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Combined event produces hot action

KART RACING

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When you combine four wheels and two wheels you get six, but it can also mean a great spectacle.

Throw in 100 go-karts and 25 supermotard bikes and you are guaranteed some real action in the last event of the year.

The supermotards have been running on their own over the past few years at the kart tracks at Cockburn and Wanneroo, usually with a short dirt excursion off the bitumen as part of the usual supermotard racing formula.

The stage this time was at Wanneroo, a day-night meeting

which was a combined event, with the karts and bikes on the bitumen only.

Typical contestants from these two different types of motorsport can be seen in the accompanying picture:

Year 10 student at Hale School Lee Chapman began karting five years ago in the rookie class. After a mild "crash and burn" apprenticeship, he is one of WA's top Junior National drivers, gaining a creditable third place at the nationals last year.

Larry Hill has been riding Enduros for many years. This experience has carried Hill into the top five in the Over-35 Veterans class but when not riding enduros, he has some fun in the supermotard events.

The overlap of karting and motorcycling was made clear by the fact that Hill's Franzoni Motors bike was made by TM of Italy, the

company that also manufactures the 125cc shifter kart engine that we feature¹ in the last karting article.

While the Yamaha name is synonymous with both bikes and karts, it is clear that the European manufacturers are strong in both these areas of motorsport.

In terms of karting, it was great to see an increase of number in all classes, signalling that next year will be a busy one.

The combining of karts and bikes was a great success, and hopefully we might see a repeat of this next year.

However all this begs the question, "which is faster?"

Well, the bikes are much faster down the straights but the karts are faster around the corners. Which is it? Well, the only way to find out is to be there.

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Year 10 student Lee Chapman and over-35 veteran Larry Hill at the last event.