



**HOLDEN**

**RETIREES' CLUB**

*NEWSLETTER No. 65*

*NOVEMBER 2005*

**CHRISTMAS  
LUNCHEON**



Our Christmas luncheon will be held at The Bentleigh Club, Yawla St. Bentleigh on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 commencing at 12:00 noon.

It will consist of the usual high quality Bentleigh Club special lunch with Christmas pudding at the very reasonable cost of \$24.00 payable at the door of the function room. Drinks are available at bar prices.

It is not necessary to book for lunch.

Our guest speaker will be Tony Hyde, Executive Director, Engineering.

*The President's Message*

It feels like the year has passed very quickly with another Christmas luncheon being planned. This year we have been very fortunate in having speakers from both the Automotive industry and topics of a more general interest.

In March 163 members were informed, by Holdens Purchasing Manager, Mario Adamo, about the new "State of the Art" Holden administration building which is now in full operational mode. This was supported by a talk from the "Leukaemia Foundation Patient Transport Program", following which 3 of our members signed up as volunteer drivers.

Our thanks are extended to these volunteers, and the other members who have since joined the program.

The June meeting was well attended by 154 members where we received a talk from Representatives of the "Australian Retired Persons Association Over 50's group", covering the many facets of retirement including life style, retirement villages, travel etc.

Ian Samuel, President: PO Box 2113, Cowes Vic 3922 Tel: 03 5956 8431

Leo Mahoney, Secretary: 30 Biscayne Drive, Mt Waverley Vic 3149 Tel/Fax 03 9802 4121

The September luncheon was attended by 156 members who received a very interesting and detailed talk on the "Australian Mining Industry" by Ray Roberts a past General Engineering Manager of Comalco's Weipa site. A number of our members commented on the similarities between managing these huge mining programs and the Holdens model programs.

Holdens Retirees Club is a club that is quite unique in industry for its strength of membership. With a membership of just on 700, some now living interstate and overseas, and mainly comprised of retirees. The club provides an opportunity to maintain an association with past workmates and an interest in the Holden operations. We should all be proud that the dedication and comradeship we experienced at Holdens has continued into retirement.

Unfortunately it has also been our duty to report the death of a number of our members during this past year. To their families and friends we offer our sincere sympathy, and hope that the years ahead will ease their mourning.

Holdens have had a tough, but brilliant year. Their market leadership by the "Commodore" has been under pressure from rising fuel costs and low cost small vehicles imports. The export drive of Holden vehicles to the Middle East and USA, plus the new "Ecotec V6" and the evergreen Family II engines have been strong export earners in a tight domestic market. The emergence of a stronger range of "Holden influenced - Daewoo vehicles" will certainly provide a much needed entry into the lower priced imported vehicle market. It is interesting to note that one of my more critical friends who has recently bought a Daewoo "Holden Viva" sedan, has not been able to identify any problems with the vehicle. We hope that this is an indication of the support provided to Daewoo by Holden

engineers, and the dedication that has gone into the quality program.

I could not pass this opportunity without thanking a number of people for their continued support. The tireless work of Leo Mahoney, our Secretary and Newsletter Editor plus the support of the Vice President Peter Pavey, Treasurer Doug Cleary, and Past President Hugh Videion, has made the task enjoyable.

Special thanks must also be given to the Holden organization, and particularly Cathy Sheehan Holden Public Policy Programs Manager, for the continued support of the Holden Retirees Club with mail outs, car displays and door prizes.

For the December 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas luncheon we are privileged to be addressed by the Holden Executive Director of Engineering, Tony Hyde who will inform us of recent developments at Holden. I hope that we can achieve a bumper attendance for this final function for 2005, and look forward to breaking last years total of 268 attendees.

In closing I wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ian Samuel  
President.

***Report on our 105<sup>th</sup> luncheon – September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005***

President Ian Samuel welcomed 137 members and guests to our quarterly luncheon including 12 new members. A special welcome to Joanne Smith who for a number of years was the Retirees' Club Corporate Affairs contact person

***Guests***

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Ray Roberts   | – Past General Manager, Comalco's Mining Division   |
| Cathy Sheehan | – Public Policy Programs Manager, Corporate Affairs |

***New Members***

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Geoff Churack   | – Zone Sales – Western Australia             |
| John Churack    | – Zone Sales – Western Australia             |
| Steve Cossey    | – Manufacturing/Engineering – Elizabeth      |
| Mike Clifford   | – Engineering – Fishermans Bend              |
| Brian Gravatt   | – Experimental Engineering – Fishermans Bend |
| Gary Hawkins    | – Product Planning – Isuzu                   |
| John Kleverlaan | – Engineering – Fishermans Bend              |
| Angus MacGregor | – Plant & Equipment – Fishermans Bend        |
| Eddie Mankowski | – Engineering – Fishermans Bend              |
| Maria Matthews  | – Experimental Engineering – Fishermans Bend |
| Steve Smith     | – Engineering – Fishermans Bend              |
| Jeff Williams   | – Power Train Engineering – Fishermans Bend  |

***Apologies***

There were 53 apologies from members from far and wide across the country.

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Brian Adams        | Ted Greetham        |
| Wally Ames         | Keith Gregory (Qld) |
| John Bagshaw (NSW) | Tyler Halsted       |
| Don Bowden         | Graham Harper       |
| Bob Burgess        | George Hammond      |
| Bill Dalton        | Bob Harris          |
| Jon Dunning        | Doug Hastie         |
| Joe Felice (NSW)   | Jim Hutton (NSW)    |
| Bill Fitzgerald    | Russ Kennewell      |

John Lacey	George Saaty
John Lee	Walter Scott (Sth Australia)
Jim McCance (Qld)	Noel Simpson
Colin McLean	Russell Smith
Doug McLean	Kevin Smith
Lyle Mansfield	Howard & Edna Smith (Edna since died)
Kevin Matthews	Doris Springate
Lilian Mavridis	Bob Sterling (WA)
John Murchie	Harold Stevens
John Morrison	Ray Stodden
Bruce Naylor	John Tabone
Gary Newsome	Ed Taylor (Qld)
Geoff Newell (since died)	Alf Triffett
John Pritchard	Ron West
Eric Prout	Bruno Wiedemeyer
Jack Rawnsley	Gerry Wright
Harry Rowe	Colin Wytkin

### *Obituaries*

Our President then announced those members who had died recently additional to those already listed in our August newsletter.

Brian Butt (June '05)	– Design Staff, Fishermans Bend
Bill Maplesden (Aug '05)	– Body Engineering, Fishermans Bend
Merv Robinson (July '05)	– Paint Shop Engineering, Fishermans Bend
Bob Spratling (June '05)	– Engineering, Fishermans Bend

The customary one minute's silence was observed.

Since our September luncheon we regretfully advise the deaths of the following:

Reg Bondini (Sept 05)	– Purchasing, Fishermans Bend
Harry Burkwood (Oct '05)	– Maintenance, Fishermans Bend
John K. Marshall (Oct '05)	– Engineering, Fishermans Bend
Geoff Newell (Oct '05)	– Finance, Dandenong
Cliff Porter (April '05)	– Frigidaire, Dandenong
Edna Smith (nee Bromilow – Nov '05)	– Supply and Manufacturing, Fishermans Bend

Harry Burkwood – If any of his colleagues would like any further details then feel free to contact his son Les on (03) 5968 5028.

John Knyvett Marshall  
14.2.1922 – 19.10.2005

John Marshall, formerly of Engineering Department, passed away on 19 October 2005 aged 83 after a long battle with cancer. John had a long and distinguished career with General Motors, joining Vauxhall in 1942 after graduating with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Cambridge University that same year.

John married Helen in 1948, his loving wife of 57 years. They migrated to Australia in 1953, when he was offered a position in Holden's Experimental Engineering Department as Assistant to Experimental Engineer Charles Paterson. He held various assignments in Experimental including that of Experimental Test Engineer, responsible for all vehicle testing and management of the Lang Lang Proving Ground.

In 1976, John was assigned to the Opel Technical Centre in Germany as Holden's Resident Engineer during the development of the first Commodore. On his return to Holden in 1978, he was promoted to Executive Engineer in Engineering Department. He retired from Holden in 1980.

John was a thorough gentleman in every sense of the word; seldom ruffled even when things seemed to be totally out of control. He had a great sense of humour and a sharp wit that he frequently applied to writing hilariously funny poems – usually about engineering problems discovered on Holden prototypes. His epic on driveline “clonk” written in 1960 is a classic.

John was a devoted and in turn much-loved husband, father and grandfather. He leaves behind him his loving wife, Helen, his sons Geoffrey and Christopher, his daughter Sheena, and many grandchildren.

John Marshall was very much part of a family dynasty at General Motors. His

father-in-law was with Vauxhall for many years while Helen's brother George Hunter had a long career in Manufacturing at Holden's. His eldest son Geoffrey is currently in Manufacturing Department, and grandchildren Briony and David both work in Engineering.

John will be sadly missed by his family and all his friends and colleagues.

*(Courtesy Hugh Videion)*

Edna May Smith (nee Bromilow)  
1922 – 2005

Edna joined GMH in 1949 after spending time during the war years with the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS). She was secretary to Howard Smith when he was Customs Manager and then subsequently to senior Manufacturing personnel and to Managing Director Bill Gibbs.

She retired in 1977 after 28 years with Holden and was married to Howard Smith in 1986.

Their combined service with Holden and their continued involvement with the retirees' club totalled an impressive 125 years!

Vale to a lovely lady.

***Guest Speaker***

President Ian Samuel then introduced our guest speaker Ray Roberts who gave us a most interesting illustrated talk on his involvement in the Australian Mining Industry over his whole working life.

He spoke of the iron ore mines around the country, their establishment, the processing systems and the sea ports around Australia that were developed to handle exports and to feed our own manufacturing requirements.

A vote of thanks by Peter Pavey was warmly received as were the door prizes made available by Holden Public Affairs

and distributed by Peter with assistance from Joanne Smith.

On display in the gardens was the latest Holden Statesman.

***Of Special Interest \****

1. Congratulations to Jack and Sylvia Rawnsley who in August celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Jack, as we all know, was one of the engineering team who developed the original 48/215 Holden.
2. A little bird has tweeted that the founding President of the retirees' club, Stan Wiseman, is celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 1, 2006. Congratulations – in advance!

***With this newsletter***

There are three (3) very important inclusions:

1. Subscription Renewal Notice for 2006. Please complete and return the form to Doug Cleary, preferably prior to the luncheon, otherwise bring it with you to the luncheon.
2. An updated Honour Roll.
3. Two (2) Holden Retirees' Club cards to remind you of our meeting dates for 2006.

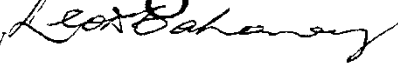
***Next Luncheon***

As highlighted at the commencement of this newsletter our Christmas luncheon will be held at the Bentleigh Club, Yawla Street, Bentleigh on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

See you there!

Seasons Greetings to you and all your families.

Seasons  
Greetings

Leo Mahoney   
Secretary  
Tel/Fax: (03) 9802 4121  
Mobile 0418 310 332

# Holden Retirees' Club

## - Honour Roll -

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

### OVER 75 YEARS

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Jack Willis	Commenced	November 1926*
Stan Suffren	Commenced	March 1928

### OVER 70 YEARS

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Jack Borgan	Commenced Birkenhead	March 1927*
Chris Stafford	Commenced	June 1933*
Jack Kane	Commenced	November 1933
Harry Boylan	Commenced	January 1934
Eric Clark	Commenced	April 1934
George Wallis	Commenced	August 1934
Max O'Brien	Commenced	September 1934
Stan Wiseman	Commenced	October 1934
Eric Prout	Commenced	May 1935
Vi Hall (nee Davidson)	Commenced	May 1935
Jack Rawnsley	Commenced	January 1936
Fred Findlay	Commenced	March 1936
Jack Murchie	Commenced	March 1936
Howard Smith	Commenced	June 1936

### OVER 65 YEARS

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Bill Jobson	Commenced	November 1926*
Charlie Lennen	Commenced	November 1926*
Sid Warburton	Commenced	May 1933*
Les Sutherland	Commenced	June 1934*
Ted Bensley	Commenced	July 1934*
Mervyn Giles	Commenced	March 1935*
Wally Clarebrough	Commenced	April 1935*
Jack Heenan	Commenced	September 1935*
Syd Holmes	Commenced	February 1936*
Gordon McCann	Commenced	February 1936*
Len Martin	Commenced	July 1936
Keith Nicholson	Commenced	August 1936
Dan Kelly	Commenced	September 1936*
Lorna Cheary (nee Mitchell)	Commenced	January 1937
Graham Miller	Commenced	May 1937
Bill Maplesden	Commenced	June 1937*

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# *Holden Retirees' Club*

## *- Honour Roll -*

### OVER 65 YEARS (cont...)

Bill McMahon	Commenced	July 1937
Phil Johnson	Commenced	December 1937
Jim McCance	Commenced	November 1938
Chris Breen	Commenced	January 1939
Doris Springate	Commenced	February 1939
Les Colechin	Commenced	March 1939
Fred James	Commenced	March 1939
Kevin Heys	Commenced	May 1939
Doug Hall	Commenced	August 1939
Arthur Ling	Commenced	August 1939
Tom Godden	Commenced	January 1940*
Doug Davis	Commenced	September 1940
Peter Williams	Commenced	December 1940
Wally Ames	Commenced	January 1941
Ron Bousfield	Commenced	May 1941
Don MacDougall	Commenced	May 1941

### OVER 60 YEARS

Hartley Chaplin	Commenced	1921*
Tom Warburton	Commenced	October 1932*
Dave Prain	Commenced	February 1934*
Jim Lindsay	Commenced	May 1935*
Carmel Mulligan	Commenced	July 1935*
Ken Couper	Commenced	June 1936*
Bruno Volpi	Commenced	March 1937*
Basil Barrand	Commenced	January 1938*
Bob Wright	Commenced	July 1940*
Audrey Banner	Commenced	August 1941
John McIlwain	Commenced	September 1941
George Hammond	Commenced	February 1942
Cliff Orchard	Commenced	February 1942
Otto Tescher	Commenced	July 1942*
Mick Hannon	Commenced	November 1942*
Maurie Wickes	Commenced	November 1942
Keith Gregory	Commenced	February 1943
Charles Paterson	Commenced	March 1943*
Arthur Bollard	Commenced	May 1943
Eric Hogben	Commenced	January 1944
Ivan Rilling	Commenced	January 1945
Colin McLean	Commenced	February 1945
Noel Simpson	Commenced	March 1945
Bruce Arnold	Commenced	July 1945

\* Deceased

The roll will be updated next in May, 2006. Would retirees' who commenced in 1946 and who wish to be included, please contact Howard Smith - (03) 9842 7887 or Leo Mahoney - (03) 9802 4121.





**HOLDEN**

**RETIREES' CLUB**

**HOLDEN RETIREES' CLUB MEMBERS ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS  
FOR 2006**

Annual subscriptions of \$2.00 are now due and payable from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005. Please complete this form with your \$2.00 attached and return to our treasurer preferably prior to the luncheon:

Mr. D. J. Cleary  
6/285 Barkers Road  
KEW VIC 3101  
Tel: (03) 9818 3485

You may also return the form with \$2.00 to Doug Cleary at the December 1<sup>st</sup> luncheon.

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**SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL**

Title: Mr.  Mrs.  Ms.  Miss

Given Names: .....

Surname or Family Name: .....

Preferred given Name: .....

**Your Postal Address and Contact Numbers**  
(If no alteration tick box )

Street number and name: .....	
Suburb or Town: .....	
State: .....	Postcode: .....
Telephone: .....	Fax: .....
Mobile: .....	E-mail: .....

Signature: ..... Date: .....

Name of the last Holden's department you were working in prior to retirement:

Department: ..... Location: .....