

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **24 JULY 2011**

### **FANTASTIC FIELD FOR CATLINS COAST RALLY**

One of the best line ups for many years is expected for this years Catlins Coast Rally on Saturday 6 August.

The rally has attracted good entries throughout its history but this year stands out as one of the best ever fields assembled for the event.

Last years winner Andrew Graves of Gore will return to defend his title in his Mitsubishi EVO 3 but he will be up against some tough opposition. In addition to Graves four other former winners of the event are among the entries. Deane Buist of Christchurch returns in a Ford Focus this year, a car that will not be an outright contender for overall honours. However the other past winners all have a grand opportunity to add another Catlins Rally title to their CV. Derek Ayson, now living in Gore, has a new weapon this season, a Mitsubishi EVO 8. Kieran Hall of Nelson has a Subaru Impreza STi at his disposal while Dean Bond of Balclutha has the same Mitsubishi EVO 6.5 that he used to win the event two years ago. Another top contender will be Rangiora driver John Silcock who also drives an EVO 6.5.

The class battles are bound to be equally as hard fought with drivers coming from as far afield as Australia.

The cars will feature a new look this year due to safety considerations. Every car is tracked at points no greater than 15 kilometres apart throughout special stages to ensure they are still on the road. This year the numbers of each entrant will be displayed on the side windows to allow better visibility, an improvement on the original positioning on the side doors of each car. Thanks to Sign Advertising in Gore, a new livery has been produced for the doors featuring the sponsors names and the rally plate.

Century Batteries have recently confirmed their continued support of the event rejoining other long time sponsors MWH, the Rosebank Lodge, SouthRoads and Owaka Motors again in 2011.

As usual the rally will start from Owaka Motors in Owaka at 9.00am with eight Special Stages providing 157 kilometres of high speed competition.

The final stage will again be the very popular Riverside Reserve stage in Balclutha, a stage that always attracts an excellent crowd.

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2010 Catlins Coast Rally winner Andrew Graves of Gore Photo: Ben Wilson

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