

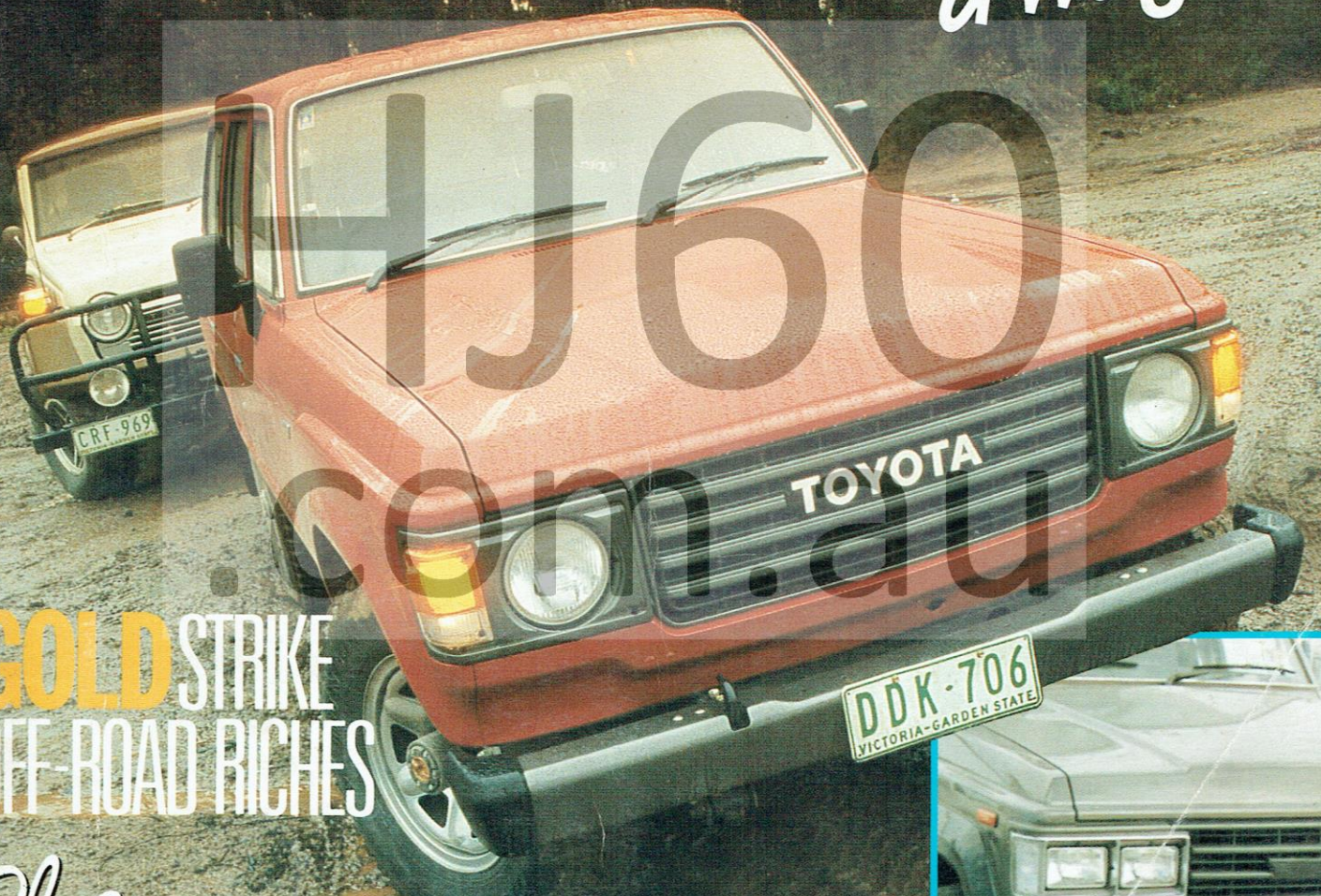
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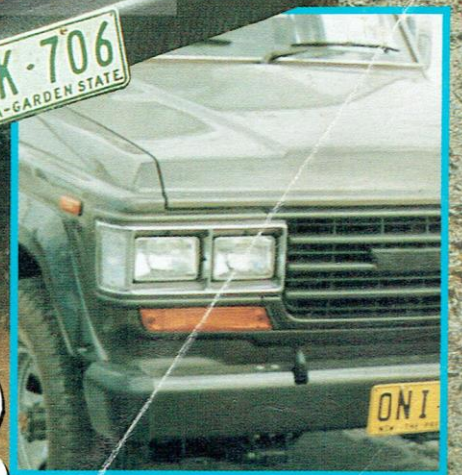


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'88 Toyotas & Coil Patrols

SCOOP: TOYOTA COUNTER ATTACK

New models in Toyota's huge range of 4WD vehicles have already arrived in Australia, and although external changes seem largely cosmetic, sources suggest some of the new model alterations go much deeper.

Obvious modifications on the Sahara Turbo caught at Falls Creek by reader Brett Gray revolve around the front end. As well as the adoption of twin rectangular

headlights, Toyota has relocated the indicators beneath and included indicator repeaters on the side. The grille has also come in for attention, but external changes elsewhere are minimal and all body panels seem identical to this year's machine.

People inside Theiss Toyota, however, have indicated that the new models will have significant changes aimed at improving

those areas of the LandCruiser which most often attract criticism. If that suggestion is accurate, we may well see changes to suspension and/or steering.

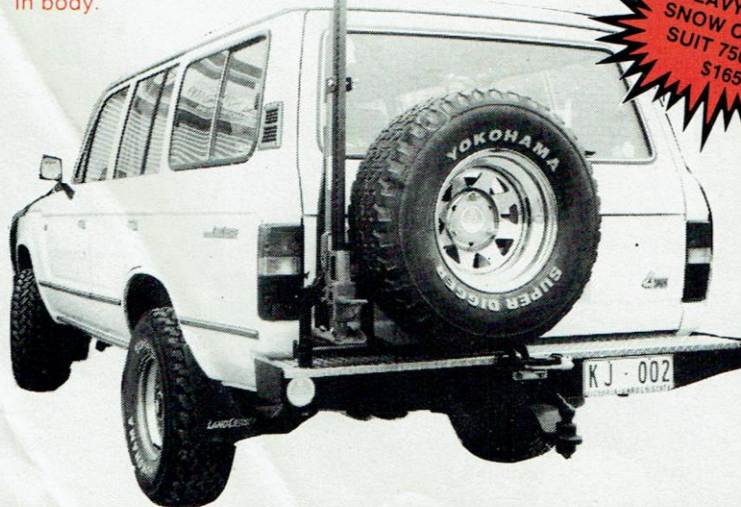
The refinement of suspension seems a likely update in view of the imminent release of Nissan's new coil Patrols (shown elsewhere this issue), particularly as a number of Australian aftermarket suspensions are known to

have been evaluated by Japanese Toyota representatives earlier this year. The purpose of that evaluation remains unclear, but it could be that Australian 'Cruisers will either come with 'aftermarket' suspension as standard, or may have that suspension adopted as an official Toyota accessory. In either case the contract would be a lucrative one for an Australian manufacturer.

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Nissan may be ready to launch all-new Patrols, but 4WD giant Toyota isn't taking it lying down. Revamped 'Cruisers are all set to take up the challenge.

No release dates for the new Toyotas have yet been announced, but a November/December release is being tipped. One thing's for certain: if the '88 LandCruisers have had their suspension reworked, a lot of people will be looking closely at how they fare against the more radical changes wrought to the Patrol opposition.



New LandCruisers — more changes than meet the eye, perhaps even upgraded suspension.

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