The 1976 Kleber Alpine International Rally

The 1976 Alpine Rally was a stand-alone event , now having International status . Frank Kilfoyle , Ian Richards and their Team had developed plenty of experience in running such a high profile rally , with spot-on organization that equaled Australia's best major Rallies .

85 crews face the starter outside the TV Studio of Channel 0 at Forest Hill , then headed on a transport run to Bonnie Doon , followed by the first competitives through the Strathbogie Ranges . Then onto Warrenbayne and Reef Hills Plantations where a large number of spectators had gathered , followed by a refuel at Benalla .

Greg Carr / Wayne Gregson in the Datsun 710 had already opened up a lead , which they never relinquished . Ross Jackson / Peter Berriman led a tight bunch of crews for the minor placings , which included young Foresters Geoff Portman and Ross Runnalls .
From Benalla the field headed down into the traditional plantation territory , with stages through Stanley and Porpunkah , and finally on to Bright for the overnight break .

The Bright Dirt Circuit was used at the start of Division Two , where Greg Carr threw the Datsun around in fine style to collect FTD . Ken Cusack entertained with his big Monaro spraying gravel everywhere in spectacular fashion **.**

The rally preceded to Merriang , where 125 kilometers of competitive stages were squeezed into this forest , giving spectators outstanding viewing action for many hours .
Hurdle Creek and Running Creek followed , with Greg Carr extending his lead , with the young Foresters matching top times . Bruce Hodgson had turned up the wick as well , in his Escort , closely followed by Ian Swan / Graham Vaux and Chris Power and Ian Heraud .

In past years the Alpine had run up over the Alps , but not this year . The event remained mostly in the plantations , for the benefit of spectators , and was a popular format for the competitors .

The Saturday night division became quite dramatic , with the leader , Greg Carr hitting a sizeable kangaroo , smashing his driving lights and breaking the radiator . He was forced to limp almost twenty kilometers to the service point , luckily with minimal points loss .
Also in trouble were Dave Morrow / George Shepheard , whose Gemini wore substantial marks on the bonnet , after fading brakes caused them to hit a road sign .

The valiant effort of Portman / Runnalls ended shortly after . Initially suffering electrical problems , they then crashed into Jackson / Berriman who had just returned from a wrong road .
Hoddo was next to retire with steering failure .

Graham Horsefield / Geoff O'Donnell had moved their Datsun 240Z up through the field , as did Gil Davis / David Long , at the end of the Division .

After a brief sleep at Bright , the field started the final stages on Sunday morning with another burst around the wetted-down Bright Circuit .

Many spectators had assembled in the Bright and Braithwaites plantations , where the crews re-ran some of Saturday's stages . As a final burst , the fifty five kilometer run through Ovens Plantation was a fitting climax to this excellent and challenging event .

The weary but jubilant crew of Greg Carr and Wayne Gregson had dominated the Rally , and sprayed the champagne at the finish in Bright , their second successive Alpine victory . It was interesting to note that they won the event on the Kleber Alpine Rally on the sponsor's tyres !

Results : 1976 Kleber Alpine International Rally

1st	Greg Carr / Wayne Gregson	Datsun 710	76 points
2nd	Dave Morrow / George Shepheard	Gemini 2.	88 "
3rd	Ross Jackson / Peter Berriman	Datsun 180B	108 "
4th	Ian Hill / Graeme / Roser	Lancer	112 "
5th	Terry Moran / Ian Higgins	Escort	122 "
6th	Mark Holmes / Derek Rawson	Datsun 1600	123 "
7th	Graham Horsefield / Geoff O'Donnell	Datsun 240Z	124 "
8th	Gil Davis / David Long	Datsun 1600	125 "
=	Chris Brown / Simon Brown	Datsun 1600	125 "
10th	David Dyball / Rex Leitch	Datsun 1600	132 "