

HUGE TURNOUT FOR THE MJ CUSTOM ENGINEERING TARARUA ROAD GRAVEL SPRINT

A cold foggy Balance morning greeted 44 drivers and their crews to the pit paddock of Round 4 of the Dannevirke Car Club Gravel Sprint Series.

This is by far the largest field seen at a club event and would make for a competitive day. Drivers came from Wellington, Masterton, Hawkes Bay, Waikato and Wanganui to join locals from the Tararua region. The day began with a practice run followed by three official timed runs.

Round 2 winner Geoffrey Argyle set the early pace with Hawkes Bay's Grant Blackberry and Manawatu's Glen Pollard close behind. As the road base was swept of loose gravel the elapsed times were reduced and the competition for class honours heated up.

Class A had some of the closest times with Waikato's Rhys Knauf and Manawatu's Blake Jones finishing with only 4 seconds separating them.

Class B was dominated by Hawkes Bay's Nathan Tough who also had fastest two wheel drive time on the day. Max Bailey also from Hawkes Bay was second fastest with local postie Robin Feck third.

Class C was dominated by Series leader Daniel Feck with Wanganui's Pat Dillion second and Masterton's John Esler third.

Class D drivers Geoffrey Argyle, Grant Blackberry and Glen Pollard placed first, second and third respectively in class while Geoff and Grant were first and second overall with Glen 4th overall.

Class E which has been the biggest class of the series was won by Round 1 winner Gareth McLachlan from Hawkes Bay who was also 3rd overall. Masterton's Daniel Hole and local Robin Feck placed second and third in class respectively.

There was an amazing line up of cars competing, ranging from Alan Carters hand built Lancia 037 replica to a fleet of 5 Escorts, Mazda RX7, Subaru's, Mitsubishi's plus many more.

The Dannevirke Car Club was grateful for the support from the Dannevirke South School who had the job of catering on the day. They used this as an opportunity to help fundraise for an upcoming student trip. They did a fantastic job and are now a little closer to their goal.

The next round of the Dannevirke Car Club Gravel Sprint Series is the Engine Room Automotive Nae Nae Road held on the 21st of May. Dannevirke Car Club would like to welcome anyone interested in spectating, a hot seat ride, volunteering or just coming along.

These events wouldn't be possible without a strong group of people willing to give up their day to volunteer and Dannevirke Car Club would like to thank the landowners, the Tararua District Council, MJ Custom Engineering and everyone else that made the day a success. To keep up to date with the Dannevirke Car Club find us at www.dannevirkecarclub.co.nz. For more photos from this event and other local motorsport events google "jfrogpics".

Nathen Tough winner of Class B and fastest 2WD



Geoffrey Argyle winner of the event



Greg Browne charging hard



Alan Carter sharing driving duties with Richard Dann in the hand built Lancia 037 replica

