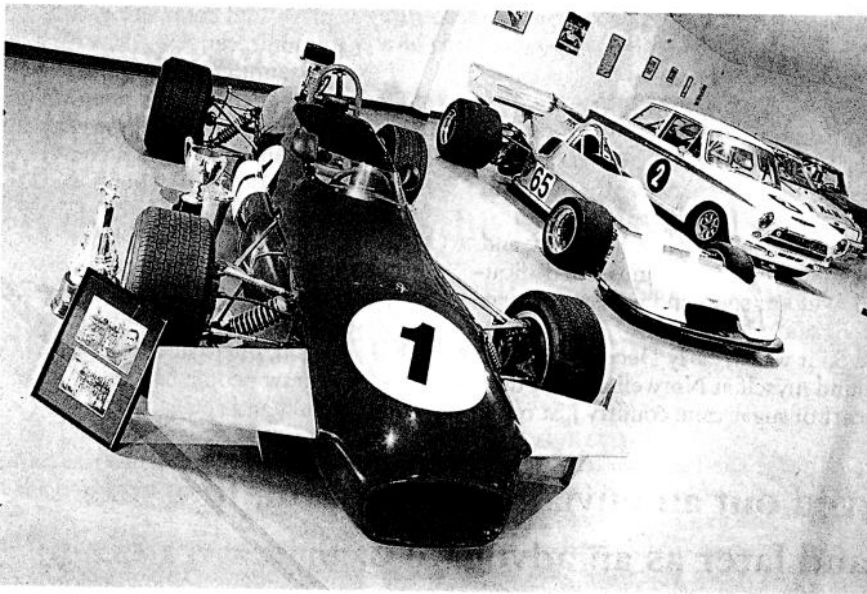




- Veteran racer Frank Gardner aims to arm drivers with the skills to survive in the everyday motoring jungle



- Sir Jack Brabham's achievements will be honoured in a permanent display



The Gallery is made up of three exhibition halls, each containing around 15 cars and motorcycles, plus a number of displays of motoring memorabilia.

To fill the halls, Gardner called on his mates, like Wills, Frank Moore, David Bowden and Rick Mayne to supply cars from their own personal collections. He also called on Mercedes-Benz to loan him a rare 300SLS sports racing car before it was returned to its normal home in the Mercedes museum in Stuttgart.

The Mercedes-Benz 300 SLS was built as a one-off sports racer based on the famed Silver Arrows Grand Prix racers of the time to contest the 1957 Sports Car Club of America's Road Racing Championship. Although not as powerful as the Ferraris and Maseratis that dominated US road racing at the time, the 3.0-litre straight-six powered roadster won the championship through its remarkable reliability.

Today, the rare sports racer normally resides in the Mercedes-Benz museum in Stuttgart, but stopped off at Norwell on its return to Germany after competing in the Classic Adelaide rally last November.

While the SLS was only on short-term loan to the Gallery, the other cars were on longer term loan from their owners.

Rubbing door handles with the SLS in the first hall were a number of well known racing cars from Australia's past, including the huge red 1962 Ford Galaxie touring car once owned by the late-Len Lukey and raced by Norm Beechey.

The Galaxie was one of a number