

The Courier

BALLARAT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1981

BEGONIA RALLY

Top cars on show

Six top rally cars will be displayed at Wendouree Village tonight from 6 pm to 9 pm. Rally films will be shown and spectator kits about the rally will be available. Rally sponsors Windscreen O'Brien will demonstrate different types of glass for windcreens. The cars and drivers will be in the Centre Mall.

Rally honors

The first Begonia Rally was in the Olympic year, 1956.

Neil Everett and Colin Ward took an FJ Holden to victory. Since then many famous rally and racing drivers have stamped their name in the history book by winning the event.

Light Car Club historian, Mr Ian McKenzie, said the event had always been associated with the Begonia Festival.

Though the name and the date of the rally has varied over the years it has always been a top Victorian rally and part of Ballarat's Begonia celebrations.

Wes Sharrock navigated a Vanguard to victory in 1960. Seventeen years later his son, Max was navigator in the winning Datsun.

Similarly, the 1980 winner, Hugh Bell is the son of the 1958 winner Bob Bell. Hugh's Datsun 1600 was slightly more mechanically advanced than his father's FC Holden station wagon!

The 1976 event was not run because the club was late arranging a permit to run the event with

the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport.

Jeff Beaufort navigated the 1988 winning Cortina. He was the 1980 Australian Rally Champion with Ross Dunkerton.

Geelong driver Warwick Henderson, renowned for his super-Corvette sports car of recent times won the Begonia Rally back in 1970.

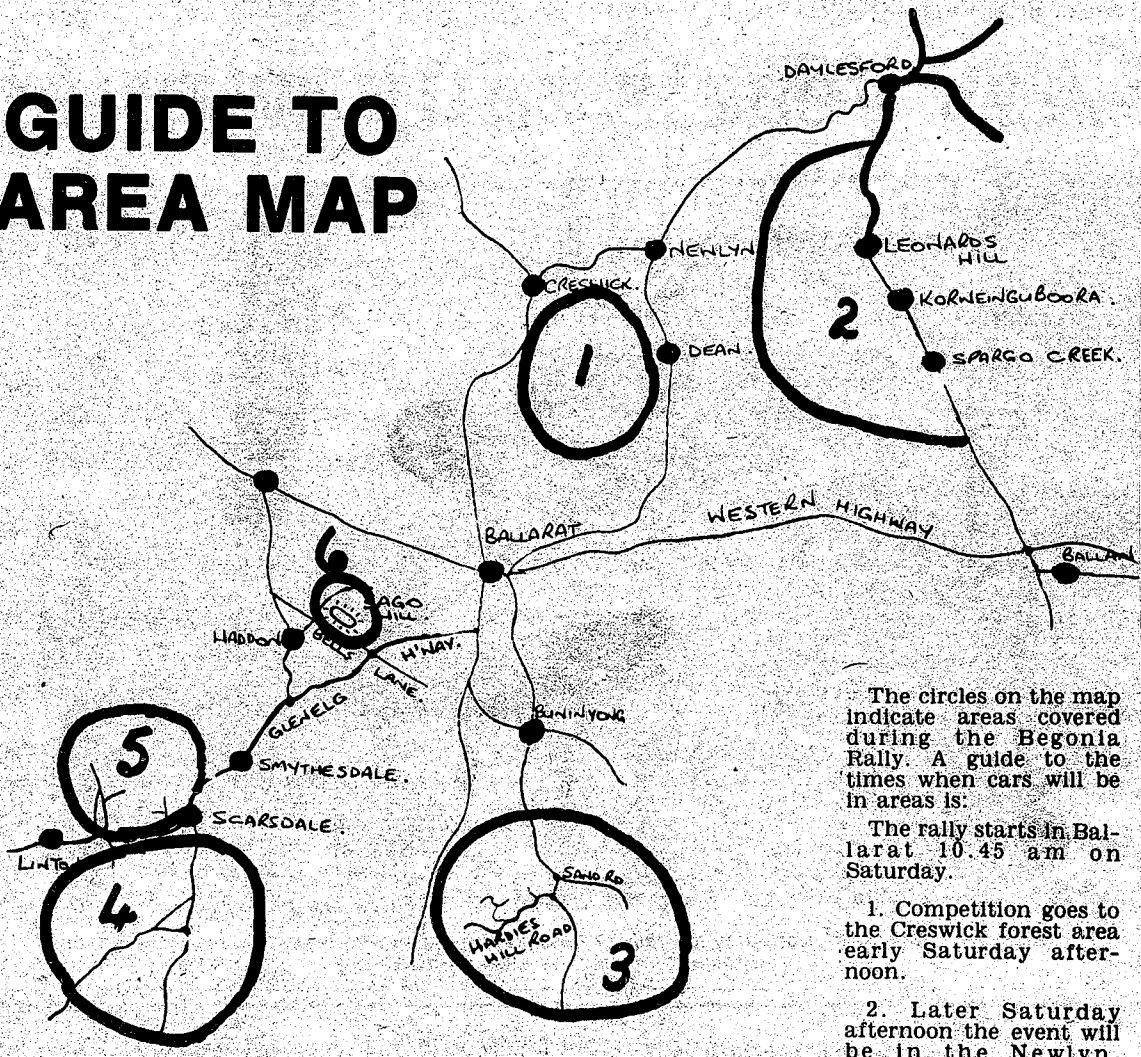
BEGONIA RALLY WINNERS

1956 Neil Everett, Colin Ward, FJ Holden
1960 Len Paige, Wes Sharrock, Vanguard
1964 Jack Ellis, Frank Guy, Falcon
1968 David Foster, Jeff Beaumont, Cortina
1972 Garry Harrowfield, David Hodge, Cortina
1973 Bill Strownix, Geoff Boyd, Torana GTR
1974 Garry Harrowfield, Geoff Boyd, Cortina
1975 Len McKay, Ian Baldock, Escort
1976 Event not run
1977 Bob Bowden, Max Sahrock, Datsun, 180B SSS
1978 Warwick Smith, Paul Patterson, Lancer
1979 Geoff Portman, Wayne Gregson, Datsun 1600
1980 Hugh Bell, Damien O'Reilly, Datsun 1600

Begonia rally computer link

In a rally the first man across the finish line is not necessarily the winner. A rally is a series of stages. A time limit is set for each stage and a penalty for every second taken to complete the stage is given to the car. A feature of the Begonia Rally is that, through the computer link-up, positions in order of penalties can be quickly determined. This allows officials the opportunity to reorganise the field in order of position and spectators can easily keep up with the rally positions.

GUIDE TO AREA MAP



The circles on the map indicate areas covered during the Begonia Rally. A guide to the times when cars will be in areas is:

The rally starts in Ballarat 10.45 am on Saturday.

1. Competition goes to the Creswick forest area early Saturday afternoon.

2. Later Saturday afternoon the event will be in the Newlyn, Daylesford, Leonard's Hill area. The first day's competition finishes in Daylesford at 4.45 pm.

On Sunday the cars leave Sebastopol at 8 am.

3. Early Sunday morning the event is south of Buninyong in the Grenville area.

4 and 5. Most of the afternoon's rallying will be around Newtown and Scarsdale.

6. The cars will be at the Sargo Hill quarry at 4.30 pm.

The rally finished near the sound shell in the Botanical Gardens at 5.15 pm.