

ARC Round 7 - '74 LCCA Alpine Rally

Mitsubishi Team leader Doug Stewart with Brian Hope in their Lancer , took first spot in the dry , hot and dusty **Alpine Rally** .

Of the sixty entrants , two thirds finished the relatively grueling Rally which was run in the North East , based out of Bright . Rally Director was Frank Kilfoyle , assisted by Ian Richards .

Victorian crews made up the bulk of the field , and included 1974 VRC Champs Garry Harrowfield / Geoff Boyd in their 2 litre Cortina , Bill Evans / Mike Mitchell in their 1800cc Datsun 120Y , and Tony Roberts with Bob Watson "sharing " the Saab 99 .

The town of Bright supported the event quite admirably , featuring a " spectator special " down the main street to begin the proceedings . And they donated Champagne for a number of forest stages , as well as a " lap dash " around the local Showground .

The first Division , fully route charted , took crews out through the Merriang Plantation . Unusually Bonhomme's Datsun ran out of fuel , whilst Bill Evans blew a head gasket . And the Saab was getting its exhaust welded up at the break at the end of the first Division . Greg Carr / Graeme Elliott were leading the field on 17 , closely followed by Colin Bond (18) and a couple of crews on 19 points lost . Ian Nalder / Paul Patterson were doing a superb job , in sixth place down 23 points .

Division two was a lengthy 500 kilometers and took crews north east to Koetong plantation , then down to Mitta Mitta , the Omeo Highway , Falls Creek and back to Bright . Greg Carr broke his gearbox , and Murray Coote had engine problems .

The final Division through the plantations contained several Champagne stages , and it was a furious fight to the finish . Just a single point finally separated the top three placegetters .

Results 1974 Alpine Rally

1 st	Doug Stewart / Brian Hope	Lancer	78 points
=2 nd	Colin Bond / George Shephard	HDT XU-1	79 "
=2 nd	Stewart McLeod / Adrian Mortimer	XU-1	79 "
4 th	Adrian Taylor / John Suominen	Civic	93 "
5 th	Ian Nalder / Paul Patterson	Datsun 1600	96 "
6 th	Tom Barr-Smith / Rob Hunt	Leyland P76	114 "