

MEDIA RELEASE

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EDIE BACK TO DEFEND TITLE

Winning last year's Catlins Coast Rally was definitely a career highlight for Invercargill driver Vaughan Edie. "It was an experience you don't get too many times, particularly with the amount of rallying I do," he said recently as he reflected on a great result twelve months ago.

Edie does not do a huge amount of competitive miles but last year armed with his Mitsubishi EVO 8 he took advantage of his starting position to build a good lead early in the treacherous conditions before staving off the challenge of Andrew Graves as the day went on. There was ice and snow on some stages and Edie says, "You had to take risks. It could easily have gone pear shaped. It was definitely an advantage to be where we were on the road in those conditions."

Despite the trying conditions, unlike many of his rivals Edie was actually enjoying the event last year. "I quite enjoyed it until I realised we had a good gap. From that point on I was just trying not to make mistakes."

Since last year's event Edie has done little running, "just a few kilometres." "I did the Dusky Forest Rally but we had an electrical fault and I have done a couple of gravel sprints. Motorsport has taken a back seat this year as we have done other things."

Looking ahead to this year's event he says, "It would be nice to get some good stage times here and there and have some fun and put the car back on the trailer at the end of the day."

The 2017 Catlins Coast Rally is Round 5 of the Stadium Finance Mainland Rally Championship and also a points round for the ESCC Rally Championship Trophy.

The event is scheduled to depart from Owaka Motors in Campbell Street, Owaka at 10am on 12 August. The rally will be based in Owaka this year with servicing of the rally cars taking place in the township between stages. Six Special Stages await competitors before the rally finishes in Owaka at approximately 3.44pm.

Major support for the 2017 Catlins Coast Rally comes from Rosebank Lodge Balclutha, Fulton Hogan, Owaka Motors, Yuasa Batteries and Stadium Finance.

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Photographs - Vaughan Edie of Invercargill in his Mitsubishi EVO 8 enroute to victory in the 2016 Catlins Coast Rally - please credit Euan Cameron

