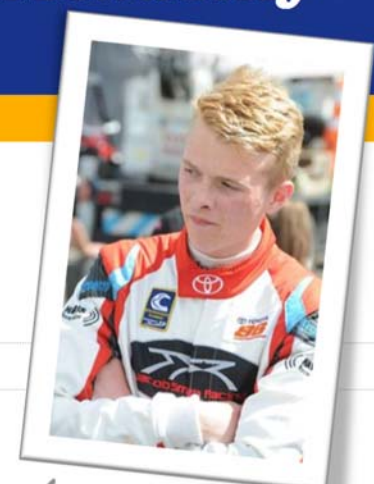


The Motorsport NZ Elite Academy Newsletter.

News from the Trust.

Welcome to the first of the Class of 2016's newsletters. They are written directly from each of the graduates for you. The aim is to inform you on what they are currently up to and to share the on going support for them and the work of the academy.



Jacob Smith TR 86

With a lot of hard work in the off season fresh out of the 2016 Elite Motorsport Academy, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to compete in the 2016/17 New Zealand Toyota 86 Championship. To have another crack at the Championship again was my main target for this seasons racing and I couldn't wait for the first round at the ITM Super sprint at Pukekohe along side the V8 Supercars for on the 4th-6th of November.

Being back in the Tony Richards Toyota 86 with the support of Hamilton Asphalts, Post Haste Couriers, Smart Electronic Services, FreeM New Zealand and Panasonic New Zealand was awesome and I can't thank all my sponsors enough for their support with my endeavors this season.

After having a successful practice session on the Friday morning at the first round at the V8's I made a costly error during qualifying in the afternoon going into turn 2 which saw me collide heavily with the tire barrier on the outside of the track. A simple error of going into the corner too fast to find a couple of tenths to get pole position resulted in the car having some substantial panel damage and steering damage on the left hand side of the car. The team worked extremely hard to get the car race ready over night for race one on Saturday but it just wasn't our weekend. In race one the car in front of me lost

control at turn one and rejoined the track at turn 2 hitting me and sending me back into the tire barrier which I found the day before.

This time the damage was a bit more serious so unfortunately we had to pull the plug on the weekend. It was time to forget and move on from the weekend and focus on the next round in December.

Although it wasn't the best weekend in terms of results I had to focus on the positives which was meeting my incredible fans and sponsors who always keep me in high spirits. I can't thank everyone enough for their support and I hope to do you all proud at the next round of the championship. My sights are now set on getting back on track and doing my best at Taupo in December to fight my way back up the Championship ladder! Cheers,

Jacob Smith



Since my time at the New Zealand Elite Motorsport Academy in Dunedin I have been working, training and developing myself non-stop; among other aspects and visits to my IPP providers I have been concentrating really hard on my fitness and sponsorship. I have been able to secure some more sponsors for the coming season and future. My fitness has improved out of sight with the help of Alastair from Formula Fit. I raced some endurance rounds in the SsangYong Super Ute, which has been challenging, but fantastic to be able to make the next step up. The first round of the SsangYong Series kicked off last weekend the 4th and 5th of November, as I work for my main sponsor which at times puts me in a very sticky situation, It has been really tough juggling work and racing as I work big hours and always find myself stuck between the two, but I was able to keep my head together qualify 4th position and come away with a podium in the first race. I am always on the lookout for new opportunities and the slightest chance of a door opening I stick my foot in until it does. I am working on securing a drive in Europe next year. There are big things ahead for me and it's up to me to make it happen. I do know for a fact that without the help and what I have been able to take away from the academy what I have achieved since would not of happened.



Alexandra Whitley
SsangYong Racing Series



Michael McLean

Since the eventful rally in Coromandel where I unfortunately rolled my car, I have been very busy repairing and prepping the car for the 2017 NZRC. While the rebuild is underway I am working hard on pre-season duties like sponsorship and fitness. Recently I was lucky enough to be named as one of the 6 future stars to attend the class room day for the Hyundai New Zealand young driver shoot out scholarship, alongside the 5 shootout winners. This is a great opportunity to learn from Hayden Paddon and John Kennard. My next event will be leadfoot festival on the 4th-5th of February so if you are attending come and say hi."



Kieran Anstis Rally

Hey Everyone, with all the circuit racers getting ready for their summer season mine is pretty much over for the year!! I have recently competed in the Targa New Zealand Regional rally racing around the Hawkes Bay Region where we came away with a 4th overall finish. My first full Ho at the New Zealand Rally Championship with Jono Shapley came to a sad end after breaking down on the first stage of the final event ending our chances of runner up in the championship. But it was an incredible year nonetheless with plenty of skills learnt and my first New Zealand Rally Championship podium in Dunedin. My final event is this month competing in the famous James Allen Memorial Rally Sprint with Matt Jensen where I am excited to put more of my skills learnt at the Elite Motorsport Academy into practice. I have yet to confirm my plans for 2017 but they are soon to be announced :)

cont.

When visiting a racetrack this summer for the Speed Works Series take the time to look out for any of the Class of 2016. You will easily find them, as each graduate will be flying the Elite Motorsport Academy flag out side their respective pit area. Stop in and say hi and support these drivers it means a lot to them.



Jaxon Evans in action at Highlands Park

The Class of 2016

For those of you not sure just who makes up the class of 2016 here they sare once again.

Jacob Smith TR 86

Connor Adam TR86

Jaxon Evans Carrera Cup

Hunter McElrea Formula Ford

Alexandra Whitley SsangYong Racing Series

Michael McLean Rally

Kieran Anstis Rally

Brock Cooley Touring Car

13

That's the number of years the Elite Motorsport Academy has been going.

114

That's correct 114 of New Zealand's young talent have attended the Academy since it began.

Since the end of the week long Elite Motorsport Academy camp held in Dunedin earlier this year, Connor Adam and his support team which consists of his family and the highly successful team at International Motorsport, have managed to complete multiple test sessions in the team's TR86 Racecar at Pukekohe and Hampton Downs before competing in Connor's first ever Race car event at the ITM 400 which was held Nov 4-6 at Pukekohe Raceway. After qualifying 13th out of 17 cars Connor managed to finish the round in 11th place which the team and himself were all very happy with for a first Race meeting in a car after moving up from shifter karts. Connor and the team now turn their focus to sourcing funding and preparing themselves for the next round of the TR86 championship in Taupo in December, which they wish to compete at as well. None of this would have been possible without the Elite Motorsport Academy, International Motorsport and Weigh Northland and Connor feels he owes a lot to these supporters and others.



Connor Adam TR 86

**Class of 2017 Applications
Now Open**

www.motorsport.org.nz/academy/elite-academy

Jaxon Evans

I finished 2nd in the Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge here in Australia since leaving the academy and also taking out the prestigious Jim Richards Endurance Trophy. You may of seen that I was offered to race a Lamborghini R-EX at Highlands Motorsport Park for the last round of the Australian GT championship. I finished a credible 5th and 8th in the 2 sprint races against some much more experienced guys. Then went on to qualify 4th for the 101 lap race on Sunday. I'm heading to Bathurst in late November to take part in the challenge Bathurst event, having a drive of both the 991 Carrera Cup Car and a Lamborghini R-EX ahead of next year.



Well it has been a busy last couple of months for me with 2 test days in my new Super Tourer to prepare for the upcoming season. Both days went really well getting 120 laps in at Manfeild over the 2 days. We had the first round at Pukekohe as part of the V8 supercar meeting, which was a shocker of a weekend for our whole team. We now look forward to a test day at Taupo in late November to get our season back on track at round 2 in Taupo early December. I was also invited to race in Pre 65 at memorial race for my Dad in his car, and scoring pole, a race win and 2nd is always a good weekend. I always enjoy going to do some club racing.

Brock Cooley



Would you like to Support the Trust.

Contact Brian Budd

On (04) 815 8087

brian@motorsport.org.nz

Hi everyone,

I recently just had an awesome weekend racing at the final round of the 2016 QLD State Formula Ford Championship.

I was able to clean sweep the weekend (my 4th straight round win of the series), which included getting pole position by a second! After a 13-week break, it felt great to be racing again and have my mechanic Tom over from NZ, which was great.

I would really like to thank all my sponsors; especially my naming rights sponsor Eximm and my awesome primary sponsors Torus Networks, Objective, Miles and Doric.

It was also cool to win the Catalina Chase (Top recognised open wheel driver in QLD) as well. I am also really proud to announce to all my sponsors and supporters that I will be driving for Sonic Motor Racing in the 2017 National Formula Ford championship. Sonic is the most successful FF team in Australian history and I am determined to win the national championship for them in 2017. I will be testing with them in the next few weeks so I will let you know how I go. Many thanks from Hunter.

