

The Dodge, one of six imported to New Zealand new in 1961, was the firm's main hearse in Dunedin between 1961 and 1973.

In 2009 we added an identical vehicle (from Auckland) and the Dodge is now fully restored to near its' original condition. It is a lovely choice for a traditional-style funeral.



1961 DODGE SENECA



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The Dodge arrived in Dunedin in May 2009 and it was collected from Jeffs Haulways yard. The Seneca was found on TradeMe by Michael, it had been parked in a garage on Waiheke Island, Auckland. It was in better than expected condition – very original and still set up as a hearse. We evaluated the engine and running gear – which were given a clean bill of health by K G McLeod's – other than a bit of brake work, and a slight diff leak.

The panel and paint was surprisingly good and we elected to fix some screw holes in the front guards, remove the tow-bar, fix a mirror, re-chrome the air-vents and rear bumper, and paint the rear door. The rear door handle was fixed by Clements and Stephens. We removed cross adornments from the front and rear of the car.

Inside we have replaced all the internal carpets and door surrounds and added a new casket clamp. The sheepskin front bench seat was replaced in beautiful black leather. But ultimately the Dodge was ready for use upon arrival and has already been used on many funerals.

Six Senecas were originally imported to New Zealand from Canada, where they had been converted to right-hand-drive. Although Hope and Sons were an original owner of one of these, the Seneca we currently have is not our original car. Hope and Sons sold ours in about 1973 to Jim Forest in Palmerston, when we started using Valiant Regal station-wagons as hearses.



We are pleased to be able to return a bit of classic Dunedin yesteryear to its former glory and make the Dodge available for our funerals.

