

national scene

edited by



Grant Rowley

Win in this Test in this



John Morris/Apple

NSW Formula Ford V8 test incentive announced

V8 SUPERCAR team Tasman Motorsport will offer a test drive of its VY Commodore to the winner of a 'Search for a V8 Superstar' competition within the 2005 New South Wales Formula Ford series.

The amazing prize is just one of many new initiatives offered to entrants of the state series. The NSW Formula Ford Championship will command solid television exposure next year, as well as added bonuses for entrants who commit to the entire six round competition, held at Oran Park, Eastern Creek and Wakefield Park.

Tasman team manager Jon Matthews is confident the link with a Formula Ford championship

will be beneficial for both.

"It's good to be able to put something back into the sport whenever you can," he said.

"Many of the younger guys get involved in the sport with the dream of one day being invited to drive a V8 Supercar. We want to bring that dream a step closer and who knows – we might uncover a star in the making."

The man behind the project, Wensley Carroll from Xcellerate Sports Management, has secured the category its own television package on FOX Sports and SBS, which will comprise of six, 30 minute programs, solely dedicated to the series. The FOX Sports coverage

will be broadcast in prime-time.

Carroll says the cooperation between a state Formula Ford series and an up-and-coming V8 Supercar team fits perfectly.

"This association is quite strategic in that it provides an affordable, and easily definable path through to Australia's top category for the young racecar drivers," he said.

"This is a major step forward for the premier V8 feeder category."

To have a chance at the Tasman test, entrants will pay a competition entry fee of just \$3,000.

As part of the rejuvenated

NSW series, drivers will receive a fitness program, discounted accommodation and meals, driver management and education as well as a trackside masseuse at each round (not to mention the V8 test chance).

Stand 21 Racegear, AirXtreme Art helmet designs and Scooteria have also lent their support to the initiative.

Carroll plans to expand the series to incorporate rounds in Victoria in 2006.

– GRANT ROWLEY

For more information on the series, contact Wensley @ Xcellerate Sports Management. (0414 434 369)

Perkins confirmed for Aussie Racing assault

by GRANT ROWLEY

JACK Perkins will drive in the Aussie Racing Car Championship next season in Castrol colours.

Jack, the son of motor racing legend Larry Perkins, will suit up in identical Castrol colours to his father's V8 Supercar team livery. The new-for-2005 Castrol colour scheme will be launched in February, where both the Supercars and the Aussie Racer will be unveiled together.

The VY Aussie Racing Car Jack will drive will be completed before Christmas, and he'll test the car in early January in plain livery.

Perkins Jr. will also compete in the Victorian Formula Ford series in his self-prepared Formula Ford next year.

The 18-year-old has just completed rebuilding the engine



Confirmed starter:
Jack Perkins will drive in a Aussie Racing Commodore VY in Castrol Perkins colours next year.

2005 ARC Calendar

Rd1	March 17/20	Clipsal 500, Adelaide
Rd2	May 14/15	Wakefield Park
Rd3	May 27/29	Eastern Creek
Rd4	July 22/24	Queensland Raceway
Rd5	August 12/14	Oran Park
Rd6	September 9/11	Sandown 500
NC	October 20/23	Surfers Paradise
Rd7	November 11/13	Symmons Plains

and plans to test his ex-Steven Ellery Van Diemen RF92 before Christmas at Calder Raceway.

Meanwhile, negotiations continue between Aussie Racing Car owner Phil Ward and

potential junior drivers for the prized seats in the WPS and Valvoline-liveried cars for next season. An announcement on those drivers is expected before the end of the year.

Aussie Racing Cars has also nailed down its 2005 calendar.

The popular series will compromise seven championship rounds and is scheduled to start on the Clipsal 500 support bill. The pint-sized Supercars will again compete in a non-championship race at Surfers Paradise before their inaugural journey to Tasmania's Symmons Plains for the last round of the series.

And the categories television package has been beefed-up, with a larger slot confirmed on Network 10's *Trackside* program. Up to four in-car cameras will be in operation at each round.

National futu



THE future of national motorsport was up in the air as Motorsport News went to press on Monday.

Both the Premier Racing Series and the newly-formed Australian Motor Racing Series are vying for the chance to co-ordinate and administer most of the national-based motorsport categories in Australia, including Formula 3, Formula 4000, Australian Production Cars, Commodore Cup, TranZams, the Touring Car Challenge, *above*, Saloon Cars and Superkarts.