

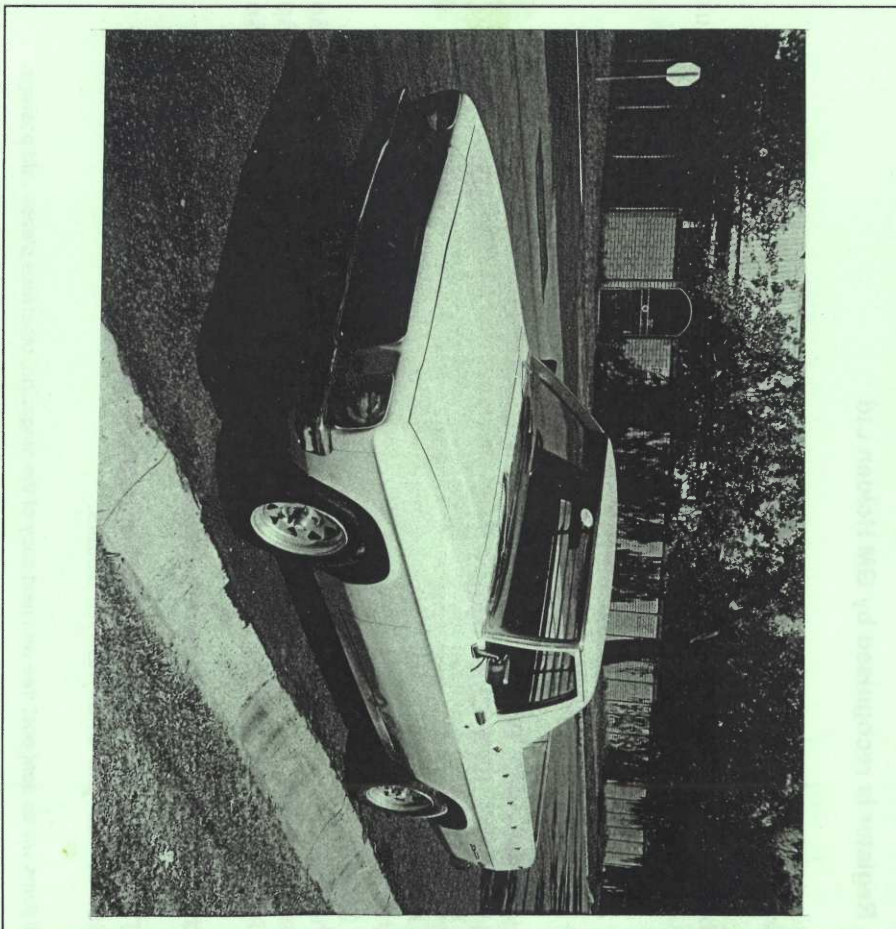
A Car to Die For

Darran Maloney is, by his own admission, a better District Aftersales Manager than photographer but he does have an eye for the unusual. During a recent visit to a dealership in Orange, NSW, Darran happened upon this WM Caprice sedan with fabricated extension to create a hearse.

"It was the best conversion I've ever seen. Unbelievable and good to see that Orange Funeral Services has retained the normal seating capacity," Darran said.



Modified WM Caprice hearse



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All cheques payable to Holden UK Register. (In Sterling)

NOTE: Equivalent amounts in AU\$ or payment via PayPal can be accepted. Please contact the Chairman for details.

Small items will be sent post free with next copy of the magazine, otherwise please add postage.



Hi all,

Happy New Year to you all.

As I write this we are experiencing a bit of a cold snap, with daytime temperatures below freezing. So I hope you are keeping your cars well wrapped up at night and taking it easy on the icy roads.



If you feel like a run out, remember that there is the Australia Day event at the Ace Café in north London on the 25th January. I am hoping to get there this year after missing the last years event due to illness.

You may have noticed the addition of some 'notes pages' in the last edition of our magazine. I am afraid that this was actually the result of a mis-count in the number of pages, which was discovered too late to rectify. Our apologies.

Regards

Ken

I am sure you have been following the drama of the bailout of the major car manufacturers in the USA. Everything seems stable now, so hopefully Holden will be able to continue building and exporting its wide range of vehicles.



HOLDEN

GM Holden Corporate Affairs
www.media.holden.com.au

6 January 2009

COMMODORE MARKS 13 YEARS AS AUSTRALIA'S TOP SELLING CAR

The Holden Commodore is Australia's favourite passenger car for the 13th consecutive year after finishing 2008 as the nation's best-seller.

The result continues Commodore's unbroken record from 1996 as the country's leading passenger car range, extending its run as one of the modern automotive world's longest consecutive market leadership records.

Sales figures for 2008 released today by the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries show Australians purchased a total of 51,093 vehicles from the VE Commodore range.

The results follow GM Holden's strong sales performance in December, which saw dealers defy difficult economic conditions, new competitive entrants and heavy price competition in the market to sell 10,848 new cars.

This included the sale of 5413 Commodore and 1629 VE Ute models, the highest monthly sales volume for both vehicles in 2008.

In total, GM Holden sold 130,338 vehicles in Australia for 2008 delivering market share of 12.9 per cent.

GM Holden registered the second highest sales overall to Toyota with 238,983 sales and 23.6 per cent, and was ahead of Ford with 104,715 sales and 10.3 per cent.

In a year where Commodore celebrated 30 years on Australian roads, its annual sales were boosted by the introduction of the all-new Sportwagon alongside the successful sedan range in July.

Sportwagon immediately proved a popular choice with Australian motorists. A total of 8200 were purchased in just five months, more than any SUV in the market for the same period.

Other strong performing GM Holden models in 2008 included the Statesman which led the Upper Large category for vehicles under \$100,000 with a 38.8 per cent market share.

The VE Ute also enjoyed success in its first full year of sales, outselling its main rival the Ford Falcon Ute with 13,449 vehicles.

New 2008 models including the Captiva 2WD SUV and mid-sized Epica diesel also demonstrated an improved sales performance towards the end of 2008.

GM Holden Executive Director of Sales, Marketing and After-sales, Mr Alan Batey said Holden's sales results demonstrated that family-sized vehicles continued to be attractive to Australians.

He said the results indicated that Commodore remained a smart buy, particularly at a time when many customers were concerned about domestic and global economic conditions.

"The automotive industry was not alone in feeling the pressure of the broader economic situation in 2008," Mr Batey said.

"However the results for Commodore were very pleasing despite the softening new car market and slowing Australian economy."

"It just shows that during tough times, people are attracted to products that represent outstanding quality and value for money."

"Commodore has become a symbol of local design and engineering expertise and Australia's ability to compete on the world stage."

"Holden is committed to a program of ongoing development to ensure Commodore maintains its reputation as a smart buy for Australian motorists."

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