

For the Drive in You.

ICONIC CARS.

Another iconic member's car is a 1986 BMW owned by Gary and Sana Winterbottom, having been in their possession since October 2021.

It is a BMW E30 'Baur' and was purchased from Mike Summers who is a member of the South Australian BMW club....mileage is quite minimal for a car of this age, 285000 km in 35 years!



The car is quite special, its body being a cabriolet built by Baur, a Karosserie or coachbuilder in Stuttgart, Germany....this company has been building BMW convertibles since the 1930s!

In 1971 they began production of the safer targa-style body with the 2002 model BMW.

'Targa' was originally a registered Porsche patent hence the resultant 'Baur' nomenclature!

Originally an aftermarket option available through BMW, the E21 3 series TC1 (Top Cabrio) was built with full factory authorisation and covered under factory warranty.

The rollbar version or TC version continued with the E30 TC2 even after they had developed the E30 convertible design for BMW which BMW itself built...more profit obviously!

A note re Baur...they produced most of the BMW M1 'supercars' after Lamborghini could not fill the contract...as well they also produced some specials and low volume cars for other manufacturers.



This particular Baur has 4 wheel disc brakes, a 4 speed automatic gearbox coupled to a 2.5 litre motor with a claimed speed of 200 kph...not too bad!



The car is factory spec, even the wheels which are still 14 inch!

Consumption is said to be 8-11 litres per 100 km.

The car is a very comfortable tourer with good safe handling and is a very pleasant car to drive indeed!

E30 BMWs are still very popular cars ...from 1986 production of the Cabriolets ceased and are not as plentiful as other E30s...they are also the last of the chrome bumper models...later models series 2, have plastic bumpers.



Important books!

Plate no.B46772-14

Most parts are available internationally but not as readily available locally.... however all maintenance parts can be easily sourced locally!

The car is on NSW historic plates, is very reliable and a regular attendee at club events...it has been driven to Melbourne and back on 2 occasions as well as Moree and Port Macquarie.



The car is designated as a 5 seater but the rear one is better suited for SMALL people...and no nickname, it is the Baur.

Keeping company in the garage with the Baur is a 1980 BMW E12 M535i. It is one of only 450 factory right hand drive cars worldwide and is number 91. The first of the 5 series M cars were only made in Germany in 1980 and 1981. There were 1450 left hand drive cars made. This special model was never sold in Australia. This car was delivered to Park Lane Motors in London then bought by an expat who shipped it to Australia in 1988. It was bought from her in 2012 after 6 months of negotiation. There are now 5 genuine E12 M535i cars in Australia, all personal imports, 3 in New South Wales.



Thanks Gary for the article.

The editor.