



Type-cast beauties

EVENT ORGANISER

Alan Baker was never going to let the 50th anniversary of what has been called “the best-looking sports car ever made” – the E-Type Jaguar – pass without a suitable commemoration.

Even though it took two and a half years of planning, he pulled off quite a coup at the National Motor Museum in Birdwood, South Australia, on Sunday March 27.

Eighty-seven E-Types gathered on the lawns of the museum, attracting plenty of attention. Envy was the order of the day as each car, some immaculate, some in need of serious restoration,

demonstrated the lineage of Jaguar’s most famous car.

E-Types were joined by an impressive collection of siblings including Colin Sutton’s remarkable XJ-13 recreation, a 1932 SS coupe (the oldest Jaguar in Australia), Rob Thompson’s lovely 1939 SS100, and an XK120 originally sold to the SA Fire Brigade as a turn-out appliance for the fire chief.

As well there was a stunning, recently-completed C-Type replica, Digby Thomas’s well-campaigned D-Type replica and various other cars from 80-odd years of manufacture.

Excitement mounted for the

noon parade, a rare show that included all the special interest Jaguars and E-Types from a 1963 Series 1 through to Series 1½, Series 2, Series 3, and Peter Goers’ thundering Feral Cat 6.0-litre racer.

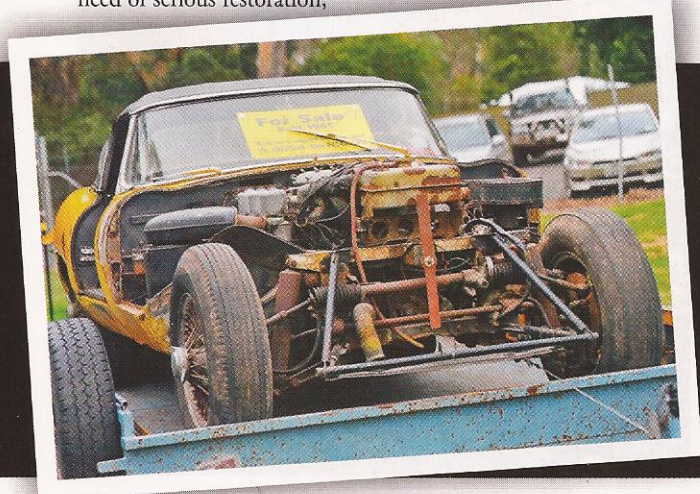
Extra interest was shown in the 1985 Bathurst-winning XJS TWR replica, the TWR Magnum, an XK8 convertible, XKR’s from 2008 and 2010 and the XKR Limited Edition, one of five allocated

to Australia and flown in especially for the show by Solitaire Jaguar of Adelaide.

Everybody had a great time, except for one disgruntled owner who looked across the rows of cats and commented: “I think I’ll have to sell my E-Type – they’re just too common!”

It was an extraordinary comment, but you can see where he was coming from!

– Paul Murrell



ABOVE Eighty-seven E-Types gathered on the Birdwood lawns
LEFT Not every E-Type on display was in concours condition