

Old Hino a star

ONE OF THE FIRST HINOS TO BE sold in New Zealand has been a star of the finale to Hino New Zealand's year-long celebrations of the Japanese make's 50 years in the country.

The ZM120 was a centrepiece – along with an anniversary special Euro 5 SH 700 Series – at a celebration dinner in Auckland, with special guests including execs from Hino Motors Japan and Hino Australia.

Hino Distributors NZ general manager Ray Roberts says acknowledging Hino's customers and industry partners was an important consideration for the year's activities: "Truck owners are typically brand loyal. We're fortunate to have many, from a wide range of industries, who purchase Hino trucks over and over again."

The dinner, he says, was "a really nice way to cap off an incredibly busy year with those who have helped make Hino Trucks a significant driving force in NZ's transport industry."

Hino, he says, is committed to delivering "a better class of truck" – and he adds: "Fifty years is just the beginning."

The wrapup to the anniversary celebrations came on the heels of the Japanese make moving into the No 1 spot in NZ's premium heavy-duty truck sector (over 23-tonnes GVM) for the year to the end of October.

The 235 Hinos in that category sold in the first 10 months of the year already topped the

make's previous best whole-year 23t-plus sales, says Hino Distributors.

The Hino presence in NZ began with the importation of two bonneted ZM901 models in completely-knocked-down (CKD) form in 1964.

They were assembled in Auckland and sold to Rotorua logging operators. The 6x4s, with 195-horsepower six-cylinder diesels, have been followed by over 15,000 Kiwi Hinos.

Among the earliest of them was the anniversary ZM120, which was sold to Silverdale sawmillers Cashmore Bros. It turned out to be an historic truck...and fittingly, it was joining an historic logging, forestry and sawmilling company, dating back to 1880.

Walter Cashmore, the third-generation Cashmore to run the family business, had set up a new sawmill and timber yard at Silverdale with his sons Gordon and Owen in 1962.

They bought the ZM120 – a departure from the British trucks they'd previously bought – from Motor Corp a few years later.

The 195hp Hino carted logs from the forests in Woodhill and Kaukapakapa to the sawmill in Silverdale. And it transported milled timber to Newmarket and to the wharf in Auckland.

After Cashmore Bros closed its Newmarket timber yard in 2002, the truck lay idle for many years. Gordon Cashmore was approached to sell

it numerous times by truck enthusiast Stuart Howard – and he finally agreed in 2009, on the condition that the truck was well looked after and kept out of the elements.

Cashmore recalls that, "having not been used for some time, there was doubt that the truck would start first go. But I was confident it would, and sure thing – it fired up straight away."

The ZM was bought by Hino Distributors in early 2014 specifically as a restoration project for the anniversary celebrations.

The five-month project was led by Hino national sales manager Graham McNabb, with the rebuild carried out by Barry Ryan and his team at Allmotive in Auckland. Truck Stops and Brian Brown tidied-up the truck mechanically.

The old logger will now go on display at Hino's Auckland showroom in Otahuhu.

A specially-commissioned book has also been produced to mark the anniversary. *Hino Trucks – Driven in New Zealand for Fifty Years* was compiled by Graeme Carter and showcases the make's Kiwi history.

The SH 700 Series at the dinner was part of the company's anniversary roadshow, touring the country. A contest to guess the truck's odometer reading at the end of October was won by Aucklander Garth Lecky: He guessed 5724km – just 4k out. He won a mystery weekend for two. **T&D**



The old ZM120, restored to its new condition, will now go on display in Hino's Auckland showroom