



ONE WEEK UNTIL TARGA ROTORUA.

Targa Rotorua is one of the three events on the 2009 Dunlop Targa NZ tarmac rally series calendar.

There is a strong field of 50 Classics and 44 Moderns for the Targa Rotorua on 13-14 June. They will compete over 17 special stages in the Rotorua district. That's two days of racing competition, approx 330kms of closed stages and 515 kms of touring stages. The touring part of the event is as time critical as the closed stages.

There are also 17 cars in the Narva Tour, led by a 'tour' leader who dictates the pace. They travel the same route prior to the racing classes but don't require crash helmets and roll cages because of their lesser speed.

As per the recent Bambina, Classic entrants will lead out from slowest to fastest, followed by the Modern entrants from fastest to slowest. In the past it was slowest to fastest right across the entire field which meant any delays had repercussions across the entire field and spectators could miss viewing the faster cars. It also means the faster cars were not catching the car in front and were not last into service - not ideal for 'race' machines which tended to need more attention at servicing.

Documentation and scrutineering (best described as the compliance and safety warrant of fitness) takes place at the Lakeside Novotel on the Friday from 3.00pm to 6.00pm with cars parked overnight on the Village Green opposite.

Saturday morning, the first Car leaves Rotorua at 8.05am. There are 7 Special Stages totalling 175km with 246km of touring. Pit Stops at: Ngakuru School, Rotorua Village Green (lunch stop) and Kawerau. The first car finishes back at Rotorua at 4.20pm.

The public can view the cars up close at the 'Show and Shine' which is from 4.30pm to 7.00pm on Tutanekai and Pukaki Streets as cars come in from Special Stage 7. Cars are then parked overnight (parc ferme) on the Village Green.

Sunday morning, the first car leaves Rotorua at 7.05am. 10 Special Stages totalling 159km, with 269km of touring. Pit Stops at: Te Wautu School, Wharepapa School, Cambridge Village Green (lunch) and Matamata.

Paradise Valley Horse Treks are setting up a spectator vantage point complete with food and refreshments on-site.

First car finishes at Rotorua at 4.15pm with cars parked on the Village Green. This is where the public can view the cars up close and chat to the drivers and their teams. Prize Giving is at the Lakeside Novotel, at 6.30pm.

The support of the Rotorua District Council and the Business Community has been significant as they recognise the publicity that the event generates for the district. A great example of potential publicity has just come to light. Raceworld in the UK is replaying the 2008 Dunlop Targa Rally in 3 x 13 minute segments over a total of 23 episodes on Sky Sports 1, Sky Sports 2 and Sky Sports Xtra throughout June. Event Director Peter Martin said: "That's a viewing audience of 6 million homes per episode, a total audience of 138 million homes in June. Statistically a home is counted as 2.5 people - that's potentially, a whopping 445 million people in total."

Raceworld is the ultimate motorsports magazine show. A weekly 1 hour show that covers the very best in 4-wheel motorsport in all its forms with behind-the-scenes features, race reports and profiles from Formula 1, international sportscar racing, rallying, karting, drag racing and truck racing from all around the globe.

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View: www.targa.co.nz

The full list of entrants can be viewed

on: <http://www.targa.co.nz/data/media/documents/R09%20as%20at%2002%20June%202009.pdf>

The Route & Speed Schedule for Saturday can be found on:

<http://www.targa.co.nz/data/media/documents/Targa%20Rotorua%202009%20RS%20Fuel%20Calc.pdf>

The Route & Speed Schedule for Sunday can be found on:

<http://www.targa.co.nz/data/media/documents/Targa%20Rotorua%202009%20RS%20Fuel%20Calc%20Day%20Two.pdf>

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