

# LEYLAND P76 CLASSIC CAR CLUB

INCORPORATED NSW

JUNE 2009



**P-76**

**Anything But Average**

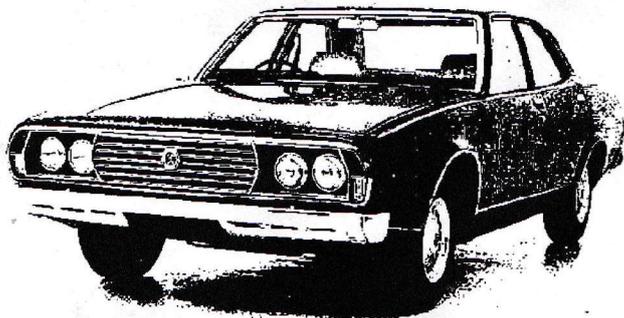
# LEYLAND P76 CLASSIC CAR CLUB INC.

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If any members have a vehicle or spare parts for sale, an interesting story about his or her car, weather it is about a rebuild or repair, or of your trips away on holidays, please do not hesitate to contact the editor and it will be greatly received.

The opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily of the Editor. Where possible articles contributed by members are verified, however the Leyland P76 Classic Car Club Inc. accepts no responsibility of the accuracy of the information.

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## GENERAL MEETINGS

**Venue:** San Souci Literary institute  
**Address:** 107 Ramsgate Road, Ramsgate  
(cnr Campbell Street)  
**Time:** 8:00pm Wednesday Nights

## MEETING DATES 2009

|           |           |          |
|-----------|-----------|----------|
| June 17th | July 15th | Aug 19th |
| Sept 16th | Oct 21st  | Nov 18th |
| Dec 16th  |           |          |

## Editorial

Well another club year is coming to an end and fees are due on 30th June 2009. A renewal form is included in this newsletter.

On Sunday the 17th May 2009 we went on a joint car run with the Owners Club and it was a very enjoyable day. (write-ups included in this newsletter).

We now have the tickets for Shannon's Eastern Creek Classic weekend at Eastern Creek. Tony has informed me that he has received just on 1800 applications from entrants and this number could go even higher.

This event is one of the most popular in NSW so make sure you come along and have a great time viewing so many types and makes of veteran, vintage and classic cars. There will be heaps of entertainment including the Kirrawee High School Band.

Well that's it for now see you all at our next meeting.

Joe Green

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**FUTURE EVENTS 2009**  
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|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>July</b>                   | To be decided   |
| <b>August 22nd &amp; 23rd</b> | Shannon's Eastern Creek Classic weekend<br>Muscle Car Masters Eastern Creek |
| <b>August 30th</b>            | British Display Day— Kings School   |
| <b>September 27th</b>         | Orange Blossom Festival   |
| <b>September</b>              | Chevelier College Show & Shine  |
| <b>October 18th</b>           | BMC Leyland Heritage Day  |
| <b>Easter 2010</b>            | National Meeting Motto Farm NSW   |

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**Please note**

- Annual membership fees are now due  
Family membership     \$40  
Single membership     \$35
- It was decided at the last meeting to place a cost on the coffee, tea, cakes etc. Of \$3 per person & \$2 pensioners.

If you are able to write an article for our newsletter the deadline for it to be printed in the next newsletter is the **1<sup>st</sup> of every month.**

**Thanks**

Troy & Julie for printing the magazine  
Jean & Alan Torrance for their article in this newsletter

**Get Well Message**

- Peter O'Brien who has now been admitted to hospital for his operation we all wish him best of luck.
- Don & Valda Chappell

**Did You Know???**

In the Smithsonian Institution Washington DC they have in their museum in the section of National Air & Space a mock up of an aircraft carrier quarterdeck of the cutely named

**'USS Smithsonian CVM-76'**

There is a photo of it displayed in this magazine

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Also there is a large poster available in the USA celebrating the American war of independence in 1776.

## National Motoring Day

Another great day, the weather was fantastic, it was a sparkling sunny Autumn day and Troy, Sue and I arrived at our meeting place, McDonalds Taren Point at about 9:00am. We had arranged with the Owners Club to combine and have a joint run together down the South Coast.

Troy was driving his flame car and Sue and I had the Force 7, Jason Birmingham and his kids arrived soon after us in his Hairy Lime P76 looking as good as it always does. Then Tony and Kay DeLuca, Steve Maher and his son was next.

We all had a quick cup of coffee, then we were on our way. We left McDonalds and drove past Sutherland Hospital then onto President Avenue and were soon on the Princess Highway at Sutherland heading south.

Troy was leading the way and it was not long before we reached the Royal National Park turn off, we then proceeded down to Audley Weir and soon after passed the Gowrie Beach turn off, then Bundeena, it was a very picturesque drive. There is an area where the trees overlap the roadway and form a great garden arch of branches and leaves. To me it gives you an eerier sensation and reminds me of some of the scenes you see in Europe.

This drive always reminds me of the days many, many years ago when Sue and I would travel down the South Coast about every second Sunday to Austinmer and Thirroul for the day. We would drive down in our MGTF with our good friends Kerry and Marlene Savage and they would take their hot 1950 FX powder blue Holden Ute, with a warmed up motor with triple SU carburetors on it. (it flew) We would always enjoy a quick safe drive through the National Park (and we never got booked).

On the National Motoring Day drive I was surprised that there was so many motorbikes on this road and how dangerously they rode, speeding, overtaking on double lines, overtaking on blind bends, this is an area where the Police should be patrolling. We soon arrived at Stanwell Tops. What a great site, an artist delight.

You can see the Cliff Bridge and the distant mountains and the ever so blue pounding sea. This area is adjacent to the location where the spectacular hand gliders take off. We then had a short morning tea break a cup of tea, coffee and some of Kay's beautiful chocolate cake, very nice thanks Kay.

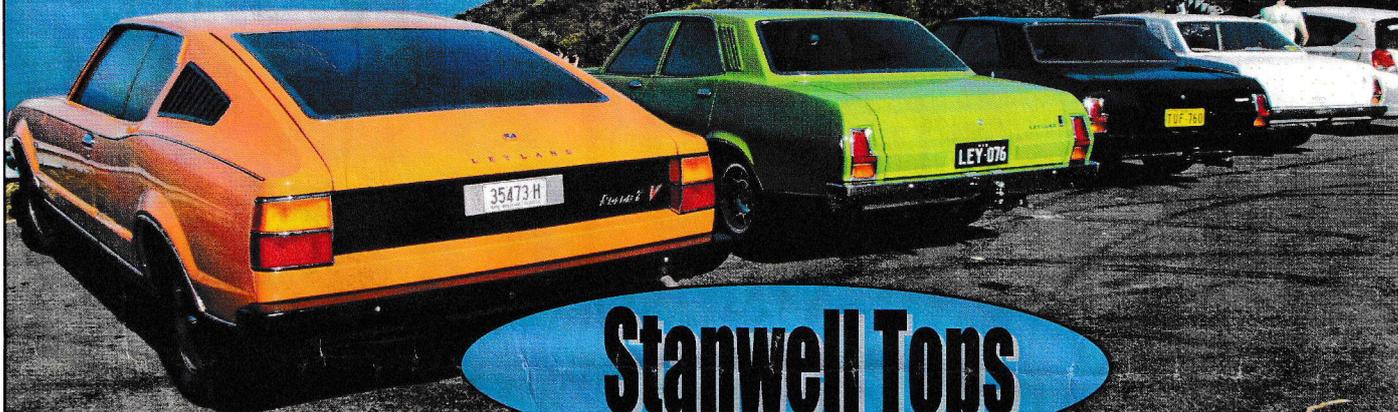
We then decided to move on and soon arrived at the bottom of Bulli Pass. Troy then led the way up the mountain and I was following him, then Jason who was behind me, passed me pulled in behind Troy and then passed him. It would have been a great photo shot, Troy in the flame car with Jason tucking in behind him and the passing him in his Hairy Lime car and Sue and myself in the Force 7 at the rear and when this was happening the cars were going into a sweeping right hand bend and then straightened up to go up the mountain, what a great video/photo it could have been with so many bright colours and some action shots.

We then arrived at the top of Bulli Pass and we intended to meet up with Ron Frith and Paul Van Look in the car park of the Panorama Hotel. Meanwhile Steve was now travelling behind me and the turn off to the hotel is not easily seen, so you guessed it we all missed it. So after travelling 10 or 15 kms towards Sydney we all stopped, Tony and Kay were not with us, they had disappeared. I tried to contact them on the mobile phone but had no luck. So Jason and Steve decided to drive onto Waterfall then turn around and go back to the car park. Sue, Troy and myself decided to head for home. The others eventually met up with Ron and Paul, they proceeded to Picton for a late lunch. They were lucky to meet up with Kay and Tony. Well we all had a good Motoring Heritage Day and plenty of positive comments from the public which was pleasing.

An enjoyable day was had by all and lets organise another run in the near future.

Joe Green

# National Motoring Heritage day



**Stanwell Tops**

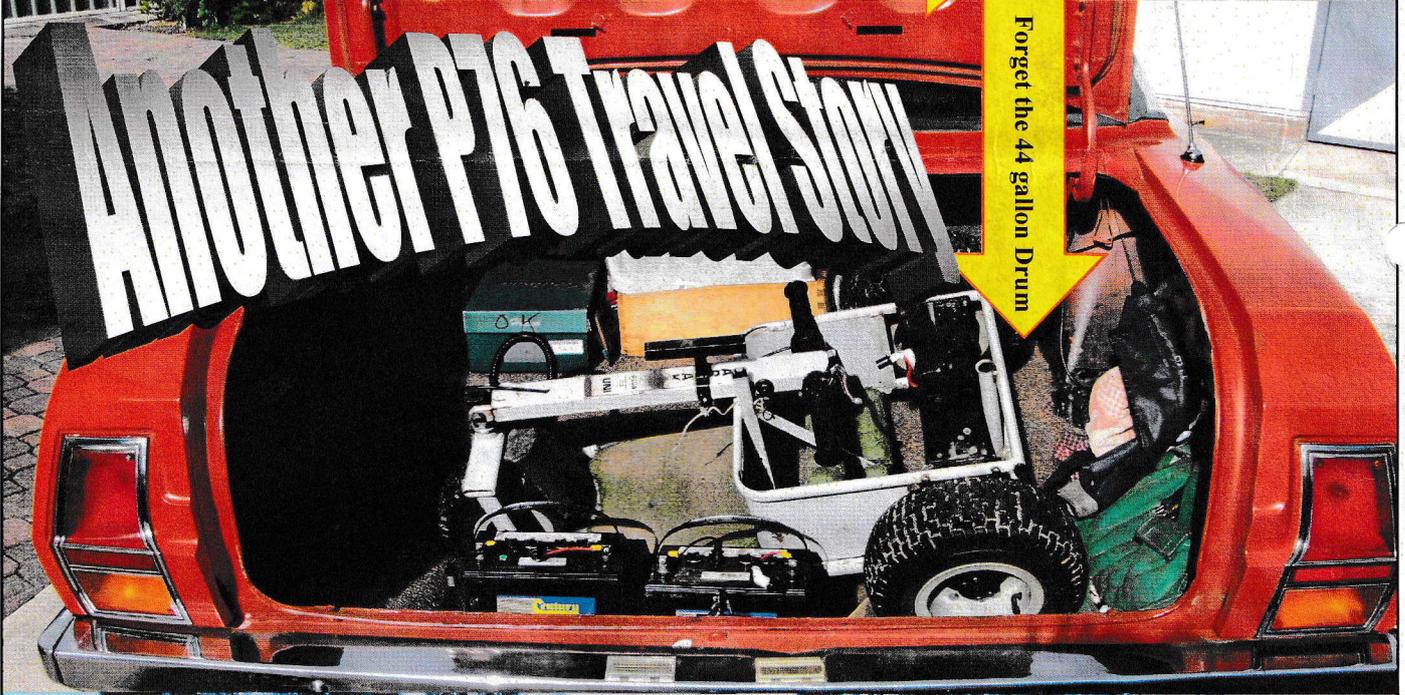


**Flame On**





There is still plenty of space



Forget the 44 gallon Drum



## Another P76 Travel Story

Well after 36 years of owning a P76 I thought a little history might be of some interest.

I purchased the car new after reading Evan Green's praise of the coming of the all Australian car. I waited till the quality of the manufacturer was good and then made the choice between the "P" and the HQ Holden. I chose the "P" as I thought it would best suit towing my caravan, which it did admirably for thousands of miles. I purchased the "P" from Purnell Motors at Arncliffe from whom I bought my Morris Major Elite which gave me great value for many years. What a reliable vehicle it was, I passed it onto my son who used it to go back and forth to university for three years and he passed it onto a friend and I saw it running around town years later.

I took the "P" back to Purnell's because it had a humming through the floor, he got into trouble for spending too much time with me, and still could not locate the problem. I found it to be only when I had the roof racks on. So what do you know? We had some wonderful trips with the van in tow especially Whitsundays, Airlie Beach staying at Shute Harbour Caravan Park.

With the van unoccupied one day we drove into Airlie Beach and parked nose first into the curb overlooking the water and opposite the pub. When attempting to start to go home the starter motor let us down. This turned out to be one of the good things to happen in life in what was to follow. My late son was 14 years at the time and I allowed him to wind up the jack at the side front of the car. I was underneath removing the starter motor when a guy from the pub came running across to admonish me for allowing the boy to take such a risk. I thanked him for his showing concern but then told him about the 3 tonne jack under the engine, great people those banana benders.

Talking about great Queenslanders this young guy auto electrician could not do enough for me. He took the starter and ordered a drive gear from Townsville. It was put on a Greyhound bus and is still travelling around Aussie.

So he tried again whilst rebuilding the field winding, and stealing bits from here and there. Now two weeks of this and we were having a great time on charter boats every day, even a day sailing aboard Gretel, the Sydney to Hobart boat.

What a day that was, there were six very funny Yanks on board and after a great day and coming through the passage a storm broke (what rain) huddled under canvas on deck one of the Yanks had to go to the toilet which was below deck through the galley and situated right up in front of the bow, when he returned with the boat rocking all over the place he was heard to say, "I've had to do some difficult things in my time to do (in his great American accent) but that was something else" (laughter all round).

Meanwhile the auto electrician arrives back at the caravan park with the starter motor and I asked him what was the damage, he said "if I charge what I should I would not sleep again so just give me \$160 and call it quits". (what great people up there)

While on starter motors just unlucky I guess, whilst down at the van site at Gerroa one time, and all packed up and ready to drive home, turned the key and clonk the drive end bracket broke and seized the engine.

No worries up to our friendly servo at Kiama, I shyly asked Fred how much for a new bracket and he replied without even a flinch \$300. I said "no just the bracket not the whole motor", he said abruptly "yes that's the bracket". So a quick phone call to Yallah wreckers and they sent me out an exchange motor for \$120 delivered, say no more. So after many wonderful caravanning trips to just about every wonder spot on the East Coast of Australia.

Just remembered a funny experience whilst staying at Nambucca heads years ago. We went to dinner one night with friends to the Nambucca Golf Club which is situated on an Island joined to the mainland by a causeway. Jean and Mariane tried their luck after eating at

## Continued—Another P76 Travel Story

the pokies whilst Len and I strolled around the golf courses in the twilight.

When we headed back we were stunned to see all these people running out of the club to their cars. When we asked what was wrong they replied "the tied is coming in" "yeah so"? we replied, then the penny dropped.

We raced into the pokies room and yelled to the girls "come on we have to get out of here the tides coming in" "yes" they laughed "go away this machine is paying." We grabbed them both and bolted for the car holding my breath I reluctantly ploughed through two feet of fast flowing water across the causeway to the mainland. I believe the problem has since been solved.

We enjoyed them all especially the one to Phillip Island to see the fairy (sorry) now known as little penguins, just magic to see them at dusk each wave bringing hundreds onto the beach and then see them waddle up the beach and into there burrows.

The P76 has been a big part of our lives and she has served me well. After 250,000 miles and still going well I decided to put an exchange motor in because Fogarty Bros Mortdale only had one left. So we carried on again and I have done about 43000 more miles.

I had a great relationship with Punchbowl auto electricians for many years, Manfred was the man, he was good and tuned my car for years, just great till he accidentally broke his leg and decided to retire.

So I tuned my car by ear from then on and not terribly good I must admit until I bought a timing light, now I get a lot better results.

I have recently bought a new car which does most of the work these days except on golf days.

Having moved into my 82nd year I now drive around the golf course on my golf cart. Enter the P76 up with the boot on the old car and in goes the cart with room for two 47T century deep cycle batteries and there is still room (so there)

Well I hope I have not bored you too much but that's been our journey with our P76.

Jean & Alan Torrance

### **Leyland P76 Book**

The new Leyland P76 book written by Gavin Farmer is now on sale.

Standard edition \$85

Leather Bound edition \$225

Plus postage \$15 per book

Post your cheque to "Ilinga Books" PO Box 323 Bridgewater South Australia 5155

Email. [roadkillgavin@sa.chariot.net.au](mailto:roadkillgavin@sa.chariot.net.au)

## Photo of interest

This photo was taken by Ron Frith's son while working on the docks in Wollongong. The P76 was used to promote the Music Man Band



Smithsonian Institution Washington DC they have in their museum in the section of National Air & Space a mock up of an aircraft carrier quarterdeck of the cutely named 'USS Smithsonian CVM-76'



## National Meeting Update

Our National Meeting is progressing well in regard to the organisation of the Easter Meeting and the application and entry forms have now been sent out. A Friday night fish & chip cruise and a competition at a bowling alley has also been organised. So please return your entry forms as soon as possible and please bring along any of your friends as they too may participate in the many social activities over the weekend and should enjoy all of the car activities. I hope that a large number of NSW members and their friends will participate in this great National Meeting. If you have any enquiries about this event and the activities please don't hesitate to phone me on (02) 9522 6529. Joe Green

## National Meeting 2010

If you are able to write an article either technical or about your P76 please do so and send it onto our National committee for inclusion in the National Magazine. All articles will be edited by the committee.

Now please consider coming along to the National and support the Leyland P76 movement. P76 is a unique classic car and even if you can not bring your vehicle you are very welcome to attend and treat this event as your holiday. Some of the following are **proposed** for the weekend that I am sure you will enjoy.

Observation and picnic run through the picturesque lower Hunter valley including historic township of Morpeth visit a local winery dinner and trivia night at Muree Golf Club, night car cruise, river cruise around Newcastle, Newcastle's working harbour and the Kooragang wetlands, Stockton bridge and the Hunter River, Concourse event, many show cars, also the 1948/1978 Holden central coast car club will meet up and participate with our club over the course of the weekend. Vintage bus ride, presentation dinner in the Hunter room in the Motto Farm Hotel, includes raffles, auctions, music, trivia etc and many free prizes given to entrants. Memorabilia available T-Shirts, badges, key rings, wine, calendar, national magazine, film, video clips about the P76

Joe Green

# Minutes of the Leyland P76 Classic Car Club

held at Sans Souci Literary Institute, Wednesday 20th May 2009.

Joe Green opened the meeting at 8:20pm. Members in attendance as per the attendance book.

**Apologies:** Valda & Don Chappell, Paul van Look, Bev & Ian Lyons, Ron Frith, Tony Brown, Jim Bennett.

**The minutes of the previous meeting** were read and accepted. Moved-Peter O'Brien. Seconded-Steve Maher.

**Business arising from the minutes:**

Those who attended the night at the drive-in reported that it was a great night.

**Treasurer's Report:**

\$3,160.90 in Bank. Statement No. 180 dated 31/03/2009.

\$3,133.40 in Bank. Statement No. 181 dated 30/04/2009.

Income for March/April 2009 - Nil

Outgoings for March 2009 - Nil. April 2009 - Hall Rent \$27.50, Australia Post \$27.50. Total \$55.00.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report: Moved - Kay De Luca. Seconded - Kevin Ward.

**Correspondence in:**

1. WA P76 Club Magazines Westwords April & May 2009.
2. SA P76 Club Magazines April & May 2009.
3. Victoria P76 Club Magazine April 2009.
4. NZ P76 Club Magazine Penzed May 2009.
5. Drive Chatter Magazine March 2009.

**Correspondence Out:** Nil.

Acceptance of correspondence. Moved - Sue Green. Seconded - Troy Green.

**General Business:**

1. Kay De Luca reported on the National Motoring Heritage Day on Sunday 17th May 2009. Our run commenced at Bray's Reserve Rhodes, continued to Taren Point, The National Park, Stanwell Tops, the Sea Cliff Bridge, up Bulli Pass then onto Picton for lunch before returning to Sydney. Many Classic Cars were seen on the day. It was a great outing for the car movement and we all had a great day.
2. Joe Green gave the meeting a detailed report of the Robertson Machinery Day on Easter Sunday. It was a great day and well worth members attending next year.
3. Peter O'Brien reported on the Jazz Festival at Thredbo on 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> May. As per past years it was an excellent time. The weather, music & company were great.
4. Kay & Tony De Luca gave a brief update on Shannon's Eastern Creek Display Day. Areas A, B & C are now full. The response so far has been fantastic.
5. Peter O'Brien suggested to the meeting that we charge a \$3 fee for the supper to raise money for the club. This was accepted.
6. Joe Green wished Peter O'Brien on behalf of the club best wishes for his upcoming operation.

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm followed by supper.