

September 2022

AUTOMOTIVE HISTORIANS AUSTRALIA INC

FOUNDING PATRON: Ron Tauranac AO



**AUTOMOTIVE
HISTORIANS
AUSTRALIA INC**

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Wheels Across the Pacific: Transnational Histories of the Automotive Industry

Saturday 17 September (US - PST/EST)

Sunday 18 September (AU - AEST)

The symposium co-convened by Automotive Historians Australia and Society of Automotive Historians about our shared automotive industry history is ready to roll. Now we just need you to attend, either online or in person.

The symposium is open to all financial members of AHA as part of their membership. [To join AHA or renew your membership click here.](#)

The Program

There will be nine papers from AHA and SAH presenters:

- Birth of the Australian Auto Industry
- The Mobilgas Economy Run in the United States and Australia
- The Holden Unitbody
- Women and Automobiles Across Two Continents: an (Unfortunately) Brief Historiography of Women's Automotive Scholarship in Australia and America
- How the Monaro Became the Pontiac GTO
- Creative Tension: the Re-ignition of the Holden Design and GM Design Relationship 1990-2020
- A Journey Towards Industrial Preservation and STEM Outreach Through Extended Reality (XR) Experiences: the First Ford Ute (1934)
- The GMH Design Studio at Fisherman's Bend: Exploring an Australian-American Partnership Through Exhibition
- Arthur Bishop - Steering to Achievement

Click on the link below to view the final program in detail.

<https://www.autohistoriansaustralia.org/s/AHA-2022-program-final-V2.pdf>

Online Attendance

Online attendance is free for all financial AHA members.

An MS Teams invitation will be emailed to all financial members prior to the event.

In-person Attendance Ticket Registration

If you want to attend in person at RMIT University, you will need to register and pay the nominal \$5 cost to cover tea and coffee. Click the link below.

<https://www.autohistoriansaustralia.org/members/aha-2022-rmit>

AHA Membership and Membership Renewals

Membership renewals are due on 1 July, as the financial membership year commences on 1 July for the forthcoming year. New member subscriptions are \$60 and the renewing member fee is \$50. If you have renewed or joined since April your membership is valid for the 2022-23 membership year.

If you're receiving this newsletter and wish to obtain the additional benefits of AHA membership, such as attending the symposium, [click here to go to our membership page.](#)

[Renewing members can keep their membership current by clicking here.](#)

In This Newsletter

The Trans-Am Series

In recognition of our partnership with SAH for the symposium, the videos for this newsletter concentrate on the Trans-Am road racing series in the United States, founded in 1966.

There's a period video about the 1969 Trans-Am series, featuring many of the great American drivers such as Parnelli Jones, Sam Posey and Mark Donohue and cars such as the Ford Mustang, Chevrolet Camaro, AMC Javelin and Pontiac Firebird. This video has a very late-60s aesthetic.

The second video features a meeting held in 2013 at Watkins Glen and apart from the cars, one thing that caught my eye was the very relaxed driving style of Ken Epsman, driving an AMC Javelin number 2A. Check

out the in-car footage. It's a terrific sight to see so many great period cars being driven so hard. Here in Australia, our own historic racing is also immensely popular.

Ford Heritage Vault Website

Staying with an American theme, there's a link to a site established by Ford Motor Company called the Ford Heritage Vault. It contains more than 5,000 photographs and brochures on Ford and Lincoln vehicles.

An Open and Closed Case - the Saint-Didier Convertible Body

David Neely has written a very interesting article on a convertible body design patented by Gustave Baehr, a Parisian inventor and constructor of high-grade bodywork, that was used on Rolls Royce and other chassis in the 1920s.

Articles, Photos and Videos Wanted

We would always like some more articles or short videos from members - two or three minutes would be fine - or some photos, showing us some of your cars, items of memorabilia or other motoring-related activities.

Thanks again to all the members who have contributed ideas, information and feedback for the newsletter.

Tony Lupton

Secretary and Editor

From The President

Our Symposium draws near and there will be something for everyone with such a diverse range of topics. Please make some time to view the presentations.

Recently, the Shannon's Winter Auction closed with, for some, disappointing results. Has the significant rise in some sectors of the classic car market come to an end? Of note was the Holden Dealer Team XU-1 Torana driven by Brock and winner of the 1974 Australian Touring Car Championship. Touted at between \$900,000 – \$1,200,00 it failed to sell. This was despite some serious publicity on TV and radio. A friend's (ex GMH Design Staff) HQ Coupe in unrestored condition failed to get a bid with the guiding price set at \$120,000 – \$160,000. It sold post auction at \$85,700, well below this range but at perhaps a realistic price. Fords also sold well under expected prices, a '71 Fairlane at half the expected value, an XW GT passed in, as was a '68 Mustang Fastback. A '71 XY GT HO Falcon did sell at \$488,888 some \$200,000 below the expected price. There were bright spots, a 1990 VN Group A SS Commodore at \$10,500 over the guide value of \$140,000, an RX7 Series 2 Mazda Coupe up \$13,000 and a small Toyota Corolla Coupe from 1969 almost double the expected price of \$12,000.

On a different theme, it was pleasing to finally see a court case resolved after some 7 years. In 2015, I was asked for expert opinion on a 48-215 that was sold as one of the three American-built prototype Holdens. The car was clearly modified but due to delays, legal argument and Covid the trial did not take place until early August this year. A guilty verdict was pronounced after just over two weeks. This is the second recent success in a vehicle fraud case. Earlier in the year two men were convicted of modifying two SL Toranas into XU-1 Toranas and also rebirthing a stolen XU-1. This car did make the news as the young girl who originally lost the Pink XU-1 over 20 years ago got it back, fully restored. Its good to know the police will go the extra yards to convict those who defraud car enthusiasts.

Norm Darwin

Trans-Am Series Videos

The Trans-Am series was founded in 1966 and this video covering the 1969 season gives a real taste of the atmosphere. The Trans-Am series created interest in Australia because the races were run on "road circuits" like our race circuits, rather than oval tracks and cars were more akin to those in our popular production car races rather than American stock cars. Click on the photo to watch the video.



This video is of a historic race meeting for late 60s and early 70s Trans-Am cars and dates from a 2013 meeting at Watkins Glen. Click on the photo to watch the video.



An Open and Closed Case - the Saint-Didier Convertible Body

by David Neely



Photos - David Neely

The 1924 Rolls-Royce Twenty, chassis GRK81, pictured above has a body by the London company of Barker and was built to a French patent. On each front window frame is a plate inscribed 'Carrosserie Transformable' with the French Brevet Baehr, Patent No. 2312. The completed car was delivered to Motors Limited, the Adelaide Rolls-Royce agents, for John Reid in 1925. Reid was the principal of the firm of John Reid & Sons, tanners and leather merchants, who operated the Victoria Tannery at Hindmarsh, South Australia.

The patent was held by Gustave Baehr (1881-1954), a Parisian inventor and constructor of high-grade bodywork, and was amongst some 40 patents he filed in a number of countries, including Australia.

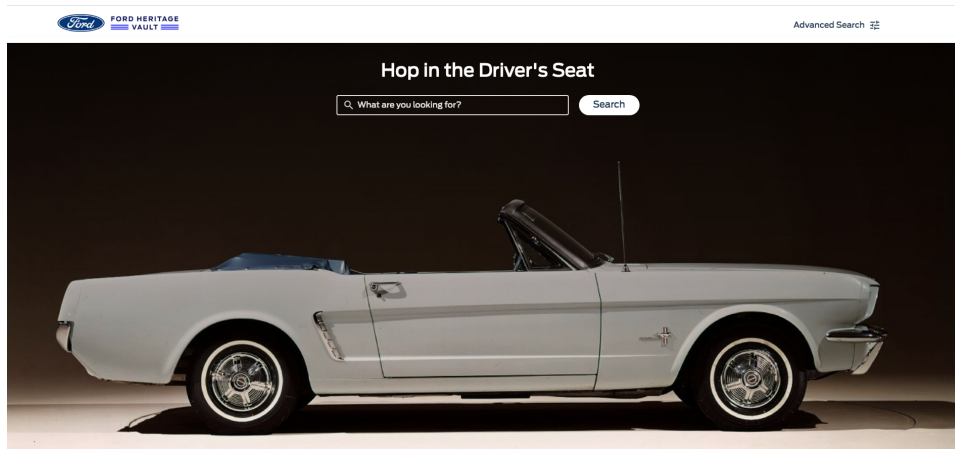
Read the complete article by clicking on the link below:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/55891778e4b034e58f5e51e7/t/631027b40e3f63255451e832/1662003131883/PDF+An+Open+and+Closed+Case.pdf>

Ford Heritage Vault Website

Ford enthusiasts will find plenty of interest in this website containing over 5,000 photographs and brochures on

American and Canadian Ford and Lincoln models. Click on the photo to go to the website.



Book Review Opportunity

Former *Age* journalist Deborah Gough has written a centenary history of automotive and technology company Warren & Brown.

As Deborah has let us know, *Warren & Brown held several patents in relation to auto tools and reconditioning equipment. They were best known as the inventors of the dual signal torque wrench but also produced valve reconditioning equipment. The breadth of the company's activities was staggering once I realised how much the company had done over its years. It no longer makes engine reconditioning equipment but continues to make torque wrenches in Australia. The company is now one of the main suppliers to Telstra and NBN Co. It supplies a storage management system for the country's fibre optic equipment.*

The book is a 400 page, hard back, full colour coffee table book and Deborah has asked AHA to review the book. If any AHA member is willing to provide a review for publication, please let me know.

Tony Lupton

Article Sought by Karrep Magazine

The Indian-based automotive magazine Karrep has put out a call for articles on the theme of automotive repair for their October. If you're interested, the details are below.

CALL FOR ARTICLES
OCTOBER ISSUE

KARREP
Magazine

ISSUE THEME:

HISTORY OF AUTO REPAIR

The history of auto repair began in 1800s with the creation of the first cars. The evolution of the automotive repair industry has been influenced by various innovations in vehicle components, auto body structure, societal infrastructure, fuels, and manufacturing practices, as well as changes in markets, suppliers, and business structures. It is expected to undergo major changes in recent times due to the impact of globalization, increased regulations because of environmental concerns, and rising fossil fuel prices due to decreasing oil reserves.

The upcoming edition of KARREP, themed on **'History of Automotive Repair'**, is an attempt to take a step back and see how far we have come as an industry. KARREP invites Articles, Case Studies, Market Research, and Opinions that are pertaining to the above-mentioned magazine theme.

THE ARTICLE STRUCTURE SHOULD INCLUDE

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Title (Maximum 10 Words) ● Introduction (60-100 Words) ● Main Body (1500-2000 Words) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Images (If used, maximum of 3 and should be sent as separate attachment)
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THE FORMAL GUIDELINES FOR EDITORIAL SUBMISSION

Article should be generic in nature and should not detail products or services of the company


Authors Details- Name, Designation, Organization, Email, Photograph

References and sources duly mentioned (if any)

Captions for the images (if any)

We would be expecting to receive the article by **September 20th, 2022**. However, confirmation towards contributing articles before would be appreciated. For any queries, feel free to contact us.

editor@karrep.com
8281597200



Third European Conference for Automotive History

Turin/Torino
October/ottobre 2022

Our committee member Roger Beattie will be attending the postponed conference, now planned to be held in Turin on 15 and 16 October, 2022. Roger is President of the Fiat Car Club of Victoria and is interested to know if any other AHA members plan to attend the conference.

AHA Resources Page

Previous articles from the newsletter and other resources are available on the **AHA Resources Page** - click on the titles below to read the articles or [click here](#) to be taken to the Resources Page.

Recent articles:

[An Anorak's Guide to Early Q Plates](#)

[Marion Bell. Round Australia in a 1925 Oldsmobile](#)

[The Queen of Whale Cay](#)

[Women in the Early Australian Automotive Industry - a Survey](#)

[Australian Women's Automobile Club](#)

[AGM Michell and the Crankless Engine](#)

[Horace Washington Harrison, an Australian Automobile Pioneer](#)

[Early Ballarat Motoring - Part 1](#)

[Early Ballarat Motoring - Part 2](#)

[A History of Steenbhom Ltd. Coach and Motor Body Builders](#)

Database of Digitised Magazines

Subsequent to discussion of documenting collections that have been or are being digitised, a list of Australian sites was quickly developed. They are listed below. Should you know of others, please advise. This is now being extended to include a list of all Australian Automotive magazines regularly published and sold or distributed publicly.

[Click here to see the database of digitised magazines.](#)

Newsletters on Historic Motoring Themes

Some of our members and friends produce very interesting and informative newsletters of their own. Many cover events and history with a rural and regional focus.

Here are some newsletters you may wish to subscribe to.

Johannes "John" Schuurman produces *The Australian Chrysler Narrator*, which focuses on all things to do with pre-1960 Chryslers in Australia, including Dodge, De Soto and Plymouth. John's email is plymouthpalace@gmail.com



David Vaughan produces **Country Motor**. David's publication focuses on historic vehicles, collections, events and personalities in regional Australia. All back copies are available through a link on the AOMC website here <https://www.aomc.asn.au/country-motor-australia>. The email for subscriptions is countrymotor@aussiebb.com.au



Members are encouraged to send in contributions or ideas for inclusion in member updates. Whether it's something about motoring history you think members may be interested in, a project you're working on or have finished or a suggestion for AHA, let us know about it.

Local Links

Websites for some of our Australian motoring friends

[Association of Motoring Clubs](#)



[Veteran Car Club of Australia \(Victoria\) Inc.](#)



[Victorian Historic Racing Register](#)



[Royal Historical Society Victoria](#)



[Council of Heritage Motor Clubs \(NSW\)](#)



[Vintage Sports Car Club of Australia](#)



[Vintage Sports Car Club of Victoria](#)



[Historic Sports and Racing Car Association](#)



[Australian Motor Heritage Foundation](#)



[The Sir Henry Royce Foundation Australia](#)

Any other organisations wishing to be included are asked to contact AHA.

International Friends



The Society of Automotive Historians

In Britain

Information about SAHB is available at their website: <https://thesahb.com/>



Information about SAH (USA) and their events can be found on their website:
<https://autohistory.org/>

Automotive Historians Australia can be contacted by email at info@autohistoriansaustralia.org, by mail at P.O. Box 319 Balaclava 3183 or via our website at autohistoriansaustralia.org

AHA would appreciate you distributing this newsletter to your friends, networks, clubs and associations.

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