



HOLDEN

RETIREES' CLUB

We thank Holden for paying the printing and postage costs of this newsletter. We aim to minimise these costs by encouraging receipt of the newsletter by email and by seeking more efficient postage methods.

Newsletter No. 84

September 2010

PRESIDENT'S PREVIEW

Good news for the Australian automotive market, with record July sales increasing 15% ahead of last year's down-turn, and Holden sales up by 20%. With last year's fuel price rises now a fading memory, SUVs were 30% of total sales.

Congratulations to Ford Australia, who have won a \$700 million contract to develop an SUV which should employ 450 Australian engineers for some years.

Good news from GM on August 14th when it announced its best quarterly earnings in the past 6 years of \$US1.3 billion – timely as GM prepares to offer stock to the public for the first time since the US tax payers invested in 61% of the company. This is expected to bring taxpayers investment below 50% ownership. GM's reversal of fortune has been stunning -- during last year's second quarter, they lost \$US 12.9 billion. (New York Times).

Not such good news for Toyota Australia. The Australian Tax Office has fined them \$247 million for shifting profits back to Japan by transfer pricing. Sales of the Camry hybrid have not reached expectations, with private sales of about 100/month and Prius sales falling below 200/month. Toyota globally continues to recover from the global recession and its safety recalls, and expects to sell 7.4 million vehicles in 2009/10.

Our guest speaker at our September lunch will be Richard Marshall, Holden's energy and environment director, who will present to us the next model Commodore that can use up to 85% ethanol, promising to produce lower emissions than the 3 litre V6 engine. I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, September 2nd, and I'm sure that Richard will provide us with a very interesting talk.

Laurie

LAST MEETING (Our 124th Lunch – 166 attendees)

Guest Speaker



Leo Pruneau entertained us with some of the shenanigans that used to go on behind the glossy exterior of GM Design in the 60's. Some old characters emerged from the mists of time: Bill Mitchell from GM, and Wayne Brown and Reg Hall from Holden. We heard of the battles they fought over the "cheese cutters" on the HD Holden. I won't mention what they were called at Holden, as in the current vehicle safety climate it might not get past the censors. The picture shows Leo reminiscing with Peter Nankervis and Hugh Videion.

To celebrate the day, the Holden logo on the table booking sheets was replaced by the "Silver Fox", which was created by the designers at the time of Leo's second farewell. We look forward to the next instalment of Leo's story at some time in the future.



Laurie Sparke, President
Chris Shattock, Secretary

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Some Attendees



Chris Meallin represented Corporate Affairs, and as usual they did us proud with the latest Holden (a pilot car) to inspect and lots of goodies for door prizes and give aways. Here Harry Rowe receives a door prize.



Stewart Underwood retired at the end of 2009 and used some of his new found freedom to drive over from South Australia and attend the June meeting with us. And after trying for some time, Len Lainson finally managed to bring along Lois White, who is remembered in several departments for her secretarial skills.



Some familiar financial faces: Graeme Barton, Harry Boylan (now 90) and Gene Twining.



Some of our lady members might be staying at home thinking that the dinners are only for the men. Please be reassured – you will not be lonely, come along and join us. Here are but a few of the ladies who were present: Kathy Austin and Lorna Cheary (from Supply), Muriel Stockdale (Frigidaire) and Pam Sweeting (GMP&A).

My apologies to those I photographed and whose pictures have not appeared ... my photographic skills need improvement.

Apologies

Apologies for the June meeting were:

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Ian McCleave | Chris Leighfield | Warren Morriss |
| Penny Prusakowski | Patrick Prusakowski | Ian Watson |
| Chris Evans | Ray Borrett | David Allison |
| Henry Wolf | Joanne Smith | Jean Dodd |
| Roy Saunders | Marc McInnes | Bob Anketell |
| Tony Brougham | Graeme Beer | Edsel Orme |
| Warwick Exton | Peter Lukey | George Saaty |
| Lance Amoore | Harold Stevens | Frank Fagarazzi |
| John Leigh | Ken Foletta | Ivor Bittner |
| Wal Ames | Jo Etulain | Bella Parker |
| Eric Hess | Bob Carey | Mike Perry |
| John Lawson | Rob Newton | Lyle Mansfield |
| Phil Oswald | Vic Hewett | Wally Scott |
| David Kay | Bruce Black | Laurie Sparke |
| Bob Sterling | Jim Hutton | Jim McCance |
| Steve Markwell | Ed Taylor | John Lee |
| Bruce Wenham | Bill Murrell | Sam Horrobin |
| Don Wylie | Walter Scott | |

Those wishing to make apologies for the September meeting should send them to

Hugh Videion (9592 9416, or hughvideion@westnet.com.au)

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** the day of the meeting. Please don't ask for an apology to be listed permanently.

Deaths notified since our last Newsletter

- Doris Springate, Payables Dandenong, 25 May
 Gary Jones, Engineering, 30 June.
 Wally Weir, Supply/Foundry, July.
 Ian Gale, Manufacturing, 15 July.

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

New Members since the last Newsletter:

- | | | | | | |
|-----------|------|----------|------|----------|-------|
| HUTCHINGS | Ian | GRAUPNER | Jeff | MICHAEL | Mark |
| MORLEY | Greg | WHITE | Lois | REGISTER | Peter |

OTHER NEWS

Phil Zmood



Phil joined Holden in about 1965, and went on to be the first Australian designer to be given an overseas posting (Opel in 1978), and later (1983) was the first Australian to be appointed Director of Holden Design, a position he held until 1995. He represented Holden on global programs in Detroit until 1998, when he became the first Director of Design for GM in China. He returned in 2001 as head of planning for the VE/WM launch program, and retired in 2002.

Phil has been honoured by a display in the Melbourne Museum which ran from 16 July to 8 August, where some of his sketches have been shown. The display was set up by RMIT, where he studied Industrial Design and latterly has been a course advisor for 15 years.

I'm sure all retirees offer Phil their congratulations.

Three of Phil's sketches are shown below.



Retirees may like to subscribe to John Mellor's GoAutoNews. It is free, and was the source of the information provided here. There were three articles concerning Phil in issue 451 (21 July). The address to subscribe is: <http://www.goautomedia.com/mellor/mellorweb.nsf/weben/E-news%20Subscription>

George Roberts



During a recent visit to the US, I (your editor) tried to catch up with some of the ISP's who worked with us in the past. Most seemed to have fled Michigan's heat and humidity, but I was fortunate enough to visit George Roberts. George had a comparatively long stay in Australia, from 1967 to 1976 if my memory serves me correctly.

George enthusiastically made the most of his stay in Australia, joining us on many of the outback trips we undertook to ensure that Holden was "Australia's own car" and would cope with the road conditions experienced by people living in the outback. The "cabin" (as people in Michigan refer to their country houses) he is living in reflects this, having many souvenirs of outback Australia hanging on its walls. One of these is a spear which must be 12 feet long (when in the US, use US units).



Another cherished item is a beautiful table which the Pattern Shop built from many Australian timbers and was presented to him when he left Australia.

In the lake behind the cabin is the aluminum boat (*aluminum* as it was made in the US) which went on the duck shooting expeditions he undertook with Hugh Videion's group, which included Ashim Dutt and Jim Gunn from Holden. The boat is still used for fishing on the lake.

George was most interested in hearing about with the people he worked with, and sends his regards to all.

Gold Pass Car Purchase

To make things easier for those with access to the Internet, it will be possible in future for retirees wishing buy a new car to generate the letter of introduction to the dealer by going to the GM Partner Program website. It will no longer be necessary to go to Fishermens Bend to obtain it.

To gain access to the web site, it is necessary to complete the registration form attached to this newsletter. You can bring the completed form to the September meeting, or mail it to the address on the form.

Departmental Contacts

Warwick Lindsay “has been nominated” (he didn’t say how or by whom, but knowing Warwick, he probably volunteered – thank you, Warwick) as the IGM Departmental Representative. The full list is now:

Design Staff

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Finance

Graeme BARTON 03 9802 1098 g.f.barton@bigpond.com

IGM

Warwick LINDSAY 03 9592 5535 0421 795 373 wlindsay@tpg.com.au

Manufacturing

Ian SAMUEL 03 5956 8431 0413 157 284 isamtech@optusnet.com.au Old blokes

Graeme BEBE 03 9511 5177 0435 374 862 bebefamily@bigpond.com Younger blokes

Russell SMITH 08 8298 1544 0423 137 305 smota@bigpond.com SA blokes

NASCO

Ken GIBB 03 9580 2979 gibb@westnet.com.au

Personnel

Mike SULLIVAN 03 9434 2102 mbsulli50@hotmail.com

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Purchasing

Ted BRYANT 03 5678 5008 0428 123 206 bryant@waterfront.net.au

Bryan FITZGIBBON 03 9837 5450 0413 134 447 ebfitz@bigpond.com

Sales

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These people have a copy of the membership list and are probably more able to answer queries as to the whereabouts of old workmates than your secretary.

Overseas Members

The Committee has decided that overseas members will be offered free membership as long as they take the newsletter by email. This avoids the inconvenience of currency exchange, and hopefully will encourage more of our overseas Holden retirees and ISPs to keep in contact with us.

Brief Sales Data

The Total Market for July 2010 reached a steady 82376 units up 7043 units or 9.3% compared to the same month in 2009. Year to date the Total Market has increased by 15.6% (82988 units) over the same period in 2009.

All segments (Excluding Heavy Commercial) were up compared to July 2009. SUV increased a massive 29.0% which represents the highest July SUV market on record.

The Light Commercial segment also recorded a good rise with an increase of 13.7% and the Passenger segment with a smaller 3.3% increase.

Holden sold 10648 units an increase of 382 units over July 2009 and a market share of 12.9% which was down 0.7% on the July 2009 result. Year to date Holden' sales were up 19.4% with a market share increase of 0.4 percentage points.

Comodore sold 3783 units for the month and held the number one position as the best selling passenger vehicle in the market. Cruze sold 2179 units outselling Lancer, Yaris, Camry, and Getz and is now the sixth best selling carline for July and YTD.

The Captiva achieved the best July result on record selling 1212 units.

Barina also achieved an increase of 44.9% versus July 2009 and 34.9% YTD.

It is interesting to note that if Mazda sold two additional units in July they would have outsold Ford.

Editor's Note: Some members appear to want more in depth analysis of sales data, but space does not permit that in this newsletter. At the risk of sounding like a GoAutoNews salesman, there is considerable market analysis contained in this free internet magazine.

Repair Manuals

Bob Watson has a plastic bag containing a Gemini TF-TG repair manual, and one for a J series Camira. He doesn't recall where he got them from. If anyone would like to either claim them or give them a good home, see Bob.

Email Addresses

Gordon Hughes, Ron Magro, Darryl Pay and Vic Swain -- you will have received this newsletter by post, rather than by email as you requested, because the email address we have on file no longer works. Perhaps you could send me an email and I'll update the records.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thur 2 Sep 2010 at 12:00 noon at the Bentleigh Club, Yawla Street, Bentleigh. Lunch will cost \$22.50. Future meetings will continue to be on the first Thursday of March, June, September and December.

Guest Speaker



Richard Marshall was appointed Holden's Director of Energy & Environment in December 2008. He is responsible for leading the development and driving the implementation of the company's energy diversity strategy.

The role is an important interface with external stakeholders such as peak bodies, government departments and universities. Prior to this position, Richard was Director – Innovation Engineering where he was active in the energy and environment and advanced technology areas.

Throughout more than 20 years at Holden, Richard has held numerous advanced engineering positions including Engineering Group Manager for Body Structures and Closures, Manager of Coupe Engineering and Section Engineer for Body for Asia Pacific Engineering.

During this time his work has won high acclaim. He was awarded a GM Chairman's Honour for the Monaro program execution and also for the development of computer simulation for crash management in 1998.

He also received a SAE Australia Engineering Excellence Award for the development of the VT Safety System in 1998 and the

Managing Director's award for the VR airbag system in 1993.

Richard has a Bachelor of Engineering Degree in Mechanical Engineering from The Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology and a Post Graduate Diploma in Technology Management from Deakin University.

[GoAutoNews issue 543 includes input from Richard on Holden's future fuels strategies.]



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GM Holden Retiree Gold Pass Application Form

To be eligible for a Gold Pass, you must be a retiree or spouse of a GM Holden retiree who satisfies one of the following criteria:

- Aged 55+ years at retirement date; or
- Completed 25+ years continuous service & exited due to retrenchment/voluntary separation prior to August 1998; or
- Completed 20+ years continuous service & exited due to retrenchment/voluntary separation after August 1998; or
- Separated from the company under a Total & Permanent Disability

Date of Request	
Full Name	
Payroll ID (if known)	
Date of Birth	
Start Date	
Exit Date	
Postal Address	
Phone Number/s	
Email address	

I currently have a Gold Card/Pass and need access to the GM Partner Program website (to obtain a Letter of Introduction)

- Please attach a copy of your existing Card/Pass

OR

New Request for a Gold Pass and access to the GM Partner Program Website -- I have never held a Gold Card/Pass

- Please ensure you meet the above specified criteria and if so attach:
 - o Drivers licence
 - o Marriage certificate (for spousal applications)

Reason for leaving <small>(Only required for New Requests)</small>	Termination <input type="checkbox"/> Resignation <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement <input type="checkbox"/> Retrenchment <input type="checkbox"/> Total Permanent Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Separation Package <input type="checkbox"/>
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Direct queries / return this form to:

GM Holden – Records Management

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As you have received this newsletter,
you are a financial member.