

LAST OPEN RALLY TO MULDOON

Ian Richards Reports

POWELLTOWN, DECEMBER 10TH: VICTORIA'S FINAL OPEN RALLY for the 1977 season concluded here tonight after 150 kilometres of no non-sense rallying.

The winners of the event were Rex Muldoon and John Page in Rex's new Datsun 1600, who had a dust-free and trouble-free run at the head of the field.

The event was conducted by the Car Club of the RMIT and as an "end of year fling" it attracted a large field of nearly fifty cars.

They included the 1976 Victorian Champions, Bob Waterhouse, being navigated by Ian Baldock.

The first of four special stage type sections was a 25 kilometre "almost" loop to Powelltown with the pace being set by Rex Muldoon, John White, Bob Waterhouse, Ian Richards and Karl Robertson.

Colin Turnbull lost bulk time with a flat tyre whilst Norm Crofts drove the last six kilometres on a flat.

On the subsequent section, 30 kilometres over Mount Beenak, Muldoon took the lead dropping 4 to the five of Grade three'ers John Nicholls (Datsun 1600) and Alister Grimshaw (Galant).

Waterhouse overcooked it on a nasty left-hander and put the Datsun 1600 on its side, but continued after a fifteen minute delay.

Ian Richards punctured whilst John White retired with a sticking throttle.

A sixteen kilometre section up to Mount Bride was traversed by most without drama with Waterhouse, Muldoon and Nicholls best down three minutes.

The final section of 56 kilometres over generally superb roads was a killer for many crews who found themselves off the slip-

pery ballbearing roads.

Bob Waterhouse, Rex Muldoon and Ian Richards dropped four to the five of Norm Crofts in his Torana.

Alister Grimshaw and Colin Dean both rolled off Big Creek Road as did Geoff Robertson in his Datsun 1200.

FINAL RESULTS

1. Rex Muldoon/John Page Datsun 1600+ 12.
2. Ian Richards/Kate Niblett Datsun 1600+ 16.
3. Norm Crofts/Bill Johnston Torana 17.
3. John Nicholls/John Caffrey Datsun 1600+ 17.
5. Richard Power/Robert Hopkins Datsun 1600+ 18.
6. Bob Suffern/Monty Suffern Datsun 1600+ 19.
6. Laurie Wilson/Jeff Marsh Datsun 1200 19.