

“CARS FOR KIDS EVENT”, RAC TRACK

Monday 7th March 2016

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Photography: Graham Ullock, Jonathon Naudi and Vicki Wilder..

Well, the inaugural “CARS FOR KIDS” event has been and gone, and what a day of successes and an absolute buzz for the disabled and handicapped people that it was all about.

There were numerous food vans, two bouncy castles, racing hill-trolley display, Remote Controlled Driftcar display, and track, with cars drifting around their little track.

There were also go-karts for kids to drive around their little track on.

The event was primarily to raise money for the disabled and handicapped, but focussed on kids, and also to give them an up close and personal experience with some the of the things that they rarely get to see, let alone get close enough to touch, and other more fortunate kids probably take for granted.

Let's start at the beginning of the day at 7.am, when classic and racing cars of all sorts and sizes started arriving, both by driving and by trailer. About 150 in all, and they were positioned in 3 rows down the left hand skidpan at the RAC Track in Grogan Road, Perth Airport, for display and easy



access for the kids and their families, and the general public to view as well.



The idea was to let the kids or other handicapped people, see the cars up close, and sit in the cars if they wanted to, and have photos with the families'

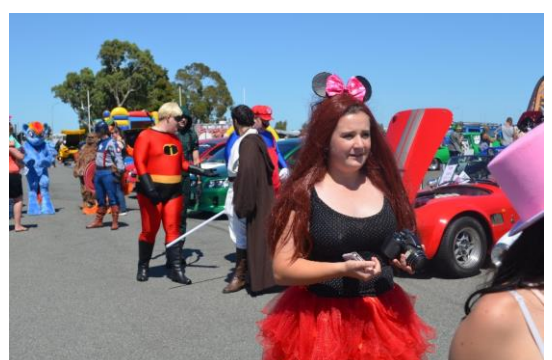
Meanwhile, out on the other skidpan alongside us, they had driftcars doing what driftcars do best, for most of the day.

In between the driftcar runs, the UWA and CURTIN Uni Mechanical engineering departments ran their project racing cars that had been designed and built by the students.

Both the Driftcars and the Uni Students had an absolute ball all day, getting out there and giving it the absolute max around the witches hats in a flurry of screaming engines, disappearing in clouds of smoke and appearing out the other side in a fully controlled 4 wheel drift, only to change direction and do it all again the other way around. Some absolute precision driving fully under control by experts. AND THE KIDS LOVED IT.....



During the day, we were visited by various cartoon characters such as Snow white, The Ice Fairy, Super Mario, Robin Hood, Friar Tuck, the Tooth Fairy, and many others, who were only too happy to pose with the cars and the kids, both big and small.



I think Vicki fell in love with the yellow monster transformer, which complimented her car perfectly.



All the while, continuously throughout the day, there were about 10 supercars and various racing cars, taking the handicapped out on the track for supervised rides of 6 or so fast laps of the circuit, and when these kids came back in, you could not get the smile of their faces with a grinder..... and these rides, and the smiles, kept on going all day.

Robert, shown above left, is a client of the Rise Network (Community Organisation). Ian Moore from Cobra Club of WA, is helping Robert into one of the racecars for a joyride.

Robert survived a work accident and is paralysed down one side. You will notice he is wearing a race suit - it is his own, as he was a professional sprint car racer for 15 years.

Evidently he told the R32 racecar driver, who he was riding with, and



who had 10 years experience after a long sideways slide into the corner, ***"Gee mate, if you practice for another couple of years you might get pretty good at this"***.

Robert is normally pretty grumpy, but he was grinning all day long, today.

Then just before lunchtime, the Fire Brigade arrived and they took the large fire truck, followed by a smaller tender, out on the skidpan and did some hooning around, all with lights flashing and siren screaming.

Just on lunchtime, the RAC Rescue helicopter dropped in for lunch, and they opened it up for the kids to have a look inside. When they left, they did some pretty impressive aerobatics in a few flyby passes, and left all the cars with a good layer of dry grass. Oh well, it will blow off on the way home.....



Then the Police Motorbikes arrived and they were set up on display, so the kids could have photos taken sitting on them.

About 2pm the Perth Airport Fire & Rescue truck arrived, and he also went hooning around the skidpan, again, with lights flashing and siren screaming. Then he stopped and fired his

water canon. Wow, what a range, almost from one end of the skidpan to the other.



That is one big rig to go hooning around a skidpan with, but he did it well and created quite a spectacle for the people.



The grand finale for the day was the firing up of the JET DRAG CAR which was on display.

This unit has a JET engine the same as in the commercial Learjets, and fires this car down the dragstrip and out the other end at over 400kph, and gets there in about 4 seconds.



The noise of this thing firing up, and then kicking in the take-off burners was ear splitting, and every time he gave it a shot of fuel, you could feel the shockwave hit you in the chest like a hammer.



CCCWA - Just the kind of club we are, at the ready to help get your drift car or racing car, onto the trailer, after the event....



After the JET DRAGSTER shut down, all the cars which participated in the event, with drivers and passengers, from the show n shine, plus all the cars that had been doing the drifting, and taking the kids for rides all day, and anyone else involved, were all formed up on the skidpan for a final group photo, which was taken from a high platform cherry-picker.

All in all, a brilliant day with good company, talking about mostly car stuff all day, and good, exciting, and continuous entertainment the whole day long, right in front of us.

