



## A new Raceway in Queensland!

The title is not a misprint! After several years of development, February 27 marks the first meeting at Springmount Raceway in North Queensland. Located just to the South-West of Mareeba, its key feature is a world-class quarter-mile dragstrip. The raceway's development had been funded entirely by car enthusiasts and Cairns construction company FGF. More than \$5 million has been spent on the track and other facilities, which include a children's playground and a pool, as well as the former Lotus Glen prison redevelopment work camp. Springmount Raceway Pty Ltd will lease the complex from FGF and pay the company back for part of the cost of their construction work. Already hundreds of local and distant enthusiasts have each taken out a \$100 annual membership to help support the venture. The Raceway's membership system is a corporate membership system, as opposed to a club membership system. This is due to the Raceway being run as a Proprietary Limited company, not an Incorporated Association (i.e. club). Members are not shareholders and do not vote, but rather receive benefits in exchange for payment.

Saturday, February 27 will be a members and sponsors day, with racing commencing at 9am. The official opening will take place on March 19. The scheduled meetings will commence with a Test n' Tune on April 9, while on the weekend of May 13-15, an inaugural Northern Nats is planned, promising to be North Queensland's first 'Summernats' style event. Further race meets will be held on monthly intervals in 2016, including a Nitro Outlaws meet in August.

This new facility has the potential to bring great benefits to Mareeba Shire and the Far North in general, and numerous hurdles have been overcome. Noise has been the biggest one. A new application had been lodged with the Mareeba Shire Council to change the trading hours from 9am to 9pm after it was discovered proposed barriers had little impact on noise levels. Permits to operate until 11pm were originally requested but the Council wanted to bring the time back to 9pm and operate earlier on race days. There had been seven objections to the new hours. Lights are to be eventually installed to race at night, but initially only day meetings on Saturdays will be run. The current daytime-only approval allows for racing from 11am to 5pm, a little short for a good meeting. Negotiation has been continuing.

More recently, the mayor of Mareeba Shire Council visited Springmount Raceway on November 6 to view the complex. Tom Gilmore was impressed with the standard achieved which will attract interest from all over Queensland and beyond. The sound testing carried out was positive and to the satisfaction of the Council.

You can keep up to date with this significant new venue via their website at : <http://www.springmountraceway.com/> or their Facebook page at : <https://www.facebook.com/springmountraceway/>

Take a tour in the gallery at <http://www.springmountraceway.com/gallery/> to get a good overview of what it takes to build a venue of this calibre. It will certainly put North Queensland on the world motorsport map, and the picturesque landscape will make it instantly recognisable.



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25 February 2016

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