

IN THE HOT SEAT

Clinton Arentz



In business, as well as in racing, it's a passion for performance which will power you over the line.

Property developer, Clinton Arentz, knows about the grit and determination it takes to succeed.

He took the outright victory in the first round of the 2015 Australian Tarmac Rally Championship in his Mitsubishi Evo X, as well as securing the win in the Showroom 4WD class.

But it is his faith in the future of Mackay as an economic powerhouse which has given the business community a positive outlook heading into the future.

We put Clinton in the Hot Seat to find out what gets his blood pumping.

What led you into the sport of motor racing?

A. "My father and grandfather both raced, so I'm a third generation driver. My father raced alongside some of the greats in the 60's and 70's and has always been a great source of motivation and advice in my own racing.

"My mother even got in on the action and competed at various events, so it's very much in the blood. It was inevitable that I would have a crack at it too."

Tell us about the Australian Tarmac Rally Championship and about your car.

A. "The Australian Tarmac Rally Championship consists of four championship events based in the mountain ranges of Victoria. The races are held in the summer, two races at the start of the year and then two races at the end of the year, across winding mountain roads. The racing is challenging and competitive, but also a lot of fun.

"My Mitsubishi Evo X is a great car, wonderfully fast without needing

a lot of tuning or alteration. It's all-wheel-drive, turbo-charged with full competition suspension and brakes."

How do you balance being in business with your passion for racing?

A. "My passion for my business and for Mackay always comes first. Racing is great fun and I wish I could do more of it, but my heart and mind are focused on my business and the economic progress of Mackay.

"Our Evo Business Centre, on Maggiolo Drive in Paget, is strategically aligned to provide local business owners with a modern and well positioned premises to enhance their own business.

"Further, we are in the process of developing a high intensity general industry subdivision adjacent to Evo Business Centre. As a business focused on the future, this development will be well positioned to cater to the needs of a growing business community once the economic tide turns once again. There will be the demand for modern business developments in the next few years, which is why we have taken this opportunity now to get the ball rolling early.

You chose to move your business, Winston Group, from Brisbane to Mackay. What is it about Mackay that gives you confidence about its economic future?

A. "Mackay has all the assets in place to make it a great place to live and work. More people are discovering that Mackay is much more than mining. While mining is important to the economy, Mackay is very dynamic in its own right. The diversity here for Mackay to flourish is already in place. The airport, harbour, tourism opportunities as well as intelligent and hard-working business people.

"I see great things for Mackay's future, which is why I have backed my confidence with the decision to base my business here."