

L-PLATE RACER

We managed to meet Warren White, a sixteen year old teenager who has yet to be on his Ls, but has enough racing experience to put most track day veterans to shame. We sat down with probably one of the coolest (soon-to-be) P-plate drivers in the country and had a quick chat.

Hot4s: Hey Warren, what's your background in racing? What got you into it?

Warren: My dad races on dirt ovals at the Parramatta Speedway, so I have always been interested in race driving ever since I was young. I started driving go-karts when I was six, then began to race competitively from the age of seven. Since then I've won ten state championships, and was the 2009 Australian champion (from a field of around 60 competitors).

Hot4s: When was your first time driving a real car?

Warren: Well, it's not really a car; I drove a Formula Ford car in Beijing on a track last year. It goes really fast; like 0-100km/h in under five seconds. To compare, my Formula Ford car does a 1'03 lap around Wakefield Park and an Evo X does about 1'09.

Hot4s: That's some serious speed. What's the difference between competitive go-karting and racing around in tin-tops/open-wheel cars?

Warren: In go-karting, there's a lot of focus on the driver using his weight to control the car and proper racing lines. Go-karting is a

great way to learn driving fundamentals and race craft (such as overtaking, consistency and tyre management), that's why you see a lot of professional drivers have go-karting backgrounds. Car racing has a bigger emphasis on the car setup, and you need to work on the settings for each track to get the maximum out of the car.

Hot4s: What's your advice to young drivers out there if they want to get into racing and track days?

Warren: Start as early as you can, whether it's karting or driving road cars. Don't be afraid to approach the race track when you're young. If you're not planning to pursue professional racing but just want to improve your skills, defensive and advanced driving courses are always the way to go. Always test your limits out on the track, not on the street! At events like Circuit Club's track days, you can just take any car and learn how to drive it fast in a safe place and with professional driving instructors. I've seen all sorts of cars on the track at Circuit Club track days – from Corollas and Camrys, to Type R's and Evos. Even Lambos and Ferraris get in on the action, but don't be afraid to come down and have a go!

