

AUTO ACTION

SPEEDWAY ACTION

Registered for posting as a publication
—Category B—

No. 261 Friday, February 27, 1981 \$1.00

All In Readiness

THIS WEEKEND sees the running of Round two of the Victorian Rally Championship series and one of the State's leading rallies — "The Windscreens O'Brien Begonia Rally".

Enthusiasm is certainly building for this "Two Day Spectacular", to be held on Saturday 28th February and Sunday 1st March in the beautiful Begonia Festival township of Ballarat.

Thousands of Melburnians are expected to make the 100 odd kilometre trip to this country city, as well as many from other Victorian centres, South Australia and New South Wales. There is so much interest at Broken Hill, that

supporters are hiring a bus for the weekend journey.

All of Victoria's leading championship contenders have entered. They include the recent Martini Mountain Rally winner Geoff Portman, who rose to national headlines when

he led the 1979 Repco Around Australia Trial for several days as a privateer entry against the might of the factory entries.

For the Begonia Rally, he will be competing in the Autosport entered Datsun 200B.

Victoria's other "Hot-Shot" Hugh Bell is also entered and has drawn the coveted Car 1 position. He is sure to provide the many spectators with a thrill a minute, as he surges through the bush in the flight for victory.

Report from John White

Down from New South Wales to throw out a major challenge is Ian Hill in his Gosford Dynotune, Miranda Hi-Fi, ex-works Escort RS2000. He is sure to provide the two Victorian aces with some stiff competition and in fact is slotted in between them on the road.

Co-winner of the Repco Trial with Peter Brock, Noel Richards, will team with David Jones in a Lancer, whilst Ballarat ace and serious contender for outright honours,

Gary Harrowfield will drive a Datsun.

Two leading South Australian entries have been received, they are Gary Rainsford in a Mazda Rotary and Barry Lowe in a Datsun Rotary. Gary is the brother of Dean Rainsford, who drove a Porsche and a SAAB to many successes in the Australian Rally Championships in the mid-seventies. Lowe competed last year and was headed for a very high placing when mechanical failure forced him out near the finish.

The Windscreens O'Brien Begonia Rally will be the second of the seven round series forming the 1981 Victorian

Rally Championship Series. The Rally will be conducted over 550 kilometres on the Saturday and Sunday — no night running has been included in this year's event.

The all-daylight Special Stages over the weekend makes for excellent spectating and the organisers of the rally, the Light Car Club of Australia (Ballarat Branch) have made special provision to cater for the many thousands of spectators expected to attend.

The cars return to Ballarat at 5 pm for an overnight stop and the event resumes, with cars reshuffled in order of time lost, on Sunday at 8.30 am, then concludes at 5 pm.