

BHS August 2021 Meeting

FROM BAY TO BIRDWOOD & BACK TO BURNSIDE

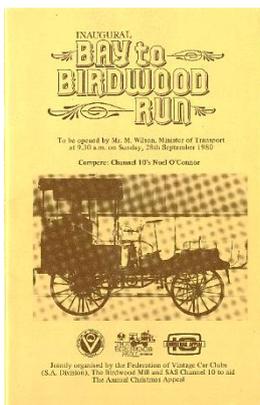


Michelle Toft completed her Master of Cultural Heritage in 2016. She spent several years at The History Trust of SA where, amongst other roles, she was the curator at the National Motor Museum. After several years in other local government authorities as their Local History Coordinator, in 2019 she was appointed as the part time Historical and Cultural Officer at the City of Burnside and in 2021 full time. All these roles suited Michelle's passion for history.

Michelle recently became a member of the Burnside Historical Society. She has been the marketing Co-ordinator for the *Bay to Birdwood* and she shared her experiences of the event and how it led to her role at the City of Burnside.

The Bay to Birdwood Run was first held in 1980 when the Federation of Historic Motoring Clubs, Channel Ten, and the National Motor Museum were invited to develop an event commemorating the issuing of the first South Australian driver's licence in 1906 to Dr William A. Hargreaves. It is one of the world's great historic motoring events and is the largest continually held motoring event for veteran, vintage and classic vehicles anywhere in the world. South Australia has the highest per capita rate of ownership of historic vehicles in the nation.

The Bay to Birdwood is a vehicle run held on the last Sunday in September where historic motorcars, motorcycles, and commercial vehicles travel the route from the coastal suburb of West Beach to the National Motor Museum in the Adelaide Hills town of Birdwood. The route and distance and the way the race is started have changed over time.



Glen Dix replaced the town crier as race starter



Nowadays the race starts with a smoking ceremony

Historically there were two Bay to Birdwood events. The Run, an event for vehicles manufactured up to 31 December 1959 is held in 'even' numbered years. The Classic, an event for vehicles manufactured between 1 January 1956 - 31 December 1986 is held in 'odd' numbered years. 2003 was the year of record entries – 1962 in total.



Planned 2020 route

The Concours d'Elegance Trophy is the most prestigious award presented at the Bay to Birdwood and is held each year in association with both the Run and the Classic. It follows the original Concours d'Elegance format in that the overall appearance of the vehicle and passengers is judged.



2019 winner, Concours d'Elegance



Wearing the fashion of the day has always been a feature of the event. Accuracy of appearance in the era of the event is important.

In 2019 Michelle drove a 1961 Dodge Phoenix from the National Motor Museum. She said it was fun to drive and she loved the great atmosphere the roadside spectators enjoying BBQs added.



Since celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2020, the Bay to Birdwood has been a joint celebration of historic motoring, open to all unmodified vehicles greater than 30 years of age (in line with historic registration regulations in South Australia). That year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the event was open to entrants only and was live streamed on Channel 44.



Michelle commentated, with Keith Conlon, on the livestream



Michelle stated, “the Bay to Birdwood is a community of likeminded people gathering together”.

The same could be said of the Burnside Historical Society!

Permission granted by **Bay to Birdwood** to reproduce photos from their website and Facebook page in BHS Journal.