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2017 MRF Tyres Queensland Rally Championship



Round 5 - P3 Solutions Benarkin Rally 16 September 2017

With the Globe Roamer Rally (QRC 3) run and won, the focus of the 2017 MRF Tyres QRC season swings firmly onto **P3 Solutions Benarkin Rally** which is to be held on September 16 in the Benarkin, Pidna and Yarraman State Forests. The event is QRC 5, the penultimate round of the 2017 MRF Tyres Queensland Rally Championship.

Final course checks have now been done by Kent Lawrence who is a very experienced competitor ably mentored by Shaun Dragona on Kent's first event as Checker. The roadbook is finalised and after some excellent work by HQPlantations Pty Ltd, the roads are in the best condition that we have seen in the Benarkin, Pidna and Yarraman Forests for many years. All the old stories that Benarkin rallies are car-breakers are "dead and buried".

To paraphrase Kent Lawrence's comments after the course check, "*this a rally where you need to stay focussed and not relax*". The event will be a great challenge for the QRC crews with a total of 10 stages (2 run three times and 2 run twice) to give a very testing competitive distance of nearly 120 kms of Special Stage and a reasonably compact 180 kms of liaison. This distance includes 2 night stages totalling 28 kms.

Novice and Clubman will be scored over a shorter distance (with no night stages) of some 92 kms of Special Stages and 156 kms of liaison. However, while scoring for the Clubman and Novice crews finishes at the end of Section 2 of the Rally, these crews may decide to run the full distance (with the night stages) by paying the full entry fee (QRC entry fee). The timetable for the event is also very comfortable with the first car starting from the School at 10.30am and finishing just after 7.00pm.

Entries are now open with the approved Supplementary Regulations published on the BSCC website. While the event will be run in the same general forest areas, only one stage is similar to 2016. The other three stages have all been changed and are now considered to be even more testing and enjoyable than before.

Importantly, the 2017 P3 Solutions Benarkin Rally represents good value for money, with free camping in the Scott Street service park for competitors and service crews. Officials can camp on the school oval. Entry fees are the same as 2016 for QRC, Clubman and Novice entrants.

Once again we are hosted by the Benarkin State School community who are very keen to have us back and provide a warm welcome and good food from Friday night to Sunday breakfast. Many of us have fond memories of the excellent range of food that was available throughout the rally and the hearty Sunday breakfast buffet. That will occur again in 2017. Please support the School and its P&C as the Rally has again become a part of their little community and is a major fundraiser for them. The School is working to provide a food outlet and place port-a-loos in the bottom end of the Scott Street Service Park. The public (free) showers and toilets in Settlers Park are now fully functional and will be available throughout the rally.

The P&C are looking forward to catering for us again. There will be a good selection of food, hot drinks and soft drinks available including "Haydon Paddon" approved ham and cheese toasties. Please support them as not only do they serve up great food but the rally is a major fundraiser for them.

The P&C is also arranging for a band to provide entertainment before and after our presentations at 9.00pm and no doubt the fire pits will be a roaring success (if you excuse the pun).

So, with high quality roads, great food, a warm welcome from the School community and a relaxed and friendly venue, there are few excuses for you come along to the QRC 5 and enjoy the rally atmosphere?

Ian Gorski
Clerk of Course