

# MEDIA RELEASE - JULY 2015



## AYSON AMPED FOR 2-WHEEL-DRIVE BATTLE

Gore driver Derek Ayson is amped for the battle for 2-wheel-drive superiority in this weekend's Catlins Coast Rally.

Ayson has had tremendous success in the event over the years in both 2-wheel-drive and 4-wheel-drive machinery but this year he will again line up in his familiar Ford Escort with a Nissan motor. After an engine failure at the Otago Rally earlier in the year Ayson has competed in a sprint and hillclimbs since an engine rebuild and says the car feels strong and he says he is confident of a good result at Catlins.

In the past he has twice brought a 2-wheel-drive car home in third place and Ayson is looking forward to another crack at the event this weekend. Formerly of Clinton but now living in Gore, he says, "I still regard this as my home event. The 2-wheel-drive battle should be a good one. I just want to beat Mike Verdoner," he laughs. "I will be surprised if we can though. His car is pretty sorted and has got good boogie! I will be trying my best though."

Last year competitors struck snow in one of the stages and Ayson says, "I don't like the snow. I have got better mud tyres this year for the Tawanui stage though."

One nice touch this year is that one of Ayson's earlier cars, another Nissan powered Escort, will also be in the event. Entered by Winton driver Stephen Gill who has not competed for many years Ayson says, "it is a good little car. It was basic but went really well. We took a third place here in that car and a National Title. It's pretty special."

Lindsay Beer, on behalf of Eastern Southland Car Club 021 351 499