

# Driving You Crazy

By Darren Gallagher

## *Don't you just love traffic?*

Now there is a sentence that's not used very often. Personally, I don't mind traffic and I think that I have figured out why. It's all about the car.

If everyone was driving a car that they really liked, I think it would contribute heavily to world peace - oh go on, indulge me one more time. When people drive, all they are really interested in, is getting where they want to go - right? So anything that stands in their way is basically just a hindrance to them and their '*mission*'.

Picture yourself in a rusty old bomb, dare I say a 1984 Ford Laser that you bought when you were 18 with your first couple of pay packets in the Service. You're stuck, on a hot day, in bumper to bumper traffic in inner Sydney. You have just had a really ordinary day that would topple even the Great Far King from his throne. There is that little rip in the dodgy vinyl on the top of the driver door that is scratching the bottom of your forearm, and the crack in the windshield that has been there for near on ten years that you have been meaning to fix - I could go on, but I'm sure you get the idea.

Now picture yourself in a 1959 Pink Cadillac - described by the dealership as 'unquestionably aristocratic' - with front bucket seats that are like lounge chairs, and a boot big enough that it sleeps 10 comfortably. Now this is a real car - a filthy great V8 that just floats along the road. Why would you be in a hurry to go anywhere? In a car like this, champagne would be falling from the heavens, doors would open for you. Essentially, your whole day and overall life would be better.

'Well my day wouldn't improve, I don't like Cadillacs', I hear you read from your 12 shades of grey Defence work station. But, alas, therein lies the point. If you don't like Caddies, what do you like and why aren't you driving it?

Another stressor of the roads is that whole breaking the law thing. People consciously take their 'extra ten percent' and then wonder why they get a nice photo of their car sent to them in the mail. Me? I quite like getting booked by an actual policeman if I'm speeding. It must be

a little bit like fishing actually. They sit there quietly, in the dark, not saying much, then.....BANG! Got ya! Then they reel you in. Sometimes you will put up a fight but, let's be honest, the chance of your excuse actually holding any water (free fish pun included at no extra cost) is little to none. To finish of this little scenario, the officer will essentially issue you the ticket which for my part is the painful removal of the hook in the whole fishing process. Then you are thrown back, while they wait for another bite.

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The essence of this is, if you get yourself a ride that you like it will make your driving easier, will mellow you out a little and will slow you down. You can avoid the fisheries officer and improve your chance of survival.

My father always said, '*Son, it's cooler to drive around slowly in a fast car, than to drive around like a maniac in a slow one.*' Though to be honest, maniac isn't the word he used, but this is a family show.

*Editor's Note: The fuel consumption for a 1959 Cadillac is about 3.4km to the litre...*

## *Moved Interstate?*

### *A quick guide to when to have your licence changed over*

States and territories vary in when a new resident needs to have their interstate licence changed over and, in some cases, failure to do so can result in a fine or being treated as unlicensed.

Thanks to the DFA Forum which highlighted this issue, dFM has trawled the various state and territory government websites to find when you have to have your licence details amended upon taking up residency (see page 17).

For more information see following website which links to registration and licence information of specific state and territory road and traffic authorities.

**Link Page to Traffic Authorities:**

[www.australia.gov.au/301](http://www.australia.gov.au/301)