



RUARANGI RD

Well, these events are just getting better and better, maybe we should bring out a trophy for best event, decided by the drivers, now that's a good idea!

First we had the season opener by the Pukekohe car club were we could not have wished for a better start to the series, then round 2, hosted by the Thames valley car club was awesome, both well organised and well run, and also well supported for this level of motorsport. Then we have round 3, put on by the Northland car club, again a well run event, BUT, what a road!

Now there's an old saying that's often banded around, more often by the older generation, which includes me! In this sport it often refers to the "good old days" of rallying. I grew up watching rallying back in the UK but it was no different here in NZ so the quote im referring to also applies here, and that is "When men were men, and sheep were scared" Its all gone soft these days, not just in rallying or motorsport but in all forms of sport and life in general, but I'll keep my referrals to rallying, which obviously includes rallysprinting. The reason I bring this up is simply "Ruarangi Road". What a superb piece of back country road, it has got to be the best I have ever seen for sheer "Who's got balls" It reminds me of the Epynt ranges in the Brecon beacons of South Wales, but that's tarmac, this is gravel. I take my hat of to anyone who competes on this road, especially those who give it a go, and especially those who give it a real go.....i did not see many sheep by the road side on Sunday! There were however plenty of turkeys, they just kept gagging and it often sounded as though they were laughing, they probably were, and saying to each other..."Look,

here comes another one of those mad bastards” I referred to this road prior to the event as “Daunting” and a “Rollercoaster ride” the latter probably sums it up the best and perhaps the low entry numbers possibly refer to all of the above, and that people are generally scared of this road. I admit now, I have never driven over here in a rally car as a driver, both Tracy and I have been over in the passenger seats of Scott and Brian Ogle so I do know what its like to at least travel the road at speed. We tried a small excersie over the weekend whilst running over the road on Saturday, just looking for spots to put the banners and take photos. As we approached one of those narly crests I just said to Tracy “left or right” she said left and it went right, we would have been in trouble or probably hospital, its that kind of a road. Now I know im going on rather a bit but im trying to get across to those of you who have never been to Ruarangi rd. before exactly, what this road is like, and if you ever get the chance get up here and watch this event next year, these clubmen deserve huge respect for competing over this road.

Now onto the action, and there was plenty of it, with a couple of big ones, plenty of near misses and some absolutely just good stuff!

To start the report on the action we have to mention Scott Ogle and Barry Armiger. There times on that first run were incredible, especially Ogles as he was in a 1600cc starlet, Armiger in an RX7, sure they are locals but im dismissing that as a reason why they were so fast, its simply that...they are fast and brave. Ogle is a class winner every were he goes and although Armiger does not venture out of his local area I think he still holds the record for the fastest 2wd car up Cardronna in the “race to the sky” hillclimb.

So whilst were on the topic of the locals we will continue and start our breakdown of the event with class B, Won of course by Scott Ogle, who as mentioned above actually set the fastest time overall on run 1 with a 4:21.1, probably a little demoralising to fellow group B runners, as he’s also registered for the series but as they say” The show must go on”. I would also like to sing the praises of another young bloke who has been chipping away for a season or so learning the ropes, and that’s Kierren Cornelious. Spending as much time as I do on the touchlines I see visually drivers improving and getting faster, although i should rephrase that and say Gaining in confidence as not only was he fast here, but every round he’s now pushing for class victory’s and picking up valuable points. He was 2nd in class today, which also keeps him in 2nd in class for the series. His main rival, until Scott signed up was Steve Broadbent who was the class winner on the first two rounds and still leads after this one. However on this occasion Cornelious beat him by quite a margin in the fourth run to take him into the run off with Ogle, which strengthens my opinion that he really is an improving driver. However, not quite quick enough on this occasion to trouble Ogle. The other contender in this class sadly had a very bad day, Chris Alexander rolled his Starlet on the 3rd run, just a couple of hundred metre’s from the start line. The roll causing quite severe damage to the car, luckily both occupants were unhurt so an unfortunate end to the event for Chris, but anyone who knows him will know he’ll probably surprise us all and bounce back, we wish Chris and Yvonne all the best and hope to see them soon.



Kieron Cornelious, a vastly improved driver.

- 1st Stephen Broadbent.....27pts
- 2nd Kieran Cornelius.....23pts
- 3rd Chris Alexander.....14pts
- 4th Scott Ogle.....10pts

Class C, here we saw 6 registered competitors turn up, it was the first appearance of the season for Mike Wheatley, who was actually one of the first people to register for the series but has been side lined with electrical problems, ending up with a complete re wire to the Escort. Grant Liston was another to register prior to this round and therefore also make his first appearance in his trusty Honda Integra. The past couple of rounds has seen a battle between the Escorts of Anthony Jones and Craig Stevens but with Liston here things could well be a little different here today. Harvey Semmens had made the long trip up from Morrinsville with his Honda powered mk1 Escort, Craig Tickle came up from Pukekohe with his BMW 2002 and all the above were joined by local Alan Strong with his Nissan Pulsar, making this a very competitive class. It was Liston quite comfortably on the first three runs, Stevens had it over Jonesy on the first couple, but it was the third run that eventually sorted out the Escort battle with Jonesy perhaps pushing it a little too much in his effort to overcome Stevens and throwing the Escort off the road, rear first, causing a fair bit of rear panel damage and recording a DNF. So the top two run off was between Liston and Stevens, but that was not before Stevens posted his fastest time so far on the fourth run, Liston had noticed this and decided that this was a little to close for comfort and therefore put his foot down in the run off, posting a time of 4:05.4. To his credit Stevens also put his foot down and beat his previous time, posting his fastest time of the day of 4:10.1 unfortunately not enough to beat Liston. Alan Strong took third in class but not being registered for the series it was Craig Tickle, who took a

nice little points haul for third, Mike Wheatly took fourth with Harvey Semmens taking fifth. Jonesy taking the points for sixth in this class.



Craig Stevens, leading the class with two rounds to go.

- 1st Craig Stevens.....23pts
- 2nd Anthony Jones.....22pts
- 3rd Craig Tickle.....19pts
- 4th Harvey Semmens...17pts
- 5th Grant Liston.....10pts
- Dave Strong.....10pts
- 7th Mike Wheatly.....,6pts

Class D. this only had one registered competitor as Ian Wood had not made the trip from Rotorua, thus handing the points to Steve Goodare. However on the day Barry Armiger and Roger Goss were running in the D class, and both running Rotarys so Goodare was defiantly not going to have his own way. As mentioned in an earlier paragraph Armiger was on fire on the first run, setting the second fastest time on run 1, this trend continued throughout the day, eventuating in him winning the class. Goodare took his Nissan into second with Roger Goss taking his RX3 into third. But with Goodare being the only registered competitor he took another maximum 10pts for the class win.

- 1st Steve Goodare.....30pts
- 2nd Ian Wood.....16pts

Now just a little piece of useless information, we've covered classes B, C & D, all two wheel drive. We have had Armiger take class D with a 4:04.3, Liston took C class with a 4:05.4 and Ogle took class B with a 4:06.4. How competitive is that, and with a

new 2wd rallysprint on the horizon let's hope they all enter as we would be in for a real treat.

Now to class A, and with all of today's entrants registered to the series this was going to be interesting. Mark Bradley was back after missing round two and no doubt wanting his place back at the top of the table, however the guy now currently in that spot is also here, and consistency is defiantly helping Matt Davies stay at the top of the class, brother Cam is in second spot prior to this event. Bradley was in no mood to mess about, dominating all the runs by quite some margin and taking the maximum 10pts, but was it enough for him to leapfrog back to the top of the class? Wayne Sim has not had the best of starts to this years campaign and was another guy needing to have a good day and gain some points if he was going to be a contender in this class. He also brought his A game, the car ran faultlessly and apart from Bradley being present Simbo was the next most dominant driver, being 2nd fastest on all of the runs, including the top two run off. Glenn Stewart was similar to Simbo, being the 3rd quickest on all of the runs thus picking up 3rd in class. This left the two young Davies brothers, but you must realise these guys are still very young, this was their first time over this extremely daunting road , they did an awesome job showing quite a bit of maturity for such young fellas, they accumulated valuable points and came away from todays event with Matt still holding onto top of the class, Bradley has now moved into second in class with Cam still holding onto third in class.

1st Matt Davies.....22pts
2nd Mark Bradley.....20pts
3rd Cam Davies.....19pts
4th Glen Stewart.....13pts

5th Wayne Sim.....12pts
6th Tony Young.....10pts
7th Brent Jackson.....5pts
8th Daniel Norris.....0pts



Cam Davies, keeping the pressure on big brother....and Mark Bradley.

Last of the 2wd classes was the historic. Today's event was notable for the return of John Whooley, who normally runs a Civic in class B, but today he's running his Lancer EX. However, he seemed to be struggling with the cars handling and getting the power down, it certainly looks like it has plenty but a couple of early spins didn't help John's cause, he finished 3rd in class and picked up some valuable points. With two rounds still left, and the dropped round to be taken into consideration he still has a chance of being competitive in the class. John Uffindell took the points for 2nd in class in his Mazda RX7, which now also lifts him into 2nd overall in the class. But, trying to catch class leader Richard Harding really is going to be a mission. After a slight mishap at round 2, which actually could have cost him dearly Harding was in no way going to repeat himself at today's event...hopefully! With a new co-driver (Justin Glavish) Harding set a fantastic time on the first run, actually getting into the top 16, from here on in he was another driver who was dominant in his class and by taking 1st in class also strengthens his class lead for the class overalls.

1 st Richard Harding.....	27pts
2 nd John Uffindell.....	14pts
3 rd Mike Robson.....	10pts
4 th Russell Jenkins.....	8pts
5 th John Whooley.....	7pts
6 th Dennis Carson.....	5pts

Class E. Last, but not least was the 4wd brigade, who were no doubt woken up on the first run by the incredible times of Ogle and Armiger, fancy being beaten by a couple of 2wd cars, if that's not enough to waken you up I don't know what is! On the second run it was local lad Brendon Oakden who showed everyone the way home, and although a local, Oakden has just returned to the sport after a two year lay off, so a tremendous early showing of pace, his time was 4:06.6. Run three saw Graham Featherstone start to make his move, he was the first to crack the 4 minute barrier, putting in a fine 3:56.2, following him into the top four were Oakden and two South Auckland car club members Warwick Redfern and Jono Walker. On the fourth run it was Feathers, again under the four minute mark to promote himself as one of the qualifiers in the top two run off. Redfern posted his fastest time of the day but it was not quite enough, Oakden pipped him at the post to take the other finals berth with feathers. Walker's time had slightly slowed from his previous run, which when you see the photo's will explain. It was a good effort from Walker, but when your pushing on this road you really have to be inch perfect as it can cost dearly, Jono lost a couple of seconds here and a possibly a place in the final, but it could have been much worse. A few cars have met their graves on this corner previously. So now to the top two run off for both the class and overall title, once again Feathers was under that 4 minute mark, this time by quite a margin, 3:53.8, his fastest time of the day and enough to take the win, although congratulations must also go to Brendon Oakden, he pushed Feathers all the way and was the only other driver to crack the 4 minute barrier with a 3:56.3, so the margin of victory very, very close. As far as the points for the series go feathers took the maximum for overall and Class, but as Oakden was not registered to the series it was Redfern who collected some very valuable points for second place, Jono Walker taking third spot.



Jono Walker, pushing just a little too much cost him vital seconds.

Carl Davies was not quite on the pace of the leaders today but still picked up some good points as again there was a non registered driver in the shape of Patrick Malley in 5th spot, Davies finishing in sixth overall.

1 st	Graham Featherstone.....	28pts
2 nd	Carl Davies.....	23pts
3 rd	Warwick Redfern.....	19pts
4 th	Jono Walker.....	13pts
5 th	Brian Chadwick.....	10pts
6 th	Wayne Pittams.....	9pts
7 th	Daniel Alexander.....	8pts
	Daniel Walker.....	8pts
9 th	Lance Williams.....	7pts
10 th	Andrew Hawkeswood.....	6pts

For more information on class & overall points tables see www.nrss.co.nz

Well, there we have it. Apologies for the delay in getting this report out to you but I must take another minute of your time just to bring you upto date with what's happening with the series since this last round. The next two rounds are on hold, due to event cancellations, they are going to be going ahead but we are struggling to fit them in to the calendar at the moment, as most other events have already been allocated dates. We will post information as soon as we know what's happening, so please bear with us.

Now on a totally different topic, well really not that different but not connected to this rallysprint series, although it is a rallysprint! In conjunction with the Northland car club we are running a stand alone "two wheel drive only" rallysprint. Many of you will have now have heard about it so im just confirming it. Now the problem is dates, the 2wd event is running in the first week of September, as this particular event always runs at this time. But with the South Auckland car club and the Hibiscus Coast car clubs are both looking at this time to run their re arranged rallysprints....so please don't panic and bare with us, we will sort it out and let you know ASAP as to exactly what is happening.



The
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Proudly present
A "2wd ONLY" RALLYSPRINT
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Classics, V8 or straight 4,
Lada or Lamborghini.
SO WHO IS THE FASTEST 2WD DRIVER ?
Find out on 7th September @ the Fantastic
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For more details see www.nrss.co.nz
And competitors welcome, we need marshalls!