

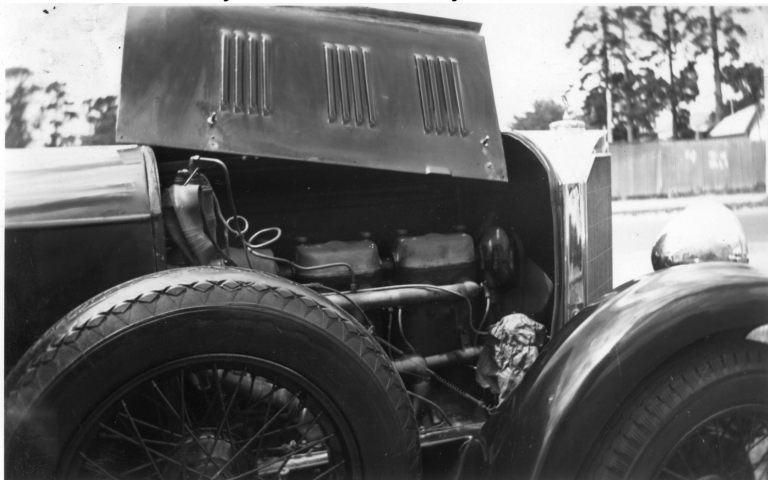
Three photographs that have long fascinated me in the archives



are this early Mercedes sedan. The scale of the radiator dwarfs the car and I assumed it must have been an old competition



machine reclothed in a later sedan body. Rod some time ago sent me photos of the Mercedes 28/95 that he and Ted had restored in the form of the 1921 Targa Florio car, which is a car that has been sadly seen too little by our members. I sent Rod



these photos of the sedan to help identify it and guess what? It turns out to be the same car and neither Rod nor Ted ever had any idea that this was its original body. Rod identified it by the bonnet which he still has. So how's that for proving the benefit of our archives. Rod wrote: 'Ted's car, chassis 26923, engine 55302, is the car in the photos. I still have the original bonnet! The car came to Australia (Melbourne) in 1923 and was purchased by the Myer Family. It arrived as a rolling chassis and we could never find any information about the coach work. When Jack Jeffries found the car in Werribee (Vic) about 1948, it had no body. He took the car to Sydney, but did nothing with in 1985. The car went to Vic and work started on the rebuild.'

The car was rebodied as a replica of the winning 1921 Targa Florio Mercedes and photos are shown here of it in its finished form. The car has recently gone to England so you will have to be content with the photos. The 29/95, introduced in 1914, was a six cylinder overhead cam engine originally developed as an aero engine, the DF80, for the First World War. With a capacity of 7200cc it was good at pulling heavy touring bodies, but even better when put into a racing car. In 1921 Mercedes took this engine and added supercharging and entered both the Coppa Florio and the Targa Florio and won both. This car was very much the forerunner of the later great white Mercedes. Only two are known to have come to Australia. The second one was also later acquired from a Queensland property and has been used to recreate a 1914 Mercedes GP car and is now seen in VSCC circles in English competition. Perhaps there is another story in this one.



