

The 2009 0800 Boxman Rally of Nelson is the fifth and final round of the Vantage Aluminium Joinery New Zealand Rally Championship. It is also the last time I will be driving the Kayne Barrie-prepared Ford Fiesta for Rally New Zealand. The event will take in 275km of competitive stages over two days of rallying.

As it is my local rally there are a lot of promotional activities during this week that I will be involved in. On Tuesday morning I dropped a young local Jed Solly at Wakefield Primary School which is the first school I went to as a 5-year-old. On Wednesday night I spoke at the Nelson Rotary Club. Thursday morning Kieran Hall, Dom Untenburgar, Daniel Harris and myself will be visited Brightwater Primary School and showed off our cars to them and Thursday night Nelson Fork Trucks has organised a BBQ for our team and invited a lot of local businesses they are involved with.

One thing I have been working on quite hard, when I have a spare half hour, is my fitness. I really noticed in the long stages at Possum Bourne Memorial rally that you need to be super fit to keep up your concentration levels, especially in the heat!!!

Last weekend the Nelson Car Club held a hill climb and invited the Nelson Rally sponsors to have rides with everyone. I was fortunate enough to drive Gavin Peterson's Toyota Corolla FX GT. This was great fun as everyone we took for rides thoroughly enjoyed themselves and so did I as it was the first local event I had competed in all year, so thanks Gavin for letting me have a skid.

Coverage for the 0800 Boxman Rally of Nelson screens on TV One's Powerbuilt Tools Motorsport between 5-6pm, with Day 1 shown on 27 September and Day 2 shown on 4 October so if you want to catch up on some action, be sure to be watching on these dates.

As you can imagine every day we get closer to the rally the more excited I am getting! It's always a buzz doing your local event no matter what sport it is, as the support and help you get is awesome. I am really looking forward to another great Fiesta battle as we have seen all year, every little tenth of a second counts as we have all found out especially at Wairarapa.

I would just like to thank everyone that has helped me out so far this year; you have all been a huge help and I have enjoyed every minute of it. Rally New Zealand and all their associated partners - thanks for the fantastic opportunity. Kayne, thanks for preparing the car, and Gavin, Paul and Dad for servicing, without you guys we wouldn't be racing. It is hugely appreciated.

To my personal sponsors, Nelson Fork Trucks Ltd, Allan Kirby at MS Nelson Ford, Body Talk Nelson, Colin at Alpine Stars, P C Systems and Highfield Romneys; thanks.

I will be putting out a post-event blog after the Nelson Rally so until then take it easy.

With kind regards
Ben Hunt
Hunt Motor Sport

