

# MEDIA RELEASE - JULY 2015



## CLASSIC REPLICA LINES UP AT CATLINS

Barry Varcoe of Christchurch will bring one of the more interesting cars to the startline at Catlins this Saturday.

Varcoe is bringing south his Toyota Celica Group B Replica for the first time. The car features a genuine body kit, imported from Finland, and has been lovingly built. It features a Toyota 3TGTE engine and plenty of kiwi build ideas. Varcoe did a bit of rallying in the late 1970's and early 80's and competed in the 1984 International Rally Of New Zealand in a Toyota Starlet. "Bjorn Waldegard, the 1979 World Champion from Sweden, was competing that year in a Celica and after he struck problems he actually started behind me at one stage. The next year I serviced for them. Since then I have always wanted a replica Celica. So far I have done Rally Wairarapa in it while Deane Buist drove it at Hanmer. I also did a ralliesprint recently."

This will not be Varcoe's first Catlins appearance. "I have been here before a few years ago." Not only has he competed before but last year he was an Assistant Clerk Of The Course for the event. He has also been part of the organising team at the Canterbury, Hanmer and Silver Fern Rally's. Lately he has also been part of the crew helping young Canterbury driver Matt Summerfield and that favour will be repaid this weekend when some of Summerfield's crew service for Varcoe.

Varcoe's reason for bringing the Celica south for the Catlins Coast Rally is simple and it will also allow rally enthusiasts to take a nice trip down memory lane. "I saw that Australian driver John Spencer was running his Nissan 240RS at Catlins. That car is from the same era as the Celica. John will have done more miles than me but it will be great to go up against another car from the era."

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