

{mosimage} With his entry in next weekend's Rally Whangarei confirmed, Brendo received the good news from the Asia Pacific Rally Championship executive that his application for financial travel assistance to attend the event has been granted.

As a privately run team, Brendo and Rhianon are thankful for all the support they receive, and to receive some financial assistance towards their travel expenses is fantastic news.

"This is awesome news. We were very excited when we received notification of the assistance package," Brendo commented.

Brendo and Rhianon are one of seven crews who have registered for the Pirelli Star Driver award, of which Rally Whangarei is a nominated event, but they are the only non-New Zealand crew. They will contest the event in a Ford Fiesta from Kayne Barrie Motorsport.

{mosimage}Rally of Whangarei is the first qualifying event for the star driver search which sees entrants assessed via a separate points rating during the two day event. The top two Pirelli award drivers then receive financial assistance to contest the second qualifying event, Rally Malaysia, in October this year. The winner in Malaysia, the Asia Pacific Pirelli star driver, will join four other regional winners to contest six FIA World Rally Championship events in 2009 in a dedicated Pirelli-funded works rally team.

Rally Whangarei takes place on June 7 and 8.