



*Media Release*

## **NSW Late Model racers aim for National title success**



**ABOVE : #99 Ben Nicastrì and #31 Adam Brook are two of the NSW 'young guns' looking to stamp their mark on the Australian title. Photo by Gary Reid.**

In the 10 year history of the Australian Late Model Championship a NSW racer is yet to claim the title, but that may change when the Frank's Auto Parts supported event is contested at Tyrepower Sydney Raceway January 27/28.

While the majority of the Australian Late Model titles have been held on the west coast, only one NSW racer has managed to stand on the podium, but not on the top step, something local racers are keen to address in this year's title.

The Late Model division has been a regular fixture at Tyrepower Sydney Speedway for several seasons, and while the numbers have continued to grow slowly, the prestige of an Australian title being held on 'home' soil (clay!) has accelerated the process, with competitors the calibre of Col Robinson joining the field.

Robinson has recently returned to the track after a bout with cancer, and is enjoying his time at the wheel of the #88, having secured a couple of Heat wins already.

"Having guys like Col Robinson join the division, and be fast straight off the trailer, just goes to prove why the Late Model division continues to gain popularity" said NSW Late Model Marketing Manager Ross Nicastrì.

“These cars are a challenge to drive, and spectacular to watch, and with the Frank’s Auto Parts Australian title being held in Sydney it really is a big win for NSW Late Model racing and the fans”.

Nicastri has enjoyed his share of success at Tyrepower Sydney Speedway in recent times, but has stood down to allow young US racer Devin Moran to steer his Mastersbilt in the National title chase.

Although Ross will not be competing, the family name will still be prominent, with son Ben racing the #99.

“There is a really good cross section of youth and experience in NSW Late Model racing at the moment” Ross Nicastri stated.

“Ben has been driving really well this season, and he has shown that he can cut it with the top drivers, so I expect him to do a good job in the Australian title”.

“Then you have the hard chargers like Nathan Disney, who will really be turning it on to try and get that number one, especially given that he is yet to secure a Feature race this season. And young Adam Brook, who currently leads the NSW Series in the Aurora Competition Cars #31, has really matured into a good solid racer this season. Then you can throw in Nathan Smee in the #15 American Tyre & Racing Services car. Nathan hasn’t raced a Late Model yet, but he sure is fast in a Speedcar!”.

“Any of those guys could shine” concluded Nicastri.

While youth gives to enthusiasm, when it comes National title time a cool head is always a good option, and there are plenty of those in the NSW Late Model ranks.

Darryl Grimson has already secured two Feature race victories in Sydney this season, and finished a close second to Ron Pyne in another. A strong run to finish third in the NSW State title held at Lismore on January 14, combined with his previously mentioned Sydney results, should signal warnings to the rest of the field that Grimson means business. Should the #12 greet the chequered flag first than rest assured it will be one of the most popular National results ever.

Bruce White has turned plenty of laps at Tyrepower Sydney Speedway over many seasons, so the 2011/12 Frank’s Auto Parts Australian Late Model Championship should arguably give him his best shot at securing a National crown yet. White has been fast this season in the #96, and could be the real ‘dark horse’ of the local contingent.

Several other NSW racers have nominated, and will be giving it their all in the chase for national glory.

When the chequered flag falls on the 2011/12 Frank's Auto Parts Australian Late Model Championship will history be made by a NSW racer? Time will tell.

For more information on the Frank's Auto Parts Australian Late Model Championship and NSW Late Model racing visit [www.nswlatemodels.com](http://www.nswlatemodels.com)



**ABOVE : #12 Darryl Grimson has been in outstanding form at Tyrepower Sydney Speedway in season 2011/12. Can he win the Australian title? Photo by Gary Reid.**

*Ends Release*

23rd January 2012 : Media Release by Rod Thurgood – [www.ozmotorsportpromotions.com](http://www.ozmotorsportpromotions.com)