



# The Motorsport NZ Elite Academy Newsletter. September 2017.

## News from the Trust.

Welcome to the first of the Class of 2017's newsletters.

Like always you will find the words here are directly written from each of the graduates for you as this is very much their newsletter and their chance to share with you all what they are currently up to. As Trustees we are equally excited on the performances this group brought to the camp and post camp as well. They yet again set another great standard and represent the values of the Academy fully. It's wonderful to see the depth we are getting once again within the sport. Welcome from the class of 2017 and enjoy the first of the updates from them.

### *Samantha Gray*

Hi everyone, since attending the Elite Motorsport Academy, I have had a very busy couple of months!

Three rallies with three different drivers as well as another rally coming up on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September with yet another different driver. On top of all that I've attended a 3-day academy run by Rally New Zealand for Co-drivers. I've started seeing most of my providers organised through the academy, which are really helping me improve my co-driving and myself.

The weekend of August 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> I competed in my first event in the North Island with Nathan Tough in an Honda CRX, this was only our first event together and we managed to place on the podium in 3<sup>rd</sup> within Category 2 of the New Zealand Rally Championship.

Unfortunately, my mainland season with Keith Anderson has come to a halt after Nelson Rally where we rolled off the road and down a bank and the car is taking longer than expected to fix.

Sam.





## *Jordan Baldwin*

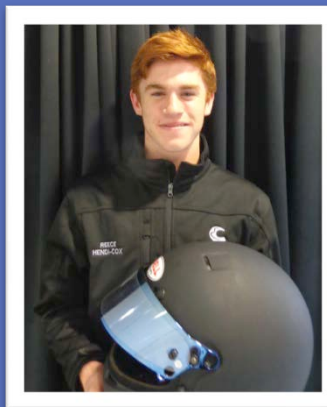
Upon returning home from the 2017 Elite Motorsport Academy, I have been working hard on my IPP, meeting with providers, constantly improving and building on the knowledge I gained from this year's Academy. After coming out as top graduate, I was given the opportunity to feature live on Radio Sport with fellow kiwi Shane Van Gisbergen, where the media skills I learnt during my week in Dunedin were put straight to use.

I am also extremely excited to have announced our naming right sponsor for the 2017/18 Toyota TR86 season, Novus Auto Glass have come on board, who I look forward to building a relationship with and providing them the best possible exposure I can throughout the season. I have received continued support from Applied Machinery NZ, and P&S Autocentre, who were sponsors during this year's North Island endurance series. As well as recently being selected as a brand ambassador for Pure Delish. I am very grateful for the support I have received and continue to receive in my motorsport career, I wouldn't be on the track without the support.

Last month, I was invited to be involved in the 2017 BMW scholarship day as a judge on the panel interview section, this was an awesome opportunity for me to give back to a scholarship I won last year and that has had a huge influence in my motorsport progression to date. (more below)

## *Reece Hendl-Cox*

After the Elite Motorsport academy I have been focused on working on getting better in and out of the car we have completely rebuilt the car and have just got it back together and can't wait to get on the track to see how much the academy has helped me develop my skills.



Reece



On the racing side of things, post academy. I competed in the final round of the Eneos North Island endurance series, where we took the class round win as well as being the first Toyota 86 overall for the series and 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in class. I also had the Novus Toyota 86 at Pukekohe Raceway during the end of August, testing the new series controlled Hankook tire in preparation for our championship debut in November.

After just a couple of months since being back from the 2017 Academy, I have already noticed huge improvements in all aspects of my motorsport. The tools we have been provided in conjunction with the Elite Academy are world class and I look forward to continuing to develop myself both on and off the track.

Cheers

Jordan Baldwin – Camp Winner 2017.

cont.



Class of 2017 in Camp July 2017

### Catch Up with any of the Academy Class

With the rally season nearly over you still will have a chance to get out and see the Class of 2017 in rally events within the next few months. While on the trackside of things and the start of the circuit season looming there will be plenty of chances to get out and see those in action over the summer. Please take the time to stop by and say hello to these young stars of our sport a few simple words goes a very long way.

## Who is in the Class of 2017?

- Jordan Baldwin TR 86
- Kaleb Ngatoa Formula First
- Arran Crighton BMW Series
- Samantha Gray Rally Co Driver
- Jack Williamson Rally
- Job Quantock Rally
- Reece Hendl-Cox Formula First
- Sarah Brennan Rally Co Driver

*JACK WILLIAMSON*



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Rally Co drivers that formed part of the Class of 2017

2004

The year of the very first Elite Academy.  
Over 123 people from various forms of the sport have now been through the Academy process

### Class of 2018 Applications will open in coming months

[www.motorsport.org.nz/academy/elite-academy](http://www.motorsport.org.nz/academy/elite-academy)

Rally Coromandel was always going to be the highlight of the last few months as the Rally's are what we are working towards! While the rally didn't go our way and it can be tempting to say it was a rally to forget, there are many very important lessons that can still be taken away. We ran out of fuel on Special Stage one, which permanently damaged our fuel pump. This is something that cannot be repaired on the rally so we were forced to limp through the remaining 6 stages on 30% power. It was a pleasant surprise how well we managed to keep our time loss to a minimum and still placed reasonably well all things considered. We will regroup, repair the car and come out stronger for rally Waitomo in roughly 4 weeks!

Jack W



## Academy Snapshots.

A few snaps from the camp back in July as the class of 2017 assembled for the first time.



*SARAH BRENNAN*

After attending the camp in Dunedin in July I reflected a lot on what attributes that are needed to excel in my given field of Motorsport. The Elite Motorsport Academy provides me with resources now that I would not of been able to do on my own accord. I have now connected with all of my IPP providers and utilizing their recommendations for me in order to improve as an endurance athlete at a professional level.

In the first week of August I was fortunate enough to be able to be selected in the Rally New Zealand Co Drivers Academy. I felt more prepared and confident going into this academy as I could incorporate skills that were taught from the classes from the Elite Academy. Having done two Academy's in one month was an effort but also very rewarding as I am more prepared and have more knowledge with going into my next event.

The last weekend of August saw me at Rally of Coromandel where I was not competing, however working alongside Dale Budge from the NZ Herald. My task involved interviewing Co Drivers at the end of the stages, which had never been done as part of the Live Stream for NZRC crew. This to me was as challenging as competing as I really was pushed out of my comfort zone talking to people that I have never talked to or having to think under pressure for a capturing question. It gave me an insight into the media side as it is a busy job that requires a lot of thought and planning, however I really enjoyed that experience overall.

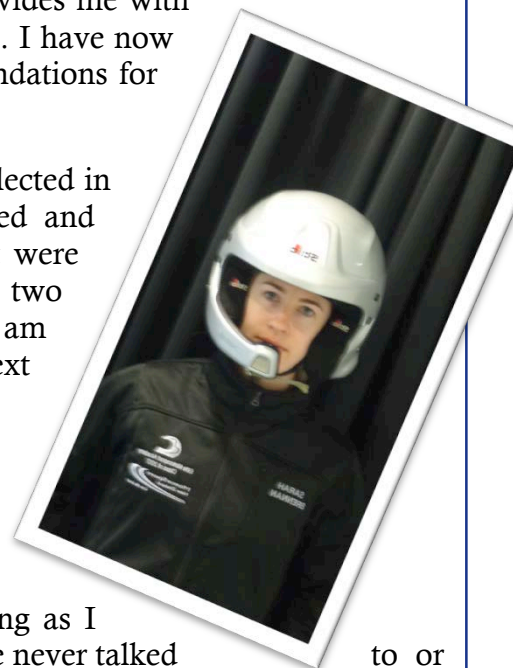
My next event competing is at the Royce Watson Memorial Hanmer Rally this weekend. I will be sitting with Dylan Turner in his newly built Audi AP4, which is any co drivers dream to be sitting in. I am absolutely excited to put my new skills into action as this is my first time hopping back into the car since Rally of Canterbury, Queens Birthday weekend. Many thanks,

Sarah

### **Would you like to Support the Trust?**

We welcome your support with tomorrow's future stars.

Contact Brian Budd for more information. (04) 815 8087 [brian@motorsport.org.nz](mailto:brian@motorsport.org.nz)



## ARRAN CRIGGTON

Since arriving back in Auckland from the New Zealand Motorsport Academy I have been hard at work continuing on from what I learnt at the week long camp in Dunedin. After reviewing my IPP and with meeting all my providers I now have strong plan to follow which will help me develop in some areas where I know I can improve. My fitness has gone from strength to strength and I've been working hard on gaining some more sponsorship. I can also happily say that I have purchased a new car after deciding to move on from Formula First. This year I will be moving into the BMW E30 class. My main focus now is to get the car ready for the first round of the championship, which takes place on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September. With so much going on right now I have to thank the Academy for what they have provided thus far as it has really helped me manage everything. I look forward to all the new challenges that come in the following year!



**Job Quantock**

Hey everyone! It has been a busy few weeks recently preparing for our latest event Rally Coromandel. The day started really well running in the top 10, unfortunately it wasn't our day with a few minor technical difficulties holding us back and finishing 25th overall. We still achieved our main goal of finishing the event and learning these new roads for next year. Off the track I have been concentrating a lot on nutrition and working on plans for 2017. Up next we have Hanmer Rally, which is my favourite local rally, then back to the next NZRC round where we are competing in the Hyundai New Zealand AP4+ car, which we are really looking forward to!

Thanks Job

## Kaleb Ngatua

Hi Everyone  
Since the Elite Motorsport Academy I've been able to complete two test days in the Formula First with the first round of the summer series storming along fast. I had the opportunity to race again for Praga New Zealand at the Kartsport National Schools. After have not been a kart for 7 months the team was happy to come away with the 2nd and am now looking at competing later on in the year with Praga again. I've been able to secure some funding to help out preparing the car and to help along the way of the summer series racing. I am also still working along with the Elite Motorsport Academy throughout the year still learning and gaining experience from fellow drivers and instructors and would still like to give a big thanks to all the support I have been giving and the opportunity to have been in the 2017 class of the Elite Motorsport Academy.

Cheers,

