

## ADVERTISING FEATURE



## That orange sign

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Geoff Gwilym VACC CEO



People often ask me: What does the VACC sign actually mean?

It means a lot. It is both a commitment to our members, and a signal to consumers.

The Victorian Automotive Chamber of Commerce (VACC) is an employer association for business owners in the auto industry. Founded in Bendigo, VACC has more than 100 years of experience.

Our team provides important services that help members run better businesses. That is why motorists look for and trust the famous orange sign.

VACC-member businesses are equipped with the latest information, data and research to keep them abreast of advances in technology. It's also our job to keep them up-to-date on industry developments — everything from OHS compliance obligations and wage rates, to cutting-edge technical solutions.

An expert industrial relations and occupational health and safety and environment team supports members, providing the tools they need to keep everything running safely and efficiently day-to-day.

Thanks to a strategic partnership with Haynes Publishing Group, VACC members can gain access to Australia's premier technical information solutions, allowing them to accurately diagnose, service and repair more makes and models than ever before.

Our apprenticeship scheme selects and places apprentices with member-businesses, providing tools and technical training, along with ongoing mentor support. It is so important to invest in skilled automotive labour into the future, so motorists can keep getting their vehicles serviced and repaired properly.

On top of all that, VACC works with governments and regulators to ensure that the automotive industry is working well and delivering a quality service, playing an important role in keeping Australia's 19.8 million registered vehicles running smoothly for motorists, like you.

So, next time you need to buy or sell a vehicle, get service or repairs, or recycle your wheels, look for the orange VACC sign and know we support our members, so they can better support you.

Prepared by Victorian Automotive Chamber of Commerce in the interest of better motoring.

Share your thoughts  
[ceo@vacc.com.au](mailto:ceo@vacc.com.au)



# CHEAP CARS ARE HARD TO FIND

IAIN CURRY GETS ANSWERS

WRITE TO MOTURING AT  
[CARS@NEWS.COM.AU](mailto:CARS@NEWS.COM.AU) OR  
PO BOX 2808, GPO SYDNEY, 2001

**For over a year I've been trying to buy my daughter her first car. My budget is around \$15,000, but used car prices have skyrocketed and I refuse to pay what private sellers and dealers are asking - they're simply ludicrous. When can we expect a return to normality?**  
Thomas Reeve, email

Supply of new cars has been disrupted due to various knock-on effects of Covid. With increased demand new cars prices have jumped and used car prices have follow suit. I wrote an article in April 2020 on \$15,000 cars. A 2018 Holden Astra R hatch or 2017 Hyundai i30 Active were in budget - you're lucky to find any under \$18,000 now, and they're a year older. An ex-demo 2020 Suzuki Swift GL Navigator was \$16,000 drive-away - you'll not find under \$20k now. Perhaps your daughter could take up cycling? I can't see things changing for some time.

### LIGHT UNFANTASTIC

**My 60,000km 2017 Holden Astra sedan - now out of warranty - continually shows an engine warning light when under hard acceleration or going up hills. It's been back to the workshop three times, has had its fuel pump replaced but is still not fixed. I've seen this model has issues with hairline cracks in the cylinders, can you confirm?**  
Ben Macfarlane, email

While Holden Astra hatches were rebadged European-built Opels - and damn good cars - your sedan is a GM South Korean-built model with a lingering hangover of the much-maligned

Holden Cruze that preceded it. Piston failure has been reported in your model's 1.4-litre turbo engine, but your engine light could be caused by a number of aspects, from low transmission fluid through to worn spark plugs. A proper diagnostic scan is integral, although I'm sure the workshop will have done so already. An engine must last longer than four years and 60,000km. Call Holden's customer service on 1800 033 349 to discuss a goodwill repair in light of failed remedies thus far.

### SPACE REQUIRED

**I need to buy another car suitable for my disabled son's wheelchair as our Kia Carnival needs a reconditioned motor. It also needs to carry my mum and her foldable scooter. We have a ramp so the boot must be long enough to fit the wheelchair as I don't want to lift it in and out. Any recommendations around \$15-20,000?**  
Anne Nunn, email

You may be anti-Kia Carnival due to your current car's engine failure, but it really is the best packaged people mover if you have to take a wheelchair and scooter. A Honda Odyssey may suit, or if you want smaller, a Nissan Cube or Kia Soul would work. Some used examples have already been wheelchair converted to make life even easier.

### FUEL FOR THOUGHT

**A burnt-out connection in a plastic connector on my Mazda MX-5's fuel tank meant I needed to replace the complete assembly - fuel pump included. The Mazda dealer quoted \$2143 for the assembly, while an online search found an original equivalent for \$450. Fuel pump only from the dealer was \$550, and another \$150 for the filter. I paid a retail outlet \$157 for both,**



## BEWARE OF SHARKS

**What's the best way to get a car sold for a fair price? My mother's partner has passed away and left a Holden Commodore SS-V Redline. She's told it's worth good money and not to let it go cheaply, but we have no idea how to do so.**

Paula Nielsen, email

Depending on the Redline's age, condition and mileage, it'll be worth at least \$25,000 and probably more. I'd try to sell privately as used cars are in huge demand, and the SS-V Redline is coveted by performance Holden enthusiasts. Visit car classified websites, see what similar models are listed for and use that as your guide. Ask one of your mum's partner's friends to help advertise it, arrange a roadworthy test and explain the paperwork needed to transfer to a new owner. Expect a few tyre-kickers to inspect it and offer

you a low amount. Ignore them, stick to your guns and get what it's worth. It's less hassle selling to a used car dealer, but you'll get nowhere near the car's true value.

**cleaned the connection and it's back on the road. I shudder to think what the dealer would have charged.**

Graeme Baddock, email

We must be extremely careful about using non-OEM or non-factory-approved parts. Yours may well be fine and you've saved heaps, but dodgy cheap parts are often false economy. That said, manufacturers and dealers must realise if they price parts to ridiculous levels - as I often see - customers seek out alternatives as the only affordable way.

### DAMN YOUR EYES

**All these SUV reviews - where has the style gone? They're just imploded sedans - four-wheeled handbags not for driving pleasure. My SS Commodore ute always has me looking back when walking away.**

Paul Williams, email

**Regarding your Mid-Size Marvels article, personally I'd never buy a Volkswagen. Same as a Mazda or Toyota - you spend \$20,000 or \$50,000, they all look the same. Look at a Toyota RAV4's front - it always looks sad. The exception is the 2022 Hyundai Tucson. What a 'look at me' SUV. That's the one to be seen in.**

Tony Roach, email

Car design is wonderfully subjective. It's good we like different styles or we'd all drive the same thing. You may see sadness in the RAV4, others see aggression. Mainstream brands may not be bold with SUV designs, but brave, out-there styling can go horribly wrong if the market doesn't like it. Witness the Citroen Cactus and pre-facelifted (for good reason) Jeep Cherokee and Porsche Cayenne SUVs.

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