

CARTALK

MM's lively column of motoring comment



LEYLAND WAKE

LEYLAND Australia put on a full funeral ceremony to mark the moment the last MGB came off the production line at their Waterloo plant. The car — driven by the State Minister for Child Welfare and Social Services, Mr Waddy — was suitably draped in black for

the occasion. Mr Waddy has owned at least four MGBs. The car led to a parade which included a TC, two TF's and a collection of other MGs. Several hundred people attended the "wake", including a number of people who have achieved racing fame in the seats of the MG marque.

NEW VOLVO SHOWROOM

SCUDERIA Veloce Motors — Australia's top Volvo dealer — has moved into another new showroom, this time in Sydney Rd., Balgowlah. Scuderia Managing Director Bob Atkin, says the new branch will offer sales, service and spare parts equal to the company's Lindfield operation. The new showroom and service centre is under the watchful eye of Sales Manager Claude McKay. The Balgowlah centre cost the company almost \$500,000.

VW TF

THE VW TF which we featured in MM last month is now ready for production. The fibre-glass replacement will sell for about \$1000. This is for the complete fibre-glass body and extras, ready to bolt on a standard VW beetle floorpan. Delivery would be about one month after the order was placed. The manufacturer of the VW TF is Peter Bereg — and you can write to him at 8 Old Illawarra Rd., Menai NSW 2232 or 'phone him on Sydney 5311380.

GOOD NEWS FOR NEW CAR BUYERS

AT last someone has come up with a new car buying scheme which looks as though it will be a great help to the average man-in-the-street new car buyer. Sydney business administrator Peter Toogood is the brains behind what's known as the Consumer's Bulk Buying Centre — which at present is based in Christie Street at St. Leonards. The Centre's aim is to organise consumers into Buyers' Groups to take advantage of fleet discounts. The fleet discounts (normally up to 12 percent) are offered to the Centre by selected new car dealers in return for increased sales. The Centre is not tied to any specific dealers and Toogood says that if buyers introduced through the centre do not get the goods — or the dealers don't honor their promises, then the dealer concerned is out! The beauty of the scheme is that there's no charge to the buyer as the Centre's costs are met by the dealer. MM will have a full report on the operation of the scheme next month.

CHRYSLER GALANT

CHRYSLER has just announced the introduction of the new GB Galants, which are assembled at their Adelaide plant. The new range comes in 1400cc and 1600cc versions in deluxe and automatic variations. The basic 1400 will sell for about \$2349 with the automatic deluxe 1600 selling for \$2824. The 1400cc motor produces



92bhp and the 1600cc version 100bhp. The new Galant features twin headlight styling and a host of new safety features and interior luxury items.

BLACK BOX

MARK Donohue has had a "little black box" installed in his racecar — the L and M 907 Porsche CANAM car — to record crash information! Sensors connected to the vital components record throttle openings, brake pressure, wheel angles, steering movements etc., and record the information on tape. Information leading up to, during, and even after the crash is fully recorded and in this respect the device is like the little black box installed in all airliners.

CAR PRICE STABILITY

THE Australian car manufacturers can't be anywhere near as inefficient as many people claim.

According to the Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries, the manufacturers' ability to absorb ever increasing labor and material costs has directly contributed to the growth in the demand for new vehicles.

The recent increases in demand for new cars has lifted Australia to rank third in the world as a motorised nation — after the United States and New Zealand.

HOLDEN VACATIONER

GMH's new one-option pack — the Holden Kingswood Vacationer... Aimed at the family man the Vacationer is based on the same marketing principles as the successful Holden SS project. The Vacationer is a Kingswood fitted with the most sought after options in the range.

- 202 engine
- Front disc brakes
- Tri-matic transmission
- Wheel Trim rings
- Power Tailgate (Station wagon only)

Features exclusive to the

Vacationer — and not available on the basic Kingswood range include:

- A fold-down centre arm rest on the front bench seat
- Two-tone paint treatment (including metallic).

Because limited batch production runs are made, the Vacationer retails at a price which offers substantial savings and immediate availability. The Vacationer sells for \$3,255 for the sedan and \$3,495 for the wagon.

