



“I enjoy being able to give something back and you build a fabulous relationship with those who regularly volunteer for our sport”



I have a great respect for the effort that these people put in and the sacrifices they all make.

I enjoy being able to give something back and you build a fabulous relationship with those who regularly volunteer for our sport. I see them at all the different events I do and they are always there to support and assist and always with a smile

**B: How long have you been part of the club for?**

**CB:** I originally joined in the early 1990s, before having a family and pausing for about 15 years. I returned in 2016.

**B: What do you like about being part of the club?**

**CB:** As a rally enthusiast, BSCC are one of the major rally event organisers in Queensland. They have a passionate core membership and provide great value for your membership dollars.

**B: What do you love about the sport?**

**CB:** It is the lifetime friendships you develop and the fabulous memories you make, spending time with likeminded people is so rewarding. They really are my rally family.



PHOTO: CH IMAGES

# The Irish BSCC Connection

**Australia has been built off the back of immigration and people migrating down under from other countries.**

Because of that, the Brisbane Sporting Car Club has plenty of diversity amongst its member base with a small portion having made their way from Ireland.

Like many travellers from the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, Thomas Dermody, Ronnie Bustard and Cahal Carey had the desire to

come to Australia and escape the cold weather of their Irish homes.

While the motivation of more sunshine may have been similar, their journeys were unique – a trait shared by their rallying background and how they found themselves contesting the roads.

BRISPORT caught up with all three and gained an insight into their stories of leaving Ireland, rallying down under and how rallying in each country stacks up against each other.



s Photography

PHOTO: AM SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHY

## Thomas Dermody

I was brought up on a dairy farm in Ireland and left for Australia in 1983 when I was 18-years-old for some adventure and to see the world - however nearly forty years have gone by and I am still in Australia.

I never actually had anything to do with rallying in Ireland and I was only racing motorcycles for a while, something I continued here in Australia from the mid 1980s to the early 1990s. I did no motorsport for nearly 20 years while I developed my business before taking up rallying in 2012, for which I have loved every minute of it.

I think rallying in Ireland is far more intense with the amount of entries and quality of cars as there are more 150 entries per event. While Australia doesn't have as many

competitors, the competition is good and it's a very friendly atmosphere with good comradery.

Also rallying on the gravel in the forests is great fun.

My best memory for rallying in Australia would have been winning the inaugural

East Coast Classic Championship in 2018, but the FIA World Rally Championship round in Coffs Harbour in 2016 was one of my favourites because we came second to Neal Bates in the Classics.

I also really like all of the Motorsport Australia NSW Rally Championship rounds and the Imbil Rally here in Queensland.





# Ronnie Bustard

My rally journey started back home in Ireland doing service for my brother John over a number of years. In 2002, I bought a Toyota Corolla AE86 but it sat in my shed as I didn't really know what to do in a rally car on a stage.

A few months went by before I got the opportunity to co-drive for John, which led me to driving myself in a few rallies towards the end of the year.

In 2003, I entered the Northern Ireland Rally Championship where I won my class with a round to spare and for me, that was my best rallying memory as a competitor.

I had actually built a Talbot Sunbeam to compete in 2004 but decided to move to Australia instead and the company I worked for, Terex Finlay, helped me transfer to Brisbane.

Having now done rallying in Australia, the big difference between here and Ireland is how far the events are located and how much longer the stages are compared to rallies back home. It takes a lot of getting used to.

The road surfaces are also very different as Ireland has a lot more stone on the forest roads which doesn't get as slippery when it rains.

In Ireland my favourite event was the local bushwhacker rally run by Omagh Motor Club. It always had a full entry list of 120 cars with some of the best forest stages in Ireland.

As for here in Australia, I really like doing the local KCF Rally in Jimna as it's relaxed with the opportunity to write your own pace notes and you really get a chance to refine them with the amount of runs of the same stages.

*"I really like doing the local KCF Rally in Jimna as it's relaxed with the opportunity to write your own pace notes"*



PHOTOS: DAKAR PRESS TEAM AUSTRALIA



## Cahal Carey

I came to Australia twenty years ago on a working holiday visa and I think like most people, I partied for a lot of the first two years. I then had to make the decision to stay and get sponsored, which wasn't a hard decision as I loved it here - the weather and the people are what made it.

My father had done rallycross back in Ireland when I lived there and I always loved going to watch and help out where possible.

As for myself, I didn't get involved in rally here for a while as I couldn't really afford to be doing it until a few years ago.

With the help of Ronnie, I was finally able to get involved and we started off with some rallycross here, which was great but after a few events, the series we were in finished up.

We then decided to have a go at rallying, so we joined the BSCC which allowed us to compete in a few local and stage events around Queensland.

As these were mainly blind rallies and I wanted to learn pace notes, I decided to follow the ARC, which is where I am competing now.

The main focus for me now is just getting as much time in the seat as possible and learning to take the full potential out of the car and I am really looking forward to going to Tasmania for the Shannons Rally Launceston.



PHOTOS: DAKAR PRESS TEAM AUSTRALIA



# Vale Esme Gibson

**The Brisbane Sporting Car Club is saddened to hear of the passing of BSCC life member Esme Gibson.**

Having been involved with the club since the early 1980s, Esme was best known for work as the Club Administrator – a position she held for two decades.

First obtaining the role in 1982 after Coral Taylor's departure, Esme embraced her role with enthusiasm despite being new to the world of motorsport.

From mastering the operation of the Gestetner to her adept skill set at organising events to becoming an expert on the then CAMS, rules and regulations – Esme was highly respected amongst the whole club.

Her viewpoint of things being done the right way was instilled around the whole club as not only was Esme a great mentor and friend to those involved

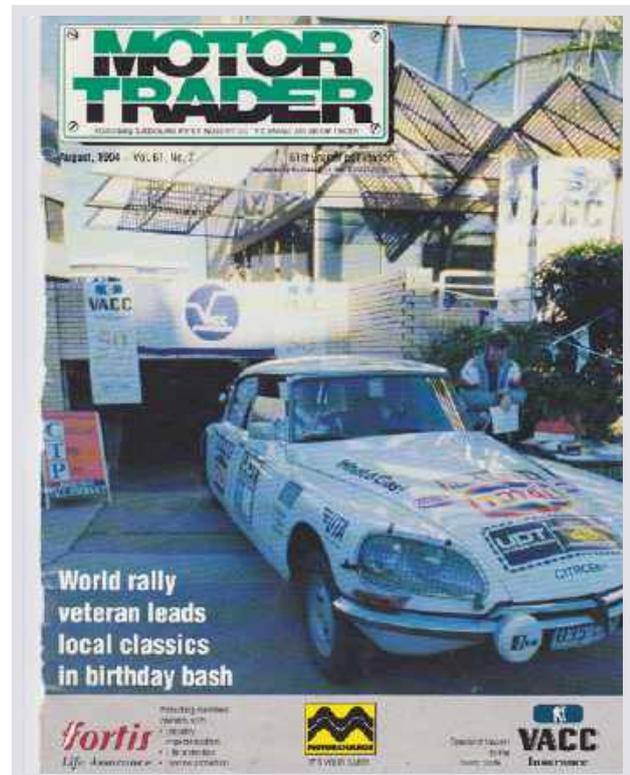
in the Club, she was highly skilled at enlisting people to volunteer as officials

Another great quality of Esme's was her ability to recycle anything and everything and let nothing go to waste if it could be used again.

Outside of being a club administrator, Esme spent just as much time as a volunteer official and often attended events with husband John (Viv) and sons Martin and Adam, where she would take on a variety of roles.

Esme received many accolades over the years, however the most notable were receiving BSCC Life Membership upon her retirement in 2002 and receiving Legend status at the Goodyear Autocare Rally due to her contributions to the events in Gallangowan.

In addition to being a well-respected and organised administrator and official, Esme was highly popular amongst the club due to her enthusiasm, patience and kindness.



**Left:** Esme Gibson on a hike with family.

**Above:** Esme with the winning 1974 London-Sahara-Munich World Cup Rally. The car was built and driven by owner Jim Reddix, another long term member of BSCC.

**Previous Page:** A younger Esme and her famous Mitsubishi van.

"I have many great memories of working with Esme on many events and in various executive roles, in particular, on the off road side of competition," Rod Sams said about the late Esme Gibson.

"I also appreciated the work she and especially Viv put into the Club's 50th anniversary celebrations. Viv and Esme spent countless hours going through old meeting minutes and event documents to put together the first 50 years of the Club's history.

All those who met Esme will have a special memory of her. Our thoughts are with John, Martin and Adam and their families at this sad time."

A good friend of hers in Neil Michel echoed Sams' comments.

"In my time as a member of BSCC, I have witnessed many great and generous people who have given so freely of their

time and financial resources for the benefit of our club and sport," Michel said.

"One of these was club stalwart Esme Gibson, her enthusiasm and focussed discipline as our administration officer helped not only individual members and new entrants to the sport but also to many Boards of Directors.

"She taught us many skills in organising events and running a successful club, she was patient and kind and when she rang you to help on an event or something for the club, it was impossible not to accept her volunteering you to the task.

"RIP Esme, you were very much appreciated by BSCC and definitely by my family and myself."

Esme is survived by husband John and her two children Martin and Adam.

The Brisbane Sporting Car Club passes on its condolences to Esme's family and friends.

*"She was patient and kind and when she rang you to help on an event or something for the club, it was impossible not to accept her volunteering you to the task"*



PHOTO: CH IMAGES

# Rally Queensland gets green light

**After plenty of uncertainty surrounding the Accent Benchtops Rally Queensland taking place, the Gympie based event has been given the green light.**

The event, which serves as the fourth round of the RSEA Safety Motorsport Australia Rally Championship (ARC) season, is the Brisbane Sporting Car Club's biggest event on the club's annual calendar.

As a result of multiple flooding disasters that plagued the state in 2022, the event committee worked tirelessly to get the rally to a position where it could go ahead despite the damage sustained in Gympie and the surrounding forests.

Clerk of Course Brian Everitt was looking forward to the event running despite the issues.

"It has been a tough challenge to keep this event going given we have had four floods in six months - one of which was the second biggest flood in history," Everitt said.

"The floods caused a lot of damage to Gympie township and surrounding forest areas but we have had a lot of support from the Gympie council and they have helped us put it on.

"Their enthusiasm is never ending so we're very appreciative of their support along with the assistance of the HQ Plantations.

"During May, it was looking very dicey, but we have had a couple of weeks of sunshine and as long as we don't get a significant amount of rain, I am confident we are going ahead.

"We have three new stages, as well as some of the stages we ran last year with some modifications.

*“We’re looking forward to having the ARC, it will be a big boost to the economy especially after the months we had”*

“We have managed to scramble a good amount of distance to keep the crews challenged.

“We’re looking forward to having the ARC, it will be a big boost to the economy especially after the months we had. The council are doing their utmost to help us run the event and they have been terrific and very understanding.”

Taking place at the end of July, the two-day sprint rally will see Australia’s best crews complete 179 competitive kilometres over 14 stages - eight of which will make up Saturday’s 91km

schedule, while the remaining six stages and 88km will be run on the Sunday.

Before the action gets underway on the Saturday, there will be a special Wheels on Mary Festival, which will see the whole of Mary street closed down in order to showcase the rally and the crews.

Sharing the street will be the Winter Trees on Mary, hosted by the Chamber of Commerce.

Entries for the Accent Benchtops Rally Queensland open on 17 June, with the rally to also host the Acworth Recruiting Queensland Motorsport Australia Queensland Rally Championship and the Virtual Security Novice Series.

The Accent Benchtops Rally Queensland event will take place on 25-26 July.

[Click here to discover more about the ARC event](#)

[rally.com.au/queensland](http://rally.com.au/queensland)



PHOTO: CH IMAGES

# BSCC Buddies

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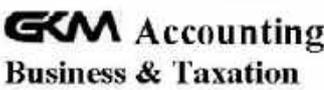


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# Welcome!

On behalf of the Board of Brisbane Sporting Car Club and the Membership Officer, Claire Buccini, it is with great pleasure that **we welcome the following new and returning Members to our Club.**

## New Members

Greg Lipshus &  
Lisa Chaplin <sup>5145</sup>

Jack Bussey <sup>5149</sup>

Darryn White <sup>5150</sup>

## Returning

Lachlan Buchanan <sup>5031</sup>

Nick Ashwin <sup>4641</sup>



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## Brisport Magazine

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# BRISPORT

MAGAZINE

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