

The Future of Automotive Collections & Archives in Australia: an AHA workshop.

Saturday, 4th September

Context

In March 2021, the Royal Australian Historical Society asked its affiliated historical societies and groups to participate in a survey of the research resources of local and family history societies across New South Wales. The survey asked five key questions, relating to:

- nature of collections,
- cataloguing systems,
- accessibility,
- research output and,
- publication.

Preliminary findings from the survey highlight the following:

- Historical organisations typically hold a research collection of both primary and secondary materials, offering a potential resource for engagement, research and publishing
- While in theory these collections are openly accessible, in practice many are limited by difficulties with cataloguing and require the assistance of a dedicated research officer
- There was a marked disparity between the proportion of societies that maintain collections and those which regularly publish from the collection.

The RAHS survey has been a useful prompt for this year's AHA symposium/workshop which, due to the uncertainties around COVID-19 rules will be held online. There is an increasingly pressing need to audit and assess the cultural collections held across Australia's hundreds of automotive clubs and societies which often fall outside the purview of the more recognised entities of the GLAM sector. As the founders and stalwarts of these clubs and societies retire and a younger generation of enthusiasts is not necessarily materialising to take their place, the accumulated wealth of material collected over the past decades, and, as importantly, the tacit knowledge and skills club members hold both individually and collectively, are at risk of loss.

In this one-day workshop, we will hear from speakers representing national, state, club and private archives and collections. They will outline challenges faced by these entities in areas such as skill shortage, knowledge transfer, access and research. The day will end with a summary and general discussion proposing future actions that would be appropriate for AHA to undertake on behalf of this vast national resource.

Program

9:15	Welcome & Introductions	1:30	Jenny Fawbert Veteran Car Club of Australia NSW & Vintage Motor Club.
9:30	Nathan Pharaoh National Museum of Australia: The preservation of functioning vehicles in a risk-averse environment.	2:00	Alan Chambers Historic Rally Association: the Rallypedia platform as a means to record and catalogue the history of rallying in Victoria.
10:00	Alison Wain The comparisons/contrasts between institutional and private/volunteer owned collection contexts.	2:30	Daryl Meek Vintage & Classic Car Club, Ballarat and Vintage Drivers Club Libraries.
10:30	Paul Reece The challenges facing the National Motor Museum, Birdwood over the next 10 years.	3:00	Hugh King NSW Motoring Heritage Foundation.
11:00	Morning Tea	3:30	Afternoon Tea
11:30	Larry O'Toole Autoplex, Castlemaine Vic: a progress report.	4:00	Bryan Wye Australian Motorlife Museum library cataloguing and access.
12:00	Andrew Grant The Powerhouse transport collection: issues for the future.	4:30	Norm Darwin & Phil Schudmak Challenges facing private archives and libraries.
12:30	Lunch	5:00	Plenary: Summary and Actions

Close