

# HOLDEN TORQUE



Magazine of the Holden Sporting Car Club of Victoria

March 2024

Photographs below –  
Motorkhana at Werribee on 18<sup>th</sup> of February



## What's new in this edition?

Magazine Editors Report

Prez Sez (Bruce)

Holden HK Monaro / GTS 327 Coupe retrospective from member –  
Peter Stewart

Thomas's Day out All Holdens Day at Greaves Reserve Dandenong

# HOLDEN TORQUE - March 2024

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### Our valued sponsors



### Next Club Event

#### Magazine

Articles and advertisements to be published in the magazine can be submitted via e-mail to the Editor at [editor@holdenclub.com](mailto:editor@holdenclub.com). Microsoft Word format is preferred for text, pictures as jpg (no larger than 1200x900).

Each months items must be received before print night (refer Calendar). Quarter page ads are free to members.

Advertising is otherwise charged at \$10 - quarter page, \$20 - half page, \$35 - full page per edition

#### Website

Why not visit our website? Find us at: [www.holdenclub.com](http://www.holdenclub.com) for more information on the club or up to date information on our various events.

### Club Meetings

Refer to Calendar for next club meeting. All members, friends and new visitors are very welcome.

### Correspondence

All should be addressed to:	Po Box 2 Dromana Victoria 3936
or via email to:	<a href="mailto:secretary@holdenclub.com">secretary@holdenclub.com</a>

### Disclaimer

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### Magazine Editors Report

Hello all, happy belated new year! (Can't believe we're now into March)

Since last updates, Mum's health is still not perfect but she is generally in a good space, my new job is going well, however long story short it's not the same job as the one I spoke about in the November edition, however it's exciting, challenging yet rewarding work working as a network Infrastructure engineer (APAC) for a cold Storage and Logistics company called Lineage Logistics based at Laverton North. [Click link here](#) if you want to learn more.

I will repeat my previous comments from November which is... Please remember this is **YOUR** magazine and the quality and success of it is due in part to the contribution from our members. This could take many forms such as writing up an update on one of your restoration projects, writing out a recent trip away where you saw something interesting, e.g. A Holden in an unusual place overseas or anything you might think would be good content for our magazine, please drop me an email to [editor@holdenclub.com](mailto:editor@holdenclub.com).

Kind Regards,

Thomas Clayton

# HOLDEN TORQUE - March 2024

## Prez Sez - March 2024

Hi everyone and welcome to our first magazine for 2024.

I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year

This committee has already had a meeting and have put a few events in place for your enjoyment this year.

I'm sure you've heard about the closure of the Holden Museum in Echuca, so we have decided to visit the museum before it closes forever on Saturday March 23rd. This will be our first event for 2024. We will meet at BP Calder Park and cruise up to the museum. After your visit, if you want, you can stay overnight and enjoy the sights of Echuca or head back home.

A flyer has been sent out and is also on our Facebook event page with the full details.

I hope you can come and see this great museum full of Holden memorabilia and cars before it closes.

HSCCV have run the first round of the Group 5 non speed at Werribee on 18<sup>th</sup> Feb. 21 entries had fun running around doing head to head tests with lots of dust. Darren ran the sausage sizzle and cold drinks. He was very popular. Kris brought along a generator and TV so we could keep track of the Bathurst 12 hour race. We trialled a mobile payment for entries and food and drinks which worked well.

Thanks to Richard W, Richard A, Pete, Darren and Kris for their help.



Our AGM is coming up in April on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>. This year we are holding the AGM at Darrens business, Darrens Mufflers in Rosebud. The club will put on a BBQ and soft drinks for you to enjoy before we have the AGM.

We would love to see some new “blood” on the committee If you would like to come on board and help move YOUR CLUB forward, please consider a position.

There has been some changes in my fleet of toys lately. My 2001 Mustang Cobra convertible is now living in the country being purchased by fellow member Kim McConchie. This has made a space in the garage. The space is now filled with a 1988 E30 BMW 325i convertible. This car was part of Ron Klien’s collection and was a favourite of his. Ron’s wife Judy has been slowly selling the collection and my wife Leanne and I were quite taken with the car so we did a deal, but I had to wait until there was space in my garage before I could bring the Beemer home. It is a great little fun car to drive and I’m finding 35 year old European electrics can be a bit quirky, but I like it.



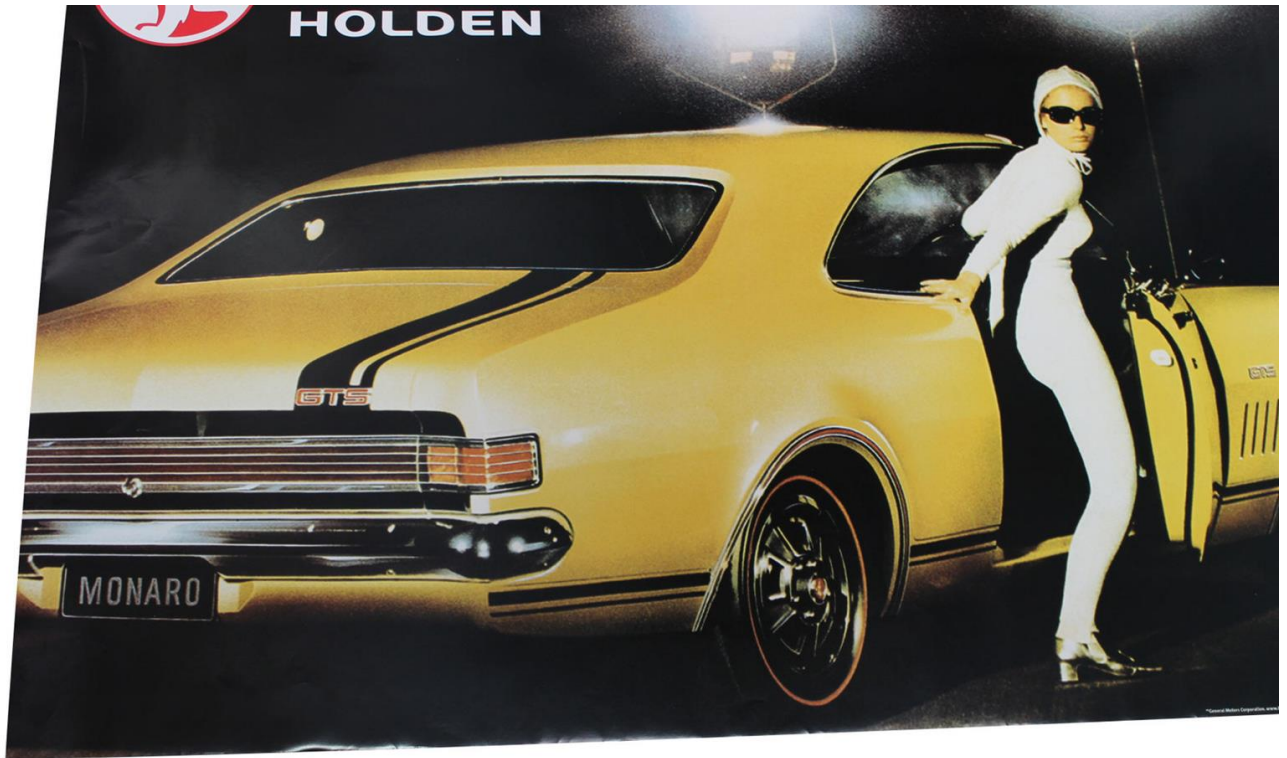
Hope to catch up with you all at either Echuca run or AGM.

Cheers Bruce



## HOLDEN TORQUE - March 2024

HK Holden Monaro / GTS 327 Coupe Retrospective by member Peter Stewart  
member #904 (former Graphic Designer at GMH Holden)



Holden HK Monaro / GTS 327 Coupe, a car of the times, and  
Launched July 1968

For me, I had just started work in the Graphic Arts Industry as an apprentice and I was about to be given my first real job to 'work on'. No more apprentice practice stuff. It was my first real project for the company; and it was **'that poster'**.

I had never seen a car with so many colours on it.  
It was bright yellow.  
It had a black racing stripe over the body.  
It had red pin stripes in the mouldings around the wheel arches.  
Even the tyres had red lines around them, and tough looking 'hubcaps', and then there was the magnificent 'crossed flags' of the badge and wait, there's more, that woman in the cat suit...it just got better and better.

The artwork for the poster was actually delivered to me by armed security guards.

Up until this time, there had only been the EH's, the HD 'X2's and HR 186S', which were exciting cars in their own styles, but now there was a V8 327 cid version Holden in the stables.

Actually, the 'horse had now bolted' from the stables', performance cars in Australia would never be the same again.

It was their most ambitious project yet; it offered choices, the 6 cylinder range, which included the 161 CI, (2.05Litre), 186 CI, 186s (3.05 Litre), and the fully imported Chevrolet 327 CI V8 engine, (5.3 Litre).

Safety features now included in all models were, an energy absorbing steering column, and a dual circuit breaking system.

And there was a choice of 3-speed manual, 4-speed manual, and a 2 speed Powerglide automatic transmission.

Top speeds were:

1st gear 45 mph ( 74.1 kmh)

2nd gear 68 mph (109.5 kmh)

3rd gear 83 mph (133.6 kmh)

4th gear 115 mph (185.1 kmh)

The price of this Monaro GTS 327 was \$3,790.

The base model Belmont being \$2,215

What was happening in these times?

We listened to songs like, Hello Goodbye (Beatles) 'Sadie the Cleaning Lady' (Johnny Farnham), 'Day dream Believer' (Monkees) 'The Rain the Park and other things' (The Cowsills) Who?, The Beatles - yes, Farnham - definitely not!

The films we watched were, 'You Only live twice' (Sean Connery), 'Camelot', (Richard Harris),

'They're a weird mob, (Walter Chiari, Chips Rafferty),

'Dr. Zhivago', (Omar Sharif).

The Seekers were named "Australians of the Year", an unmanned U.S. space craft named 'Surveyor' 'soft lands' on the moon. and the Viet cong launch the Tet Offensive, the 'Beatles' record Lady Madonna, and then fly off to India to study transcendental meditation.

What made 'world news? **'The 'London to Sydney Marathon Car Race'** did,

It is run and won by...wait for it,... a Hillman Hunter, ...wait, what?

Two Monaros were entered, and came in 12th and 14th. Hmmm. obviously handicapped by being unable to perform strange European practices - like

"handling" and "braking"

Motoring highlights were:

Young Aussie racing drivers, Greg Cuscack, Leo Geoghegan, Kevin Bartlett, John Harvey, they were tipped to be stars of the future by the local motoring press.

The Bathurst 'Hardy Ferodo 500' 1968.

Holden Monaro 327,  
1st, 2nd, and 3rd.

Well done Australia...



## HOLDEN TORQUE - March 2024

### Upcoming Birthdays:

Member Name	Date
Fiore Nicolazzo #1731	15 <sup>th</sup> March
Geoffrey Lowe #1722	17 <sup>th</sup> March
Rene Bekkers #1396	30 <sup>th</sup> March
Andrew Sakeson #1504	1 <sup>st</sup> April
Jeff Gale #1697	9 <sup>th</sup> April
Gordon Haley #1080	21 <sup>st</sup> April
Chantelle McConchie #696	21 <sup>st</sup> April
Kelly Barrett #1731	23 <sup>rd</sup> April
Frank Grant #2	25 <sup>th</sup> April
Brian Robinson #582	29 <sup>th</sup> April



## Holden Sporting Car Club of Victoria

### Membership Application / Renewal Form

Holden Sporting Car Club of Victoria Inc. PO Box 2, Dromana, Victoria 3936

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional members: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Mobile \_\_\_\_\_ A.H \_\_\_\_\_ B.H \_\_\_\_\_

Email : \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth : \_\_\_\_\_

Additional members : \_\_\_\_\_

Main Vehicle : \_\_\_\_\_ Registration : \_\_\_\_\_

Membership No.(s) \_\_\_\_\_ New member introduced by : \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in  Motorkhana  Race  Rally Sprints  Hillclimb  Social Events

I hereby certify that I will abide by the rules and regulations of the Holden Sporting Car Club of Victoria Inc. and also the National Competition Rules of Motorsport Australia with which this car club is affiliated.

Signed : \_\_\_\_\_ Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Membership fees	Single	\$60.00 full year
	Family	\$80.00 full year (must be living in the same household)
	Under 18	\$30.00 full year
	Associate	\$30.00 full year (Bona fide members of non CAMS affiliated car clubs only. Proof of membership required.)

Membership runs for 12 months from the anniversary of joining HSCCV.

Payments Cash

Cheque payable to 'Holden Sporting Car Club of Victoria'

Direct deposit to HSCCV account, ANZ BSB 013-250, Acc. No. 1016-73941

Paypal - treasurer@holdenclub.com or QR code

Please return completed form (with cheque or EFT receipt if applicable) to:

The Membership Secretary, HSCCV Inc.

PO Box 2, Dromana, Victoria 3936

or email to membership@holdenclub.com

Office use only - Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

- New member No. \_\_\_\_\_



## HOLDEN TORQUE - March 2024

Thomas Clayton's day out at All Holdens Day Greaves Reserve Dandenong – 10<sup>th</sup> March

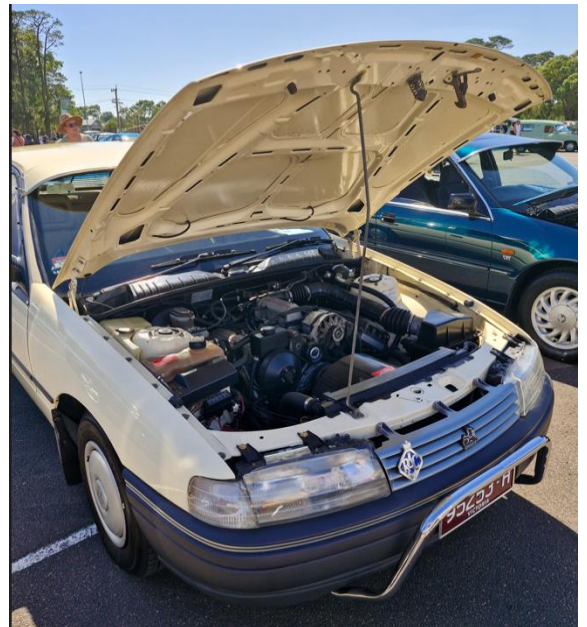
Having missed a few of these since that unfortunate pause to our lives known as Covid (amongst other things) I was very pleased to revisit one of my favorite events on the car enthusiasts calendar, an All Holdens Day!

I arrived there at 7:30 AM to get my car into the show (my 2008 HSV Grange) and left at 1:30PM (many others had similar ideas) after I had enough of the heat and saw the crowds starting to thin out.

Despite the scorching 36 degree weather keeping away some of the usual attendees in older cars there was still an excellent variety of Holdens classic and modern to please all tastes.

As every year passes on since 2017 the death of automotive manufacturing in Australia, I find my tastes getting mellower and more appreciative not just of Holden's "hero" models but also the more everyday models that at the time might have been overlooked or considered unworthy of restoration or preservation depending on your age or nameplate preference.

I might have said in the past it took being given a VF SV6 Sportwagon to shatter my stubbornly ignorant views of Holden Commodore being a car worthy of consideration after basing my opinion on two rough models and some unsavoury bogans that tarnished the nameplate. Nowadays I am appreciative and grateful that at car shows there are so many passionate car enthusiasts who see beauty not just in the sexy high performance models but also what some might think as unexceptional depending on your point of view. At the end of the day its all Australian automotive history no matter what the car or what our preferences or taste is.



For example the humble base model VN Commodore Executive in ivory beige, with a rarely optioned 5 speed manual, tachometer and sunvisor and an unbelievably low 68,000 KMs that belonged to an elderly gentleman who I believe might have worked for GMH in the day, that sat for 15 years until his passing but somehow survived undamaged from a collapsed plaster ceiling. The owners father had a base model VS Executive that was optioned up with a velour cloth upholstery looked really cool against it's older brother the VN Executive.



Sadly it seems that no car is immune to would be thieves and the owner reports he has had to beef up security at home and even put a satellite tracker in his VN to keep it safe (something I can personally relate to having gone through similar in the last 12 months).

I can personally recommend a brand called Solid GPS which you can google for details on if you would like, something that will alert you if your car unexpectedly leaves a set home address on your mobile and tracks its movements so you can hopefully recover it before it meets an unknown fate.

After getting bored with the current trend of cars all becoming “Iphones” on wheels without traditional knobs for controls for Radio, heating, cooling, etc. it’s always refreshing to see old school analogue cars.

Another blast from the past was a beautifully preserved time capsule Turbo VL Commodore with RTA (Road Traffic Authority) livery computer with lights, sirens and even radar gun! (wonder if the speedometer was officially calibrated?)



Another standout was “gangster” style EH Holden with chopped roofline (no it was not a rollover remake)



Another awesome EH as a wagon with Venetians







Another Holden (rebadged Nissan Pulsar courtesy of the Button Government plan) that looked really well preserved with it's Holden family two engine (also exported to Europe for Opel cars).



With

Nissan's factory at the time being based in Clayton Victoria (where HSV was) and Holden having their Dandenong South plant where did the actual assembly work for the Astra take place I wonder?



Even our friend with his VE SS Commodore that has attended our last two Motorkhana events was there!



And just when you thought things could not more oddball or more interesting how about a 2 door Monaro coupe with a WB Statesman



front end and rear end! Unfortunately I did not get to get a side photo but you should be able to make out the iconic rear wrap around windshield in the RHS photo.



Called the "shark" here is someone's take on a two door Sandman panel van using a converted VY / VZ wagon!



Last but not least here is what an OEM quality re-upholstery job can do on a VF SS Sportswagon that even sports a manual gearbox! (never offered by Holden in VE / VF series unless you ordered a HSV Clubsport R8 Tourer)





