



## MEDIA RELEASE 1 AUGUST 2011



Brian Budd

David Kirk

### TOP MOTORSPORT MAN FOR CATLINS COAST RALLY

The General Manager of Motorsport New Zealand, Brian Budd, will be 'hands on' when the 2011 Catlins Coast Rally takes place on Saturday 6 August.

Budd will take time out of his busy schedule at Motorsport NZ headquarters to travel south to co-drive for Gore driver David Kirk.

Last year Kirk invited good friend and fellow member of the Summer Motor Race Series management team Graeme 'Robbo' Robertson to co-drive on the event with him in his Mitsubishi GSR, the pair bringing the car home after an action packed day. Robbo wanted the seat again this year however the date clashed with a trip to Australia and when Budd heard this he told Kirky "I'm your new co-driver!" "It's a while since Brian has done anything in motorsport but we are out there to have fun and I will try not to do any damage this year," laughs Kirk! "I'm looking forward to it."

Budd is also looking forward to the opportunity. "I've heard lots of good things about Catlins. It didn't exist when I was competing. In those days it was the Gore and Wyndham rallies in this part of the world." Budd did in fact compete in the Eastern Southland Car Clubs Wyndham Rally on one occasion driving a Mazda RX3 Coupe which he later sold to John Metherell, a staunch supporter of the Catlins Coast Rally.

While these days Budd is associated with administration he also has quite a pedigree in the competition side of the sport. "I did some driving and I also co-drove for prominent South Island competitor Bill Currie in the mid 1970's in the Mainland Series. I have also done a lot of hillclimbs and sprints around Otago and North Otago. In fact I used to have an international rally licence. Until recently I only had a clubsport one but have updated to a National Rally licence for my outing with Kirky."

Asked why he has decided to make a return Budd says, "I had a desire to get back into rallying. Kirky mentioned at the recent Motorsport NZ Conference that he had established Robbo was not available and I told him I'm your man."

After Kirk had a couple of incidents last year with Robbo on board, Budd said he has no concerns jumping into the 'hot seat' this year. "I have had my fair share of upside downs in my time," he laughs.

One of the best line ups for many years has entered the event that commences at Owaka Motors in Owaka at 9.00am on Saturday 6 August. Seventy-four crews have entered the event which finishes with a publicity stage at the Riverside Reserve stage in Balclutha at 3.39pm.

Loyal supporters, the Rosebank Lodge in Balclutha, MWH, Southroads, Owaka Motors, the Clutha Licensing Trust and Century Batteries all return with all important sponsorship to allow the event to take place again.

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Photos - Brian Budd/David Kirk - courtesy of Motorsport NZ

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