

# 'The cars are the real stars'



**Bruce McCoy and Bernie Hines with five Formula Ford racing cars.** Photo by Bruce Barnard.

...continued) Bruce, who coordinated the series until two years ago, helped establish a friendly supportive culture among drivers who are always happy to help newcomers learn with tips on driving and car setup.

"We're all very friendly until the helmets go on," chuckles Bruce. "We're a historic bunch – most of us guys are a bit historic as well as our cars," says Bruce about the series, which sees cars competing that date back to the 1960s.

Mike Creswell, who along with fellow Tauranga Lola-driver Bernie Hines will also be racing at the Hampton Downs festival, got back behind the wheel four years ago – returning to the class after competing for 10 years in the Formula Ford national championships in the 1970s.

"It's been great getting back into it. They are top cars to race," says Mike, whose racing experience – which saw him claim fifth place in the championship in his heyday – making him a serious force in the historic series.

"I'm really looking forward to the festival. "It's always the highlight of the year with international drivers coming out for it."

Bernie, who began motorsport racing 22 years ago, started competing in Formula Ford three years ago after being attracted by the camaraderie, fun spirit and competitive racing. "It's a great class to be a part of. It was a big change from the Broadspeed Mini I was racing," says Bernie, who laughs about sometimes getting drenched in the car because it doesn't have a roof or mudguards and is rear wheel drive.

## Tips for a safe summer on the road

The New Zealand Transport Agency is urging motorists to take on the country's highways this summer. Here's a few tips from NZTA for a safe summer on the bitumen.

- Before hitting the road, take the time to check your vehicle is safe – check the tyres, indicators and lights.
- Allow plenty of time for travel – slow down where and when risks are high and make the journey part of the holiday.

- Plan ahead and check the conditions at [www.highwayinfo.govt.nz](http://www.highwayinfo.govt.nz) or 0800 44 44 49, or plan your route with [www.onthemove.govt.nz](http://www.onthemove.govt.nz) to avoid fatigue.
- Avoid the busiest peak periods when highways are congested.
- Don't drink and drive – and remember lower blood alcohol limits took effect on December 1.

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