

# LEONARD RACING TEAM



**ROSS LEONARD - STOCKCAR 94B**

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Well the North Island Champs are done and dusted, well done to all who made the meeting, great to catch up with so many of you, and it's really the people who make Stockcar racing what it is. Our Champs didn't start off too well as on Thursday night I went to drive the car onto the trailer, pushed in the clutch and nothing happened, no clutch!

Sitting in the car I can't see anything so I had to call the crew over, get them to see what's happening when I pushed the clutch in, as it turned out, nothing was happening! The boys followed the trail of brake fluid and found a split in the line, ok could be worse, the hose is a one off made set up, so would have to get one made Friday morning, I had work Friday so another job for the trusty crew, thanks boys!

So Friday arvo I just had to turn up at the track, the car was there waiting all fixed, had a drive in the first practice on a wet track, really just wanted to test the new fan belts and timing of the engine, all was good for the first race. We knew we would need to drive clean and stay on track to get thru, that was the plan, all was going good until a right rear shock broke, once too often into the pit wall for that one, I was about 5th when it broke and got home in 8th. Not too bad from grid 16.

Second race I was spun at the start, lost the new fan belt, then the clutch! Bugger. The car got hot but lucky for me there were no red lights and I got home. To my surprise I was told I was sitting sixth on points going into the last heat, so after some hot work on the car getting a new fan belt on, we were set, the hydraulic thrust bearing had seized and fried the seals, so no clutch, I just stuck it in gear and pushed the starter, I new I would get a push of the line! Got a good start until I was spun, again! I think I was doing ok, there were a lot of cars falling out and spinning them self in the big rut in the pit bend, I seemed to be passing a few, then it happened, my right rear wheel just broke, in all my years racing I've never seen anything like it, the welds held and it's torn the center out of the rim, see the pics (below this newsletter), and yes I have heard the weld jokes, but I can assure you I did not find them too funny on the night!

I heard later some parts hit a young man in the leg, sorry dude, hope your ok. So that was Friday night over, we were just left wondering, like a hundred other guys, what could have been, the car was going good, I felt I was driving it pretty good, lady luck just did a runner on us, lol.

I spent all day, yes ALL day fixing the clutch on Saturday, thanks heaps to Paul Demanser for the parts to get me up and running, I had fun racing Saturday night, we are really happy with how the cars running, best the engine has run since building the car so we are looking forward to being back up the front next club night, bye for now.

*Ross Leonard  
94B.*

