



## Rally puts region into the limelight

IMAGES of NSW's Far North Coast; the sandy beaches, the rainforests and rich farmland that make up the hinterland, will be screened internationally when the region plays host to the Repco Rally Australia, the 10th of 12 stages of the world championships.

For three days and three nights in early September, Murwillumbah and the volcanic figure of Mt Warning will be seen on TV screens in about 50 million homes worldwide as rally drivers fight it out on the gravel.

It's the first time the rally has been held on Australia's east coast as Western Australia has had a mortgage on the challenge for 19 years.

The field of 60 will include drivers from more than 20 countries, including defending world champion Sebastian Loeb and current contest leader Mikko Hirvonen. It's hoped Chris Atkinson will lead Australia's charge.

About 340km of road through the Tweed and neighbouring Kyogle shire will be closed for competition, almost all on gravel.

Murwillumbah will be in the limelight each evening from September 3-6 for the time trials through its cordoned-off streets.

Kingscliff Sports Grounds will be the cars' service park, where enthusiasts will be able to get up close to their heroes for free.

Headquarters for the meeting, raced over 34 stages, will be nearby Salt Village.

The village is renowned for its resorts, cafes and restaurants, among them award-winning Fins which prides itself on fresh seafood.

It's all food for thought.

**Mike Smith**