

MEDIA RELEASE - JULY 2015



HYBRID CAR AIMING FOR TOP TEN

One of the more interesting cars in this year's Catlins Coast Rally is the 4-wheel-drive, turbocharged Toyota Starlet of Phillip Terry.

Terry, from Invercargill, has been a successful competitor in a Class B Toyota Levin over a number of years with a best Catlins Coast Rally result of second in class. One of his motorsport highlights came at the Rally Of Otago in 2010 when he was beating most of his closest competitors only to miss a stage when he blew a sump plug. "We didn't get a finish but it was a really enjoyable event," he says. In 2013 Terry contested the Catlins Coast Rally in the Starlet which was loaned to him by co-driver Calvin Hamilton. Unfortunately the engine blew in the fifth stage of the rally and it was back to the Toyota Levin for last year's Catlins Coast Rally, where he netted a third place in Class B. The Starlet was back on the road for last year's Rankleburn Rally and Terry brought it home in fifth place overall. The 2015 Rally Of Otago was the next major mission and again Terry was going well, leading the Allcomers Section, until he braked late at the end of a long straight rolling a tyre off a rim, costing him time to eventually finish fifth.

Terry's goal for Catlins this year is "to get into the top ten and maybe close to the top five. That would be really good. However making the finish is the first aim," he says. The Starlet is very much a hybrid machine with a Toyota Caldina GT turbo 3SGTE engine and drivetrain. With the turbocharged engine and 4-wheel-drive the car is quite a weapon but Terry says he finds it "quite good" to drive. Jumping from his 2-wheel-drive Levin it took "a wee bit to get used to though". "The Levin ran at high revs but the Starlet doesn't rev as much and you can run in a higher gear. It handles quite good and I enjoy driving it." There is little doubt though that the car would have taken a lot of time to develop but it is now capable of giving the top ten a real shake come the 2015 Catlins Coast Rally on Saturday 8 August.

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