



HOLDEN

RETIREES' CLUB

NEWSLETTER No. 82

MARCH 2010

PRESIDENT'S PREVIEW

No one could ever say that the auto industry is dull!

The drama continues, with the announcement at the Detroit Auto Show by Ford's Alan Mulally that the Falcon may be replaced by a front wheel drive Taurus in 2014. This is bad news for Australia's manufacturing industry.

Meanwhile there was some encouraging news. Holden sales in Australia have been improving. In USA in January, GM sales surged 15%, while Toyota slumped back to third place behind Ford, due to a safety recall program.

GM has decided to keep Opel as a valuable small car design source.

But just as SAAB seemed to be rescued, the US government has reportedly stopped the sale to Dutch car maker Spyker because of concerns that a major shareholder may have connections to the Russian Mafia.

Our guest speaker for the March lunch will give us some valuable and entertaining insights into what will unfold over the next few years, both in the global economy and the Australian economy. This will be critically important both to the success of the local industry and to our retirement plans. Once again, we can look forward to an interesting and enjoyable lunch

LAST MEETING (Our 122nd Lunch)

Guest Speaker

Our thanks to Alan Batey, who had us hanging on every word as he described the current situation for Holden and GM and gave us some glimpses of the future. It was great to hear some good news for a change, with GM poised to pay off its debt and Holden looking at some interesting prospects.

Holden Liaison



The local paparazzi managed to get a photograph of Brodie Restall, who has taken over from Cathy Sheehan to provide liaison between the Club and Holden.

Brodie began her career with Holden working with Corporate Affairs at Elizabeth and later managed the New Zealand Corporate Affairs office. She then returned to Fishermens Bend where her responsibilities include Internal Communications and Community Relations, which of course includes the Holden Retirees Club.

We welcome Brodie to our meetings and look forward to working with her in the future.

Laurie Sparke, President

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Chris Shattock, Secretary

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Some Other Attendees



Michael Perry (above), who retired from Manufacturing Engineering (Engine Plants) at Fishermens Bend in 1966, drove down from Coffs Harbour to be with us.



John Bey (right), may be better remembered by some for the wines he used to procure rather than his Data Processing activities. He is pictured here with a 1933 Holden 25 year anniversary medallion, which was given to him by a mate at Probus.

Apologies

Apologies should be sent to the secretary prior to the meeting, and they will be recorded on the booking sheets so all can see them. Apologies on the day are difficult to handle reliably, and your committee asks for your support in providing them before Thursday 4 March. Please don't ask for an apology to be listed permanently.

Apologies for the December meeting were:

Josie Krohn
John Dunning
Graeme McDonald
Edsel Orme
Garnet Fernandez
Graham March
George Nickels
Eddie Groenewegen
Matthew Webster
Don Bowden
Brian Mynott
Harold Stevens
Gene Twining
Chris Leighfield
John Hagger
John Morisson
John Bagshaw
Kevin Matthews

Jean Dodd
Ian Watson
Ted Bryant
Donald Frew
Jack Barry
Marg Weyl-Willett
John Kleverlaan
Eric Hess
George Saaty
Noel Simpson
Bruce Wenham
Doug Cleary
Kevin Matthews
Bill Disco
Marcus McInnes
Jim Spotswood
Vic Hewett
Bill DeLong

John Marks
Jim Gunn
Eric Freer
Alistair Pearce
Leo Pruneau
Bill DeLong
Ignas Siuksta
John van der Lugt
Doug McLean
Jack Murchie
Fred Hillas
Rudy Knaepple
Stan Rusiniac
Frank Fagarazzi
Col Lewis
Martin Young
Len Martin
Lance Amooore

Fred Findaly is very ill and is not expected at the March meeting. For visiting opportunities, contact Bryan Fitzgibbon (9837 5450) or Ted Bryant (5678 5008)

Deaths notified since our last Newsletter

Margaret Kish (Service, Fishermen's Bend, January 2009)
John Cole (South Melbourne, Fishermens Bend Maintenance, October 2009)
Debbie Chestnut (Elsternwick, Engineering, November 2009)
H Ardley (Hampton Park)
Don Frew (Keilor, Design Staff, January 2010)

At the last meeting we acknowledged the passing of members listed in our previous newsletter.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER:

ALFORD	Graeme	GUNAWARDANA	Bill	OSWALD	Phil
ANGELICO	Alex	JONES	Garry	PARKER	Bella
BASINSKI	Margaret	LAINSON	Len	PENNY	Peter
CARRIGG	Paul	LANE	Russell	RINALDI	Vincenzo
CONTI	Steven	LEWER	John	TAMBURRINI	Ernie
CORBETT	Spence	MARR	Ian	WEBB	Mike
CURTIS	Tony	MCDOUGALL	Dennis	WILLIAMS	Janet
DIGHT	Noel	MIZIEWICZ	Richard	WRIGHT	David
DOWLING	Paul	NICKELS	Chris		
FAHY	Pat	OPPAWSKY	Wolf		

OTHER NEWS

The Leukaemia Foundation needs volunteer drivers.

The Leukaemia Foundation provides patients and families living with blood cancer with a wide range of support services including accommodation, patient education, counseling, information and practical assistance. Another service the Foundation provides is a transport program, taking patients and families to and from treatment centres free of charge.



The transport service has been supported by Holden for many years. Holden provides the Leukaemia Foundation with 12 patient transport vehicles around the country, enabling this essential service for patients and families. The patient transport program is reliant on the commitment of wonderful volunteer drivers who give up their time to drive blood cancer patients to important appointments and treatments. Volunteer

opportunities are now available at the Leukaemia Foundation.

As of January 2010 the patient transport service will be operating from Bell Street Preston. In the past some Holden Retirees have indicated that they would like to volunteer to drive but Box Hill was too far away, so this may present an opportunity to those people.

A representative of the Leukaemia Foundation will attend the March Retiree Lunch to talk about this important work. If you would like more information about how you can become a volunteer driver, please call Tatjana at the Leukaemia Foundation on (03) 9949 5802.

Departmental Contacts

Some of your colleagues have been kind enough to become Departmental Contacts. This will tend to dilute the Engineering bias in the present committee, and will enable communication of things of interest to specific departments. So far this has only been the notification of deaths and funerals, but I'm sure as things develop the repertoire will improve. I should point out that due to the number of people to be contacted, this service is really only feasible by email.

To date the volunteer contacts are:

Engineering: Hugh Videion
Finance: Graeme Barton
Sales: Ray Purrington
Purchasing: Bryan Fitzgibbon and/or Ted Bryant
NASCO Ken Gibb
Manufacturing: Ian Samuel, Graeme Bebe, Russell Smith (SA)
Personnel: Michael Sullivan
Public Affairs: John Morisson
Design Staff: Peter Nankervis

I have not been able to contact Bryan recently, so Ted is standing in.

If your department is not yet represented, you might like to volunteer your services. Just let Chris Shattock know.

Lost, Stolen or Strayed

Bill Gunawardana has been found by Ray Jenner. He has returned to Victoria and is now living in Croydon. There are about 210 on our membership list who are lost, stolen or strayed – see the following item.

Subscriptions, Costs and Membership

In response to a query, the Club does not have a family subscription. Club costs don't include the newsletter because Holden pays for it. Subscriptions cover the other expenses required to run the club, and these affect everyone so need to be distributed equally over all members.

Any excess of fees over running costs is donated to charities, usually those appropriate to our time of life. In January we made five donations of \$50. They were to: The Leukaemia Foundation, The McGrath Foundation (Breast Cancer support), Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia, Baker IDI Heart and Diabetes Institute and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

There are currently about 210 people on the membership list from whom we have not heard – we have not received their subscription and they have not responded to our requests for data. We suspect that many of the newsletters sent to these people are not finding them and we are not being informed of incorrect addresses. There may also be some who have died and we have not been notified.

Postage and printing is the most significant cost in running the club, and we must support Holden in ensuring this money is only spent where it is needed. For this reason we will not be sending future newsletters to those who are not financial members of the Club. We will be conducting a purge of the membership list before the June mail out, and anyone who is not financial will be removed from the list.

The March Newsletter will be the last received by unfinancial members. Check the last page – it contains the date until which you are financial. If it is Dec 09, then you are not financial. The People magazine uses the same membership list, so unfinancial members will not receive People either.

Newsletter Delivery

Some of you who have requested newsletter delivery by email will have received it by post. This is because a test email to the address we have on file was rejected. Check the last page to see if your data is up to date.

Brief Sales Data

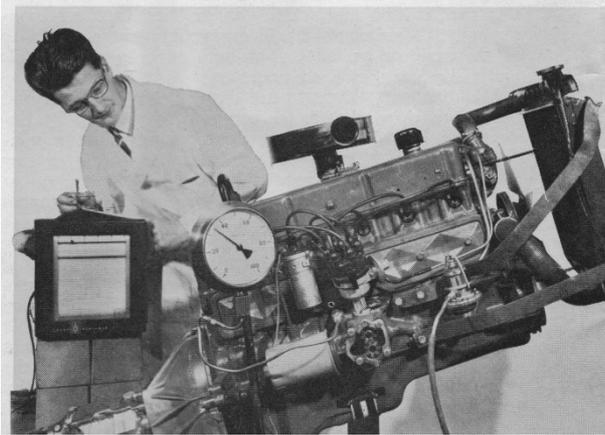
Holden had an excellent start to 2010 selling 10,468 units in January to achieve 14.0% market share. This was Holden's highest market share since July 07 and even more commendable considering January is generally not a good month for fleet sales. The total Market for January reached 74,864, up 7,785 or 10.4% on 2009 which could be attributed to a combination of rising business confidence and price reductions from some makes as a result of the January 1 tariff reduction from 10% to 5%.

All segments were up compared to prior January. SUV and Light Commercial segments boomed with increases of 25.8% and 18.4% respectively. The Passenger segments increased by 5.5% compared to Jan 09.

Commodore sold 3,241 units for the month resuming the number 1 position as the best selling vehicle in the market, outselling Mazda 3, Toyota Corolla, and Ford Falcon. Cruze sold a solid 2,218 units this month beating Hyundai i30 and Mitsubishi Lancer. Barina sold an impressive 1,379 units for January which is the highest sales result since January 07. In the SUV segments Captiva also did well at 1,421 units to be the best selling SUV ahead of Subaru Forester and Toyota Prado, Kluger and RAV4.

Old "People" Magazine

OBSERVING a Holden motor's lubricating system under unusual operating conditions is Carl Bogard. The motor can be quickly tilted to any angle and windows are fitted in the propeller shaft front housing, transmission cover and the oil pump cover. Extremely valuable information is obtained from this and similar tests.



Thanks to Doreen van den Boogaard for sending in the November 1963 copy of People. Besides showing young Carl checking an engine's lubricating system, it celebrates the anniversary of the millionth Holden, and has a front cover photograph of EH wagons and sedans being loaded on a ship for export. Production was 667 daily and employment was 22,741. In the previous year 9,600 Holdens had been exported to 55 export territories, of which 6 were LHD.

Golf! Golf! Golf!

A reminder - the Retirees' Golf Day is to be held at Rosedale Golf Club on Monday, 15 March 2010 with the first group teeing-off at 7:30 AM.

If you have not already done so, please lodge entries with Hugh Videion, Tel: 9592 9416 or email: hughvideion@westnet.com.au, no later than 5 March 2010.

NEXT MEETING



The next meeting will be held on Thur 4 Mar 2010 at 12:00 noon at the Bentleigh Club, Yawla Street, Bentleigh.

Lunch will cost \$22.50.

Our guest speaker will be Professor Neville Norman, who is a graduate of Melbourne and Cambridge Universities. He has a long association with Holden, sitting on the General Motors Australian Advisory Council for its entire existence (1978-2006). He is an economic forecaster with a record for accuracy which is better than most, and his forte is communicating relevant economic technical details in plain language. Some of our members will remember him from the entertaining assessments of the budget he gave at Holden. Neville guarantees at least one provocative constructive thought, two good new jokes or lines and three positively disturbing statements in every address.

Future meetings will continue to be on the first Thursday of December, March, June and September.

