



HOT WHEELS: Norman "Wizard" Smith's Essex 4 racer, now owned by Jim Scammell, of Adelaide, on the Great Ocean Road for the 80th anniversary. Photo: GLENN FERGUSON

Sun shines on Ocean Road's 80th birthday

DANNY LANNEN

VINTAGE vehicles paraded in style at Lorne yesterday in a stately sequel to celebrations marking the 80th anniversary of opening of the Great Ocean Road.

Admirers, including lines of schoolchildren, turned

out in happy hundreds during the day to witness the recreation of the 1932 ribbon-cutting ceremony outside the Grand Pacific Hotel.

Yesterday's formalities marked a focal point in an 80th birthday motorcade of vintage cars from Mel-

bourne, which will roll on to Apollo Bay today.

Organiser Charles Rogers said the day had crowned ceremony preparations that had stretched across 12 months.

"The weather has come through perfectly. A day of sunshine around the Great

Ocean Road, it doesn't get any better," Mr Rogers said.

"There were 42 cars in it today, which is great because the original motorcade in 1932 had 40 cars in it so at least we got back to that figure."

Returned Diggers carved the Great Ocean Road in

years following World War I and it was opened 14 years after the launch of the Great Ocean Road Trust by the Geelong mayor, Howard Hitchcock.

Up to seven million people now visit the road each year.

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Repairs on lines

WARRNAMBOOL is slowly being reconnected, with services to 18,000 landlines, 80 per cent of mobile phones and big customers restored after fire extensively damaged a Telstra telephone exchange last Thursday.

The internet and data services for more than 100 big business customers in the area, including a number of banks, medical, utility, government and transport customers have been restored.

Two mobile exchanges on wheels have been used to connect payphones and priority lines.

Telstra said a team of 50 technicians was working across two 12-hour shifts to restore services to 60,000 customers in the region. AAP