



## TARGA BAMBINA IS BACK !

It's less than a month away to the first of the 2009 Dunlop Targa NZ tarmac rally series, the Targa Bambina on 7-8 March.

A strong field of Classics and Moderns will compete over 17 special stages in the Papakura, Counties and Waikato areas. That's 232 klms of special closed stages and 408 klms of touring. The touring part of the event is as time critical as the closed stages.

Pukekohe will play host to the entrants who will be on display on Friday the 6th. Documentation, scrutineering and driver's briefing will be from 5pm to 8pm at the Pukekohe Library. On Saturday morning the route will take them up the Awhitu Peninsula via Aka Aka. Lunch and Service is at Waiuku. Stage 7 the last for the day is the perennial favourite - Ardmore Quarry Road. Papakura is the base for the evening service and overnight Parc Ferme.

Day 2 sees them tackle Ramarama's hillclimb, up and over the spectacular Ararimu Road. From there the route takes them via Kaiaua for service. Then it's around Lake Waikare and into Te Kauwhata for lunch. Then it's out West to Hetherington and Glen Murray then back to Te Kauwhata's Waikare Golf Club for prizegiving.

There are several changes for 2009. Targa's Event Director Peter Martin explains:

- We have completed a comprehensive survey with the competitors and whilst the findings were very positive we have been pro-active and brought about some immediate changes.
- It's evident that the camaraderie is as important as the racing so the lunch break is now expanded out to 90 minutes.
- Running order. Because we have always run slowest first through to fastest last, any delays mean that the top runners are late to finish then service. That means they can't mix and mingle and are invariably late to meals. The following order will be trialled.
  - Classics will start first with slowest to fastest and 30 seconds apart. Their top 10 will be 1 minute apart.
  - Modern will run next, fastest to slowest with the top 10 cars 1 minute apart.
- This will please all entrants ..... one default stage per day is now allowed.
- Categories. The limits as to the development of competitor's vehicles are only there to keep them in the appropriate age category. If they chose to develop beyond those limits, then they will be joining the other heavily modified cars in the Super GT category. For example if an entrant has a 4WD Turbo vehicle and wants to run without a restrictor, then they will be in Super GT. Likewise if they want to run a bigger wheel diameter than production size, then they will be in Super GT. This means drivers have a choice of how far they wish to develop their vehicle depending on the size of their cheque book.

The full list of entrants will be available shortly.

END.

View: <http://www.targa.co.nz>

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