



**H**D T Special Vehicles have a long and successful history in the Australian automotive industry, beginning in 1980 when Peter Brock needed funding for the race team. A select number of dealers joined forces and backed the race team, and in return asked for a Brock road car to be built. It was then that the HDT Special Vehicles legend was born. HDT has also had a long association with the Holden Ute, having built three 'Magnum' Utes in the 1980s,

based on the WB platform. HDT's Ute tradition continued through the 1990s with a series of Utes based on the Commodore Ute. These vehicles are now very collectible and highly sought after.

It was in this spirit that HDT's New Generation, led by new owner Peter Champion, began an advanced vehicle program in mid-2008. Called the 'Heritage Series', the new VC Retro and VH Retro are based on Holden's VE Commodore sedan, in either

SS or SS-V specification. These have been specifically designed to recreate the feel of the original Brock cars in the modern age. In an extension to the Heritage Series, the soon to be released, all new Heritage Series Ute will be available in either VC Retro or VH Retro styling.

This month *Ute Action* were given an exclusive sneak preview of HDT's first prototype and the black beauty you see on these pages is the latest test mule in

HDT's movement forward. Known as the HDT Retro Ute, this design features HDT's unique injection moulded front bar, slat grille and four-post rear spoiler sitting on top of a lockable hard cover. The VH Retro bonnet scoop also sits proudly atop the bonnet, giving the front end a really tough, fat profile that turns heads wherever it goes. HDT 20-inch road wheels are used on this prototype; however designers tell us that an exclusive wheel is under consideration, a