

**MOTOR ON  
WITH US**

# Begonia rally will be tough



•Last year's winner Hugh Bell powers his way through a corner.

ballarat  
**news**

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P.T.O

**With less than three weeks to go before the Wind-screens O'Brien Begonia Rally gets under way (Feb 28-March 1), we are able to bring you a comprehensive outline of the first day's roads.**

Entries for the two-day daylight event are already arriving and the field looks like being top class. Noel Richards, who last

year managed the Holden Dealer Team, will navigate for the extremely quick David Jones in a two litre Lancer.

Tom Seymour in the ex-George Fury Round Australia Cortina has again entered, but has specially prepared the six cylinder motor for this sprint event.

David Hodge will drive the car for the whole event this year — he proved to be very quick in 1980.

**Local ace Gary Harrowfield has entered his new two litre Datsun 1600.**

Last weekend Gary won the coveted "Datsun Driver of The Year" Award at Temora in N.S.W. so he is obviously reaching top form again and will be a hard man to beat on his home territory.

What of the roads there teams are to do battle on?

They are generally fast and in excellent condition.

Following the start in Armstrong St south the cars will transport to Victoria Park for the first special stage.

This is where the real action will begin!

The cars will weave through the narrow grave tracks of the council dump before tackling a difficult entry onto the bitumen.

The soft rubber rally tyres will be battling for grip as the cars travel a brief tree lined avenue before executing a sharp right angle turn onto a rough grassy track.

A quick spurt here will hurtle the cars down to the time keeper — a gruelling 1½ kilometres in only a minute!

With most of this action visible from one vantage point and a constant P.A. commentary on each cars' progress this area is a must for spectators.

**After leaving Victoria Park the cars will transport to the Creswick state forest where they will contest three special stages.**

From there they will travel across to the hardwood plantation near the Moorabool Reservoir for two fast sections.

The cars will have time for servicing on the Ballan to Daylesford Rd before attempting three very fast sections in the new Spargo Creek Plantation.

The roads here are renowned for their crests which should keep both drivers and spectators on their toes.

The rest of the afternoons' action will take place in the new plantations south of Eganstown and then finally through the well-developed hardwood forests at Leonards Hill.

Three stages in the Spargo Ck Plantation will be

repeated before rallying stops for the day at 5pm.

Service crews will then begin the feverish activity to prepare the cars for the next day.

It is well documented that rally cars suffer in one event what a normal car suffers in a lifetime so no doubt there will be plenty of work to do.

**The directors of the event are expecting large crowds to follow the event so when the spectator hits become available next week you would be well advised to get in early.**

The guide will outline a series of safe and spectacular vantage points where families will be able to view the event in comfort.

Next week The NEWS will bring you a run-down on the roads to be used on the Sunday and also move information on the latest entrants.

Remember to put aside the weekend of Feb 28 — March 1 for the Wind-screen's O'Brien Begonia Rally — Ballarat's premier motor sporting event.

...Bruce Campbell