

Small car, big challenge



**IDLE
TORQUE**

ALEX FORREST

Like small people, small cars are often seen to do mighty things.

However, unlike the Napoleons and Tom Cruises of this world, little cars seem to get away with their over-achieving antics without being obnoxious about it.

Take the original Mini and Fiat 500, the Austin Healey Sprite Mark 1 and even the Austin 7.

All these were successful in either sales or competition, or both, and all enjoy enduring appeal.

But the two people mentioned above are in a less successful class when it comes to popularity stakes.

Another small car that has a history of punching above its weight is the 1929 Triumph Super 7 — a car that was introduced to compete with the Austin 7.

In 1929, two men decided that their new Triumph Super 7 was much more than just the “nice little town car” that the advertising of the day proclaimed it to be.

So much more, that in 1929 Percy Armstrong and George Manley drove their tiny Super 7 all the way from Perth to Sydney.

That the trip only took eight and a half days is even more of an achievement — particularly with the marginal infrastructure between here and Sydney 80 years ago.

Tomorrow, 76-year-old Jack Evans, of Armidale in NSW, will embark on a similar trip in his own 1929 Triumph Super 7. He will be joined by his daughter, Alison.

As well as the historic commemoration aspect of the

journey, Evans is planning to use the trip to boost awareness of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and raise funds for the Australian Lung Foundation.

COPD is the umbrella term given to a long-term lung condition that includes chronic bronchitis and emphysema.

A former cabinet-maker, Evans has spent the past three years restoring his Triumph. He is hoping his campaign, called Triumph for Breath, will raise \$12,000 (or \$3 per kilometre) for the Australian Lung Foundation.

To get it to Perth, Evans drove the Triumph from Armidale to Adelaide, where the car continued its journey west by train.



Proud owner: Jack Evans and his 1929 Triumph Super 7, which he is planning to drive from WA to NSW