

INITIAL RELEASE TO 21 RADIO

# LIGHT CAR CLUB OF AUSTRALIA

BALLAARAT BRANCH



P.O. BOX 400, BALLARAT, 3350

## MEDIA RELEASE 1979 BEGONIA RALLY

The 1979 Begonia Rally to be run in the forests around Ballarat on March 3rd/4th will be an exciting opportunity for Australian rally enthusiasts. All of the stages on this fully route charted event will be run in daylight and timed to the second.

Competition among drivers should be very keen for the \$1000 offered as prize money for first outright. As an added bonus at least \$20 for first outright and \$20 for first Clubman will be offered on every special stage.

A further unique feature of this rally and a bonus for spectators is that the first Special Stage will be held in Victoria Park only 3 kilometres from the heart of the City of Ballarat. This Park, used for many years as a motorcycle racing circuit on Queen's Birthday Weekends will be closed again to allow cars to run a short Special Stage incorporating sealed roads.

A maximum penalty scheme will operate which limits to a reasonable figure the time which can be lost on any Stage. No time Penalties will be applied on Transport Stages with Late Time placing an upper limit on any addition service time that crews may require during Transport Stages.

The field for this rally will be limited to sixty with the first car being flagged off from a publicity start area in the main street of Ballarat at 11.00 Saturday morning by the new Begonia Festival Queen. Throughout the first day cars will run on fast forest roads north of Ballarat. An informal social gathering at the Club's licenced premises is planned for the Saturday night at which the day's results will be available. On Sunday crews will contest the final Stages in forest areas south of Ballarat. This will be followed by a presentation function on Sunday evening.

Pre-planning for this event has taken place over the past three years. The concept of this year's event is unique; the roads are excellent; the timing is to be very accurate and the Organisers are looking forward to a top class event.

Any intending competitors are reminded that accommodation should be booked as soon as possible because the event coincides with Ballarat's annual Begonia Festival. Further details of the event and assistance with accommodation can be obtained by contacting the Event Secretary Bob Phillips at 3 Harold Street, Wendouree, 3355.

Bus. 053-327176      A.H. 394031.

**AND NEWSPAPER OUTLETS.**