

# Toyota Gazoo Racing: Taking racing to another level

By [Naresh Maharaj](#)

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The last segment of SOMI 2022 featured a number of new vehicle reveals including Lexus LX, NX, LS 500 Hybrid, Toyota Hilux GR-S, Corolla Cross GR and RAV4 VX Hybrid. These were followed by a couple of motorsport announcement made by Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing at TSAM, Leon Theron.



Source: Supplied

## GR Cup Yaris Challenge

This initiative sees six local journalists battling it out on various racetracks in SA, all piloting the fabled Toyota GR Yaris. They include Jeanette Kok-Kritzinger, Mark Jones, Thomas Falkiner, Lerato Matebese, Sean Nurse and Ashley Oldfield.

Jeanette Kok-Kritzinger raced cars in this category about 20 years ago and was beaming with excitement. She had this to say: "I last raced a while ago. Now I have two sons, but the one thing that has never changed is my passion for the sport. Getting this opportunity is an honour and a privilege. You are never too old."

"The GR Yaris really set the motoring press alight in 2021 and we felt that this is the perfect car to use for a media challenge race series – to show just what the GR Yaris is capable of, out-of-the-box. Thank you to our 6 journos for coming to play with us – we know you're going to have a ball in this car," says Theron.

## GR Junior Academy

Here TSAM, together with motorsport veteran Leeroy Poulter, have handpicked some of the best junior drivers in motorsport to be groomed for future success. They range between the ages of nine and 15 years.

"I'm really proud of because we get a chance to invest in the future



Source: Supplied

of motorsport in the form of the GR Academy. The Gazoo Racing brand is really going from strength to strength and with this in mind, we thought it the perfect opportunity to start a GR Academy to foster young racing talent," concludes Theron.

## ABOUT NARESH MAHARAJ

Naresh Maharaj is a petrol head who loves cars and writing about them. He is also a Member of the SA Guild of Motoring Journalists. Naresh is also an international sports correspondent and an acclaimed corporate MC and voice-over artist. Naresh is a sports/news producer for community radio stations and also an award-winning sports journalist. Contact Naresh on [nnmaharaj321@gmail.com](mailto:nnmaharaj321@gmail.com)

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