

# MEDIA RELEASE

## 18 JULY 2019



### PLANNING ADVANCING FOR 2019 CATLINS COAST RALLY

Preparations are well advanced for the 2019 Catlins Coast Rally due to be held on Saturday 10 August.

The rally is not only an iconic event for the area but also an iconic rally on the New Zealand motorsport scene with many competitors including Catlins on their 'rally bucket list'.

Changes are afoot this year with changes to the order of stages and some new roads making for an interesting Special Stage 5 at McNab's Farm.

Owaka will once again be the hub for the event with the start taking place at Owaka Motors in Campbell Street, Owaka from 10am and the first car due to return to the rally finish in Campbell Street at 3.40pm.

Owaka will also be the venue for Service Parks throughout the day.

This year's rally consists of 150 kilometres of high-speed Special Stages linked by 90 kilometres of Touring Stages. The popular 12.89km Cannibal Bay stage is the first of the day this year, the shortest stage of the rally followed immediately by the longest – Romahapa at 35.76km. The 16.5km Puaho is next followed by Catlins Valley (26.61km). The penultimate stage sees the biggest change of the event with some new roads and some used in the past, albeit in a different direction. Known as McNab's Farm, Clerk Of The Course Craig Jessop, says "it will be telling." "We are lucky to have some private roads to use and we are extremely grateful." That stage is 31.84 km long with the private roads linking the public roads of the stage. The final stage is the 24.10km Tawanui.

Entries close at 5pm on Thursday 25 July and already forty-five entries have come in.

The winner of the event will receive the Darryl Robinson Memorial Trophy while the leading South Otago crew home earns the Kerry O'Donohue Memorial Trophy and the top Otago Sports Car Club crew, the Glen Shirlaw Memorial Trophy.

The rally is the fifth and final round of the Mainland Rally Championship and part of the Eastern Southland Car Club Rally Championship.

The Eastern Southland Car Club is delighted to have the support of the Clutha Licensing Trust through their Rosebank Lodge Balclutha establishment, plus Southroads, Owaka Motors, Yuasa Batteries and Stadium Finance. The club is also especially grateful to Rayonier Matariki Forests and the Clutha District Council for their assistance with the event.

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

For further information contact

Roger Laird – 0274 368 876



**Photograph:** CH8T0072 Terry Marshall/ Euan Cameron Photography

Defending champions Andrew Graves / Jared Leebody on their way to another Catlins Coast Rally victory in their Mitsubishi EVO 3