



MIRBOO NORTH, NOVEMBER 3 — BRUCE AND JOHN TASSELL ONCE AGAIN showed their mastery of the South Gippsland roads and tracks when they led the field home in the HAC/VWCV Invitation Rally, the eighth heat of the nine event Victorian Clubman Trials Series, here today. They dropped 43 points in their FVA powered Cortina which was 5 points better than Ian Nalder/Paul Paterson in a Datsun 1600.

The Tassell brothers are farmers in the area and were able to duplicate their first place in the Brass Monkey, an earlier heat in the Clubman Series run in the same country.

The second place getters Nalder and Paterson teamed up only recently but have already gained a formidable reputation. Ian Nalder spent two years rallying a Renault 16 in the Canberra area where he was stationed with the RAAF as a radio engineer.

TOTALLED

He totalled his previous Datsun 1600 in this year's George Derrick and since then has pedalled his current standard 1600 very quickly.

Two crews were 3 behind on 51 points. The keen Cortina crew of Phil Nicholson and Don Williams and the series leaders Rob Dyer and Graham Wallis. The Cortina crew were placed third on a countback of clean sections.

Nicholson and Williams have put a lot of effort into the series which has paid off with this their first placing.

In fifth place were Alf and Ian Pearce in their Datsun 1600 just two points behind on 53. Sixth on 55 points, and having their first finish for four events, were Peter Evans and Nereo Castelli in another Datsun 1600.

It was a good thing that the event wasn't any longer because Evans arrived at the finish with failing lights and a flat battery.

SORROW

It was a night of sorrow for the crews currently holding second and third places in the series. The Autosport Torana of Bob Pender and Ian Baldock broke a rocker arm on the third

VIC. CLUBMAN RALLY SERIES

TASSELL MASTERY TAKES INVITATION

section which halted their progress somewhat.

Tom Cox found himself physically indisposed so David Lambie took the hot seat beside Mike Baxter in the speedy yellow Cortina. Unfortunately they missed two vias which put them a hefty 60 points behind.

The HAC/VWCV Invitation Rally was directed by Colin Turnbull who set a first class Clubman event which featured straight forward mapping on the Warragul 1:250,000 map for the first stage generally South of Traralgon with the stage break at Mirboo North.

The second stage was a route charted blast through the Darlimurla pine plantation except for one section which was navigational and could only be

A COSWORTH FVA ENGINE is alleged to reside beneath the hood of the Tassell's Cortina. Some power unit for rallying!

STORY BY COLIN WOOD

done by combining the information on both the specified maps.

From the start at Ben Guzzardi's Total service station the field headed towards the TV towers. Then through Madalya and up Turtons Creek Track and Dingo Creek Road to a service point at Hoods. After a dash up Livingston Road the Snowden Brain Snap loop control used Hatchery and Snowden Roads.

Popular spots at the Mirboo North stage break were Railway Motors service station and Jacobs milk bar.

The first of the route charts took crews along Blairs Lane and Slaughter Yard Road and then into the Darlimurla Forest.

CONFUSION

Section 12 caused a little confusion for some crews with a tricky right turn into Domney Road which had been turned into a bulldozer track. The only navigational section on the second stage included the very dangerous quarry hidden behind a crest on Pines Road but crews were well warned.

The final competitive section was an unmapped loop which included fallen trees, grass, water and many other natural hazards to round off what most thought shaped up as a well thought out event.

PROVISIONAL RESULTS

1. Bruce Tassell/John Tassell	Cortina	43
2. Ian Nalder/Paul Paterson	Datsun	48
3. Phil Nicholson/Don Williams	Cortina	51
4. Rod Dyer/Graham Wallis	Peugeot	51
5. Alf Pearce/Ian Pearce	Datsun	53
6. Peter Evans/Nereo Castelli	Datsun	55