

THE AUTOMOTIVE HISTORIAN

December 2021

AUTOMOTIVE HISTORIANS AUSTRALIA INC

FOUNDING PATRON: Ron Tauranac AO

From the President and Secretary

Annual General Meeting

We had a successful online AGM held on 24 November. Thanks to all the members who attended.

President Norm Darwin, Vice-President Simon Lockrey, Secretary Tony Lupton and Treasurer Daryl Meek were re-elected to their positions unopposed.

The first of two motions approved at the meeting was to increase the number of ordinary committee members, in addition to the executive members, to eight. This allowed for Kaja Antlejš, Manca Ogrizek, Alison Wain and Roger Beattie to be elected and they join Harriet Edquist, Jenny Fawbert, Nathan Pharaoh and Allan Willingham who were re-elected to the committee.

A special welcome to our new committee members and thank you for assisting us continue the work of AHA. The website has been updated with short bio's of the committee - <https://www.autohistoriansaustralia.org/office-committee>

The second motion approved was to retain the same membership fees as previously.

along with a conference. We will start work on the theme for the next conference early in the new year.

The Future of Automotive Collections and Archives in Australia Presentation Videos

As financial members will be aware, edited videos of the presentations from our 4 September online workshop have now been made available to them. We have had some very good feedback about the presentations.

In This Newsletter

We have another article from the archive of Eli Solomon from Singapore and his Rewind Media Archive, this time about an interesting racing Bristol.

There's a new section featuring Women in Automotive History, a lovely piece of artwork produced 20 years ago by Brian Caldersmith and a new website by Peter Fry about Ford archives. There's also a "home movie" featuring great footage of late-1950s racing and a driver-oriented Christmas film from Simon Kidston.

We would always like some more 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 and information for the newsletter.

The next newsletter will be in February. Until then we hope everyone has a safe, happy and healthy festive season.

Norm Darwin
President

Tony Lupton
Secretary

Women in Automotive History

We are including a regular feature in the newsletter about women in automotive history and this edition features two pieces highlighting the often unrecognised role

Women in the Early Australian Automotive Industry: a Survey

This article is from the RMIT Design Archives Journal and was written by Harriet Edquist and Judith Glover. It provides a survey of current research into the Australian automobile industry and the ways women experienced the new technologies of speed and mobility in the early decades of the twentieth century.

Click on the photograph to read the article.

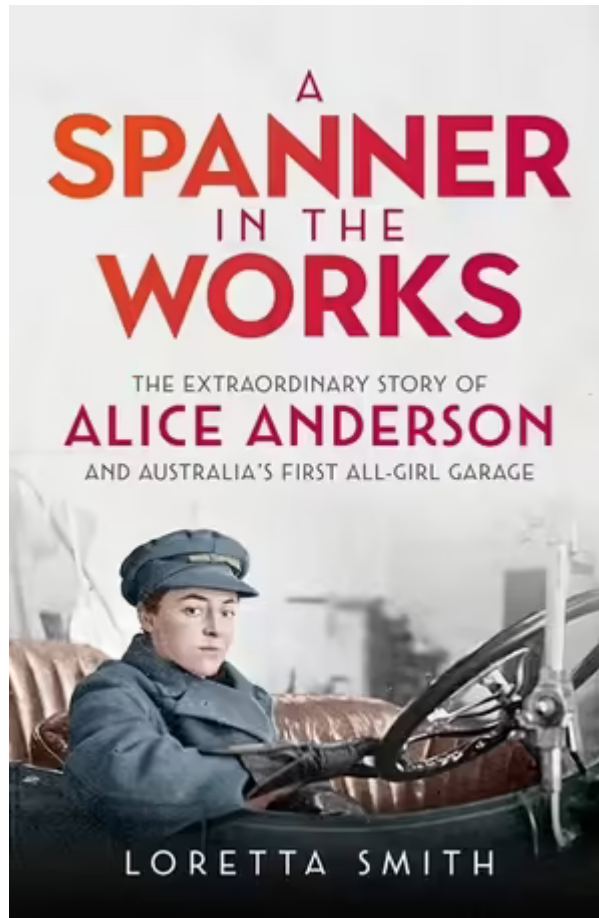


The photograph shows Joan Richmond (on the right) sitting in her 3 litre GP Ballot racing car at Brooklands, 1934. Richmond raced in Australia and across Europe. (Brooklands Museum Collection, courtesy Silodrome).

A Spanner in the Works

Following on from Norm Darwin's reference to Alice Anderson last month, Graham

Australia's *First All-Girl Garage*, it was launched in 2019 at the [National Motor Museum in conjunction with an exhibition about Alice Anderson.](#)



And here is an ABC article with Michelle Toft of the National Motor Museum from 2017, where Michelle discusses Anderson's career and place in our automotive and social history. Click on the photograph to read the story.



Kew Garage in Melbourne was opened in 1919 but vanished long ago. (Supplied: National Motor Museum)

Third European Conference for Automotive History

Turin/Torino

April/aprile 2022

Roger Beattie has advised me that he will be attending the conference, being held in Turin from April 1 to 3, 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.

Further details about the event can be found in the conference information flyer below. Anyone thinking of attending can let me know.

Tony Lupton



Thomas Ulrich, AHG, Germany;
Anders Ditlev Clausager, SAHB, Britain;
 Together with the **AISA, Associazione Italiana**
per la Storia dell'Automobile
 And the **FIVA Culture and Youth Commission**



invite you to the

Third European Conference for Automotive History

Supported and hosted by MAUTO



Torino / Turin—Italia / Italy / Italien
 1-3 aprile / April / avril 2022
www.pan-european-automobile-history.com
info@museoauto.it

Together with the Museo Nazionale dell'Automobile and the AISA, we are pleased to invite you to our third European conference for automotive history, to be held in the Mauto, Corso Unità d'Italia 40, Turin, Italy, from 1 to 3 April 2022, with invitations cordially extended to AHA (Australia), AHG (Germany), CONAM (The Netherlands), PHAF (France), SAH (USA), SAHB (Britain) and UIA (Serbia), as well as to other interested organisations and individuals.

To further international discourse, conference presentations will focus on subjects which have a cross-border European or International interest, or are of general interest to automotive historians.

The provisional programme is as follows:

Friday 1 April: arrival, informal dinner in the hotel.

Saturday 2 April: conference in the museum starting at 9am, with a break for lunch, followed by dinner.

Sunday 3 April: a morning session of further papers, finishing at midday.

Speeches should be made in English, with accompanying Powerpoint presentations. The length of each presentation is provisionally set at 30 minutes, with 10 minutes for questions and discussions.

Please note that the programme is subject to change.

The organisers reserve the right to cancel any part of the programme.

The closing date for submissions of papers for consideration by the organisers is 1 October 2021, please supply an abstract or outline, including estimated length and number of slides. Please contact:

Anders Ditlev Clausager, 62 Viceroy Close,
Birmingham B5 7UT, England
Telephone +44 (0)121 440 4745
email: sahb.secretary@btinternet.com

Peter Fry's Ford History Website

Former Ford engineer Peter Fry has recently created a website which he is populating with interesting archival material relating to Ford Australia history.

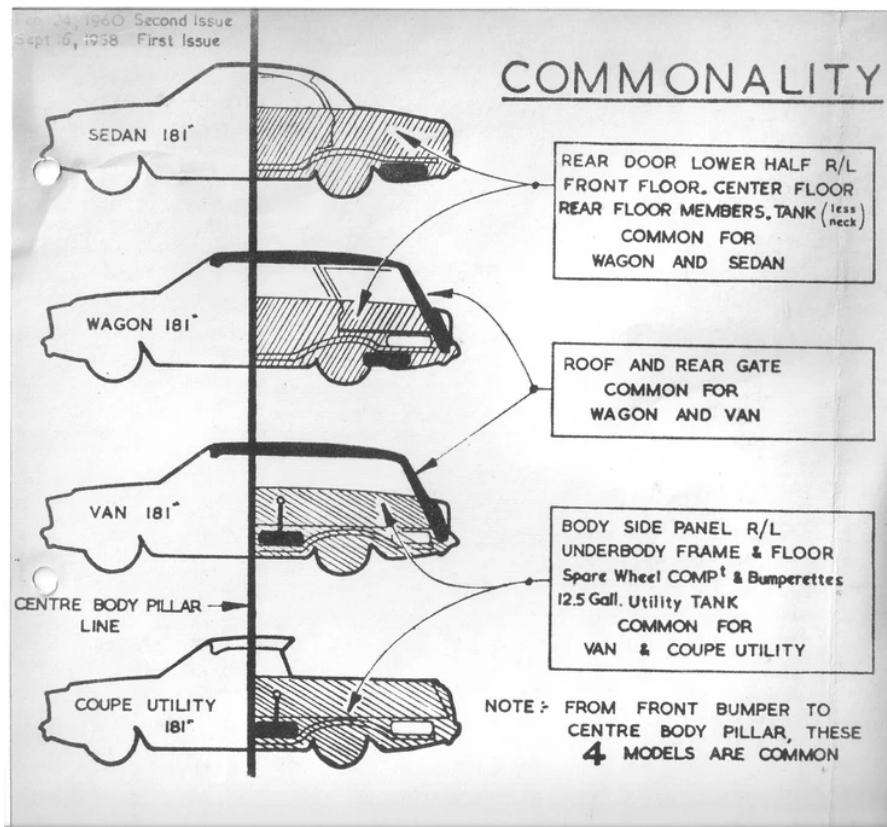
Peter has extensive automotive knowledge, having worked for GMH, Vauxhall in the UK and Ford in Australia and around the world.

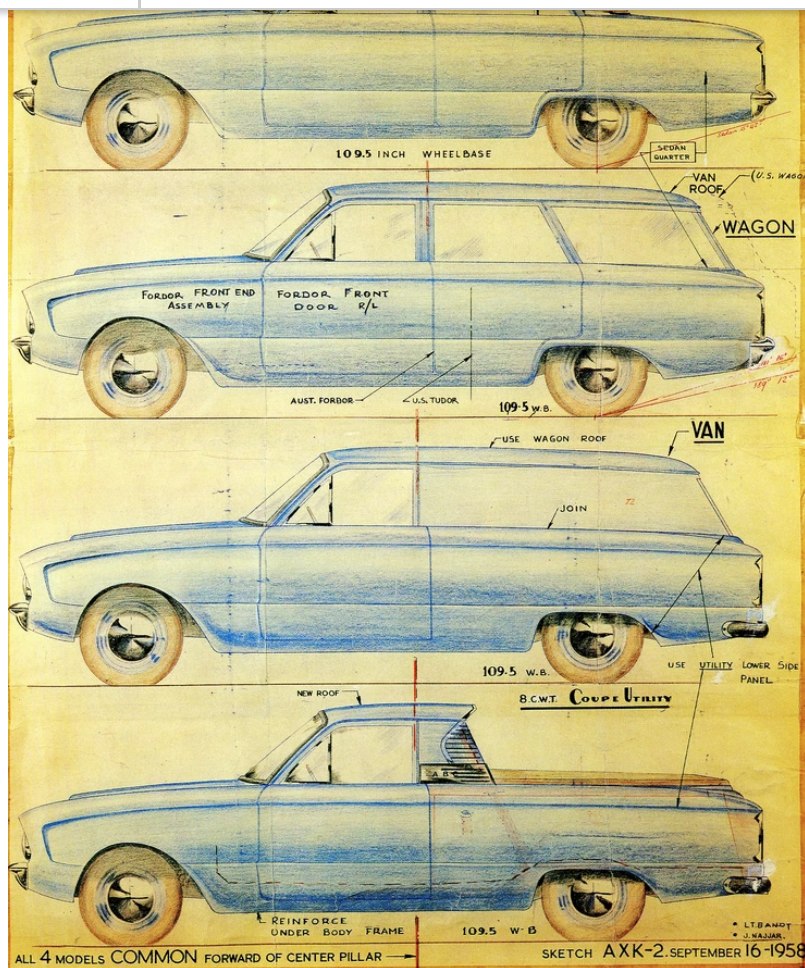
He told me that while the website is new and very much a work in progress, he will continue to post material and expand the content. He has an extensive resource and great knowledge, so this is a very welcome development.

The posts already include material on Australian changes to the early Ford Falcon design, early Ford testing in Australia and blueprinting of GTHO racing engines.

Below are some photographs from Peter's post about Australian design changes for the early Ford Falcon.

Local Changes for the Australian XK Falcon





Singapore Stories

Eli Solomon is a journalist based in Singapore who runs the Rewind Media website dedicated to South East Asian motor racing heritage.

Here's a recent article about the Warrior Bristol, a sports racer that started life as a Formula 2 Cooper Bristol.

[Click on the photograph to read the article.](#)



Brian Caldersmith's Federation Rally Poster

Brian Caldersmith sent me a photo of this special poster he produced in 2001.

As Brian says, "It was used for the huge national rally that gathered in Canberra in 2001. Cars converged from all over Australia for the biggest compilation of vehicles I have ever seen. It was a large (760mm x 570mm) limited edition print of 250 and was signed on the day by Peter Wherrett, Peter Brock and myself. The queue from the pavilion stretched out of site and lasted hours.

"The watercolour artwork took several months to complete and lots of research to confirm accuracy. Interestingly – and disappointingly - many of the organisations approached were not good at historical records. None of them had any formal approach to recording their history! Many times, I was left to scratch through old cartons of disorganised files to find a reference."

Brian's comments are reminiscent of the issues about archiving AHA has discussed. Congratulations Brian on such a fine artwork.



Borg-Warner History Exhibition

CHANGING GEARS:
BORG-WARNER TO DSI

Changing Gears: Borg-Warner to DSI
Saturday 6 November 2021 – Sunday 13 February 2022

[Click for webpage link](#)

plant, which underwent a number of ownership changes, closed in 2014.

This exhibition at the Albury Library/Museum explores the history of the plant and the stories of its people.

Tony Lupton

Templestowe Hillclimb, Albert Park and More - 1957 and 1959

Kenneth Rankine was an amateur film maker who made many "home movies" set in Melbourne in the 1940s to the 1960s. Many of the films are introduced using Rankine's custom-made title "KenRa Films Present".

Thirty-eight cans of these silent 16mm films were donated to the Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) by Rankine's grand daughter in 2016 and are being digitized by ACMI.

This film includes footage of Lou Molina in his Monza (suitably lightened for hillclimbing) and others who would have been well known at the time. Please let me know if you recognise a car or driver.

There's also footage of the famous PBR brake shoes now at Rob Roy.

The film then moves on to Albert Park with some extremely well known cars and drivers including Lex Davison and Stirling Moss. See if you can spot Harry Firth.

We then get a glimpse of a race at Fishermans Bend, then Phillip Island at the 1957 Gold Star meeting, all in under 15 minutes.

Being home movies, Rankine's family or friends also make cameo appearances and some of the crowd and atmosphere footage is wonderful.

Click on the photo of Lou Molina and the Monza to watch the movie.



Fast Christmas

Kidston Productions

From one year ago, film maker Simon Kidston takes us on a short but exhilarating drive in Tuscany, celebrating the love of cars and driving, as his Christmas message. The countryside, the sound of the engine and the beauty of the Alfa Romeo Giulia TZ say it all. La dolce vita.

Click on the photo to watch the film.



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:

[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.](#)

Information Exchange

1980s Grand Prix Photographs

I was contacted recently by Kate Warren, whose late uncle had quite privileged access to the Formula 1 races and drivers in Australia and Europe during the 1980s as an amateur photographer. Her family has around two dozen photo albums along with memorabilia and she is seeking advice about what to do with it.

the first showing Thierry Boutsen in the cockpit and the second Ayrton Senna and others listening to a briefing.



Please send any ideas or advice about the collection to Tony Lupton.

The Sir Henry Royce Foundation

Russell Rolls, Chairman of the Sir Henry Royce Foundation, has provided the following information for fellow AHA members.

The Foundation, a registered charity, produces a free quarterly e-news update – “Royce Voice”. All who are interested in Rolls-Royce and Bentley heritage are welcome to subscribe.

For subscriptions refer to The Foundation’s website – www.henryroycefoundation.com – or send an e-mail to enquiries@henryroycefoundation.com.

The Sir Henry Royce Foundation Research Award

encourage publication of research based on this important archive material, The Foundation has initiated The Sir Henry Royce Foundation Research Award.

This Award, with a prize of \$500, will be presented annually to the person who, in the opinion of the Trustees of The Foundation, has made the best use of The Foundation "Archive" to research a topic of Rolls-Royce or Bentley interest and who has published this research in the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club of Australia magazine "Praeclarvm" or in wider, publicly available media.

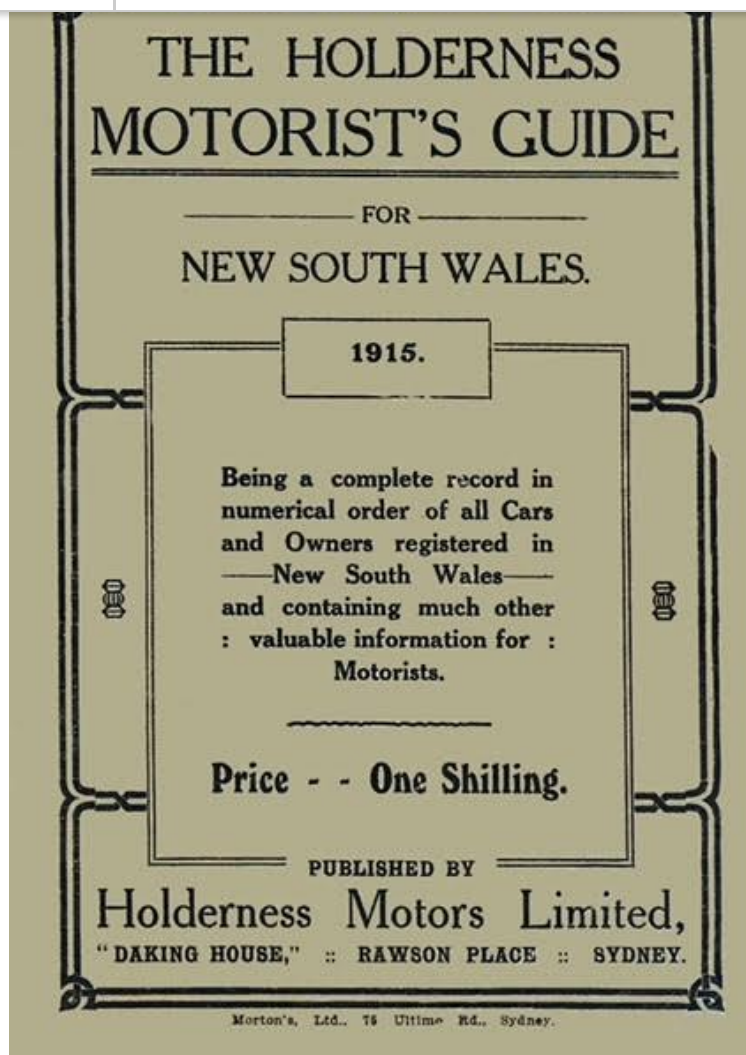
The key driver of this Award is the use of The Foundation "Archive" as the basis of the research and the published result.

Further information on the scope of the "Archive" collection and the details of the Award should be directed to AHA Member and Chairman of Trustees of The Sir Henry Royce Foundation, Russell Rolls, at enquiries@henryfoucefoundation.com.

Pre-1911 NSW Registration Information

In addition to the information provided by Brian Caldersmith that the AMHF has a copy of the Holderness Guide, I have been advised that the State Library of NSW and the University of Sydney Library also hold copies that are available to researchers on request.

There is also a History & Genealogy website operated by Terry Callaghan who has reproduced the Holderness Guide information. His website with the motoring resources is <http://www.terrycallaghan.com/resources-motorist/>



Cover photo of the Holderness Guide 1915

If anyone has any more information or helpful hints about any of these subjects please get in touch with Tony Lupton.

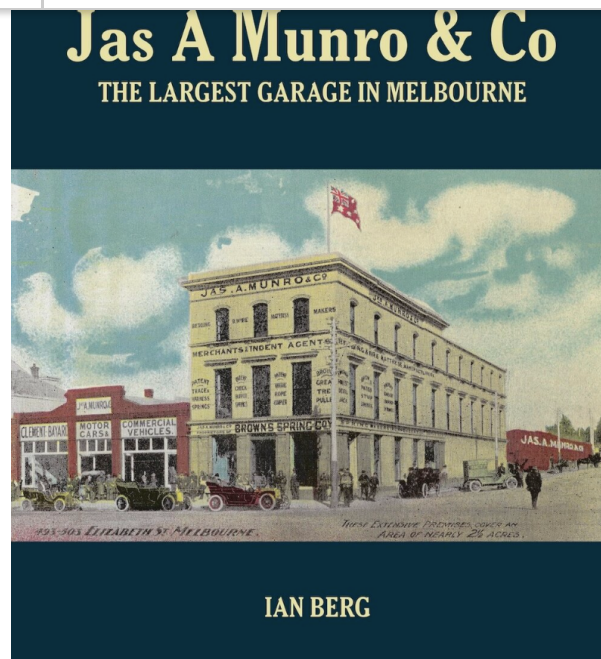
Books and Projects

Jas A Munro & Co

The Largest Garage in Melbourne

by Ian Berg

Veteran Car Club of Australia (Victoria) stalwart and AHA member, Ian Berg has written a fascinating story of early Melbourne in his work on Jas Munro. The foreword is written by AHA member Jon Faine.



Anyone interested in automotive history, the development of Melbourne and the place of Elizabeth Street in our history will enjoy reading Ian's book. Copies are available through Ian's website at: <https://www.ianberg.org/>

Warren Turnbull's Holden Histories

Warren Turnbull's contribution about his Holden history research resulted in Laurie Shine from Western Australia getting in touch. Laurie runs the Torana L34 Register and wanted to share some information about the Holden Production Broadcasts. It's hoped they have a productive discussion.





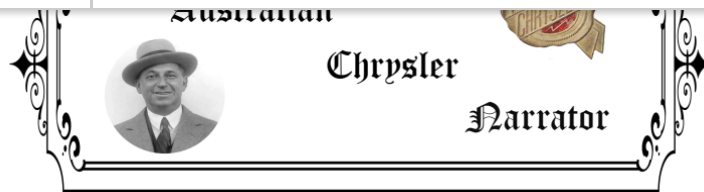
Members are invited to supply some details of their current work projects so other members who have any resources or information that might assist their research can contact them.

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



[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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