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## 2009 Australian Off Road C'ships - Rnds 9 & 10

Sutto's KTM Alpinestars rider Geoff Braico has won his first Australian Championship after going 2-1 in the final rounds of the 2009 AORC at Young. He also finished 10<sup>th</sup> Overall for the series.

The event was scheduled to be a cross country on Saturday and Sprint on Sunday. However, due to deteriorating conditions, the Pro schedule was changed to a 16 minute Sprint.

Unfortunately for Geoff, his day didn't start off as he wanted to when he was caught up in the dust and went down. He lost a fair bit of time and finished lap 1 in 4<sup>th</sup>. Over the next few laps, he chipped away at the riders in front of him and gradually climbed his way back into 2<sup>nd</sup> by the end of the day. He also finished 11<sup>th</sup> outright.

After losing some points on Day 1, Geoff wanted to make amends on Sunday. He did just that and won the 1<sup>st</sup> test in E3. With the prospect of his first Australian title in his sights, Geoff continued to take heat wins throughout the day and had built himself up a sizeable lead going into the final heat. All he had to do was ride the final lap smoothly. He completed the lap unscathed and claimed the E3 championship. He also placed 9<sup>th</sup> outright for round 10.

"I can't believe it. All year, I have wanted this and of all the rounds that I've won, this was the most difficult. The tracks were very technical. Conditions were not very good and the dust played havoc all weekend. On Saturday, I could not get into the rhythm. I crashed into a big rock hidden in the dust and that really opened my eyes. I told myself to calm down and get through the day. I did just that and didn't lose too many points in the process.

Sunday was the most nervous day of the year. The track was easier, and better lines formed through the really rutted sections. I really wanted to win the round, but I really wanted to get the title. Everything went to plan! I won all but the last heat and took home the Championship by 25 points. I rode onto the final grasstrack section and I knew I had done it. It was unreal.

I can't thank everyone enough. I have had 2 KTM 300 EXC's this year and both have been faultless. I haven't even rebuilt them. I really like the bikes, and hope to be on a KTM again for 2010.

I also have a great crew of sponsors. Some new for 09, but alot of them have been there for a few years and I am so happy to have them apart of this Championship. I have got a great relationship with all of them and can't thank them enough.

Last but not least is my family. My Parents have been behind me 110% and I thank them for coming down to the last race and cheering me on. And a huge thanks to my girlfriend, Mel. She has been to every race with me and, at the presentation, I dedicated the Championship win to her as a thank you for all the support that she has given me during this year. I really appreciate her help.

Thanks everybody.."

Geoff's next race is a NSW Pony Express Round in a couple of weeks. He also flies out the ISDE in Portugal in early October as part of the Team Australia Junior Trophy Team.