



GNCC Round 2

It is with great pleasure that I bring you this weeks race report. Proudly brought to you by the letters W, I and N.

Stop two of the New Zealand GNCC series made its way out east to Murray Jensen's farm, 15 minutes out of Te Puke township. It was a stark contrast to round one where the wet, rainy weather played a big part in the days racing.

Te Puke put on a pearlier with the sun beaming down. The track, which was a mixture or rolling, safe farm land and pine tree terrain kept riders on their toes with plenty of roots, ruts and holes, making lap times around the 18-20 minute mark.

Off the line my WR450F got a great jump and rounded the first turn in second place, which lead into a cool grass track section before darting into the trees, where I managed to take the lead. From there, it quickly became a two-horse race between myself and Honda rider Scott Birch. The following 2.5 hours saw the lead swap several times as pit strategies came into play, mixing up the racing even more.

With the WR carrying more fuel than I am used to, I was able to push to the 1.5 hour mark before needing to pit for fuel, which ended up being my only fuel stop I required. With the track being shorter than a normal GNCC, we were quickly into lappers which also played their part in dicing for the lead.

When the final lap board was put out, both myself and Scott where wheel to wheel exiting the pits. With the superior traction coming from the mix of my Dunlop GeoMax tires and the smooth, tractable engine of the WR, I was able to pass for the lead on an off-camber bumpy uphill and get the advantage.

From there it was head down, throttle on as I put my all into the final lap, crossing the finish line in first, taking my first win on Yamaha's new WR450F and the fastest lap in the process.

It's great to finally get the 'W' - I knew the WR had the goods to do it so it's just great to be able to prove it on the track.

Chris

