



It's important to get lots of sleep.

What has been your biggest race to date?

The Mount Panorama 12-Hour Endurance race, with two other girls in the Celica. Two of us drove five-and-a-half hours each, in the dark and in the rain, doing 260 kilometres down the straight. You can have a breather on the straights, by keeping the pedal to the floor and having a stretch. You've got to be on your toes in case something happens during the break.

Have you ever pranged your car?

I had a big accident at Winton in Victoria. I hit the concrete wall doing 180 or 190 kilometres, head on. You're strapped inside a cage and it folded in around me. But I was fine. The excitement and adrenalin keeps you going. I thought we were still racing, except the car was missing its front.

Did you fix the car?

We put it on a rack to stretch it back to the original shape and rebuilt it from the ground up.

RACING IN A MAN'S WORLD

AMBER ANDERSON IS A LAWYER, AND ONE OF THE FEW FEMALE RACING CAR DRIVERS IN AUSTRALIA.

What was your first set of wheels?

A go-kart, with a two-stroke engine, like a little racing machine. I was 13 or 14.

What was the first car you owned?

A Porsche 944. Everyone said it was a stupid waste of my grandma's money, which I should put into a house.

Do you drive it to work?

No, the car's got a fibre-glass body and isn't road-registered.

How do you prepare for a race?

A lot of it comes down to getting the car right. You set up a fuel strategy, work out who your crew are, get yourself right to deal with the demands of the race.

What's the hardest event you've done?

The 12-Hour Endurance race at Mount Panorama, Bathurst. It's not like a fixed race track because the track is driven on by road cars all year, so it doesn't have proper racing drainage and you can't practise on it.

What's your driving like away from the race track?

My mum hangs onto the door!

You also report for SBS's *Speedweek*. Is that just a cunning strategy to get inside tips from other drivers?

Exactly. Some of the old guys get unnerved when I interview them. But they like talking to someone with a bit of credibility.

What's next for you?

I've been fortunate enough to be offered a drive in the V8 Ute category. They race at the Grand Prix and other high-profile events.

What's your ultimate racing goal?

To go over to Europe and drive sports cars at events like Le Mans 24-hour.

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