



Media Release

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HIGHS AND LOWS FOR DOWEL IN FOREST RALLY

Stage win, followed by mechanical woes for Lancer Evo IX driver

Justin Dowel and Matt Lee have won their first stage in an Australian Rally Championship event, but have had a disappointing day in Heat 1 of the Quit Forest Rally, round two of the 2010 ARC.

Driving their Activ RallySport Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX, the heat started brilliantly for the Victorian duo, but mechanical problems put paid to a good result, and they finished the day in ninth place.

Based in Busselton south of Perth, the Forest Rally began on Friday night with two tarmac stages around the city's foreshore.

Dowel was immediately on form, finishing third on special stage one, and then winning stage two – his first Australian Rally Championship stage victory.

However, once the rally moved on to the gravel roads around Nannup on Saturday morning, a broken rear driveshaft quickly put paid to their hopes of a good result.

The Active RallySport team quickly replaced the driveshaft and the centre differential and Dowel was fifth fastest on the following two stages, but a two minute and 20 second penalty for being late out of service dropped them further down the leader board.

A hard push through the final stages of the day enabled him to recover to finish the day in ninth place.

While it was far from the result that the team had hoped for after Friday's night's highs, they are hoping for a much better Heat 2 on Sunday.

"It was looking so good last night, but this morning proved just how quickly your fortunes can change," Dowel said.



"The driveshaft failure was totally unexpected, but we have another day of rallying tomorrow and the plan is to get as many points as we can from Heat 2.

"We've changed the rear differential at service tonight, so we're hoping that everything runs well tomorrow."

The Heat was won by Mitsubishi driver Scott Pedder, who finished the day 20.1 seconds clear of Subaru driver, Simon Evans. Darren Windus took third place in a Toyota Corolla S2000, followed by young guns Ryan Smart (Toyota) and Nathan Quinn (Mitsubishi).

Heat 2 of the Quit Forest Rally starts tonight with another two runs around the tarmac super special stage in Busselton, before eight more gravel stages around Nannup tomorrow.

Quit Forest Rally

Heat 1 results

1. Scott Pedder / Jon Mortimer, Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX, 1h03m25.1s
2. Simon Evans / Sue Evans, Subaru Impreza WRX, +20.1s
3. Darren Windus / John Allen, Toyota Corolla S2000, +1m35.2s
4. Ryan Smart / Rebecca Smart, Toyota Corolla Sportivo, +2m28.3s
5. Nathan Quinn / David Green, Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX, +2m45.2s

9. Justin Dowel / Matt Lee, Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX, +5m23.6s

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