

## Victorian Chapter - Member Profile

Karen and Mal Lancaster recently joined the Pontiac Car Club here in Victoria. And boy, are they enthusiastic about their new baby girl "BB". Here, Karen tells their story...

The love of cars has always been with us. Both our fathers were/are motor mechanics.

I used to pump petrol after school for customers at Dad's garage, help him bleed the brakes and generally get in his way! One of Dad's customers owned a white 1985 Pontiac Trans Am and I used to love it when he would take me for a test drive – to be in such a unique car was a fantastic! For Mal it was NASCAR – Richard Petty and the Pontiac racing.

My first car was a 1975 Holden Kingswood and Mal's first was a 1969 Ford XW. My Kingsy was the car in which I took Mal home from "The Manhattan" nightclub in Ringwood over 15 years ago, where we first met. At that time Mal owned a 2 door Nissan Patrol G60. The engine noise from its 327 Chev motor and tyre noise was so loud that you could never talk to each other! Hmm... maybe that was a good thing?!

Years later, marriage, mortgage, and work! Mal, a 'sparky' and myself, in reinsurance, both purchased "presentable A to B cars". Mine is a Honda CRV and Mal's a Nissan Navara. Both cars are too high tech for us to tinker on, and since we both enjoyed working on the older cars, these new cars created a void in our garage... What to do next?

With us both growing up in the '70's and '80's, you can understand our choice of car being "The Bandit"

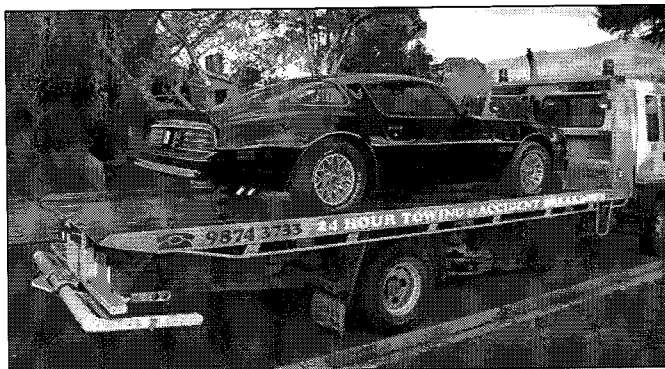


Karen and Mal Lancaster stand proudly alongside "BB", their newly acquired, freshly painted, just arrived from the U.S., Special Edition

Trans Am. Always had an interest, but never imagined that we could be in a position to buy one...With a health scare being the initial "heck, why the hell not?", the decision was made! So back in August '07 the search was on for a '78 black T-top Trans Am, in good condition! Hmm, okay, so where are they all? Who has them? And how do I get one? Surprising what information you can find if you Google "1978 Pontiac Trans

Am" on the internet. We also monitored eBay but felt that there was too much pressure (and not enough truth), so we weren't prepared to bid on any – plus it was interesting to monitor the US Trans Am forums on what they thought of many of the eBay cars.

After months of research and a few phone calls, including to the PCCA, in January this year we found what we were looking for. On one of the US forums on the internet, in San Francisco and in our price range, was a Special Edition Y84 Auto 403 Oldsmobile (185 horsepower) currently being "refreshened". This car was through a boutique dealership, which meant that we were not pressured into buying the car straight away. So we arranged an overseas inspection company to check it out before the car was put back together. Once we confirmed that it was rust free, running, and had been in no major accidents, we put a deposit down and let them continue with putting the car back together. We also



Above: The Trans Am finally arrives "home" on Monday 11th August after a long journey from the U.S.

Below: The first "progress" photo we received from the U.S. seller as the Trans Am underwent its new paint

