

Top class field in Begonia Rally

**MOTORING
IN THE 80s**

The 1981 Windscreen's O'Brien Begonia Rally will be the most exciting event ever seen in the Ballarat area. At the head of the field will be 12 nationally classified Grade 1 drivers, some of the 65 crews will be the best Grade 2 and 3 drivers in the eastern States.

Last year's winner, Hugh Bell, will lead the field away in a brand new 168 BHP Datsun 1600.

The car has been extensively modified and features on 1800cc engine, 5-speed gearbox, 5:1 LSD and 4-wheel disc brakes.

Hugh Bell will be hotly pursued by Ian Hill, Car 2, in the ex-Ford works team 2 litre Escort.

This will be a unique opportunity to see this very quick car in action now that the Ford Rally Team has been disbanded.

Car 3 will be crewed by Geoff Portman and Phil Rainer. Their car will be a powerful gear box, 4 wheel discs and a 4.8 LSD.

Geoff won the event in 1979 and was plagued by mechanical problems in a borrowed car in 1980.

Two weeks ago he convincingly won the first round of the Victorian Rally Championship in this car so he is obviously the man to beat.

The Fourth car away will be Chris and Simon Brown's 180B SSS. This crew are the current Victorian Rally Champions and no doubt will be

By Bruce Campbell

desperate to defend their title.

The car is superb; 2 litre motor, 5-speed close ration gearbox, 4-wheel discs, low ratio LSD and full gas suspension.

Warwick Smith navigated by Janine Kilfoyle will be in car five. Warwick was Vic. Champ. in 1978 and '79 and will be out to win back the title.

His highly modified Lancer features a 2 litre Astron motor, and a four speed close ratio box.

Chris Power and Chris Wall, both in heavily modified Datsun 1600's will be in cars six and seven.

Gary Rainsford from South Australia will be eighth car. This year he will be driving a very quick rotary Mazda.

Barry Lowe will follow him in car nine, a Datsun 1600, again from South Australia.

The tenth car will be Gil Davis in a much modified Datsun 180BSSS that features a

turbo-charged engine.

Gary Harrowfield from Ballarat will drive the first local entry, car 11 a highly competitive Datsun 1600.

Despite a recent break from rallying, Gary should be able to give some of the younger drivers some stiff competition.

The final grade one team will be David Jones and Noel Richards in a 2 litre Lancer. David is a very quick driver and Noel brings a wealth of experience to the team.

He was a crew member of the winning car in the Repco Reliability Trial and for the past year has managed the highly successful Holden Dealer Team.

Many eyes will be upon last year's second place getter, David Adams, who will be debuting his new Datsun Stanza.

Graham Stockley in a turbo-charged Porche Coupe will also be a man to watch.

David Hodge will this year drive the ex-George Fury Round Australia Cortina, a very quick car.

Two other Round Australia cars, Wes Nalder's Toyota Celica and Trev Stanley's Volvo 242 G.T. will also be interesting competition.

If you want to see all of these cars in action remember to pick up your spectator kit through the week from The NEWS office; Begonia Festival caravan; 3BA; Windscreen's O'Brien; Gardon Motors or Eclipse Motors, then take your family out to the forest for some great entertainment.

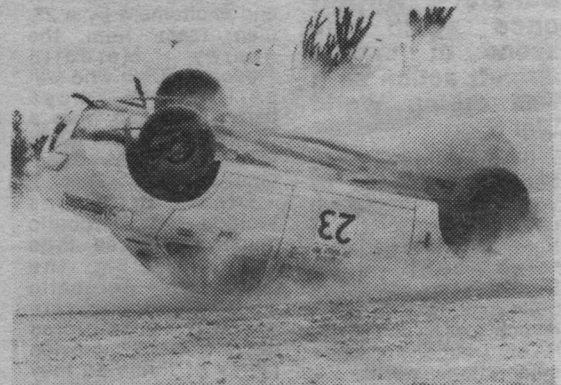
Remember also that some of the cars will be on display in the Centre Mall at Wendouree Village on Friday evening. There will be top rally photos on display as well as films of recent rallies.

You can also pick up your spectator kit together with giveaways from Mars and get a close view of the cars that will do battle on the

Over she goes...



...2 seconds later



•"Dinta" Officer showing the WRONG way around a corner in 1980. He hopes to stay on the wheels this year! TOP: She starts to go. ABOVE: Two seconds later "Dinta" hears a noise like hail on the roof....but, it's GRAVEL!

**MOTOR ON
WITH US**