



The ex-Ford Rally Team car to be driven by Ian Hill from NSW in this year's event.



Geoff Portman well off the ground at "Burnett's Yump".

Top class action in all-daylight Rally

by Bruce Campbell

The second day of the 1981 Windscreen's O'Brien Begonia Rally should prove even more exciting than the first as the team's battle for a share in the \$3000 prize money.

An entry was received this week from Hugh Bell who won last year's event by only 12 seconds following a roll-

over on the second day.

Hugh has a new 2 litre Datsun 1600 prepared and has obviously entered to win.

The man he beat last year, David Adams, has entered a brand new 2 litre Datsun Stanza built by Les Collins in Melbourne.

Les is renowned for preparing fast cars for Geoff Portman who this year will drive either a 200B or Stanza.

A very welcome entry was received this week from Ian Hill from NSW.

Ian will be driving an ex-Ford Rally Team 2 litre Escort (see photo) and this will be a unique opportunity for rally enthusiasts to see this car in action again.

The new look spectator kits will be launched this Saturday morning at a display in the Wendouree Village Mall.

They will be excellent value at \$1 — containing not only a complete guide to the weekends action but also stickers for the kids, drink coasters, bios, food vouchers from MacDonalds and the Pancake Parlor and other useful items.

They will also be available through the week from the Begonia Festival Caravan, 3BA., Gardon Motors Eclipse Motors and here at The News office.

On Sunday morning the cars will re-start at 8.30 at Robert Ritchie's car park in Sebastopol. The real action will begin about 30 mins. later when the first cars tackle the torturous, undulating sections in the Shepherd's Flat Plantation south of Ballarat.

An early hazard for drivers will be "Burnett's Yump" where a "licence to fly" is almost a pre-requisite!

Any driver who gets out of line over the "yump" could find himself in a nearby dam!

The next stages will take place in the Scarsdale

plantation where the turns become much tighter and the changes of direction more frequent.

On stages like this you will be able to witness the close teamwork between the driver and the navigator that brings success.

One of these stages features a dash through a gravel quarry, a creek crossing and a cypress-tree-lined drive-rallying in true European tradition.

The teams have time for a short service break before tackling the fast but loose surfaces of the Cherry Tree Plantation.

It was here last year that spectators were treated to a feast of action as the teams struggled for the top positions.

The Wooden Tower Special Stage (a spectator "special") contains roads with high crowns and deep gutters.

Sideways exponents or over zealous drivers will soon find themselves inverted — both expensive and embarrassing!

The last stage of the event is also one of the most spectacular and could even decide the winner.

It will take place completely within a quarry and has plenty of safe vantage points for families.

The surface is loose gravel, there is plenty of room and the drivers will be making the most of a last minute bid for an outright placing.

Drivers then have a short drive back to Ballarat where they will assemble in the North Gardens Reserve for the announcement of the major placings.

Next week The NEWS will bring you full details of the crews who have entered and also a full timetable of the action you will be able to see in the Windscreen's O'Brien Begonia Rally on Feb 28 — March 1.

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