

And this one?...

Well, this fire engine was originally a 1911 Pierce Arrow sedan-cum-limousine. And it was the pride and joy of the famous Australian soprano, Dame Nellie Melba! She bought it in the United States while on a concert tour in 1913. She toured the States in it, loved it so much she took it to Great Britain and on to France for engagements.

World War One broke out and the French impounded it for the war effort.

After WW1 the limo was returned to Dame Nellie here in Melbourne. It was in such poor condition from its war service that our famous singer (also noted for her temperament) gave it to the Fire Brigade.

Like the Hotchkiss on our cover, it too was converted into a fire engine and called the "Melba Pump."

As such it is stationed at the Fire Brigade museum at Eastern Hill and will be on display for RACV members to see on Sunday, October 27 (see previous page).