

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of the used vehicle import association



AUTOHUB™
FORWARD TOGETHER

**GLOBAL VEHICLE
LOGISTICS**

IMVIA 25th anniversary celebration

page supported by Vehicle Inspection NZ

Founding members of the Licensed Motor Vehicle Dealers Importers Association were recognised on the night. From left, Alistair Sheard, Dick Gray, Phil Pacey, Peter Johnston, Rod Milner and Chris Stevenson receiving Fred Lewis' award



Vehicle Inspection Specialists

- Warrant of Fitness • Certificate of Fitness • Certification • Road User Charges
- Registration & Relicensing • Drivers Licences • Vehicle Information
- Vehicle Appraisal & Change of Ownership • Exhaust Emission Testing

TALK TO THE TEAM YOU CAN TRUST: 0800 GO VINZ (0800 468 469) / email: info@vinz.co.nz / www.vinz.co.nz

Founders' service honoured

About 420 people joined the silver anniversary celebrations of used car importing into New Zealand with a black-tie gala dinner at Auckland's Pullman Hotel being voted as a resounding success.

There was plenty of reminiscing about times past at the event on October 17 – as well as anticipation of future challenges.

Founding members of the Licensed Motor Vehicle Dealers Importers Association (LMVDIA), which was one of the forerunners to the Imported Motor Vehicle Industry Association (IMVIA), were recognised for their contributions.

Awards were presented to its first chairman Rod Milner, Alistair Sheard, Dick Gray, Phil Pacey and Peter Johnston with Chris Stevenson receiving Fred Lewis'.

Founding members of the LMVDIA unable to attend included Neil Cottle, Graeme McVicar, Donna Silvester and Martin Todd.

Milner, who was also presented with the supreme award by the IMVIA, said: "Just over 25 years ago, the association got together because Customs raided my place and took a lot of documents away, so I called the boys and said it was time to form a union.

"Who would have ever thought that after such a small start, it could turn into an industry such as this? It's a huge employer of people of all different trades and has exceeded all expectations.

"We are in an industry that



Rod Milner receiving his supreme award from Maurice Williamson

gets no favours through famine, drought and recession.

"We live on our wits and if someone goes broke, that just leaves more opportunity for the rest. But there's always someone else who fills the gap pretty quickly.

"I'm proud to be part of the industry and to have been surrounded by such able people."

As for setting up the LMVDIA in 1988, Milner said: "All we needed was money for the seatbelt anchorage scheme

and you handed it to us. There were 500 people in the room and I remember thinking, 'this audience is good, we've got them'. We collected \$2.5 million that day and it was spent wisely.

"What I'm really proud of is the fact that over all those years nobody has ever accused us of pilfering the money – and we're car dealers."

Milner, who wrote his speech's notes on the back of an appraisal card, added: "I'm proud of the statistics, particularly the road

toll. In 1986 it was 766 and in 2013 it was 254.

"In 1986 as a percentage of the population, 23.1 out of every 100,000 people in New Zealand would be killed. Today it's 5.7.

"There were 10.8 people per car back in 1986. Today, it's 0.8 and that's one of the big benefits of the used importers in New Zealand."

Milner said many some people in the industry have now gone, although the new generation is coming on board.

"But never let it be forgotten that us old fellas do know a few things, so if you need a bit of advice never forget to come and ask us.

"I would like to mention my late wife Lee, who was the original secretary and shared my passion, and my lovely wife Shanlee, who I've been married to for 18 years now. She has always been by my side.

"I'm a lucky man to see my son Darren here tonight, he's my successor, and I have every right to feel proud of you and all of us."

MORE WITH AUTOFILE ONLINE
Autofile's website has galleries with dozens of pictures from the gala dinner, and edited versions of speeches by David Vinsen, Rod Milner and Maurice Williamson.

And visit www.autofile.co.nz/ book to order copies of a new book on the industry. Written by Jackie Russell, it's called *From the Rising Sun to the Long White Cloud – the history of used car importing to New Zealand.* ☺



Specialists in Pre Shipment Inspections

- Full Border Inspections
- Biosecurity Inspections
- Structural Inspections

- Odometer Verification
- Pre Export Appraisal
- Vehicle History Reports

JEVIC NZ **09 966 1779** **www.jevic.co.nz**





Amber Johnston and Wendy Irvine

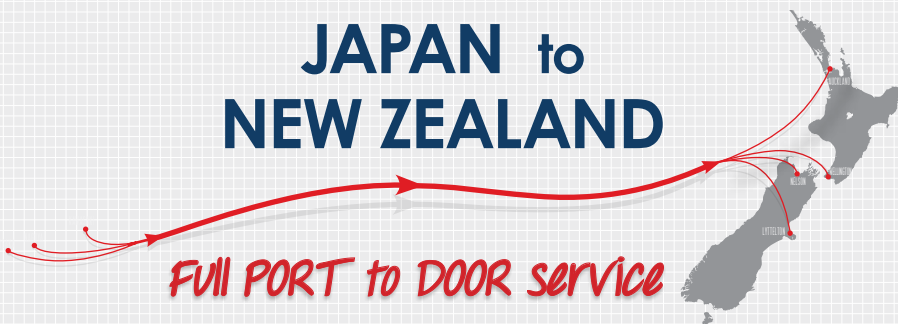


Jeremy Corbett raises a laugh



Some members of the Protecta Insurance team

JAPAN to NEW ZEALAND



Full Port to Door Service



CALL ME NOW!

Gerry Claudatos

Mob: 0274 400 734

Ph: 09 373 5881

Fx: 09 303 0072

Email: gerry@dolphinshipping.co.nz



Comedian and host of TV3's 7 Days, Jeremy Corbett, explaining the contents of guests' goodie bags



Darren Risby, Jackie Russell and Brian McCutcheon



Lis and Nick Owens



Maurice Williamson providing some entertainment



Vanessa and Graeme Macdonald

Australia & UK to NZ

SPECIALISED DOOR TO DOOR VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICE

Customs & MAF Clearance

UK & Australia Cartage

Shipping

VAT returns

Marine Insurance

Foreign Currency

Vehicle Compliance

Local NZ Delivery

Martin McCullough P: (09) 303 0075 M: 0274 725 262 E: martin@mmnz.biz W: www.mmnz.biz

McCULLOUGH LIMITED



IMVIA 25th anniversary celebration

page supported by Heiwa Auto

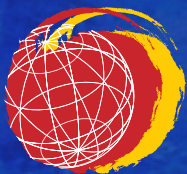
From left, the IMVIA's Lloyd Wilson, Bev Purchase, Graeme Macdonald and Malcolm Yorston



Rod Milner gives his speech



Dick Gray, one of founding members of the Licensed Motor Vehicle Dealers Importers Association



**HEIWA
AUTO**

RELIABLE

Servicing New Zealand for 20 years

Greg Bardsley | ph: 0279 363 595 | email: greg@heiwa-auto.co.jp | www.heiwa-auto.co.nz

'Proud of achievements'

David Vinsen looked back over the past two-and-a-half decades in his speech during the gala dinner of the Imported Motor Vehicle Industry Association (IMVIA).

He described the silver anniversary as a significant milestone for any organisation, but particularly for the used imports sector considering the numerous challenges it has overcome.

"Many people didn't even think we should exist, let alone last this long," said Vinsen.

"After 25 years, it's a good time to look back. Since we started as the Licensed Motor Vehicle Dealers Association, we've been committed to advocating for the issues of those importing and selling used vehicles."

More than 2.5 million vehicles have crossed the border since 1988, which means more than 60 per cent of them started life here as used imports.

"It's not an exaggeration to say this has changed transport in New Zealand," said Vinsen.

"The international trade of used vehicles is a good thing. It has delivered benefits to all Kiwis, who now own safer vehicles than they otherwise could afford.

"The road toll dropped when New Zealand started importing used vehicles, consumers had greater choice and competition ensured better prices.

"And the economy, cost of living and rate of inflation are direct results of used imports.

"It's also about opportunities

David Vinsen, chief executive of the IMVIA, making his speech



for importers, exporters, dealers and service providers.

"New Zealand was the first country to import used vehicles in commercial quantities and today more than 100 countries import them from Japan.

"We've had to break new ground and overcome obstacles, but we have succeeded – due in no small part to the commitment of people in the association over the years. Our industry should be proud of its achievements."

Two IMVIA staff members were recognised during the

evening for their long service.

Administration manager Bev Purchase has notched up 21 years while Malcolm Yorston, technical services and membership manager, has chalked up 20.

"Thank you for this recognition," said Yorston. "Bev and I are part of the furniture.

"It has been interesting, there have been some challenges and I'm sure there will be some in the future, but the industry is able to adapt quickly and I'm sure we will be around for the next 25 years."

There were also some words from Maurice Williamson – ex-Minister of Transport and a keen supporter of the used motor vehicle industry.

"You need to know you've done more for the economic well-being of this nation than just about anybody else," the current National Party MP told his audience.

"It's important everybody else knows this country was where Triumph Heralds came too die and we had a fleet of crap cars. It was good things changed when I got into parliament in 1987.

"Until then, we had about 1,000 imported vehicles a year. In my first year in parliament that lifted to 12,000 – then 17,000, then 50,000 and in 1990 we were up to 85,000.

"There are a lot of New Zealanders out there driving very good-quality cars we would never have been able to dream of without your industry and don't ever let anyone say, 'we need to bring it up to the modern standard' and so on.

"Relative to what people were driving and the prices they were paying, you have done the most phenomenal service to the economy.

"It's all very well having wealthy people driving fancy cars, but to see families, young people and students in halfway reasonable vehicles that are as good as we can expect for our GDP is because of your industry.

"Good on you and I pay a tribute to your whole industry." ☺

Specialised Training to Increase Your Sales



0800 776 832 • contact@protecta.co.nz • www.protecta.co.nz



Margaret and Alistair Sheard



Athina Sallander and Sam Martin



Maurice Williamson with Jackie Russell, author of From the Rising Sun to the Long White Cloud



David Vinsen



Katie and Darren Milner



Darren Risby and Maurice Williamson



Peter Johnston



FROM THE RISING SUN TO THE LONG WHITE CLOUD

The history of used car importing to New Zealand



Orders are now being received for this limited print run hardcover book – a fantastic gift or just to have in the office or showroom

Priced at \$59.50 including post and packaging

Visit www.autofile.co.nz/book and fill in the order form now, email brian@autofile.co.nz or phone 021 455 775