



PROMOTED BY THE MARATHON RALLY CAR CLUB INC.

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ROUTE SET FOR 2008 NZ SILVER FERN MARATHON RALLY

The severe winter weather has intervened again this year, with the event organisers of the 2008 NZ Silver Fern International Marathon Rally forced to make a number of minor changes to the route for their eight day event that runs from October 16th – 23rd

Rally manager, Timaru's Carl Rabbidge, reports that all processes are now in place with Local Councils, Forestry and Private land owners, and that the route is set for action, albe-it with a few last minute changes. "Nothing we can't handle" Carl says.

Rabbidge reported that "later than normal lambing caused by the longer winter, has meant we cannot now use the Tiger Hills stage as it runs thru the middle of a Farm Station."

"The Nevis Road is currently impassable to 2wd vehicles, (I know that because my 4wd is still in there!), so only part of the stage can be used. But we've come up with a novel in and then back out option, as far as the Nevis Bowling Club, with a group of local volunteers putting on tea and scones for the competitors."

"Further south the Rankleburn and Beaumont Forest stages have been dropped due to serious road damage, and the mornings Winding Creek stage now split in two at the request of the local council who won't have a damaged section repaired in time."

So not all is lost and the event is still on schedule to be the adventure that organisers planned. Carl and his team completed the route checking at the weekend, and reports "what's good is excellent and what's not is gone, but most of the stages are in great condition, with many having just been re-graded after the winter rains."



www.silverfernally.co.nz

THE ROUTE FOR 2008:-

From the official ceremonial start in Christchurch's Cathedral Square, on the afternoon of Wednesday October 15th, around 1200 kilometres of high speed special stages on gravel back roads will face the 55 competitors in their eight day marathon adventure around New Zealand's scenic South Island.

Day one (Thursday October 16th) sees six stages, totalling around 90kms, including a grouping of four short stages in the Geraldine / Fairlie area.

Stages will take place near Waitohi (9.45am), Kakahu Bush (10.20am), Kakahu (10.55am) and Spur Road (11.25am) before a service / lunch break in Fairlie township at around midday. In the afternoon the teams will tackle the Braemar Road stage near Tekapo (1.00pm) and Phillips Road near Tarras (3.10pm) before heading to another service break on Lake Rd, near the airport in Frankton at around 4.30pm. The cars will then be parked up overnight at Queenstown's Whakatipu High School from 5.30pm.

The second day (Friday October 17) of competition contains five stages, and a service break in the Alexandra area, before returning to Queenstown.

Stages are being held near Moutere (8.35am), St Bathans (9.30am), and Crawford Hills (10.40am) before a service / lunch break in the Warehouse carpark in Alexandra from 11.30am. In the early afternoon the teams will tackle the revised Nevis stages (12.20pm) and (2.05pm) before returning to service on Lake Rd at Frankton at around 3.20pm, and then back to park up overnight at Whakatipu High School from 4.30pm. This evening competitors, teams and supporters will be able to experience the spectacular views over Lake Whakatipu and the Remarkables Mountain Range from an event dinner function atop the Queenstown Gondola.

The third day (Saturday October 18) of the eight day event, has some of the longest stages in the event and will see competitors travel thru the Lawrence area before finishing the day at the Dunedin Railway Station at around 4.30pm.

Competition stages will take place on roads near Hawksburn (8.00am), Lake Onslow (9.30am), the longest stage of the event at 94kms, and which despite being down-graded on the 2006 event to a touring section because of snow, saw the demise of Waiuku's Stumpy Holmes (off road) and Palmerston North's Brian Green (cambelt failure). Further stages near Roxburgh (11.35) and Beaumont (12.20) before a service / lunch break in Lawrence township at around 12.30pm. In the afternoon the teams will tackle stages at Bungtown (1.30pm) and in the Berwick Forest (2.45pm), before continuing on to Dunedin.



Southwards from Dunedin, the fourth day (Sunday October 19) will see the magic roads and scenery of the Catlins and Eastern Southland area's, before finishing the day at the Ascot Park Hotel in Invercargill at around 3.30pm.

The days competition stages will take place on roads near Kuri Bush (7.45am), Taiere Beach (8.20am), Puerua Valley (9.40am), Purakuiti (11.00am) and in the Catlins Valley (11.25am), before a service / lunch break in Owaka township at around midday. In the afternoon the teams will tackle a 40km stage on Cairn Rd (1.05pm) and a 50km stage in the Waikawa Valley / Fortification area (2.10pm), before continuing to Invercargill.

On Sunday evening there will be an informal dinner function at the world renowned (late Bill) Richardson's Truck Museum, organised by the local car club

Day Five (Monday October 20) contains 6 stages totalling 180km's in northern Southland before finishing the day at the Scenic Circle Southern Cross Hotel Dunedin at 4.30pm.

The days competition stages will take place on roads near Mandeville (8.30am), Chatton North (9.35am) and two near Wilden (10.5am) and (11.40am), before a service / lunch break in the Tapanui township at around midday. In the afternoon the teams will tackle the Burma Rd stage (2.15pm) and Adams Flat (3.05pm) before they end the day in Dunedin.

Day six (Tuesday October 21) contains six stages heading north from Dunedin towards the service park and overnight stop in Timaru's Caroline Bay. at around 5.00pm.

The days competition stages will take place on roads, near the mine at Macraes (8.40am), Hampden (10.15am), Herbert (10.55am) and Oamaru (12.05pm), before a service / lunch break in the Kurow township at around 12.30am. In the afternoon the teams will tackle Meyers Pass (1.45pm), then one of the 2006 favourites, the Waimate Forest (3.05pm) and Backline Road (4.10pm) before continuing to end the day in Timaru.

This day ends with local motorsport display and dinner function at Caroline Bay, organised by the South Canterbury Car Club.

Day Seven (Wednesday October 22) contains a few shorter stages between Methven and Oxford, before the day ends back in Christchurch with service and the overnight park at the Palms Mall Shopping Centre at around 4.30pm.

The days competition stages will take place on roads in the Kakahu Forest (8.50am), Four Peaks (9.25am), with competitors then travelling north to Lake Lyndon (11.20am) and Whitecliffs (12.15pm), before a service / lunch break in the Glentunnel township at around 12.30pm. In the afternoon the teams will tackle a short stage at Malvern Hills (1.20pm) before the longer Lees Valley (2.10pm) and Okuku Pass (3.25pm) stages before continuing to end the day in Christchurch.



The final day (Thursday October 23) of the 2008 event contains only 97kms in 6 shorter stages heading northwards thru Kaikoura before finishing the day and the event at the Marlborough Events Centre in Blenheim at 3.30pm.

The days competition stages will take place on roads in the Happy Valley (8.30am), Kaiwara (9.50am) and Fernihurst (11.15am) areas before a service / lunch break in the Kekerengu township at around 12.30pm. In the early afternoon the teams will tackle a short stage at the back of Kekerengu (1.40pm) before heading north to Blind River (2.25pm) and the popular final stage, Taylor Pass (3.00pm) an on to the event finish in Blenheim.

2008 event overview:-

So with around 1200kms of high speed special stages of competition, and 2400kms of touring sections, 54 cars, drivers and co-drivers, their teams, dozens of event officials and hundreds of volunteers everything is set for the Silver Fern Rally of 2008.

The 2008 NZ Silver Fern International Marathon Rally, is held over 8 days in New Zealand's South Island, and is the longest duration motor-sport event currently taking place in NZ, and takes its roots from the Silver Fern and Heatway Rallies of the late 1960's and early 1970's.

The October 16th - 23rd 2008 event, will start in Christchurch's Cathedral Square, and take competitors south to Queenstown, Dunedin, and Invercargill, back to Dunedin, Timaru and Christchurch before finishing at the new Marlborough Convention Centre in Blenheim.

For event details, route maps & the latest info on the rally visit:- www.silverfernally.co.nz

For further media information contact
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The 2008 NZ Silver Fern Rally Overall Route Map

