

# Gifted drifter takes on China

## Champion will race the best

By MITCH HYDE

Losing traction on New Zealand roads is considered reckless and dangerous driving.

Not for Pukekohe's Carl Ruiterman but only when he's on the race track.

Acknowledged as one of the country's most technically gifted and aggressively consistent drifters, this three-time New Zealand champion is flying to China to compete against the world's best.

The fourth and final round of the World Drift Series is on October 29 and Ruiterman is travelling to Hangzhou's Huanglong Sport Stadium to challenge the superstars of the sport, from Japan and the United States.

The biggest test for Ruiterman, other than tackling the top names in drifting, will be doing it in a left-hand-drive car.

"All the cars in China are left-hand-drive so not only will I have to learn a new track but I'll have to learn to drive left hand at the same time," he said.

"It's going to be pretty hard to get used to but they said I'll get a pretty good car so I hope it goes well."

Sliding into hairpin corners at



**DRIFT KING:** Pukekohe's Carl Ruiterman will soon be in China testing his drifting skills with some of the world's best drivers and doing it in a left-hand drive car.

speeds reaching 200kmh would be gut wrenching for most but for Ruiterman it's a thrill.

And he is good at it.

It all started in 2006 when racing motocross as a youngster he broke his elbow severely enough for him to reconsider his

sporting code. From the dirt bike to a drag car and finally into his Nissan Silvia, Ruiterman now competes in the New Zealand drift circuits.

His racing and his business, E & H Motors in Pukekohe, have opened doors to him in China and

one of these is the international racing scene.

E & H Motors design and build motors for a lot of the drift racers on the Chinese drift scene.

"We build race motors here and then go to China and tune them there to make sure the drivers

are happy," Ruiterman said.

This partnership started last year and this will be his second trip to China.

"For me it started as an incentive to get over there but now we have built a great relationship I go over there for some fun and to test myself against other drivers."

Ruiterman said it was going to be a challenge for him going up against drivers like American Vaughn Gittin Jr, who won the 2010 Formula Drift Pro Championship.

Having won the elite drift series in New Zealand, D1NZ, Ruiterman has the capability of putting little New Zealand on the international drifting scene.

His efforts in China last year were commendable but something that he wants to improve on at the end of this month.

"Last time it was cool because it was in Tianjin at the Olympic Stadium so it enabled a lot of people to watch us," he said.

Last year he managed to qualify in second place, making the top 32 drivers but because the car he was driving was not up to the standard of the other vehicles he bombed out.

This time, with a new car to play with, he hopes to be able to redeem himself.

First he will need to re-learn how to drive.

# Kids line up on the grid at Pukekohe raceway

By MITCH HYDE

The annual Suzuki Grid Kids duathlon series is back on at Pukekohe Park Raceway this year and it's a great way to get kids active.

Back for its third running on the local track in Pukekohe Grid Kids gives children the opportunity to meet the New Zealand V8 drivers from the BNTV8 series, which starts on the same weekend.

On November 6 the series of six track races kicks off and entry is only \$25 and anyone aged six to 13 years old can join in the fun.

One of those entering again this year for his third time is 13-year-old Luke Rollo and his father Charles is eager to get more kids interested in joining his son.

This is Luke's last year running in the duathlon that consists of a

**"Kids don't need to have a huge level of fitness, this is for any level and they don't need to have a fancy bike"**

— Charles Rollo

run and a bike ride around the motorsport track.

Luke said he has enjoyed entering the race every year because it is a lot of fun and he gets to meet his motorsport heroes.

Mr Rollo, a business owner of OCL in Pukekohe is backing Franklin kids to get involved in the day of fun and is posting flyers in school newsletters around the area.

He said this was a great opportunity to get children of our their homes and into an active environ-



**PARTICIPATING PAIR:** The Rollo siblings 13-year-old Luke and nine-year-old Ella are taking part in the Suzuki Grid Kids duathlon at Pukekohe Park Raceway on November 6.

awesome to see hundreds of kids riding around the track."

Mr Rollo's daughter Ella, 9, will be taking part in the race this year as well and she said that she had been training hard for the event and that she was looking forward to it. Entry for the event can be done now online at [www.gridkids.co.nz](http://www.gridkids.co.nz) and early bird entries go into the draw to win a ride to school with Suzuki Swift Sport Cup driver Jamie Gaskin.

The entry fee for each child gets them a race pack with an official event T-shirt, a race number and free entry to the motorsport park with two extra tickets for family.

ment and hoped that this year would be the best yet.

"Kids don't need to have a huge level of fitness, this is for any level

and they don't need to have a fancy bike it's about participation and giving it a go," Mr Rollo said. "It is always a great day and

# Waiuku College shooters are top guns at champs

Waiuku College students Shawn Sands and Nicole Saunderson have gone up against the best clay target shooters in the country and hit the bull's-eye.

The 2011 North Island and National Secondary School clay target shooting championships were held at the Waikato Clay Target Club.

More than 300 secondary school students, 289 boys and 29 girls from around the country, attended to compete for the national titles.

The weekend's weather harboured a sneaky breeze which caused a bit of havoc with some shooters but not so for Shawn and Nicole who both won the Highest Overall Trophies.

The trophy is awarded to those who shoot with the highest points on



**HIGH GUN:** Waiuku College student Shawn Sands.

the day and Shawn smashed 89 out of 90 targets, Nicole hit 87 from 90.

In the North Island single rise championship Shawn had to shoot off against 64 others and finished



**PRIZE WINNER:** Waiuku College student Nicole Saunderson.

seventh in this event. He also had a shoot-off in the North Island single barrel against 29 other shooters and managed to secure second place and return home with a silver medal.

Nicole was also in the shoot-off for the single rise and with her outstanding shooting made her way into the last five with two girls and three boys and she was runner-up in the girls' section.

Continuing her good form into the second day, Nicole picked up a gold medal for the New Zealand points score championship. She also helped her fellow team-mates Elaine Chien and Zoe Groot to a silver medal in the girls' teams event.

Being among the top shooters for the weekend the pair were picked for the Fish and Game regional teams event for the Auckland/Waikato region.

Nicole and the girls' team won this event and Shawn with the boys finished third.

## DRAWS

### DRAWS TOUCH

#### Bombay touch draw

October 27

6:20pm: Field 1: Rusty Demons v Moticans; Field 2: Nike v Dictation; Field 3: Let It Ripp v Aye Team; Field 4: Troysdon

Trolley Pushers v Bombay Blitz.

7:05pm: Field 1: Turtles v Touch Stones; Field 2: B.U.T.V

Pokeno Bacon; Field 3: Sewer Rats v Romperstompers; Field 4: Cotts v Doggies.

7:50pm: Field 3: Blazen v Tokomauri

### RESULTS GOLF

#### OneWhero Golf Club

October 19: Men's Haggler

James Godden 36; Des Leader 36; Ron Pryor 35; Jonathan Waller 34; Rodney Doidge 34;

Rex Avery 33; Ken Hartley 33; David Slater 33; Peter Curtaigne 32; Harry Taka 31; Grahame Dell 28; Alec Henderson 26.