



PADDON RALLY FOUNDATION SUPPORTS CATLINS ENTRANTS

Kiwi rally fans have for many years enjoyed watching the exploits of Hayden Paddon in the World Rally Championship. While Paddon has worked extremely hard to succeed at the highest level he has also fulfilled a desire to give back to the sport that has given him so many great opportunities by establishing the Paddon Rally Foundation designed to assist New Zealand rallying at all levels. When the Foundation was launched Paddon said, “the vision of the foundation is to encourage new competitors and generally grow the sport of rallying in New Zealand from grassroots level to national and international level. The Foundation is more than just the financial support; each successful applicant also has access to us and the board for advice and help.”

The foundation has a governing body of six people including Paddon as the chair and over 80 applications were received for the first round of funding at the beginning of this year. Over \$30,000 worth of cash, fuel vouchers from Z Energy, race gear from Chicane Racewear and rally entries from the Marathon Car Club and the Eastern Southland Car Club were allocated to 26 successful applicants who ranged from Marlborough Car Club member 12-year-old Brody Cattermole to 58-year-old Michelle Harris, a member of the Eastern Southland Car Club.

The Eastern Southland Car Club is proud to be associated with the Foundation and several members of the club who will be among the entries for the Catlins Coast Rally on Saturday 12 August were among the recipients.

Roger Laird of the Eastern Southland Car Club says, “the club has always been supportive of ways to encourage people to participate and have previously given free entry to the Catlins Rally to the National Junior Clubsport Champion and we have also given entry support to the top 2-wheel-drive and 4-wheel –drive competitors as voted for by the Grey Roots Rally Group each year. Hayden has always been very supportive of our club and has attended our annual prizegiving a couple of times in his early days in the National Championship and the Production World Rally Championship. At the time Hayden was looking for dollars to carry on overseas and we were not in a position to help. Providing entries for the foundation now is our way of saying thank you. This is a way for the club to be part of something very special that we believe in. We owe a huge thank you to Hayden Paddon – it is good for the club to be involved.”

Dave Loudon of Invercargill and Michelle Harris of Gore and her co-driver Jared Hudson of Christchurch are all competing this weekend as recipients of Foundation Grants. As part of the Eastern Southland Car Club’s contribution to the foundation Loudon and Hudson receive free entry to the event.