

Entry list like a who's who

The entry list for the Begonia Rally, to be staged next weekend in Ballarat, reads like a who's who of Victorian rallying.

Entries are now being finalised for the two-day affair, which promises to be the best motor sport action seen in Ballarat since the days when BSAs and Nortons screamed around Victoria Park.

Perhaps it's ironic that Begonia Rally directors, Geoff Boyd and Ross Runnalls, have chosen a part of Victoria Park to conduct their first special stage shortly after the event begins on Saturday morning.

Portman-Gregson

But back to the entry list. Geoff Portman and Wayne Gregson (Datsun).

Portman began his rallying career (with director Runnalls) while a student at the Creswick School of Forestry. That was only five years ago.

Last year he won the Repco Alpine rally, was sixth in the Castrol International, and placed second in a round of the Australian Rally Championship in South Australia.

A minor mechanical fault put him out of the

running against the works team in the Marchal Rally (another ARC round), run near Ballarat late last year.

Some rally experts say he is the best young driver in Australia.

His navigator for The Begonia is Wayne Gregson, who competes regularly with Greg Carr (1978 ARC champ) in the Ford works team.

Bob Watson

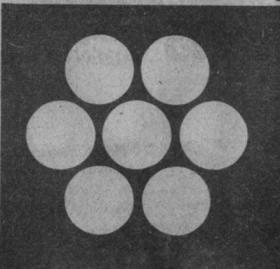
Ex-ARC champ and fifth in the 1977 London to Sydney marathon is Bob Watson. In the Begonia, Watson will drive his latest mount, a turbo-charged Peugeot 504.

This is the car he rolled in its first outing in last year's Repco Alpine rally.

Watson is a vastly experienced driver and although the Peugeot may not be as nimble as some of the smaller cars, he will be definitely one to watch.

Harrowfield-Richards

Local rally hot-shot, Garry Harrowfield, has



BEGONIA RALLY



teamed up with London-Sydney marathon class winner, Stawell schoolteacher, Noel Richards.

Harrowfield will be keen to win this one and his impressive rallying record shows he has the ability.

Smith-Patterson

Last year's Victorian rally champions, Warwick Smith and Paul Patterson, have entered the Begonia. They are experienced campaigners.

White-Williams

John White and John Williams are from Sydney, but are regular competitors down south of the border. White, in the Royal Australian Navy, drives down on Friday night, competes on Saturday night (and Sunday

morning!), then drives home on Sunday night. Quite a schedule.

Armitage-Rainer

The man behind Autosport, the rallyman's shop in Melbourne, John Armitage has teamed with Phil Rainer for the Begonia.

Armitage can boast of a sixth outright in the 1975 Castrol International and a third outright in the Holden Dealers International.

Hayward-Hayward

Mick and Anne Hayward hail from England, but don't hold that against them. Both have considerable rallying experience. Mick's competed in two Monte Carlo rallies and five RAC rallies in Britain. Anne has also competed in RAC rallies.



One of the favorites for the Begonia Rally — young champion, Geoff Portman.

Now, how's that for a cast!

And they are just the main characters. You should see the chorus!

More than 50 top crews will face the starter, from the Grenville street south pit area, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, March 3.

Next Friday, Motoround will publish a full list of entries and highlights in a special Begonia Rally supplement.