

Car Memorabilia
Weekly Times Column
By Warren Joel

Car and automotive memorabilia has always been a strong collectors' market. The most obvious, and by far the most valuable item, are number plates. A single or double digit number plate will sell for hundreds of thousands of dollars, depending on the number or pattern. For example, the number 88 will bring more than the number 90 because the number 8 is lucky for the Chinese. And the single digit numbers 1-9 are worth more again.

Less obvious, but equally collectable, are the myriad of other items that are associated with cars. For example, an original Golden Fleece illuminated petrol sign could bring anything up to a couple of hundred thousand dollars. While at the garage let's also look at collectables like the original enamelled signs for engine oil, even down to the trade-marked glass pint bottles that held motor oil. All these collectables are ancillary to the car itself. As many of you will be aware collectors' cars are highly valuable in their own right. As I have said many times before, the same rules apply. Value is determined by make, rarity and condition. What is that old car in the hay shed?

There is an enormous market for the modern automotive memorabilia. One only has to look at the memorabilia available around Formula One racing. A signed helmet, a fireproof suit, or even a tee shirt with the right signature or inscription is highly collectable. As an example a Mark Webber (Australian F1 driver) signed tee shirt could sell for up to five hundred dollars.

Items that you may not consider to be collectable but are highly sought after are items like workshop manuals, sales brochures, parts lists and other paper based items.

Next week: On the farm.

Free Valuation for Weekly Times readers.

Byjoel will do a free valuation of your collectables via email. If you send a photo and description of your item to hwtvaluations@byjoel.com.au I will access the item and respond.

Warren Joel

Warren is a third generation auctioneer and valuer specialising in Art, Antiques and Collectables, accredited by the Commonwealth in 2002 different areas of collectables.

www.byjoel.com.au