

WEST AUSTRALIAN

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Wanneroo a top-class circuit

KART RACING

KEN SEEBER

We have looked at hire karts on purpose-built karting tracks but all of these have been south of the river.

The good news is that there is a great facility north of the river as well. Tiger Kart Club's Wanneroo track in Wattle Avenue, adjacent to the Barbagallo motorsport circuit, is 1025m long and has 13 challenging corners.

The track was completed in the early 1990s and was used for the Australian Karting Championships in 1992 and 1995.

The beauty of having hire karts on a racetrack is that the club receives a

revenue but, more importantly, the public can sample karting under race-like conditions. Many karters started racing in hired machines.

The bulk of the hire karts feature Yamaha electric-start two-stroke engines fitted with clutches, making them a breeze to drive up to their maximum speed of 65kmh.

Wanneroo Kart Hire manager Mike Laughton also offers two dual-seater karts to allow children — as young as three — the opportunity to sample karting with an adult at the helm.

For the experienced hire karter, there also are some Clubman class racing machines. If you think that you're good, have a go in these for an absolute adrenaline rush.

As with the other hire kart facilities, corporate events are well catered for. As Nick Fudge, manager

of the promotional company Granton Direct that attended the facility this week, said: "It was an absolute ball of fun for our staff, a great social event well worth the effort."

The facility is open seven days (and some evenings) a week during summer barring club racing days, so it is advisable to call first. Wanneroo Kart Hire can be contacted by phoning 9306 3233 or via www.wannerookarthire.com.au.

PATRIZI POWERS ON

Kalgoorlie's Michael Patrizi represents another karting success story.

Patrizi has been given a factory drive in this year's UK Formula BMW Championship.

This was a result of a successful season last year in Malaysia in the same series.



The Granton Direct crew prepare for a corporate race at Wanneroo.

Before that, he successfully raced karts from an early age in WA, advancing to the national CIK series,

then internationally before tackling Formula Ford. Hopefully, he is another Mark Webber in waiting.