

"IT WAS GREAT", SAYS ROEBUCK

"It was great". That was how Goulburn motor cyclist Leo Roebuck described his third placing in yesterday's Coca Cola 800 km event, the richest and longest motor cycle event in Australia.

Roebuck and his Sydney co-rider, Steve Fisher, rode brilliantly on their Ducati Panah 600 cc machine to finish third among bikes almost twice their size.

The race was won by former Australian champion Greg Pretty and Newcastle rider Gary Coleman, on a Yamaha XS1100.

The event was shortened to 770 km after heavy rains played havoc with riders and machines.

Roebuck said that he thought they may have come in second had the rain not affected the length of the race as he was closing in on second place getters, Bill McCulloch and Phil O'Brien, on a Suzuki GSX1100.

McCulloch crossed

the line 45 seconds ahead of Roebuck, who also gained pole position in the rain on Saturday.

"I was hoping it would rain right from the start yesterday and maybe we could have won the whole thing," he said. "But third place was just great."

By taking third place outright, Roebuck also won the 800 cc class.

"We had no big dreams in the wet," said Lee. "Things did get a little difficult, but everyone had problems then."

"The bike began to aquaplane but we had really good tyres and the bike ran without an ounce of trouble," he said.

"Steve (Fisher) rode very well and stayed on

the bike without too much trouble. The bike ran as well at the end as it did when we started," he said.

Roebuck's next meeting will be the Canberra Road Closure event on March 7 and 8.

In time trials on Saturday, Roebuck recorded the fastest time with Paul Feeney recording the second fastest time.

Feeney was leading the field at the start of the race but broke down six laps later.

The ignition system on his Kawasaki 1100 failed and he was running on two cylinders.

He was never again in contention, much to the disappointment of a large crowd of Goulburn supporters.

Top qualifiers:

L. Roebuck and S. Fisher (Fraser's-Color 7 Ducati 601)	1m 34.4s.
P. Feeney and Lindsay McKay (Ross Hannan Kawasaki 1100)	1m 34.7s.
G. Pretty and G. Coleman (Yamaha Pitmans XS1100)	1m 35.0s.
G. Lonsdale and P. Harmon (Wagga Club News Suzuki 1075)	1m 35.5s.
P. Cannell and P. Cannell (Cannell Suzuki 1000)	1m 35.6s.
D. Robbins and P. Byers (Fraser's NCR850)	1m 35.7s.
S. Peet and A. Blanco (Masaaki Kawasaki 780)	1m 35.7s.
M. Thompson and M. Lendrum (Performance M/C Moto Guzzi 1080)	1m 35.8s.
D. Neill and M. Cole (Team Honda 1062)	1m 36.1s.
B. McCulloch and P. O'Brien (Sunderland Exhaust Suzuki 1100)	1m 36.9s.

23RD FEBRUARY 1981.



26TH FEBRUARY 1981

Champ home

• Lee Roebuck and his mechanic Steve Parlett had plenty to smile about yesterday when our photographer called. They were successful in their class and third outright in the Coca-Cola 800 motor cycle classic on Sunday. The bike, a Ducati Pantah 600cc, was fitted with special factory performance gear which enabled Roebuck and co-rider Steve Fisher, of Sydney, to make rapid gains on the field as rain fell heavily midway through the race.

6TH MARCH 1981.

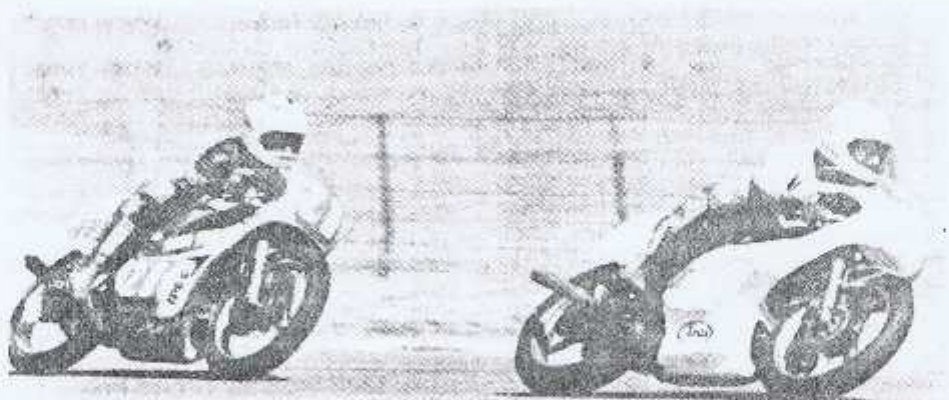
COCA-COLA 800



The Fraser-Corior 7 Ducati Pantah was the surprise package of the Coca-Cola 800. In the dry it fought hard to stay with the others; in the wet Lee Roebuck and Steve Fisher took it to third outright.

16TH APRIL 1981.

BATHURST



Gary Coleman (52) and Lee Roebuck battled for the lead throughout the 350 Grand Prix until Roebuck selected the wrong gear on the last lap to let Coleman gain the winning advantage. (Photo, Graham Monro).



10TH APRIL 1981

Big guns set for Bathurst

Australian motor-bike racing's biggest weekend starts at Bathurst tomorrow and Goulburn will be well represented with five top competitors.

The Mount Panorama circuit meeting is considered one of the greatest weekends for motor cycling enthusiasts anywhere in the world.

Lee Roebuck, Paul Feeney, Peter Martin, and sidcar duo, Ray Spence and Laurie Nicholls, compete against the country's best riders in an effort to make their mark on the Australian Grand Prix meet.

Last year Roebuck finished fourth in the Australian Grand Prix to Andrew Johnson.

Roebuck must be considered to be one of the leading riders following his recent brilliant performance in the Coca Cola 800.

He finished outright third in the event, riding only a 650cc machine against bikes exceeding 1100cc.

Although the Australian Grand Prix unlimited title is not ridden on the same type of bike, Roebuck is in possession of one of the most

powerful open class bikes to be built, a Yamaha TZ 750.

However, Roebuck is one of the favorites in the 750cc Production race.

His Ducati Pantah performed brilliantly in the Coca Cola 800, and against bikes of similar capacity to shine.

His main challenge in this event will come from the Honda 750s of Alan Blanco and Tony Sims, the Suzuki 750 of Rod Cox and the Kawasakis of Rick Mingay and Max Thompson.

The 750cc production race will be run in conjunction with the unlimited production race on Sunday.

Paul Feeney is relatively new to solo riding.

At Bathurst last year he was the "passenger" with Ray Spence on their sidcar.

Their best performance was a third in the unlimited Australian sidcar champion after misfortune earlier in the day which possibly robbed them of a national title.

Feeney is expected to push some of the bigger names in Australian bike racing.

In the Coca Cola he was leading the field for several laps before mechanical woes set in.

Peter Martin will ride in the 350cc B grade event on Saturday among other starts.

Spence should also figure well in the standings after his first recent state title at Amaran Park with new passenger, Laurie Nicholls.

New Zealander David Hiscock and local production ace John Pace are expected to stage the closest ever battle for the Arat 500 on Saturday.

Hiscock will be riding a Formula One Suzuki, similar to that on which world champion Graeme Crosby won the Swann Insurance series in Australia late last year.

Pace will be on a Moriwaki Kawasaki — the most powerful motorcycle ever raced in Australia.

Both bikes can also compete in the Australian Unlimited Grand Prix.

They will race against the sophisticated 750cc Grand Prix bikes of defending champion Andrew Johnson and South Australian Greg Pretty.

The four stroke Formula One bikes and the two stroke grand prix machines are expected to be evenly matched at Mt Panorama.

● Lee Roebuck (right) is pictured yesterday with his mechanic Steve Parlett and his Ducati Pantah which he will ride at Bathurst this weekend.

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16th June, 1981

Mr. L. Roebuck,
Lee Roebuck Motorcycles,
20-22 Verner Street,
GOULBURN. N.S.W. 2580

Dear Mr. Roebuck,

I refer to your letter of the 26th May, 1981 addressed to Mr. R. Whyman in our Melbourne office regarding motor cycle racing sponsorship, which has been referred to me for action.

Unfortunately, due to budgetary restrictions to both cash and travel we are unable to take up this sponsorship. I am returning herewith your press clippings and photograph.

We thank you for bringing this opportunity to our attention and trust that you will have a most successful season.

Yours sincerely,



A. O'TOOLE,
Commercial Manager, N.S.W.

Encl.

23 RD OCTOBER 1980

GOULBURN PAIR WELL PLACED AT SURFERS

Two Goulburn motor cyclists travelled to Queensland last weekend to compete in the road racing section of Speed Week '80 at the Surfers Paradise International Raceway.

The pair, Lee Roebuck and Paul Feeney both returned with good performances to their credit.

Roebuck competed in the Formula 350 series, using wet-weather tyres on his TZ Yamaha for the first leg, which was held in rain.

His main challengers were Queenslanders Rodney Brown and Dave Robbins, both of whom fell in attempting to hold the lead. Roebuck won the leg.

Leg two, the last race on the program was held in almost dry conditions and Lee, still running wet-weather tyres, which do not work on a dry track, was forced into third place.

However, this still gave him overall first in the series and the Rob Lambert Memorial Trophy.

Paul Feeney, recently upgraded to C grade, competed in the Queensland Superbike Series.

Riding for the first time in the rain he gained 7th place in the first leg. Immediately before leg two of the series he rode in the C grade unlimited race, and finished second after an electrical failure.

Quick work on the part of his mechanic Stephen Horder and Roebuck's mechanic Steve Parlett saw him back on the line for the

next race with a new coil.

He rode in for a third place in the second leg of the series giving him an overall third in the series, finishing behind two times Australian champion Dave Robbins and team Kawasaki's Jim Budd.

In the B grade unlimited championship he suffered the same problem as Lee Roebuck, due to running wet-weather tyres in the dry, but still gained a third place.

Both riders will compete at Oran Park on November 23 in the first round of the Swamp Series and the Belray Superbike Series.



Lee Roebuck holds the Rob Lambert Memorial Trophy, his prize for winning the Formula 350 motor cycle series at the Surfers Paradise last weekend.

20TH JANUARY 1981

THREE IN RICHEST CLASSIC

Three Goulburn motorcyclists will compete in the richest long distance race in Australia next month.

Lee Roebuck, Paul Feeney and Peter Martin will race on February 22 against some of the best Australian and international riders in the Coca-Cola 800 km classic.

There is almost \$27,000 up for grabs at the Oran Park circuit, situated near Sydney, and racing will last 6½ hours.

The outright winner will receive \$7000.

Martin, a well known local road racer, is making a comeback after a short break due to injuries sustained while in Queensland.

Normally mounted on a Grand Prix machine, Martin will switch his attention to riding a production machine in the Coca-Cola classic.

He will team with fellow Canberra Road Racing Club member Mike Howard. They will ride Mark's privately owned Suzuki GSX 1100 and will be backed by the Goulburn Power Centre.

Martin said he was particularly grateful for this support and hoped he and Howard would do the investment justice.

Lee Roebuck, one of the most successful Goulburn riders, will ride a Ducati with Sydney-based rider, Steve Fisher.

Roebuck, a former 125 cc Australian champion, and Fisher, well known for his exploits in production racing with Color 7, should fare well in the race.

The pair are being sponsored by Color 7 and Norm Fraser Motorcycles, of Homebush.

A special factory kit will be flown out from Italy for the team, and

should arrive any day, Roebuck said.

He and Fisher will be competing in the 750 cc class.

"We took the bike for a test on Saturday and we should have a good chance of a high placing in the 750 class," Roebuck said.

"We may even run well in the open class, but are not really expecting to," he added.

"But then again, you never know. In these type of races a lot of the big bikes do not finish as the race is about 6½ hours long."

Paul Feeney will ride his recently purchased Kawasaki ZIR 1000 cc superbike, formerly owned by champion, Graeme Crosby.

The bike, undoubtedly is one of the fastest in Australia.

If his form at Sandown, Victoria, is maintained, Feeney should be well placed in the field.

He is expected to name his co-rider soon.

With the backing of Ralph Hannon, one of Australia's foremost bike tuners, Feeney is sure to be in the running for the \$7000 first prize.