

CARRMART

Power performance and pure grunt

MAGIC. Thunderous magic. Photographs of smoking rubber and men strapped to motorcycle rockets just cannot convey the spectacle and supercharged rush of the Winternationals.

You won't find it in print or on TV. The magic is there, trackside, along a slick strip of tar waiting for that final light on the Christmas tree to turn...green.

As energy explodes from engineering primed and pumped to extremes the exhibition of man and machine in sync jets down the road. For the uninitiated, the experience is about power, performance and nerves of steel igniting in thunderous wonder from the comfort of the mound with a warm burger in hand.

And the town's love affair with motorcycling continues this weekend and despite sharp rises in the price of fuel, or perhaps because of it, organisers are expecting a big crowd and hoping for fine weather. Day one was yesterday but an action-packed qualifying day is on the cards today leading up to the finals tomorrow.

Due to the high number of competitors, this year's schedule had to change with action commencing from 8am and running through till after 8pm this evening.

On Sunday the action kicks off again at 8am with early eliminations but the official opening ceremony – complete with F111 flyover – commences at around 2:30pm with feature racing from 3pm. General Admission is \$34 (\$20 student concession) with children under 13 admitted free.



Images: Michelle Smith

Fast and furious drifting slides into town

JUST weeks before the 2006 Toyo Drift Australia Series slides into town at Queensland Raceway, another drifting episode hits the cinema this week.

Following a significant increase in popularity with inclusion in video games such as *Need for Speed*, Hollywood has picked up the drifting theme. *The Fast and the Furious*:

Tokyo Drift is the latest installment in the growing car-enthusiast genre of movie entertainment.

Set in the sexy and colourful

underground world of Japanese drift racing, the newest and fastest customized rides go head-to-head on some of the most perilous courses in the world.

The story is about an American outsider who lives to drive. His racing provides a temporary escape from an unhappy home and the superficial world around him, but has made him unpopular with the local authorities. To avoid jail time, he is sent to

live with his gruff, estranged father, a career military man stationed in Tokyo.

Now officially a *gajin* (outsider), the character feels even more shut out in a land of foreign customs and codes of honor. But it doesn't take long for him to find some action when a fellow American buddy, Twinkie, introduces him to the underground world of drift racing.

For those still not sure what 'drifting' is about here's the definition from Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.com):

Drifting refers either to a driving technique utilizing a difference in slip angle between the front and rear tires of a car or to a sport based on the technique.

When the rear wheels are slipping at a greater angle than the front wheels, the car is drifting or oversteering. The rear end of the car appears to chase the front end around a turn, the driver utilizes both front tires and the rear tires to control the actual direction of the car. More throttle induces more rear wheel slip angle and the rear of the car wants to overtake the front. The goal is for the driver to achieve opposite lock and use the throttle to fine tune the car's angle and direction.

The Fast and the Furious
Tokyo Drift opens in cinemas on Thursday

TOYO DRIFT Australia Series Round 2 opens at Queensland Raceway on June 24th and 25th. Prices - Saturday \$20 Sunday \$30 (2 day weekend pass \$40.)



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