



HOLDEN

RETIREES' CLUB

NEWSLETTER No. 73

NOVEMBER 2007

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



Our Christmas luncheon will be held at The Bentleigh Club, Yawla St. Bentleigh on Thursday, December 6th 2007 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 \$25.00 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 G. M. Holden's Executive Director, Corporate Affairs, Alison Terry

The President's Message

2007 has been another tough and challenging year for GM Holden and the Australian motor industry in general. The continued acclaim of the VE Holden Commodore, increased exports particularly the very strategic release of the Pontiac G8 (Holden Commodore) in the USA under adverse foreign exchange pressures, and of further models including the recently released VE "Ute", has been a stand out achievement for GM Holden management in these extraordinarily difficult times for the Australian Automotive Industry.

We, as Holden retirees, watch with concern as the industry realigns itself to increased imports of smaller vehicles from the Asian region including new Holden badged vehicles out of Daewoo.

The year brought some great speakers to our festive board at the Bentleigh club. The insight into Holden vehicle and industry safety developments provided by Dr Laurie Sparke brought home the massive improvements that have been made to vehicle safety, particularly the VE Commodore. The June meeting addressed by Ian Johnston further enhanced

members' understanding of the road toll, plus the need for constant vigilance and improvement in future vehicle safety.

The September dinner provided the opportunity to be both enthralled and entertained by our original 48/215 vehicle engineer Jack Rawnsley. At the grand age of 96 years, Jack recalled with amazing detail his reminiscences of the creation of the first Holden car and the very different times facing the three Holden engineers Jack, Charles Paterson, and Fred James when they were sent to the USA to create the original Holden. We were indeed privileged to be part of Jack's renowned dry sense of humour, and the history of Holden.

Throughout the year GM Holden's Executive Directors and Senior Management, together with the staff of Holden's Corporate Affairs have supported Holden Retirees with their attendance, vehicle displays and door prizes plus mail outs including the "People" magazine. I cannot thank Holden's enough for their interest and support of the retirees. This very tangible support, is of invaluable assistance in maintaining the Holden involvement, and brand loyalty of retirees and their extended families.

I would like to thank our Vice President Peter Pavey, for his support during the last 3 years. Peter has decided to step down from this role due to health pressures and will be replaced by Laurie Sparke. I welcome Laurie to the role, and hope that he can enjoy this activity, along with his many new found retirement interests.

I would like to thank Past Presidents Frank Pound and Bryan FitzGibbon for running the June meeting during my absence, plus the committee members, Past President – Hugh Videion, Leo Mahoney our Secretary and Newsletter editor and Treasurer – Doug Cleary for their continued support and enthusiasm.

I hope to see a record rollup for the December luncheon and wish all our members and their families a safe and Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

Ian Samuel
President

Report on our 113th luncheon – September 6th 2007

What a special day it was with 160 members and guests present to hear the ventures of the one and only Jack Rawnsley. His son, John, was with us and also his carer, Jane Maber.

Guests included Bill Grotz and Holly Cochrane of Corporate Affairs, Scott Sandefur, Executive Director, Human Resources and other distinguished members, Bill Hamel, Tony Hyde, Ian McCleave, Ross McKenzie and Laurie Sparke

New Members

President, Ian Samuel then introduced 10 new members to our ranks

Peter Cushen	– Manufacturing, Plant 10 Fishermans Bend
Bruno Croce	– Human Resources, Fishermans Bend
John Fisher	– Engineering, Proving Ground, Lang Lang
Garnet Hargreaves	– HSPO, Dandenong
Chris Kirk	– HSPO, Dandenong
Ian McCleave	– Director, Planning and Program Management, Fishermans Bend
Ron Mackay	– Supply/Customs, Fishermans Bend
Ross McKenzie	– Director, Sales and Marketing, Fishermans Bend
John McLaughlin	– Fleet Sales and Marketing, Fishermans Bend
John Reid	– Engineering Laboratory, Fishermans Bend

Apologies

52 apologies were received from our Victorian and Interstate members.

Roger Anderson	John Fisher
Wally Ames	Paul Fontaine
John Bagshaw (Qld)	Ted Greetham
Lindsay Backway	Keith Gregory (Qld)
Geoff Bedford	Peter Green
Max Bell	Brian Griffin
Rod Bertram	Doug Hastie
Don Bowden	Terry Hellier
Geoff Burton	Jim Hutton (NSW)
John Car	Brian Jackson
Alex Chalmers	Ivan Larsson (S. Aust)
Norm & Heather Darwin	Jim McCance (Qld)
Norm Ellis	Peter MacDonald
Frank Fagarazzi	Ron Mackay
Joe Felice (NSW)	Steve Markwell (Qld)
Bill Fitzgerald	Dorrie Moore (WA)
Bryan FitzGibbon	Warren Morriss (Qld)

Geoff Miller
John Murison
Garry Newsome (Qld)
Norma Oxley
Leo Pruneau
Tom Ridd
Bruce Robson
George Saaty
Noel Simpson

Rob Sterling (WA)
Harold Stevens
Rex Swensen (NSW)
Dave Tasker
Ed Taylor (Qld)
Alan Watkins
Ron Wells
Ron West

Obituaries

President, Ian Samuel, then announced those members who had died in addition to those listed in our August newsletter.

Phil Conroy (Aug '07)	- Purchasing, Dandenong
Lisle Nelson (Aug '07)	- Works Engineering, Fishermans Bend
Ian Startup (Aug '07)	- Engineering, Fishermans Bend

The customary respectful silence was observed.

Since our last luncheon we sadly record the deaths of the following members:

Ray Bamford (Oct '07)	- Zone Sales, Perth
Fred James (Oct '07)	- Engineering, Fishermans Bend
Hermann Hepp (Sept '07)	- Manufacturing, Fishermans Bend
Gordon Holden (Oct '07)	- Purchasing, HEC, Fishermans Bend
Keith Tragardh (Sept '07)	- Supply, Fishermans Bend

Hermann Hepp

b. 05/06/1926 d. 15/09/2007

Hermann started work with G.M.H. in 1951 in the Plant 3 Toolroom. In 1953 the Toolroom was transferred out of Plant 3 (now the Central Engineering Building) into the then brand new Plant 6, where he continued to work on Production Tooling and Tryout of new Production Processes until 1958, when he temporarily returned to Germany.

He returned to Melbourne in 1960 with his wife, Ingrid and family, and recommenced work with Production Engineering at the Disco Plant 9 in the Williamstown Road premises. For the next 20 years or so, he served in various positions including Production Manager in this Plant, until the early 1980's, when the whole Disco Plant was transferred to Plant 6. New opportunities in Herman's career arose, when he coordinated the production functions, during the introduction of the Family 2 Engine Plants 10 and 16.

In 1983 he returned to Plant 6 Toolroom as the Manager, thus returning to the same Plant where he began his G.M.H. working life some 30 years earlier.

In the subsequent years with Holden's his tasks included Manager in various sections of the Plant 10/16 Engine Plants until his retirement in 1988.

Hermann was dedicated to his work in whatever form it presented itself. His nickname "Hermann the German" embraced all things Australian, especially hard work, beer, barbecues and Holden's. Farewell mate!

Obituary courtesy Rudy Knaepple

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker our own Jack Rawnsley, introduced by Fred Jamison, then entertained and educated us with his history with Holden and his involvement as one of the original engineers for the ground breaking 48/215.

Jack started at City Road and was very much involved with the building of the Fishermen's Bend plant and also the plants in Queensland and Perth. During wartime he was very much involved in special projects for the Defence Department.

Lawrence Hartnett, then Managing Director of G.M.H., was intent on building an Australian car and procured a cheap wreck of a Willey's and came up with a non-working mock-up of the styling envisaged.

Hartnett had the support of the then Australian Prime Minister, Ben Chifley and also Essington Lewis of BHP and Tom Playford, Premier of South Australia as GM (U.S.A.) were not going to financially support the project.

Jack and Cliff Kaye went over to the States to work on design and construction of prototypes and during 1945/6 a number of personnel including Fred James, Charles Paterson, Reg Hall and Les Gould

joined the team working with GM Engineer Russell Begg.

Jack related how he was in Detroit when 50 years of the car industry was celebrated in 1946 and joined with Henry Ford and others in the celebrations.

The first three prototype Holden's were built in Detroit and were tested at the proving ground at Milford. In late 1946 the prototypes spare engines and parts together with all the personnel and their families were shipped back to Australia on the "Wanganella"

Australian prototypes were then built whilst the three Detroit vehicles (now registered JP480 - 1 - 2) continued road testing around the streets of Melbourne and the Dandenong Ranges.

It's impossible to record here all of Jack's history. Suffice to say his story of the events of those years was really something to hear and together with other engineers at the time, he contributed immeasurably to the automotive industry in Australia

Hugh Videion proposed a vote of thanks and Ian Samuel presented Jack with a Holden jacket

Can You Help?

Do you remember the "Hurricane" project back in the 60's? Ian McCleave, recently retired from Holden, is gathering information on the original project to assist Holden Design with their restoration project. If you have any photos, drawings, sketches, anecdotes, anything that may help then contact Ian on his email ian.mcclleave@gmail.com or at P.O. Box 342 Elsternwick 3185 or phone (03) 9532 7697

Special Inclusions

There are three (3) important inclusions with this newsletter

1. The Honour Roll with the inclusion of Ron Heath and Dave Smith in the "Over 60's" section.

We have also revised the whole document to make it more manageable

2. The Annual Subscription Renewal Form for 2008. It would be appreciated if this could be returned to Doug Cleary preferably prior to the luncheon.
3. Two (2) cards with our luncheon dates for 2007.

Christmas Luncheon

As mentioned at the beginning of this newsletter, our Christmas luncheon will be held at The Bentleigh Club on Thursday, December 6th, 2007.

Please make a special effort to be present – particularly if you haven't attended for some years or maybe not at all!!

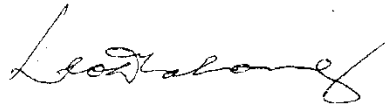
With the rising Australian Dollar the automotive industry and manufacturing at large is really under pressure. Alison Terry, as spokeswoman for G.M. Holden, will have some really interesting aspects to discuss. Make sure you are there to hear the latest.

Don't forget your name tags. If you haven't got one, we will give you one!

May we take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a healthy and safe New Year.

See you on the 6th.

Seas
G tings 



Leo Mahoney
Secretary

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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

Stan Suffren	Commenced	March 1928
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OVER 70 YEARS

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*
Len Martin	Commenced	July 1936
Keith Nicholson	Commenced	August 1936
Lorna Cheary (nee Mitchell)	Commenced	January 1937
Graham Miller	Commenced	May 1937

OVER 65 YEARS

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*
Doug Davis	Commenced	September 1940*
Peter Williams	Commenced	December 1940
Wally Ames	Commenced	January 1941
Geoff Grieve	Commenced	January 1941
Ron Bousfield	Commenced	May 1941
Don MacDougall	Commenced	May 1941
Audrey Banner	Commenced	August 1941
John McIlwain	Commenced	September 1941
Cliff Orchard	Commenced	February 1942*

Holden Retirees' Club

– Honour Roll –

OVER 60 YEARS

George Hammond	Commenced	February 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*
Don Colwell	Commenced	February 1944
Ron Heath	Commenced	May 1944
Alex Chalmers	Commenced	January 1945
Ivan Rilling	Commenced	January 1945
Colin McLean	Commenced	February 1945
Noel Simpson	Commenced	March 1945
Bruce Arnold	Commenced	July 1945
Nils Fleming	Commenced	January 1946
Gordon Hill	Commenced	April 1946
Dave Smith	Commenced	April 1947
Allan Chaplin	Commenced	June 1947

* Deceased



HOLDEN

RETIREES' CLUB

**HOLDEN RETIREES' CLUB MEMBERS ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS
FOR 2008**

Annual subscriptions of \$2.00 are now due and payable from 6th December 2007. 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 6th 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: