

"FLORENCE THOMSON" - RACV 2017



Florence Thomson

Pioneering Australian Motorist



Image courtesy RACV

**Entrant - 1905 Sydney to Melbourne
Dunlop Reliability Motor Contest
in her 1904 six horsepower Wolseley**

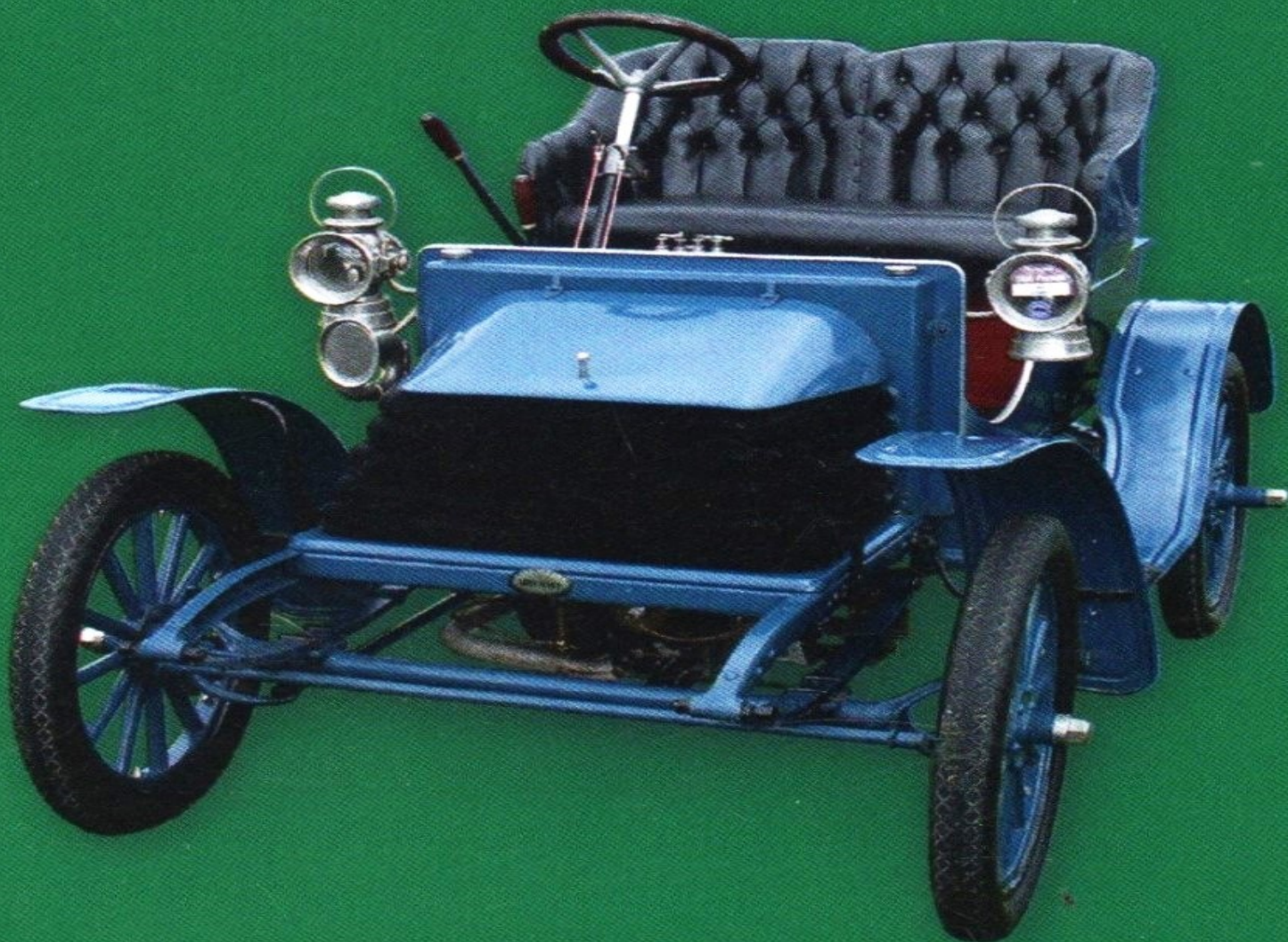
The 1905 Sydney to Melbourne Dunlop Reliability Motor Contest



Brochure front page

In February 1905 Florence Thomson was the sole female entrant in the Dunlop Reliability Motor Contest from Sydney to Melbourne. Mrs Thomson was one of 16 entrants who successfully completed the five day trial, driving a six horsepower Wolseley, over what was then nothing more than 562 miles of horse track between the capital cities.

The 1905 Sydney to Melbourne Dunlop Reliability Trial was organised by Harry James, advertising and publicity manager of the Dunlop Pneumatic Tyre Company. Harry James, the organiser, was an enthusiast. He had previously organised cycling and motorcycle events and was instrumental in the formation of the RACV. He was keen to demonstrate the potential of the motor vehicle in Australia. Details of the route were outlined in the brochure for the contest.



1904 Wolseley

(courtesy owners Catherine and Gordon Berg, VCCA. www.veterancarclub.org.au) the same model of the car driven by Florence Thomson in the Sydney to Melbourne reliability contest was on display at the RACV Healesville Country Club and is the sole known survivor of the model in Australia. It has a 'horizontal' six horse power single cylinder motor and a three speed transmission with chain drive to the rear wheels.

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