

VALE - GRAHAM LOADER

On Sunday November 12th 2023 at 7.30pm, Graham Loader passed away peacefully following various complications from a twelve year battle with prostate cancer. For most of those twelve years, Graham coped well and had good quality of life until spending the last two months in Ashford Hospital.

I have known Graham for fifty years having met when we were both competing in the South Australian Junior Rally Series, Graham never letting me forget that he won when I came 4th.

Graham was born in 1945 and grew up in Kangarilla, attending Meadows Primary School. Quite recently we were in Strathalbyn when he pointed out the old swimming pool, in the Angas River below the current pool, where he used to go for swimming lessons, recalling Dawn Fraser swimming there during that era.

After finishing high school, Graham joined the PMG, gaining his trade qualifications in telecommunications. As PMG became Telecom and Telstra, Graham, stayed with the company until retirement at 55 years of age.

He met his wife Pat at electrical company Philips in 1968 where she also worked in telecommunications. They married in 1970, moving into their current home in Flinders Park in 1974, just before Pat gave birth to Mark, their only child.

Sadly, Mark passed away from Leukaemia in 1991 when he and Graham were restoring a beautiful mk1, two-litre, Ford Escort as Mark's first car. Graham painstakingly completed the restoration into one of the very best of its type but understandably, could not really bring himself to enjoy it and it went to a loving home in NSW.



Graham was a great driver and loved motorsport. He was one of Australia's best motorkhana competitors and excelled in rallying, rally and circuit sprints. In motorkhanas, he was virtually unbeatable, especially in his Datsun 1200 Coupe with 180B SSS running gear, including independent rear suspension. I shared driving the Datsun in the annual Interteams Motorkhana and Graham coached me like it was a Formula 1 event, explaining every detail in how to win – it was fantastic.

Graham is a Life Member of Nissan Datsun Car Club where he was instrumental in organising new events, like Khanacross and running stages at the Classic Adelaide Rally. He joined the MG Car Club over twenty years ago and restored his '48 MG Y Type Saloon which was acquired in boxes and as a bodyshell. He then restored it into the car so well known to members today.



He also owns a truly immaculate, 1966 Ford Mustang which is one of the few cars he hasn't restored himself.

In the MG Club, Graham has been one of the most active members and when visiting him in hospital he was disappointed that he hadn't been able to host a recent T-Register meeting at his home as originally planned.

Graham Loader was not only a highly respected member of the MG Car Club but also one of the most genuine and authentic members you could ever hope to meet. Sincere condolences to Pat and their wider family and friends.

Rest-in-Peace, Graham.

Ed Ordynski, Patron, MG Car Club SA.