

BUSHDRIVER

**4x4
PICKUP
VAN
Desert
Racing
NEWS**

Macleay 630

**Subaru
liftkit**

**Devon port
4WD Rally**

**Playboy's
Bronco XLT**

**The
Australian
experience**

**North of
the Jardine**

**Leyland
strikes back**



BUSHDRIVER

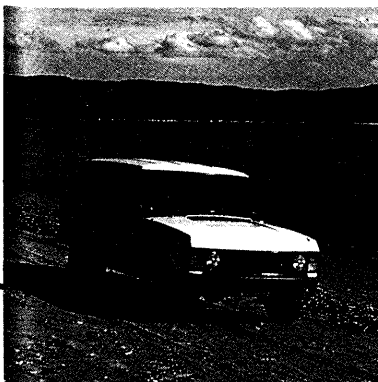
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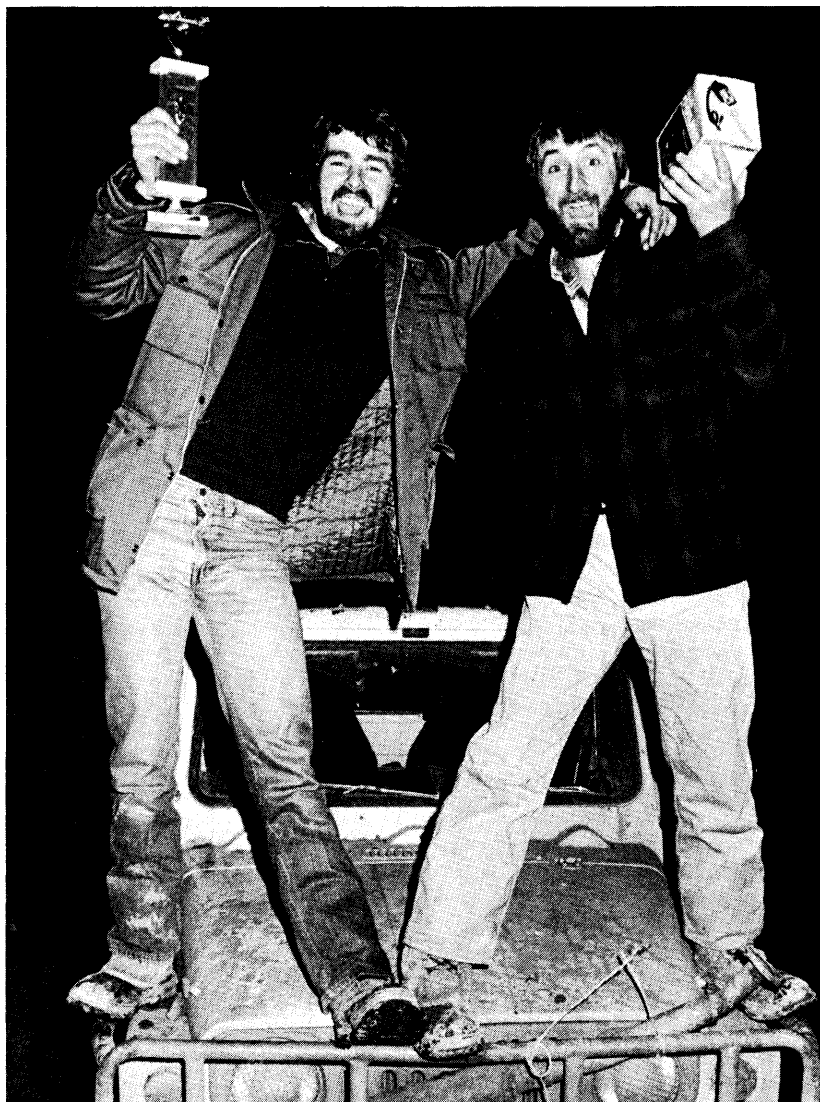
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This month's cover shot captures the enthusiastic Devonport 4WD Club in action, photographed by Ric Williams. Photo insert - our big test, the 4-door Range Rover, by Ray Barker.



TEXT: RIC WILLIAMS
PHOTOGRAPHY: RIC & WILLIE WILLIAMS

DEVONPORT 4WD RALLY

A letter from Bill Templer, ex-speedway competitor and proprietor of the Devonport Car Corral, containing an invitation to cover the 4th Annual 4WD Rally on behalf of the Devonport Four Wheel Drive Club in Tasmania, was soon acknowledged with a quick phone call of acceptance, and in no time Willie and I were heading down south.

The rally is a unique national event in that it caters for the average 4WD family, providing a guarantee of enjoyment, comradeship and fun, yet requires all the driving skills and experience of competitors.

A few years ago, Bill and the club organisers realised the potential of such an event and linked some of the popular 4WD trails together to form a 120-km course which includes forestry tracks, H.E.C. trails, private properties, creek crossings and lots of clay and mud patches.

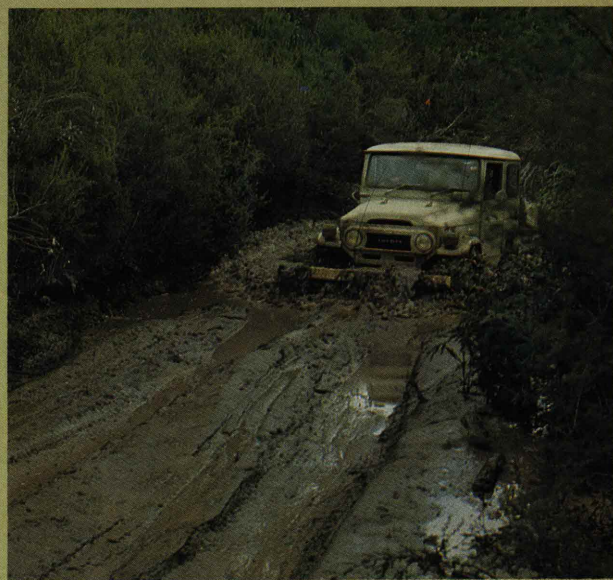
Right up to a few days before the event, weather conditions had been sunny and dry. The club prayed for rain — and rain they got . . . buckets of it, developing in gale conditions.

On the Friday afternoon I went along with Bill and the club's organisers to check and mark the course. The wet

conditions, however, had changed things and several sections were deleted because of the dangerous and slippery conditions of the now very soggy terrain.

Saturday morning saw a field of 52 entries, mostly from the north-west coast, but some came from as far as Gravelly Beach on the Tamar, Campbell Town, Hobart and one lonely enthusiast, Michael Robey, from Sydney, NSW.

Starting positions were determined by ballot, and at 8.30 sharp the first competitors, Cedric and Carol Sheehan, in their ex-Army Dodge pick-up, were



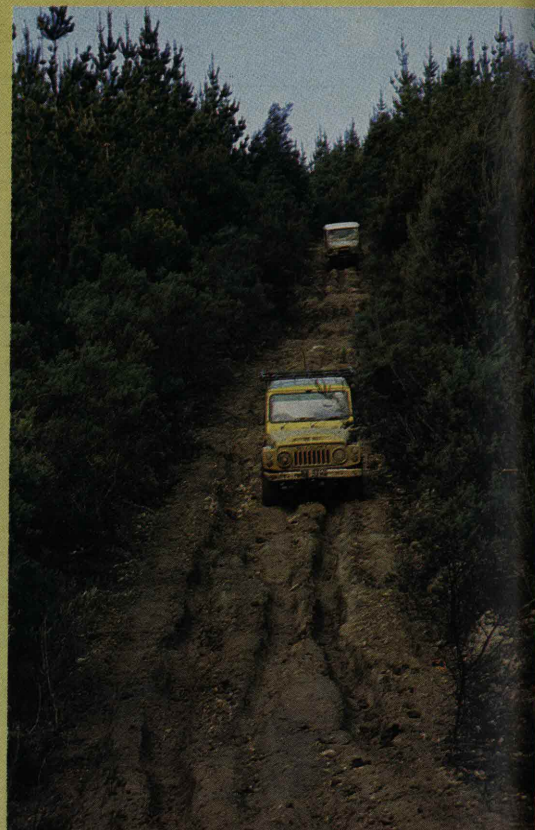
*Clockwise:
The harbour of Devonport with the
Empress of Australia at anchor. Scenery
around the rally course is magnificent.
Mud and water didn't stop this
competitor from getting bogged.
Bill Templer's pride and joy, the CJ5
Jeep with MB body, driven by Rodney
and Mandy Ray, scored top honours
with a fine 1st outright. The vehicle
was cleaned just after the rally.*

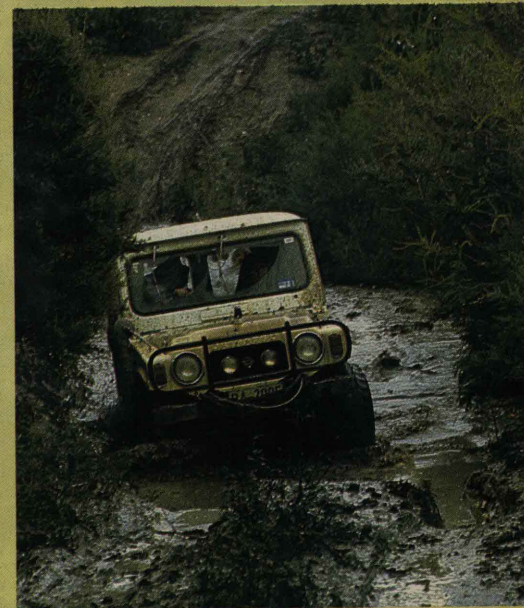


Clockwise from top left: This SWB Chevota V8 managed to get stuck several times in the ever present "ooze". Cedric and Carol Sheehan took 1st prize in the "Other Makes" category with their 1958 ex-army Dodge pick-up. Here they are winched up a steep and slippery slope. The briefing in Devonport got under way at 8.00 am and saw 52 competitors from all over Tasmania sign in. Starting positions were determined by ballot. Friendly assistance came to this Suzuki hardtop when the going got tough. Joy Walkden drove superbly and scored a fine 1st in the "Daihatsu

Trophy". In addition, this remarkable lady, together with her 13-year-old daughter navigator, took the popular "1st Lady Trophy". Here the pair are fitted out with snow chains by enthusiastic fellow four wheelers. The Landrover made it halfway up the hill but needed winch assistance to get to the top. The field bunched up and stretched for several hundreds of yards, patiently waiting for the front runners to power across the steep and slippery power line hill.







Clockwise: It took quite a bit of skill to get down this muddy slope. The SWB Cruiser hangs in the wheel ruts, followed by the HJ60 Toyota wagon of Peter Moore who took "Most Courteous Competitor" trophy during the event. A rear view of the fight to retain control, shown by this Cruiser. Note the blue Renegade down at the bottom.

Water holes and mud didn't deter this Daihatsu crew. Scenery is spectacular, the trails narrow and surrounded by dense, fast-growing bush and ferns. Jeeps made the day. This car Corral MB loved the mud whilst its twin sister, the black CJ5 mated to a new MB body, expertly driven by Rodney and navigated by Mandy Ray, took out 1st Outright honours.



CONT. FROM PAGE 74

on their way, armed with direction instructions for the five sections, measured to one tenth of a kilometre.

The rally's five sections took competitors through the Kentish and Latrobe municipalities and over magnificent, deep-green, rolling hills, valleys, steep climbs, through mud and water, across powerline trails and short high-way runs.

The rain, which had temporarily stopped earlier, began again to fall in certain sections — which added to the excitement and presented the competitors with an additional challenge as some of the terrain began to deteriorate rapidly.

The second and third sections in the pine plantation began to tell their story as a large number of competitors began to lose points here and it became evident that the front runners were consolidating their lead.

Rodney Ray, driving Bill's CJ5 with MB skin, took first outright with a loss of 197 points, whilst his brother Bill was right behind him in second spot with a loss of 222 points. Only eleven points behind Bill was the third member of this amazing family, brother Leon with wife Jenny in a 3-cylinder Suzuki.

The lady of the day was Joy Walkden who, with her 13-year-old daughter/navigator, took the 1st Daihatsu trophy with a loss of 392 points. She also took the first lady-driver trophy. Her husband, competing in a Toyota, finished with a loss of 459 points.

Forty-four competitors finished the rally; only eight did not. The presentation of prizes and trophies was held at The Don Cricket Club straight after the

event and during a tasty barbecue and quite a few cans of Tasmanian ale.

Overall, the rally was a great success. Much of it was contributed to by the generous support of its major sponsor, Ted Eustace — also an ex-speedway man — and all the others who helped by donating trophies and prizes to the tune of \$700.00.

The dedicated core members of the Devonport 4WD Club, Dave Ingram, Bill Templar, Brian Imlock, Rodney French, Ross Penney, David Redpath and Joe Allan, who manned the check-points, undertook recovery duties, assisted competitors in need, rerouted the course during the actual running and kept a careful watch on the points scores.

We would also like to honour the many ladies who provided lunches, including Christine Ingham and Ann French who worked the time scores, Maureen Imlock, June Moore and Cheryl Rockliff who took care of the barbecue. Bravo to you all! Willie and I enjoyed your hospitality and enthusiasm very much indeed.

Perhaps next year, come September, we may see some interested mainland 4 wheelers competing in the annual Devonport 4WD Rally.

SPONSORS:

Ted Eustace Autos
Doug Waltons Mobil Service Station
Ling Gowans Toyota
Bolt, Nut and Industrial Supplies
Von Bibra Motors
Ray Geary Motors
Peter Finch 4WD
The Car Corral
Roadways P/L

FINAL RESULTS:

- 1st Rodney Ray, Mandy Ray (Jeep)
- 2nd Bill Ray, Leanne Ray (Daihatsu)
- 3rd Leon Ray, Jenny Ray (3-cyl. Suzuki)

1st Suzuki Trophy
Mark Norris

1st Toyota Trophy
Jeremy Jacobs

1st Daihatsu Trophy

Joy Walkden and her
13-year-old daughter
Also first lady

1st Datsun Nissan Trophy
Andrew Hopkins

1st Landrover
Gary Cox

1st Other Makes

Cedric Sheehan, Carol Sheehan
(Dodge 1958 pick-up)

Trophy for most courteous
competitor during the event:

Peter Moore HJ60 Toyo

Trophy for most helpful com-
petitor of the day:

Yaap Timmerman (Daihatsu)

*Kel Lewis (driver) and Shane Harris
(navigator). Toyota being retrieved by
club official David Ingram.*