

SOUTHLAND RALLY RETURNS FOR 2024

Emerging from the dark after a break of 20 years the Rally of Southland returns as the Southern Lights Rally – the world’s southernmost championship event, being held 21-22 June 2024.

Using 150km of competitive road section in the Southland region it revives what used to be one of the most challenging events on the Brian Green Property Group New Zealand Rally Championship (NZRC) calendar. The June date is expected to deliver the toughest of winter conditions along with prime aurora australis (southern lights) viewing.

Organised by the Rally Race Group (R2G) team behind the return of the Daybreaker Rally, the addition of the Southern Lights Rally came following a call by those keen to see the iconic event revived.

“When we announced our plans for the Daybreaker there was a pretty direct conversation and intention that we make the same happen for Southland and deliver another favoured event to the calendar,” said organiser Paul Fallon.

Along with co-organiser Tony McConachy, the duo has been in continual discussion and regular visits with key local personnel at reviving the event under modern conditions.

“Our team are all known for their experience as being competitors and organisers and is a blend we continue to appreciate as we look at how to make it a memorable challenge for everyone involved. The support and assistance by locals on the ground in the community mean this idea can become a reality,” added McConachy.

From Friday 21st June there will be a ceremonial start and autograph session at the Invercargill CBD before the competition begins. Plans are to venture to road sections like Pebbly Hills, Woodlaw, along with classic county road stages with some lengthy competitive tests. The final stage will be a Super Special where the finish ceremony will be held.

The event will be followed by a second re-run of the Daybreaker Rally – also a round of the NZRC. It has been confirmed for 13-14 September 2024.

