

Kate really puts her foot down

By CAROLINE ROSS

KATE HOBSON is the only woman racer ever to have made it into a leading team in the Australian Alpine Rally.

This weekend she makes her fourth try at the rally as navigator with driver David "Dinta" Officer.

Her eyes will be glued to her 40-page book of instructions as she sends him scooting round 700 km of winding forest roads between Bright and Wodonga.

There are four events in the Australian Rally Championship, this being the last. David Officer and Kate have come third in the first three events — the Sunday Times Safari in Perth, the James Hardie Rally in Brisbane, and the Dunlop 2GO International Rally at Gos-

ford. David and Kate have competed together in rallies since 1976, and average about a dozen a year.

If you want to watch the rally and find out where spectator points are and access roads, you need a booklet sold at the Light Car Club, Queen's Rd.; Auto Sport, Box Hill; or Rally Quip, Glenhuntly.

It's an expensive sport, Kate admits, with winter tread tyres at \$80 each, oceans of petrol, and a rebuilt vehicle worth about \$20,000. This goes to show the \$1500 trophy isn't the lure.

David's Mitsubishi Galant, a 1972 model,



KATE HOBSON . . . this weekend she'll be rally racing around mountain roads.

was rebuilt two years ago to add a more powerful engine, disc brakes all round, full roll cage and special seats.

David has rolled his car nine times, Kate says. She has rolled six times.

The Alpine Rally starts at 8 a.m. on Saturday.

All should finish around 4 p.m. on Sunday in time for celebrations and presentation of trophies.

"I don't know why we do it," says Kate, who began rally racing at 19. "I suppose we'd have a few 40-year-olds still in it."

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