



## RETIREEES' CLUB

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**Newsletter No. 95**

**June 2013**

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### **PRESIDENT'S PREVIEW:-**

One of the undeniable facts of life is that we are all growing older and old age is an event we can't change, but at the same time is way ahead of the alternative.

I recently read a book titled "Travels With Epicurus". Epicurus was a Greek Philosopher, born in 341 B.C. and spent a lot of time pondering the question – How to live the best possible life? His answer – a happy one, a life filled with pleasure and proclaimed, and, I quote, "that pleasure, especially mental pleasure, was the highest good."

Life's phases -- of youth, middle age and old age were joined by a new phase "old" old age. -- Septuagenarians and Octogenarians. And this phase is the one we have "earned" and is to be savoured and enjoyed, completely devoid of commercialism and politics.

The book talks of the Greek Island of Hydra where all the old people have always seemed completely content with their stage in life. I found it interesting and somewhat of an eye opener. Anybody bored with retirement? You might read this book for the secrets of how not to be.

Diametrically opposed to all this ancient philosophy, and back to reality, we are soon to be faced with this year's Federal Budget.

As our guest speaker on many previous occasions at H.R.C. meetings, many of you will have heard Professor Neville Norman's views and analysis of the annual Federal Budget over quite a period of years. He is a much sought after speaker and we are privileged to hear his comments and analysis of the latest Federal Budget.

Professor Neville Norman graduated from the University of Melbourne with a B.Commerce degree (1<sup>st</sup> class honours) in 1967 followed by a Master of Arts degree (1<sup>st</sup> class honours) in 1969.

Further studies then followed at Cambridge University and along the way he won a Blue in Athletics for the high jump.

In 1973 he received a Ph.D. from Cambridge University and was supervisor on International Economics and Micro economics theory.

In 1984 he was promoted to Reader of the Department of Economics at Cambridge.

Back home in Australia Neville has involvement with:

- Media economic comments
- Business Council Economics Committee
- Committee for Economic Development of Australia
- General Motors Australian Advisory Committee
- Editorial Board of Competition and Consumer Law Journal
- President Economics Society of Australia
- Summer school Professor at the University of Los Andes in Bogota, Columbia.

We welcome Neville as our Guest Speaker at our June 6 luncheon and look forward to hearing his always interesting and informative views, injected with a fine sense of humour which soften the blows often inflicted by Federal Budgets.

Cheers, John

### **LAST MEETING (March, 2013 - Our 135th Lunch – 112 attendees)**

Our President, John Leigh, opened the meeting by advising the group of the program and welcoming our guests.

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John Leigh, President  
Graham Anderson, Secretary.

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[secretary@hrc.org.au](mailto:secretary@hrc.org.au)

### Deaths notified since our last Newsletter

Ian McInnes Instrumentation Engineering – PG.

Peter Green Manufacturing

John Plunkett Purchasing and Supply

Bernie Slattery Ind Eng, Dandenong VAP & Frigidaire

### **New Members since last meeting:-**

Doreen Chng, Human Resources

David Allison, Emissions Lab Engineering PG

Paul Nador, Plant Engineering

John Wolff, Experimental Engineering

We welcome our new members to the Club.

We have occasionally heard from members who would like to come to a meeting but were too infirm to come by themselves. If any members know of others in this situation, or are willing to help out by picking up these members and bringing them to the meeting, would they please notify a Committee member or send an email to [secretary@hrc.org.au](mailto:secretary@hrc.org.au)? For a list of those currently offering lifts, please see the “Next Meeting” section at the end of the newsletter.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for the March 2013 meeting were:

Peter Cleary

Ian Watson

Glenn Dalton

Ross Amooore

Brian Clatworthy

Dave Tasker

Lorna Cheary

Patrick Robinson

Jack Barry

Graeme Beere

George Saaty

Bruce Wenham

Brian Williams

John McLaughlin

Martin Young

Walter Scott

Jon Dunning

Peter Cummins

Bill Fitzgerald

John Murison

Doug Cleary

Edsel Orme

Eric Hess

Ivor Bittner

Frank Fagarazzi

Apologies for the June, 2013 meeting should be sent to the Treasurer, [treasurer@hrc.org.au](mailto:treasurer@hrc.org.au) or 03 9589 3196, **at least a day 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.

### **GUEST SPEAKER – ROB NEWTON**

#### ***“4WD Adventures in Retirement:***

#### **Rob & Jill's trips to little known destinations in Australia”.**

Rob Newton and wife Jill have been Four Wheel Driving (4WD) for over 45 years, and retirement seems to have just given them more time to indulge their passion. So Rob focussed on where they had been since retirement; but first, gave us his advice on preparation and equipment required for serious 4WD expeditions.

#### **PREPARATION:**

##### **VEHICLE & EQUIPMENT:**

---- Select best affordable vehicle

---- Install extensive safety & recovery equipment - snorkel, cargo barrier, bull bar, winch, dual batteries, air pump, sand flag, etc

---- Install fridge, suspension upgrade, All Terrain tyres

### RECOVERY & EMERGENCY GEAR:

- Snatch strap, tree protector, winch cable damper, etc.
- 2nd spare wheel & tyre deflators
- Spare parts & emergency repair items
- Selection of tools & repair kits
- Extra water & vehicle fluids, etc
- UHF radio & satellite phone (Rob's preference - you can take it along when hiking)
- First aid kit

### TRAINING:

Note: All training required for driver and spouse!

- 4WD techniques
- Safe recovery processes
- First aid for remote areas

### CAMPING:

- Completely self sufficient
- For retirement, Rob changed from camper trailer to off road van, for more extended travel (high ground clearance, cut back rear, off road suspension & hitch, stone guards, solar charge system, diesel heating).
- Tent & camping gear for no tow areas
- Folding kayak for some pristine water ways
- (Due regard for weight in vehicle & van)

### TRAVEL PLANNING:

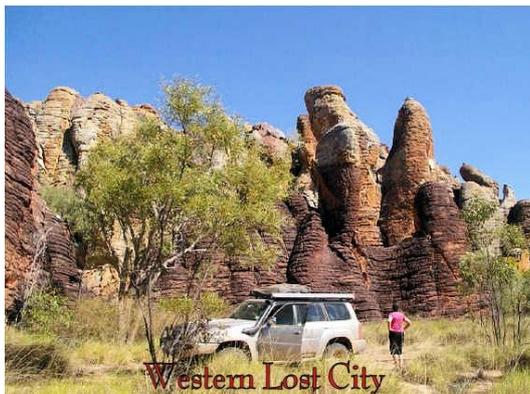
Thoroughly research:

- Destinations, activities & camp sites
- Expected weather conditions – right time of year?
- Road & track conditions
- Towing permitted?
- Permit requirements
- Fuel & water availability

### TRAVEL DECISION:

- Alone: Easy going flexible approach, particularly for extended trips where conditions are not expected to be too arduous!
- With good friends: Often a wise choice where difficult conditions likely to be encountered.
- With 4WD club group: Safe approach that provides confidence for many. Rob and Jill belong to the Idlers 4WD club & often lead trips to little known destinations.

Rob showed us many slides, which illustrated some of the scenic variety Rob spoke about, but they cannot all be displayed in the newsletter. However, if you can go to the Holden Retirees Club website the slides are all there to be seen and enjoyed! Here are just two to whet your appetite:



## OTHER NEWS:-

### **NEW HOLDEN VF COMMODORE RANGE:**

Holden has significantly increased the value of Commodore with new features and reduced recommended retail prices across the VF sedan and Sportwagon range by between \$5,000 and \$9,800. Launching a simplified line-up, Holden has created the **Evoke** nameplate to kick-start the range, redefining 'entry level' and making class-leading technology standard on Australia's favourite family car.

With a recommended retail price (RRP) of just **\$34,990**, a price reduction of \$5,000, Evoke comes with a 3.0L V6 SIDI engine, Auto Park Assist for parallel and right angle parking as well as front and rear parking sensors and a rear view camera. In addition to its premium new interior, Evoke also brings a world of new technology and advanced vehicle features to Australian drivers with:

- enhanced voice recognition,
- an eight-inch, high-resolution colour touch screen with Holden's MyLink app-embedded technology including voice recognition and Siri Eyes Free integration\*,
- full iPod® integration and
- built-in apps like Pandora® and Stitcher SmartRadio™.
- an electric park brake with automatic release,
- Hill Hold Control and Hill Start Assist,
- Trailer Sway Control and
- remote vehicle start (automatic transmission only).

Holden has wound back the Calais RRP by more than \$8,000 to just **\$39,990**.

The luxurious high-end **Calais V** has an RRP **\$46,990** (reduced by \$9,800) and Calais V is also available with the 6.0L Gen IV V8 engine for **\$52,990** (reduced by \$9,000).

Holden has improved the value of the **SV6**, with a reduced RRP of **\$35,990** (down \$6,800), and boosted the value of the iconic **SS** reducing its RRP by \$5,800 to **\$41,990**. SV6 is powered by the 3.6L SIDI V6 with the SS stepping up to the 6.0L Gen IV V8 engine, both are standard with a 6-speed manual transmission.

### **Retiree Pricing for VF Commodore:**

As a result of the reduced VF RRPs, the retiree pricing structure has also been updated. A new discount of between 15 – 23% applies across the range and is applicable to eligible Holden employees and retirees.

While the percentage discounts for VF Commodore are less than those offered for VE, the reduction in the RRPs means that many VF variants will be cheaper compared to the equivalent VE. However, due to the current market environment and to maintain the viability of the VF program, some VF Commodore variants will incur a price increase when compared to VE. In the cases where we have increased the price this is easily offset by the additional specifications we have added to VF.

The new pricing structure ensures Holden's employees and retirees can get a great deal on the sensational new VF Commodore range – a world class car that's designed, engineered and built right here in Australia.

For more information on VF Commodore employee pricing, please contact your local CVO office.





## SERVICE PRICE GUARANTEE

Holden has introduced a new servicing plan designed to ensure customers get their new car serviced at approved dealers, rather than independent or rival repairers. The Holden Wise Service Price Guarantee will allow Holden dealers to not only match any comparable quote from a rival repairer for the first six scheduled services, but also beat it by 10 per cent. Customers can present a comparable quote from a non-Holden service provider to their nearest Holden Service Centre, and once the dealer confirms the quote is 'like for like', any appropriate discount will be applied. Top-selling Holden models including Commodore, Cruze, Barina, Captiva and Colorado are all covered by the new service plan. The offer will apply to the first six Holden standard scheduled handbook services, for vehicles within 3000km or 90 days of the scheduled handbook service.

However, there are a number of conditions to the offer:

- This offer applies to the first six Holden standard scheduled handbook services only.
- Vehicles which are eligible for HoldenWise Capped Price Servicing for the relevant service are excluded from this offer.
- You must provide a printed quote on company letterhead or business card from another Non-Holden authorised Service Centre.
- You must present the Holden Dealer with your quote prior to or at the time of booking your vehicle for a service.
- We can only accept valid quotes that are dated no more than two weeks prior to the service date.
- The quote must include all aspects of your Holden standard scheduled handbook service.
- The quoted price must include Holden approved parts and Holden specified lubricants and fluids on a like for like basis.
- The quoted Service Centre must be located within the same suburb/locality OR within a 10km radius of the participating Holden Dealer.
- Holden may add or remove vehicles from the program or vary terms of the program from time to time in its discretion without prior notice.
- Vehicles must be within 3000 km or 90 days of the scheduled standard service deadline to be eligible.

### Service Price Guarantee does not apply to:

- Services quoted which do not exactly match your Holden standard scheduled handbook service.
- Additional items on a service quotation beyond the scheduled service items listed in your Holden Service and Warranty booklet.
- Quoted prices from mobile mechanics.
- Tyres, tyre fitting, wheel balancing and wheel alignment.
- Service Price Guarantee is not valid in conjunction with any other offers.
- Scheduled handbook services under the HoldenWise Capped Price Servicing program.
- Your 7th standard scheduled handbook service and all subsequent services.
- Fleet, government and rental vehicles.

## NEW HOLDEN CRUZE ADDS FEATURES, REDUCES RETAIL PRICE

The Holden Cruze has now been released with New Cruze introducing savings across the range, and some models offering over \$4000 worth of extra value! Sharp pricing sees new entry level Cruze Equipe priced from just \$19,490, while the Powertrain line up has been enhanced with a new 1.6 litre turbo engine and second generation six-speed automatic transmission. Premium Holden MyLink infotainment system with seven-inch colour touch-screen and app-enabled functionality is now standard across all models. New Holden Cruze offers buyers the best ever value from a locally built small car, with added features and better performance thanks to the introduction of a new 132 kW 1.6 litre turbo engine and locally developed sports suspension for SRi and SRi-V sports models. Holden has added features across the entire model line-up while reducing the recommended retail pricing for the entire range.

A realigned model line-up sees the Equipe replace the entry level CD, adding front fog lamps, sports grille, 17" alloy wheels and rear park assist as standard features to the most affordable Cruze model. CDX gains additional premium features including keyless entry with push button start and a reverse camera. A reverse camera is also added to the range-topping SRi-V while the SRi sport model receives rear park assist as standard.



## OPEL AUST ANNOUNCES DISCOUNTS NOW AVAILABLE FOR RETIREES:

Opel Australia has announced that effective immediately, Holden Retirees are now eligible for the Employee discount when purchasing Opel products. Eligibility is subject to the usual rules. Discount rate is 15% on all Opel products except OPC variants (sporty models) which are at 10% discount.

## HOLDEN RETIREES GOLF DAY:

Rossdale Golf Club – 4 March 2013

The eagerly awaited Annual Golf Day has been run and won, and organiser Hugh Videon has kindly supplied the following summary of events.

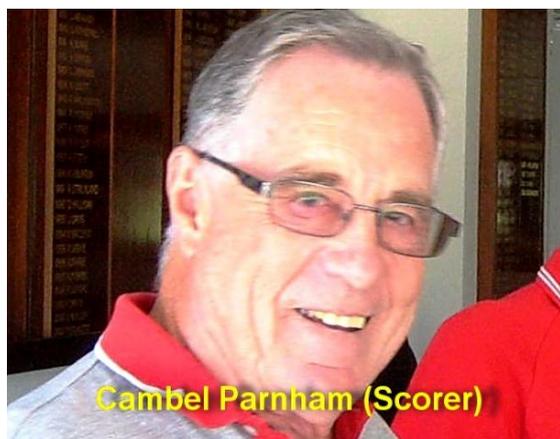
Sixteen Holden retirees competed in a Stableford competition at Rossdale on 4 March 2013, played on a very warm, sunny Melbourne morning at the starting time of 7:28 AM.

Numerous prizes were generously donated by Holden Corporate Affairs. The prizes included a magnificent Holden jacket, a cooler bag, Holden umbrellas, a golf towel, Holden tee shirts, cooler drinking bottles, sun block and much more. Every player went home with a prize – and on this occasion we had Tom Ridd as the winner of the Stableford event for 2013.

Additionally, this year the Golf Day was sponsored in a 'Nearest the Pin' competition on Hole 3, which at Rossdale GC is a 116 metre par 3. Prizes were donated for the two players who hit their ball nearest the pin on the green. The retirees were very appreciative of this gesture.

Retirees all claimed they had an enjoyable game of golf in spite of the warm weather; they appreciated the generous support of Holden, who continue to donate great prizes for this annual event.

A few of the happy golfers at the awards!





Geoff Basford



Ray Ferris (3rd S'ford) and Hugh Videion

## SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Check your "mailing label"— it contains the date until which you are financial. If it is before December 2013 then you are not financial. Distribution of the People magazine uses our membership list, so unfinancial members will not receive the People magazine either. Please make cheques payable to Holden Retirees' Club, and mail them to The Treasurer, Holden Retirees Club, 1 Glenwood Ave, Beaumaris, VIC, 3193. Alternatively, you may pay your subscription by direct bank transfer to: Holden Retirees' Club, Bendigo Bank BSB 633-000, A/C No. 138 299 151. You can do this by computer or at a Bendigo Bank branch, but you **MUST** include your name in the transaction details / deposit slip reference block, or we won't know who the money came from.

## RETIRES IN OTHER STATES:-



Queensland retirees taking it easy at their lunch held at Shark's Club, Southport, February 2013.  
Seated from L-R is Ian Sills, Gary Newsome, Adrian Hobson, John Smith, Steve Markwell, Greg Ward, Lee Broomhall, Rod Alford, John Ashmore, Absent – Ted Bryant

## VFACTS APR 2013 vs APR 2012 RESULT:-

Report for the Month of		Year to Date		Year to Date		Month	
Apr-13		Apr-13		Apr-12		Apr-13	
Standings	Marque	Volume	Share	Volume	Share	Volume	Share
1	▲ Toyota	64,947	18.1%	63,943	18.9%	16,902	19.9%
2	▲ Mazda	34,585	9.7%	34,194	10.1%	7,833	9.2%
3	▼ Holden	32,771	9.1%	36,534	10.8%	7,994	9.4%
4	▲ Hyundai	30,038	8.4%	28,748	8.5%	7,315	8.6%
5	▲ Nissan	28,972	8.1%	24,583	7.2%	5,104	6.0%
6	▲ Ford	27,574	7.7%	26,552	7.8%	6,828	8.0%
7	▲ Mitsubishi	21,061	5.9%	19,487	5.7%	5,456	6.4%
8	▲ Volkswagen	16,907	4.7%	15,781	4.7%	4,584	5.4%
9	▲ Honda	14,743	4.1%	8,914	2.6%	3,168	3.7%
10	▼ Subaru	12,982	3.6%	13,437	4.0%	2,553	3.0%

## NEXT MEETING THURSDAY 06 JUN 13:-

**Our guest speaker will be Prof. Neville Norman.**

No stranger to many members, Prof. Neville Norman has given Holden and the retirees his view on the annual Federal Budget over many years. He has the reputation of being one of the few economists who can actually make it all sound interesting and entertaining, and is greatly sought after through the business community.

We welcome Neville back to our rostrum for his take on Wayne Swan's latest effort- Refer John's opening remarks for Neville's biography:

## AUSTRALIA'S AUTO INDUSTRY – THE FACTS:-

Since the announcement on April 8 that Holden would be restructuring Holden Vehicle Operations in South Australia and Engineering in Victoria, there has been much public, political and media debate around Australia's automotive industry.

So, here are some facts provided by Matt Hobbs, Director – Government and Corporate Affairs, Holden, which you are welcome to share with family, friends and colleagues about automotive manufacturing and why it's important to Australia.

#### **The rest of the world believes in supporting their local car makers:**

- 19 of the G20 countries have an automotive manufacturing industry, and the one that doesn't, Saudi Arabia, wants one
- Most automotive manufacturing countries assist their local industry by way of high tariffs and/or incentives from government, such as financial assistance and tax concessions
- For example, in the UK, in the last 24 months, with assistance from government grants, \$10 billion of foreign direct investment by multinational auto companies has been injected into the local auto industry. In 2012, they made 1.5 million cars in the UK. In the next three years, that will be over two million cars.
- This investment creates a booming auto sector, supported by contemporary, competitive government policy, without any debate about whether or not it's the right thing to do.
- Research shows that contrary to popular belief, Australia's support for its auto industry is one of the lowest in the world – only \$18 per capita compared with \$90 in Germany, \$265 in the US and \$334 in Sweden (Source: Sapere Research Group 2011).

#### **Car-manufacturing in Australia matters to the economy:**

We say car manufacturing in Australia matters - by building cars in Australia, Holden has contributed over \$32 billion to the Australian economy during the last 12 years.

Over the same period, Holden received \$1.8 billion in Government assistance.

This represents an eighteen times return on investment in economic activity.

There are also enormous spill-over benefits into the wider economy, especially through R&D and the substantial spend Holden makes with Australian suppliers.

On average:

- Holden receives \$150 million per year from the Australian Government.

In any same year, Holden in turn spends:

- o \$490 million on capital, engineering and design investment;
- o \$490 million on wages (of which \$120 million returns to the Government as income tax );
- o A massive \$1.75 billion spend to Australian supplier businesses

Holden would not make this same economic contribution without locally manufacturing cars.

#### **What Holden, and most Australians, want:**

Australia is one of only 13 countries with the capability to design, engineer, build and sell vehicles; this is a unique capability. The locally designed and built Holden Cruze hatch is an excellent example of that expertise at work. We want to keep that capability here.

- We are not asking for handouts - we are asking for Government assistance; to compete against other countries so we can attract investment dollars from our global parent company
- We are asking for competitive and contemporary government policies to support the local automotive industry
- Newspaper polling showed 79% of Australians actually believe that support for the Australian automotive industry should be maintained at current levels or increased (Feb 2011)

#### **But it's not just government policy that's making it hard – the market has fundamentally changed:**

There is a significant structural shift in the Australian market favouring imported vehicles due to:

- A sustained high Australian dollar compared to all major trading currencies USD, Yen, Euro, Pound Sterling – Australian dollar Trade Weight Index, at highest level in 28 years
- Heads of Nissan and Toyota, and CEOs of other Japanese companies, told the Japanese PM that the Yen must be weakened from approximately 80 Yen to the US Dollar to 'neutral territory' of 100 Yen to the US Dollar, devaluing the currency by approximately 25 per cent, or they would shift production out of Japan – their strategy worked.

- In addition, extremely low tariffs (5%) mean we are in one of the world's most open and competitive car markets
- The Free Trade Agreement with Thailand has enabled a substantial increase in imported vehicles from Thailand, at zero tariff
- The sustained strength of the Aussie dollar has made imported cars the cheapest in decades
- Major overcapacity in factories in Japan and Europe last year led to huge price reductions in Australia
- On top of all that, in July 2012 Australia witnessed a structural shift in the small car market
- Sales of Cruze declined rapidly by 38.7 per cent from June to July, due to massive price discounting and unprecedented retail finance offers from competitors. This is not a natural decline in a normal, stable car market.
- Since Holden launched Cruze in 2009, our RRP pricing for exactly the same vehicle has in some cases been reduced by up to \$2500 just to stay competitive
- Volumes will not return to previous levels even with our enhanced Cruze and new VF Commodore. The Australian market has fundamentally changed.

### **Auto industry fast facts**

#### **Australia's car industry:**

- Provides direct employment for approximately 48,000 people
- Employs another 4-6 people in supporting industries for every one direct automotive job
- Benefits other industries such as telecommunications, mining and construction
- Is the largest R&D contributor in the Australian manufacturing sector
- Offers large scale manufacturing and trades based training; skills which can be utilised in many other sectors such as the resources sector
- Automotive manufacturing is a sign of a fully developed economy

Last, but not least:

Holden has been in Australia for more than 156 years, and has proudly provided iconic Australian designed and engineered vehicles to Australian families since 1948. The only way we can continue to be part of a vibrant automotive manufacturing future in Australia is with the support of a long term automotive policy that is consistent, clear and competitive. We should be proud of our capability – other countries want what we have. If we lose the industry, we'll never get it back.

### **Next Meeting is Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June:-**

**FUTURE MEETINGS** will continue to be at 12:30 pm (doors open 11:30 am) on the first Thursday of March, June, September and December, at the Mulgrave Country Club, Corner of Wellington and Jells Roads, Wheelers Hill, Victoria, Melways Reference 80 H 1.

Note that Victorian licensing law requires you to sign in, which you may do either in the foyer, or after paying as you enter the room. Either option will require you to write down your name and address.

If you require a lift, please ring one of our volunteer drivers in your area:

- Rudy Knapple	Vermont South area	9802 1795
- Bruce Naylor	Mt. Waverley area	9803 2869
- Fred Jamieson	Balwyn area	9836 4184
- Hugh Healey	Berwick area	9769 5546
- Ted Bryant	San Remo area	0428 123206
- Dorothy Godley	Mornington Peninsular	5987 2575