

SPORT



>THE smiles on Mike Young and co-driver Malcolm Read's faces tell the tale after the dynamic duo recently finished first in the two-wheel-drive class at the Kennards Hire Rally Australia, the Opotiki driver's first WRC event.

Photo APSM

Young foots it with the best in WRC

ROSS McCULLOUGH

OPOTIKI can celebrate with home-grown talent Mike Young, finishing his first World Rally Championship (WRC) event in Australia in number one spot – in the two-wheel-drive class he and co-driver Malcolm Read were competing in.

Young and co-driver Read finished first in the category at the Kennards Hire Rally Australia in Coffs Harbour over the weekend of November 17-19.

The performance in the Citroen DS3 R3 placed the Kiwi duo 17th overall, against the world's best drivers and teams in what was Young's first WRC event, and saw them finish fourth for the year in the Australian Rally Championship.

Young said his Citroen was pretty much faultless and showed good speed all weekend.

Young paid tribute to his Rallyhire Australia team, headed by Ron Cremen, for members' tireless efforts during, and before the rally.

"The Citroen was great all weekend and whenever we did have an issue, they sorted it out quickly ... they were very organised and that made all the difference, I think," he said.

Son of Brian and Kathleen Young of Opotiki, the budding rally ace said a major highlight for him, had been racing against some of the best rally drivers in the world, including New Zealand's Hayden Paddon.

"It had been a dream of mine since I was a kid so to be able to finally do it was amazing," he said.

His parents were in Australia to support their son at the event.

Mr Young described the moment for Mike as the Formula 1 of rallying, racing alongside his heroes.

He said it had been his son's lifetime dream to compete in a WRC event, and so it had been great to see him achieve his long-held goal.

Mrs Young said at first, she was wary of the risks Mike was taking especially when she could see him "ripping past you at enormous speeds".

"You just tend to think positively, he's driving past us, we've seen him and he's onto the next stage."

Meanwhile, Mr Young said he used to worry more about Mike driving to Whakatane on a Friday night with his mates.

He said the reassurance he got from rallying, was that it was very safety conscious, with one of the most important priorities for the sport being safety.

Rallying is somewhat a Young family affair, with Brian a former rally driver and Kathleen a former navigator or co-driver.

Mrs Young certainly remembers when he was big enough, Mike used to rip around on the ride-on mower at home at great speed and they'd have to tell him to slow down.

"He definitely had that sniff of petrol in his head quite early on," she recalled. "He's progressed from there and definitely

has a talent, but when rallying, I wouldn't want to be in the car with him," she stressed.

The 2017 rally campaign for Young and Read culminated the weekend before last at the final round of the FIA Asia Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) during the Coffee Day India Rally.

Competing in a Volkswagen Polo supplied by Volkswagen India, the pair were disappointingly forced to retire with a fuel leak on day one.

At the time of the retirement, the pair were holding second place behind Gaurav Gill in his four-wheel-drive Skoda, who went on to win his third Asia Pacific championship title at the event.

Young is now busy putting together a campaign for 2018 which he hopes will see him compete in the Asia Pacific Championship again, along with more international events.

His 2017 campaign was supported by Cusco, Mike Young Motorsport, Yoda Rallying, Excelerate Media, KOS Sunglasses, APSM and Winnimax.

"I hope to bring you more good results next year," the up-and-coming rally driver said in a press statement.

And Young isn't ruling out competing next year in New Zealand or Australian rallies.

Read about Young's favourite event of the year in Thursday's *OPOTIKI NEWS* with a season review of his performances in the five events he took part in.

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MARQUEE - easy up gazebo 3m (l) x 3m (w) x 2.5(h) navy blue and white, 140g denier polyester fabric, new, never been used. \$99.00. Ph 021 0296 4721.

MIXER, Breville, (Wizz) electronic cakemixer, c/w beaters, dough hooks, and 2 bowls, only used twice. \$90.00 Ph (07) 307 1015.

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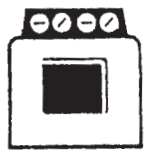
WETSUIT - fit a 12-15 yr old, in good condition, West End, Ohope. \$75.00. Ph (07) 312 4873.

OPOTIKI NEWS

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PHONE 315 6106

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OPOTIKI NEWS

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OPOTIKI NEWS

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CLASSIFIEDS

Phone
(07) 315 6106Email
classifieds@opotikinews.co.nzCall in
Opotiki News 127 Church St
Whakatane Beacon 32 Pyne StreetBEREAVEMENT
THANKS

DRUMMOND Edward, G.S. "Ted"
— Bev and families wish to thank family and friends for their outpouring of love and support at the loss of a loved husband, father, Granddad and great-Granddad. Many thanks for the lovely cards, flowers and phone calls. Special thanks to Shane Garner, doctors and nurses, Whakatane and Waikato Hospitals, and Hospice for their care of Ted during his illness. Will be sadly missed. Please accept as a personal acknowledgment.

UNVEILINGS

UNVEILING
Sonia Ripeka Paora
(Poipoi, Pereniki)
Waiaua Urupa
11am
Saturday,
December 23
followed by
hakari
18 Princess St
Opotiki
*Nau mai
Haere mai*

OPOTIKI NEWS
Phone 315 6106

MEETINGS

HUI
OMAI 55B
To discuss
Occupation
Order for
TULLULAH ROSS
8.30am,
December 28
Bottom School,
Te Kaha

SPECIAL GENERAL
MEETINGTorere Section 33
Trust Block

Notice is hereby given of a Special General Meeting of Beneficial Owners being held:

Venue: Whakatohea Maori Trust Board,
122 St John Street,
Opotiki
Date: 15/12/2017
Time: 10am

AGENDA:

1. Mihi/Karakia
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes of last General Meeting
4. Election of an additional Independent Trustee – Nominations to come from the floor of the hui
5. General Business
*Hanna Akurangi
Chairperson*

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MEETINGS

KIA ORA WHANAU

Meeting
Matapapa Block
11, 12, 13 for
all shareholders
and beneficiaries

VENUE:
Motu Trails
138 St John St
Opotiki
December 17,
2017 at 11am

AGENDA:
Chairman's Report
Financial Report
Shop Report
General Business
Any matters arising
Bring a plate for
shared lunch

Trustees
Edwin Knebel
Judy Ruff

PUBLIC NOTICES

POTTS & HODGSON SOLICITORS
CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

Our office will close
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2017 AT 4PM
and will re-open
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2018 AT 8.30AM
We wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

**CDL**
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

We wish to advise our valued clients that our office will close at
5pm on Friday, December 22, 2017
and will re-open at
8.30am on Monday, January 15, 2018
We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year

**Opotiki GLASS** Centre
YOUR LOCAL GLASS & WINDSCREEN SPECIALISTS

Tracey & Wade wish all their valued customers a very Happy Christmas & prosperous New Year!

We will be CLOSED from 5pm, Friday, December 22 until 8am Wednesday, January 3, 2018.

OPOTIKINEWS**CHRISTMAS**
Office Hours

Our office will **CLOSE** at 12noon,
Friday, December 22 and
RE-OPEN at 8.30am, Wednesday,
December 27 & Thursday,
December 28

The office will be **CLOSED**
Friday, December 29

Business as usual from January 3

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PUBLICATION DATES:
Thursday, December 28
Thursday, January 4

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DEADLINE:
11am the day prior

We wish our valued clients & readers a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year!

Your local newspaper
Phone 315 6106

Published by the Opotiki News 1996 Ltd,
Church Street, Opotiki. Printed by Beacon Print Ltd, Pohutu St, Whakatane.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHRISTMAS
LIGHTS
DISPLAY

173 Woodlands
Road
Welcome
to call in

**COOKSON FORBES** CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
TOWNHALL BUILDING & ANNESTOWN LIMITED

We wish to advise that our office
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Monday, January 8, 2018 at 8.30am

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- Lucky Halfway Store
- Mananui Dairy
- Mobil Opotiki
- Ngaru-Toa Cafe
- Paperplus Opotiki
- Paperplus Whk
- Oasis Store
- Ohope Beach Four Square
- Opotiki Bait & Tackle
- Opotiki News Office
- Opotiki Four Square
- Opotiki Internet Cafe
- Opotiki New World
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- Te Kaha Holiday Park
- Waihau Bay Store
- Whakatane Beacon

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