

Classic car procession marks 80th

Grant Payne

A MOTORCADE featuring rare and priceless pre-World War II vehicles made its way along the Great Ocean Road to mark the stunning tourist attraction's 80th birthday bash this week.

Cars set out from Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance on Saturday for a five-day tour to Port Fairy.

The cars stopped in Geelong to recreate a photograph of the original road Great Ocean Trust before continuing to Torquay and Lorne, where the opening ceremony was re-enacted at the Grand Pacific Hotel on Monday.

Executive director of Geelong Otway Tourism Roger Grant said the celebrations acknowledged the importance of the road to past, present and future generations.

"The Great Ocean Road changed the lives of the men who built it, improved the lives of those living in the region and opened up the whole south-west coast to holidaymakers and investment," Mr Grant said.



Ninety-year-old Doug Stirling, author of *Lorne: a Living History*, fondly remembers the early days of the road, with tollgates and a simple split-paling fence on the cliff side.

"I've seen it develop over the years and it's just fantastic now," he said.

"It allows people to appreciate Victoria's beautiful ocean views."



Go time: Surf coast Mayor Libby Coker (above left) signals the start of the vintage rally in Torquay and (above) Toby Dymond (director, Penrite Oil Company Pty Ltd) in his 1938 BMW324, 1948 Grand Prix winner at the rally. Photos: PETER RISTEVSKI



On track: Billy cart racing at the Great Ocean Road 80th birthday celebrations (above and below right). Photos: ANDY BERRY (janjuc.redbubble.com)



All abilities celebration

SURF Coast Shire will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the International Day of People with a Disability next Tuesday with a visit from 2012 Paralympian and special guest Sam McIntosh (pictured).

The Shire's rural access officer, aged and family services, Kerri Deague, said she hoped the event would help raise awareness of the importance of community partnerships and local networking to achieve meaningful outcomes for people with all abilities in the region.

Highlights will include a morning tea prepared by the All Abilities Catering Group, followed by an all abilities netball playoff.

The event runs from 11am to 1.30pm next Tuesday at Grant Pavilion in the Torquay Civic precinct.

Attendance is by registration only. To register contact Ms Deague on 5261 0521 or email k.deague@surfcoast.vic.gov.au