

# BAY to BIRDWOOD

ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREAT HISTORIC MOTORING EVENTS

**SUNDAY 22 OCTOBER 2023**



# OVERVIEW

The Bay to Birdwood is one of the world's great historic motoring events and is a standout fixture on South Australia's cultural events calendar.

Tens of thousands of spectators line the 67 kilometre route to view the passing parade of historic motoring from West Beach through to the National Motor Museum at Birdwood in the Adelaide Hills.

Held annually, the Bay to Birdwood is a motoring event that brings participants from around Australia and the world to celebrate all things historic motoring.



# **ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

*“The Bay to Birdwood has been a world-leader over the decades; reaffirming this status in 2022 by being the first major historic motoring event to welcome participation of EV conversions of historic vehicles. Embracing ‘the future of the past’ in recognising this growing movement, we offered an award for the most historically sensitive EV conversion”*

Michael Neale  
Chair, Bay to Birdwood Advisory Committee



## **Inaugural Electric Vehicle Conversion Award Winner 2022**

Eric Rodda  
1985 Holden MB Barina

Electric modified historic vehicles are increasing in popularity and prevalence across the globe. Bespoke artisan re-manufacturers can be found throughout Europe, the United States, and Australia.

As the world moves away from fossil fuels and towards alternative sources of renewable energy, more and more classic vehicles will need to be powered by resources other than petroleum-based fuels.



# **ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

The inclusion of the EV conversion category is one of several steps Bay to Birdwood has taken over recent years to address environmental sustainability.

Other measures in progress include the development of a sustainability statement, the implementation of a carbon offset, partnering with eco-friendly vendors, and improving waste and recycling processes.

Bay to Birdwood will remain a celebration of historic motoring in all its forms and will continue to embrace ICE vehicle entrants. Taking these steps towards carbon neutrality will ensure future generations can enjoy the event as people have been doing for the past 42 years.



*Jaunt Motors Land Rover Series III EV (original build date 1973)*



# **CHARITY PARTNER**



Bay to Birdwood's 2023 Charity Partner is Trees for Life.

Since 1981, Trees for Life have worked to safeguard biodiversity by revegetating and protecting bushland, farm land and urban terrain. With local knowledge, they raise awareness about native plants and animals and empower people to take action and connect with their landscape.

Over the past 40 years they have brought over 40 million trees to life.



**TreesForLife**

# **AWARDS**



## **SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER**

The EV Conversion, Concours d'Elegance, and Preservation Awards will be judged at a exclusive pre-judging event the day prior to the parade in the Courtyard Precinct of the Migration Museum, State Library of South Australia, and South Australian Museum.

As an EV Conversion Award entrant, your vehicle must be presented in a suitable condition and comply with the Bay to Birdwood regulations.

In 2022, over **500** enthusiasts gathered at the North Terrace Cultural Precinct to witness the meticulous judging process and enjoy the festive mood of the occasion.



## Bay to Birdwood switches power on

The world's most iconic motoring event, Bay to Birdwood, is powering up for another year – literally.

**A**n electric vehicle category will be added to Bay to Birdwood this year. Vintage vehicles converted to electric will join the 67km route from West Beach to Birdwood in the Adelaide Hills for the first time on 16 October. Previously, vehicles eligible to enter were only permitted to be slightly modified.

Organisers define an electric modified historic vehicle as one built prior to 1993 that has been converted from an original internal combustion engine and drivetrain to an electric drivetrain and power source. Pictured above is a 1973 Land Rover Series III electric vehicle, worth about \$260,000.

According to Bay to Birdwood Chair Michael Neale, the decision to add an EV category to the run is a way to “celebrate the history of motoring as a whole”.

“Many people around the world, and throughout Australia, are currently undertaking EV conversions of their historic vehicles. It is a growing part of the history of motoring,” Mr Neale says.

“Taking leadership towards carbon neutrality ensures future generations will be able to enjoy the event.”

► What do you think about the decision to allow electric modified vintage vehicles to participate? Let us know by emailing [samotor@raa.com.au](mailto:samotor@raa.com.au)



[RAA Daily](#) > [Electric vehicles](#) > Bay to Birdwood Barina sparks new interest

## Bay to Birdwood Barina sparks new interest

12 October, 2022

An electric vehicle (EV) category has been added to Bay to Birdwood this year – and Eric Rodda’s vintage 1985 Holden Barina MB will be one of the entrants on show.

For the first time vintage vehicles converted to electric will join the 67km ride from West Beach to Birdwood in the Adelaide Hills for the first time on Sunday, 16 October. Previously, vehicles eligible to enter were only permitted to be slightly modified.

The Barina was converted to an EV by Eric – a retired electronics technician – a dozen years ago but the converted car will be one of three to debut at the rally in the new category.

“I met some fellas in Goolwa who had converted a car and I took it for a drive and decided to give it a go as a bit of a hobby,” Eric, 70, said.

“I bought the Barina in 2008 because it was light and had room for a battery in the back and I finished the conversion by 2010.

“I’ve been turning heads in car parks ever since – just the other day a fella drove past me in a Tesla and asked me what car is that?”

Eric is passionate about EVs – he’s the secretary of the SA & NT Branch of the Australian Electric Vehicle Association – and is excited to take part in this year’s rally.

“A dozen years ago there were hardly any EVs around but in the next 12 years I reckon they will be coming into the country like crazy” the Marion resident said.

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## [BACK ON THE ROAD - THE BAY TO BIRDWOOD RETURNS FOR 2022]

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On **Sunday 16 October** a parade of more than 1500 historic vehicles will set out from Barratt Reserve at West Beach and make its way up to the Adelaide Hills and gather at National Motor Museum in Birdwood.

Michael Neale, Chair of the Bay to Birdwood, says ‘tens of thousands will gather along the route and at the Museum to celebrate the full return of the Bay to Birdwood – it’s all back, the crowds, the fashion and the festivities. After the heartbreak of cancelling last year, it is a thrill to again welcome participants from around Australia to one of the world’s great historic motoring events.’

‘The 2022 Bay to Birdwood features a wide array of vehicles that span the breadth of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, including - antique, veteran, vintage and post-war/early classic, classic, post-classic and modern. The vehicles this year include a very unique 1909 Stanley Steamer (one of only three of this type left in the world)’.

‘One of the great pleasures of the event is that it sees both first time participants and multi-year veterans of the event taking part. It celebrates vehicles that have stayed within a single family, those that are barn finds, and those competing in the *Concours d’Elegance* and Preservation Awards. And this year, we welcome for the very first time, EV converted historic vehicles to the Bay to Birdwood. ’said the Chair. “There really is only one Bay to Birdwood – and this is it!”

The parade participants gather at the National Motor Museum in Birdwood for the Finish Festival, which is a ticketed event that opens at 10 am and features food, fashions, fun, wine, coffee and craft beer. At the Festival audiences enjoy a picnic on the grounds, food trucks catering and mingle with the 1500 plus vehicles, watch the awards presentation and the colourful Fashions in the Field.

For more information visit – <https://baytobirdwood.history.sa.gov.au/>  
Tickets are available at – <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing?eid=932408&>

**For media enquiries, to organise photo opportunities or interviews please contact:**

Belinda Petersen - BPR  
0402 358 000  
[belinda@bpublicrelations.com.au](mailto:belinda@bpublicrelations.com.au)

Claudia Ielasi - BPR  
0401 855 042  
[claudia@bpublicrelations.com.au](mailto:claudia@bpublicrelations.com.au)

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### Media Contact

Sophie Tooth  
Manager, Marketing & Communications  
Phone 0416 282 402  
Email [stooth@history.sa.gov.au](mailto:stooth@history.sa.gov.au)

**History Trust of South Australia**  
[www.history.sa.gov.au](http://www.history.sa.gov.au)

# **CONTACT**

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## **Bay to Birdwood**

8151 3280

e: [baytobirdwood@history.sa.gov.au](mailto:baytobirdwood@history.sa.gov.au)

w: [baytobirdwood.history.sa.gov.au](http://baytobirdwood.history.sa.gov.au)

## **National Motor Museum**

Shannon Street, Birdwood

w: [motor.history.sa.gov.au](http://motor.history.sa.gov.au)



**Government  
of South Australia**