



Leading: Henry Oosterbaan leads the field down Grey Street, Northam during the Flying 50.

Water Corporation racing enthusiast

WATER Corporation employee Henry Oosterbaan travelled from Perth to Northam recently to take part in the annual Northam Flying 50 round the houses competition organised by the Town of Northam with sponsorship from local companies including the Water Corporation Agricultural Region.

This annual event attracts vintage car owners and enthusiasts from around the State who gather to participate and enjoy the spectacle of cars from another era racing around the streets of Northam as was common in many towns across Western Australia in days gone by.

The competition is fierce with drivers competing against each other to see who can come closest to achieving their individually nominated race times.

None of the participants is more enthusiastic than Henry who has competed in

the event four times, once in his race car and the others in his supercharged MGB.

Henry's pride and joy is his Alton Holden (special) AR2.

It is an open-wheel race car which was built in Sydney back in 1965 for the Tasman Series on the Australian National Formula 2.5 Grand Prix race series.

It was manufactured using a Brabham-design chassis, Lotus design body with an Australian Holden 'Grey' motor.

The car's racing history is documented from then until now including a period when it was smashed and sold off as scrap. Restoration began in 1983 and since the mid-1990s the race car was used in historic racing on the east coast until Henry purchased it last year.

He continues doing historic driving events like the Northam and Albany round the houses as well as events at

Collie and Barbagello Raceway, Perth.

He is looking forward to forthcoming events in Albany and re-enactment of motor racing at the old Caversham race track site later this year.

The event has been staged in Northam for several years now to re-enact (in a safer manner) the true spirit of round the houses racing of yester year.

Safety is paramount, with the competition designed to encourage competitors to maximise the potential of their vehicles and test their driving skills without putting driver, car or spectators at risk.

Henry had no times to compare as it was his first time here in his race car but showed consistency over the day. The last event he managed fourth place with which he was very pleased.

Henry is now planning for next year's event in Northam.