



Opportunity for women to excel at driving champs



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The NZ Truck Driving Championship is about to kick off again in 2017. Every year, this event gets bigger and better and is the premier showcase for the skill and professionalism that exists within our industry.

Once more, the Road Transport Forum and its member associations are fortunate to have the support of TR Group as the event's major sponsor. The Women in Road Transport Network is also lining up to partner with other sponsors to provide additional support to the championship final.

The competition, which is made up of regional heats with the winners in each category going through to the final, is a fantastic opportunity for the top female

drivers in New Zealand to take on their male colleagues and prove how adept they are at this extremely demanding occupation.

The final is to be held in conjunction with the Road Transport Forum Annual Conference in Hamilton on 10 and 11 November and it would be fantastic to have a good field of women drivers to show the men how it's done.

New Zealand women have recently been proving their remarkable ability behind the wheel.

Late last year, we were all proud to watch Volvo Truck's latest stunt video as JPM Holdings driver Louise Marriott towed a paraglider up a mountain pass in Croatia in a stunt never tried before. Louise was chosen for this stunt

because in 2015 she became the first female driver to win the Volvo Trucks Asia Pacific Fuelwatch Challenge, beating 16 other international competitors.

Last year in Christchurch, NZ Express' Samantha Fairbrass won the Region 4 Young Driver of the Year event just two years after obtaining her Class 2 licence. She also gained a third place in the overall Class 3/4 category competing against many more experienced drivers.

So I encourage all those who are interested in following in the footsteps of top drivers such as Louise and Samantha to go on the RTF website or contact their local association and enter what is a fun, good-natured, and prestigious event. ■



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