

## THE LONG AWAITED ARRIVAL OF MY 1957

This is what happens when you sit around too long recovering from a knee operation and it ends up just as painful. That night you buy a Buick off EBay, from a town called Moorsville, thirty miles south of Indianaopolis in Indiana, USA.

Back in August 2005 while browsing EBay, I found a '57 Special 40 for auction. The auction went through with no bids and I followed up on this car via email, after lots of talks with Randy, the owner, about the car's condition. Its cosmetic buildup consisted of a new paint job, new tyres, carpets, some trim work, semidetalled engine bay with a new carby and battery. It was time to get serious about it. A few phone calls to a local Buick member who was also a member of the Buick Club of America rallied a team of Buick inspectors to inspect and test drive the car and provide me with a report on its condition. This proved favourable to its purchase.



As I gathered information on the importation of a motor vehicle and sorted out what shipping company to use, got transport costs etc, some time passed on.

Next thing I knew, Randy had listed the car on EBay again. By now further interest was evident by the number of bidders pushing up the price. After further talks with Randy, I assured him that my hesitance was because I was

just waiting to sort out the red tape for importing approval before I paid for the car.

As the final few minutes of the action counted down, it seemed I had the highest bid. As I bid against myself, in the last ten seconds a new bidder pipped me at the post. This bidder equalled my bid but was six seconds earlier so the car slipped through my fingers. I was disappointed to miss out and equally Randy as he knew I had spent some time in organising the purchase. I phoned Randy the next day and told him if the winning bidder had failed to complete the transaction, to email me.



Three weeks had passed by and I emailed Randy to see if the Buick had gone only to find out that final payment was due and the pickup was the next day. Two days later an email was received saying the sale had fallen through and the car was mine, and for the original agreed price! Payment was then made and the deal done.

My importer then started to organise transport from Indiana to Los Angeles. At this point it seemed all the transport companies had disappeared, two carriers had fallen through and four months passed by.

I decided to arrange this myself. After doing a deal with Iron Horse Transport of Florida, it took nine days to have the car picked up and one week later it was in LA. It seemed it would not be too long before we would be driving it around. However another five months passed before it was loaded with other cars bound for Fremantle.

In early September it hit the high seas and sailed to China!. It stopped at four ports in China and changed ship in Ningbo. After missing the next ship out it finally hit the sea again and arrived in Melbourne in late October. Again it missed the connecting ship and had to wait for the Kamakura sailing from Queensland to pick up the containers in Melbourne before it arrived in Fremantle on 7 November 2006. Twelve months after payment.



Three weeks later after Customs and Quarantine released the car, it was towed to my work where we charged the battery, fueled the car and gave it its first breath of Aussie air.

The car's mechanicals seemed quite good with only minor repairs required to make it roadworthy. Most other items worked okay or required small repairs to operate.

The expectations of this car were on par with the reports received from the owner and the Buick Club members of America who had inspected the car. The only sad point was that the chrome work had got a bit rusty with the car sitting outside for nearly nine months.

The next step was to give it a good clean inside and out and carry out some minor trim repairs.

After a month of tidy up, it was inspected and licensed for the road.

It made its first club run on 10 January 2007 with the twilight run up the coast and to the drive-in.



It was a long wait which is now history and we hope to enjoy more outings in the 1957 with the Club.

*Scott & Sherren Barker (WA Buicks)*