



**POWER DRIVE:** Andrew Irving, of Dromedary, shows off his 1988 Daimler DS420 limousine, which once belonged to the Japanese royal family. He bought it on eBay. Pictures: KIM EISZELE

# Andrew scores his marque of royalty

**CHARLES  
WATERHOUSE**

ANDREW Irving is in good company when he drives his 1988 Daimler DS420 limousine.

The car used by Governor of Tasmania Peter Underwood is also a Daimler DS420.

However, Mr Irving's newly bought car also has links to power. It once belonged to the Japanese royal family.

Mr Irving, of Dromedary, bought his claret-over-black limousine on eBay on the internet for an undisclosed amount earlier this year.

"I just happened to be at the right place at the right time," he said. "Another hour and I probably would have missed it."

Mr Irving a self-confessed car fanatic is editor of the Jaguar Car Club of Tasmania magazine and shares four cars with his wife Marilyn,



**STATELY:** The Daimler DS420 was the car of choice for royalty – and funeral homes.

who is a car fanatic too, fortunately.

"We couldn't really afford it, but you could not really not have it," he said.

"You would be an absolute fool to have passed this opportunity."

Besides the 1988 Daimler DS420, the couple have a 1968 Daimler DS420, a 1950 3.5 litre Mark 5 Jaguar and a 1950

2.5 litre Mark 5 Jaguar.

Mr Irving said that because the DS420 was made between 1968 and 1992 he now had one of the early production-run cars and one of the last.

Popularly known as the Daimler Limousine, just over 4000 of the DS420s were made.

They were used extensively as official cars in several countries. The

cars were used by the Danish and British royal families and were also popular in funeral and hotel businesses.

"They were not designed for you and me. They were designed for aristocracy and royalty," Mr Irving said.

"The late Queen Mother had five DS420s and this one is in her preferred colours. They are very regal colours."

Mr Irving said the 1988 Daimler had been sold because of the world economic downturn.

"The Japanese Government decided to sell off the fleet of cars in the royal stable," he said. "They were tendered worldwide – four Rolls-Royces and this one Daimler."

"It is in beautiful nick. It's only done 82,000 miles [131,900km] which is really low for a 22-year-old car. She is in top-notch condition."