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**Media Release**

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## **GRUNDY'S MAZDA LEADS, JUDD'S ESCORT ROLLS DAY THREE OF THE SILVER FERN RALLY**

Today's third day of the eight day 2008 NZ Silver Fern International Marathon Rally, threw up a few dramas, but for most it was steady as she goes over the 240kms of special stages which have this evening lead the cars to their Dunedin Scenic Circle Hotel stopover.

The black Mazda RX7 of Andrew Grundy and Mark Smith (Christchurch) continues to lead the event and they are now out to a 3 minute advantage over second placed Craig Marshall and Andrew Smith (Auckland) in their little Peugeot 205 GTi 180.

Holding down a good third nearly a minute further back is Scotland's Jimmy McRae and Pauline Gullick in their Ford Escort RS1800. Fourth now are Paraparaumu's Shane Murland and John Benton in their Ford Escort MKII.

Early event leader, and No1 seed, Waikuku's Brian Stokes and Grant Marra are slowly working their way back up the leader board after their second day dramas, and now sit comfortably in 7<sup>th</sup> overall, all-be-it ten minutes behind the overall leader.

Stokes was one of three drivers to receive assessed stage times for the delayed Lake Onslow special stage, (for safety reasons) and in which winner of the first days stage, Auckland driver Dave Strong was forced to stop with a broken differential. Strong has later re-joined the event for the Berwick Forest stage, where he was second fastest, but has dropped to 41<sup>st</sup> overall.



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In the same stage English driver Stephen Booth went off the road, and was also able to re-join later in the day. Most of the drivers respected the 95km long monster stage, with a steady as she goes philosophy. A number of drivers commented that “the stage went from good roads thru wet and slippery, a bit of snow high up and fast at the finish.”

However it was Christchurch Escort driver Jeff Judd who lost the most today, when he rolled the car onto its side near the start of special stage 16. Judd later said, “I just misjudged the corner, I think I was looking at the next one coming up and we just slid wide and tipped the car onto its side. The two of us couldn’t push it on to its wheels. Bit of a bugger, but we’ll make repairs to the damaged diff, replace the steering rack and some glass and be back in the event tomorrow. (drivers have all night tonight to make repairs to their cars)

Tomorrow’s (Sunday Oct 19) fourth day of the eight day event, will see competitors travel south from Dunedin, thru the Catlins area before finishing the day at the Ascot Park Hotel at around 3.30pm. The evening sees a function at Richardson’s Truck Museum.

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 (1.00pm) and a 50km stage in the Waikawa Valley / Fortification area (2.10pm), before ending the day in Invercargill.

The event then travels to back to Dunedin, Timaru and Christchurch before ending up at the new Marlborough Convention Centre in Blenheim on Thursday October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3.30pm.

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

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Christchurch's Brent Rawstron uses all the road and some.

NZ Silver Fern Rally												
Results as at end of Day 3												
Pos.	No.	Driver Co-Driver	District	Vehicle	Cls.	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Penalty	Total Time	Tbl	Tbn
1	28	Andrew Grundy Mark Smith	Christchurch NZ	Mazda RX7	I	52:13 (3)	55:45 (1)	2:36:19 (2)	-	4:24:17	****	****
2	43	Craig Marshall Andrew Smith	Auckland NZ	Peugeot 206 GTi 180	H	52:18 (4)	56:50 (3)	2:38:10 (4)	0:20	4:27:18	+3:01	+3:01
3	2	Jimmy McRae Pauline Gullick	Lanark SCOTLAND	Ford Escort RS1800	I	53:11 (7)	58:09 (8)	2:36:54 (3)	1:50	4:28:14	+3:57	+0:56
4	26	Shane Murland John Benton	Paraparaumu NZ	Ford Escort	B	52:54 (6)	57:26 (5)	2:38:57 (5)	-	4:29:17	+5:00	+1:03
5	6	Grant Shand Chris Parsons	Woodbridge UK	Ford Escort RS1800	B	54:20 (10)	57:48 (6)	2:40:14 (8)	-	4:32:22	+8:05	+3:05
6	7	Stumpy Holmes Mike Burgess	Waiuku NZ	Ford Escort MkII	H	54:32 (12)	58:06 (7)	2:40:12 (7)	-	4:32:50	+8:33	+0:28
7	1	Brian Stokes Grant Marra	Waikuku NZ	Ford Escort MkII	I	51:31 (1)	1:09:00 (39)	2:34:44 (1)	1:00	4:35:15	+10:58	+2:25
8	9	Charlie Evans Paul Matthews	Hamilton NZ	Mazda RX7	I	54:03 (9)	58:12 (9)	2:43:57 (10)	-	4:36:12	+11:55	+0:57
9	25	Keith Callinan Mary Anne Callinan	MacKay AUSTRALIA	Ford Escort	B	55:47 (20=)	1:02:11 (20)	2:44:01 (11)	-	4:41:59	+17:42	+5:47
10	11	Brent Rawstron Ian McKee	Christchurch NZ	Ford Escort RS1800	B	57:05 (28)	1:05:44 (36)	2:40:09 (6)	-	4:42:58	+18:41	+0:59

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For a complete listing of the day's stage times, incident and field media reports and detailed maps of the event, visit [www.silverfernally.co.nz](http://www.silverfernally.co.nz) )



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