

MyCarRules

What revs your motor? Take Amy Haydock for a spin [e rockymirror@capnews.com.au](mailto:rockymirror@capnews.com.au)



MOTORING



RARE FIND: Glen Hamilton's 1968 Plymouth Barracuda Formula S340 is also known as Formula S, Cuda, Cuda 340.

PHOTOS: ALLAN REINIKKA

Shoulda, woulda, 'Cuda

Cruising in a great American classic vehicle is something most people only dream of

WHAT is your vehicle and why did you choose it?

Our current car is a 1968 Plymouth Barracuda Formula S340. We weren't really in the market for this car but when our HT Monaro GTS got stolen we decided to get something different. It is one of only 516 made in 1968 so it is a rare car even in America and we consider ourselves very lucky to have it.

What is your restoration/mechanical specialty?

My panel beating and painting ability is agricultural but I can pull most things apart, overhaul them and put them back together without too many

spare bits. I prefer to take my time and get it right.

How many hours/week/years of work have gone into your vehicle?

I have fitted a new interior including the dash and rebuilt the heater box. I have also fitted a Carby and manifold and done some suspension work. I spent about 80 hours, which isn't much, but the looming bare metal re-spray including minor panel work and bright work refurbishment will blow that number out of the water.

Why choose a classic vehicle?

Originally, it was all about the cars of my younger

days, but now it is more about the camaraderie you have with fellow enthusiasts and their families. The All Classic Motor Club provides all that and much more for us and we have made many great friends through being members. We have many great weekends away socialising. Having said that, if I had to go to Brisbane in a hurry, (legally of course) I would take our modern car because of the additional safety aspects and driver comforts in them now. The Barracuda is purely for cruising.

Is it an obsession or a passion? When did your passion for cars start?

I guess in the eyes of

someone with little interest in vehicles it would appear to be an obsession, but to us it is a passion for the cars and the lifestyle that encompasses them. I have always loved cars right from a young age and my special toy car was a tin plate VW Beetle back then.

What was your first car?

My first car was a brand new 1971 HG Holden Kingswood that I saved madly for. It was Indy orange with a black vinyl roof and had a 186 ci motor with a three-speed manual transmission. The real kicker for it was the reclining bucket seats...great at the drive-in.

What is the most

frustrating/funniest thing that's happened with your classic car?

Like most people my age, working in tight spots with glasses on is a pain especially when they regularly fog up. In the early days of ownership of the Barracuda, walking back from paying for the fuel and going to the right door to get in a left-hand drive car.

Where do you like to go when you are in your car?

The All Classic Motor Club regularly has a run on, so we have been to Theodore to meet with members out there. We have been to Agnes Water, Gladstone, Mackay and

Bundaberg a number of times and often cruise to the Capricorn Coast.

We will all be heading to Emu Park, May 26, for our bi-annual Classics by the Coast.

What car/s are on your wish list?

I honestly don't know where to start. An early E-type Jag, something from the '50s with Fins, a split screen Kombi, a Karmann Ghia (for Laurie), a 1970 Hemi Cuda, an early Alfa. I blame that on the current Alfa ad on TV. I do have an EK Holden Van waiting patiently for a rebuild in the shed currently. Perhaps I better start with a much bigger shed.



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