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Luke Ellery Crowned 2008 Victorian Formula Ford 1600 Series Champion

After a year of consistent performances, 2009 CAMS Rising Star member, Luke Ellery, has achieved his 2008 goal by winning the Victorian Formula Ford 1600 Series by winning the final round at Phillip Island.

Going into the round with a 24 point lead over second placed Andrew Beams, Ellery knew it was going to be a tough fight for the series but was confident with the team's preparation leading into the round.

Ellery started the weekend on the pace securing a front row grid start in second position behind a hard charging Beams.

With a scorching ambient temperature of 31 degrees greeting the drivers for race 1, the pace was sure to be hot. Ellery started well but Beams had the jump from the start. With an engine temperature problem sapping valuable power from Luke's car, he was lucky to finish close behind Beams in second place and hold off a hard charging Tom Tweedie.

Race 2 saw Ellery turn the tables on Beams and keep his title chances alive in a dominating performance that saw him lead from the start.

"The team rectified a radiator issue that was causing some power loss in race 1 so I was confident I would be back on the pace and able to stay ahead of the pack", said Ellery.

With one win apiece to Beams and Ellery it was down to the final 10 lap race to see who would take out the championship.

Race 3 was welcomed with a rain shower causing some confusion for teams finalising car setups. By race start, the rain had stopped and the track was drying. Ellery started in pole and did not look back taking race 3 and securing the championship.

"It was the hardest race I have ever raced. I knew Beams was going to fight til the end but I concentrated on running my own race and managed to stay in front. The chequered flag was a welcome sight".

Luke Ellery dominated the season, appearing on the podium 14 times with 9 race wins, 4 second places and 1 third place.

Ellery is hoping to take his good form into next year where he will be competing in the National Formula Ford Championship as a member of the CAMS Rising Star team.

Luke would like to thank his family for their ongoing support, major sponsor National Metal Recyclers, Borland Racing Developments, Larner Engines, the Australian Motor Sport Foundation, CAMS, and the Rising Star partners including the Australian Sports Commission, BRD, Biante Model Cars, OAMPS Insurance Brokers, Mark Webber, Stand 21 Australia, Fleetwood Print Group, Just Cars, Robert Bosch (Australia), Kings Fibreglass and McBadges.

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