarie's Chris Hollis who finished second in the country last year. NSW-title holder and Hollis's teammate Jarrod Bewley from Sydney
- Three-time winner, Queensland's AJ Roberts
- Leading women's competitor Alison Parker
- Organiser and former motocross champion Phil Sargent

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*Please note: if you would like to do a story before Friday, interviews with any of the riders or organiser can be arranged.

Entry to the event on Saturday and Sunday is also available for media.

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Local gun looks to oust long-standing national champ

Port Macquarie motorcycle ace Chris Hollis will be one of the hundreds of enduro racers who will flock to the area for the opening rounds of the Yamaha Australian Off Road Championships (AORC) on March 15 and 16.



All of Australia's top enduro riders - many of whom have represented Australia at international competitions including one in Chile last year - will converge at the spot for the first national meet of the year. Some will travel from as far as Western Australia, southern Victoria and New Zealand.



The odds could be tipped in the local boy's favour, with three-time winner of the series, Queenslander Anthony 'AJ' Roberts unsure if he will be able to contest the first two rounds due to an injury sustained during training earlier this year.



Hollis, 23, had several exceptional finishes last season - including a highly commended second outright placing at the Australian Four Day Enduro which was won by the world champion who was flown in from overseas.



Hollis's stand-out performances have also helped land him a ride on one of Australia's premier racing squads, Ballard's Yamaha Off Road Team. Another rider to watch at the first rounds will be teammate Jarrod Bewley, from Sydney, who came third last year.



Hollis only returned to Australia last Wednesday after a competing in Thailand.

"I'm looking forward to next weekend, I will definitely be looking to win both days," Hollis said.

"It's going to be good to [race so close to home]. All my mates will be out there, being close to home takes the stress off too and I get to sleep in my own bed - most of the the rounds involve a lot of travel."

However, if AJ's recovery from his broken Tibia is fast enough for him to be able to contest the first two rounds, Hollis will likely have a very solid battle on his hands.



The Glenn Hoffman Honda pilot has been mostly undefeated in the championship for the last three years and said he was doing everything he could to get better for Port Macquarie.

"I am trying to do all the right things. It's an unknown at the moment whether I will be able to ride, I'm just taking it day by day," he said.



The rules of the AORC stipulate a rider can not drop a round of the series, so if AJ was unable to ride the first two rounds, it would put him at a vast disadvantage to win the crown for another year.

The AORC are ran over six weekends, with one round on Saturday in sprint format (several laps of the bush/motocross track racing against the clock) and one on Sunday in a cross-country format (class mass start, championship classes race for two hours flat out).



The championships boasts classes for every level of rider, from Juniors older than 9-years to clubman, women, veterans, masters, experts and championship-level racers.

The AORC are fantastic for spectators, with nail-biting action and the chance to get up close and personal with the stars of Australian enduro racing.



Supplementary regulations are already out and entries are coming in fast. To enter or for more information please visit www.dirtbikepromotions.com.au, contact Dirt Bike Promotions on 02 63624437 or 0438721024 or email treena@dirtbikepromotions.com.

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