

Hello once more

Only 1 week now until I leave for the 2009 NAC Insurance International Rally of Whangarei, the event is part of the FIA Asia Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and is the 3rd Round of the Vantage Aluminum Joinery New Zealand Rally Championship, it runs from the 5th to the 7th of June on various Whangarei and Kaipara district roads.

The NAC Insurance Rally of Whangarei has attracted seven top-class rally drivers from New Zealand, Australia, Japan, France and India who will be competing in the APRC.

In the lead up to Whangarei our technical advisor and car preparer Kayne Barrie has been busy checking the dog box, diff and suspension on the Ford Fiesta and hasn't found any major problems.

The team and I have been organizing all the necessary gear that we will need for the NAC Insurance International Rally of Whangarei and have been sorting out the final logistics for the trip. With it being an International rally there are different FIA regulations as opposed to a normal round.

With juggling work and organising everything for Rally Whangarei it has been in my best interest to maintain my fitness levels for some of the long famous stages up north.

This weekend is the Christchurch Autosport Rally, I will be sitting in the silly seat co-driving for Nelsonian Greg Teece, his 2nd time in the newly built Toyota Starlet Hayabusa, it will be my 1st time in the Co-Drivers seat and don't worry Greg has guaranteed me that his service crew will be fully prepared to changes my nappies. :)

Well as you can imagine I can't wait to get behind the wheel of the Ford Fiesta again and drive on those famous old Rally New Zealand Roads that we watched on TV when I was a toddler, and also competing in my first international rally will be overwhelming.

The TV coverage for the NAC insurance Rally of Whangarei screens on TV One's Powerbuilt Tools Motorsport between 5-6pm, with day 1 shown on 21st June and Day 2 shown on the 28th June and remembering that Rally of Otago is shown on the 7th and 14th of June.

I would just like to say a thank you to everyone that has helped us prepare for the 2009 NAC Insurance International Rally of Whangarei. As always, your effort and support is very much appreciated and we couldn't do it without your help. 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 which makes my life easier, and also Rally New Zealand 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.

I will be putting out a post-event blog a couple of days after Rally of Whangarei, hope to see some of you up north so until next time, take it easy and thanks a lot for reading this.

With kind regards,
Ben Hunt

