

Renault Type AX

In the next edition of Rallye, we will interview the owner of a 96 year old Renault AX. This car was purchased new in 1909 from Kellow Falkener in Melbourne for the sum of £275 by the current owner's grandfather. The car is still in good 'going' condition and has been owned by the one family for all of its life! We hope to be able to secure this car for a period for display in the showroom of Norris Motor Group European in Brisbane.

The photo below shows a Renault AG, which is just an AX dressed up as a taxi. In the next Rallye, we will provide a report on what it is like to drive a veteran Renault in today's traffic, together with tips for the care and maintenance of an AX! To whet your appetite, let's look at the background to the AX.



Louis Renault had always had the idea that **motoring should be affordable for the broadest possible spectrum of the population**. Introduced in 1908, the Type AX was a very positive step in this direction, combining all the qualities (including cost) needed to become what was a broad-appeal model for the period. Industrial rationalization was already operative, since the AX used an AG chassis (also used on the highly successful long-side Taxi) and the same **two-cylinder engine**.

Rugged construction came under the closest scrutiny during the very tough trials to select a supplier for Paris taxis in 1904. Mechanical reliability was subsequently proven beyond the shadow of a doubt by three years of loyal service in the streets of major world capitals including Cairo, London, New York and Paris. During the First World War, Paris was saved from invasion, when Renault AG/AX taxis were used to transport troops to the battlefield at Marne – hence the alternative name for AXs – the 'Taxis of Marne'. The 7/8HP AX was also offered in full and two-seater cabriolet formats.

Data sheet

Name: Renault Type AX

Model year: 1908

Engine: Renault two-cylinder, four-stroke - Capacity 1060cc - Bore 75mm - Stroke 120mm

Nominal power: 8HP

Gearbox: Three forward gears and reverse

Brakes: Foot pedal operating on transmission shaft - Hand lever operating on rear wheels

Coachwork: Two-seater cabriolet

Dimensions and weight: Length 3.10m - Width 1.35m - Height 1.80m - Weight 700kg

Top speed: 55kph

Remember, in the next edition of Rallye, more information on the Renault AX and the unique story of a 96 year old 'one owner' car!!