



# QUALITAT

## EUROPEAN MOTORS LTD

Newsletter- volume 23

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### IN BRIEF

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Mon-Fri 7.30 to 5.15pm  
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Check out our website  
[www.qualitat.co.nz](http://www.qualitat.co.nz)

Some other websites you may like to  
check out -

[www.vwownersclub.co.nz](http://www.vwownersclub.co.nz)

[www.audi.com](http://www.audi.com)

[www.volkswagen.com](http://www.volkswagen.com)



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**QUALITAT**  
EUROPEAN MOTORS LTD

- ◆ Importers of **Audi / VW / Skoda** parts
- ◆ Repairers of all vehicles
- ◆ Technicians trained in - **VW... Audi ... Mercedes ... BMW**



### Vagn's Message

***"Spring has sprung....the grass is ris, I wonder . . . . ??"***

**.....should I bother to get my car serviced?**

September 1<sup>st</sup> is known as the first day of spring and with daylight saving fast approaching on September 25<sup>th</sup>, its spring cleaning time. Spring

cleaning should not only relate to the house, but a time to catch up on other things you have been putting off over the winter period. I know I have covered this before, but be very wary of so-called cheap vehicle Full Service deals, most do not cover what you should be having done to your vehicle once a year.

**By carefully maintaining your vehicle, you increase driving safety.** You can be the world's most effective and skilful driver, but with a rotten ride, you and your vehicle become accident-prone. Every year, thousands of accidents occur as a result of vehicle neglect. It's not just bad driving that causes accidents, in fact when it comes to the majority of automobile accidents around the world, you have faulty brake systems, worn wiper blades and tyres, and leaking gas tanks to blame.

**You help reduce pollution with vehicle maintenance.** Most countries around the world have anti-smoke belching campaigns to help save the environment. Each year, your vehicle's noxious emissions contribute directly to global pollution. A well-maintained vehicle will easily limit the amount of dangerous fumes and automotive fluids released into the air and local water tables.

**Another reason why you should maintain your vehicle is it definitely lowers your cost of operation.** I know it's common sense, but it never hurts to point out good advice, right? The point is a well-maintained car wouldn't need too many repairs. Meaning, you won't have to keep on heading to your car mechanic if you keep your vehicle in excellent condition.

**A hidden advantage behind careful maintenance is that in case you do decide to sell your vehicle, you're going to get a better price.** Most buyers value excellent vehicle performance and condition over the car model. So it only follows that a well-maintained five-year-old vehicle is going to fetch a more handsome price compared with an ill-maintained and broken-down two-year-old car.

**If you keep your vehicle well-maintained, expect it to perform better.** You lengthen your vehicle's great performance if you keep a careful eye on its vital fluids, oil and various parts. If you don't maintain your vehicle well, expect it to quickly show signs of internal wear. Your car will also be more dependable if you make sure that it is always in good condition.

**And lastly, a well-maintained vehicle will mean fewer roadside emergencies.** There's nothing more frustrating than having your vehicle break down in the middle of nowhere with no tools at hand. Lessen your chances of getting stranded due to a cracked radiator, bad tyres or a malfunctioning battery by making sure your vehicle is in excellent condition prior to a long trip.

These are just some of the main reasons behind keeping your vehicle well-maintained. Check out on page 3, detailing some of the full service parts checked, changed if necessary and why they should be, when we perform a Full Service.

Remember, we do have six little identical automatic VW Polos and an automatic VW T4 van, as loan vehicles. They are very sought-after, so it is essential to book them early.

I wish you happy, safe and trouble free motoring.

Vagn

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## Audi Ice Experience 2011

The Southern Hemisphere Proving Ground (SHPG), better known as the Snow Farm in the Cardrona Valley near Queenstown is often used for secret vehicle and tyre testing. It's the place the world's car manufacturers go to test their vehicles under the most extreme driving conditions.



Three years ago, Audi New Zealand organised its own *Ice Experience* to give its Audi customers a chance to take cars to the limit in snow and ice under the expert tuition of professional Audi instructors. This year, myself and hubby Wayne, had the privilege of being invited by Audi New Zealand to participate in this event.

Friday night was the registration and welcome. Saturday was an early morning start with the bus departing at 6.30am for the SHPG. When we arrived at the grounds, I have never seen such vast expanses of wide open flat spaces of snow....the grounds are incredible. On our day, there were twenty participants who were divided up into two teams, ten cars, 5 x Audi A4's, and 5 x Audi S4's with two drivers per car. We had a briefing on the day's activities and then the fun began.....accelerate, turn, brake, drift, slide, accelerate, brake. The day's activities included driving exercises such as slalom, over-steer/under-steer, ABS braking, handling etc. etc. The driving concluded at around 3pm and then we all had a ride-along hot-lap in a RS5 coupe along a track while sliding sideways etc. at 150kph plus.....wow, what fun that was!

Saturday night we were taken to a 'secret' location at an exclusive Queenstown lodge for an Awards dinner.

Thank you Audi New Zealand for a great weekend.

*Josie Fenton*



## Warrant of Fitness reminders by email:

For customers who would like to receive their *warrant of fitness reminders* by email instead of by post - please contact us on

[office@qualitat.co.nz](mailto:office@qualitat.co.nz)

Please ensure you supply your - **full name**  
**car registration number**  
**email address.**



## **VW Beetle 2012**

It is still recognisable as the iconic Beetle, and yet it has come a long way from its humble beginnings 73 years ago. The next Beetle to hit the market almost has a Porsche look about it. It has been described as - sporty, dynamic, bold. It has a rear spoiler integrated into the design of the car. Volkswagen is also pricing it keenly, which no doubt will stir up interest.

It will be available with three engine choices - 2.5L and 2.0 TSI® turbocharged engines, also 2.0L TDI Clean Diesel.

The car has a lower profile, longer hood and a steeper front wind-shield. It has been stretched 3.3 inches wider and 6 inches longer, which creates a more sporting and powerful appearance. It also has keyless entry, and is available with a slide and tilt panoramic sunroof.

Inside, a split-folding rear seat is available, as are Fender Premium Audio System with 400 watts of output power, features like Bluetooth® technology, leather seating surfaces, and BI-XENON™ headlights with LED daytime running lights.



## **Some Full Service items checked and replaced and why**

**Oil** has to do some very important work inside an engine. The most obvious function is to lubricate the moving parts. An engine relies on lots of bits of metal moving up and down or rotating at very high speeds, and for it all to work properly they have to fit very closely together. But if they touch, friction will very quickly heat the surfaces and they will melt. So, oil is pumped around all the moving parts to provide a continuous thin film between them to stop them touching.

The second purpose oil serves is to carry heat away from the moving parts, heat from friction and the heat from the burning fuel. And finally, it has to mop up a lot of nasty stuff produced as a by-product of the burning fuel and store it in suspension until the next oil change – you might view an oil change as the automotive equivalent of a trip to the loo!

In order to do all this the oil has to be thick enough for the thin lubricating film to stay intact at very high pressures and to withstand all the buffeting which goes on – bear in mind that a cylinder “firing”, is actually a mixture of fuel and air exploding and you’ll get the idea. And, of course it has to stay thick as it heats up. At the same time it has to be thin enough to circulate freely, especially when the engine’s cold.

## **If you thought crude oil was expensive, you should see what dirty oil can cost.....**

**Spark Plugs** - The ignition system generates a very high voltage and sends it at just the right moment to the spark plug where it jumps the gap between the electrodes in the form of an intense and very hot spark, which sets fire to the petrol. The voltage needed to jump the gap and generate the spark depends mainly on two factors. One is the size of the gap. The other factor is the strength of the mixture of fuel and air. A rich mixture – one where there’s quite a lot of fuel – will help the spark jump between the terminals more easily. This becomes important as the spark plug ages. The constant blasting of tens of thousands of volts between the electrodes makes them burn away slowly – increasing the gap and therefore increasing the voltage needed. If the car does lots of short trips or runs on low detergent petrol, combustion deposits also build up on the plug which can coat the electrodes and again increase the voltage needed to generate a good spark. If the voltage has to rise higher because of a worn or dirty plug, the spark is a little later than the engine management computer expects it to be – the ignition is retarded, meaning the engine loses power and wastes fuel. Most modern engines will automatically compensate for this by advancing the timing as the plugs age, but only up to a point. The upshot of all this is that the engine is not quite responding the way it should and although the computer can tweak various things to compensate, eventually it runs out of ways to keep it performing at peak efficiency,

**The oil filter** traps various pieces of dirt, metal and non-metal particles, soot and carbon deposits in the engine oil. If a filter other than a good quality oil filter is used, it could happen that the filter prematurely clogs up and reduces the flow-through of oil, or there could be a leak of unfiltered oil into the engine. An undesirable consequence could be the overheating of the engine or a seizure.

**The fuel filter** catches undesirable dirt particles, such as dust, rust, water and deposits from the tank, and thereby protects the extremely sensitive injection set from damage.

**The air filter** ensures the input of clean air into the engine and also has a positive influence on the noisiness of the suction tract. A poor quality or excessively dirty air filter disturbs the correct ratio of air and fuel in the combustion system, which negatively affects fuel consumption.

**Pollen and dust filters** catch solid dirt and aerosol substances, and therefore ensure clean air inside the car.

## **Pre-Purchase Vehicle Inspections**

**Qualitat** offers a comprehensive pre-purchase inspection service so you can be informed about your next purchase.

Pre –purchase inspection is priced at \$180.00 incl. g.s.t.

## **Free W.O.F check**

If you have a **FULL** service when you have a Warrant of Fitness check done you will receive a free WOF check worth \$45.00 plus g.s.t.

Phone (09) 579 3710 now, for an appointment.

**FREE OFFER**



## **Skoda Yeti**

This vehicle is receiving a lot of good reviews from motor-ing reporters.

It seems that it is such a versatile car that it meets the re-quirements of a very wide market. It is designed to be ro-bust as well as good looking. There are 2WD and 4WD Yetis. Not built from a single platform, but a combination of two great vehicles - the front part of the design comes from Octavia II, and the rear part comes from VW's Golf V 4-motion.

It offers a smooth ride as well as coping with some not too rugged off road motoring. 7 airbags, ABS, ESP and TCS systems, all standard equipment, and it has a 5-star NCAP (New Car Assessment Programme) crash rating.

Nice little touches are the chilled glove box and centre arm-rest cool box as well as air-conditioning.

Skoda Yeti is proclaimed to be the best light SUV on the market.



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## **Hackers**

Now it seems that digital road signs in Europe have been targeted by hackers. Let's hope we don't see this problem happening here.

Digital road signs have become part of every day life for the motorist of today, and any kind of tampering with these digital alerts could lead to the unexpected to say the least. What will be next?

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According to Peter Schreyer (former VW top designer for 26 years - now working for Kia Motors), Europeans design from the heart, Koreans from the head and are therefore more market oriented.

An interesting culture change for an obviously talented car designer.

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**Formula 1** may be on the cards! Volkswagen may be con-sidering a move into Formula One in 2018. With a stable of such brands as Audi, Bugatti, Lamborghini, Porsche, Seat and Skoda, it may just be possible.

**China** has just opened the world's longest road bridge. It should reduce the drive time between Huangdao and Qingdao by 40 minutes, and shorten the distance by 29.9 kms. It will be known as the Qingdao Jiaozhou Bay Bridge, and has a span of 42.3 kms.

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## **Lada ends**

There has been a lot of dis-cussion about the price of dairy products lately. Those of you who remember the Lada, may not realise that this vehicle was exported to New Zealand in contra-deals with Russia for dairy products. The New Zealand Dairy Board were distributors for Lada vehicles. In the 1970s/80s Lada cars were briefly popular - and some still remain on New Zealand roads today. Now after 41 years the Lada will go out of production.



The Russian Lada close-ly resembled the Italian Fiat 124.

**Fiat 124**



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**VW's new Electronics Research Laboratory** in San Francisco, started with a staff of three, now has 100 de-signers, and still hiring. Placed near Silicon Valley it is hiring new graduates from the local universities.

## **Imagine -**

A car that can navigate itself through a parking struc-ture to find a parking place, and return to the struc-ture's entrance when summoned by the driver's smart phone.

A car that detects traffic signals and speed limit changes and can accelerate or decelerate the car as conditions warrant.

A car fitted with Google Earth as a navigation aid, in-cluding using 'street view' so that a driver knows what the destination looks like, not just the address. Also the possibility of being able to locate the nearest charging stations if the vehicle is electric and running low on a charge.

These are just some of the features that will probably be available to the modern-day driver in the not too distant future.

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