

PROFILE OF SCOTT ROCKLIFF

Name: Scott Rockliff
Age: 22 years
Vegetable Farmer and Contractor
Parents Property
"Skelbrook" at Sassafras.
Member: Devonport 4WD Club

Past background — Motor Sport?

Riding motocross since 1985.
Junior 14-16 125cc — State Champion.
Senior 125cc — State Champion.
Senior 250cc — Runner-up State Champion.

Why he moved into 4WDS?

First 4WD - Started going on 4WD trips at age of 10 with my father. Went on 3 trips to mainland. (East Coast, Cape York, Darwin, Ayers Rock) while in High School.

Purchased short wheelbase Hilux ute at age 15, still have it now, but with a lot of modifications. (winch, diff lock, suspension kit, 2.4 Petrol Motor). Raced this vehicle for the last 6 years winning Smithton and Hobart Mud Runs and quite a few rallies.

Building Mid Engine Hilux

Brought rolled 1988 Hilux ute without engine, stripped it down to bare chasis, built from ground up, with Cruiser diffs, Dyna gearbox, Hilux transfer case, brought 427 cubic inch GM Motor from mainland. Dad talked me in to putting motor in back to get the weight off the front diff assembly and C.V. joints and being a big black motor it wouldn't fit under the bonnet very easily.

When I started building it there was only one other mid-mounted mud racer but when I went to the mainland there were 5 including mine in the whole of Australia.

Cost, how long did it take, Why?

Brought badly rolled Hilux for \$3,500. Finished up costing approximately \$12,000, with help from sponsors Ling Gowans Toyota, Spreyton Auto World and Lawry Body-



Scott Rockliff in his mid-engined Hilux.

Photo courtesy The Advocate

works. Worked 4 hours per night, 4 nights per week, most weekends, - for 10 months. All modifications done myself, apart from fitting and turning and wiring of vehicle.

Mainland — how it performed?

There were 20 vehicles in class 7, which is opened - modified, having 2 heats and the fastest 10 getting into the final, I ran 2nd in both heats less than 1/2 second behind the fastest time. In the final I had 2 circlips break that let the drive shaft come out of the V drive, only going 50 metres. In the final of the day I had fixed the problem and finished up running second for a consolation final. The top ten vehicles were all within 2 seconds between them.

What he learned?

One vehicle I was competing against and beat was worth about \$70,000, this vehicle and the vehicle that beat me was running turning brakes to help get around the sharp corners.

Future for Car?

Hope to compete in 9 rounds of the Australian Mud Racing Championships, but crossing of Bass Strait is very expensive.

Problems?

First couple of times out had trouble breaking the input shaft into the transfer case, so I had to get a special sleeve sent from the mainland and modify the shaft to make it bigger.