



Fiesta's dominate podium in Hawkes Bay.

In what turned out to be a survival of the fittest weekend it was both of the NZ Truth backed Ford Fiesta ST's of Patrick and Dermott Malley that showed the two-wheel drive field a clean pair of heels, taking a one-two finish.

The Hawkes Bay rally was held in constant rain that became heavier throughout the course of the day, Patrick Malley set a cracking pace to not only lead the New Zealand Fiesta Sporting Trophy, but also the 'Kiwi 2' class ahead of the more powerful Honda's and by the mid-day service break he had opened up a gap of almost one and a half minutes over Aaron Cook in his Honda.

Unfortunate not to come away with a good result was Northland's Ben Jagger. On the opening stage Jagger shown good pace with third in 'Kiwi 2' and second in the Fiesta Sporting Trophy, however the second stage saw Jagger go off the road and he got stuck in a fence, causing his retirement. Worse for Jagger was that the off would turn his 21 point lead into a 14 point deficit in the championship.

As the Fiesta's charged on to the afternoon stages, Patrick Malley maintained his huge lead, his nearest rival in 'Kiwi 2' Aaron Cook retiring on the sixth stage with a blown engine, and fellow 'Kiwi 2' competitor Reg Cook throwing his Nissan Micra off the road to bring Patrick's Father Dermott and Mother Linzi up to second place in 'Kiwi 2' in their Fiesta. "That was the dream, to have a podium with my boy." Said Linzi.

Unfortunately the overnight weather in between legs caused slips on the touring towards the area where the stages were being held meant the cancellation of leg two.

With just two single leg events remaining at Repco Rally New Zealand and Rally Nelson, Malley only needs to finish one spot behind Jagger at both events to win the New Zealand Fiesta Sporting Trophy and the trip to the world shootout in England. Jagger can still make the trip however as he is in contention to get New Zealand's wildcard entry.

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