



Near perfect weekend for Malley.

In what can only be described as trying weather conditions, Auckland's Patrick Malley showed the rest of the two-wheel drive field a clean pair of heels on the Rally of Hawke's Bay, picking up the lead in the Group N3 Championship in the process.

The final result gives Malley his first Kiwi 2 win of the season, boosting him to second overall in the Kiwi 2 championship.

"I couldn't have expected a better result for the team, and it was really cool to have Mum and Dad on the podium with me" said an ecstatic Malley after leading heading a family 1-2 finish.

Malley and co-driver 'Crunch' Bennett got off to a great start, two stage wins that gave the NZ Truth-backed Ford Fiesta a convincing 1 minute 29 second lead in the class ahead of second placed Aaron Cook going into the mid-day service.

Aiding the cause was the retirement of fellow Ford Fiesta Sporting Trophy competitor Ben Jagger during the second stage.

It was a war of attrition during the afternoon, but this didn't stop a hard charging Malley, winning all but one of the afternoon's three stages. Problems struck fellow competitors Aaron Cook, Dave Strong and Reg Cook that elevated the second NZ Truth-backed Fiesta of Dermott and Linzi Malley into second place.

"We set a great pace from the start and we were able to keep it nice and steady throughout the afternoon." said Malley. "The conditions were hard, but I was able to put into practice some techniques I learnt from the Elite Motorsport Academy that proved to be a great benefit."

Malley's performance was even more credible when you considered he finished the rally ninth overall, beating some of the more fancied 4WD cars that were more capable in the wet conditions.

Unfortunately due to slips blocking the main highway, leg two was cancelled, resulting in Malley missing an opportunity to extend his lead in the Fiesta Sporting Trophy and, after moving into second place on leg one, to close the points gap between himself and 'Kiwi 2' leader Aaron Cook, which currently sits at 45 points.

Next up for the NZ Truth Ford Fiestas is the Repco Rally New Zealand. Although only the second day gives the opportunity to score Kiwi 2 points, this will also give Malley a chance to prove his mettle in front of the world's best drivers.

Press Release by Blair Bartels

