

A story on Brendan and Rhianon's victory at Rally New Caledonia featured in the Melbourne Herald Sun on Saturday, September 4, 2010.

# Siblings rally to victory

**Lauren Wood**

BROTHER and sister duo Brendan Reeves and Rhianon Smyth have snared their first international rally win, the FIA Pacific Cup, in Round 5 of the Asia Pacific Rally Championship in New Caledonia.

"It's absolutely fantastic," said Smyth, 29, who has navigated for her younger brother in almost 40 rallies since September 2006.

The win was achieved on Reeves' 22nd birthday.

"It's a pretty cool way to celebrate a birthday, that's for sure," he said.

The pair finished first in the Rallye International De Nouvelle-Caledonia and third outright in the Whangerei (New Zealand) to capture the trophy.

Their Subaru Impreza WRX STI ran faultlessly throughout the six-stage event in New Caledonia.

"We wanted to pull a big lead right from the start and we were able to do that," Reeves said.

"We slowly built over the last few days. It was pretty tough at times, driving roads we had never even seen before."

The rally was run over 230km of rough, dusty tracks, covered with gravel. Visibility was also scarce at times, given the thick red dust.

Smyth and Reeves want to travel to Europe in October to compete in the Pirelli Star Driver Shootout and win a drive in the 2011 series.

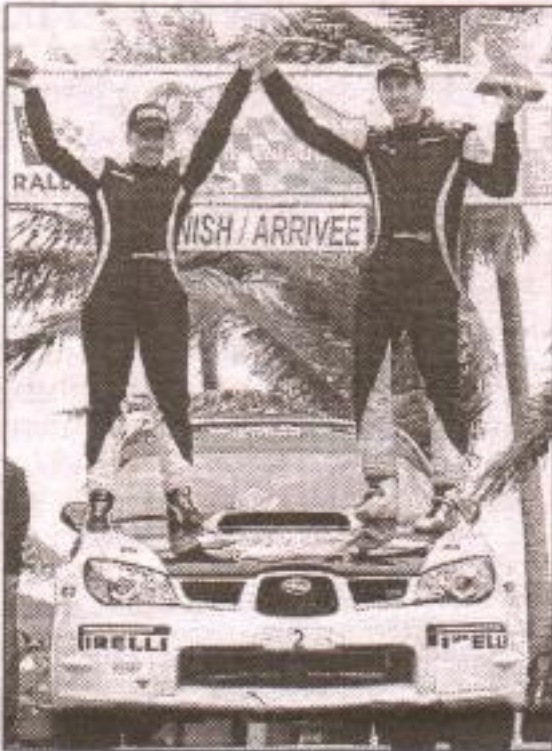
"We are really hopeful of getting to go to Europe," Reeves said. "It would really set us up for next year."

While Smyth is a teacher, Reeves works in the family business, Reeves Earthmoving, in Wedderburn in north-western Victoria.

"I'm pretty lucky with getting time off, with Dad being my boss," Reeves said.

"He's our main sponsor, along with Rally School, which is an Australia-wide company that allows normal people to have a go at rallying, as well as Pirelli and a number of others.

"Winning a championship is the ultimate reward for all that they invest in us."



**Elated:** Rhianon Smyth and Brendan Reeves after winning the FIA Pacific Cup in New Caledonia.