

Hello again,

Well, not long now until the 2009 Rally of Otago, round two of the Vantage Aluminium Joinery New Zealand Rally Championship which runs from 16 to 17 May.

The Rally of Otago attracts big names such as former British Rally Champion Alister McRae, various Australians and also top New Zealand rally drivers who love to tackle the fast-flowing southern roads.

Not only will we see some big names, but there are some crowd-pleasing cars such as the newly-built Toyota Starlet Hyabusa of Greg Teece from Nelson, which will give Tony McConachy some tough competition.

In the lead-up to Rally Otago, our technical advisor and car preparer Kayne Barrie has been hard at work replacing the Ford Fiesta's engine mount and sump – the elements which forced us out of the first day at the Tomoana Warehousing Hawke's Bay Rally.

The team and I have been organising all our final plans for Rally Otago, and also for the long trip north to the NAC Insurance International Rally of Whangarei which is only three weeks after Otago, starting on Friday 5 June.

The Ford Fiesta will be arriving in Nelson on 9 May when we hope to do some promotional activities with me and the car. This offers us an excellent chance to show off this great little car to Nelson locals, our sponsors and supporters. Details will be posted when we have a date and venue finalised.

I am really looking forward to Rally Otago and the chance to drive on some of New Zealand's most famous rally roads. Seriously, I can't wait!!!!

You might like to note that TV coverage for Rally Otago screens on TV One's Powerbuilt Tools between 5 and 6pm, with day one shown on Sunday 7 June and day two on Sunday 14 June.

I would just like to say a thank you to everyone that has helped us prepare for Rally Otago. As always, your effort and support is very much appreciated. A special thanks to Kayne Barrie for preparing the car, to Sarah Lindup for all your help, to Gavin, Paul and Dad for all the input and good ideas, and also Rally New Zealand's Paul Mallard and Chris Carr for your support in every way.

To my sponsors, Nelson Fork Trucks Ltd, Allan Kirby at MS Nelson Ford, Body Talk Nelson, Colin at Alpine Stars and Highfield Romneys; thanks for coming along for the ride.

Day 2 of the Tomoana Warehousing Rally Hawke's Bay TV coverage is on TV One's Powerbuilt Tools Motorsport on the 10<sup>th</sup> May between 5 and 6pm. As you know I finished second there so it will be great to see the Fiesta getting some coverage.

I will be putting out a post-event blog a couple of days after Rally Otago, so until next time, take it easy and thanks a lot for reading this.

With kind regards,

Ben Hunt  
Hunt Motorsport Team

