

THE RALLY REPORT

The Vantage Aluminium Joinery 2009 NZ Rally Championship Review

July 09



Paddon wins at Whangarei

Geraldine's Hayden Paddon and co-driver John Kennard won the 2009 NAC Insurance International Rally of Whangarei, round three of the Vantage Aluminium Joinery NZ Rally Championship (NZRC).

Running as first car on the road, Paddon inherited the lead when Richard and Sara Mason retired on Sunday's fifth stage. Clean-sweeping the field on Saturday, a failed turbo-charger halted the progress of the early championship leading pair.

Mason's nil result for the day and Paddon's outright victory has reversed the top-two placings in the NZRC. Paddon, the defending champion, now holds a 27 point advantage.

Hamilton's Emma Gilmour and Rhianon Smyth finished second overall in the new Subaru Impreza. Gilmour held out group two competitor Geof Argyle for the weekend; Argyle, with co-driver Tarryn Cox, brought their Mitsubishi home ahead of rookie Glenn Inkster and Glenn Goldring in a similar group two Mitsubishi EVO.

Whangarei locals Ben Jagger and co-driver Ben Hawkins extend their lead in the two-wheel-drive standings, finishing as the front running Ford Fiesta.

Gearbox selection troubles dropped defending champion Patrick Malley and co-driving mother Linzi down the order after leading the field this morning in their Ford Fiesta. That elevated Rally New Zealand Rising Star Development driver Ben Hunt and co-driver Jeff Cress to second.

Bio-diesel powered Skoda Fabia vRS of Rangiora's Matt Summerfield and co-driver Dave Neill overtook statesman Reg Cook and co-driver Mark Ballentyne's Nissan Micra in the small-car stakes.

Remaining classic competitor Mike and Helen Cameron of Taranaki completed the event, scoring maximum points in their Mitsubishi Lancer to take the lead in the series. A dramatic bridge impact saw the demise of defending champion Rob Wylie and co-driver Paul Turner.

Christchurch's Matt Jansen and co-driver Jason Farmer hold a comfortable lead in both the rookie and junior titles.

The five round championship moves to the Wairarapa mid-July for the penultimate round: Trusthouse Racetech Rally Wairarapa (18-19 July).

SCOREBOARD

Rally Whangarei results

Group N 4WD

- 1 Hayden Paddon & John Kennard
- 2 Emma Gilmour & Rhianon Smyth
- 3 Keiran Hall & Peter Hart

Group N 2WD

- 1 Ben Jagger & Ben Hawkins
- 2 Bent Hunt & Jeff Cress
- 3 Patrick Malley & Linzi Malley

Open Class 4WD

- 1 Geof Argyle & Tarryn Cox
- 2 Glenn Inkster & Glenn Goldring
- 3 Stephen Barker & Brett Lightfoot

Open Class 2WD & Kiwi 2

- 1 Reg Cook & Mark Ballentyne
- 2 Matt Summerfield & Dave Neill

Classic Challenge

- 1 Mike Cameron & Helen Cameron

Championship Standings

Group N 4WD

- 1 Hayden Paddon & John Kennard 200
- 2 Richard Mason & Sara Mason 173
- 3 Emma Gilmour & Glenn Macneall 162

Group N 2WD

- 1 Ben Jagger & Ben Hawkins 201
- 2 Ben Hunt & Jeff Cress 137
- 3 Patrick Malley & Linzi Malley 135

Open Class 4WD

- 1 Geof Argyle & Tarryn Cox 210
- 2 Glenn Inkster & Glenn Goldring 108
- 3 Stephen Barker & Brett Lightfoot 79

Open Class 2WD

- 1 Matt Summerfield & Dave Neill 199
- 2 Reg Cook & Mark Ballentyne 180
- 3 Aaron Cook & Strattan Campbell 74

Kiwi 2

- 1 Reg Cook & Mark Ballentyne 205
- 2 Matt Summerfield & Dave Neill 141

Classic Challenge

- 1 Mike Cameron & Helen Cameron 159
- 2 Rob Wylie & Paul Turner 101
- 3 Euan Fuge & Donna Elder 74

Calendar:

Rnd	Date	Event
1	4-5 Apr	Rally Hawke's Bay
2	16-17 May	Rally Otago
3	6-7 Jun	Rally Whangarei
4	18-19 Jul	Rally Wairarapa
5	19-20 Sept	Rally Nelson

The Flying D continues to fly

Dunlop has enjoyed an outstanding record in New Zealand rallying and the flying D continues to be the tyre of choice for about 70 percent of the Group N field in the Vantage NZ Rally Championship and over half the open class contenders along with many other club and regional teams too.

“We are continuing to enjoy great results and great support from competitors,” Dunlop motorsport manager Alastair Corbett said. “In the national championship Richard Mason has demonstrated over the past few seasons the reliability and performance of the tyres, and more recently Hayden Paddon switched to Dunlop with a tangible effect on his results.

“With spare tyres being limited to one this season, tyre reliability and puncture resistance have become even more critical and the Direzza 86R tyres deliver that.

“The New Zealand championship challenges drivers with a wide range of roads and conditions from snow and ice down south, very wet in some regions to dry and dusty. It’s a great contest for the drivers, their cars and especially their tyres.

“Since we introduced the Direzza 86R they have proved ideal for the varied conditions and we are looking forward to the successful conclusion to another championship.”



Paddon and Hall qualify for Pirelli Star Driver shootout

New Zealand’s two Asia Pacific Pirelli Star Driver entrants have been chosen after a challenging two days at the NAC Insurance International Rally of Whangarei.

Hayden Paddon and Kieran Hall earn the right to compete in the Pirelli Star Driver final for the Asia Pacific region being held in Australia this September.

Paddon looks forward as he narrows his focus over the rest of the year. “Now our commitment is for the Pirelli Star Driver, although we’re always looking for further opportunities and mileage overseas,” he said. Both Paddon and Hall receive €3,500 towards expenses to compete in the final which will be part of Repco Rally Australia.

For Hall, the qualifying place was a little bit out of left field, but his consistent and quick stage times gave him the well-earned result.

“It means a lot for us, it is international exposure and something we didn’t have in the budget,” said the Nelson driver.

Pirelli’s Asia Pacific motorsport manager Simon Poole says that there will be very



stiff competition in Australia for the final shootout. “It’s going to be really interesting – there would not be any quicker drivers around the world really. For Hayden it will be his second attempt with it after Malaysia last year and he will again come up against Australian Eli Evans, who qualified in

Queensland. Whereas Kieran Hall hasn’t even left the country before, but has showed that he is also quick.”

Paddon and Hall will be travelling to Repco Rally Australia, competing against up to 14 other drivers for the coveted position being held at the start of September.

Media commentary

Media coverage certainly shows no signs of slowing down, with coverage of the 2009 Vantage Aluminium Joinery NZ Rally Championship a resounding success so far.

Print and web stats have remained strong and steady however coverage continues to grow in the medium of TV. The TV ratings have markedly increased this season which is a fantastic indication that viewers are aware of the championship and are tuning in on a regular basis to watch the action.

Peak and average ratings have been higher in both "Male 25-54" and "All People" for all rounds so far and we anticipate this trend continuing through the final two rounds.

A media summary covering the entire Championship will be available after the Rally Nelson TV coverage has aired, in mid-late October.

Press clippings

	Rally Hawke's Bay	Rally Otago	Rally Whangarei
# of Articles	33	44	57
Total column cm ²	5828.11	7200.77	11504.03
Average article size cm ²	176.61	163.65	201.83
# of Photos	20	25	21
Total column cm ²	3671.12	4150.11	2732.07
Average photo size cm ²	183.56	166.00	130.10

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	Rally Hawke's Bay	Rally Otago	Rally Whangarei
Hits	1,901,652	1,763,299	1,388,396
Pages	120,495	115,862	101,990
Visits	29,189	31,083	27,901

Powerbuilt Tools Motorsport - TV One - Sundays

TV Ratings	Rally Hawke's Bay	Rally Otago	Rally Whangarei
Male 25-54			
Peak Rating	5.0	6.8	5.2
Average Rating	3.6	4.8	3.4
Peak Share %	17.2	22.1	17.4
Average Share %	13.0	16.4	12.1
Peak Viewership	42,660	58,017	44,366
Average Viewership	30,715	40,953	29,008
All People			
Peak Rating	5.5	7.5	6.7
Average Rating	3.2	4.6	4.0
Peak Share %	19.0	23.1	19.7
Average Share %	11.6	15.6	12.7
Peak Viewership	218,285	297,662	265,911
Average Viewership	127,002	182,566	158,753

2009 NZ Rally Championship DVDs available now!!

2009 NZRC DVDs are now available. Perfect for your sponsors, supporters or for your own DVD library!

Rally Hawke's Bay, Otago and Whangarei are currently available with Rally Wairarapa available in August and Rally Nelson in October. Each event DVD costs only \$25.00, however you can buy the whole set of 5 for \$100.00 at the end of the season, saving you \$25.00!

Order forms are available online at:

www.motorsport.org.nz

or contact megan@motorsport.org.nz



Looking ahead to... Rally Wairarapa



The fourth and penultimate round of the Vantage Aluminium Joinery New Zealand Rally Championship will be contested over 249.36km of gravel split in to 15 special stages over the Saturday and Sunday of 18-19 July.

Defending Goldstar title champion Hayden Paddon and co-driver John Kennard (Geraldine) will start their Team Green Mitsubishi Lancer EVO 9 as first car on the road.

Paddon has a 27 point lead over second placed pairing of Richard and Sara Mason (Masterton) in the BNT Subaru for the overall

Live results will be available from the website http://www.chrissport.co.nz/resultsDetail.php?id_event=81

title. Hamilton's Emma Gilmour and co-driver Glenn Macneall are currently third in the Vantage Subaru.

There is a total of 74 points up for grabs for the team who leads the entire event. Those points are allocated across a number of classes including junior and rookie.

The newly inaugurated group two class for

older four-wheel drive cars could be easily decided with former champion Geof Argyle and co-driver Tarryn Cox currently holding a 102 point lead in their Mitsubishi Lancer EVO 7.

Starting third on the road, flamboyant Andrew Hawkeswood and co-driver Roger Hudson (Alexandra) are expected to create a wedge in the overall championship chasing teams – having won the event outright in 2008.

There are a total of 28 championship cars entered from a current field of 59 teams' scheduled to start the event.



Television coverage of the event will be featured on One Sport Powerbuilt Tools motorsport show. Day one (one-hour segment) features on 26 July, with the second day airing 2 August. The footage will also feature on TVNZ Sports extra Freeview from 2 August.

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