



## Reeves shows the way at Rally NZ.

Australian Brendan Reeves has shown great pace and consistency to take out round five of the Fiesta Sporting Trophy, run in conjunction with New Zealand's round of the World Rally Championship.

Reeves didn't have things his own way however, with Northlander Ben Jagger putting in an impressive performance and lead for the majority of the one day event. Jagger took out four of the days six stages and with a lead of 18.5 seconds, seemed to have the leg win sewn up going into the final stage. But it's not over until the cars cross the finish line and Jagger tipped the Seed Force Fiesta onto its side and lost 17 minutes regaining the road, dropping him to fourth.

This leaves Patrick Malley just needing to finish at the final round in Nelson after a difficult day at Rally NZ. Niggling problems including a sticking handbrake hampered Malley's progress, however not enough to stop him taking second overall and two stage wins.

Patrick's father Dermott in a near identical NZ Truth Ford Fiesta hung back throughout the day, however pounced at Jagger's last minute mistake to take his second podium finish in as many events.

But it was consistency that was rewarded and, despite not winning a stage, Brendan Reeves made up for the disappointment of puncturing while leading at Whangarei to take victory at Rally NZ. Yet more impressive was Reeves finishing fifth of the New Zealand Rally Championship runners, with Patrick Malley sixth, well and truly mixing the little two-wheel drive Fiesta's with the Four Wheel drive turbo cars.

Next up for the New Zealand Fiesta Sporting Trophy is the final round of the series to be held in Nelson. Last year this event provided the closest finish of the year, with Mark Tapper taking the class win from Kayne Barrie by 3.4 seconds and with the win, the championship. The final stage mistake by Jagger means that instead of going to Nelson for a winner takes all for the championship, Patrick Malley's 21 point lead means he just needs to finish to become the New Zealand Fiesta Sporting Trophy champion for 2008.

*Press Release by Blair Bartels*