

Induction to the Tasmanian Motorsport Hall of Fame will stand as a fitting tribute to the contribution made to his chosen sport in Tasmania over a period spanning more than three decades for the late Ray Long.

His induction in 1993 was the first posthumous induction to the hall.

Arriving in Tasmania in the early 1960s from New South Wales, where he was a State touring car champion, Ray Long immediately made an impact on the Tasmanian motor racing scene.

Continuing to race his FJ Holden touring car and later building and racing an Elfin sports car, Ray competed locally for a number of years with mixed success.

In the late 1960s he switched to rallying and was one of the first regular competitors in a not so well known Japanese brand of cars called Datsuns (now Nissan).

Over a period of 15 years at the top level of competition Ray raced a succession of Datsuns to no less than nine State rally championships- many of them with navigator John Brock at his side- in the more demanding older style of navigational trials and rallies not normally conducted at State or national level any more.

After retiring as a driver in the early 1980s, Ray took on an administrative

role as State eligibility officer.

Just as he had earned a fearsome reputation as a competitor, Ray soon demanded respect in his new role, backing up his wealth of experience with an intimate knowledge of the rules and a no-favours application of them, earning another reputation as a hard, but fair official-which many may say is a rare and valuable breed in the demanding world of motorsport administration.

Ray also organised and directed a number of rallies and events up to State championship level, and was remembered for his directorship of the famous BP Tasmanian Rally. He was an active member and committee member of the 500 Car Club of Tasmania, being honoured with life membership of that particular club.

In later years, Ray discovered an interest in four-wheel-driving and became a regular competitor in four-wheel-drive rallies.

At the time of his untimely death in 1922, Ray (63) still held the position of State eligibility officer.

Profile by Martin Agatyn.



PROFILE

Ray Long



INDUCTED: 1993



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