

ALPINE RALLY SET TO ROAR

SPONSORED BY ENKA-FILL, this year's Alpine Rally should be one of the most fiercely contested in the events' 60-year history.

The Enka-fill Alpine will be the final round of the 1983 Australian Rally Championship and the title is still up for grabs.

David Officer and Kate Hobson of Victoria currently lead this year's Championship only half-a-point ahead of Peter Johnson and Geoff Jones of NSW. They are closely followed by Ross Dunkerton of WA and Russell Worthington and Murray Coote, both from the Sunshine State.

First round of the 1983 Championship was to have been the James Hardie National in Brisbane, but the Great Australian Drought broke only three days before the event was to run, and the resultant four inches of rain in Southern Queensland put the Sunday Times Safari on the front page in WA.

The Sunday Times Safari was won in great style by Greg Carr and Fred Gocentas in a Fiat

Abarth 131, followed by John Macara and David Hatley in a rotary-engined Datsun P510 and home-town-boy Ross Dunkerton with Steve McKimmie in another P510.

Group A leader was the Holden Commodore of Victorians Chris Brown and Noel Richards.

The by now, much-postponed James Hardie National Rally finally ran in July and Ross Dunkerton raised the Western flag in Queensland, followed by Peter Glennie, with David Officer putting some more points on the board with a third place and Group A was represented by Peter Johnson in a Mazda RX7.

The penultimate round of the 1983 Australian Rally Championship was the Sydney-based Dunlop 2GO. Local exponents Ian Hill and Phillip Bonser were victorious in an Escort RS1800.

Murray Coote and Brian Marsden in the diminutive Datsun 1200 came home second and David Officer and Kate Hobson continued to accrue points with another third place.

First of the Group A cars was again Peter Johnson.

With only the Enka-fill Alpine to go, progressive points are — Officer 40½, Johnson 40, Dunkerton 36½, Worthington 27, Coote 26, O'Shannesy 25, Hill 24, Carr 24, Brown 20.

The combinations and computations of points is such that the 1983 ARC is still anybody's and only the Enka-fill Alpine will sort them out.

Interstate rivalry will also be high as drivers vie for the Interstate Challenge Shield.

The Shield will be for interstate competition and the points gained by the three highest point-scorers from each State in each round will be aggregated and become that State's score for the round.

Following the Enka-fill Alpine the final score will be known and the shield will be presented to the winning state to hold for 12 months.

After three rounds and with only the Enka-fill Alpine to go points are as follows: NSW — 139; Victoria — 94½; West Australia — 70½; Queensland — 69.

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