



DRAG RACING SHOW

McDonalds Windsor Park In Mairangi Bay, AKL hosted the first ever Windsor Park Festival of Horsepower on Sunday Sept 11th.

From Ian Wilkins Pics by Mal Bain

THIS WAS a display of drag racing vehicles free to the public to meet the drivers/riders and get a close-up look at some first-class quarter mile missiles. Everything from junior dragster to top doorslammer was represented with vehicles in varying degrees of preparation for the upcoming season.

Highlights were the Smythe family's blown hemi powered front engine dragster, and Gavin Oram's nitrous Chev powered Plymouth Arrow fired up periodically with McDonald's management and some members of the public getting a seat in these cars. All exited these vehicles with big smiles and shaky legs, and a newfound idea of what drag racers are really about....fast, fun and family.

Steve Levine of Imagin-airing custom art was demonstrating his considerable skill, pinstriping a guitar and the Smythe dragster in front of impressed onlookers. His latest paintjob on the Afterburner drag bike was on display too, with realistic flames you need to see to believe. Lead-up to the event was marred by the local church which uses a portion of the large car park, expressing disapproval at such a

gathering, however, a dramatic about face occurred when they bore witness to the calibre of vehicles which began arriving at around 8am, and the friendly nature of the drivers, even to the point of the church minister apparently suggesting the congregation attend the show after their service and stick their hands in their pockets for Ronald McDonald House, for which a gold coin donation was promoted at the show.

This is a great thing for competition drag racing in New Zealand, truly changing public opinion and proof that drag racers should take note of events like this and help promote this wonderful sport. All feedback on the event has been positive with a number of people asking about race dates and locations of tracks. Around 500 people braved what appeared to be a poor day weather-wise through the rest of the city, with nothing more than threats of rain throughout the day at the show.

Tibiscus rodders decided it was a nice day for a cruise, and it was great to see some really nice hot rods wow the public as they parked up, proof that you can have show and go on the road and the dragstrip.

In thanks for those who brought their vehicles to the event here they are; Mike Wittevene, Mark Bardsley, Tynan family, Dave Levene, Sam Levene, Glen Suckling, Gavin Oram, Glenn Daniels and family, Kelly Rence, Dave Vazic, Richard Ramsey, Athol Williams, Smythc family, Les Herst, and myself Ian Wilkins! If I have missed you out please email me and let me know atmos@xtra.co.nz. Everyone's efforts to get there are appreciated, especially that early morning rise on a Sunday!

McDonalds are looking to repeat the event on a larger scale Saturday Feb 11th 2006 and will be marketing the event considerably. This will be a good lead-up to the NZDRA nationals and a good chance for racers to help build record crowd so email me or phone me 09-441-7997 to get your vehicle there for the sport and your sponsors.

Thanks to the Hayde family, franchisees of McDonalds Windsor Park and McDonalds Belmont for providing the location, lunch and marketing, and for being open to the idea. We all look forward to the next one, and wishing a fast and safe season to all racers. Let's put on our best show yet.



Top Fuel Bike Emigrates to NZ



RESIDENT Kiwi Athol Williams has just bought Chris Hannam's Top Fuel Bike from the UK. In January 2005 Athol saw the bike on the "Pit Lane Gossip" forum on Ian King's website where he noticed

Chris 'Cannon' Hanam's plea for pit crew or sale of his Nitro scooter. The crew-up deal didn't eventuate so Athol seized the opportunity. The Puma Suzuki-powered bike was built by fuel guru Frank Brachtvogel and Puma's Pete Davis. The ride has already given Cannon his first six-second timing ticket at Gainesville a couple of seasons ago.

Well known as a motorbike nut, Athol crewed on Mike Gearing's top fuel dragster for 8 to 10 years. He plans to run the 5 televised drag meetings in New Zealand then he's off to Australia to run the Winternationals at Willowbank next year, once he gets to grips with this awesome Bike (which Chris and a few of

the boys are going to show him how to ride and look after). He figures that 44 amp mags and billet heads will definitely be on the shopping list.

He intends to set up operation in a 40ft-high cube container on a new 41ft Ultra-lo Skel tri-axle trailer with a 2 ton tail lift, which will be towed behind a 2553 Mercedes Benz 6x4 tractor unit. Athol gives things 100% or not at all.

The New Zealand drag racing scene is really hotting up with Martin Peck's (UK) bike, Roger Bloore's self-built Funny bike, Doug Haye's nitro Harley, Richard Maunder's Pro mod and a number of others that can be seen on the www.dragbikenz.com site.

3 Kiwis 'Behind the Eight-ball'

3 Kiwis fly the flag crewing for a flathead powered roadster

'KROMIE', 'PJ' and 'Bear' (Chris Hancock, Peter Jenkins from Sulphur City, and Wayne Holmberg from Surf City) will return to Bonneville to help defend the XF/BGR record set last year by the # 808 'Eightball' Roadster owned by Costa Mesa based Ed Newett. They travelled over last year to crew for the Eightball Team which consists of owner Ed Newett, Engine Builder and crew chief Bob Anderson (known to many Kiwis as the guy who brought his Offy powered 'Speedway Delivery' 'A' Roadster Pickup out for the South Island Nats a few years back), and Driver Bob Owens.

The Eightball is a '29 A Roadster on '32 Rails running a bored and stroked 310 inch flat motor, Baron Heads, 4-71 blower, thru a T-5 Box to a 9" rear. Major sponsor is Orange County Harley Davidson, along with Bob Anderson for the engine.

They're off back over to do it all again and hopefully bump the record up a bit. Ed's fitted an intercooler, and this time there's a 6-71 to bolt on if needed. A huge thank you to Ed and Bob for their hospitality, for allowing the Kiwis to be a part of their team and part of their dream.

Report from Bear - Wayne Holmberg, Gisborne



Kromie warms the engine while Ed looks on.



The Kiwi Crew.



The Team, - Crew Chief Bob Anderson, Kromie, Jimmy 'Nutcracker', Colby Newett, Driver Bob Owens, PJ, Bear, Car Owner Ed Newett.

PRI SHOW

America's Performance Racing Industry Show will be staged over December 1, 2 and 3 this year. It's outgrown the former Superdome venue at Indianapolis and has moved to Florida where a 1 million sq ft cover will house six and a half thousand exhibitors. Amongst them will be a couple of Kiwis involved with an American icon unit catering to both drag racing and speedway, and the big news is that there's a direct NZ involvement being set up as you read this. We'll bring you the guts of it next issue, with a guarantee you'll all be very surprised.



Lakeside turf turning ceremony

As reported in our August issue the first dirt was officially turned at Lakeside. Here's (From L to R) Gavin McLaughlin and Bruce Macilquham from Lakeside International Dragway, Ian Bowater of Taupo Car Club, William Amstad of Champion Dragway and NZDRA's Chris Tynan.