



I had a really good weekend at Mallala Motorsport Park for the last round of the South Australian championship as well as the final Cafnix round for the year. The weather was really good on Saturday but got a bit warm on Sunday reaching a top of 38 degrees.

We competed in the limited class against the Ducati 695's and other twin 650's on the Moto3 250cc. We won the 2017 South Australian Limited Championship and the 2017 Cafnix limited championship. This was my last race meeting for the year as a junior and also my last race meeting on the Moto3. Next year we will step up to the 600cc Supersport class competing in the Australian Superbike Championship.

We had practise on Saturday and racing on Sunday with two 6 lap races and one 8 lap race.

On Saturday I felt really comfortable on the bike and by the second session I was a second of off my race pace. I knew by the end of the day that I was going to do quick times on Sunday as I'm always slower on practice days then race days.

We had two qualifying's first up Sunday morning. In the first qualifying I felt really good and comfortable on the bike. I had a clear track and plenty of room to put in a few fast laps. After doing three laps I was able to post a lap time of 1.15.536 only 0.400 off of my PB. This was the fastest lap of the session. In the second qualifying I couldn't go any quicker but still got down to a time of 1.15.668. After both the qualifying sessions were complete my lap time from the first session was the overall fastest lap time giving my pole by just over half a second.

In race 1 I got a good start but as always when racing limited I got overtaken by the bigger bikes. I soon took one bike at turn 1 to move into third and then was with the leading two. I moved into second on lap three on the last corner. Then on lap 4 I went up the inside to move up to first at turn 3. I soon got passed back down the straight by the bigger bike but I was able to stay in his slip stream. I then made a move at turn 2 up the inside. I was able to hold on to the lead for the rest of the race and go onto win the race.



Photo courtesy of Damir8.com

In race 2 I got another good start but fell back again. I was in fourth until turn 3 on the first lap when I made a move to take third but got passed down the straight. I then went up the inside under brakes and moved into third. The leaders had a small gap on me so I had to start to catch them. By mid-race I was on the back of them and moved into second at turn 2 again under brakes. I then made a move at turn 4 when the leader ran wide. I was able hold on the lead again for the last two laps to win the second race.

In the last race of the weekend all I had to do was finish to win the South Australian Championship and the Cafnix championship. If I finished third or higher I would win the weekend as well. I got a bad start and went way back in the field to seventh. I soon took three around the outside at turn 1. I was behind the three leaders and by half a lap the front two had pulled a slight gap. I was stuck behind third for two laps and missed a gear going on the back straight coming out of turn 3. I then lost all my drive down the straight and had to make it up. I finally got pass and into third and the leaders had a gap on me by a few seconds. I was catching every lap and by lap six of the eight lap race I was on the back of them. Because the air temperature was high my bike was running hot as well. When I got in the slip stream of the bike in front of me my bike wasn't getting any air and was heating up. I had to back off and it wasn't worth the risk of overheating my bike when I knew all I had to do was finish third. I ended the last race of the weekend in third position and that gave me the weekend win.

I'm now the 2017 South Australian Limited Champion as well as the 2017 Cafnix Limited Champion. A huge thanks needs to go to my dad who put on the new Brembo caliper for this year so that I would have a little bit more braking power and feel especially for Mallala as it is a very hard braking track. Also all the time dad puts in out in the shed. If I did not have the sponsors I had we would not be able to race all around Australia:

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