

## Looking Back

This year I have changed back to Nowendoc for the Evan Green Memorial Rally from the Mudgee area where I have set the event for the last few years.

The Nowendoc shop has reopened, Malcolm Naden has been caught and the Hut needs some new drinkers.

Looking over some likely roads that I will use to get competitors up onto the Nowendoc Plateau had me thinking as to previous use of the roads a long time ago in car trials.

On **Sunday 22nd August 1954** some of my well liked chosen roads were used in a car trial that started in Taree and wound towards Gloucester using that great Bundook Rd.

The event was the **Taree RSL Motor Reliability Trial**.

Only five of the 80 starters were able to clean the Belbora to Mt George section via Bundook which had been set at an average speed of 41kph.

The five were, Colin Graham Peugeot (Colin is 97 years old and still working his farm at Pappinbarra), Des West navigated by Ruth West, Bruce Hunter, a Taree Doctor driving a Peugeot, G Hill in a Mercury and Des West's father in another Holden.

Bill Edmonds Vanguard Dealer and Colin Graham Peugeot Dealer were both from Wauchope and had competed in the REDeX Trial as had Des West and his Dad. Other REDeX entrants competing were Bill Kennedy from Paterson in a Holden & Ken Tubman in a Plymouth. These entrants caused much interest with other entrants.

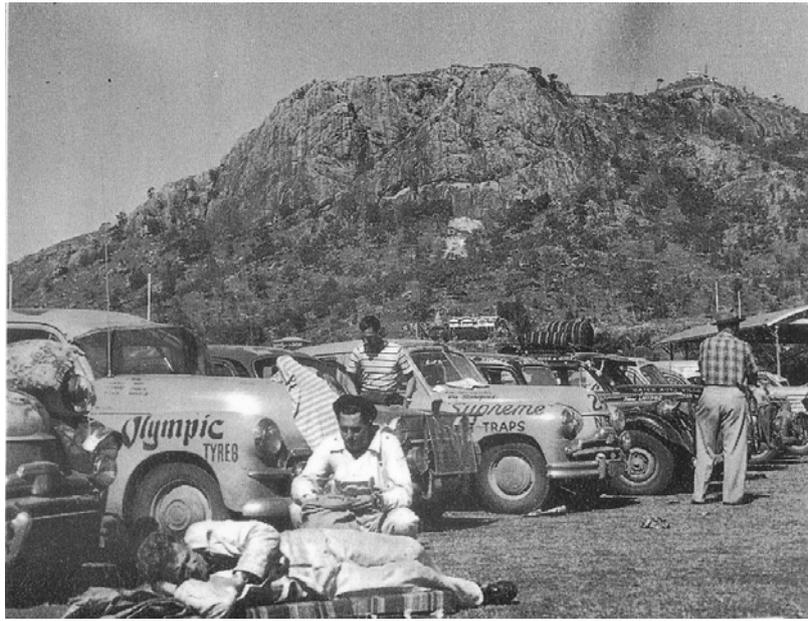
There were nine sections in the trial with cars travelling from Mt George to Wingham then to Comboyne and the Oxley Highway and on to the Taree finish. Keenest entrants were H & J Tanby who struck difficulty in a creek crossing on Sidebottom Rd then returned to Taree, obtained another vehicle only to have it also give trouble in the trial. It was interesting to see that competitors who missed a Secret control were disqualified.

Ken Tubman & Kel Ebbick from Maitland were the winners in a Plymouth followed by G Hill in a Mercury then two Ford Consuls filled minor places driven by A Bennett & A Hogue.

Entrants drove the following makes, Peugeot, Hudson Singer, Holden, Fords Pilot, Consul & Customline, Austin, Vanguard, Chevrolet, Vauxhall, Packard, Morris Minors & Oxfords, Pontiac, Volkswagen & Renault.

The Evan Green Memorial Rally on the 8th November is looking to be another great event.

*Hal*



The late Sir Jack Brabham sitting in front of his Holden at Townsville during the 1954 REDeX Trial.

Location is right near Castle Rock Townsville which is visible in the background. His Navigator Harry Gapps is sleeping.