

Brendan will take on a new challenge in next weekend's Targa Wrest Point when he contests the Modern Category in the Mazda Motorsport RX8. It will be a big step up in power for Brendan, and a challenge he is really looking forward to.

"I've had one test in the RX8 and it's an awesome car," he said. "The RX8 last ran at Targa High Country in November and unfortunately I was away in the UK preparing for Wales Rally GB so I was unable to compete, but I am really excited about getting behind the wheel in Tassie."

Brendan is quite familiar with the roads that Targa Wrest Point covers, having competed in the event last year in the Mazda MP3, however some of the stages this year will run in reverse.

"I really enjoy the Tasmanian roads," Brendan added, "and we've had some really good results there in the past, so I am looking forward to returning."

In 2011, Brendan won the Showroom Class in the MP3 with Simon Vandenberg alongside as his regular co-driver, sister, Rhianon Smyth, was recovering from an operation. This year, Rhianon returns to call the notes. The pair will be joined by team-mates, Simon and Sue Evans, who will drive the MP3 this year.

Targa Wrest Point gets underway on Saturday, January 28.