

The Strathalbyn Festival of Motorcycling held the inaugural Kenny Blake Scholarship Award night at the Strathalbyn Football Club on Saturday October 24.

This award is designed to assist a young SA rider in their road racing career. A package of financial support and riding skills support has been developed to allow the chosen winner of the award to fully develop their potential over the next two competition seasons.

The Mayor of the Alexandrina Council, Keith Parkes, presented 18 year old Dallas Skeer from Millicent with the Award in recognition of his outstanding achievements in the Road Racing category of Motorcycle sport.

Dallas during the 2021 and 2022 competition years will receive the following benefits from the Award-

- Competition licence fees arranged by Motorcycling SA
- Attendance at an Elite Rider Training Camp, where the emphasis is on the non riding skills of motorsport, such as health, nutrition, mental preparation for competition, media training. Also provided by Motorcycling SA.
- Riding apparel not already sponsored, such as gloves and boots.
- Assistance with race entry fees, a large part of any racing budget.
- Riding skills training provided by the California Superbike School Australia Pty Ltd

During racetrack themed dinner, Dallas provided the audience with an illustrated history of his career to date, starting with an 80cc machine when he was twelve, grading to a 125cc a few years later, to his current Suzuki 600cc production racer.

Dallas was supported by some of his racing team at the dinner, including his obviously proud father, also a former motorcycle sport competitor.

A former racer of the Blake era, Ivan "Snowy" Ardill was at the dinner and gave some interesting pieces of commentary during the dinner. Snowy was a Blake teammate when they were on the Jesser Triumphs.

An unexpected reunion also took place when MotorcyclingSA President, Brenton Matters, met up with local Phil Robinson. They had known each other decades ago when both were motorcycling competitors.

On display at the dinner were Dallas's current Suzuki 600 racer (No 86), as well as a Ken Blake 350cc machine (No 6). Interestingly one well known name in the motorcycle world, Ron Angel, connected the two machines. Ron Angel was Ken Blake's bike tuner, and now is a sponsor of Dallas.

At the end of the evening attendees were given a bottle of Bleasdale wine signed by Dallas, to be opened only when Dallas wins his first 600cc Australian title.