

# Hampton Downs where dreams come true

By Sue Burgin

**If the smell of petrol spins your wheels then the Hampton Downs Motorsport Park in the Waikato is not to be missed.**

It's a real nuts and bolts racetrack with all the action and thrills you'd expect to find at an international racetrack, according to General Manager, Deborah Fluhler.

"There's something for everyone. You can choose to be a spectator or participate in various activities,

depending on your level of skill or whether you're a member."

## Tony Quinn's mark on the park

Hampton Downs is one of three motorsport parks in New Zealand, owned by Scotsman Tony Quinn who made his millions across the Tasman in Australia, and now owns motorsport facilities here and in Australia.

Outlook reported on his Central Otago Highlands Motorsport Park back in September 2022. He also owns the Taupō Motorsport Park.

Kiwi motor racing giants, Liam Lawson, Shane van Gisbergen and Marcus Armstrong, have all either come through Hampton Downs or are affiliated in some way.

## One of the best Go Kart tracks around

Deborah says one of the most popular activities with visitors is the Go Karts which operate Wednesday to Sunday every week.

You can drive one solo or choose to be a tandem passenger. You must be 10 years or older and be over 140 cm tall to drive a single Kart. Passengers for the Tandem Kart must be six years or older and over 120 cm tall with a driver of 16 years old or older.

The track is 530 metres long with five challenging corners and an exhilarating downward hill.

"It's a very cool outdoor track," Deborah says.

"It has very good terrain and is one of the best in New Zealand."

She says it's a great recreational activity for all to enjoy, operating within set health and safety parameters.

"Although it is not a race, each Kart is fitted with a transponder so we know who comes away with the best times, which should satisfy the need for speed."

## Other activities for visitors

The boss says the UDrive days are fun. They're held twice a month, usually on weekends. They involve you, with an instructor beside you, learning the art of driving a racing car, usually a Mustang or a Camaro.

Another option is a family track cruise, where you pay a fee and drive the circuit with friends and family, following a safety car.

The Wet Skid Pad is also a hit with visitors, offering legal boy racing, Deborah says.

Also highly recommended, Mad Mike's MADLAB and the Toyota Gazoo, a live racing workshop.

Mad Mike is a world-famous drifter who has many very cool cars on display and you'll find him next door to the Aoraki Café.

They make the best coffee in the country according to Deborah, "Hands on heart, it's the best coffee I've ever had," she says.

On some days the park may not be open for various visitor activities, but visitors are still welcome as spectators with plenty happening from race meetings to race car test days.

"We are a venue for hire so as long as it's not a closed private day you're welcome to pop in and watch," Deborah says.

For all the important information and prices go to [www.hamptondowns.com](http://www.hamptondowns.com)

**Enjoy 20% discount**  
off the Hampton Downs Go Kart experience.

Type in Marram20 when booking at [www.hamptondowns.com/experience/go-karts](http://www.hamptondowns.com/experience/go-karts) for a Go-Kart experience at Hampton Downs.

The promo code is valid for bookings made for a Wednesday, Thursday, or a Sunday.

T&C's apply.



Photo left: Go Karting is one of the most popular activities at Hampton Downs. Photo: Supplied.