



He later estimated that Old Yeller II cost him all of \$1,500 to build.

Expensive! Probably due to its Studebaker rear end, Morris Minor steering and \$40.00 Jaguar gearbox.

Not long after it was finished Max put friend Dan Gurney into the seat and while describing the car as "comfortable as a baby buggy" Gurney went on to set a lap record at Riverside before the Buick's crank cried enough.

Later Carroll Shelby had a chance to run the car, complete with white-wall tyres at the Elkhart Lake circuit where it came home some 37 seconds in front of Lance Reventlow's Scarab.

The Scarab was one of a small series of cars that cost Reventlow, son of Woolworths' heir Barbara Hutton most of his fortune.

To finance Old Yeller III Balchowsky sold off OYII and like most old racing cars it past through many hands and even spent some time on the drag strip. Luckily it found its way into the hands of Ernie Nagamatsu.

Ernie is the perfect owner for Old Yeller II and I had the chance

to chat with him at the Tasman Revival. Ernie used to race a 289 Shelby Cobra and is also an artist, poet and historian.

Ernie was a friend of the Balchowskys and it is clear that he is passionate about Old Yeller II and just a few weeks beforehand, both were special guests at the Goodwood Revival in the UK.

Of course he is well aware of the history of his car, and sure Old Yeller II looks more than a little used around the edges.

The body shows the scars of races past, however lined up against the likes of Birdcage Maseratis, Aston Martins and Ferraris it more than holds its own.

Just the way Max and Ina Balchowsky would have liked it.

Max Balchowsky built a total of 10 Old Yellers, but several have been written off or have gone missing. Old Yeller III is in the Petersen Automotive Museum at Los Angeles.

It was a pleasure to get up close and comfortable with such a wonderful and evocative historic racing car.

Pictured (clockwise from above): OYII at home in California (*Vintage Racecar*); New Zealander Stuart Lush testing the limits of adhesion with his 1973 McRae GM1 F5000 (*Steve Oom Photo*); Fast forward to the 2008 Tasman Revival at Eastern Creek Sydney, Ernie Nagamatsu behind the wheel of OYII with the Triumph TR3A of Andrew Gibson and Rick Marks' Elva Courier behind (*Jeremy Dale Photo*); The ex-Chris Amon 1968 Ferrari Dino 246/T driven by Rob Hall (*Steve Oom Photo*); Dan Gurney entering Turn 6 in the 1960 Herald Examiner Grand Prix at Riverside (*Vintage Racecar*); Max Balchowsky drawing out a new car with chalk on the floor (*Vintage Racecar*); Max giving instructions to Carroll Shelby before the 1960 Road America Grand Prix. (*Vintage Racecar*).



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