

FAMILY AND LOCAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Joondalup Library, Local History
102 Boas Avenue, Joondalup, 6027

Monday – Friday 9.00am – 5.00pm
Saturday 9.30am – 12.30pm

Cars, Cars, Cars

Joondalup Festival of Motoring 2022

This year the streets of the Joondalup City Centre will be alive with action from 28 - 30 October for a three-day motorsport extravaganza. The festival was inspired by the Joondalup City Speed Classic held nearly 25 years ago when the City of Joondalup was formed in 1998. The motoring festival will feature an exciting weekend of displays, events and activations brought to fruition by event organiser Justin Hunt Management.

Spectators will see different models of cars take to the 2.4km street circuit for a series of car sprints around the Joondalup City Centre, requiring the closure of streets to traffic for the event.



P00494.04 Peter Briggs drives his 1929 Bentley Blower, the winner of the historic sports car division, past the courthouse during the inaugural Joondalup City Speed Classic.

A large number of vintage, exotic and modern cars will be on display and a variety of stalls and family entertainment will continue throughout the weekend.

The City plans to hold the event annually for the next two years if it is a success.

Buckle up as Local History takes you back to 1998.

The First car in Perth

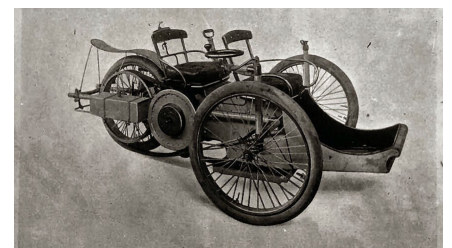
Karl Benz is generally accepted as the creator of the first fuel driven motor car, although Gottlieb Daimler and Nicolas-Joseph Cugnot were among other close contenders for the title. Benz, however, was the first of them to get his vehicle, a three-wheeled gas-powered horseless carriage patented in 1886.

French engineer Armand Bargigli is credited with bringing the first petrol-driven Léon Bollée tricycle to Perth in 1898. In 2019, an early register of motor car owners was

found dumped in the CBD which shows Bargigli's tricycle was the first car in Perth. The tricycle was described as a 'quaint machine' that had more tricks 'than the celebrated Californian mule', an early form of public transport.

It is believed the first real cars were brought to Western Australia in the early 1900s by John Banfield and Percy Armstrong. Banfield, an engineer brought in a Gladiator in December 1900 and Armstrong, a champion cyclist, motor bike racer

and motor trade pioneer, brought in two vehicles for Copley and Co. in 1903. These two vehicles were used in an early shuttle service from Victoria Park to Perth.



The 1896 Léon Bollée tricycle



Welcome to the Family and Local History Newsletter Spring 2022

Joondalup City Speed Classic

On 25 October 1998, the newly formed City of Joondalup held the inaugural Joondalup City Speed Classic.

The car display and speed trial event was first suggested by Joondalup MLA Chris Baker coming hot on the heels of the formation of the City on the 1st of July 1998. His vision was to build community spirit in Joondalup after it split from the City of Wanneroo by holding a family friendly entertainment event. Proceeds from the day were set to go towards a beautification scheme and a proposed fountain in the centre of the CBD.

The Wanneroo Times described the event as, 'a re-enactment of the halcyon days of motor racing.' This referred to the popular British pastime known as around-the-house motor racing, where suburban streets were closed and turned into a racetrack for a day. These motoring events were discontinued in the UK in the 1950s due to safety concerns.

Around the Houses Events Management organisers Howard and Denise Wilcockson, who had previously organised similar events including the York Flying 50, brought together 175 classic cars worth over \$10 million for the event. One hundred and twenty of those cars competed on the day. Howard said, 'The classic would feature the most exotic historic race cars ever seen in a single event in WA.'



P00494.02 Car enthusiasts inspect the vintage and classic cars on display in Grand Boulevard near the corner of Boas Avenue at the inaugural Joondalup City Speed Classic on 25 October 1998.

LandCorp and NorthWest Metro Business Association were among the corporate sponsors who assisted the local council to finance the day. The British Consulate also offered a prize for the best static car club display of British cars. The event was such a spectacle that it attracted former state champions including Don Hall and Dick Ward and motoring history and car enthusiasts from across Australia. The Classic Sports Car class was the biggest on the day.

Car collectors and drivers, Christine and Joe Caudo brought a 1951

Jowett Jupiter and a 1949 Wylie Javelin to the event. An Australian Maybach previously raced by Stan Jones, father of Australian World Champion Allan Jones, also competed. The Maybach had been fully restored after it crashed during a race at Philip Island. Other unique cars on show at the event were a Porsche 911, a 1960 Austin Healey Sprite, a Sabrina Austin Special, a 1973 MG Midget, and a 1964 Chevy Impala.

The oldest cars in the Historic Sports Car class were a 1927 Bentley driven by Peter Graham and a 1928 Chrysler Special Silver Wings II driven by Graeme Cocks. The Silver Wings was a replica built from a battered old farm ute. In 1927 Arthur Colliver had raced the original on Lake Perkolillie near Kalgoorlie and broke the Australian Speed Record. In 1997 Graeme Cocks also raced his Silver Wings replica to victory on the same track.

The late Peter Briggs' 1930 Blower Bentley was another great crowd pleaser. Another rare car on display was the 1954 Blue Eyes Guiding Angel Special, one of the few remaining cars of this marque to have raced at the famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway.



P00494.18 Trevor Hill in his MGA Coupe Twin Cam alongside another competitor in a Triumph Spitfire during the classic sports car division race on Grand Boulevard.

The speed classic was not a traditional race, but a regularity run where drivers had to meet their nominated lap times over the length of the circuit. The event was the first of its kind to be held in Joondalup, so a lap time record had to be established. A special arrangement with Guildford Flyer Bus Service led to Des Muir driving a fully occupied 49-seat, ex-TransPerth, Hino bus around the circuit to set a lap speed. Adhering to speed limits and road signs, Des covered the track in 3 minutes and 54 seconds. The lap would have been disqualified if one of his passengers had been tipped from their seat to the floor during the ride.

For safety reasons, the City of Joondalup City Centre was closed to traffic so the program of 22 events across seven classes could be held. The start and finish line were positioned in Grand Boulevard outside the Joondalup Courthouse and the circuit proceeded down Shenton Avenue, Davidson Terrace, Boas Avenue, McLarty Avenue, Reid Promenade and Grand Boulevard. The public were allowed full access to the pits located behind the Old Bailey Tavern in McLarty Avenue and were allowed on the track from controlled locations between events.

The day began at 10.00am with drivers making practice laps of the circuit. The first event started at 11.30am with three laps for each class. The Historic Sports Cars were followed by Classic Sports Cars, Classic Sports Sedans, Racing Cars/Classic Sports, Super Karts, Classic GTs and Historic Racing Car Saloons.



P00494.20 Ricard Prior drives his 1949 MG Y Tourer passes Daryl Robins in his 1948 MG TC during the historic sports car division race.

Two parades of cars from the Marque Car Club and the competitors were held prior to the official opening at 1.00pm. The opening address was given by Lands Minister Doug Shave and MLA Chris Baker. In the afternoon, the cars ran through their paces in two more display events. During the break, Cockburn Wreckair held a special speed car display of their historic cars.

The flag marshals from Wanneroo Flag Marshals Association volunteered their services to ensure a safe day for everyone. Proceedings wound up around 4.30pm with the presentation of trophies for the best car and driver combinations. The event was a great success and attracted over 4000 spectators.

Some of the winners in the classes were:

Peter Briggs	1929 Bentley Blower	Historic Sports Car
Mike Falconer	1966 Brabham BT18	Historic Racing Car
Don Behets	1964 Chevy Impala	Pre-1965 Racing Saloons
Paul Kestell	1963 Lotus Cortina replica	Sports Sedans

P00494.08 Graeme Cocks drives his replica 1928 Chrysler Special Silver Wings II in the historic sports car division race at the inaugural Joondalup City Speed Classic.



P00494.09 Adam Dunn driving his 1956 Ford Cortina GT is followed by Trevor Stannard in his Mini Cooper S and Roy Prout in his 1964 EH Holden.



P00494.23 Ashley Herbert crossing the line in his 1962 Austin Healey Sprite.

The First recorded motor race in Western Australia

The first recorded four-wheel motor race in Western Australia was held at the Boulder Racecourse in 1909 as part of the St Patrick's Day Sports carnival. The Goldfields Motor Club assisted with the event and each competitor paid 10 shillings to enter the 10-mile race.

Many local businessmen and car enthusiasts were keen to race their cars. The marques and models included a Little Star, a Ford Model S, and several De Dion Boutons and Darracqs of various horsepower. Many of the cars entered in the race were scratched because they were

not powerful enough to compete. Others were given a timed head start including William Best who drove an older model Darracq. Best won the race in 16 minutes and 10 seconds and received a trophy worth £10.

Motoring in Wanneroo's past

A Day at the Park

The Yanchep National Park was a popular tourist destination from the 1930s. The Government Tourist Bureau arranged day trips to see the caves, swim in the Crystal Pool, walk along Boomerang Gorge or picnic by the lake.



T Ford No 1

Wanneroo pioneer George Leach owned a model T Ford with the number plate WN 1. His car was the only vehicle registered in the district of Wanneroo in the 1917-1918 edition of the Motor Guide published by the Royal Automobile Club of Western Australia.

George Sears owned this model T in 1935, WN103.

Race around the Track

The Australian Touring Car Championship series, pictured here in 1987, gave way to the V8 Supercar Championship in 2002.



Car Manual Collection

Do you remember the days of buying a car manual for your vehicle? Have you purchased an older vehicle and need to fix it?

Maybe you just love the smell of engine grease? Take a trip down memory lane or ask for assistance in the Reference area at Joondalup Library, as they have a huge collection of car manuals that are available on short term loan.

While there, pop in and see Local History, where they collect and share stories, memorabilia, photos and the memories of yesterday for the generations of tomorrow.



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