

Tribute to Beb Fox, by Anthony Hyde

Beb Fox from Canberra passed away in November 2010 aged 75 after a battle with mesothelioma (asbestos exposure). Amongst many things, he was a foundation member of the Southern District Motorsports Association and had significant involvement with motorsport in the region with race & rally car scrutineering and as a motorsport competitor.

Beb was known for his skills particularly in heavy engineering when he worked as a technical officer for the Plasma Research Laboratory at the ANU in Canberra. I remember him working a giant lathe, an ex German machine that Australia received as part of war compensations. The lathe was so big in diameter it was called a horizontal lathe as the faceplate lay flat. On retirement from the ANU, Beb bought himself a big present, a large metal working lathe and ran a backyard engineering business specialising in machining and fabricating special parts for older cars. He was well known for his machining precision and ingenuity, assisting many enthusiasts including rally and motorsports people.

He loved attending swap meets and had wide experience with identifying and collecting old parts.

"Klippan" writes: back in the days of Lakeview Hillclimb, the Canberra Sporting Car Club ran a hillclimb series that awarded points based on a handicap system which rewarded consistency, not speed - Beb, ever the thinker, figured out that a virtually standard VW Beetle (36 or 40hp) would be just the thing -the Beetle was flat out all the way up the hill, probably 10 secs off the quick times, but consistent, and Beb won the series.

Beb worked as a CAMS motorsport official becoming a Silver level scrutineer. He assisted at Wakefield Pk, SDMA Canberra Hillclimb, and was highly valued by the rally clubs in Canberra - Brindabella Motorsports and The Light Car Club. He was an expert on carburetors and we often called on his knowledge at scrutineering to advise on the correct mounting of return springs in multi carb setups.

Beb was a great supporter of club level motorsport, his favourite motorsport events being tarmac & dirt mountain rallies and hillclimbs. He was proud of his cars and their presentation and competed in rounds of the NSW Hillclimb Championship for many years. He was a regular competitor at the SDMA Canberra Hillclimb and always looked at his run times to see if the latest enhancement made a difference. Over the years he would have had many cars, but I remember a big Mercedes, then the yellow Alfa, the grey Volvo 120 rally car, and in recent years one of his club racing favourites a cream Volvo 142S with big carburetors. As you might expect, he did all his own mechanical work and in one frustratingly case last year he missed a Hillclimb championship round when one of the welsh / freeze plug he made for the B20 block started to leak. He calmly discussed a subtle change to his press tool.

Beb's passing is a loss to the clubs, its members and to the wider community, but he wouldn't want us to dwell on this, but just get on with what your doing and do it well.

