

# Robs in the fast lane

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Robert Van Wegen and his 1952 Frazer Nash Le Mans, one of only two in Australia, which he brought to the Fraser Coast Sprints in Maryborough.

## Griffith Thomas

ASK yourself this: if you had to choose between this 1952 Frazer Nash Le Mans - worth more than \$200,000 and one of only two of its kind in Australia - and your wife. Which one would you choose?

That was the dilemma that faced Robert Van Wegen when he was offered this stunning replica of a car British Formula 1 legend Stirling Moss once drove.

So what did he do?

"At the risk of having a divorce I bought it," he said.

Van Wegen, who hails from Noosa, is the proud owner of the most expensive car to compete at the Fraser Coast Sprints at the weekend.

A record 4000 spectators rolled into Maryborough Showgrounds for the two-day event, which had about 200 drivers in cars ranging from Formula Ford, street cars and classic cars take part.

While Van Wegen has taken the Frazer Nash to a number of meets in the past seven years, including the Speed on Tweed and Cootha Classic, the car, which is powered by a Bristol engine, made its debut appearance at the Fraser Coast Sprints on Saturday.

And didn't the fans lap it up.

"It's cute and it gets everybody's attention," Van Wegen said.

"Everyone wants to look at it and take a picture of it.

"It's pretty special."

While Van Wegen was excited to bring his car to the Fraser Coast Sprints, it didn't top his experience at the 2006 Melbourne Grand Prix.

"They had a tribute to Sterling Moss, who 50 years prior in 1956, won that Grand Prix and they had 60 examples of cars he raced in that era on display," he said.

"I got to do 18 laps on the track with Ferraris, Maseratis, C-Types and D-Types - all kinds of cars he used to race."

For those who were wondering how Van Wegen's marriage with his wife Marilyn was going.

"The marriage is good, it's been 42 years and I've got six cars - four cars that I play with," he said.

"Whenever I go racing, my wife goes on holidays, so we've got a pretty good arrangement."