

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP OF CAMS AWARDED TO ANN THOMSON



(In our last Octagon, we reported briefly that Ann Thomson had been awarded a Life Membership by CAMS. We are now able to reproduce for you the citation which was read at the presentation and which gives us all an account of Ann's contribution to motorsport in general and to our Club in particular.)

In 1982, CAMS introduced provision for Life Membership of CAMS, the purpose of which is to acknowledge service to the sport by individual members. The Award was bestowed upon Mrs Ann Thomson in 2008.

*Ann at a recent presentation of trophies at the hillclimb*

### **Citation for Mrs Ann Thomson**

In 1982, CAMS introduced provision for Life Membership of CAMS, the purpose of which is to properly acknowledge remarkable and exemplary service to Australian motor sport, usually over many years, by individual members.

For only the second time in its history, CAMS Life Membership is awarded to a lady who can truly be said to have 'done it all' both in, and for, Australian motor sport since a time when CAMS was still a very young organisation.



*The Life Membership badge*

Ann Thomson acquired her CAMS racing licence in 1956 and quickly gained the respect of her fellow competitors. Ann's stable of racing cars variously included an MGTC, Morgan+4, Healey BN2, Lotus 15, genuine 'racing' Lotus Elan (one of only a few in Australia at the time) and a Cooper S. Ann regularly competed at various East Coast circuits including Bathurst in 1969. Renowned for her talent as a driver, Ann was also an active and proficient rally competitor in Mini, Cortina, Morris Marina and XU1 to name just a few as well as a Holden Kingswood in the 1970 Round Australia Rally. During and after this competitive era, Ann also devoted superhuman time and effort to officiate as the Clerk of the Course for several State Championship Rallies and as a Course Checker for ARC events.

Ann Thomson's talent, expertise and experience were not limited only to motor sport competition. Ann, an experienced business person, served CAMS as its Queensland

Treasurer in the early 1960's during a time when CAMS State administrations could be trusted with money matters and later served as the assistant Queensland State Secretary of CAMS. As a volunteer administrator, having served on the Queensland State Council of CAMS continuously for 38 years, Ann has not lost any of her zeal for perfection, nor her ability to debate vigorously. Ann's devotion to the judiciary through her determination to provide appropriate stewarding service to all Queensland events is legendary. Ann continues to remain active at motor sport events as a Time Keeper.

But of all her achievements, this astute, articulate lady is known best for her involvement in creating, in conjunction with the MG Car Club of Queensland, the Mt Cotton Hillclimb, quite possibly the finest hillclimb venue in Australia, which is built partly on property owned by her.

Ann Thomson's service to CAMS over a long period of time was initially recognised with the CAMS Service Award and in 1998 Ann was further recognised with the award of the CAMS Service Star bestowed upon her.

Ann Thomson's life has been 'a membership of CAMS' and no more fitting award than CAMS Life Membership could now be bestowed upon her and, particularly arising from her contributions to the Queensland State Council, Ann's loyal service to CAMS and to the CAMS motor sport community certainly justifies her being a recipient of this award. Ann Thomson is indeed a worthy recipient of Life Membership of CAMS for remarkable and exemplary services rendered to the sport over a long period of time.

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*Ann in her Lotus 15  
surrounded by helpers and  
lookers-on*



*In the Lotus Elan at Oran Park Aug 1969  
where she came 1st outright*



*Ann competing at Mt Cotton on 12th  
April 1970*



*Rallying the Cortina*

*'The way they were'; Ann chats to  
Keith Turner and David Hoare while  
Brian Tebble and Malcolm and John  
Campbell look on. Tim Harlock and  
Martin Gale are in the background.*

