



**Sunday 13 June 2010**

## **EVENT SYNOPSIS**

*5 June*

Clerk of Course Tom Snooks has released some details on the final compilation of the Bega Valley Rally course following the completion of the road book in readiness for printing. Note that this is a non-pacenoted event!

As previously published there will be eight special stages, ranging in length from 18km to 27km.

From the picturesque start at the Snug Wharf in Eden, it's a 15.34km run to the first special stage.

### **Stage One**

The first stage will be over 24.56km and is an open, flowing stage conducted mainly over three roads through the forest. It has a hard, abrasive surface that can knock tyres around. There are no switchbacks or tight turns, but there are a few 'gotchas' that are listed in the route chart. Heavy storms some time ago resulted in fallen trees on one of the roads and whilst these will be cleared, any remaining debris close to the road will be advised to competitors at the competitors briefing (and in a bulletin issued at Eden).

There are a couple of 'hard to see' turns and overshooting will result in lost time. There is one single caution and one double caution – the 'hard to sees' and the cautions are in the road book.

A 15.17km liaison links stage one with stage two.

### **Stage Two**

This completely new 21.39km stage is over mostly a sandy surface, not unlike the Bega Shire roads. The first 7km is through a pine forest and is narrow, and then the road widens as it opens out into the natural forests. Drivers will enjoy this rather quick stage, which has no 'gotchas', and only one single caution for a dip.

Then it's off on a 23.49km liaison section to the first service break at the huge Edrom Road service park off the Princes Highway some 20km south of Eden, with the first vehicle due here at 1045.

After 30 minutes servicing and refuelling it's a 17.76km transport to the next stage.

### **Stage Three**

This stage, run over 18.53km, has a firm smooth surface all the way and is a drivers' delight with one 'hard to see' and a single caution for a dip. A triple caution for a 60m rocky approach to a narrow bridge will need to be heeded to avoid a rough crossing, and possible damage to the car.

A short 1.69km transport sees Stage Four come up very quickly.

### **Stage Four**

The 24.41km Stage Four has a mixture of road surfaces. The first 11km is a typical forest road (with logging between 3km and 4.5km making the road roughish), then 5km along a dirt 'highway' - wide and sweeping. After a turn hard right at a spectator viewing area, the road becomes quite grotty for some 3km (in fact, this is the second worst section in the event) after which the road widens where it has been graded.

A triple caution is needed at a dip in a bridge early in the stage followed by a much later double caution on a rocky approach to a causeway. A further single caution is included to advise of a roughish bridge crossing.

It's then only a 5.40km liaison run back to the second service break at the Edrom Road service park, where another 30 minutes has been allowed for servicing and refuelling. First car is due here at 1231.

Following the break it's a 18.26km run to Stage Five.



### **Stage Five**

Run over three roads this completely new 21.54km stage is mainly over a firm sandy surface. The first 11km is somewhat narrow, quite so in places, with flowing corners. This is followed for 9km by a fast, wide, flowing run along a road superior to even the Bega shire roads. It will be enjoyable for both driver and co-driver, and ends when it reverts to a typical forest track on its final 2.5km run to the finish. There's nothing untoward to catch out a driver.

A single caution (!) is advised for a gutter across the road at a tee junction, another for a rutted bridge, and a third for a log close to the road.

Crews won't even be able to draw a decent breath on the short 2.28km to the start of Stage Six!

### **Stage Six**

Another new stage, conducted over 23.82km on a variety of types of roads. The first is a narrow run for 5km, then along a track for 2km (with 1km of 'grot' – the worst in the event), followed by 14km of firm sandy surface. The latter is an enjoyable drive and is generally a wide and fast gently downhill run. Then it's a 3km run over a varying surface to the finish. There are a couple of 'gotchas' but these are in the instructions.

There are two single cautions (!) – a right-hander onto a narrow bridge, and a dip in the road.

From Stage Six it's a 16.73km run to the third service break back at the Edrom Road service park, where the first car is due at 1432.

For those competitors participating in the Short Course – that's it. They will have covered 134km of competition over a total distance of 233km (58%), finishing with the 18.75km run back to Eden.

However, for the Long Course competitors it's on again after the 30 minute break, with a 16.56km drive to Stage Seven.

### **Stage Seven**

This is a 20.43km often twisting run over a firm, consistent, hard-packed surface throughout its length, although a bit rough in short patches. The driver will always be working, as there are no real wide open, flat out sections along the route. A great stage to drive.

There are two single cautions (!) – one for a dip in the road, and the other for a 50m roughish (but not severe) left approach onto a bridge, followed by a 50m roughish patch after it.

Once again, it's a very short transport run of 2.82km to the last stage, Stage Eight.

### **Stage Eight**

Stage Eight will be well worth waiting for and will keep crews talking on the longish 45km transport back to Eden! This brand new stage is a real driver's delight and a reward for making it to the last stage of the event.

This 26.69km beauty comprises two roads; the first a very fast, open, sweeping, undulating run for 11km, better than the shire roads many rave about, and the second a narrowish, twisting forest road with bushes right up to the road edges at times. It has a few long straights and a number of 'gotchas' but these are listed in the instructions. The final, mostly downhill run to finish may be a challenge as some crews will be running into a setting sun.

This stage also includes a short section across the border into Victoria. Only one single caution (!) right at the end for a right hander onto a narrow culvert, plus an advise to not cut one left hander at another location.

So, that will that! A total of 181km from 293km (62%) followed by the relaxing 45km drive along the highway to Eden, via the Edrom Road service park for those who need to use it, or to take on a bit of fuel.

First car is due back at Eden at 1700.

Then it's clean the car, and self, and then relax at the Eden Fishermen's Club, take in a meal and participate in the presentation at around 2100/2200. We hope you'll enjoy a slideshow and/or some video footage capturing some of the action of the day.