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DRIVER GIVES BACK TO THE SPORT THAT HAS GIVEN HIM SO MUCH

Gore driver Jamie Wishart is putting back into the sport that has given him so much. Wishart has been a regular competitor in the south for many years, running a Toyota Corolla with brother Kieran as his co-driver. This year the brothers will again line up for the Catlins Coast Rally but unlike his previous campaigns this year Jamie is not only a competitor but he is also part of the Rally Organising Committee.

Jamie, a Service Manager at Southland Farm Machinery in Gore, caught the motorsport bug when he began servicing for Phillip Haar who ran a Subaru Legacy in rallies. "I got a taste and I was screwed", he laughs. From there the Corolla was purchased from fellow Gore driver Craig Cormack in 2007 and he and Keiran started doing events with some success. Highlights include second place in his class at the Classic Rally Of Otago in 2009, the only time he has done that event, and second in Class F in the Catlins Coast Rally plus a third in Class F at the 2008 Gore Rally. In 2010 the car rolled at the Long Point Rallysprint and that was the end for about three years. There was a big push to get the car ready for the 2013 Catlins Coast Rally but the car snapped an axle and the brothers missed three stages while it was repaired.

During the three year layoff Jamie carried out timing crew duties at events and this year he became part of the rally organising committee for the first time. "It is about putting something back. I thought I would give the committee a crack. It is a lot harder to put an event like this together than everyone thinks. It is cool though that I have landed a job that still allows me to compete." So after doing his bit to make the rally happen there would be no better reward for Jamie and brother Kieran than to bring the Toyota to the finish again this year.

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