



HOLDEN

RETIREES' CLUB

NEWSLETTER No. 74

FEBRUARY 2008

Welcome to 2008 and to our first newsletter for the year. We hope you have all had a very happy and rewarding Christmas and New Year with your families and friends, and that 2008 will continue to be fulfilling and rewarding

Report on our 114th luncheon – December 6, 2007

President, Ian Samuel welcomed a slightly lower attendance of 240 for our Christmas luncheon but as you will note later in this newsletter we had a near record number of apologies many of whom would normally attend this luncheon. Let's again attempt to break the 300 barrier in December 2008.

Guests

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Alison Terry | - Executive Director, Corporate Affairs |
| Bill Grotz | - Corporate Affairs |
| Tanya Warrington | - Corporate Affairs |

New Members

President, Ian Samuel then welcomed the following new members to our Club.

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alan Irwin | - Isuzu, Fishermans Bend |
| Brian Mynott | - Sales & Marketing, Fishermans Bend; also
Holden New Zealand |
| Dr. Laurie Sparke OAM | - Engineering, Fishermans Bend |
| Brian Williams | - Finance, Dandenong and Fishermans Bend |

Apologies

There was a near record number of 85 apologies from members all over Australia.

Ross Amooore	Jim Larmour
Alan Baker	John Lee
Ken Baker	Peter Lukey
Max Bell	John McBride
Rod Bertram	Jim McCance (Qld)
John Bagshaw (Qld)	Jack McIlwain
Ken Baxter (Qld)	Marc McInnes (NSW)
Bruce Black	Colin McLean
Ron Butler (Qld)	Steve Markwell (Qld)
Harry Boylan	Graham March
Elliot Brown	Len Martin
Lindsay Backway	Lilian Mavridis
Bill Cashmore	Maria Matthews
Kevin Cox	Kevin Matthews (SA)
Tony Corda	Tony Mele
Steve Cossey	Warren Morriss (Qld)
Lorna Cheary	Bill Murrell (WA)
Leo Curran	Garry Newsome (Qld)
Norm & Heather Darwin	Keith Nicholson
Jon Dunning	Eddie Orme (NSW)
Ida Dwyer	Alistair Pearce
John Edge	Frank Pound
Norm Ellis	Ivan Rilling (SA)
Frank Fagarazzi	Ian Robinson
Paul Fontaine	Harry Rowe
Dorothy Godley	George Saarty
Rolf Gmehling	John Schinasi (Qld)
Brian Griffin	Walter Scott (SA)
Ted Greetham	Noel Simpson
Keith Gregory (Qld)	Doris Springate
Peter Green	Bob Sterling (WA)
Ty Halsted	Harold Stevens
Vic Hewitt	Ray Stodden
Heather Horsley	Ed Taylor (Qld)
Eric Hess (Qld)	Peter Thomas
Jim Hutton (Qld)	Lucy Vidulich
Alan Irwin	Vic Walker
Brain Jackson	Ian Watson (SA)
Ray Jenner	Judy Wellings
Martin Kruger	Vic Webster
Ivan Larsson	Robert Williams
Wally Lauder	Colin Wilson

Obituaries

In addition to those listed in our November newsletter, President, Ian announced the passing of the following members.

Allan Chaplin (Aug '07)	- Plant 4 Manufacturing, Fishermans Bend
Alan Drinkell (Sept '07)	- Experimental Engineering, Fishermans Bend
John Gough (Sept '07)	- Maintenance, Fishermans Bend
John Pritchard (Nov '07)	- SQA & PR Systems, WWP, Fishermans Bend
Les Rutter (Dec '07)	- Vehicle Assembly, Dandenong

The customary respectful silence was observed.

Since our Christmas luncheon we sadly record the deaths of the following:

Gerald Styles (Jan '08)	- Vehicle Assembly, Dandenong
Richard Maslowski (Jan '08)	- Manufacturing, Fishermans Bend

Lesley Rutter

b. 1928 d. 03/12/2008

In the early 50's, Les was outside the test room at the assembly of the 48/215 differential in Plant 5. It was Les' job to shim the crown wheel to include the backlash and pre-load. He would send the units into the silent test room where I (Bruce Harber) would place the unit into the test rig to assess the suitability for installation into the rear axle assembly prior to painting and ultimately for installation into the vehicle. Les was 79

Gerald Styles

b. 03/08/1921 d. 06/01/2008

Gerald was also in Plant 5 at Fishermen's Bend and together with Les, also at Plant 10 at Dandenong. Both Les and Gerald were profoundly deaf and their communication by hand, defeating noise and distance, was something to behold. Gerald was 86.

Both Les and Gerald had 37 years with Holden, both died of the same type of

cancer and both within about one month of each other.

Courtesy Bruce Harber

Guest Speaker

President, Ian Samuel then introduced Alison Terry, Executive Director, Corporate Affairs who, with a PowerPoint presentation, outlined a number of significant aspects applying to GM Holden

1. GM Holden is to run as a global business.
2. We will remain as a global manufacturer.
3. We are the home of Rear Wheel Drive.
4. We employ 1,200 engineers and designers.
5. There will continue to be significant investment in the Elizabeth and Fishermans Bend Plants.

Alison also highlighted the following:

- The development of alternative power plants in the light of fuel prices and environmental considerations.
- The Commodore launch was extremely widely accepted.
- The first shipload of Pontiac G8's will be launched in the United States in March 2008.
- Captiva has been very well accepted and diesel will become 50% of the volume.
- Cadillac will be introduced to the Australian market.
- The enthusiastic launch of the VE Ute

Significant milestones during 2008 will be:

- 7 millionth car.
- 60th Anniversary of the Holden 48/215.
- 40th Anniversary of the Monaro.
- 30th Anniversary of the Commodore
- Centenary of General Motors.

Plenty of opportunities for a party!!

Laurie Sparke's vote of thanks was generously received in recognition of Alison's suburb presentation.

Personal

Many retirees throughout the year are regular attendees at our quarterly luncheons. It is always very pleasing to see faces that for various good reasons we do not see all that often. It was therefore great to see a passionate Holden supporter and identity, Adrian Hobson, down from Queensland to join us. It was equally pleasing to catch up again with Fred Findlay who just a few days before the luncheon (Dec 2, 2007) turned 96.

A Special Invitation from Sales & Marketing

GM Holden is developing a system to help employees and retirees purchase vehicles through a web based application, due for launch in the second quarter of 2008.

Because the application is web based, we require **email addresses** and **gold card numbers** (if known) for all retirees. Enclosed in this newsletter is a reply paid envelope with a leaflet asking for these details.

The information you provide will be used to populate the new web application, and for the purposes of communicating vehicle offers to you from time to time.

Please return the reply paid envelope by **February 25th 2008**.

I think the above is self explanatory but unfortunately it doesn't help those without internet access.

Membership renewals

As usual, our subscription renewal is at a high level and although only \$2 it assists in covering a variety of expenses and also contributions to special charitable organizations.

If you have forgotten your contribution for this year (or perhaps even the last year or two!!) then mail to our Treasurer:

Doug Cleary
6/285 Barkers Road
Kew Vic 3101
Ph: 9818 3485

Next Luncheon

The next luncheon will be held at The Bentleigh Club, Yawla Street, Bentleigh on Thursday, March 6th, 2008 commencing at 12 noon. The cost will be \$20 payable at the venue.

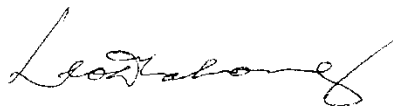
Don't forget to bring your name tag. If you haven't got one we will supply one on the day.

Our guest speaker will be Chris Shattock. Chris retired as Executive Engineer in Holden Engineering. He joined Holden as a cadet engineer in 1964, after graduating from Melbourne University. In 1966 he was awarded a scholarship to attend GMI in Flint, Michigan, for 2 years post-graduate study program.

Chris worked in chassis engineering during the time Peter Hanenberger first came to Holden, during Chuck Chapman and Joe Whitesell's time.

Since retirement, Chris and Norma, his bride from Flint, have become enthusiastic walkers, and we look forward to hearing about some of his adventures, and being inspired to join in to an enjoyable and healthy activity.

See you on March 6!!



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