

Revitalising iconic Mallala Motorsport Park

• From page 1

Mr Warren said Clem Smith, who was a successful racing competitor and avid rare car collector, should be attributed with the re-birth of Mallala Motorsport when he bought the property in 1976/77.

"He was literally the champion for Mallala to bring racing back," he said.

Racing resumed in 1984, and from 1989-1998 the track roared with the sounds of the V8s going round as part of the Australian Touring Car Championships.

"We are trying to recapture a lot of that history (and) we are very keen for anyone who has some stories to tell or knows something that perhaps isn't well known, to come and let us know so that we can capture that as part of some celebrations planned for later in the year," Mr Warren said.

The purchase of the track by the Peregrine Corporation was very much about holding onto the state's motorsport history, Mr Warren revealed.

"We have some very passionate owners who love their motorsport, very parochial and passionate South Australians," he said.

"They were very keen to make sure that we preserve motorsport



Mark Warren says Mallala is the spiritual home of motorsport in South Australia.

history within South Australia.

"They were concerned that should this track be purchased by just anyone, they could turn it into residential, it could be shut down like it was in the 70s, so they want to make sure that we preserve that history, celebrate it and regrow motorsport."

Drive and ride experiences,

events, conferences, advanced driver training and of course racing, are all on the cards for Mallala Motorsport Park.

A focus for the company, Mr Warren said, is to build the grassroots motorsport industry, with plans to bring the Shannons Nationals Motor Racing Championships to Mallala also.

"Bringing Mallala into the fold is all about that grassroots motorsport and making sure that we make it successful once more," he outlined.

"Mallala is very much integrated and integral to our business plan.

"For us it's creating Mallala as a destination, so that people can come here and experience being on the track.

"We want to bring back national circuit racing, starting with Shannons."

The owners also have plans to bring more regular gokart racing to the track.

"It's been very successful for us at The Bend," Mr Warren said.

"There's a great opportunity for us to bring more of that here."

Mr Warren said the Mallala track was a fantastic track for young drivers and those new to motorsports, to learn, with driver education and training a key focus for the business over the next 10 years.

"The key message I wanted to relay was that it (Mallala Motorsport Park) is very much a part of our business plan," he said.

"This is a fantastic track, it's actually quite technical in places, and also quite safe, to actually bring people

out here to learn their race craft.

"We think there's a great opportunity to build more of what would be an overall racing capacity, starting with young kids and moving right through to getting GT races, which will really build again that racing industry in South Australia.

"It's going to take us 10 years to move down that path but Mallala features quite prominently in how we might do that (and) it's important to us to have this as an accessible motorsport facility."

As an avid supporter of the track and having raced on it some years ago, Adelaide Plains Business Advisory Group (APBAG) chairman, Ian O'Loan said he was pleased to learn the direction the Peregrine Corporation was taking.

"It was pretty positive to see," Mr O'Loan said.

"It looks like they've got an agenda worked out to actually use the track for a variety of reasons, it's just not going to be dormant, it's going to involve a variety of users and also looking at bringing events there as well.

"I would be more than happy to see it come back into more use where public access is able to be had."

Business looks local, prioritises own brand

NETWORKING, looking local, encouraging business and tourism growth and developing a brand for the region were the focus of the most recent business breakfast held at Mallala Motorsport Park last month.

Around 30 people attended the event on Wednesday April 21, which was facilitated by the Adelaide Plains Business Advisory Group (APBAG), supported by the Adelaide Plains Council and featured The Bend Motorsport Park's general manager, Mark Warren as guest speaker, who outlined plans to revitalise the iconic motorsport park at Mallala.

After a much appreciated

Bec O'Brien reports:

breakfast of bacon and egg rolls, fruit, tea and coffee, APBAG chairman, Ian O'Loan, opened proceedings.

Mr O'Loan outlined the goals and direction of the APBAG, saying the area needed its own brand.

"One of the goals of the APBAG is, in conjunction with RDA (Regional Development Australia), to develop a brand," he said.

"We need our own stand-alone brand.

"We need to be putting ourselves forward as a place to be, and the products from

here can be part of that."

Mr O'Loan highlighted the success of the Perfection tomato enterprise at Two Wells, and suggested cheaper access to the state government's Northern Adelaide Irrigation Scheme (NAIS) was essential to encourage business growth, particularly in the horticulture and agriculture areas, within the region.

"The state government has honestly misled the people of the Adelaide Plains with regards to the NAIS scheme," Mr O'Loan said.

Water is now available from a purpose-built dam on Porter Road, Korunye, as part of the scheme but Mr O'Loan stated it is sub-stand-



Regional Development Australia (RDA) Barossa Gawler Light Adelaide Plains' Rachel Squires and CEO Anne Moroney, with Adelaide Plains Council's Darren Starr and Mallala Motorsport Parks' Derek Onslaw.

ard in quality and way too expensive.

"That water is available; if you've got \$300,000 to connect to it," he said.

"The other problem is that the quality of the water is, in horticultural terms, 1300 parts per million and this is not acceptable.

"Unless you have got the facilities... to desalinate the water, you cannot use it.

"And if you are going to try and use this water it is 81 cents per kilolitre ammitted over a 15-year period of your agreement."

Mr O'Loan said the APBAG, through representation in the Northern Adelaide Plains Food Cluster's NAIS

Advisory Committee had been lobbying the state government for improvements to no avail.

"We have been negotiating, not successfully, with Minister Speirs, to get a reasonable price for the water and quality," he said.

"We are at a Mexican standoff at the moment and getting absolutely nowhere.

"Honestly, if we cannot get a reasonable price for connectivity, and quality of water, that lagoon out there (Porter Dam) is a white elephant.

"We have heaps of people who would like to get on board and literally can't afford it."



APC councillor Kay Boon (right) with Louise Drummond.

Mr O'Loan moved on to say the region provided many positive areas for future business growth including horticulture, agriculture, tourism and the equine industry.

He said the business breakfast was a positive way for local business owners to build their networks, meet new people and have conversations around business and industry growth.

"At the end of the presentation people stayed around and networked and that is what this business breakfast is all about," he said.

"We can all learn from each other and this is the purpose of these gatherings."



Andrew Otterspoor of Owen, Gordon Sweeney and David Algar of Mallala attended the business breakfast.



Enjoying a catchup at the business breakfast was Nicole McCallum, Tricia Smith and Ruth Jones.

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