

Brendo has started his first international rally in style, setting the fastest time of the Ford Fiestas at today's pre-event shakedown.

Driving the Fiesta for the very first time, Brendo and his sister, co-driver Rhianon Smyth, are looking forward to their first event overseas with great anticipation.

"The lead up to the rally is going really well. We had shakedown this morning after an early visit to a primary school in the rally car, which was also attended by New Zealander Haydon Paddon and Deano (Herridge)," he said late today.

"Rhianon and I were the fastest of the Fiestas in shakedown, so that was pleasing. There was not much between the three of us though, but I still have a lot to learn with the car's achievable corner speed."

The rally gets under way tomorrow morning (Saturday), and Brendo says he can't wait.