

Dear Supporters

What a fantastic first four months of the year it has been for me. It's only April and I have already achieved many of my goals for the year. I have completed my race apprenticeship, worked with a professional race team and proved I have the driving abilities to make the next step in my career.

On Wednesday 17th March I flew to Auckland to again work for Triple X Motorsport for the final round of the New Zealand summer race series in Taupo. Daniel Gaunt picked me up from the airport and we headed straight to the workshop to help pack up for the next days trip south. That night Todd booked me into a nice hotel. I made sure I got a good night sleep, knowing that I would have some late nights for the next few days. I headed down to Taupo with head mechanic Adam Fisher. It was an awesome weekend as always. The team won the Porsche GT3 Cup title for the third time. We all had a great night on Sunday to cap off what has been an eye opening season for me. Thanks Todd, Ian, Shane and Michael for the experience. When I got back I started a new training programme with my trainer Robert Collier who has been getting me physically in tune for any up and coming opportunities.

Last week I had some more testing in the Canterbury Motor Racing School Formula Ford. It was good to get back behind the wheel. The track was wet which was a new and entertaining experience for me. A few days later I had an encouraging test in preparation for the Club Day on Sunday. I was racing in the all comers' single seater class which my formula ford category competes in. Qualifying was magic for me. Ryan and Andy had the car going like a rocket. I managed to claim pole in Formula Ford and fourth outright with a time of 1 minute 31.14. Race one was wicked after a wheel to wheel fight with a faster Formula Ford 2000 with wings and slicks. In the end I came across the line to greet the chequered flag first. I finished second in the next race and in the reverse grid I started last due to such a great morning. This hurt my chances of winning I tried my best but a mistake cost me when trying to pull off an over taking move. Then the fast Formula Renaults came through and broke up the pack.

It was a fantastic day and came with a mammoth reward. Andy sees that I have the ability and has happily given me a free taste tester of 10 to 12 laps in the Formula Renault on Tuesday. The car is as fast as a Formula Toyota which is New Zealand number 1 single seater series. So it's a huge leap from a formula ford for a fourteen year old. I'm very excited about it and I can't wait. I'm heading up to Hamilton this week to help out on a Suzuki Swift team for the ITM 400.

Thanks for the support

Best regards,

Tom Barker

PARTNERS

