

Legend backs motor show

Nick Dalton

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ONE of the legends of Australian rallying, Ross Dunkerton, is throwing his support behind a new motor show in the Far North.

The 58-year-old Trinity Park resident has agreed to be patron of the inaugural Motorshow Action NQ at Mareeba in June.

Mr Dunkerton, who moved to Cairns from Perth about two years ago, said he was keen to help the organisers of the event by bringing his experience, contacts and ideas in motorsport.

"I want to try to help the organisers as much as I can and bring some ideas to make it interesting," he said.

Mr Dunkerton, who is semi-retired, is working as a motorsport presenter during the first round of the Australian Rally Championships in Tasmania this weekend.

He also is competing in the classic car section of several rounds of the championships in New South Wales,

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South Australia, Victoria and Queensland.

Mr Dunkerton has a decorated history with more than 100 wins in a career spanning more than 30 years.

The former international rally driver has 18 motorsports titles, including six Australian rally championships, two Asia-Pacific championships and two Far East Asia championships. He was also four times Western Australia rally champion and four times Malaysian rally champion.

During his career he drove for Nissan, Ford and later for Mitsubishi, when he won 33 international events throughout the Asia Pacific region. He is the only international "A seeded" Australian rally driver.

In 2004, Mr Dunkerton was lured out of retirement to drive the Quadtec all-wheel-drive Magna for the Mitsubishi Ralliart team in the Australian rally championship,

where he won five events from five starts, including the International Rally of Canberra, his 100th career win.

More recently, he won the 2005 and 2006 Targa West and in 2007 the two-day Targa-Tasmania.

As well as driving professionally, he has a lengthy television career as both a motorsport commentator in Australia and overseas and as presenter of lifestyle.

In the meantime, tickets for the two day event have gone on sale at www.ticketlink.com.au, at the Makotrac at Mareeba and Autobahn outlets.

Media manager Colin Thompson said people who bought tickets online would receive a 25 per cent discount.

He said they were also looking for special cars to display at the show.

"As you know there are some special cars hidden away up here and we're just trying to ferret them out," he said.

► Mr Thompson can be contacted on 0419 344 577.



Support: Motor rally legend Ross Dunkerton stands in front of his trophy cabinet. He is getting behind a new motor show to be held in the Far North in June. Inset: In action driving a Mitsubishi Evo III. Picture: JAKE NOWAKOWSKI

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