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BRING IT ON... 2008 NZ RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP

So the silly season is drawing to a close and the rally season is fast approaching, with Rally Wairarapa taking place on the 12th and 13th of April. The Championship looks strong this year with 16 Grp N 4WD entries.

We had a great off season and it's really inspired and energized us for the champi-

onship, having worked on various aspects of ourselves and on ensuring we have the best car, gear and team possible.

This year, rally wairarapa is round one of the New Zealand Rally Championship and for us this means we start on home turf.

Richard and I have had a very busy off season, managing our newly acquired workshop (Toms Auto Services 2007 Ltd), preparing our own car, organising sponsorship, fitness etc and getting married.

We are also very happy to have **BNT** again as primary sponsor and really look forward to starting the season. Our aim for the year?..... To win.

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THE WEDDING

We made the most of our off season and got married, although we were engaged for almost two years we made the decision in November last year that it was time and so we set off to

find a weekend between motorsport events – 23rd of February was that day. It was a great wedding and it was made all the better that we were able to use our new rally car as a bridal

car, although my seat was certainly not designed to fit a bulging wedding dress!

New Zealand Rally Championship Dates

- Rally Wairarapa 12-13th April
- Rally Otago 10-11th May
- Rally Whangarei 7-8th June
- Rally Hawkes Bay 26-27th July
- Rally NZ 28-31st August
- Rally Nelson 20-21st September

OUR CAR, TESTING ETC.

After a couple of weeks on honeymoon we came back very focused on the NZ Championship. This year we have a different car to last year but the same spec version 10 Subaru Impreza. We have a new number plate, a new bigger and better truck, new developments on the car and we're both mentally and physically

well prepared. We also competed in the Whariti Peak Hillclimb on the 15th and 16th of March and Richard felt very comfortable in the new car resulting in a first placing and a great 'tui brewery' trophy – this was a great chance for some testing and taking some of our hardworking crew for a ride while having a great little

battle with Andrew Hawkeswood, Geoff Argyle and Nathan Thomas. From now until the rally we'll also be doing plenty more testing and working on getting the very best from all of the different components of our car.



"With this support and encouragement it now rests with the entire team to not only present a well prepared car to each round but for the in car crew to stamp their mark from the outset. What better place than on familiar territory at your home event."
- Jody Seabright
Rally Wairarapa
preview

Rally Wairarapa Fast Facts:

- ☞ Signing session Friday 11th April at the Genesis Energy Recreation centre, Dixon Street starting at 6pm.
- ☞ Ceremonial start Friday 11th April at the Genesis Energy Recreation centre, Dixon Street starting at 7pm.
- ☞ Saturday Day 1 held around Pongaroa (7 stages totaling 136km)
- ☞ Sunday Day 2 held around Eketahuna (8 stages totaling 120km)
- ☞ Ceremonial finish 3.30pm Sunday 12th at Copthorne Solway Park.

PARTNERS

Our awesome major sponsor BNT (brake and transmission) are back on board for another season and we look forward to working with them and using their high quality products again. We'll also be running on

Dunlop tyres with support from B.W O'Brian, The PC Factory, Auto Imports and Wholesale, Porirua Motorbody repairs (who have done yet another awesome paintjob on our car and truck). Randall and Associ-

ates are also in for another year, along with Winger Subaru and Subaru New Zealand. Our car will again be powered by a ScottSpeed engine, with Dwight working hard on getting the very best out of it in pre-season testing.

As mentioned above, our first rally of the season is in only two weeks time.

Wairarapa is a rally we've always gone very well in with some of Richards and my favourite roads. The previous months leading up to the rally, the Wairarapa has had very little rain, however over the last couple of

days there has been a bit, hopefully this dampens the road enough to stop a dust problem. We're seeded number 2 on the road, behind Sam Murray, who by championship rules is in front of us.

Maps for the rally are available at our workshop

(Renall Street), BP Master-ton, Copthorne resort, and the information centre.

www.rallywairarapa.co.nz also has plenty of information.

Please come to the start, the stages, service parks, and finish and support us!

For live rally results check out:

www.chrissport.co.nz



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THE TEAM

The team comprises of many people and there are far too many to mention, these range from people who support us financially, who support us via donating their time and those who support us with encouragement to achieve. The service crew working on the car this year include Nick, Stu, Spud, Reuben, Dwight

and Murray and we thank them for their continued work. We would also like to thank their partners Jemma, Corina, and Toni for allowing us to have their men for many weekends and nights throughout the year. Chris Grant is again our media man and we thank him for the effort he puts into every press release.

We'd also like to encourage our fans to get out there at Wairarapa... we'll have posters and a few other goodies available, feel free to come and say hi and get your poster signed.

“Returning from last year is Sam Murray to defend his championship, along with local Masterton hero Richard Mason, and last year’s biggest improver Hayden Paddon. Already both Mason and Paddon having revealed their new cars for this season. Mason leading the Subaru charge (along with Murray) and Paddon heading the Mitsubishi charge in a new Evo 9, along with Dean Sumner.”

Jody Seabright –Rally Wairarapa preview

JUNIOR DRIVERS

We would also like to wish our junior drivers and co-drivers all the best for the season. These include Kirsty Nelson/Michelle Brunt (number 16 in 2001 Subaru), Andre Meier/Jason Farmer (number 19 in 2001 Subaru) and Brad Ayling/Malcolm Read (number 12 in 2006 Subaru).

These guys have all put a lot of effort into preparing for the season and we're sure that they're going to have lots of fun and achieve their goals for the year.



CONTACTS

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2008 NZRC Registrations

4wd Grp N

- Dean Sumner (Mitsubishi)
- **Kirsty Nelson** (Subaru)
- **Richard Mason** (Subaru)
- Chris West (Mitsubishi)
- Nathan Thomas (Mitsubishi)
- Sloan Cox (Mitsubishi)
- **Andre Meier** (Subaru)
- Emma Gilmour (Subaru)
- **Brad Ayling** (Subaru)
- Brent Martin (Mitsubishi)
- Hayden Paddon (Mitsubishi)
- Callum McInnes (Subaru)
- Mark Tapper (Mitsubishi)
- Stewart Taylor (Mitsubishi)
- Grant Barber (Subaru)
- Sam Murray (Subaru)