Vehicles take over East End

Stephanie Timotheou

More than 80 veteran, vintage and classic vehicles will roll into Rundle St this weekend for the launch of the Bay to Birdwood motoring cavalcade.

The special event, on Sunday, September 11, will take passers-by back in time with historical cars and motorbikes, music, swing dancing and fashion from the 1900s.

National Motor Museum director Paul Rees says the launch is a great way to get young children involved in the history of motoring in South Australia.

"History can take you down a path that will lead you to really fantastic, intimate stories about families, owners and their relationships with vehicles and it will provide a great understanding of how we got to where we are today in terms of transport," Mr Rees says.

"This will be the second year we've done a separate Rundle Street event and it'll be a great teaser of what's to come on September 25 when the official Bay to Birdwood takes place."

The display – expected to attract up to 10,000 visitors – will feature vehicles such as a 1926 Rolls Royce, 1952 Bentley and 1936 Chrysler.

Geoff Mitton will be one of several car enthusiasts showing off his wheels on the day.

His 1904 De Dion Bouton 8hp Tonneau – the oldest vehicle in the Bay to Birdwood – was purchased by his grandfather in 1933 and has been a prized family possession ever since. "It was passed down to my uncle in 1968 and he kept it in mint condition until 2013 when it was handed over to me," Mr Mitton, 47, says.

"The most special thing is that it's not a restored car and the core of it is original, yet it's still going strong which is extremely rare."

Rundle St will be closed to traffic between 10am and 4pm while the festivities take place.

For details visit baytobirdwood.com.au

Geoff Mitton in a 1904 De Dion Bouton with model Stephanie Rinaldi.   Picture: MIKE BURTON