

of historic touring cars loaned to Gardner by Brisbane businessman Bowden and others from his extensive collection included the Lotus Cortina that Allan Moffat drove with great success in the 1960s before he went to America to race in the Trans Am championship. Before Moffat the Cortina boasted such famous drivers as Jim Clark and Jackie Stewart.

Exchanging paint with the Lotus-Cortina was the Benson & Hedges-backed Ford Sierra Cosworth RS500 that was driven to victory at Bathurst

**“If they take notice of the 69-year-old they’ll be much better equipped to cope with the dangers of everyday driving...”**

in 1988 by Tony Longhurst and Tomas Mezera, while Gardner kept tabs on the pair from the pits as team manager.

The Longhurst/Mezera car isn't the only Sierra in the Gallery for Bowden has also loaned Gardner the car that Dick Johnson drove to victory in the 1989 Australian Touring Car Championship, still resplendent in its Shell colours.

Another car familiar to Gardner is the beautiful black ex-Jim Richards JPS BMW 635CSi, now also owned by Bowden. Like the Longhurst/Mezera Sierra, the BMW carries the sponsorship of Wills' Coca-Cola Amatil company, a staunch supporter of Gardner and his various activities since the mid-'70s.

Taking pride of place at the head of the first exhibition hall was a Brabham BT28 Formula Three racing car once raced with considerable success in Europe by current CAMS racing boss Tim Schenken.

The diminutive open wheeler racer was typical of the cars built by the Brabham organisation in the '60s when it was one of the world's leading racing car manufacturers.

In those days the Brabham name was associated with many up-and-coming champions, and the car on display at Norwell is thought to have won the French Formula

Three Championship with Schenken at the wheel.

Sir Jack was also on hand at the opening to inspect the new museum and he was particularly keen to reacquaint himself with the BT28, which was positioned where Gardner plans to create a permanent exhibition dedicated to the legendary deeds of the great three-times world champion driver and car constructor.

While the Motorsport Gallery is predominantly about motor sport it also houses a number of other interesting

sports and touring cars.

There's a 1954 Mercedes-Benz 180 sedan that was the first car to be designed with a passenger safety cell, and a Mercedes-Benz 300SL roadster that featured a sophisticated space frame chassis based on the Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix and sports racing cars of the time.

In the second hall there are a number of fascinating sports cars including an Austin-Healey 100S, a Bristol-engined AC Ace and a Porsche 356 Speedster.

Stroll through into the third hall and you'll find the famous old Ford V8-engined special "Black Bess" that was built and raced with great effect by Doug Whiteford in the '40s and '50s.

In the same hall there's also a collection of 1935 Fords owned by Rick Mayne who professes to a particular passion for the model, and claims to have one of every variant Ford produced.

Don't expect these cars to be there when you visit, although they may be, as Gardner has plans to regularly change his exhibits to keep them as fresh as possible and encourage visitors to make return visits.

The Motorsport Gallery is located at 75 Norwell Road, Norwell, halfway between Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Ph: (07) 5546 1366. UC



• Sports and racing cars are featured at the Motorsport Gallery