

Hot and hard is rally tip

A hot, hard Begonia Rally is forecast by leading Balarat driver Garry Harrowfield.

He said he expected the hot, dry summer to make the course tough on tyres, suspension and the differential.

To prepare for this, he

will have 12 to 16 spare tyres for his Datsun 1600.

"We will be looking at changing rear tyres every 100 kms," he said.

He said the rear tyres wear quickly and lose the pattern. The front tyres do not wear as quickly.

He has driven in several Begonia rallies and won in 1974 with this year's director, Geoff Boyd.

Harrowfield said he drove best in the tighter forest sections.

His car is a two-litre Datsun with a special five-speed gearbox.

"It is a close range gearbox without an overdrive. The five gears cover the same area as the normal four-speed gearbox. The extra speed will allow more freedom for handling the short, tight stretches," he said.

He said many drivers chose the Datsun 1600 for rallying because it was well-tested, cheap to buy and had a strong body.

"The optimum engine size for rallying has proven to be between 1800 and 2200 cubic cms," he said.

His navigator for the rally is Tooborac storekeeper, Jim Maude.

It will be their first rally together.

Harrowfield said it would take a couple of stages for him to become adjusted to a new navi-

gator but once a style of instruction calling has been agreed, there should not be any trouble.

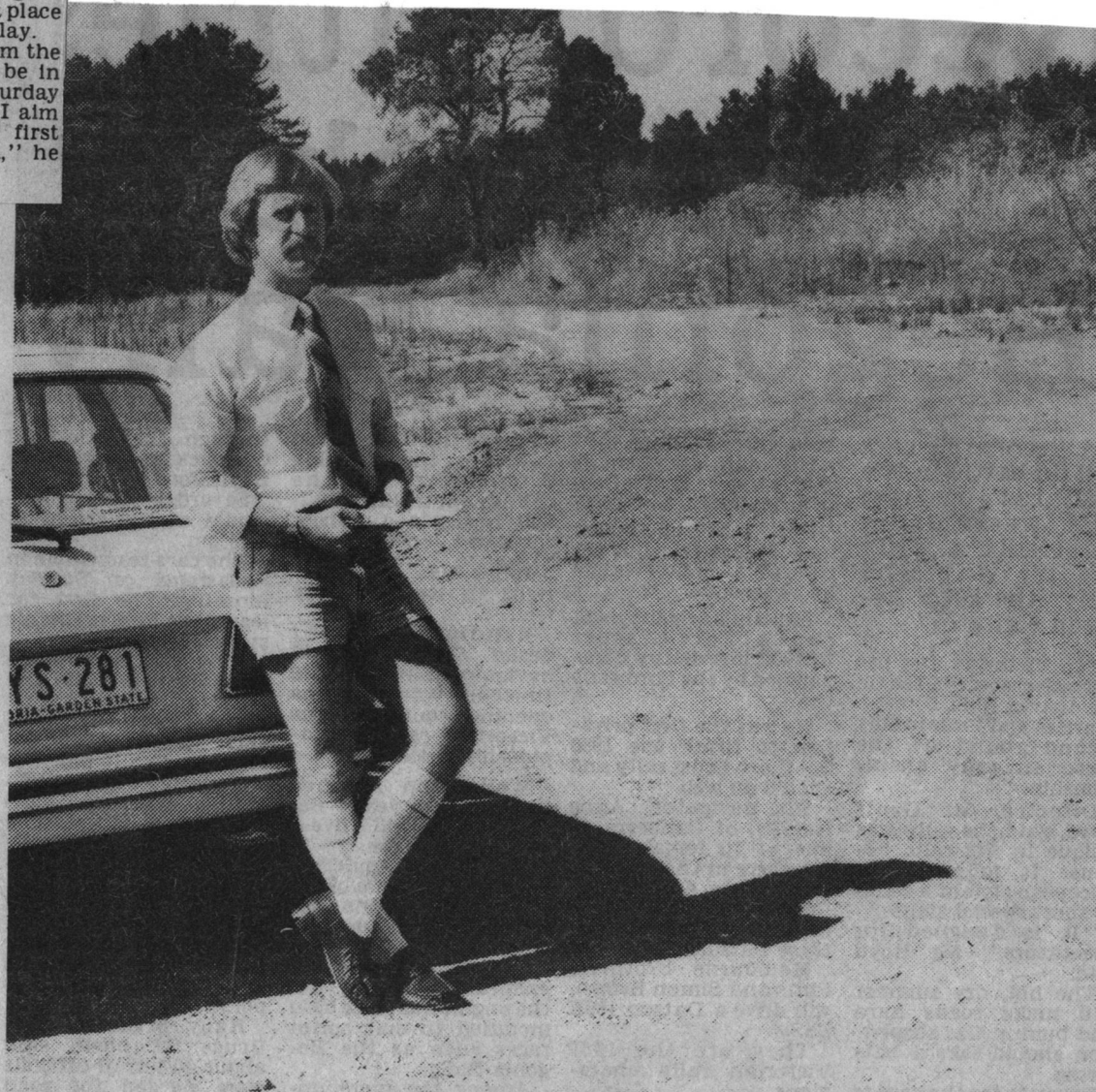
He said he had had only one bad accident in nine years of rallying.

He rolled the car end over end during the Alpine rally in November

1979, fracturing his neck.

He said he has a good chance of gaining a place in the Begonia Rally.

"I will go fast from the start and hope to be in the first five on Saturday night. From there I aim to work into the first three by the finish," he said.



Wendouree car dealer Garry Harrowfield examines the Victoria Park track in preparation for the Begonia Rally. The first special stage is at Victoria Park at 11 am on Saturday. Garry is driving a Datsun 1600 with...