

2009 NAC Insurance International Rally of Whangarei
Service quotes

Service E
Whangarei town basin

Date: 7 June 2009
Weather: High cloud, mild

Car 3 – Hayden Paddon/John Kennard

Four targets and four bulls-eyes really. It was a bit of de ja vu from 2007 when we won here – our jack broke with two stages to go and we couldn't change our front tyres and they were absolutely worn. Well exactly the same happened today. We went to go put two new tyres on the front when we heard Richard was out and the jack wouldn't go up, so now there is barely anything left of the front tyres. So we really had to nurse it through, making sure we didn't get a puncture. To come out on top is hard luck for Richard, but as we've learned, to finish first first you must finish. It's just a huge credit to our whole team and sponsors – it's awesome.

Car 5 – Emma Gilmour/Rhianon Smyth

We aimed on getting Katsu this morning and that's what we also went out this afternoon to finish. But we had an engine electrical problem in the last three stages so the car wasn't really running like it should. So it became a matter of doing what we could and getting to the finish. It was still a nervous time as I didn't know how big a problem we had and whether we were going to get there, so when Mason and Westy went out it definitely took the pressure off us. So very happy to be here, we had very good speed over the weekend – it's just a shame all the problems added up.

Car 1 - Cody Crocker/Ben Atkinson

Another set of perfect results – which is absolutely fantastic for our cause. It's been a pretty tough weekend but to come out with this we're rapt. Interesting things happened right before the end of the rally. There was a refuel before the very last stage and you could see people were starting to relax, but you have to keep your head down and keep firing. So we managed to jump in to second outright – which is great for us. I think this sort of area has been traditionally Mitsubishi country for Rally New Zealand. Whereas south of here towards Raglan we'd be up on everyone. It's an interesting thing, some of the twisty stages tend to suit us a little more I think.

Car 2 – Katsu Taguchi/Mark Stacey

Of course we are disappointed to lose by 0.1 second for the day's points, but overall this year it was better than last year. Back then we had no points in Australia and so far we have two seconds so I think we are in a good position for the championship. Still a long way to go – just collect the points for the Pacific and attack in the Asia rounds. I think our tyres were better this second time through – we had good grip – so it was good fun to drive.

Car 6 – Jean-Louis Leyraud/Benjamin Searcy

Very glad to be here now – very good result. The car was very good this afternoon and I could enjoy driving, not like this morning. We went fast enough to catch the two guys in front of us so the speed was good – it was okay.

Car 7 – Brian Green/Fleur Pedersen

I'm a bit tired – this is a young mans sport. The car has gone well; I think in two and a half years it has only let us down once – apart from that we've finished every event we've done in it. For Fleur and I our next event is Thailand in about three weeks and then we're doing a tarmac rally in Beijing the weekend after that in one of the Chinese cars.

Car 9 – Brendan Reeves/Glen Weston

It's good to get a good result and the car is still straight. We hadn't looked such a result as third, but we're happy to take it. I've got my suspension, gearbox and rear-diff in this car –so it's quite similar to what I'm used to and it did a good job on these fast roads. In Australia we have similar speeds but the trees are a lot closer to the road. Over here you've got very fast open roads and lots of camber as well, so it's just different things to take in to it – especially the second pass – you're going so much faster and you're getting airborne over the crests.