



**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.

---

**Newsletter No. 100**

**September 2014**

---

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

Ever thought about selling the 'family home', now occupied only by empty nesters and moving to something smaller? This seems to be a common question nowadays in our ever ageing group, so I'd like to briefly recount an amazing event which recently occurred.

I say amazing because I still can't believe it actually happened to the people involved, in such a short space of time over the last few months. The event I refer to occurred in at least four instances, where friends, all intelligent and professional people, who when faced with the decision whether to downsize have been sucked into purchasing an apartment/townhouse before they had actually received settlement for the sale of their family home. Their intentions, of course, had been to have their sales funds available for the purchase of the new "downsize". However, once in the hands of the super sales persons found at most agents and developers, they were assured they should commit immediately for their dream downsize or miss out, as they were, of course, selling like hotcakes. And besides, they were reminded "the settlement point for your family home auction was well before settlement for your downsize".

And guess what, none of the four family homes sold at auction. The commitment point for settlement of the dream downsize arrived and expensive bridging finance had to be sought, with several super funds then being unexpectedly eroded. The families involved then suffered trauma and sickness with the worry and their whole future lifestyles are now suffering.

What started as dreams for several families fast become absolute nightmares. I am sure these are not isolated cases, so just keep in mind when making the downsize decision what can happen in reality as opposed to the euphoria of a whole new dream world about to open up. Hasten slowly!

It is said, there is strength in numbers, so our Spring Luncheon Meeting will be buoyed with the presence of two speakers.

Adrian Feeney, President of the Society Automotive Engineers – Australia and Natalie Roberts, Executive Director of SAE Australia. Their career CV's are available on our website and brief overviews follow:

Adrian - - Following his engineering graduation from Swinburne College of Technology, he subsequently become a 36 year veteran of Holden's workforce within Engineering Department holding the following roles:

Project Engineer, Reliability Manager, Test Supervising Engineer, Engineering Program Manager - - Opel based Vectra, Manager - Lang Lang Proving Ground, Engineering Team Manager.

Natalie - - Holding a Bachelor of Engineering Degree in Aerospace she then worked in Holden Engineering specialising in powertrain calibration. Subsequently she accepted a role with Toyota in Strategic Planning and Research.

Her current roles are: Principal of ABMARK – an engineering consultancy, Ian Potter Foundation and ISSI Fellow, Vicroads Engineering Signatory, Member Gas Energy Australia Advisory Council.

These presentations will cover:

An overview of the SAE Society.

Its relevance in the current climate.

Its future direction.

We look forward to their presentations which are sure to generate a lot of questions.

Cheers

John

### **LAST MEETING (Jun, 2014 - Our 140th Lunch – 124 attendees)**

On 05 March, 2014, the meeting of 124 members at the Mulgrave Country Club started at 12:30 with President John Leigh welcoming our members and our guest: Mr. Stewart Underwood (our speaker) and his partner, Bethany Pellas.

John noted that the 140th meeting was a significant achievement, and he was interested to look on the internet to see what other august bodies had also celebrated their 140th meeting. He found such diverse groups as the European Patents association, a Medical Association in the USA, and one he thought might be a terrorist organisation - the "AL-ANON" group - but it turned out to be Alcohol Anonymous. So we are in good company.

Members were reminded that Holden is no longer mailing out copies of the People magazine. However, The Club obtained an electronic copy of the March and July 2014 editions, which were sent to all members for whom we have a valid email address. A number of March hard copies were also available at the lunch for those without email, and July issue will be available at the September meeting. All members who have access to email should register their address, if they have not already, so they will receive the People magazine promptly each quarter. The publication dates for People mean that the hard copies available at the meeting will usually be up to three months out of date.

### **Deaths notified since our last Newsletter**

Peter Samms, Eng F/B;

Jim McCance, Eng F/B ;

Geoffrey Grieve, Manuf F/B;

Nobby Vergara, Exp Eng F/B.

Our sincere condolences go to their families and loved ones.

## NEW MEMBERS since last meeting:-

Philip Jordan, Powertrain, FB ;  
Arnis Vejins, Powertrain, FB ;  
Terry Ryan, HSPO, Dandenong.

We welcome our new members to the Club.

We have occasionally heard from members who would like to come to a meeting but are 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.

We are still looking for a member to assist a fellow member to attend meetings from the Lilydale area. Anyone who can help, please contact the Secretary or Treasurer for more details.

## APOLOGIES

Apologies for the June 2014 meeting were:

Ken Rolls, Graeme Beere, Darrell Thomas, Bill Fitzgerald, Des Schrapel, Lorna Cheary, Walter Scott, Bill Montgomery, Marc McInnes, Lyle Mansfield, Stan Rusiniak, Margaret Weyl-Willett, Ray Borrett, Ted Bryant, Rex Swensen, Earle Peppin, George Saaty, Bruce Scott, Robert Allen, Martin Young, Tony Brougham, Wayne Dalton, Ed Orme, Ian Samuel, Ian Watson, Barrie Robertson, Bob Read, John Spencer, David Edwards, Bruce Naylor, Eric Hess, Bella Parker, and Rob Newton

Apologies for the September, 2014 meeting should be sent to the Secretary, [secretary@hrc.org.au](mailto:secretary@hrc.org.au), or 03 9885 6067, **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 – Stewart Underwood



Stewart Underwood was born in England in 1953. He developed an early interest in cars and this continued to expand on his migration to South Australia in 1968.

He started work at GMH Elizabeth in May 1969 in the Production Control Dept which was part of the Assembly Division. HT Holden was in production, and LC Torana was in Pilot.

Stewart worked in Elizabeth on all the subsequent local models except for a short stint in Woodville Finance Dept in 1973. He has worked as a Planner, a Senior Planner, a Manufacturing Engineer and was South Australia Co-ordinator for Commodore VR, VT and VY11 Adventra. For the last few years of his career, Stewart worked on the General Assembly Upgrade programs.

Stewart retired in Dec 2009 following almost 41 years of service and now busies himself with volunteer work. This includes being a guitarist in a Senior Citizen's Rock Choir band, a driver for a Mental Rehab club, and a volunteer at the National Motor Museum, Birdwood. Additionally, he conducts Holden History Tours of all the original Holden sites in and around Adelaide.

Stewart's presentation was entitled:

### "A Holden Heritage/History Tour of Adelaide"

In conjunction with Don Loffler (The well-known Holden Historian and author) Stewart has hosted annual coach/foot tours of these sites - as part of the South Australian Governments' 'History Week' celebrations, each May.

Whilst it is not possible to replicate the Coach Tour – Stewart presented to us a photographic representation of what the tour basically entails, which is "Holden History Tours" of all the original Holden sites in and around Adelaide, and which formed the basis of his presentation.



Stewart gave the group a taste of the tour, using copious photographs and detailed explanations of how the buildings shown (as 'then' and 'now' pairs) formed part of the Holden heritage in Adelaide

It was extremely interesting and generated an extensive question and answer session.

John Leigh thanked Stewart for his presentation and presented him with a bottle of (South Australian!) wine in appreciation.

The ever popular Door Prize Raffle was then drawn, with Holden supplying the gifts for the lucky winners.

John reminded members that Holden had also supplied a new vehicle for their inspection. This time it was a Holden Colorado LTZ model, available for viewing at the front steps.

We thank Holden for their continued support through these difficult times for them.

Some table shots showing lively conversations.





**RETIRES IN OTHER STATES:-**

**Gold Coast Retirees Christmas Lunch**

The Gold Coast lunch was held in Carmody's restaurant at the Southport Sharks Club in June, 2014.

A great time was had by all and if there any retirees visiting the Gold Coast we would like them to feel free to join us for our lunch or even contact us to get together socially.



L-R: Garry Dryden,  
 Bevan Rawson,  
 Ron Stewart,  
 Garry Newsome,  
 Lee Broomhall,  
 Graeme Coverdale,  
 John Ashmore,  
 Rod Alford,  
 Steve Markwell,  
 Ted Bryant.  
 Apologies:  
 Adrian Hobson,  
 Greg Ward

## GM takes over the birth-place of General Motors:-

In July 2013, General Motors completed the purchase of the historic "Factory 1" in Flint, Mich. It was the home of the Flint Road Cart Company, founded by William Durant and Josiah Dallas Dort in 1886. The company later became Durant-Dort Carriage Co. In 1908, Durant founded General Motors. Now, more than 100 years later, GM has taken over Durant's old carriage-assembly site, with plans for a possible museum. It also agreed to help maintain the Durant-Dort office building across the street.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS:

Subscriptions (\$5) are due by the end of December. We publish this reminder as Neil will appreciate it if you could pay during the last quarter of the year, rather than causing a flood by all paying at the last minute.

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.

## VFACTS YTD July 2014

	TOP TEN MARQUE	Month			
	Month	May-14	Jun-14	Jun-13	Market Share
1	<i>Toyota Total</i>	17,246	20,807	22,160	17.4%
2	<i>Holden Total</i>	9,012	12,332	10,483	10.3%
3	<i>Hyundai Total</i>	8,403	10,008	9,914	8.4%
4	<i>Mazda Total</i>	7,751	9,374	9,567	7.8%
5	<i>Ford Total</i>	6,950	8,715	9,687	7.3%
6	<i>Mitsubishi Total</i>	5,780	8,258	9,257	6.9%
7	<i>Nissan Total</i>	6,198	8,017	9,063	6.7%
8	<i>VW Total</i>	4,991	6,597	5,114	5.5%
9	<i>Subaru Total</i>	3,101	3,851	4,119	3.2%
10	<i>Kia Total</i>	2,415	3,305	3,131	2.8%

Holden continued its year-on-year growth, with solid July sales delivering 10.1 per cent market share year-to-date, up 0.83 percentage points on the same period last year.

## ***Bloom 'Past' Team Needs Your Help:***

*The "Keeping Holden's History" Bloom project is a part of Holden's ongoing effort to honour its past while making the transition to the future Holden. The Bloom 'Past' team is asking retirees to submit photos representing some of their favourite Holden memories - submit your photos of vehicles, projects, colleagues or test trips to [Holdenpast@gm.com](mailto:Holdenpast@gm.com)*

**OUR NEXT MEETING is on THURSDAY 04 Sep 14 at 12:30 PM**, and will be held as usual in: "The Mulgrave Room", Mulgrave Country Club, Cnr Wellington Rd and Jells Rd, Wheelers Hill Victoria.

Meal cost will be \$22.50 for a two course meal, plus Tea or Coffee payable at the door.

*Soup:*

*Zucchini & Bacon*

*Main (alternating):*

*Japanese Crumbed Barramundi with Sweet Potato Mash and Herb Hollandaise*

*Herb Grilled Chicken with Fettuccini with Field Mushroom Sauce*

The doors will open at 11:30 am.

**- Our Guest Speakers will be Adrian Feeney, and Natalie Roberts**

Adrian Feeney and Natalie Roberts will be giving us an insight into new directions for the Society of Automotive Engineers.



Adrian graduated from Swinburne College of Technology in 1974 and started his engineering career at Repco Super Seals as a cadet engineer. After two years he had the opportunity to join Holden and this started a long career at the automotive manufacturer. In his time at Holden, he held many different engineering positions such as Experimental Projects, Brake Test, Driveline Development, Reliability Manager, Test Supervising Engineer, and Engineering Program Manager for the Opel based Vectra. Subsequent to this, he was Proving Ground Manager at Lang Lang, before being appointed Engineering Manager for a team of Engineers responsible for induction, shifters, driveline and exhaust.



Holding a Bachelor of Engineering (Aerospace), Natalie first worked for GM (Holden) in powertrain calibration, before accepting a position with Toyota, working in strategic planning and research for the Australian and Middle Eastern vehicle markets. Presently the Executive Director of SAE-A and the Principal of ABMARC an engineering consultancy, she is passionate about the automotive and mobility sectors. She is an Ian Potter Foundation & ISSI Fellow, Vicroads engineering signatory and a member of the Gas Energy Australia advisory council.

We look forward to seeing you there!

--00—00—00

**VALE – Jim McCance**



Jim McCance, alias 'Last Chance McCance', passed away on July 15, 2014, after an extended illness, involving periods of hospitalisation, interspersed with periods of intensive loving care by his wife Janet. Jim and Janet retired to the Gold Coast 33 years ago where my wife Lyn and I visited them on numerous occasions, the last time being March this year. As with previous visits, a bottle of scotch was provided and our memories, associated with Holden poured forth, being encouraged by each dram of whiskey.

Jim was born in Preswick, Scotland, on July 31, 1923. His family migrated to Adelaide, where Jim's father was employed by Holden. The family suffered a severe blow when the father died as a result of a work related accident. In order to help support the family, Jim left school at age 15 and was employed by Holden in the Print Room of the Drafting Office, and so began the career of James with Holden, in November 1938.

In 1942 at the age of 19, and with the war on our doorstep, Jim joined the RAAF serving for 4 years and rising to the rank of Warrant Officer, before returning to Holden in 1946.

In the late 40's, Jim was part of the S.A. ("Crow Eaters":) invasion of Victoria, when the Body Design and Drafting Group transferred to Fishermens Bend. They would form the nucleus and foundation of a Body Engineering Department, which would develop totally, the body of the first passenger vehicle designed in Australia — the FE model, to be followed by the design of subsequent Holden models. The history of Australian automotive engineering was in the making.

In the late 50's, Jim was promoted to Assistant Chief Draftsman — Body, and he retired as Trim Engineer, in 1980.

On a lighter side, Jim was one of those Holden characters who could be classified as a 'legend in his own life time'. When I was asked to provide a few lines, I thought given time and space, I could and should write a book on 'Last Chance McCance', but first I will explain where he got his nickname. We were both foundation members of the Beaumaris Motor Yacht Squadron and in the early 60's, at a social function, Jim and others provided some lively entertainment. A clever reporter who specialised in colourful monikers, rather than "square" names, gave each participant a nickname, Jim was awarded, 'Last Chance'. GMH work mates got to hear about it and the name 'Last Chance McCance' stuck with him for ever more.

'Last Chance' had a burning desire to be part of any fishing excursion, whether it be on Port Phillip Bay, or the Ninety Mile Beach, or for that matter, any bay or beach. He never owned a boat and he logically argued, why should he? - after all, he had so many mates with boats and they all required an expert crew. He also argued, that to catch fish and then have to prepare them for the table, was a good way to foul-up an enjoyable day. In all of our years of so-called fishing, I never saw "Last Chance' weigh in a fish, but he always involuntarily weighed in a ton of mirth, enjoyment and comradeship. Invariably, a fishing trip would provide a good story for re-telling down the years. I have a few that I must commit to print, for the benefit of future generations.

It isn't wrong in saying, that 'Last Chance' loved a party. He had two favourite poets and would often recite poems of Robbie Burns and Banjo Paterson. The wit and language of Burns was often difficult to understand, so Paterson was the favourite for party entertainment. At some stage, generally the 'last quarter", he would entertain those still around him, with a recitation of 'The Man from Snowy River', a poem he knew word perfect from start to finish. He recited with such feeling and emotion, it was claimed you could smell the sweating horses. 'Last Chance' did admit that the Paterson alliteration such as, "where the horses hooves strike firelight from the flint stones every stride ... he sent the flint stone flying", caused his manner of enunciation to stumble, but he would soon pick up his stride and ride his horse on to the last word.

To his wife, Janet, thank you for the long period of painstaking and loving care of our mate. Our thoughts are with you and the McCance family. Farewell 'Last Chance', Holden has lost another great contributor. We have lost a great mate, but for those who knew you, the memories will remain as vivid as yesterday. Make sure you have a wee dram waiting, for next time we meet.

(Thanks to John Lee, a long-time friend, for these memories of Jim.)

## HOLDEN TRAX BOLSTERED WITH HIGH-TECH 1.4 LITRE TURBO ENGINE

- Trax LTZ introduces 1.4 litre turbocharged engine to the range
- Impressive fuel economy of 6.9 litres per 100 kilometres\*
- New engine produces 103kW of power and 200Nm of torque



Holden has revealed exciting updates to its popular small SUV, Trax, including the introduction of a high-tech 1.4 litre turbocharged engine on the LTZ model.

The new optional 1.4 litre iTi petrol engine comes with a six-speed automatic transmission and delivers 103kW of power and 200Nm of torque. With fuel economy of just 6.9 litres per 100 kms, this new addition makes it one of the most fuel efficient cars in the Australian compact SUV market.

The spirited and fun to drive 1.4 litre iTi Trax LTZ boasts a flat torque curve where peak torque is achieved at a low engine speed of only 1850rpm, allowing drivers to experience a refined and responsive drive in both city and country environments. Torque remains at 200Nm right through the range up to 1850 to 4900rpm, ensuring optimum performance between traffic lights and on inclines.

The 1.4 litre iTi engine, which can also be found on the sporty Barina RS and locally-made Cruze, has been specifically calibrated by Holden engineers for Australian roads and is enhanced with a locally tuned suspension, tailored precisely to meet the needs of Australian drivers.

**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   |