

Credit where credit is due

In collecting material for Worm-drive Warriors I have set out to record and recognise the achievements of people who raced and rallied Peugeots in the 1950s and '60s.

My inspiration for this task was a chat I had years ago at Bermagui with my old friends Allan and Jenni Barrett. As usual, we were talking about our early days when Allan announced that he and Jenni had met “over the bonnet of a 203”.

I was impressed, and then amazed when Allan told me that Jenni was the daughter of the great Bob Holden.

This information stuck in my mind and I was pleased when I got to meet Bob at Calder during the Supertourer era, but it wasn't until I became involuntarily unemployed in mid-2012 that I decided to put my journalistic training to use and interview Bob about the old days.

We spoke on the phone a few times and I then had the opportunity to meet Bob and his partner Colleen face-to-face at their home near Taree. Bob was very generous with his time and gave me access to his scrapbooks, which were very helpful.

In telling Bob's story I realised that there were others who should be recognised as well: Ken Brigden, Geoff Russell, Philip McCumisky and John Cummins, and I was able to speak to them at length, as well as Ivan Washington, who was a friend of Bob's.

Sadly, some of the Worm-drive Warriors are no longer with us, particularly Albert Bridge, Ian Mountain, Norm Saville and Bill Cooke. But with the help of Albert's brother Keith, Ian's widow Laurel Hatch, Norm's daughter Robyn Duffy and Bill's sons Gary and Denis, I was able to tell their stories and share their pictures too.

Some material has been garnered from articles written for *Torque* by the late Geoff Strachan, a good friend of Bob's, and from magazines such as *Sports Car World*.

Perhaps my greatest source of photos and information has been Jim Lever, who was a member of the original Peugeot Car Club of NSW in the 1950s and knew most of the Worm-drive Warriors personally. I had met Jim when Geoff Quayle and I were re-establishing the PCCNSW in January 1973 and we had been in touch over the years. But it was not until I started this project that I realised the wealth of pictures, club history and memories held by Jim, who has been only too willing to share his bounty.

Another source of information has been John Medley's comprehensive book, *Bathurst: Cradle of Australian Motor Racing*. I have trawled through the book and have found it an invaluable resource. John has kindly allowed me to reproduce some of the book's excellent pictures as well.

I have done my best to credit every picture or quotation taken from another source, but if I have missed anything or erred in any way I am only too willing to put things right, so please let me know.

The whole idea of this project is to spread the word about the Worm-drive Warriors. What I have written can be reproduced anywhere, in any form, provided the source is acknowledged. But if you want to republish words or pictures provided by someone else, please check with them first.

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