



## TARGA ROTORUA 2009 SEEDING LIST.

The final seeding order reveals a strong field of 41 Classics and 46 Moderns for the Targa Rotorua this weekend. 17 special stages venturing as far east as Kawerau and Cambridge to the west. That's two days of racing competition, approx 330klms of closed stages and 515 klms of touring stages. There are now 19 cars in the Narva Tour.

Too many to list here but the seeding list can be viewed by clicking here:

[www.targa.co.nz/data/media/documents/Seeding%20List%20R09.pdf](http://www.targa.co.nz/data/media/documents/Seeding%20List%20R09.pdf)

It's important to remember that Classic entrants are seeded from slowest to fastest, followed by the Modern entrants from fastest to slowest. There are good reasons for this but what it does mean of the 87 racing the middle 20 should be the fastest.

There is some fabulous machinery competing. The oldest car goes to Wayne Cochrane's 1962 Volkswagon Beetle entrant. That's two years older than Mike Lowe's 1964 Fiat Abarth Berlina Corsa 1000. To the 'un-educated' it looks like a Fiat 500 but certainly goes quicker than one.

There are some 10 Porsches running including two very quick GT3's. Numerous Mitsubishi EVO's, Subaru Imprezas and lots of BMW's in various models.

Recent Targa Tasmania winner Tony Quinn hails from Scotland but lives in Queensland. Tony's 2008 Nissan R35 GT-R was shipped to NZ for the event.

It will be fast and furious at the front of each Class with several previous winners entered. Amongst the 'exotics' there is Gordon Burr in the 1980 Ferrari 308GT4 and Peter Cullen in his 1973 de Tomaso Pantera.

If you have not seen it before don't miss the chance of a close-up view of Peter Johnston's 1986 Ford RS200. This is one of the infamous Group B rally cars of the 1980's that were banned for being too fast. It is beautifully built and lightening quick but also known to be temperamental. Well done PJ for running such a valuable car.

Whilst some are in it for a podium finish in their category, if not the overall, there is some element of family rivalry.

Stace Hopper and co-driver Simon Kirkpatrick finished 8th last year in a 1993 Subaru WRX STi C-spec, in what was the pair's first ever motorsport event. 26 year old Hopper has contested various Targa events as a co-driver beside his father Leigh. Since then the limited edition 2003 model has been rebuilt with another engine and now fitted with a wide-body kit based on the WRC Imprezas - it looks stunning.

Leigh is also competing this weekend, in a Subaru WRX STi C-spec as well, but this time with Michelle Bain in the co-driver's seat. Though Stace laughs off questions about where he'd like to finish this weekend - "anywhere as long as I beat Dad ! Stace is seeded 6th in the Modern Competition and Leigh is seeded 9th.

There is a pair of father and son teams that are closely related. Barry Kirk-Burnnand is driving with his son Carl, who is actually sitting in for his brother Steve who is overseas. Barry's brother Chris is co-driver for his son Mark, who is behind the wheel. Two brothers and two first cousins. But the similarity does not stop there. Barry's weapon of choice is a 1988 BMW M3 (seeded 7th in the Classic Competition) and Chris's is also a BMW M3 but a 1987 - seeded 11th.

The brothers Kirk-Burnnand have done every Targa and this is their 15th year. In a Simon Walster interview in the NZ Truth Weekly Barry said: "We've had bets. We used to call ourselves the Baileys Boys because we'd bet a bottle of Baileys on a win. We'd put a bottle of Baileys on a stage in the last day and that it would go on the bar that night."

Documentation and scrutineering takes place today (Friday) at the Lakeside Novotel from 3.00pm to 6.00pm with cars parked overnight on the Village Green opposite.

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View: [www.targa.co.nz](http://www.targa.co.nz)