

THE AUTOMOTIVE HISTORIAN

NEWSLETTER OF AUTOMOTIVE HISTORIANS AUSTRALIA

February 2019

**AUTOMOTIVE
HISTORIANS
AUSTRALIA INC**

PATRON: Ron Tauranac AO

The Theme for our 2019 Conference

The Joy of Motoring

Hosted by RMIT School of Design and RMIT Design Archives from 9-10 August 2019 and convened by Harriet Edquist and Simon Lockrey, the 4th annual conference of Automotive Historians Australia will be on the theme of 'The Joy of Motoring'.

This theme is inspired by one of the 20th century's most celebrated motorists, Mr Toad of Wind in the Willows, whose uninhibited enthusiasm for motoring at high speed encapsulated that century's enthusiasm for automobility.

With this in mind we invite both formal academic papers and less formal presentations in any format which reflect generally on motoring and automotive culture.

The Conference Call for Papers.

The Convenors of the Conference announced the Call for Papers in December.

Members are encouraged to give a paper or presentation in any format they wish. We would also like to see suggestions for thematic panel discussions on any aspect of motoring history.

The Date for abstracts of papers to be submitted is 22 February.

Full details including all relevant dates and other information can be viewed and downloaded at the AHA website:

<http://www.autohistoriansaustralia.org/conference-2019>

Fishermans Bend Tour for AHA Members



Prime Minister Ben Chifley launches the 48-215 Holden at Fishermans Bend.

Our members bus and walking tour of Fishermans Bend will take place on Sunday 3 March from 10:00am to 1:00pm.

Bookings will be available through Eventbrite from Saturday 9 February. An email will be sent to members once registrations are live. The cost will be \$15 to cover printing of Norm

To accommodate GM's requirements for the visit to the Social Centre, the tour will be restricted to 21 financial members of AHA on a first come-first served basis. The GM-H Social Centre was built circa 1945 in the Moderne style in harmony with the adjacent Administration building. It is the site of Holden's inauguration and launch of the 48-215 model just on 70 years ago.

The Social Centre held events such

Darwin's commemorative brochure for each participant.

There will be some walking involved and there will be the option of lunch at The Railway Club Hotel in Port Melbourne following the tour.

The event will start and finish in Salmon Street. Norm will lead the tour and provide commentary on the history of some 18 locations within the boundary of Williamstown Road, Ingles Street and the Yarra. Locations will include Holden, Rootes/Chrysler, AMI/Toyota, Autocraft, Rollo Pistons and Lanes/Neal's Motors. The tour will take approximately 2 hours, concluding at the former GM-H Social Centre where participants will see some of Holden's historical exhibits and hear from design manager and AHA member John Field and Norm Darwin.

as employee dinners and dances and served as the staff canteen. The interior features a first floor stage flanked by a pair of large murals depicting the history and future of transport. The building currently houses two dozen significant vehicles from Holden's heritage collection. These include last-off-the-line cars, several millionth milestone vehicles, one-off builds and an example of the GM EV1 electric vehicle used for engineering evaluation. There is also a display of engines through Holden's history along with other items of memorabilia.

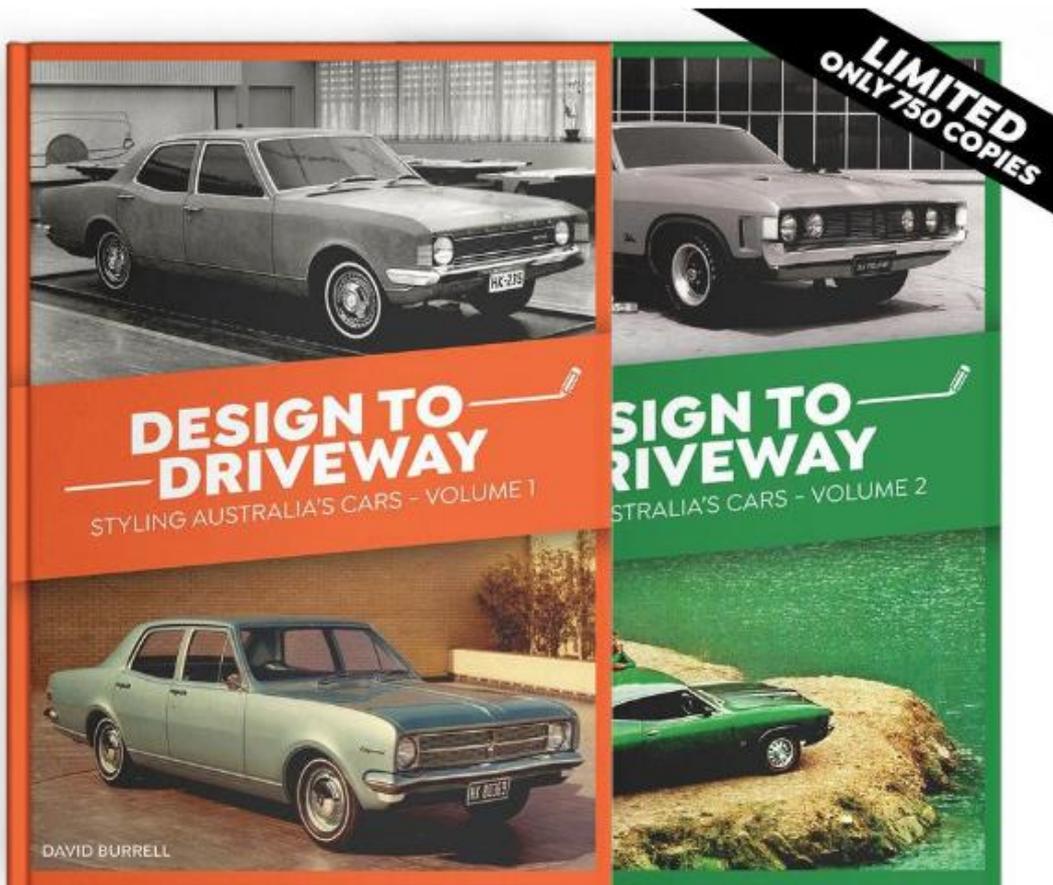
Special thanks to Pat Ryan for supplying a bus for the event, Norm Darwin for planning and organising and John Field for making the GM building available and contributing to the day.

Autoplex Castlemaine Gets Approval

Larry O'Toole, who among many other things chairs the Castlemaine Hot Rod Centre, has informed AHA that the Centre has gained approval to lease the redundant Ety Street campus of the Castlemaine Secondary College where they will establish Autoplex Castlemaine. The new venture will be a complete resource centre for anything to do with the specialist automotive hobby and industry. It will house education and training facilities aimed directly at the specialty areas of the trade, an active interpretation centre with archives and library, Australian Hot Rod Heritage - all the history of hot rodding in Australia, a themed cafe and - hopefully - even a themed retirement village for auto enthusiasts. Castlemaine is certainly a hot spot for all things automotive. Congratulations to Larry and his colleagues for getting this project going.

Members are encouraged to send in contributions or ideas for inclusion in the newsletter. 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.

Recently Published



Design To Driveway, by AHA member and Retroautos editor David Burrell

Design to Driveway is a celebration of Australia's rich automotive design heritage. Using rare factory images, volumes 1 and 2 of these hard cover books trace the styling evolution of some of Australia's most popular cars of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s - from first sketches through to final product.

This fascinating journey reveals why our Aussie cars look the way they do and what the possible alternatives might have been. Combining narratives from the designers themselves, Design to Driveway takes you back in time, through high security doors and into the secret styling studios of Holden, Ford and Chrysler. Talented designers share their priceless memories of their time in Australian

styling studios including - Jack Telnack, Richard Ferlazzo, Phil Zmood, Leo Pruneau, John Schinella, Peter Nankervis and the late Brian Rossi.

The *Design to Driveway* series of books are researched and authored by Retroautos editor, David Burrell, and proudly commissioned by Shannons as part of their ongoing contribution to the Australian motoring enthusiast community.

Restricted to 750 individually numbered copies, these books will never be re-printed, making them highly sought after by enthusiasts of our Aussie car history.

(The information above is from the Shannons Club website. My copies were waiting for me on my return from vacation recently and I was very impressed with them. I was also impressed by the number of AHA members who feature in the books. There are only a few copies left - they are available until sold out at <https://shannons-club-shop.myshopify.com/collections/design-to-driveway/products/design-to-driveway-styling-australias-cars-volume-1-2> - Tony Lupton)

International News

Since our inception, AHA has formed associations with like-minded organisations around the world, in particular the **Society of Automotive Historians in Britain** (SAHB) and the **Society of Automotive Historians** (SAH USA).



The Society of Automotive Historians

In Britain

The SAHB, in conjunction with Automobilhistorische Gesellschaft in Germany, is organising the second European Conference for Automotive History to be held

in The Netherlands on 29-31 March 2019. More information about the conference and SAHB is available at their website: <https://thesahb.com/>



The Society of Automotive Historians (USA) has had representation at the last two AHA conferences, with Louis Fourie and Don Capps giving presentations. Their third International Drive History Conference will be held in Allentown, Pennsylvania on April 11-13, 2019. More information on SAH and their events can be found on their website: <https://autohistory.org/>

Automotive Historians Australia Committee: Harriet Edquist (President) Norm Darwin (Vice-President) Daryl Meek (Treasurer) Tony Lupton (Secretary) Helen Stitt (Assistant-Secretary) Simon Lockrey (Committee Member) Mark Richardson (Committee Member)

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.