

**OLIVIA
TO WED**

• Story, Page 3

THE NEWS

INDEX

Phone (Editorial, and
other business) 51 0351
Classified . . . 51 0191

Adelaide: Friday, September 23, 1977 12c*

Crossword, Jumble . 65
Information Guide . 87
Finance 22, 23
Stars, Strips 24
Television 25, 26, 31, 32

WEATHER

Fine. TEMP. (at noon): 15.4 C. Sunset 6.13. (Details Page 67)



ABOVE: French rally driver Christine Dacremont, injured in a crash north of Alice Springs. BELOW: The Total-Citroen zooms into Hooper Creek control in a cloud of dust.—Picture from Barrie Ward, covering the rally for The News.

RALLY GIRL IN DESERT CRASH

ALICE SPRINGS: A beautiful French woman rally driver was badly injured when two rally cars crashed last night in the London-to-Sydney marathon race.

She lay injured in agony on the road 800 km north-west of Alice Springs, until a light plane made a daring landing on a dirt strip, to pick her up.

The plane swooped on the remote strip at Wave Hill aided only by car lights.

It flew the driver, Christine Dacremont, of Grenoble, France, to the Darwin Hospital, reaching there early this morning. She has injuries to her head, back, shoulder and pelvis.

Miss Dacremont and her partner, Yveline Vanoni, were the only all-women team in the rally and were lying twenty-second.

Vanoni suffered only minor injuries.

They were returning to Wave Hill, north-west of Alice Springs, after their experimental Fiat Arbarth developed suspension trouble, after being pounded by atrocious roads.

Miss Dacremont was struck by her own car.

From Jim Oram

The Arbarth was stranded in the middle of the road when a Citroen, driven by Andre Stuckelberger topped the rise.

The Citroen hit the rear of the Fiat which then struck Miss Dacremont.

She was first treated by Stuckelberger, who is a member of the Swiss Red Cross before being flown to hospital in Darwin where her condition was described as serious, but not critical.

Stuckelberger was not hurt but his car was extensively damaged.

The plane that took Miss Dacremont to hospital had

been hired by the Fiat team to patrol the route. Major competitors last night battled their way through unbelievable conditions in the Northern Territory.

The Porsche of one-time leader, Zasada, is stranded with wrecked suspension.

Brian Hilton's Total team Peugeot has blown its head gasket.

The rally now has a new leader — the invincible Scotsman, Andrew Cowan, six times winner of the Total Oil Southern Cross

Rally, who hit the front early this morning when leader Tony Fowkes incredibly enough booked in to control four minutes early at Alice Springs and incurred a 20 minute penalty.

Cowan's Mercedes leads by five minutes from Fowkes, then its eight minutes to Paddy Hopkirk's Total team Citroen, 29 to Kling's Mercedes and another 11 to Ross Dunkerton's Total team Peugeot in fifth position.

• Cont. Page 2.

• News photographer Barrie Ward's on-the-spot rally pictures—Pages 20 and 21.



\$2,000 MIL. LOAN TO AUSTRALIA LOOKS SET — PAGE 3

Rally girl in desert crash



ANDREW COWAN . . . leading the rally.

← **FROM PAGE 1**

Equal in sixth position is Ogier in the Total team Citroen and Herbert Kleint in a Mercedes.

Jack Prive in the Range Rover is next and Frank Johnson, from Western Australia, in the Mazda RX4 followed by Patrick Vanson, Total team Citroen, Barry Ferguson, Total team Citroen and Evan Green's Range Rover.

Only 12 cars covered the full course in Central Australia.

The punishing run through Wave Hill, Hooker Creek, and Rabbit Flat and back to Alice Springs has taken a heavy toll of cars.

Several today had not reported into the control point at Alice Springs and were believed to be badly damaged somewhere on the dusty rock-strewn route.

And even Cowan, who thought the Simpson Desert stretch was too easy, admitted that yesterday's stretch was tough.

"Yes," he said, "it's been a little rough at times."

"There was dust everywhere and dry creek beds and washouts all over the road."

Leading Sydney driver, Jim Reddiex, also had trouble with his Citroen near Rabbit Flat and was rapidly dropping back in the field.

FIRST CARS AT PORT AUGUSTA

From Trevor Gill

PORT AUGUSTA: The first rally cars pulled in to the Shell West Side Service Station here at 1.30 p.m. today.

The drivers were allowed only a brief service break before leaving for Quorn and the Flinders Ranges' horror stretch.

Rally teams picked up navigation briefs at Quorn before roaring into the Flinders for one of the most testing drives of the Australian section.

The horror stretch looped from Quorn around Wilpena Pound and back to Hawker, where crews were to be given a brief break to repair damaged vehicles.

This afternoon the cars head for Adelaide via Craddock, Carrieton, Ororoo, Clare and Gawler.

The cars will enter the city through Gepps Cross, along the Main North road to O'Connell street and then along King William road to the Torrens Parade Ground.

They are due to check in at the Parade Ground at 9.30 p.m. but some may arrive before that.

Drivers will rest and check their cars in Adelaide and leave at 6.30 a.m. tomorrow for Melbourne.

