

AN IMMACULATE collection of heritage vehicles will make their way to the Melbourne Showgrounds as part of the 2012 International Truck, Trailer & Equipment Show (ITTES) on March 15-17.

While show goers will see every new-age piece of technology at the event, they'll be forgiven for thinking they've gone back in time when they witness a special collection of trucks from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s.

Among these trucks will be a 1966 International R190. This model first rose to fame during the 1950s and was once one of the most common trucks seen running along the highways of Australia. The model being displayed was once part of the Linfox fleet and still proudly wears its yellow and red livery.

A unique and very rare red 1952 International L205 is also likely to generate much interest among visitors. Although this truck played an important part in America's trucking history, it was never actually released into the Australian market.

One of the oldest vehicles to be shown will be a 1940 International KS 5. This 'Ol Sweetheart' was used by A. Jack Turner in Victoria's Notting Hill area.

The commercial road transport industry has continued to keep Australia moving for decades upon decades. And, while the trucks used to transport goods across the country have continued to evolve as a result of technological developments, safety advancements and upgrades in design and capabilities, it is important to remember trucks that played a significant role in shaping the industry to where it is today.

The showcase of unique vehicles will give visitors a glimpse of Australia's trucking history. \blacksquare



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Shockies for Mini to Mack



DRIVETRAIN AND suspension giant ZF will be featuring its SACHS range of shock absorbers and clutches at the International Truck, Trailer and Equipment Show 2012, with a display covering the brand's vast product line-up.

SACHS, which has enjoyed the highest reputation for its OE and aftermarket replacement shock absorbers for trucks, buses, cars, and vans in Europe since the 1930s, plans to further grow its Australian presence with its comprehensive range.

The current SACHS catalogue provides an application solution for over 85 percent of the vehicles registered in the Australian transport industry, including many popular European, Asian and American makes, with product lines also including cabin dampers and trailer applications. "ZF now gives Australian fleet operators and truck owners a serious range of replacement shock absorbers for their vehicles," ZF Marketing Manager Lars Mehlan says.

"Even though the SACHS brand has a strong European heritage, the range has been tailored specifically for our harsh local conditions.

"A feature on our stand at the International Truck, Trailer and Equipment Show will be a ZF product trainer from Germany, who will be giving visitors special insights into our various shock absorber and clutch products throughout the event.

"With more products being continuously added to the range, SACHS shock absorbers cater for everything from Mini to Mack," Mehlan says.

Reversing without risk

Truck reversing accidents cost the industry millions of dollars each year, and in many cases can cost a driver his or her job, and in worst case scenarios can cost lives.

To tackle this problem and eliminate the risk of injury or damage to your vehicle when reversing, Strike Australia has announced the introduction of its state-of-the-art purpose-built reversing camera and monitor system.

Designed and manufactured specifically for automotive use, the Strike Tough 2 Reversing Camera features a heavy-duty water-proof housing, while integrating night vision technology to allow the driver to use the camera no matter what the condition. Providing a super wide 180 degree full-colour viewing angle, the Strike Tough 2 Reversing Camera is perfect for trucks, buses and caravans and is a necessary accessory for smart, safe driving.

To get the most out of the Strike Tough 2 Reversing Camera, Strike has also introduced the Strike 7-inch Tough LCD Monitor to provide outstanding image reproduction and maximise the benefits of anti-vibration technology found in the reversing cameras.

The LCD Monitor is fully programmable and allows up to four camera angles displayed at once and can be set up to engage automatically when in reverse. The LCD monitor also has DVD and AV inputs so that you can make the most out of the monitor on rest breaks.

According to Chris Ryan, CEO of Strike Australia, the Strike reversing cameras and monitors were introduced after hearing too many shocking stories about reversing accidents that could have been prevented.

"Reversing with limited visibility of what is directly behind your truck is a real challenge, particularly when it's dark and it's raining.

"We introduced the Strike reversing products as a cost-effective solution to this problem and it is hoped that it can save people red faces and possibly lives," Ryan says.



