

Škoda Claims Third Place in Rally of Otago.



- **A Bittersweet start to the 2024 Season with tributes being paid to Brooklyn Horan and Tyson Jemmett**
- **Hunt would've preferred more slippery conditions but happy with the Fabia R5's performance overall**

Auckland, New Zealand, 15 April 2024 – It was a bittersweet start to New Zealand's 2024 Rally Championship season this weekend with the world-renowned Otago Rally as competitors paid tribute to fellow rally competitors, Brooklyn Horan and Tyson Jemmett, who tragically lost their lives in a freak accident while contesting a club event earlier this year. The Škoda New Zealand Rally team honoured the pair with a unique livery for the event, paying homage to Horan's distinctive gold livery.

"To be honest, I don't think results were the most important consideration at Otago," said Hunt. "The Kiwi rallying fraternity is extremely tight-knit; beyond the competition, we are mates and family first and foremost. The tragic loss of Brooklyn and Tyson was such a shock for everyone, it was important for us as a team to pay tribute in some way to their contribution to our sport and community."

Otago turned on stellar conditions for the event and this presented significant challenges for Hunt and the Fabia R5.

"My driving style, combined with the Fabia's handling characteristics, tends to favour more tight and technical conditions. This made Day One very hard for us as it featured a lot of high-speed roads and we lost a lot of valuable time," said Hunt.

After finishing the opening day in third, Day Two presented better opportunities and was more to Hunt's liking; he and co-driver Tony Rawstorn set about clawing back some of that deficit. "We were the fastest car overall on Day Two and we won the iconic Kura Bush stage, which was a highlight. That's one of the great rallying roads and we absolutely loved the pace we had to close off the rally. Unfortunately, we couldn't claw back as much time as we needed to, but the podium finish is a strong start to the rest of the season and the team and the Škoda Fabia R5 were flawless all weekend," said Hunt.

Hunt and the team now look toward the rally of South Canterbury in Timaru on May 11, to claim more championship points as Hunt chases his third New Zealand Rally Championship.

Further information:

Natalie O'Brien
Marketing Manager
P +64 21 246 4542
nobrien@skoda.co.nz

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