

The Lion's Roar

Mumblings from across the desk in the den of the Holden Enthusiasts Club Christchurch



April 2015

CONTENTS

Presidents Report

The story of Elvira so far

Upcoming Events

Advertisers

For Sale

Committee Members

Presidents Report

I hope everyone got through Easter alright without over dosing on chocolate. It was great weather for it.

Web site

We are looking for photos of your cars so Rachel can get them on the web site under member's cars so email them in.

We are also looking for any photos of past events so they can go on there as well.

Pioneer Car Show

On 26th and 27th Sept the Classic Car Show is on at Pioneer. Craig is going to display his VH but we are looking for one more so if you are keen let us know. The theme is top of the pile.

We also need volunteers to man the site for a couple hours to hand out cards and talk to people so get your name in.

Inter Club

The first round is Laser strike so we need names, it will be a lot of fun. If you can think of clubs to challenge let us know and we will give it a go.

Welcome

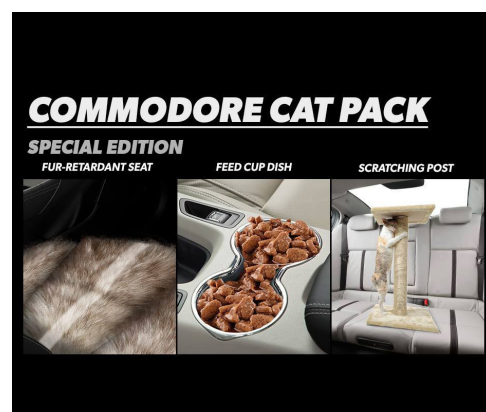
Welcome to Scott Miller and Tash White with a 2013 SV6 Z series and Whare (Fuds) Ward and Sarah McKenzie with a Honda Accord at this stage. We hope you have a great time.

Keep those wheels turning.

Ray Miles

Happy Holden April Fools...

Holden New Zealand announce their new Cat Pack



(Courtesy of Holden New Zealand Facebook page)



The story of Elvira so far.....

.... Most of the Club members have met Elvira, our beloved black VH beast! Just recently we have discovered a few more facts from her history so we thought we might as well put her history down on paper so far!

When we purchased Elvira we were told about her history of being an ex-Southland MOT Pursuit Car, Ministry of Transport for those who are too young to remember! Craig has since be talking to a dedicated few ex-Police who are collecting these cars from throughout New Zealand and they have managed to confirm more of her history



Photo of Elvira in her MOT livery - photo courtesy of Lou Forhecz, ex MOT

In the MOT there were only 33 V8 VH's in the fleet and most of them were 253s. In Southland there were two 253 VH's operated by the Rural Division of the MOT, however there was only one 308, yup, Elvira. Her number plate was originally KY6381 and she was based in Lumsden. She was driven by Graeme Mosely, who was the PC accompanying David Bain across the prison gateway at the time of his arrest.

She was sold in March 1989 at 139,000kms to North City Cars in Dunedin where it was de-branded and fitted with Cheviot alloys. It was sold to a couple in Balclutha who owned it until 1992 where it was sold back to North City Cars at 180,000kms.

Anthony Brooks then bought her (you will hear the surname again!) and he had it for a year and managed to put another 10,000kms on her. Anthony sold it to Motor City in Dunedin when he left for Australia.

The next owner, was originally from Dunedin, basically left the area and headed for Blenheim and also managed to stop paying his finance at the same time. A repossession order was given and somehow he avoided detection for a couple of years. Russell Brooks, Anthony's father, who lived in Renwick spotted it one day and as it was his dream vehicle he decided to do some digging. He discovered that the order was out for it so he did a deal with the finance company, he pay the outstanding amount on the finance and it was his, so guess what he did! Yup, paid up and repossessed her and Elvira was his, much to his wife's disappointment.

While Russell had her for 18 years, he repainted her, decked her out with new Cheviot Californian wheels and the Group 3 Bodykit as well as the sunroof. It was too hot for the bride and bridesmaids when he was doing weddings! Russell discovered a little of her history by tracing her gearbox and engine numbers. Originally she was one of two 308's built for the Melbourne Police in 1983, she was the only one to survive as her sister car was written off along with the driver and passenger within the first three months of being on the road. One thing Russell did discover when repainting her is 8 previously repaired bullet holes along the passengers side of the vehicle! We imagine she that was too much for the Australian Police and was exported to New Zealand to be registered here in 1984.

After all those years, and listening to his wife call it the Mistress, Russell had to unfortunately sell her due to ill health.

Russell was very particular on who was going to purchase her as he didn't want her chopped up as most were inclined to do and I think he was happy when we said we were going to leave her as she is and then she was ours! However, when we went to pick her up the next weekend he refused to come out of his garage so we had to do the deal with his wife. A very sad day for Russell.



Since we have been Elvira's caretakers we have given her a new paint job, changed the wheels back to Bathurst style three piece race wheels and tidied up the upholstery where needed but we have left the rest untouched. Unfortunately the motor needed to be rebuilt a couple of years ago, and as it was matching numbers we had the engine rebuilt. Yup, we will not give the final cost as we don't want to know ourselves! There were some minor modifications to the already hot police spec motor and now she is a huge 320hp. Not huge by today's standards however a big improvement over the factory figures.



Elvira during the Annual HECC Show and Shine in November 2014,

Winner of "People's Choice" and "VB to VL Class" for 2014



Elvira in Feburary 2015 on her way back from Cromwell

We have taken her past Russell a couple of times when we have been in Renwick and he has come out of the garage to see her! Unfortunately he wasn't able to sit in her during these visits due to operations, however we took his wife for a ride and she got out smiling! I have a feeling that Russell had a tear in his eye seeing complete like that

Craig has been talking to members of the original MOT who can supply all the correct equipment to take Elvira back to how she was if he would like to restore back and they will help with everything they can. This might just happen one day and the story will be continued....

Craig and Cherie

Thoughts from the Editor

Speaking of Big Cats...



UPCOMING EVENTS

May

5th Monthly Meeting at Robbies Cranford at 7.30pm

17th Scavenger Hunt

June

2nd Monthly Meeting at Robbies Cranford at 7.30pm

July

7th Monthly Meeting at Robbies Cranford at 7.30pm

August

4th Monthly Meeting at Robbies Cranford at 7.30pm

8th Interclub Challenge Round 1

23rd Mystery Car Rally

Sept

1st Monthly Meeting at Robbies Cranford at 7.30pm

6th South Canterbury All Australian Day Caroline Bay
10am to 2pm, \$5 Car Entry

17th-20th Kaikoura Hop

26th Interclub Challenge Round 2

Pioneer Classic Car Show

October

6th Monthly Meeting at Robbies Cranford at 7.30pm

11th Mighty Bathurst Race at Ray's Garage

17th Interclub Challenge Round 3

FOR SALE

Marg Club Shirts - \$55
Polo Shirts - \$40
Club Stickers - \$5
Club Sashes - \$20

For more information contact her on 021 138 7046

Ashley Mulholland Bosch and Holden Auto Electrical Parts
Contact him on 027 432 8051

Keith Wood Has access to early Australian Holden spares
Contact him on 021 229 0531

Denny Has an EH sedan 149, manual, motor and gearbox done. Has done 120,000 miles
Contact him on 03 352 0204

VL parts Cylinder heads/distributor/airflow meter/power steer pump computer for manual car/ 3 litre injectors & inlet manifold. Contact Ray O'Rourke 03 3523375

Assorted HK-T-G parts, the biggest of which is a good bonnet, and some HK wheels. Contact Rob Brown (in Nelson) 03 9700542 or 021 1875697

COMMITTEE

President Ray Miles
027 277 3878 or 03 981 6353

Vice President Leonie Harris 027 471 7961

Secretary Marg Miles 021 138 7046

Treasurer Milton Souster 021 239 6050

Club Captain Cherie Tomlinson 027 577 0427

Editor Darryl Cowens 027 269 4600

Committee John Steele 027 243 7656
Rachel Ah Kit 027 497 7523
Sandy Cooke 021 444 249
Anne-Marie Galyer 021 134 5284

If you have any issues please contact us direct we are all willing to answer any questions or talk through any questions you may have.

