

## Rare honour for Frank

GOLD Coast-based motorsport veteran Frank Gardner has been awarded the sixth Membership of Honour by the Confederation of Australian Motor Sports.

Gardner, 65, who was awarded an Order of Australia Medal last year for his services to motorsport and driver education and training, received his CAMS award at the Australian Motorsport Awards in Melbourne on Saturday.

The only other winners are Jack Brabham (OBE), Alan Jones (MBE), Garrie Cooper, Phillip Irving (MBE) and Garry Connelly since the award's inception in 1971.

Gardner's career was built with 22 years of driving and development on the European and US circuits.

Born in Sydney in 1931, he had a seemingly endless ability to set-up race cars.

He was a works driver for Porsche, Lola, General Motors, Ford, Brabham and Lotus as well as driving for many private teams.

Twice British driving champion, Gardner was also three-times British saloon car champion (1967, 68, 73), British F5000 champion (1971), European touring car champion, winner of the European saloon car championship and winner of the New Zealand Grand Prix as part of the Tasman Cup in 1972.

Gardner was also the first driver to chalk up 100 wins in the international saloon car races.

He became the Development Engineer for the giant Lola Car Company and was responsible for testing 200 racing cars each year.

He returned to Australia in 1975 and was an instant hit, developing and driving a Chevrolet Corvair sports sedan to 41 wins, four seconds, a third and fourth from 49 starts.

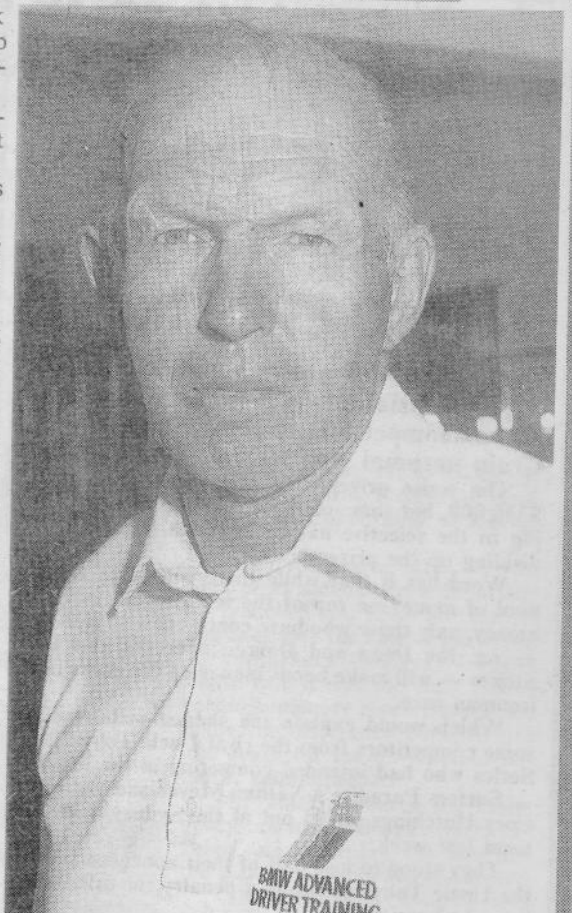
Gardner won the Australian sports sedan championship in 1977 in the Corvair and at the end of that season the car held records at nine circuits.

After retiring from active racing at the end of that year, Gardner became manager of Craven Mild Racing which became the JPS BMW team.

When the team disbanded at the end of 1987 he retired, but returned in 1988 as a consultant for WD & HO Wills and Freeport Motorsport, in which Tony Longhurst was driver and team manager.

That team became Benson and Hedges Racing in August of 1988 and two months later had won the first Tooheys 1000 at Bathurst.

Gardner again became team manager in 1991 and faced the challenge of making his M3



Veteran motorsport identity Frank Gardner was awarded a CAMS Membership of Honour

# CAMS award for Gardner



Maroochydhore triathlon.

Both competed in the 35-39 years age group with McKeon finishing ninth in the category and 183rd overall while Longhurst came in 11th and 203rd overall in a field of 510 starters.

"It was my first triathlon and