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# AGE

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## Big entry for the Begonia Rally

THE second round of the Victorian Rally Championship, the Begonia Rally at Ballarat next weekend, has drawn more than 90 entries for the 65 car field.

This is some indication of the popularity of the rally and the strength of the special stage nature of the Victorian Rally Championship.

The first car will leave Ballarat at 10.45 am on Saturday, flagged away by the newly-crowned Begonia Queen. The rally is sponsored by Windscreen O'Brien.

The cars will return to Ballarat at 5 pm, if on schedule, and then compete from 8.30 am to 5 pm on Sunday.

Geoff Portman, who won the opening round of the series recently, will start favorite. Navigated by Phil Rainer, he will drive a Datsun 200B.

In another Datsun, a 180B, the present champions, brothers Chris and Simon Brown, will ensure Portman gets stiff competition.

Janine Kilfoyle will navigate Warwick Smith, loser of the 1980 title to the Browns after a protracted protest. Hugh Bell will drive a Datsun 1600, navigated by Damien O'Reilly, a team which could do well.

Ian Hill, from Gosford, north of Sydney, will drive his Escort navigated by Anne Heaney, of Canberra. Hill has taken fourth, fifth and seventh places in the Southern Cross International Rally but that is an endurance event rather than a short, sharp stage rally such as the Begonia.

Spectator instructions are available from the Light Car Club of Victoria, whose Ballarat branch is conducting the 550 kilometres rally.

The competitive distance is arranged in 35 special stages.