

**SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER, 2022**

## **VICTORIAN AUTOMOTIVE HISTORY COMES TO LIFE**

At 10:00am today, 48 of Australia's oldest and rarest motor vehicles will leave RACV Noble Park for a nine-day event to celebrate the centenary of the RACV Alpine Trial.

In 1921, RACV launched its first of a series of Alpine Trials to test vehicles and advocate for better roads and services in Victoria's high-country region.

The RACV Alpine Trials were popular with private individuals and motoring companies, attracting up to 60 entrants to each event. Each vehicle carried at least two people, including the driver, an observer and sometimes an administrator.

The trials' routes were onerous. At the time the *Australian Motorist* reported that the RACV Sports Committee deliberately designed the trial to be "one of great severity" so manufacturers' claims about their vehicles could be put to the test "for the benefit of prospective purchasers."

To celebrate 100 years since the first Alpine Trial, RACV and the Vintage Drivers Club (VDC) will recreate the inaugural event.

The President of the Vintage Drivers Club and Event Secretary, Glenda Chivers, is delighted to celebrate this centenary milestone.

"I would like to thank all the participants, the organising committee, and RACV for their support and passion for this event," Ms Chivers said.

"Our members are excited to recreate this piece of Australian automotive history over the coming nine days."

The vehicles participating in this celebratory event are all manufactured between 1921 and 1930. Australia's oldest Bentley, one of the original participants in the 1922 trial, will be joining the fleet again in 2022 alongside RACV's 1928 Model-A Ford.

The 1921 trial ran from Melbourne to Lakes Entrance, Tallangatta, Mount Buffalo, Wangaratta, Healesville, Ballarat and Geelong before returning to Melbourne.

This year's event will follow, as closely as possible, that 1000-mile route and run from Saturday, October 15 to Sunday, October 23. Other towns included this year will be Mansfield, Bright and Creswick.

RACV’s General Manager of Social Impact and Corporate Communications, Louise Steinfert, is proud to bring this unique piece of automotive history to life.

“The Vintage Drivers Club, along with the event committee have done a fantastic job of organising the RACV Alpine Trial Centenary,” Ms Steinfert said.

“This event would not be possible without their dedication and commitment to preserving the history of Australian motoring.”

The continuation of Alpine Trials by the Victorian Light Car Club, and then by the Historic Rally Association, makes it one of the world’s oldest surviving motor sport events.

**-ENDS-**

### Further information

#### Daily Program

Day	Where To	Miles
Day 1 – Saturday, October 15	Noble Park to Traralgon	84
Day 2 – Sunday, October 16	Traralgon to Lakes Entrance	100
Day 3 – Monday, October 17	Lakes Entrance to Wodonga	200
Day 4 – Tuesday, October 18	Wodonga to Bright	74
Day 5 – Wednesday, October 19	Bright to Mt Buffalo, Harrietville & return to Bright	30
Day 6 – Thursday, October 20	Bright to Mansfield	121
Day 7 – Friday, October 21	Mansfield to Healesville	107
Day 8 – Saturday, October 22	Healesville to Creswick	147
Day 9 – Sunday, October 23	Creswick to Home	

#### Media Opportunities

Day	Time	Opportunity	Location
Day 1 – Saturday, October 15	9:00am–10:00am	Participants register and depart from RACV offices in Noble Park and interview opportunities with participants and spokespeople	RACV, 550 Princes Hwy, Noble Park

Day 5 – Wednesday, October 19	9:00am–10:00am	Interview opportunity with spokesperson and cars on display until 1:00pm	Railway Avenue, Bright
Day 7 – Friday, October 21	8:00am–11:00am	Car display including photo and interview opportunity with spokesperson	High Street, Mansfield
Day 8 – Saturday, October 22	1:00pm	Photo and interview opportunity during overnight stay	RACV Goldfields Resort, 1500 Midland Hwy, Creswick

RACV has been part of people’s lives since 1903 – on the road, in their home and when there’s a holiday to plan. We’re one of Australia’s most trusted brands and the largest member organisation in Victoria. We aim to deliver the best experiences for our members and customers across motoring, mobility, home and energy, and leisure. And we’re committed to working with local communities to improve safety and support a cleaner energy future.

**High-res images and a video news release** will be available for use, please email the RACV media team.

### **Media enquiries**

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