

# Racetrack round raises spirit



By BRIAR HUBBARD

Racing down the back straight of Hampton Downs at an adrenaline pumping 250kmh would be a nerve-racking experience for anyone. But in Greg Murphy's hands, Shaun Vincent felt pretty safe.

"It's awesome, you certainly know you're alive when you're going that fast. It takes you into another level of sensories – it's surreal," Mr Vincent says.

He was provided the hot lap by the Franklin Silver Lining Trust on Tuesday after he and his family have faced a challenging time.

His daughter Nikita was readmitted to hospital with brain cancer in 2009, after two years' remission and around the same time Mr Vincent was diagnosed with having a mildly aggressive prostate tumour.

Now recovered, he returned to work with the New Zealand Fire Service last month.

Ambassador of the Franklin Silver Lining Trust, Greg Murphy, believes it is important to help those who have had a rough time. "Not everyone is as fortunate as



**SPECIAL TREAT:** Shaun Vincent, back left, and his family Nikita, Maree, Troy and Blake were lucky enough to meet Greg Murphy on Tuesday.

you. People go through tragic things and to be able to give something back is an amazing feeling.

"Giving someone a ride in a race car and allowing them to feel different for a day is really special.

"Little stuff makes a huge difference in people's lives."

Trustee of the organisation Richard Graham agreed.

"It lets them know there's other

people thinking about them. "Things that might only seem small to us can make a huge difference to a family that's going through a tough patch."

■ The main objective of the Franklin Silver Lining Trust is to provide Franklin families facing adversity with special breaks on a continuing basis.

This adversity could include

anything from the loss of a loved one through suicide, to someone suffering postnatal depression, to a loved one with a brain tumour, to a family who has lost a baby to cot death or stillbirth.

For more details go to [franklin.silverliningtrust.co.nz](http://franklin.silverliningtrust.co.nz).

**SPEECHLESS:** (below) Shaun Vincent was at loss for words after his hot lap with Greg Murphy at Hampton Downs on Tuesday.



## Parking effort pays off



**GOOD CAUSE:** Andrew and Wendy Johnston, left, raised \$2000 for the Franklin Silver Lining Trust by providing parking for people during the V8 Super Cars ITM 400 last month. Mr Johnston said he was glad to help the charity. "We wanted to donate some money to a

good cause, but wanted to keep it in the community." Founder of the Franklin Silver Lining Trust, Megan van Lieshout, right, said she was extremely grateful for the donation. "It's really important we get funds and the generosity of Franklin is incredible."

## Growers set to show talent

Top young vegetable growers – including four from Pukekohe – will go head-to-head next week to be crowned the country's best at the annual NZ Young Vegetable Grower competition.

Seven competitors will battle it out in an intense one-day competition on Thursday, May 9 at Riccarton Racecourse, with the winner going on to compete for the prestigious national Young Grower of the Year title at the Horticulture New Zealand Conference in July.

The Pukekohe competitors are Dilip Bhana, 28, family member of Hira Bhana & Co; Lance Pratt, 27, machinery operator for AS Wilcox & Co; Ryan Fong, 23, family farm trainee, Perfect Produce and James Irvine, 27, machinery operator for Hira Bhana & Co.

"The NZ Young Vegetable Grower competition is a chance for our industry to celebrate the talent of our young growers and the role they play in maintaining New Zealand's horticultural reputation," said Graham Martin, coordinator of the competition and secretary of Horticulture Canterbury.

"Each year the calibre of the competition is stepped up and I always look forward to seeing what competitors bring to such a dynamic and fun event."

Essential skills needed to run a vegetable-growing business will be tested with activities ranging from using a tractor, fertiliser identification, irrigation modelling and pumpkin grading to employing seasonal labour, meeting New Zealand good agricult-

ural practice (GAP) standards, creating a marketing plan for celeriac and a database exercise.

Andrew Scott, winner of the 2012 NZ Young Vegetable Grower and national Young Grower of the Year competitions, said the competition was a chance for young horticulturists to showcase their skills outside of their normal work environment.

"I really enjoyed competing last year. It allowed me to put all of my grower skills to the test and I felt privileged to be performing at such a high level with some really talented growers," Andrew says.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the calibre of the 2013 contestants."

"I have no doubt they'll all put on a good show and I wish them all the best of luck."

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