



HOLDEN

RETIREES' CLUB

**AUGUST 2000
NEWSLETTER No. 44**

Dear Members,

The 84th Quarterly Luncheon Meeting was held at The Bentleigh Club on Thursday June 1st, 2000 with 135 members and guests present.

After the customary excellent luncheon our President, Frank Pound, introduced our guests and new members and announced apologies for 36 members unable to attend. The 16 new members is one of the highest number for some years.

Our Guest and Visitor were:

Bill Tuckey	-	Guest Speaker
Peter Thomas	-	Executive Director - Holden Limited Planning and External Affairs

New Members:

Peter Murray	-	Marketing - Fishermen's Bend (omitted from May Newsletter No. 43)
Ross Amooore	-	Engineering - I-GM
Georg Baass	-	Frigidaire - Dandenong (living in Perth)
Graeme Cowley	-	Finance - Fishermen's Bend
Garry Hazel	-	Sales - Fishermen's Bend
Graeme Harper	-	Finance - Fishermen's Bend
Eric Hess	-	Industrial Engineering - Fishermen's Bend
Darryl Hobson	-	Purchasing - Fishermen's Bend
Edward Klimek	-	Manager - Assembly Operations
Alan Morphett	-	Engineering - Lang Lang
Mike Samuelson	-	Engineering - Fishermen's Bend
Edgar Spencer	-	Finance - Dandenong
Tom Schroeders	-	HSPO - Dandenong
Carl & Doreen Van Dem Boorgaard	-	Quality Services - Fishermen's Bend
Judy Wellings	-	Engineering - Fishermen's Bend
Marg Weyl-Willett	-	Marketing - Fishermen's Bend

Apologies were received from:

Georg Baass (overseas)	Mark McInnes (Sydney)
John Bagshaw (Sydney/Honolulu)	Bill Montgomery
Vincent Bastianon	Peter Nankervis
Bob Bloss	Laurel O'Dwyer (NSW)
Ken Bond	Cliff Orchard

Frank Pound, President: 33 Parnell Street, Cheltenham Vic 3192 Tel (03) 9583 7723
Leo Mahoney, Secretary: 30 Biscayne Drive, Mt. Waverley Vic 3149 Tel/Fax: (03) 9802 4121

Brian Clatworthy	Brenda Phillips
Don Clifton	Kaz Podkulinski
Leo Curran	Paul Pollak
Cath Davies (overseas)	Jack Rawnsley
Betty Flanagan (Sydney)	John Schinasi
Max Fuller	Trevor Smith (very sick)
Stan Halliday	Doris Springate
Syd Holmes	Harold Stevens (hip replacement)
George Keel (Adelaide)	Ray Stodden
John Kozlowski	Ed Taylor (Queensland)
John Lee	Trevor Vanderzeil
Alex Ludowyke	Vic Walker
Jim McCance	George Wallis

Obituaries:

Our President the announced the deceased members since our last meeting.

Gordon Eastwood (March 29 th)	-	Specifications, Engineering - Fishermen's Bend
Bob Wright (April 13 th aged 92)	-	Standards, Manufacturing - Fisherman's Bend

The customary one-minute's silence was observed for these and all deceased members.

Personal:

Vic Lowe's son, Norm, has advised us that his father is now resident at Nixon Hostel, 27 Chute Street, Mordialloc. Vic, aged 92, worked in Experimental Engineering at Fishermen's Bend.

Since our June 1st meeting we have been advised of the death of the following members.

Wally Carson	-	Service Department - Fishermen's Bend/Albert Park
Noel Christie	-	Experimental Test - Engineering - Fishermen's Bend
Ross Borden	-	Engineering/Manufacturing - Fishermen's Bend
Leo Matthieson	-	Manufacturing Plant - Fishermen's Bend
Trevor Smith	-	Manufacturing - Dandenong
Gwen McMahon	-	see tribute below - courtesy Stan Halliday

Gwen was a most loyal employee of the 'General' having started at Fishermen's Bend and transferring to Dandenong with Frigidaire in 1956, and transferring back with the closing of Frigidaire.

She was a most loyal employee of the 'General' being Secretary to the respective General Managers of Frigidaire Guy Newton and Lindsay Arnott and, upon her retirement joined the Holden Retirees' Club to which she attended a couple of luncheons prior to her move to Queensland.

She was most successful in her private life in which she grew macadamia nuts and, as mentioned in an earlier Retirees' Quarterly Newsletter, commenced the establishment of the breeding of thoroughbred racehorses which was also starting to show signs of success at the time of her passing.

To those she left behind we extend our sincere condolences.

Retirement:

Peter Thomas, Executive Director, Planning and External Affairs, retired at the end of June 2000 and a farewell function was held for him in the Social Centre on June 28th. Peter was often a guest and an occasional guest speaker at our quarterly luncheons but now he is really one of us!!

Many retiree friends of Peter attended his farewell and Stan Wiseman, representing the retirees' spoke eloquently of Peter and of his early days in Materials Control.

Guest Speaker:

Frank Pound introduced Bill Tuckey, probably Australia's foremost motoring journalist. Bill provided members with a wide ranging, entertaining and informative talk on the early "hit and miss" testing procedures for new cars back in the 60's to the highly sophisticated and scientific methods of today.

High Videion, our Vice President, thanked Bill for his address and the applause of the members was indicative of their appreciation. Bill's biography is attached.

General Interest:

The following letter has been received from retiree, John Lacey and I am sure it will be of great interest to all. The ingenuity of G.M. ex-employees is boundless!

"Dear Leo,

July 14, 2000

As indicated to you and Frank, in May this year, my wife, Sue, and I visited Kettering University, Flint, Michigan (formerly GMI but now independently supported by some 700 companies). This was to attend a most enjoyable reunion dinner with other current and former overseas Alumni at the home of the University President Dr James E A John. On the way we detoured to visit Ed Klimek and his wife Wanda at their home at Sun City West near Phoenix Arizona. A large number of Holdens Retirees who would know and remember Ed from his 10 year assignment from 74 to 84 in Australia as Manager of the Assembly Division with vehicle assembly Plants in five States in those days and will be interested to hear how Ed is using his substantial engineering and technical skills to help his local community in his retirement

Ed became involved in the production of Luminaria kits, which are distributed to local residents. Luminarias consist of a paper bag with a small amount of sand, which supports a lighted candle. These are placed about four feet apart along the front footpath of each house as a traditional ornament to celebrate the birth of Christ at dusk at Xmas time.

Ed's help in the design, supply manufacture installation and supervision of a process to assemble 250,000 household kits for the Sun City West Luminaria Festival for the last 10 years has been extensively written up in the Arizona newspapers.

Quoting from the Arizona Republic newspaper of August 12, 1997:

"Last week, hundreds of volunteers from Sun City West were assembling the Luminaria kits.

Like Santa's elves, they worked with precision and ease.

An automation system designed by resident Ed Klimek allows volunteers to assemble about 250,000 kits using 100 tons of sand in just 3½ days.

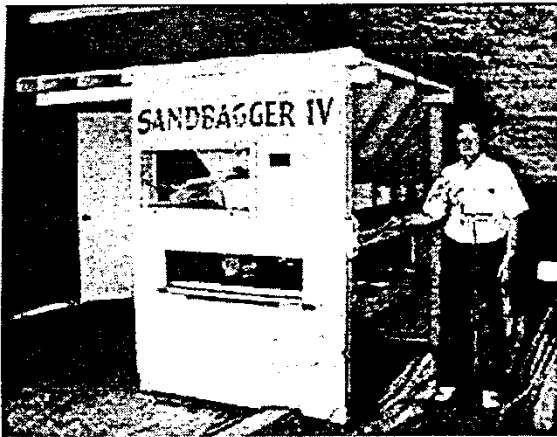
Klimek who spent 45 years as an engineer for General Motors, offered in 1989 to build the assembly system after he saw how volunteers struggled the year before.

"There was chaos. No machines were being used and people were carrying heavy bags of sand and it took a very long time to make all the kits"

Under his system, bags are fitted into pails and a machine is used to measure sand into the pails. A roller conveyor moves the pails and volunteers put the cups and candles in the bags and remove the kits from the pails, which are used again.

Proceeds from the kit sales go to the Sun City West Foundation's Community Services Center which houses charities and community groups."

Below is a photo that I took of Ed next to the Sandbagger machine (version 4) that he designed and built and a copy of a picture of the assembly line Ed installed and supervised



Best Regards,
John Lacey"

Next Luncheon:

Our next luncheon will be held at The Bentleigh Club commencing with drinks at 12:00 noon on Thursday, September 7th, 2000.

Because of the G.S.T. the price for the luncheon will now be \$16.50 (was \$15.00).

Our guest speaker will be Ms. Megan Stooke, General Manager, Marketing, Holden Limited.

I look forward to seeing you there,

Leo Mahoney
SECRETARY
Tel/Fax 9802 4121

BILL TUCKEY BIOGRAPHY

Bill Tuckey is one of Australia's most senior and well-known motoring journalists. Many of you here will have had some contact with him during his 41 years writing about the industry – just as you would have had with the equally respected Mike Kable, who we tragically lost this week.

Bill has been a freelance contractor – he calls it “unemployment” – for most of his career, which has been a mosaic of remarkable experiences. As editor of “Wheels” magazine on the 60's he created the “Car Of The Year” award – the world's longest running such trophy – and invented multi-car comparisons. For a year in 1967-68 he hosted Australia's first television motoring program and founded the country's first advanced driver training school.

He has been motoring editor for Business Review Weekly magazine since its inception 19 years ago, had his own current affairs talk-back shows on breakfast and drive on stations 3DB and 3AW in the 1980's, and written several films and video productions, including a 23 minute cinema feature on the 1979 Repco Round-Australia Trial.

He has written 19 books, the most famous of which is undoubtedly the 1987 “Rise And Fall Of Peter Brock”. His last was “Lion King”, marking the 21 years of Commodore, and I regret to say his next, to be published in September, is called “True Blue”, and is the history of 75 years of Ford in Australia. His 21st book, to be published next year, is called “The Fastest Coffin On Water”. It is the biography of Ken Warby, still the holder of the world water speed record, who has build a new boat and will return next year to raise the mark from where he left it at 515 km/h 22 years ago. I'm happy to say that Holden and I-GM will be supporting him with vehicles.

Holden Retirees' Club

- Honour Roll -

VICTORIAN MEMBERS WITH LONG SERVICE & DISTINGUISHED
ASSOCIATION WITH G.M.H.A. AND THE RETIREES' CLUB

OVER 70 YEARS

Jack Willis	Commenced	November 1926
Jack Burgan	Commenced Birkenhead	March 1927
Stan Suffren	Commenced	March 1928

OVER 65 YEARS

Bill Jobson	Commenced	November 1926*
Charlie Lennen	Commenced	November 1926*
Bob McIntosh	Commenced	January 1927*
Bob Bloss	Commenced	December 1932
Sid Warburton	Commenced	May 1933
Chris Stafford	Commenced	June 1933
Jack Kane	Commenced	November 1933
Harry Boylan	Commenced	January 1934
Eric Clark	Commenced	April 1934
Les Sutherland	Commenced	June 1934
Ted Bensley	Commenced	July 1934*
George Wallis	Commenced	August 1934
Max O'Brien	Commenced	September 1934
Stan Wiseman	Commenced	October 1934
Mervyn Giles	Commenced	March 1935

OVER 60 YEARS

Jim Williams	Commenced	July 1933*
Jessie Hay (nee Pope)	Commenced	October 1933*
Tom Warburton	Commenced	October 1932*
Dave Prain	Commenced	February 1934*
Wally Clarebrough	Commenced	April 1935
Eric Prout	Commenced	May 1935
Vi Hall (nee Davidson)	Commenced	May 1935
Jim Lindsay	Commenced	May 1935*
Carmel Mulligan	Commenced	July 1935*
Jack Heenan	Commenced	September 1935
Jack Rawnsley	Commenced	January 1936
Frank Shetliffe	Commenced	January 1936*
Syd Holmes	Commenced	February 1936
Gordon McCann	Commenced	February 1936
Fred Findlay	Commenced	March 1936
Jack Murchie	Commenced	March 1936
Howard Smith	Commenced	June 1936

Holden Retirees' Club

- Honour Roll -

OVER 60 YEARS *(cont.)*

Len Martin	Commenced	July 1936
Keith Nicholson	Commenced	August 1936
Dan Kelly	Commenced	September 1936
Lorna Cheary (nee Mitchell)	Commenced	January 1937
Bruno Volpi	Commenced	March 1937
Graham Miller	Commenced	May 1937
Bill Maplesden	Commenced	June 1937
Bill McMahon	Commenced	July 1937
Jack Bourne	Commenced	August 1937
Basil Barrand	Commenced	January 1938
Jim McCance	Commenced	November 1938
Doris Springate	Commenced	February 1939
Les Colechin	Commenced	March 1939
Fred James	Commenced	March 1939
Doug Hall	Commenced	August 1939
Arthur Ling	Commenced	August 1939
Tom Godden	Commenced	January 1940
Bob Wright	Commenced	July 1940*

* Deceased
