



Media Release

Late Models to rumble in Victorian title at Rolling Thunder Raceway

The roar of V8's will shatter the peaceful surrounds of Rolling Thunder Raceway at Bacchus Marsh Saturday February 4, when a quality field of competitors fire their engines into life for the inaugural Fineline Building Projects Victorian Late Model Championship.

South Australian Late Model Association (SALMA) President Mat Crimmins is excited about this weekend's title.

"Being the inaugural Victorian state title there is a lot prestige associated with being the first racer to get their name inscribed on the trophy" Crimmins said.

"SALMA is proud to have Fineline Building Projects sponsoring the first ever Victorian Late Model title. Fineline Building Projects is based in Victoria, and currently support the #21 Late Model of Rod Edwards".

"With 17 nominations, and coming hard on the back of last weekend's fantastic Australian title in Sydney, race fans can expect plenty of action this weekend, at a track that is ideally suited to these powerful machines" concluded Crimmins.

Eight Victorian racers have nominated for their inaugural state title.

Bill Mentiplay (#33) and Shaun Nelson (#95) are having their first start of the season, while for Gary Bryans (#19) it is his second. Of the trio, Bryans has the best form on the board, and could challenge for the title win.

Rod Edwards has been fast this season, and will be looking to make amends for a disappointing national title campaign where he was forced out on night one after a race crash.

Daniel Timberlake (#11) has raced several Rounds of the SALMA Series this season and shown that he is on the pace, while David Mentiplay (#14) is making just his second start of the season.

Experienced AMCA Nationals racer Campbell Hughes will make his debut at the wheel of the Crimmins Racing #64 lease car, a machine that has seen plenty of success this season in the hands of South Australian racers. Hughes could surprise should he get to grips with the car early.

Perhaps the best chance of the title remaining in Victoria rests with Darren Forrest in the #055. Forrest only has four race meetings under his belt in his fully imported Rocket, but was impressive in last weekend's Australian title in Sydney, being the only Victorian racer to qualify for the A Main, and finishing 11th despite some car damage.

The interstate challenge is a strong one, with Ross Nicastrì (#3) and Scott McPherson (#7) back behind the wheel of their own cars that were raced by US competitors Devin Moran and Steve Francis the past month. Francis used the McPherson car to win the Australian title, while Moran finished 4th. McPherson already has this season's South Australian title to his credit, while Nicastrì has been fast, with several race victories.

Other NSW racers contesting the Fineline Building Projects Victorian title are Darryl Grimson (#12), Ben Nicastrì (#99) and Lyle Dicker (#4).

A trio of South Australian racers are heading across for the title with David Hartman (#15) in great form after a recent win at Murray Bridge Speedway, while Mat Crimmins (#10) and Luke Raymond (#5) are fresh from competing in the Australian title. Crimmins had an early setback with a gearbox issue, but placed 14th in the A Main, while Raymond had a difficult weekend, and will be chasing a good result at Rolling Thunder Raceway.

The driver making the longest journey to compete is Bunbury's Brad Blake. The four times Australian Late Model Champion relinquished his crown at Tyrepower Sydney Speedway last weekend, and would like nothing better than to claim the inaugural Victorian title to add to the Queensland title already in his possession. Blake will once again drive the immaculate Marc Zimmer owned Rocket that is based on the East Coast.

The Fineline Building Projects Victorian Late Model Championship doubles as Round 4 of the Scotcher Race Fuels & Oils SALMA Series that has been hotly contested this season.

The full field for the Fineline Building Projects Victorian Late Model Championship reads :

Brad Blake W0 : Nigel's Hydraulics / Wynestra Engineering / Total Fire Solutions / Mudgee Bearings

Ross Nicastrì N3 : Franks Auto Parts

Lyle Dicker N4 : Dicker Glass

Luke Raymond S5 : Auto Techniques / Crane Services / S McLay Mechanical / Hurley Maid Of Auckland / Chad Signs / ULX 110 / Preferred Finance / KLM Engineering / Hoolgators All American Di Cast

Scott McPherson N7 : Better Trailers / Time Target / Graeme Silk Engines

Mat Crimmins S10 : Cross Roads Holiday Park Mildura / FUCHS / Auto Pro Murray Bridge / De Conte Chiropractic / Top Class Tiling / Toledo / Hytek Concrete Australia / Gardner Bearings / J & J Ruston Engineering / Christies Beach Auto Centre

Dan Timberlake V11 : Superior Home & Garden Décor / Redford Tools & Trailers / Dan Timberlake Race Engines

Daryl Grimson N12 : United Acreage Marketing / Stahl Willie

David Mentiplay N14 : The Plaster Mob / Butler Builders / Lake Eildon Houseboat Sales

David Hartman S15 : Solid Service / Signs On Para / Lucas Oils / Vehilcool / Sprint Auto Parts Salisbury / Collin Industrial Distributors

Gary Bryans V19 : Fountain Gate Plaster & Cartage / CB'S Bin Mob / Crash Supplies (VIC)/ Bunyip Smash Repairs / Bunyip Tyres / M & L Mentiplay / Lucas Oils

Rod Edwards V21 : Lake Eildon Houseboat Sales / Fineline Building Projects / Eildon Bakery Café / Eildon Service Station

Bill Mentiplay V33 : Fountain Gate Plaster & Cartage / CB'S Bin Mob / Crash Supplies (VIC) / Bunyip Smash Repairs / Bunyip Tyres / M & L Mentiplay / Lucas Oils

Darren Forrest V055 : Boronia Towbars / ATCO Structures / Metro Tow / Good Guys Performance / Hayden Race Cars

Campbell Hughes S64 : Cross Roads Holiday Park Mildura / FUCHS / Auto Pro Murray Bridge / De Conte Chiropractic / Top Class Tiling / Toledo / Hytek Concrete Australia / Gardner Bearings / J & J Ruston Engineering / Christies Beach Auto Centre

Shaun Nelson V95 : Fountain Gate Plaster & Cartage / CB'S Bin Mob / Crash Supplies (VIC) / Bunyip Smash Repairs / Bunyip Tyres / M & L Mentiplay / Lucas Oils

Ben Nicastrì N99 : Franks Auto Parts

For more information on Finline Building Projects and its services visit www.finlinebuildingprojects.com

For all the latest news on the Scotcher Race Fuels & Oils SALMA Series visit www.salma.com.au



ABOVE : Daniel Timberlake will be one of several Victorian drivers chasing glory in the inaugural Finline Building Projects Victorian Late Model Championship.
Photo by Paris Charles of www.parischarles.webs.com

Ends Release

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