



April 30, 2003

A Great Star of Subaru Falls; Possum Bourne passes.

Possum Bourne (New Zealand, 47yrs old), one of the most dedicated rally driver in the motorsports activity of Subaru for the past 20 years had deceased in a hospital in New Zealand on April 30 0:58am (local time)

On Friday, April 18, Possum was in a recce car for the hill climbing event "Race to the Sky" when his car hit head on with another car. He was heavily injured in his head, chest and both legs and was given an intensive care in the hospital.

From all over the world, the message was sent to encourage and wish his early recovery, and everyone at Subaru in Japan had wished no less. This news of his leave had devastated us in grief.

"Possum was definitely a person that cannot be missed out when we mention motorsports activity of Subaru. His contribution was enormous. Most recently, I had talked to him in New Zealand and discussed of our plan for this season, and it brings me a heartrending pain just to think about it. I would like to send my deepest gratitude to his great achievements and contribution to Subaru, and a sincere condolence to his family and friends."

(Masaru Katsurada, Senior Vice President, Fuji Heavy Industries and President, Subaru Tecnica International Inc.)

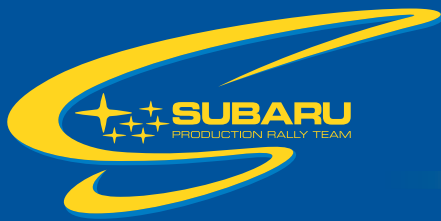
Subaru Production Rally Team (SPRT)

Message from Takeshi Ito, Team Representative SPRT:

"We are very grieved by the news of Possum's sudden passing. We have teamed together for World Rally Championship at the beginning of the season, and have shared much information during our recent discussions in New Zealand. We relied largely on Possum's knowledge and his sincere attitude toward this sport with great respect. We found him to be very friendly and open to everyone. He was an overall nice person.

It is truly a great loss and deep sadness that surrounds not just Subaru, but everyone involved in rallying. We feel that it is the team's mission to do our very best to win the Championship this year in full respect to Possum's endeavor towards our sport.

We sincerely dedicate our deepest sympathy and condolence to Possum's family, and friends.



Possum Bourne

Born April 13, 1956 in New Zealand.

His real name: Peter Bourne (nickname "possum" is a marsupial rodent living in New Zealand)

After first entry to the sport in 1979, Possum built his career in National competitions in New Zealand. His first relation with Subaru started when he knocked the door of the local Subaru dealer. Driving Leone, he made his first entry to WRC Rally of New Zealand that year and finished 14th. In 1984 and '85, he finished 8th in both events of Rally of New Zealand, and gained much attention of the field. This success bought him the ticket to be a member of Subaru's Safari Rally Challenge starting the following year.

His 3rd finish in the Rally of New Zealand in 1987 gained him even more attention, and he had built a steady ground for him as Subaru driver. He became a works factory driver for Subaru when he drove Legacy in Asia Pacific Rally Championship from 1993, and won the Driver's Championship title in the same year. The following 1994, he defended the title driving Impreza .

'94 gave him another crown of overall win at Hong Kong - Beijing Rally.

His strong connection with Subaru was enforced when he made the entry to WRC Rally Australia in 1994 and '95, and Rally of New Zealand in '95 with Subaru works factory team Subaru World Rally Team (SWRT). In 2000, he was again crowned with APRC Championship title.

Possum also competed in National Championships in New Zealand and Australia. He is the unprecedented seven consecutive Australian Champion from 1996 to 2002, where his name will always mentioned in the history of motor sports in Australia.

Possum had won overall in APRC Rally Hokkaido in September 2002 with Group A Impreza.

This year, he has entered Production Car World Rally Championship (PCWRC) as a member of Subaru Production Rally Team (SPRT) where his challenge continued driving the New Group N Impreza.

With much gratitude to Subaru fans for their support to Possum's challenges, we sincerely wish his soul rests in eternal peace.

