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Restored Monaro gifted to PCYC

1 Inmates at Junee Correctional Centre have completed an amazing restoration of a classic 1973 Holden HQ Monaro GTS sedan.

The car was purchased on eBay in August 2011 and was in need of a full restoration.

Junee Correctional Centre industries manager Todd Gleeson and two inmates commenced the project by fully stripping the car.

Over three-and-a-half years five inmates worked on the project including a qualified spray-painter who was responsible for the excellent paint finish, an auto electrician and three self-taught motoring enthusiasts.

Following painting, the car was systematically re-assembled with a new gearbox and a reconditioned differential fitted. The GTS has a 308 cubic inch (5 litre) General Motors V8 engine.

The majority of parts were purchased through Rare Spares with some components obtained on the second-hand market. All chrome surfaces were re-chromed and a new interior fit-out was completed.

TAFE NSW Riverina Institute teachers working at the prison assisted throughout the restoration process, providing invaluable advice to the inmates.

"The exceptionally high standard of restoration is an absolute credit to all of the inmates who worked on this vehicle," said Todd. "Their dedication to this project has been outstanding."

Todd made special mention of the inmate who completed all the mechanical work and re-fit of parts as well as the prisoner responsible for the paint finish.

The car was displayed at the recent Junee Rhythm N Rail festival in the Junee Motor Club Show and Shine exhibition that featured vintage and classic cars, hot rods and motorcycles.

The Monaro attracted plenty of interest at the



The sale of this stunning Holden HQ Monaro GTS will raise funds for Police Citizens Youth Clubs.

exhibition with some people offering to purchase the car on the spot.

The GEO Group Australia has since gifted the car to Police Citizens Youth Clubs (PCYC) NSW and the organisation is looking at private sale or auction options in order to secure the best price for the vehicle. All proceeds will be distributed to the PCYC Blacktown and PCYC Wagga Wagga clubs.

Given the outstanding quality of the restoration the car is likely to be highly sought after by Holden Monaro GTS enthusiasts.

"We have a strong relationship with PCYC, particularly with the Blacktown club through Parklea Correctional Centre and the Wagga Wagga club through Junee Correctional Centre," said The GEO Group Australia managing director Pieter Bezuidenhout.

"GEO is delighted to give this magnificent car to PCYC so the proceeds from its sale can be allocated to youth programs in the local

communities in which our facilities are located.

"Everyone involved in the restoration of this vehicle — inmates and staff — will gain a great deal of satisfaction from the knowledge that their combined efforts are supporting a very worthy organisation that is focused on the reduction of crime by and against young people."



The Monaro at the early stages of restoration.

MD'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the first edition of *GEO Insights* for 2015.



It gives me great pleasure to welcome Dr Sarah Gray to the GEO leadership team as director of offender development services.

Sarah has worked within

Victoria's correctional system throughout her career. Her recent roles included statewide clinical services manager and regional manager - offending behaviour programs for Corrections Victoria. Sarah has authored a number of influential rehabilitation programs, including the High Intensity Violence Intervention Program (HI-VIP) and the Exploring Change Program.

New offender development role



Dr Sarah Gray.

2 The GEO Group Australia has appointed Dr Sarah Gray to the newly created position of director offender development services. Sarah will be responsible for prisoner rehabilitation and reintegration at GEO.

Based in Melbourne, part of her role will include overseeing the implementation of a 'Continuum of Care' program at Fulham Correctional Centre and Ravenhall Prison. She will also manage the 'Programs Oversight' team at the new Ravenhall facility.

Sarah has over 12 years experience in offender rehabilitation in both a clinical and senior management capacity.

Her extensive corrections industry background has been across clinical program delivery, prison operations, community corrections, regional operations and management.

Sarah will be responsible for GEO's offender services, including overseeing the delivery of programs and services at Arthur Gorrie, Parklea, Junee and Fulham correctional facilities. She will also lead the development of offender programs at the new Ravenhall Prison, ensuring GEO's unique and innovative rehabilitation and reintegration solution is ready for the prison's opening in late 2017.

On the subject of Ravenhall, I'm pleased to report that the project is progressing to plan with our project office established in Melbourne and initial construction work at the site well underway led by our GEO Consortium partner John Holland.

The head office human resources team of Olga Ross, Belinda Kassoua and Pierre Langford has made an energetic start to putting our Ravenhall recruitment systems in place. With over 600 positions to fill — and the likelihood of many internal transfers and promotions — the early start reflects the size and complexity of the Ravenhall human resources challenge.

Also in this newsletter we look at the work of a group of prisoners at Junee who have refurbished a classic Holden Monaro motor vehicle. The result is breathtaking. It provides a timely reminder of the skills many of the prisoners in our care possess. Often overlooked when in custody, such latent ability can — properly harnessed and directed — be a powerful tool in making imprisonment productive and aiding reintegration. My congratulations to the prisoners who worked so hard on this inspiring project and to the Junee employees involved for their vision. The sale of the vehicle will raise substantial funds for the Police Citizens Youth Clubs at Wagga Wagga and Blacktown.

Elsewhere, Fulham Correctional Centre recently opened its new 54-bed Intensive Resettlement Community Unit that enhances its capacity to help prisoners entering the community to avoid re-offending.

Pieter Bezuidenhout
Managing Director

Cup overflows for children's hospital

3 Parklea Correctional Centre recently presented The Children's Hospital at Westmead with a cheque for \$6156 that will be used to help purchase humidi-cribs for the hospital's Special Care Unit.

Parklea holds an annual fundraising event for the hospital called the Elaine Adams Memorial Cup.

The day consists of a staff and guest lunch, staff and inmate raffles and an auction of items

donated by local businesses, suppliers and the prison's cabinet-making workshop. Held on Melbourne Cup Day, a number of novelty events are staged including the Elaine Adams Memorial Cup race.

Funds were raised by Parklea staff and inmates in conjunction with The GEO Group Australia, Justice Health and NSW Corrective Services.



The Children's Hospital at Westmead employees Natalija Milic and Milica Milic accept a giant cheque from GEO's Simone James.

Fencing top zoo

4 Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre has formed a new partnership with Australia Zoo, home of the world-renowned 'Crocodile Hunter', Steve Irwin.

A 100-acre zoo located on the Sunshine Coast, Australia Zoo is owned by Terri Irwin, the widow of Steve Irwin, whose wildlife documentary series *The Crocodile Hunter* made the zoo a popular international tourist attraction.

Following its debut on Australian television screens in 1996, *The Crocodile Hunter* became very successful in the United States, the United Kingdom and over 130 other countries, reaching an estimated audience of 500 million.

Through the series, Steve Irwin achieved worldwide fame and became well known for his exuberant presentation style, his khaki 'uniform' and his trademark catchcry of "crickey".

Steve Irwin died in September 2006 after being pierced in the chest by a stingray barb while filming an underwater documentary.

A passionate conservationist, Steve Irwin's vision was to make Australia Zoo the biggest and best wildlife conservation facility in the world. Today



Arthur Gorrie employees Sidd Mehta (left) and Andy Rocks at Australia Zoo.

his conservation work is continued by Terri, daughter Bindi, son Robert and the team at Australia Zoo.

As part of the zoo's expansion process, 'Bindi's Island' opened in December 2014. Offering an island adventure, this area features a three-story treehouse inspired by Bindi's role as Nim in the television series *Return to Nim's Island*. Described as a tropical paradise, the exhibit features an array of animals from macaws to boa constrictors.

Arthur Gorrie Industries helped produce fence posts for Bindi's Island and will continue to supply

posts for new enclosures created during further zoo development. Additionally, over 50 timber bench seats were constructed by prisoners for use throughout Bindi's Island and other areas of the zoo.

A group of six prisoners is dedicated to the Australia Zoo project. The prisoners benefit by gaining a woodworking qualification from a technical and further education (TAFE) institution as well as hands-on experience. The qualification and woodworking skills will prove valuable when the prisoners seek to gain employment upon release.

Junee youth recognised

5 Each Australia Day Junee Correctional Centre awards scholarships to outstanding local youth as part of its 'Youth in Focus' program.

This year the centre introduced encouragement awards to assist scholarship recipients achieve their goals and a Financial Hardship Award.

Ebony Becquet won an academic scholarship. It is the second time Ebony has been acknowledged by GEO as she received a creative arts scholarship in 2012. An honours student and school captain, Ebony graduated with 17 different awards and plans to study law.

Gabriel Newman also received an academic scholarship as well as the Financial Hardship Award. Gabriel has been studying primary education at Charles Sturt University and commenced a double degree in arts and secondary education in 2013.



GEO's John Myers and Ainslie Wood with award recipients (from left) Ebony Becquet, Joel Kelly, Lucy Clarke, Gabriel Newman and Jasmine Phillips.

Lucy Clarke, a sufferer of epilepsy, received an encouragement award for creative arts. Lucy has been in the Riverina Central Choir for four years, performed in the Combined Secondary Schools Choir for the past three years and in 2014 was selected for a NSW Public School Choir performance at Sydney Opera House.

A sporting distinction encouragement award was

granted to Jasmine Phillips for her efforts in the pool. Jasmine has broken Junee High School records that have stood for more than 30 years.

An encouragement award was allocated to Joel Kelly for his sporting achievements. A remarkable all-rounder, Joel hopes to secure a contract with a team in the National Rugby League competition.

IN BRIEF

Toy run helps needy kids

Staff and inmates at Junee Correctional Centre have again thrown their support behind a long-standing venture that assists needy families in the lead up to Christmas.

More than 200 motorcyclists participated in the GEO/Ron Crouch Toy Run by riding through the streets of Wagga Wagga collecting toys along the way.

Now in its 25th year the ride finished at picturesque Bolton Park where items donated by local businesses were auctioned. An impressive array of wooden toys made by Junee inmates raised more than \$2000.

The auction proceeds were used to purchase additional toys and Junee staff members were kept busy helping fill two trucks with the merchandise. The Salvation Army and St Vincent De Paul distributed the toys.



A collection of wooden toys made by Junee inmates.

Support for women's welfare

Continuing a long-standing relationship with the local secondary school, Junee Correctional Centre participated in a Girls Welfare Day at Junee High School recently.

The day was designed to assist female students with career planning and promote self-esteem. It featured a series of workshops and information sessions conducted by local businesswomen and community leaders.

Subjects included preparing for interviews, mental health, beauty tips and even changing tyres.

GEO employees Kelly Eisenhauer, Ainslie Wood, Nicole Clark, Samantha Ainsworth and Chontel Flaws spoke about their roles, career opportunities and the benefits and challenges associated with working in the corrections industry.



A piece of artwork prepared for the Freedom of Expression exhibition.

Freedom of expression

A collection of artwork prepared by inmates in the Aboriginal Art Group at Fulham Correctional Centre has been displayed at the Maffra Exhibition Space.

The exhibition, titled 'Freedom of Expression', demonstrated the artistic talents and creativity of members of the group and also raised funds for the local Aboriginal Co Op with which Fulham has a close relationship.

Proceeds from artwork sales — totalling more than \$1000 — will be used to support an event for members of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Seedling deliveries top 15,000

Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre has supplied Ipswich City Council with more than 15,000 seedlings over 18 months.

Through a long-standing partnership, council provides supplies and materials to the centre and prisoners propagate a variety of plant species that are available to residents as part of the council's free plant program.

Prisoners involved in the program learn horticultural theory from a TAFE teacher and gain practical experience through the partnership with the council. Training is provided to up to eight prisoners for three months.



GEO's Jacobus Havenga inspects the seedlings.

IN FOCUS

Report puts spotlight on reoffending

*by Dom Karauria
Director, Correctional Services*

January saw the release of the Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services* — otherwise known as ROGS.

Released annually for the past 20 years, ROGS casts a spotlight on how government services are performing across Australia. The authority and independence of ROGS means the results are closely scrutinised.

Corrective services has its own chapter in ROGS, with an accompanying set of key indicators. These indicators cover the most important aspects of corrections. In effect they represent our 'dashboard' and I encourage you to stay familiar with the report.

Many GEO staff members have had personal experience with burgeoning prisoner numbers. Naturally this can be attributed to population growth, however ROGS is also telling us that the rate at which some states are imprisoning their citizens is increasing — most notably Victoria and Queensland.

Despite the pressures associated with increasing prisoner numbers, ROGS reports that some states are successfully controlling their costs — indeed the three states in which GEO operates have all reduced their 'cost per prisoner per day'.

It is testament to the professionalism of all who work in corrections that at such a time of strict cost control and rising demand, ROGS reports that key rehabilitative indicators such as 'time out of cell', 'prisoners in employment' and 'prisoners in education and training' are generally holding up in the states in which we operate.

In terms of assault rates there has been little change except for some substantial increases in Queensland — however these are coming off a low base and the state still performs very favourably in this key area.

Perhaps the greatest challenge lies in reoffending rates. This extremely important performance indicator reveals that every state has seen an increase in prisoners returning to prison within two years, with reoffending rates now lying between 38 and 46 per cent.

This is clearly the most pressing challenge facing Australian corrections. Significantly, new facilities such as Victoria's Ravenhall Prison are being purpose-built to facilitate the latest programs that address recidivism.

The 2015 ROGS report can be found at: www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/report-on-government-services.

