

RICHARDS TEAM *MOTORSPORT*

V8 Supercar test will fire up Bristow

As many of the summer series championships come down to the wire there will be a hand full of drivers on a mission at Pukekohe Park Raceway this weekend. Fresh from his first V8 Supercar test with Supercheap Auto Racing, Michael Bristow will be straight off the plane tonight ready for practice in the BNT V8's Friday morning.

Simply his mission is to catapult his team up the order as far as possible by gaining as many points as possible in the final three races.

While John McIntyre (1022 points) and Kayne Scott (984 points) battle for the number one podium there will be several contests going on behind them.

Craig Baird (856) will contest third spot with Andy Booth (827) while Paul Manuell (738) may well have to settle for fifth in the series.

After this comes a group of six drivers all within 100 points of each other that will squabble for the last five spots in the top ten. Bristow (558 points) in eleventh has nothing to lose and will no doubt be in the right mindset to take on this awesome task.

In front of him are Angus Fogg (655), Eddie Bell (605), Paul Pedersen (590), Adam Brook (569) and Andrew Anderson (564). The outcome will be determined by who is quickest in qualifying and then able to stay on the track ahead of the others in the three races.

"Friday qualifying is everything", said Bristow before he left for Australia. "It can determine your position for the rest of the weekend." The experience of testing a V8 Supercar now gives him a new edge to his performance, one that could successfully catapult his team further up the leader board.

This weekend's event, the Hydralink Grand Finals is the seventh and final round of competition for the BNT V8's this season. Starting back in Taupo at the beginning of October 2008 the series will conclude this weekend.