

SUNSHINE.

Once again we call on the Hertz's for another one of their iconic, ubiquitous and collectible vehicles.... SUNSHINE, so named because of its yellow being so much like the colour of the sun itself...no secrets there.



The vehicle in question is a 1930 model A Ford.

The car has been owned by John and Mark for approximately 8 years, having previously been owned by their next door neighbour Ken Hodson. Obviously John and Mark have known of the car for quite a while, 55 years in fact...a bit of a strain on the memory chords to be sure!

As can be seen, the car has been restored to the highest standard by Mark, BMI Smash who did the bodywork, and Alex Auto of Botany who did the mechanicals.



Some of the progress in the bodywork.

The whole process took approximately one and a half years with many 'bits' being sourced from contacts both in Australia and the US.

The body is a roadster with its motor producing a huge 41 horse power (about 30 kw in today's terminology)! The motor is not the original as it was far too expensive to restore but a replacement '30's engine, which is period correct, was located and fitted.

Of major interest is that Sunshine was originally a 4 door but in the sixties the 4 door was taken off the chassis and replaced with the roadster body she now wears, also period correct....looks much better in this humble scribe's opinion. This was performed by the next door neighbour Ken Hodson who seems to have had a huge hand in the development of Sunshine as she exists today!



These old Fords were regularly scrapped in the 50's and 60's and could be bought for the princely sum of 10 quid, hence their nickname the '10 quid bombs'!

The car makes its progress via a 3 speed 'crash' box (manual and no syncro), the same as Henry, and is slowed by mechanical brakes...don't know stopping distances but everything is obviously in perfect working condition!

Petrol consumption is unknown and it would be interesting to know who has driven Sunshine at her reputed 71 mph top speed and survived...people were obviously very brave in the 30's.

It is not known how many of this model are still extant in Australia.

Sunshine is a member the A model Ford Club and of course My Car Club NSW.

These days the car is mainly used for display days due to her age and unsuitability for today's traffic.

Sunshine has so far won some awards:

Best vintage motor car at the All Ford Day at Eastern Creek in 2023.





Best car at at the Maroubra Beach car show, also in 2023.



A lovely interior meets the eye ----- a bench seat plus a 'rumble' seat, obviously in the rear...the story goes it is a good spot for mothers in law!



As for interesting cars keeping company in Sunshine's garage....there is of course Henry (read the article from last year) and more recently a Plymouth....the three oldies continue to rub shoulders....imagine their recollections of times past.



BUT THAT'S ANOTHER STORY!

