



## ***The Reece Bancell Scholarship***

### ***Ryan Dymond***

#### ***Proudly in partnership with:***

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#### **Junior's animal adventures**

A large contingency of riders from around Australia made the long trek to the Northern Territory for, what would be for many, their first appearance at the much-anticipated Hidden Valley Raceway.

While most flew, we drove, departing Brisbane at 6.30am on the Saturday before. It was awesome, I experienced my first ride in a truck with Aluma-Lite's crew member, Junior. A schedule consisting of a three day hike with early morning starts and late evening finishes was on the agenda.

Surprisingly, we arrived safely in Darwin on the Monday evening after having jagged two kangaroos, eight birds and a couple of unsuspecting lizards.

#### **A couple of nights at the circus**

After a couple of days hangin' out with Ben Attard and John Allen, I was kind of relieved when Thursday arrived for official practice. Not that the boys intimidated me, but when they asked whether I sleep facing down or on my back, it was kind of nice knowing that I could sleep with both eyes closed that

night. Seriously, these guys are awesome – we had a ball. And a big thanks to Derek and Rhonda Williams for taking care of me.

#### **Riding a moto in a steam-cooker**

Darwin's an interesting place; but it's stinking hot and bloody humid. Riding at Hidden Valley was like trying to punt a motorcycle around in a humungous steam-cooker. It's a mad track though, with a massive straight, left and right-handers, with elevation thrown-in, it had a really nice mix of variables.

#### **The track inspector**

My weekend started out reasonably well on the Thursday. Although I wasn't making much in-road with the set-up of my Yamaha R6, I didn't crash which was a nice change. My times weren't good though and I knew I'd had to step-it-up on the Friday. Unfortunately on the Friday I lost the front-end, again, re-assuming the role of the track inspector. My technician Andrew, and my spray painter Steve, put the bike together without a drama. We made some changes to the suspension and were reasonably confident of making some progress throughout Saturday's qualifying sessions.

#### **Saturday's qualifying**

Sadly we didn't get the desired effect from the tweaks we implemented on Friday. And disappointingly I was only able to slot my Reece Bancell Yamaha into 16<sup>th</sup> place on the grid for Sunday's racing. Again we made some geometry changes, hoping to make up some much needed ground.

## **Sunday's racing – I wasn't smart enough!**

We were presented with fine and humid weather for the start of Sunday's festivities. I scored a reasonable start in *Race One*, but could only manage to bring Yamaha R6 home in 11<sup>th</sup> place.

My hopes for a better showing in *Race Two* went out the window when the skies decided to open on the sighting lap. The circuit was declared wet. The Quinn family were really helpful – without hesitation they loaned me a set of wheels, we fitted wets, and made pit lane exit with 30 seconds to spare. Having only ever used wets once before, I didn't have the confidence to push hard. I think I'm still finishing this one!

With *Race Three* approaching, I was confident of securing better results than I could manage in the day's prior races. However, a dismal 11<sup>th</sup> was the best I could register in this leg. Pushing really wide on the fast turns, my bike was still handling like a badly-wrapped kebab. I have no one else to blame but myself, I simply wasn't smart enough in the set up department.....but we will learn from this and make amends in QLD.



## **Lookin' ahead**

At least this time I'm able to bring my bike home straight. Looking ahead we'll be trying our utmost to get the geometry sorted. Finally, I'll now have the opportunity to do some track days at Queensland Raceway with Champions Ride Days.

We'll see you at QR.

***Ryno # 3***  
***Ryan Dymond***