

THE OTAGO SPORTS CAR CLUB

motorsport.

The O.S.C.C. has now been organising competitive motorsport for over 40 years and is the mainstay of modern motorsport in Otago. It also happens to be a club in extremely good health. It is running plenty of events and getting good attendances. It is also getting a steady supply of new members a lifeblood of any club. To join is easy, contact any member or call Roger Oakley on 743-544 (work) or 740-397 (home).

Every Thursday night the club gets together at its clubrooms in Larnach Road, these are licensed, so the bars open. The club runs night trials, motorkhanas, sprints, rallysprints, hillclimbs, race meetings and of course rallies.

BELOW: Mark Laughton RIGHT:

Four Wheel Drive

Once a member of the O.S.C.C. it is very easy to start competing in these events. Rally cars and the like are always coming up for sale if you want to buy a ready to race car. The paperwork is simple and hassle-free. And there is nothing around that can match the excitement of competing in



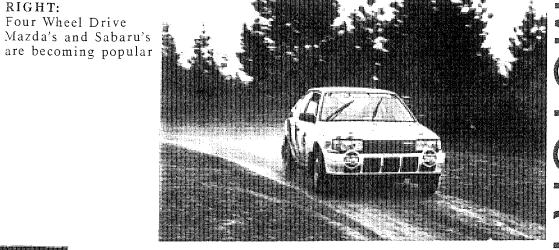
DRIVER PROFILE : MARK LAUGHTON

One of the best ways to put a driver under stress before a rally is to write an article about him saying that he could do particularly well.

Mark Laughton this year earns the title of top local contender in his Corolla Liftback. Mark has been around rallying since 1982. In those days he had a Mazda RX3, in which he achieved perhaps no notable successes, but he did do a lot of learning (including learning how to roll). After a short retirement he bought the ex Mike Teasdale RX3 and competed in that for a couple of years.

In 1987 he bought the ex Bruce Asher Datsun P510 and impressed everyone in its first outing, the Newmans Rallysprint. His star performance in this car was the 1988 Shoreline Rally, in which he came 6th overall, behind three 4-wheel drive cars. This result came after being seeded 38th. In Otago Sports Car Club sprints and hillclimbs Mark was always in the top five, although the car suffered through being relatively heavy.

In 1990 Mark bought Wayne Murdochs 1800 Corolla Liftback. This car has got all the good rally gear, has been beautifully prepared and really flies. He won his first event, a rallysprint and went on to get 2nd in the Wyndham Rally, behind Barry Robinson. It is expensive to be competitive, and Mark has gained the backing of the Tune-up Centre, Vincent George House of Travel, Radio Otago 4XO, and Cooke Howlison. Navigator and team manager for Mark is Maree McFarlane who does an excellent job of the navigating and administration - which leaves Mark free to concentrate on the driving. This is perhaps just as well as Mark is feeling the pressure to perform for this years event.



THE FOUR WHEEL DRIVE CARS

Along with the recent flood of Japanese import cars has come a number of Mazda 323 4WD's and Subaru RX 4WD's. These turbo cars are natural rallycars. In standard form they are competitive against the best of the two wheel drive cars.

All sorts of rumours are going around about how cheap they can be imported for but it is certain that they are available in the \$8,000 - \$16,000 price

Of course, the main drawback with using these cars is that the cost of repairing accident damage is higher and so can be the cost of mechanical parts.

In the Shoreline Rally there should be at least three of each the Mazda's and Subaru's.

THE DO'S AND DON'TS

Rallying is a spectacular sport to watch and we hope you will come out and follow it.

There are a few safety rules that we ask you to observe as there is no guarantee that the cars you are watching are under control!

DO . . .

Do bring your gumboots Do leave the dog at home Do obey any Marshalls Do park considerately

DON'T . . .

Don't assume vou can hear a car coming Don't stand on the outside of a corner Don't stand on anything unstable like logs Don't assume that rally cars are arriving at even 1 minute gaps