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INSURANCEBUSINESSONLINE.COM.AU ISSUE 2.4

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

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Favourite things...



Peter 'The Legend' Peirano, Piranha Insurance

Industry stalwart Peter Peirano — also known as 'The Legend', 'The Penguin' and 'The Chequebook' — reveals what gets his engine running. (It's mainly a nitromethane injection, as far as we can tell)

Sport: Peirano likes to go faster: "I love any motor racing, particularly drag racing — and I don't mean dressing in women's clothes, driving mum's car fast."

In fact, Peirano's so passionate about motor racing he runs his own hot-rod and dragster racing team, Piranha Racing. Team cars include the Lexus Piranha Hot Rod, the Lexus Piranha-Penguin FED drag racer, and the recently added Nitro Nostalgia Funny Car (pictured at right). In addition, Peirano organises a number of motorsport events from his base in Rockhampton, Queensland, and specialises in motorsport insurance. He also enjoys horse racing.



Peter Peirano



Book: Unsurprisingly, Peter plumped for "any motor racing book". He highlighted autobiographies as a particular favourite, such as those written by racing legends Roger Penske, Mick Doohan and Jack Brabham.

Music: Peirano has eclectic taste, with his music collection ranging "from country to rock to gospel, from Pink to Johnny Cash". However, he reserves pride of place for 'the King', Elvis Presley.

He also adds that he "would have loved to have seen Liberace in concert".

Drink:

Peirano's
a fan of the
sweet stuff,
choosing vodka
and sparkling
cranberry juice
as his top tipple.
He also likes to
follow this up with

"a bottle of Noble One dessert wine and half a bottle of cleansing Tokay or Muscat".

Vacation spot: If there's a whiff of gasoline, The Legend is there. "My favourite holiday spot is any drag strip in the USA, but especially the annual Hot Rod Reunion at Bakersfield."



Movie: Animation makes Peirano a happy man. He seems to prefer Dreamworks to Pixar, though, selecting Madagascar, Shrek and Happy Feet as favourites.

We'd wager that he's also looking forward to Rush, the forthcoming biopic of Formula One driver James Hunt, featuring Aussie star Chris Hemsworth. Food: Vegetarians aren't welcome in Peirano's house: his favoured tucker includes "trips, lamb fry brains, chook-feet and offal". If that's a bit strong for you, he's also partial to Peking duck.

Best thing about working in insurance: "Bringing a cheque to the funeral!"