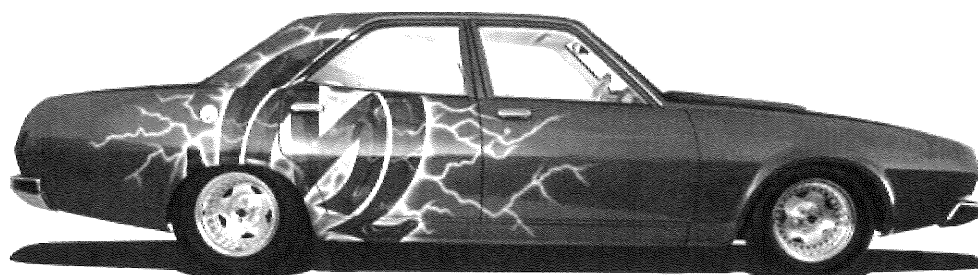


WESTWORDS

VOLUME 14 FEBRUARY 2011 ISSUE: 20



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE LEYLAND P76 OWNERS CLUB OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION) Inc
Leyland P76

LEYLAND P76 OWNERS CLUB OF AUSTRALIA (WA DIVISION) Inc.

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Websites: <http://www.p76leyland.com>

<http://www.leylandp76.com/jameswa.html>

General Meetings are held on the last Tuesday evening of every month at 7.30 PM (unless otherwise notified). The Meetings are held at the Kenwick Community Hall

The AGM is held in July. For dates of club meetings and events, refer to the Coming Events section of this Newsletter.

Committee Members 2010-2011

<i>President:</i>	James Mentiplay	0412 105 982
<i>Vice President:</i>	Andrew Mentiplay	9397 0528
<i>Secretary:</i>	Adam Woodward	0439 492 743
<i>Treasurer:</i>	Mick le-Cocq	0414 731 535
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Disclaimer: In regard to products, services and/or procedures which are either advertised or mentioned in the editorial content of this magazine, members should determine for themselves the reliability and/or suitability for their own particular requirements.

The Leyland P76 Owners Club of Australia (WA Division) Incorporated cannot accept responsibility for any product or service statement made herein and the opinions or comments from any contributor are not necessarily those of the club, the committee, the members or the editor.

Cover picture: Promo P76 Street Machine for Middendorp Electric Co. Pty Ltd (*by permission*)

EDITOR'S CORNER:

The P76 does have a happy knack of turning up in the most unexpected circumstances. James Mentiplay had forwarded an email that had originated from a Mr Brian Carte, containing a number of pictures of a stunning P76 done up as a street machine and used for promotional purposes by Middendorp Electric Co Pty Ltd, a national company headquartered in Victoria, and better known as Middy's. As I was keen to get some more detail about the vehicle, I made an online enquiry and received a reply from Rick Brain, Manager, Southern Metro (Melbourne). As a result, we have been able to include a brief feature article and some pictures of this remarkable vehicle in this issue of *WestWords*. A visit to www.middys.com.au is truly worthwhile as it contains a video presentation of how the car was transformed from a fairly ordinary vehicle to the magnificent hot rod that would bring on an adrenaline rush to any petrol-head lucky enough to get behind the wheel. I have included Rick's email as a letter to the Editor on page 3.—Ed.

Coming Events

General Club Meeting, Tuesday 22 February 2011 at 7.30pm, Kenwick Community Centre, cnr Kenwick Road & Brixton Street, Kenwick.

Northam Flying 50, Sunday 3 April, 2011. See details in letter of invitation from The Vintage Sports Car Club of WA (Inc) on page 4.

All Australian Car Day VIII, Sunday 10 April 2011, Waroona. See details in box below.

Classic Car Show, Sunday 20 March 2011, Whiteman Park.

British Car Day & National Motoring Heritage Day, Sunday 8 May 2011, Gingin.

Maurice Brockwell Run, Sunday 13 November 2011. Cannington Town Hall to Whiteman Park.

Easter 2012 (April 22-25) P76 Nationals - more details to follow.

“All Australian Car Day VIII”
Sunday 10th April 2011
10am to 4pm
Waroona Town Oval
Huge Classic Display
Featuring: Chrysler Charger 40th Anniversary
Quality Market, Kids Fun & Games
Outdoor Variety Show, Wine & Gourmet Expo.
FREE ENTRY
Ph/Fx: (08) 9586 1010; Email: ter.syl@bigpond.com
www.eventassist.org.au

Note: Club meeting minutes not yet available for inclusion.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(Received as an email on 24/12/10)

Sam

Information you were looking for is now on our Web Site www.middys.com.au

Go to site click on promotions then Middys P76 and scroll up this will give a brief history, then engine info and then a DVD of before and after.

I am led to believe you can lift info from this, Any questions please email or call. You may have other ideas for us to do with P76.and Web Site.

I have entered it in Melbourne VHRA hot rod show in Jan at Royal Exhibition buildings in Melbourne (waiting on entry tickets) to create some interest.

Rick Brain

Regards

Rick Brain - Southern Metro

Middendorp Electric Co. P/L

MIDDY'S PROMO P76 HOT ROD



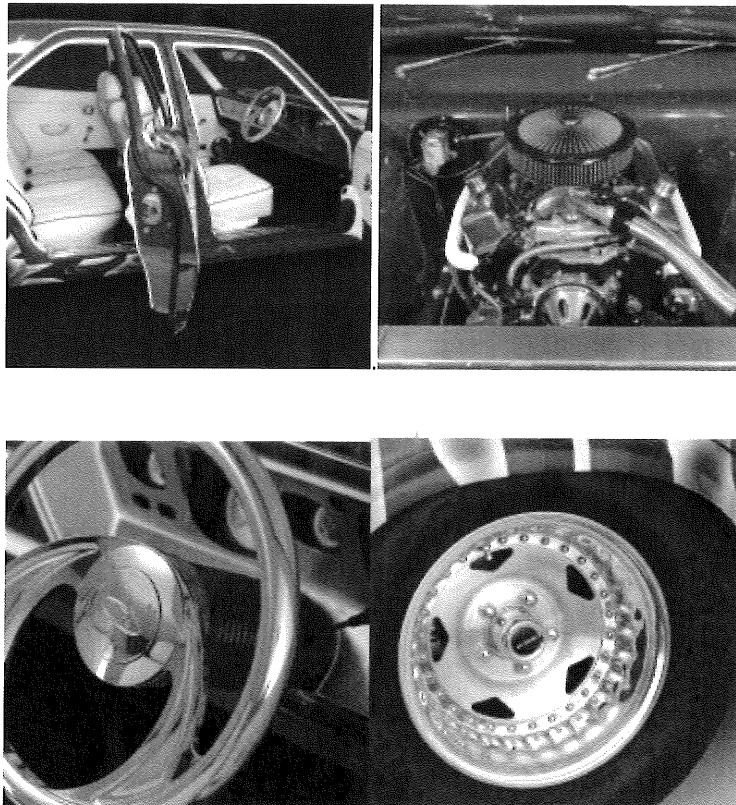
The Middy's P76 promotional vehicle has recently undergone a full ground up restoration, and we now bring you the fully loaded, fire breathing 2010 Middy's P76. The Leyland P76 has its roots as one of the few 100% Australian designed and manufactured vehicles, featuring amongst many other technical innovations an all alloy V8 engine option, and the ability to fit a 44 gallon drum in its boot. When launched in 1973 the P76 won Wheels car of the Year. The P76 was manufactured in Sydney and knock down kits were exported for sale to NZ.



In keeping with Middy's tradition of supporting Australian industry and endeavour, director Hugh Middendorp purchased a number of vehicles for you use as Sales Rep's Cars. The massive boot storage was ideal for this purpose. The vehicles came and went, and indeed the fuel crisis of the late 1970's and some infamous build quality issues saw the P76 meet it's untimely demise after only a couple of years. However Its uniqueness has seen it establish a place for itself in Australia's automotive history and P76's are now rare and increasingly collectible.

In Sept 1995 director Nicholas Middendorp was purchasing company vehicles when a P76 was spotted in the auction house. A touch of nostalgia was triggered by the lot vehicle being pink, and memories of the early 70's Middy's fleet resulted in the purchase of one slightly used P76 for the princely sum of \$1,400. A semi restoration was immediately undertaken and the vehicle was decked out in Middy's livery and used for promotional purposes. It appeared frequently at promotional events throughout this period, but over the years signs of increasing wear and tear became evident.

Hence it was resolved in 2007 to undertake a full nuts and bolts ground up restoration and customisation, Now, after a three year project... we bring you the fully loaded, fire breathing 2010 version Middy's P76.... resplendent with airbrushed design and custom paintwork. Middy's are proud to have bought this specimen back to life as a sparkling customised Street Machine. The P76 will be touring in the future at a branch or event near you



Have Your *WestWords* Emailed!

The advantages of email copies are: (1) Faster delivery; (2) Full colour of all pictures; (3) Secure storage of copies in computer hard drive and/or flash drive; (4) Environmentally friendly; (5) Ability to share magazine with friends as potential new members; (6) Release of Club resources to fund other services.

Your co-operation in this regard would be much appreciated. Simply send your email address to the Editor: samurai2@westnet.com.au

It is understood that some members do not have online access and will continue to require hard copies sent by ordinary mail.

Contributions to *WestWords*

Contributions are always welcome to enhance the interest and appeal of the club magazine. These can include letters to the editor, technical hints and queries, historical anecdotes, motoring adventures, restoration tales, unique or special-interest P76s with stories of how they came to be. Members with future or ongoing projects are encouraged to keep *WestWords* posted regarding progress.

Where possible, contributions should be in electronic form, via email to samurai2@westnet.com.au, on flash drive or even on old-fashioned floppy disc. This reduces the need to scan hard copies, reduces the byte-size of the magazine and makes for easier emailing.

NOTE: A number of member email addresses need to be updated on the Club email register. A number of email messages are being returned to the Editor as undeliverable. If you are missing out on your emailed copy of *WestWords* please send your correct email address to samurai2@westnet.com.au.

Moments in History

The following item is taken from the online archives of the Australian League of Rights and was a 1974 commentary on a news report that appeared in The Australian on 9 March of that year. It makes interesting reading in view of the fact that Leyland Australia ceased major manufacturing operations before the year ended. It also raises the question: Was the "Filipino Affair" a contributing factor in the decision to pull the plug.—Ed.

'FILIPINO FUSS BRINGS IN A.C.T.U.

"The A.C.T.U. executive yesterday effectively blocked the Federal Governments plan to allow Filipino migrants into Australia to work for the Leyland Motor Corporation."
- *The Australian*, March 9th.

Perhaps the British Leyland Motor Corporation is sorry it ever started this move to have Filipino motor industry workers admitted into Australia. It is only a few days ago since Mr. Peter North, Leyland 's managing director, was declaring that the 35 Filipino workers were to be part of a pilot scheme only, and he was quoted as thinking in terms of one thousand Filipino tradesmen. Leyland did receive many hundreds of letters of protest from all over Australia - Mr. North, not unnaturally didn't like this very much, especially as the writers were reported as having the intention to stop buying Leyland products. Which is a very effective method of making your point!

We can well imagine that many letters, cables, and even phone calls were transmitted between Sydney (Leyland H.Q. in Australia) and the U.K. Headquarters. Although we have not made an issue of the "Filipino Affair" we express the opinion that Leyland Motors was politically ingenuous, insensitive, to start meddling with an issue which would involve it, boots and all, in Australia's Immigration policy. We would not be at all surprised if Mr. North had some pretty fast talking to do to his chiefs in Britain. Perhaps the Leyland Motor Corporation was "put up" to this move by a person or persons, in Canberra with a view to using the Filipinos as a wedge to prise wide-open the Immigration door; this wouldn't surprise us either!

Now fingers have been burned, and a Leyland spokesman. Mr. John Pola, as reported in *The Australian* (March 9th) says that the Company may now drop the scheme because of the "fuss" it has created. A man in Mr. North's position should have known that from the outset, and if he isn't in touch with the thinking of the man in the street in Australia it could be debated whether or not he is really equipped to hold down the Company's top job in Australia. But that's the concern and problem of Leyland (U.K.)

Now the unions have bought in to the row, and the Vehicle Builders Union and the Amalgamated Metal Workers' Union are at odds over the matter. Mr. Hawke is to see Mr. Whitlam over the affair (which we suspect will not displease Mr. Hawke) and the *Melbourne Age* is lamenting that the ghost of racism is again stalking the land. Where will it end? British Leyland Motors and Mr. Peter North will be more careful next time!

--oOo--

AN INVITATION TO MEMBERS

As most members miss out of Club meets and thereby do not get the opportunity to get to know each other, the editor of *WestWords* would like to extend an invitation to all members to submit an article telling the story of their current or favourite P76. Pictures of the car (and the club member) would be most welcome. If enough submissions are received it may be possible to run two or three stories in each issue of *WestWords*.

The series could run under a suitable general heading such as: *Members and Their P's* or *Club Cars and their Owners*.

Stories could include known histories of vehicles, restoration work done, modifications carried out, memorable journeys undertaken, participation in motoring events, or even adventurous incidents.

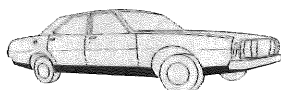
The most impressive pictures of cars could be selected for inclusion on the front cover of *WestWords*.

Articles need not be longer than one or two pages in length, including pictures.

Emailed submissions will be the most suitable as these can be easily converted into Word documents with accompanying pictures inserted

However, members without email access are welcome to submit items by ordinary mail to the Club postal address shown on pp 1 and 8. So, get to it guys!—Ed.

RETURN ADDRESS: PO BOX 507 KWINANA W.A. 6167



LEYLAND P76 Owners Club of Australia (WA Division) Inc.

CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

Please notify the Editor.
Contact details inside.

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QLD 4152**

ADOPTED
& ADORER 60c

Daisy

