

THE AUSTRALIAN VOLVO TRUCK HERITAGE GROUP

What is it?

In the course of trying to find out more about the various old Volvos I have acquired, I have been repeatedly frustrated by the lack of historical data available. It was also noticeable that old Volvos in preservation were few and far between, a situation not helped by an apparent lack of interest from the manufacturer.

A chance meeting with Gary Richards, National Manager, Product Management and Promotions with Volvo (& Mack) Trucks, at the Heritage Truck Club's Beenleigh Show last May gave me the opportunity to challenge the imbalance of historical attention the company had been giving across the two brands.



A couple of preserved Volvo F86 trucks seen at Beenleigh, Qld



Lang Kidby's 1960's classic F86 with metal grille. The diagonal is the owner's embellishment



To his credit, Gary was quick to acknowledge the issues I outlined and, in subsequent meetings, a plan was developed to encourage the collection of historic material and foster the preservation of old Volvo trucks.

As I had already been involved with setting up a website for the Golden Oldies Truck Club, it was decided a web page was the best way to 'prime the pumps' to generate some interest and bring people together. We used the same tried and tested webmaster: Thistle Cottage software, and, in the end, placed the AVTHG page on the Hunter Valley Classic Commercial Vehicle Club website (www.hunteroldtrucks.com).

This stage of AVTHG evolution has been a 'suck it and see' process. There is no constitution or membership as such, but all interested persons are invited to make a contribution. Similarly, I am testing the water to see if a clearing house for parts, manuals, and trucks is a viable option for the Group.

If you wish to be part of the push to recognise historic Volvos in Australia, then you are very welcome to join the Group.

There will be a display at the Hunter Valley Club's Show coming up in May, where both Gary and I will be looking forward to meeting fellow enthusiasts, and especially operators with stories to tell about their Volvos.

In the meantime, you are invited to contact us via the email address on the web page (avthg@hunteroldtrucks.com). Remember, we are still looking for the oldest surviving (any condition) F86, F88, and G88 in Australia, so if you have a lead, please let us know. *Steven King. Email: avthg@hunteroldtrucks.com

Where is your Volvo F88?

In Issue #3 of Vintage Trucks and Commercials Magazine, AVTHG were looking for Australia's oldest Volvo. David McPhan has sent in some information regarding his F88, which is still earning its keep in his business today. Here is an overview of David's F88:

"I'm told that my truck is one of only 50 of this 'UK type F88' that was imported in the mid Seventies.

"The only other history I can find is that the truck was originally fitted with a lazy axle, with Reyco-type suspension and used interstate by Jacky Dyer of Gosford, NSW in the mid-Eighties after purchasing



it from Hastings Deering in Sydney.

"The truck was sold to Vanderpoel Smash Repairs in Wyong, and was later purchased by the crane and transport business that Anthony, my son, and I, bought in October, 2002. At some point between the time that Vanderpoel purchased the truck and when we took delivery, the lazy axle and suspension were removed, and the chassis shortened. Even though the motor has been re-built and the gearbox overhauled, everything else is original.

"Paul Archer, our 'in-house' panelbeater/spray painter, gave the cab/chassis a complete external makeover nearly four years ago, and it is still in good, presentable condition.

"The truck is in almost daily use as a local prime mover and yard tug, and serves as a good training tool for those who are used to high horsepower and 18 speeds!" *David McPhan, North Wyong, NSW



WANTED

details on any F88 still in existence



The newly formed Australian Volvo Truck Heritage Group, in association with Vintage Trucks and Commercials Magazine, is seeking anyone with stories, information and generally anything to do with Volvo's F88 truck.

Please email to: avthg@hunteroldtrucks.com or info@vtcmagazine.com.au

Vintage TRUCKS AND COMMERCIALS MAGAZINE

