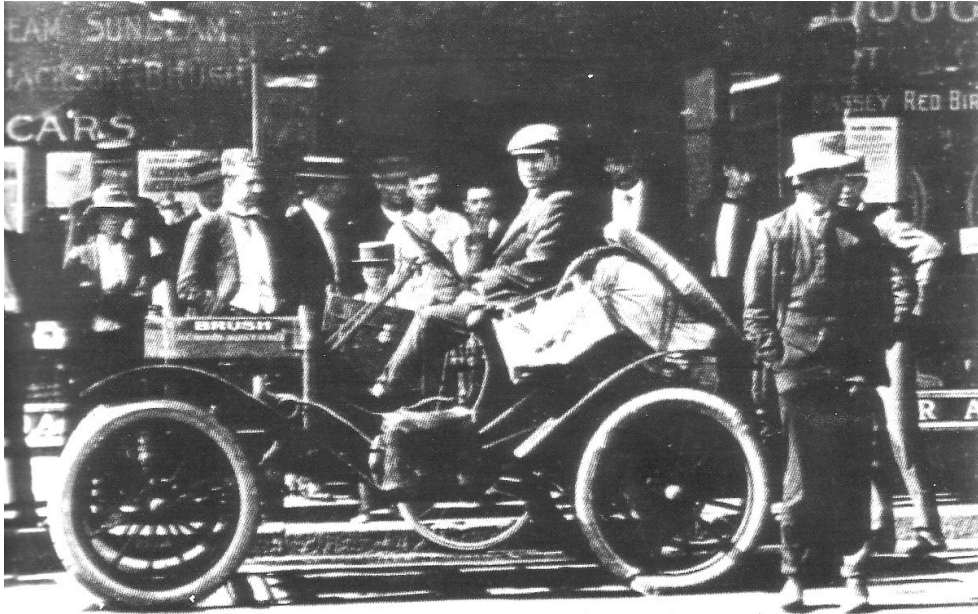


1912 EXPEDITION "ACROSS AUSTRALIA"



Syd Ferguson in the Brush in William Street Sydney prior to it being shipped to Fremantle

THE WESTERN MAIL 16th March 1912 - In the presence of a large crowd of well-wishers, Mr. Francis Birtles, the well-known overlanding cyclist, who is accompanied by Mr. S. Ferguson, commenced a motoring tour from Perth to Sydney at the General Post Office. Punctually to the appointed time, 1 pm the travellers started their "Brush" motor car to the accompaniment of loud cheering and departed along St. George's Terrace followed by the usual coterie of cyclists and motorists.

In 1912, the Canada Cycle and Motor Co. invited Francis (Frank) Birtles to navigate for their mechanic, Syd Ferguson in a 1910 Brush, on an attempt to make the first West to East crossing of Australia in a motor car.

Across Australia by Motor Car - by Francis Birtles In The Lone Hand July 1 1912

Altogether I have cycled seven times across the continent, varying the route on each occasion. So when I contemplated making the eighth trip by motor-car I was not ignorant of the possible troubles in store. I found afterwards that I had not over-estimated them.

Accompanied by Mr. Syd Ferguson and a bull-fox terrier, "Rex" (our mascot) I left Perth in a 10-hp single-cylinder car The following two days we were ploughing through the sand plains beyond York,

It was very hot- though we did not have much time to notice the heat, as we were kept busy stump-dodging all the way into Southern Cross