

## Warida Motor's Ford Cortina G.T. – Driven by Bruce Woodfull/ Navigated by Bob Forsyth wins tough rally

Second was the S. A. Cheney Pty. Ltd., Victoria, entry — No. 36 a Holden — driven by T. Roberts and navigated by P. Haas with minus 78 points and third R. S. Christie driving No. 5 — a VW 1600 TS — navigated by D. Dunlop with a loss of 92 points.

Of the thirty-seven entrants who set out from Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide start points for the official Trial Stage from Albury, twenty-five finished at Melbourne's Chadstone Shopping Centre on Sunday afternoon (8th May, 1966), successfully completing a route of some 2000 miles through Victoria, New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory.

Divided into two Stages — an Assembly (500 miles) and a Trial (1500 miles) — the Rally's initial Assembly Stage to Albury was beset by wet weather from time of departure from Melbourne. Navigating and driving through heavy rain many cars experienced extreme difficulties in the muddy surrounds of Nathalia, some 139 miles north.

In Car No. 1 top Rallyist Harry Firth became bogged a little over 50 yards from the Control Point. It took almost an hour to winch out their vehicle.

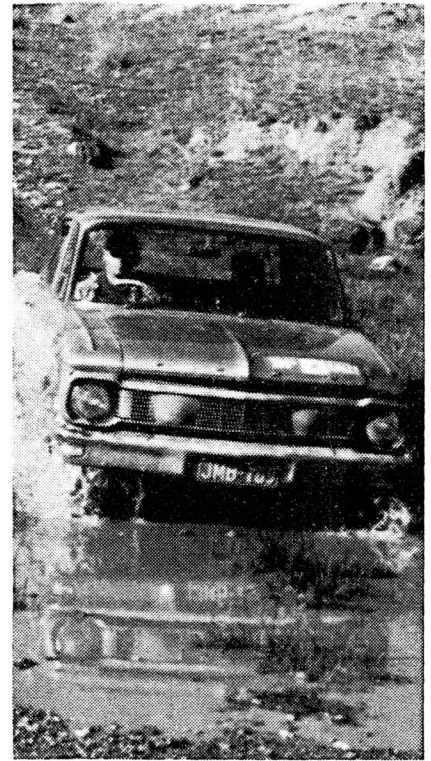
Near Tocumwal the route was virtually a sea of mud for almost ten miles!

With the announcement of Provisional Points in Albury the following morning (5/5/66) it was a sorry story of mud, slush and penalties for the majority of the field. However, the sole South Australian entrant — No. 25 — VW: S. McLeod and J. Lock — recorded Nil and No. 6 — Cortina GT: B. Woodfull and R. Forsyth suffered only four points loss. Prior to briefing for the Trial Stage, the Rally Director, Mr. D. K. Thomson described the previous night as "the toughest and most difficult Assembly Stage in any BP Rally, it was incredible they got through!"

With the flag-off of entrants by the Mayor of Albury, Alderman C. Bunton, O.B.E., the next Division to Canberra, A.C.T. was just as difficult. Up through the high mountain areas of the Snowy Mountains and down from Adaminaby it was hard

**It's open that gate and don't forget to close it! — for entrant No. 5 (VW 1600 TS) Messrs. R. Christie and D. Dunlop. They were announced provisional winners of their class at the Chadstone finish.**





At the start of the Assembly Stage to Albury, Car No. 16 (Peugeot 404) — G. L. A. Russell and M. Hartigan receives route instructions from an official of the Light Car Club of Australia, Organisers of this top event.

Car No. 2 — Ford Falcon (driven by J. K. Ellis and navigated by F. E. Ouymer) negotiates a creek crossing between Canberra and Wagga. This car was placed 5th Outright and 2nd in its ClassD with a loss of 117 points.

Car No. 4 — Messrs. H. L. Bechman and F. G. Davidson in a Renault R8 — check in at a local control during very overcast weather.





going all the way. Here, the familiar names of Australian motor sport suffered little loss — Thielier (Falcon) 1 pt., Russell (Peugeot) 4 pts., Roberts (Holden) 5 pts. — but it was not the same story for the rest of the field, some collecting over 600 points loss!

The run to Wagga Wagga was in perfect weather — a fine day for motoring. Here again the leaders shone with quite a number recording Nil. But, the night navigation legs to Jerilderie and Wangaratta — particularly division 4 into Wangaratta — incurred considerable loss of points for almost the entire field. It was obvious that the rigours of the Trial were beginning to register on both navigators and drivers. Out of Wangaratta it was Car No. 20 (Thielier) in the lead with 37 points and next No. 36 (Roberts) with 42 followed by No. 25 (McLeod) with 56.

On through Bright, past Omeo and over to Bairnsdale for a well earned overnight stop. Well earned it was after snow, rain and even dust. All the elements necessitating quick navigation and driving skill.

At Bairnsdale the scores read: Thielier (No. 20) — 47, Roberts (No. 36) — 61, Woodfull (No. 6) — 62, Christie (No. 5) — 73 and Lunn (No. 13) — 75.

The last stage over the far from easy terrain north of Maffra and Moe was to rob Car No. 20 (Thielier) of the lead-score when he suffered an unfortunate accident whilst negotiating a bend near Boisdale. This was to take him out of the Rally.

But for the field it was on and across the Princes Highway to Cranbourne, where Chadstone's Finish line was a welcome sight.

The 1966 BPRally — Australia's Blue Ribbon Road Classic — was far from uninteresting.

**TOP: Muddy going for provisional class winners, Messrs. R. Christie and D. Dunlop in their VW 1600 TS.**

**RIGHT: The Outright Winner of the 1966 BP Rally — Car 6, Ford Cortina — (Crew: B. Woodfull and R. Forsyth) heading for Bairnsdale. (NB Provisional Winner only as at 8-5-66).**

