



# 1959 Cadillac Hearse

Informative Brochure




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# 1959 Cadillac Hearse

In June 2013 we purchased our 1959 Cadillac Hearse from the USA, via eBay. Since arriving in New Zealand the hearse has been at Bristol Motors in Upper Hutt undergoing full restoration, this was completed in 2021 – it has certainly been a labour of love by all those involved. Arriving in New Zealand the Cadillac hearse was a light blue colour and as part of the restoration process we have changed the colour to a traditional black.

The restoration has seen the Cadillac fully stripped down to the chassis, ensuring that every aspect has been completed to the highest possible standard. Like all vehicles over 60 years old, the chrome mouldings had many small dents, these have been painstakingly removed and all chrome restored to the standard it was when it was first delivered from the body builders to the original funeral home.

All linings inside the vehicle, and every part of the Cadillac has received attention - down to every nut and screw. It is certainly a work of art, and we are proud to have been able to restore this Cadillac ensuring its classic beauty can live on for future generations.

The 1959 Cadillac was seen by most in the funeral profession as the most beautiful hearse ever produced by Cadillac. I am sure for all the car lovers in the world, you will appreciate the time and effort it has taken to restore this hearse to its former glory.



## History of Cadillac Hearses

The Cadillac Commercial Chassis is a chassis that was built by the Cadillac division of General Motors. Produced from 1931 to 1979, the Commercial Chassis was constructed as an incomplete vehicle intended for use by coachbuilders for final assembly and fitting of the bodywork. Produced on the D platform (exclusive to Cadillac) throughout its entire production, the Commercial Chassis was initially derived from the Series 355, shifting to the Series 75 from 1936 onward.

Coinciding with a change in design regulations and the downsizing of Cadillac sedans, the Commercial Chassis was phased out as a distinct product line. The professional car chassis would be continued by the Series 75 and successor flagship Cadillac sedans to current production.

## Colin

Our 1959 Cadillac has been named “Colin” in memory of Colin Simon a creative New Zealand designer who we buried in February 2021.

All of us have a piece of Colin’s creative work in our homes. Colin designed the official 1974 Commonwealth Games logo along with the NZ Olympic Games logo still used today. His work includes the logo’s for the following companies BNZ, Watties, NZ Wool Board, Telecom NZ, NZ Fishing Board, PSIS, NZ Motor Corporation, Motor Trade Association, Civil Aviation Association, Richmond Meats, Gibbston Valley Wines, Palmers Garden World, Paper Plus, NZ Van Lines, Global Relocations, Downer, Elfin, Kent Fires, Play Centre NZ, Skin Things, Baigent Forest Industries, plus many more. Colin may not be well known around New Zealand but his creative work certainly is.

Colin Simon’s family are “over the moon” that Colin’s memory and story will continue to be shared as people admire our 1959 Cadillac.

