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## **BLUE ROCKET RACING OVERCOMES MECHANICAL FAILURES TO COMPETE:**

Blue Rocket Racing was optimistic heading to Timaru and Teretonga for rounds four and five of the New Zealand Production Series.

A solid start was had in Timaru with a fourth in class for qualifying, a satisfying result with Ninkranz new to the track and the car suffering from understeer. The first race looked promising, Ninkranz splitting the Subaru of Varney and Evo X of Rongen for the duration of the race, until an engine malfunction on the penultimate lap caused a loss of power as a piston detonated, the Mazda limping home to fifth.

The engine proved to be beyond repair, and BRR were forced to withdraw from the Sunday races.

Determined not to head home yet, and with the help of John Van Der Valden from Mazda NZ, BRR sourced a new engine from Auckland and had it shipped to Timaru by Tuesday. The engine was fitted overnight and driven to Invercargill to run it in on Wednesday, the team present for Thursday's unofficial practice. A huge effort from all involved in the pursuit for a share of the championship points on offer.

The new engine immediately paid dividends, with major improvements in comparative times posted. Ninkranz enjoyed the Teretonga track and qualified second in the 2WD class, behind Rollinson and ahead of Modgill for the first time. Unfortunately Kennett and Ninkranz rubbed wheels in the first corner of race 1, as Kennett's Mitsubishi came through from behind, causing a slow leak in the right rear tyre. Ninkranz was forced to fight a very loose car to the end, finishing fourth in class, with 4psi left in the tyre.

Race 2 was again disappointing, with the boost pipe splitting and then coming off entirely on lap 1, forcing a lengthy pit stop which lost 4 laps and effected a DNF. Race 3 was promising with Ninkranz enjoying a comfortable second behind Rollinson's Mazda 3 MPS in the wet, until slower traffic forced Ninkranz wide into the dirt, forcing another pit stop for a tyre, ending the chance of a competitive result.

"We were quick in Invercargill, the guys really got the car back up and running well and the new engine seems to be an improvement over the previous one," Ninkranz commented.

"The results don't really reflect where we are and with a bit of luck I think we're in for some great things in the final two rounds."

Blue Rocket Racing heads to Manfield in 6 weeks for the penultimate round of the NZPRS.

*For more information please contact:*

*Myra Hemara*

*Blue Rocket Racing Limited*

*Ph (029) 200 9215*

*[myra@bluerocket.co.nz](mailto:myra@bluerocket.co.nz)*

