

MEDIA RELEASE - JULY 2015



CHANGES FOR CATLINS COAST RALLY ROUTE

One extra Special Stage and more kilometres of high speed competition will be highlights of the 2015 Catlins Coast Rally which will take place on Saturday 8 August.

The rally which is Round 4 of the Clearwater Painting Mainland Rally Championship and Round 2 of the Laird Motorsport Southern Rally Series will start from Owaka Motors where Miss Rosebank Lodge will flag away the field with the first car due to depart at 9.00am.

From the start the cars tour to the opening stage, Puaho, a 15.11km stage, a tricky test starting with a run up the Waikoato Valley followed by a twisty section before descending the Puaho where some ended their rally down banks last year.

Next up is Gun Club over 15.65km, a stage not used since the first Catlins Coast Rally back in 1999. With fast sections at the start and finish and lots of slippery, twisty terrain in between it will be a good test before the first service at Owaka.

An old favourite, Cannibal Bay over 12.90km, follows and features the Clearwater Painting Mainland Rally Series Power Stage where the top three competitors in that series can gain additional points. Special Stage 4 is the fast and flowing 35.83km Romahapa stage which takes cars past the popular Katea spectator area before the cars head to Moats Saddle (10.98km) which features a repeat of some parts of the second stage. Good viewing is available at the end of the stage.

Warnock Road was a new stage last year and returns again in 2015 with 13.01km of classic Catlins roads, likely to be slippery and with a good spectator vantage point near the end. Stage 7, Tawanui over 27.15km, is one that needs to be read carefully by competitors, particularly through the fast, flowing roads in the first half of the stage. McNab's follows, fast and flowing for 37.21km through rolling farmland. The stage starts on the very fast Hunt Road before 4.5km of farm track and then the fast, flowing brows of the Waitepeka District. Great viewing can be had at the Gray Road spectator area.

The final stage at the Riverside Reserve in the centre of Balclutha is a great one for spectators, easily accessible and offering great viewing as the cars blast through the final 1.05km of competition.

The first car is expected to tackle the final stage at 3.40pm with the rally finish at the end of the stage.

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