

**Welcome to the 155th edition of Speedway Australia's Speed eNews.**

Speed eNews is a weekly communication aimed toward keeping clubs and organisations up to date on current events, handy tips to improve competition and safety, as well as any changes that may be taking place within the sport. Clubs are also encouraged to distribute this newsletter to members. Feel free to get in touch if you have any questions or require a copy of one of the previous editions.

## **QUEENSLAND'S ECHO PARK JOINS SPEEDWAY AUSTRALIA**



Years of hard work are about to bear fruit, with North Queensland's revived Echo Park Speedway the latest venue to partner with Speedway Australia, giving Speedway competitors in the Whitsunday's region a much-anticipated new home.

Having taken the reigns of the Collinsville based track in 2017, operators Sharon and Gavin Saxby were dealt a crushing blow, with cyclone Debbie demolishing the venue soon after. Undeterred, the pair have since poured their heart and soul into reviving the 33-year-old facility, giving it a new lease on life ahead of its 2021 re-launch.



The past three years have witnessed a huge infrastructure project, involving earthworks to re-stand the safety barrier, installing some 167 new poles resulting in a brand-new catch fence, constructing new toilet blocks to replace those destroyed in the cyclone together with new transformers, wiring and track lighting. The result is a spectacular 2-star facility which looks to cater for all divisions in the region, from Wingless Sprints and Modified Sedans right through to Formula 400, Formula 500 and Karts.

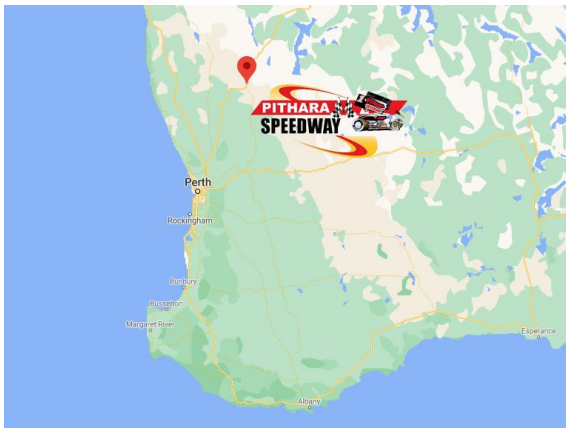
The Speedway is part of a larger plan for the facility, which looks to incorporate a motocross track and rally course, with an emphasis on junior training and development across each of the motorsport disciplines offered.

Echo Park's grand re-opening takes place on April 17, with a total of 7 events planned for the season. For more information about the venue and their upcoming season calendar, check out [echoparkspeedway.com](http://echoparkspeedway.com) or their click [here](#) to view their Facebook page.

We wish Gavin, Sharon, and the team at Echo Park all the best with their preparations for an exciting first season!



## **PITHARA JOIN SPEEDWAY AUSTRALIA**



A long running venue in the heart of Western Australia's wheatbelt region, Pithara Speedway is the latest track to join the Speedway Australia community. Located 240km north of Perth, the Pithara Speedway club have poured their heart and soul into the venue in recent times, with a raft of safety upgrades transforming the venue into one of the state's leading Speedway facilities.

Celebrating 31 years at the helm, long time Club President Phil Waters, has overseen the tracks transformation in the past year, which has witnessed construction of a brand-new concrete wall and catch fence around the entire facility – elevating the 480m clay-way up to 3 Star status, together with a refurbishment of the canteen facilities, and a photo wall celebrating the club's life members.



Remarkably, the club's efforts to construct the new wall and catch fence were achieved solely through the hard work some dedicated volunteers, local farmers, and local businesses, all of which wanted to see the venue continue to grow in the years to come. The work doesn't stop there, with Future upgrading the track and pit lights, together with an infield generator on the list in the coming months.

A favourite amongst competitors from Sprintcars through to Formula 500 and Production Sedans, the venue originated in 1974 by local farmers Noel Bradford, Bill Sutherland, Allan Reid, Des Donnes & Kevan Joyce, and is famed for its annual 'Bonza Bradford Memorial' for Sprintcars.

Pithara Speedway wishes to thank Midland truck sales, P & J Transport, Colonial Freightline, Blackman Fabrication, West coast express, and WDD- Westralian Diamond Drillers for their support.

We wish Pithara Speedway all the best for their next event, the Bonza Bradford Memorial to be held on the 10 April 2021 featuring Sprintcars, Formula 500 Snr & Jnr together with Super Six Sedans.

For more information about this event and other upcoming events, check out the clubs Facebook page by clicking [here](#).

## **\$2,000 FOR VICTORIAN TRACKS EFFECTED BY LOCKDOWN**



The Victorian Government have adjusted their Sporting Club Grants Program to include community sport event support for clubs who may have had events cancelled due to the February's five-day 'circuit breaker' lockdown.

Grants of \$2,000 for Victorian sport and active recreation organisations with a payroll of up to \$3 million are available to compensate for irrecoverable costs greater than \$2,000

associated with the cancellation of events during the five-day lockdown from 13 to 17 February 2021.

With many clubs having cancelled events, this is a perfect opportunity to recoup some of the associated costs. If you cancelled an event and require assistance with an application, don't hesitate to contact Sports Development Officer Adam Brook using the details in the contact section.





## FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR TASMANIAN TRACKS



Tasmanian tracks may benefit from a raft of funding made available by the State Government, with up to \$25,000 available to assist with sporting goods and essential hygiene equipment.

Grants of up to \$3,000 to Tasmanian sporting clubs and organisations are available to assist with hygiene and equipment purchases such as hand sanitising and cleaning supplies to comply with return to play measures.

Further grants of between \$3,000 and \$25,000 are also available to assist with the purchase of sporting equipment such as uniforms, timing equipment and playing equipment. Applicants will be required to contribute to at least 20 per cent of the total project cost.

With a total of \$1 million available in the pool, tracks are urged to get their applications in quickly. If you require assistance with an application, don't hesitate to contact Sports Development Officer Ross Kirby, using the details in the contact section below.

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