

# HQ Holden



Murray Bransden

This edition published 2015 by  
TasTAFE  
GPO Box 2015  
Hobart Tasmania 7001  
[www.tastafe.tas.edu.au](http://www.tastafe.tas.edu.au)

First published 1993 by  
ALBE Resources Unit (TAS)  
Devonport Tasmania 7310

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26TEN and LINC Tasmania, part of the Tasmanian Government, funded this project.

Cover image courtesy of Sicnag

Graphic design by Peta Owen and Robert Cross  
Printed by Uniprint, University of Tasmania

# HQ Holden

Written by Murray ('Popeye') Bransden

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Murray was brought up by his grandfather, who owned a car wrecking yard. When he was thirteen he had his first car, which he drove around the paddocks. He spent most of his childhood around cars, and says that's why he's 'such a rev-head now'.

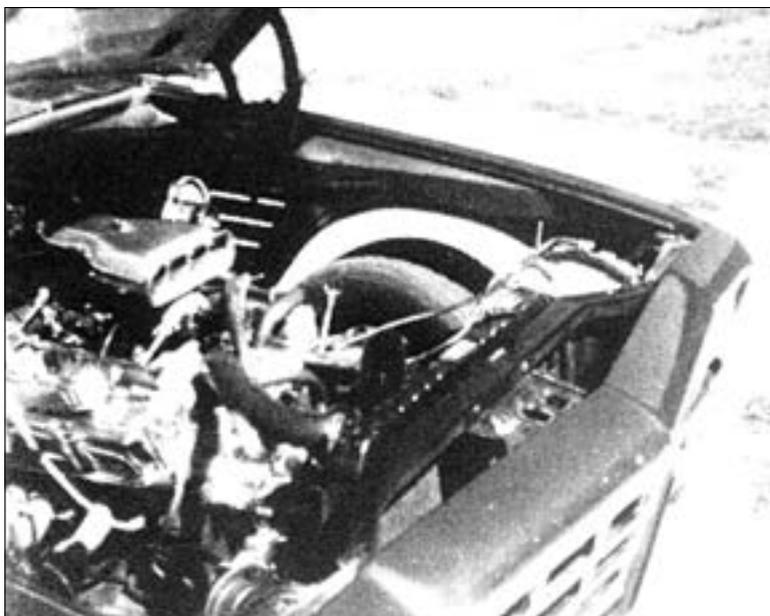


Murray ('Popeye')  
Bransden



Eighteen years ago I brought an HQ  
Holden Kingswood. It was a V8 and 4  
speed. The colour was green and white.  
It had a set of seven inch mags on it.

After a few months I started doing some work on it. I worked up the motor to a bigger horsepower engine by changing the carburettor to a four-barrel double pumper, and changed the distributor to a dual point; I put in a very lumpy high-flow 2H camshaft, rebored the motor and worked the heads up, and put a set of extractors on it.



Then I bought a new set of mags that were eight inches wide, with bigger tyres. The mags are American race wheels with TA tyres. Then I improved the suspension by adding heavy duty shockies and front and rear stable bars.

A few months later, I lost my licence for three months, so I put the car in a shed and started working on the body. I put on new doors, changed the front guards to Monaro guards, and then flared both front and rear guards.

I changed the headlights from round to square, and then I changed the colour to an iridescent green. The car was still in pieces for a while after I got my licence back.

When my car was finished, my mates and I would

go out to town on weekends and we would take my HQ. One night, Stump was driving the HQ in Burnie. We went into a shop and when we came out a couple of our mates were sitting in Batch's SLR5000 in front of the shop. We got in the SLR5000 and we were talking for a while. Then Batch said, "Who's driving the HQ?"

I said, "Stump's driving it".

He said, "No, who's driving it now?"

"No one."

"Well, here comes its twin down the street."

"That's not its twin, that's it!"

There were two blokes in it. I jumped out of Batch's car and tried to run over to the HQ, but

they saw me and the driver took off through a red light. Batch said, “Jump in here”.

So I got back in the car with Batch and Stump and we chased them around the streets of Burnie at high speed. On one street that we chased them down, there was a police station. It was a long street and they were getting away from us. So I got Batch to stop in front of the police station and ran in to tell them while Batch chased them. One of the policemen said, “What’s going on?”

I said, "Someone's pinched my car."

The policeman said, "Was it that car that just went flying past a moment ago?"

"Yeh and the way they're going, they'll kill someone shortly."

In a few moments Stump came running in and said, "We got one of them."

At the end of the long street there was a corner to turn to get onto the highway, but they didn't turn the corner. They kept going in the same direction.

What they didn't know, was that it was the entrance to the wharf and the gates were closed. They tried to turn the car around but Batch blocked them in with his SLR5000. The driver jumped out and climbed over the high gates and ran

off. The passenger came out fighting so Batch upended him. He crawled in underneath the car and was too scared to come back out. Then the police came and took him to the hospital.

The police found out that the blokes who stole my HQ were off a ship. I told the police that the driver had a beard, so they went to the ship to get the man with a beard. There were a few men with beards, so the police brought them all back to the police station for questioning and for a line-up.

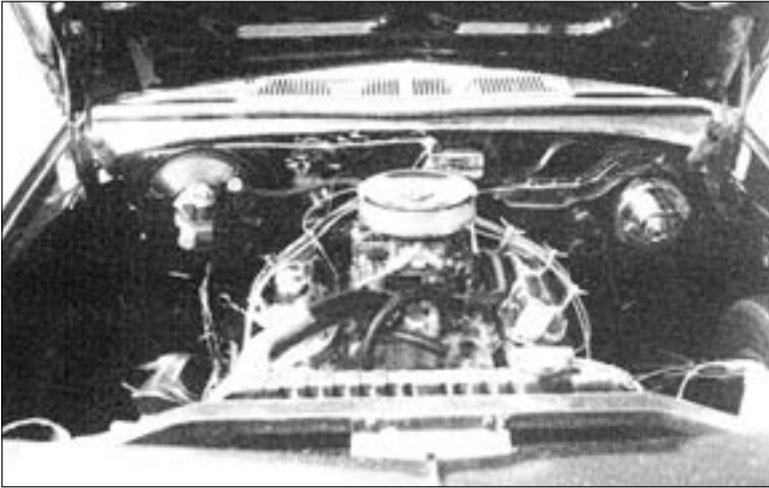
I looked at them all but I couldn't tell which one it was. The police said they couldn't do anything unless I picked him out. I couldn't be sure, so I didn't pick him out.

Now all we were left with was a passenger. The police asked me if I wanted to lay charges against

the passenger and I said, “No, but if it had been the driver it would have been a different story.”

When the passenger went to court, the judge said to him, “I think you’ve already got your punishment. Just get back on the ship and don’t come back.”

It was in the newspaper a couple of days later. The headline read: ‘High speed car chase around the streets of Burnie’. Batch’s wife has still got the newspaper clipping in her photo album. I’ll think twice about leaving my car unlocked next time.



A few years later, I did some work on the car again. This time I changed the interior to a Statesman and put ten-inch wide American race mags on the front and rear, and 14 inch wide tyres on the back with new rear guards. I also changed the colour to black and put a bigger V8 motor in it and a stronger gear box. Even though it's taken me a lot of time and money, when it's finally finished it's well worth it, just to see the car the way I imagined it would look.

A while later I got married and brought a house. A

lot of people said to me that I should sell the HQ.

But I thought well, I don't play sport, and I like playing around with cars in my spare



time. I don't intend to sell the HQ. I've had a lot of people wanting to buy it over the years, but now it's part of the family. I'm keeping it for my kids when they grow up.



# 25 Stories

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Written by learners and published  
as a resource for others to share  
on their learning journeys

During the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Adult Literacy and Basic Education (ALBE) Resources Unit in Devonport, Tasmania, published over 50 stories that had been written by learners as part of their literacy learning program. The writers were closely involved in the production of their stories, with the understanding that the resources would be made available for other learners, teachers and tutors. Since their initial publication there has been continuing interest in the stories, that contain relevant content and appropriate reading levels for adult learners. They are widely used by individuals and organisations across Australia as reading resources and as models for writing.

25 Stories is a selection of those works that have been republished and made available to download, free of charge from the Tasmanian Council for Adult Literacy (TCAL) website, [www.tcal.org.au](http://www.tcal.org.au). Each story has been assigned an Australian Core Skills Framework (ACSF) level for reading and writing.

TasTAFE and TCAL wish to thank the original writers, illustrators, learners, teachers and publishers who have generously made these stories available for others to share.

