

# All Aussie Car Day

## 2022

by Rob Jones



*Seen by many members on the odd occasion but here together again, the Leyland P76 6cyl twins of Andrew and Debbie Larsen and Rob and Sonya Jones.*

Yes, it went ahead albeit with a depleted P76 presence! The three P76's being the Larsen B as B 6 cyl Deluxe auto, the Jones AEB 6 cyl Deluxe manual and the newly refurbished and pretty flash looking TFR of Ron Butler, ably supported by Pete and Jess and the kids (XR8) and Ray Buddle

with Ron and John Wilson with me. Andrew bravely forwent his Maserati to bring the Leyland to the show. It has to be said the visitors "show" is growing in popularity, however, the Aussie side of things continues to impress in variety, number, and technical innovation. What some of these guys achieve with their cars is astonishing, but then I guess there is a big aftermarket shop available to the Big 3. Moreso than for P76.

Anyway, there were 479 registered cars and as mentioned previously the sponsorship was incredible. Ruffled on the day if you could wait long enough to get to the tickets were a \$3000 Go kart and a \$900 toolbox along with a myriad of spot prizes. I got one, Pete got one and an agitated Ron had to wait to win the very last one! A series of photos will follow but as always, the three P's attracted heaps of attention, the 44 gallon drum in the boot still bringing in unbelieving people, and I hope to have sold some of the spare bucket seats I have at home to improve the lot of a Ford owner. They do take up a lot of space!

The new beneficiary, I Am Hope, a youth and community support group benefitted by \$9500 raised on the day through sponsorship and entry fees. Great effort for a good cause.

However, there did come a downside for us. For the second time in a few years now the Best Leyland in Show award went to a Mini, a nice Mini bought by a lady as a Christmas present for her partner so she could watch her rather tall partner climb in and out of it! This she told me herself. Someone was bloody annoyed to say the least and while we know Leyland Australia built Mini's and all sorts of other wonderful cars, I think it fair to say that in a "competition" like this most people would expect a P76 to compete with the Big 3, but it wasn't to be. I suppose the others built some sort of small car to complement their big range like Escorts and maybe HC type Torana's but somehow, I don't think they'd be beating out the Falcons and various Holdens. Can't comment on small Valiant models other than maybe early Mitsi's and I couldn't see that happening there either. And it wasn't like we didn't have a couple of good cars there, one in particular. Must be in the eyes of the judges! So here is said Mini below. I've no idea if it's an Aussie Mini or not but one must trust the entrant, I guess.

And Ron's tent served us and others very well. An old bloke named Arnie rested with us for several minutes before finally collapsing in the heat, we presumed. Recovery wasn't happening so an ambulance was called while he was looked after by a passing nurse. After about 30/40 minutes the colourful Mercedes arrived, and Arnie was taken to hospital. Thanks to the nurse, P76 people who assisted and the marshals who kept us informed of progress and cleared a path for the paramedics.

Later at the prizegiving a woman succumbed to the heat (it was a hot day) and here comes the nurse again. People came with umbrellas and ice packs from chilli bins but the final great play was four guys from a nearby car display, who carried their gazebo to the spot covering all the necessary folk in shade, to a huge round of applause from the crowd.

Now to that Mini and a few others, a sweet unadorned 1972 Torana GTR XU1, a 1974 Ford Landau Coupe delicately supercharged and a gloriously big 1972 Valiant Regal Coupe.



*1972 Valiant Regal Coupe, a beautiful big car, one of several there.*



*The Ford Landau Coupe from 1974 sporting a huge supercharger. I didn't know Ford produced a Landau to match the luxury sedan of old.*



*The Holden Torana GTR XU1, unadorned just as it left the factory.*

The Mini, the Torana, the Landau Coupe, who knew they built these? And the Valiant Coupe, one of several there. The visitor's carpark included a beautiful 1936 Mercedes Benz roadster replica and equally stunning in a similar red, a 1959 Chevrolet Bel Air along with all sorts of other modern Ford, Chrysler, and Chev offerings, vintage tin, hot rods, pick ups and almost anything else you could think of including European cars.



*If you like these old Chevrolet's like I do a red 59 Bel Air can't be too bad to look at either. Love those wheels.*



*A beautiful engine bay in a 1975 VK Charger E57 showing off the 360ci V8 to brilliant effect.*



*A stunning visitor, the 1936 Mercedes Benz replica, I hope it is anyway! Positively glistening in the sun.*



*The winner of Best Leyland in Show!*



*These are the P76's of President Andrew Larsen, Editor Rob Jones and member Ron Butler as seen on the last cover of Penzed, and here he is again.*