FORMULA VEE ASSOCIATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

FORMULA VEE LEGEND





KEN GOODWIN

Ken Goodwin is a great story teller - a man who can keep you spellbound for hours as he relates his experiences of a life extraordinary in its scope and depth.

His countless stories come from a life full of experiences. Ken has worked as a plumber, as a seaman on coastal ships up and down the eastern seaboard of Australia, as a sales representative and mechanic in the poker machine industry, and in the electricity distribution industry.

Ken grew up in inner western Marrickville, Sydney, and he stills lives in the area. As a teenager, Ken rode motor bikes and drove an Austin 7 (which spectacularly caught fire and burnt out in the driveway of his home). Later he drove MGs, Citroens, Fiats and Mercedes.

Speedway - or "the skids" as he affectionately calls it - has been and remains a special love – Ken has been friends with many of the stars of speedway in 1950s.

Another side of Ken is his knowledge of theatre, art and literature. Few would know he studied architecture at Sydney University, without completing his degree as it happens, but acquiring a love of fine buildings nonetheless.

Ken was a member of the inaugural committee of the Formula Vee Association of NSW, and he worked tirelessly to have the category established. But Ken was not just a hard working volunteer, he was a top driver and Formula Vee engineer. In 1968 Ken won the NSW Formula Vee championship in his Rennmax, and he was the first to suggest the use of a cable to restrict the movement of the rear suspension, an innovation soon adopted by all competitors.

After selling his car to Bernie Haenhle, Ken raced a Rennmax Twin Cam Formula 2 with success.

But most of all, and beyond his motor racing, Ken Goodwin is a great friend – a person who sticks with you through the bad times as well as the good. He has that rare ability to be able to connect with, and become friends with, all manner of people; from academics, and very successful business people, to people down on their luck, and to people working in average jobs.

Now a grandfather, Ken continues to keep in touch with many from his racing days and enjoys nothing better than a good coffee and a leisurely chat with old mates.