

## **THE 1928 AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX**

The 1928 Australian Grand Prix was a motor race held on the Phillip Island road circuit, on Phillip Island, Victoria, Australia on 31 March 1928. Although now known as the first Australian Grand Prix, the race was actually staged as the 100 Miles Road Race and it did not assume the Australian Grand Prix title until some years later. The race was organised by the Victorian Light Car Club.

British cars ended up dominating the race, which was won by Adelaide-born Gallipoli veteran Captain Arthur Waite at an average speed of 56.25 mph (90.50km/hr). Wounded during World War I, Waite had been in hospital in England when he met Irene Austin, daughter of the British car designer and maker Herbert Austin. After the war Waite married Irene and stayed in England working for his father-in-law making and selling cars, but also driving them, winning races across Europe.

Waite had been sent to Australia to set up Austin Distributors Australia, selling the British cars to the former colonials. The best way to sell them was to drive them and win races. When he heard about the Phillip Island race he wired England to send him their best car. He drove a supercharged Austin 7, a car he had helped develop.

Click on the link below to read the complete story (with great old photos) of this momentous Austin 7 event in Australia's motor racing history.

<https://primotipo.com/2020/05/28/1928-100-miles-road-race-phillip-island/>