



PROMOTED BY THE MARATHON RALLY CAR CLUB INC.

Media Release

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MAYORAL SEND OFF FOR SILVER FERN RALLY CARS

Christchurch mayor Bob Parker was on hand to flag off the leading cars as they officially started their eight day marathon rally event from Cathedral Square at 6.20pm this evening. Parker welcomed everyone to the city, especially the international teams who as he said "have come a long way for this event, enjoy your stay and come back again."

First away was the 2006 Silver Fern Rally winner Brian Stokes (Waikuku) and Grant Marra in their Ford Escort MKII, followed by Scotsman Jimmy McRae in a similar car. A late retirement from Aucklander Andrew Hawkeswood's Mazda RX7 left the No3 slot vacant.

Third team over the ramp caused some bewilderment, as Nelson's Garry Adcock and Mark Dalton walked up to the mayor without their car. Adcock's new BMW M3 was still in Nelson undergoing repairs after his crash late last week in testing. Dalton saying "the car will definitely be here in the morning ready for the rally proper start".

Rally director Murray O'Donnell spoke on behalf of the organisers, and reiterated mayor Parkers words welcoming the international stars to their week of competition, and thanking sponsors Christchurch City Council, Scenic Circle Hotels, Thrifty Rentals, Variety, Teamtalk, Bluebridge and Speedsport magazine for their valuable input.

Tomorrow's (Thursday Oct 16) first day of the eight day event will see competitors travel out to the Geraldine area before continuing on to their first overnight stop in Queenstown.

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



www.silverfernally.co.nz

The October 16th - 23rd 2008 event, will start in Christchurch's Cathedral Square, at 7.30 am tomorrow morning, 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 and the latest info on the rally visit:- www.silverfernally.co.nz

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Drivers line up outside the cathedral



Mayor Bob Parker flags away Adcock & Dalton on foot

