

## **PREMIUM UNLEADED PETROL - Does it Drive Your \$\$ or Buick Further?**

Several months ago at Buick meeting, I commented on a news story I had watched on a TV current affairs programme regarding tests done on unleaded petrol.

The tests were conducted by the RACV (check out their website) using a late model Ford Falcon designed to run on unleaded petrol, to verify how far it would run on a tank of different octanes of petrol. We are led to believe by marketing that premium petrol is more economical and therefore cars will travel further. I took the results along and there was discussion and doubt cast among some as to the claims. Essentially, the tests revealed that the minimal extra distance travelled is not cost effective taking into account the extra cents per litre you have to fork out to buy the stuff in the first place. Make sense?

So I decided to do a test myself on the National Meet, driving our 1971 Centurion with 455 engine. Driving the post tour I did some mental arithmetic on two tankfills, one with standard and one with premium unleaded. It was not until the drive home from Katoomba did I write down and calculate exactly. The result was that the car averaged exactly the same fuel economy using either standard or premium unleaded with no noticeable change in performance. Premium (95 octane) averaged 7 cents/litre more than standard. On an average tankful of 70 odd litres, that's a saving of \$5 or more. With other years and models of Buicks, results may vary. Make your own judgements.

Just for your curiosity, fuel prices on the trip home varied from \$136.9 at Mildura to \$1.75 at Cocklebidy. Total fuel bill Katoomba – Perth \$793.

New South Wales taxpayers, you are getting ripped off by your State Government with road tax dollars. No offence (or fault of yours), but NSW has some of the worst roads in Australia. The Midwestern Highway between Bathurst and Hay would have to be the roughest (and unsafe) bitumen road I've driven on.

Finally Jill and I would like to thank all the NSW National Committee members for their hard work, time (and probably money too) for a great event. We would like to name them as per the National Meet magazine:

Eric and Margaret North  
Peter and Gwen Allen  
Colin and Dawn Castle  
Claus and Wendy Gronau  
Jim and Virginia Russell  
Alistair Turnbull  
Graham and Narelle Weekes.

Ken Churchman - WA Buick Owners Club.