

# Travelling Man



Photo by Autopics.

**Words by Craig Watson**  
**Photos by various.**

George Shephard often partnered Evan Green, like in the 1968 Southern Cross Rally.

Inset: Evan as BMC's PR Manager, c1965.

When Evan Green died in March 1996, *Wheels* magazine described him as: "Truly a 20th century Renaissance man."

Any of the jobs Evan applied himself to would have been a suitable full-time career for many people, but his seemingly insatiable love of travel and adventure, his deep work ethic and his enthusiastic passion for the motor car, spurred him on to fit more into his lifetime than most can only dream about.

Works rally driver, BMC executive, leading journalist, team manager, best-selling book author, television presenter, radio presenter, magazine editor, and events director. Add into the mix motorsport commentator, adventurer, Holden executive, poet, artist, photographer, musician, father, gentleman, and all-round good bloke, and you start to get a picture of Evan Green.

Speak to any of his multitude of friends, and

you begin to see why he was an inspiration to so many people.

Evan was born on 21 May 1930, and from a young age, like most boys, was fascinated with motor cars and racing driving.

Writing about Rosco McGlashan's attempt on the World Land Speed Record in 1993, he described the tiny cockpit of Aussie Invader 2 and its tangle of tubes and wires. "It reminded me of a game I used to play when I was a kid. I'd tip over a few chairs, put them end-to-end, cover the front part with a blanket and crawl in. Then, boy's legs poking between wooden ones, I'd pretend I was driving a racing car."

While at school Evan displayed talent as an artist and had an interest in journalism. After about a year in his first job, at the local newspaper *The Biz*, he moved to the *Maitland Mercury* around 1950, as a journalist and occasional cartoon artist, as his son Gavin recalls. "He was a very good sketcher, and used to do cartoons for them. He used to

commute on a motorcycle from Sydney, Fairfield, where the family home was, going home on the weekend, and living in Maitland during the week. The man that he shared a flat with in Maitland, John Coultan, became my uncle, marrying my dad's sister."

Long-distance rally veteran, and long-time friend of Evan's, Hal Moloney, said it was at the *Maitland Mercury* that Evan probably got his first taste of rallying. "Diagonally across the road from the *Mercury* was Lipscombe Pharmacy, which was owned by Ken Tubman. No wonder he became interested in cars and trials. Ken Tubman was a very approachable person and would have helped Evan."

By 1953 he was the Police Rounds reporter on the *Sydney Morning Herald*, and when the Motoring Editor resigned Evan was offered the job, as he recalled in *Sporting Club News* in 1977....

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Motorcycle-bound cub reporter - c1950.



"Gelignite" Jack Murray - early 1950s.



1955 Redex Trial at Townsville control.