

Peter Turnbull



It might be said that Peter's profile needs to be written in two parts, Peter the Racing Driver and Peter the Racing Car Builder. His long and interesting career as a driver is worthy of as much room in a profile as is his design and production of Turnham Race Cars. Both views are an integral part of the history of Tasmanian Motor Racing. For that reason HRCCT will be producing Peter's profile in several stages. This first stage is merely a glimpse of one of Tasmania's Motor Racing icons, if you like, a taste of things to come until HRCCT can collate all the words, images and associated information together and produce a coherent examination of a remarkable Tasmanian Racing Identity.

Many words have already been written about Peter, his wrestle with CAMS to have his licence reinstated and of course the cars he has built for himself and for customers. I recommend the reader to check out [Tony Hamilton's website](http://www.tonyhamilton.com.au/) [http://www.tonyhamilton.com.au/] for some history on both Peter and the Turnham cars. A lot of that on Tony's site will be combined with information and photographs I've gleaned from other sources.

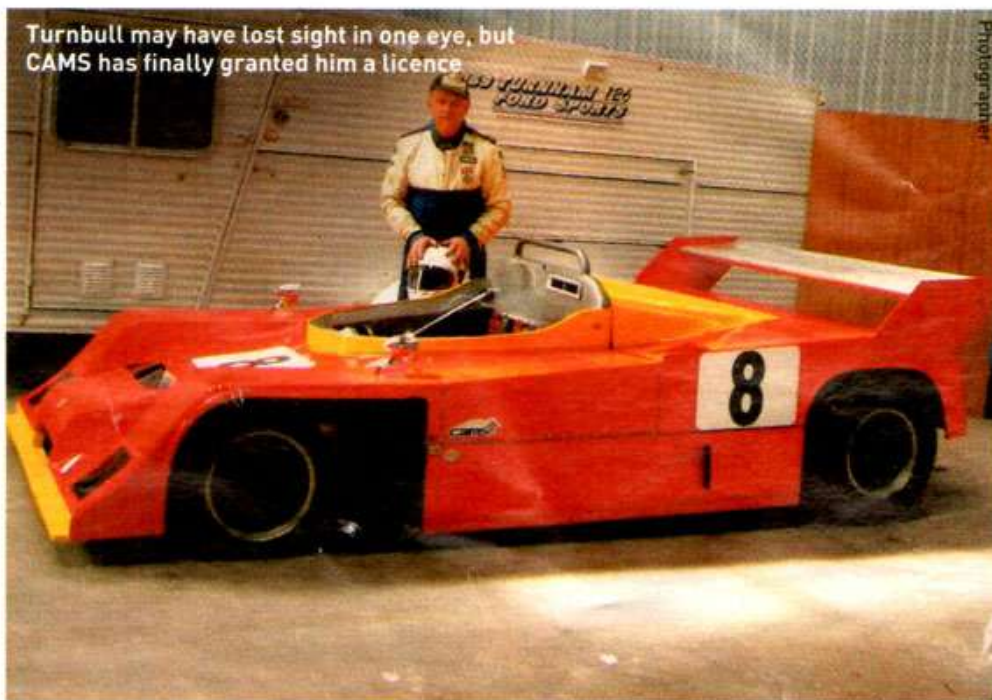
For the moment here is a brief starting point in the career of Peter Turnbull.

It all started way back in 1966 with an early Falcon - and a fence! (Below)



“The first of the Turnham cars”

See news article below next page



WITH AN EYE TO THE FUTURE

MARTIN AGATYN
Tasmania

VETERAN TASMANIAN racer Peter Turnbull made his long-awaited return to the track in his home state late last year, soon to be followed by a once-famous creation of his.

The 63-year-old had his racing licence taken away after losing the sight of one eye in an industrial accident in 1989.

Despite battling with bureaucracy for many years, Turnbull was eventually forced to retire when he couldn't obtain a licence – until the AASA was established in 2003 in competition to CAMS.

"The AASA gave me a licence, but there were no AASA-licensed tracks in Tasmania, where CAMS still had control," Turnbull said.

"So I had to race on the mainland."

CAMS finally relented and granted Turnbull a racing licence again.

Turnbull will race a car he and fellow enthusiast Tony Hamilton designed

and built way back in 1967.

The Turnham TS-8 Turbo sportscar won races all over Australia and was well known during the 1970s and 1980s.

Hamilton left the scene in 1972 and Turnbull continued the development, building 13 more cars for customers.

Powered by a turbocharged six-cylinder Holden 202 engine, it was capable of reaching 240km/h on the back straight at Symmons Plains and had the same power-to-weight ratio as a V8 Supercar.

This car was destroyed by Geoff Jacobs in a crash years ago, but has now been lovingly restored by Turnbull.

In the meantime, his Tasmanian racing comeback was at the final round of the Tasmanian Super Series in another of his creations, a Turnham Clubman, in the Sports GT (Targa).

In 40 years Turnbull has raced at 36 different venues around Australia, won the NSW Hillclimb Championship in Formula Vee in 1998, and finished third in an Australian Sports Car Championship.

BELOW ARE PHOTOS FROM THE TONYHAMILTON WEBSITE SHOWING TURNHAM CARS

Turnham Sports Cars

Turnham Sports Cars started about 1966. The name is the part combining of Peter Turnbull and Tony Hamilton's last names. The first Turnham was the Turnham Sports (52 below) and the most recent is one of the many Turnham Clubmans (1 below).

This site outlines the history of the cars.



HRCCT will hopefully upgrade this profile in later in this year