

Rotorua car stole the show

By Pinion

Last week's Motor Expo '83 was a good one and a Rotorua-built car was likely the star of the four days.

I spent some time at the show on Saturday and during that time the stand which featured Ross Baker's Heron Sport MJ1s was just crammed tight with people. In fact, I tried to take some photographs of the display, but managed to get only people.

And Mr Baker told me when I spoke to him that that was how it had been right through the show.

"The interest has just been terrific."

It was very apparent too, that interest in the show and its many exhibits was on a high, and it is to be hoped there will be more Expos in the future. I would also comment that staff on the many stands appeared every bit as interested in the queries of visitors as the visitors were in the stands.

And this, it seems to me is the most important aspect of such an event.

Centre of the show was naturally the new car section, and it was good that there happened to be some brand new models, which used the Expo as

their launch platform.

Mazda had their newly launched up-market 626 Sporthatch and sedan models there and Ford was able to show its Toyo Koygo-sourced Cortina replacement, the Telstar.

Across the way, Eurotrans showed the very new Renault R11 TSE and the little Gordina R5 Turbo, Toyota had the Starlet and Cressida and Todd Motors had a striking white Starion turbo sports coupe, along with the recently introduced Cordia and Tredia turboes.

Nissan included the 240RS rally car and the new Prairie, while Torino Motors was able to show a really striking metallic blue Ferrari. This was not too far from the Audis and Porsches shown by European Motor Distributors. The stand featured an Audi coupe and 924 Porsche, while the BMW stand was crammed with goodies.

The show appeared to have had remarkable support from a bewildering variety of accessory firms, and from motor sport organisations, the latter featuring some exciting machinery... including rally, off-road and circuit racing

cars.

The Sportscar Club of New Zealand featured another of Ross Baker's efforts, the hand built Ford GT40 Replica, while for

those who like a little nostalgia with their motor shows, there were the displays by the various owners' clubs. These included a grand variety of Fords

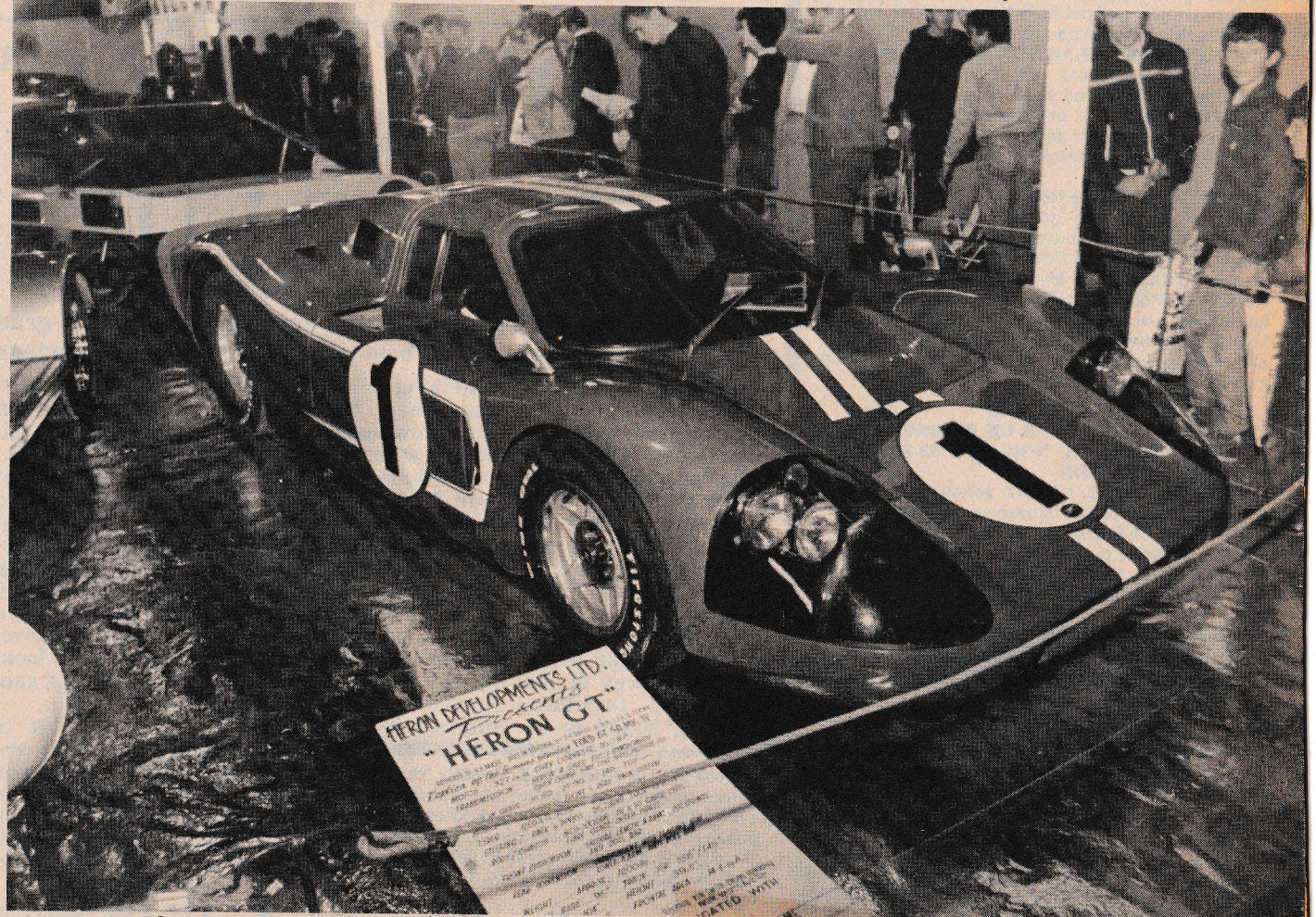
and Chevs, and on another stand people stopped to think about the Jowett Javelins and that Bradford van.

Video showings were

very much in evidence, with lots of motor sport to watch, and for the more technically minded, there were the specialist films covering a wide variety of

subjects.

It was a good show, and I will certainly be looking for more of the same.



The Heron GT40 Replica by Ross Baker, Rotorua, was featured on the Sports Car Club of New Zealand stand at the Motor Expo '83. This one has been a long term project for Baker and Heron Developments Ltd.