



□ JANAH McLean, event support co-ordinator of Repco Rally Australia, in the control room at Salt Village.

Photo: Crystal Spencer D126033

Excitement building at race headquarters

BY LEONIE BRANN

JANAH McLean loves the adrenalin rush of rally racing, whether she is in the co-driver's seat, or helping to organise the Repco Rally Australia, which will rev up on the Tweed this Thursday.

"There will be the most amazing buzz around the headquarters and service area when we have all the teams and officials in the same place," Ms McLean, who is event support co-ordinator for the Tweed event, said.

"There are more than 1000 officials from both here and overseas. The big teams have crews of up to 100 people and the privateers have a support crew of at least 20 - that's a lot of people.

"Then there are also the local emergency services and about 100 media from all over the world."

Salt Village is being transformed into the headquarters for the local round of the World Rally Champion-

ships, with the drivers, support crews and officials arriving yesterday to stay at Mantra at Peppers Resort, where the main control and results room are being fitted out.

Kilometres of cabling have been used to fit out three conference rooms at Mantra into the control centre for the rally.

Four large screens will be used by officials in the command room to follow the drivers as they complete the various rally sections, while in another two rooms the results will be collated and emergency services will make sure the event runs without interruption.

"Our priority is on safety at all times. We have GPS on all the cars to track the drivers and we have our eye-in-the-sky helicopter that is so powerful you can read co-driver's notes when we zoom in."

Peppers at Salt and Bale at Salt will be the base for the international media, Ms McLean said.