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MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA
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From the DESK

Club President:

Dirk van der Westhuizen

October, Vosburg and the Wegry Bull Run - If this sounds confusing please note that I have Johan Kemp and Coenraad Botha as eye witnesses, No 1 & 2, to vouch for and confirm the facts that follow!

The three of us attended the 2015 edition of the "Wegry Bull Run", which is a two day motoring event that takes place on a dried out pan, just outside of Vosburg, in the Northern Cape.

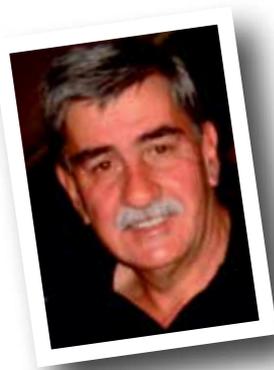
The purpose of our attendance was to gain information and ideas pertaining to the format and activities that have grown this particular event into a huge success story! The plan we have in mind is to create an event similar to this, yet specific to the Mercedes-Benz Club, without attempting to copy the current concept. At this conceptual stage, we envisage the inaugural running thereof to be late 2017, or early 2018. Johan has accepted the task and title of Chief Organiser and will keep us informed as matters progress. Watch this space, this promises to be loads of fun.

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Pat Smythe
- The Editor

<https://www.facebook.com/wegrybullrun> - Don't jump to conclusions!

There are lately quite a few formalities that could sour our lives if we do not conform to their requirements. It was announced that with effect from 1 November 2015, anyone who wishes to transact with a licensing authority and the NaTIS System, will be compelled to provide proof of their address details. Not a huge request to comply with, but surely annoying!

Another very big obstacle in our path ahead is the need to comply with the new Events Act. The need to comply goes without saying and to this end we will work hand-in-hand with SAMCA and MSA to ensure the smooth introduction of the new requirements.

My visit to Germany in October was a very enjoyable one, and as usual, Mercedes-Benz Classic Clubs Management went out of their way to make the meeting and events that surround this annual gathering, memorable in all and every respect. This particular visit was filled with more than a hint of nostalgia, as it will be the last that I undertake in the capacity of Club President. I will unfortunately not be available for re-election during our 2016 AGM in April.

At this stage, all the regions have had their annual elections. Congratulations to all the elected office bearers. At the time of going to print, Avish Maharaj has been elected Chairman of the KZN Region, with Des Armstrong as Regional Secretary. Congratulations, and thank you both for your valuable input.

I would like to wish every family a very enjoyable Festive Season, lots of good health and happiness in 2016, and safe journeys. All the best until next time we meet!

Follow us on



I drove down Woodford Grove in my red Finny the other day - it was one of those hot, sticky, early summer days that Mother Nature charges as a form of an 'upfront life toll' - payable in advance, for the sublime weather she delivers to Durban in Autumn, Winter and Spring.

Woodford Grove used to be part of a vibrant residential suburb called Stamford Hill. It runs parallel to Umgeni Rd and in the days of yore, if your home was on the upper side of 'the Grove', you could enjoy a G&T, looking over the sea, while the sun, in full retreat - invited the stars to dance with the moon.

As it is in most cities, however, industry slowly colonised all of its best outlooks and replaced their splendour with a creativity sired by dismal inspiration, that took on the form of stillborn factories and warehouses that required home's be converted to parking lots!

Progress has exacted a terrible toll on the preservation of paradise...

Ian Smith moved to Woodford Grove in the late eighties. A consummate, old school, motor-mechanic - skilled enough to be a member of a Maserati Factory Team that raced in Europe - Ian has served a faithful client base in Durban for many years.

As a 'motor-mac' he has looked after the family cars, the business bakkies and corporate fleets. In times past, he even serviced the Sturmev-Archer 3 Speed Hubs that graced the rear wheels of kid's bicycles.

His passion, however, has always been firmly tied to the rebuilding and refurbishing of Classic Cars and Motorcycles

and has spanned some 40 years plus.

It is in this area that he earned the respect and gratitude of the many owners of 2 and 4 wheel classics - that sort his expertise and were rewarded for their faith.

I was one of those that caught, Classic Car Ownership Disease, quite late in life. I have no idea, how I became so completely afflicted - worse still, I have little desire in finding out whether it is curable!

I am, however, mightily relieved that I knew Ian and knew of his ability, pre-affliction, rather than post. There are many out there that are a mixture of false prophets and highway robbers, ready to bedazzle the gullible.

Ian restored my Finny, he didn't do all the work himself, but he supervised all the outsourced toil and quality controlled the results. He taught me what to approve and what to reject - he charged me for his services and saved me time, frustration and money in many ways.

He also taught me that we face a future drought that will impact on our ownership of these wonderful vehicles that bring us such pleasure. It will be a drought of skills capable of keeping their wheels rolling...

I drove down Woodford Grove in my red Finny the other day and there he was - Gone!

Ian Smith has shut his doors and retired to Dordrecht on the family farm. He said he was going - I knew of his plans - I helped him ferry three of his old classics to their new 'casa mia' in Dodge City as he calls it. I will miss him, both for his friendship and his skills.

They don't build Finny's, any more. They don't train men like Ian Smith, Fred Winter and Chris Cloete and equip them with the same level of skills. There are not many 'shops' like Kundendienste, staffed by skilled, dedicated people who deliver on their promises.

There is, despite all of this, a growing interest in and ownership of Classic Cars. - Quo Vadis?

Eastern Cape Region



Rescuing and Old Faithful *By: Colin Meyer*

At the recent Wizards on Wheels Car Show in East London, Erald bumped into a guy who mentioned he had a 1991 W126 500SE which he wanted to sell.

He lives in the hamlet of Kei Road, some 60km from East London, to which he retired, some 4 years ago. He had been the parts manager at Mercurius in Jo'burg for many years and had acquired the car whilst working there.

Because he had access to parts and spares at a very reasonable price, the car always received the necessary TLC to keep it in tip top shape. However, some two years ago the car developed a misfire and then shortly thereafter refused to start, so it was pushed into a car port next to the house and left to stand, apparently with no spark.

Needless to say Erald and I felt compelled to go and have a look so the following Saturday morning we popped over to Kei Road and proceeded to give the car the once over. Initial indications

were that the car was still too good to scrap and even though it showed 333,000km on the clock it had a comprehensive service history and had been well cared for. I felt obliged to rescue the car from its inevitable fate, so after twisting the arm of SWAMBO with another intricate tale, Erald and I once more made our way to Kei Road a week later - this time with a trailer in tow, and Pieter Moolman for moral support.

A small amount of money changed hands and I was soon on my way home with a W126 that hadn't moved in two years - needless to say a twinge of buyers remorse cast doubt over the wisdom in all this - the potential for a huge money pit was looming large.....

I couldn't wait to get my hands into her inner workings and so on Monday night we gathered at my garage with a number of moral supporters.

No spark at the plugs. Opened the boot and found boxes of spares, including a

brand new ignitor module still in its box, wrapped in wax paper. Popped this in and still no spark. I lifted the air cleaner and found a chaffed wire that looked like it could have been nibbled by rats. After making a temporary repair - I once more turned the key: the engine roared to life and settled down to a smooth and gentle purr - pure music to my ears. Much celebration and back slapping followed, along with a few 5 year old KWV Brandies - savoured with great pleasure!

Two new rear air cells and a major service later, the car is back in daily use. The 'aircon' blows ice cold, the sunroof is good, the engine is smooth and responsive and not a sign of smoke. I can't help but get a huge grin on my face every time I drive her, another one saved from the scrapheap.

I hope she will give another 333k km of faithful service, I think she is up for it....





DRIVE-OUT TO THE KOMGA AGRICULTURAL SHOW By: Erald Hohls

On the 9th October a few EC Club members drove out to Komga, a small village some 55 km north-west of East London.

This was to support the Komga Farmer's Association's Annual Show co-ordinated by local farmer and EC Club member, Dr Les Trollope.

As a highlight on the local events calendar, the show offered various exciting activities such as; guest speakers on a range of topics, Komga Fatstock Cattle Sale, sheep shearing competition, wine tasting, great home craft & food stalls, a horse riding competition, live music and more.

The Show also heralded the inaugural Komga to Kei Mountain Bike race. This addition to the annual MTB Racing calendar was well attended and promises to

attract even bigger fields in the future.

We drove out in 5 Classic Mercs: Colin in the 190SL, Pieter Moolman in Colin's 230S Finnie, Norman's W124 230CE Coupe, and Peter Köpke's 107 450SLC, me in my W136 170da and Anne Meyer in the G350.

I was very excited to give the 170da a run again and with Colin's assistance at the workshop, we changed the oils and filters and gave the car a general once-over before the trip.

We left East London in convoy on Saturday early afternoon on the slow drive to Komga via the N2.

The 170 ran like an absolute dream, 60-70km per hour average all the way without a puff of smoke on the run.

Later in the afternoon at the

show, we drove the cars around the arena in formation and parked them in front of the public area for everyone to view – it certainly created a lot of interest.

That evening the local farming community came out in numbers to enjoy the live entertainment, the famous Komga Steaks and a drink or two.

They had set up a large TV screen for those who wanted to keep up with the Rugby World Cup games on the go at the time.

The atmosphere was really nice and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves till late.

Norman, Colin and I stayed over at the local B&B where we could snore freely without disturbing anyone.

On Sunday morning we ventured back to East London after a most enjoyable trip.



Southern Cape Region



Reminder: George Old Car Show – 2016.

The 2016 George Old Car Show to be hosted by the Southern Cape Old Car Club will take place on 13 and 14 February 2016 as usual at the PW Botha College, York Street, George.

To attend, with your car, it is essential to register before 23 January 2016.

Registration is open @: www.scocc.co.za
Space is limited. This show is rated the Best Old Motor Show in SA by far! Kobus Harris is your MBC SA contact man. 082 453 1497.



Oktoberfest in George:

By Waldo Scribante

Saturday the 24th of October brought a celebration of the Oktoberfest to George, courtesy of the Southern Cape Region. It was staged in Waldo's BENZeum, complete with traditional decoration, cold beer, fine wine and a large selection of snacks.

The members embraced the occasion by trying their best to emulate the German dress code that is traditionally adopted for this annual festival that is a highlight for German communities worldwide. At this year's George, edition of the 'fest', our newest members Linda Kühn and Johan Weideman were unanimously awarded the title of 'Best Dressed Couple'!

A big screen TV was set up in the BENZeum for us to watch the Springbok game... no further comment on that matter - suffice to say German beer is renowned for its soothing, pain relieving qualities, which eventually kicked in after the photos were taken.

The highlight of the evening was a traditional German dinner complete with traditional German Festmuzik.

Eisbein, served with the traditional sauerkraut and potato bake, or for those who preferred chicken – a wonderful Schnitzel was on offer. As usual we were treated by Waldo to his famous Ice cream and chocolate sauce to end off a wonderful evening.

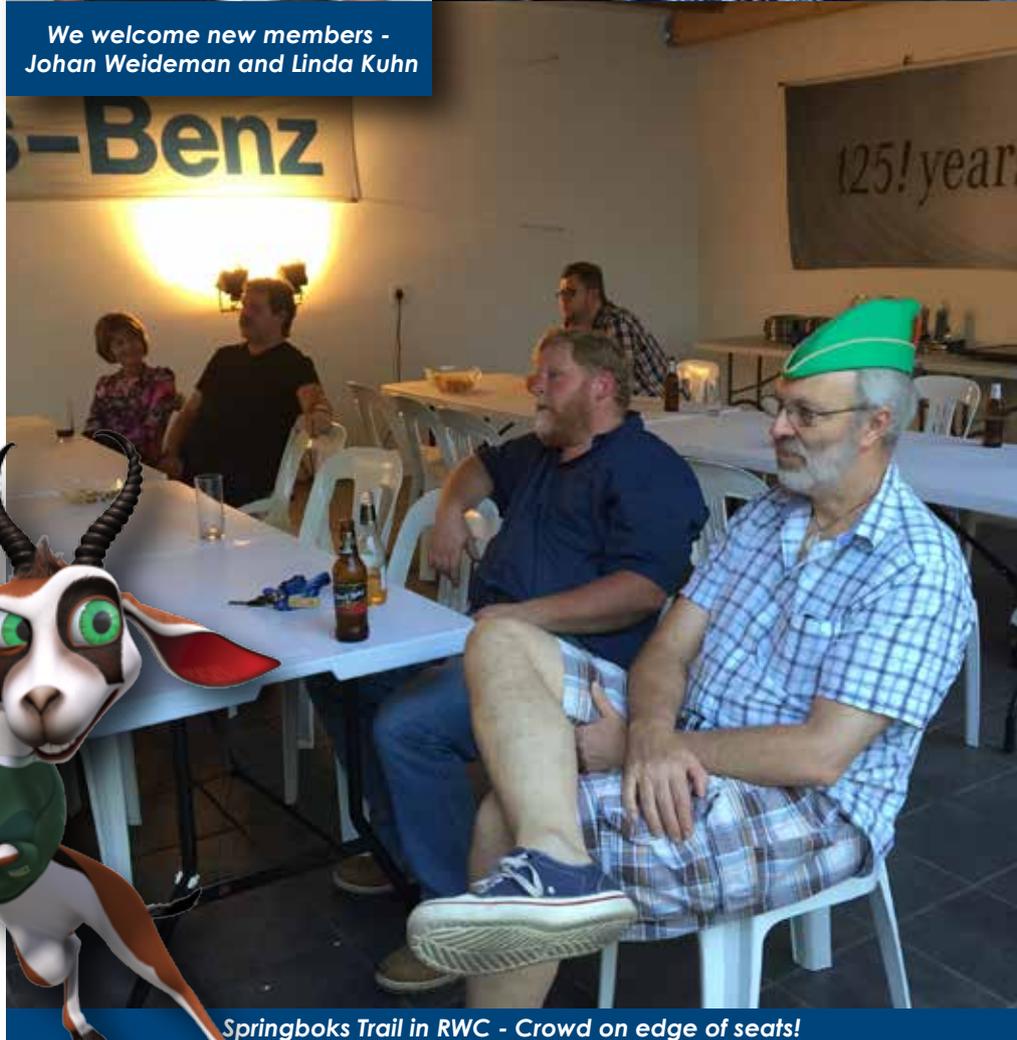
Thank you Waldo en René.



Kick Off – Hope springs eternal as the crowd settles in!



We welcome new members - Johan Weideman and Linda Kuhn



Springboks Trail in RWC - Crowd on edge of seats!



Central Region

Celebrating the 'Buffelfees' in Aliwal North: *By: Chris Kuhn*

Club member Andre Jacobs and his wife Ronell invited the Central Region members, to celebrate the Aliwal North Primary Schools' – 'Buffelfees' that takes place annually in October.

This festival has become a popular stop on the Afrikaans Music calendar, with many of South Africa's finest artists performing on stage in the town where the Kraai and the Orange Rivers meet. It also hosts a popular, Cars in the Park show and we were delighted to play our part, by flying the flag proudly over a small display of Mercedes-Benz Classic's.

(Editor's Note: Like all 'platteland festivals', the hospitality is something to behold. Food is served in helpings that defy economies of scale and is charged for in a manner that makes any attempt at accurate costing an exercise in futility! This is all achieved in the name of fundraising and is repeated year after year – with every year being more successful than the last!)

A late afternoon invitation, to the lovely home of Andre and Ronell to watch the RWC, saw heartbreak beat patriotism convincingly and give rise to the Bokke having to regroup for the 3rd and 4th place playoff. Andre immediately took charge of the situation and soon managed to restore the smiles as he introduced us to his beautiful Mercedes-Benz Model collection.

Our cars performed faultlessly on the 200km cruise back to Bloemfontein. Next year will hopefully see a greater turnout - albeit that you don't always need numbers to have a great time!



Western Cape Region

The Ederik Kritzinger Quest in search of the Traveller's Rest: 19-20 September 2015. By Johan Kemp:

In the Western Cape region we are very fortunate to have at least one club outing per month. To maintain this achievement requires the input of volunteers – and so it came to be, at an outing held earlier in the year – that Ederik Kritzinger, not for the first time, said, “We would like to go to Clanwilliam...”

To strengthen his commitment to ensuring that we became disciples of this cause, he enlisted the help of produce from our bountiful vineyards. This was indeed a master stroke, on his part, that soon liquidated any form of resistance and found Lizaan and I agreeing with him on all counts!

We agreed that it had to be a sleep over run. We concurred that September would allow us to book well in advance, as well as giving us the time to attend to every detail.

We knew that once you pass through Malmesbury, on the N7 towards Springbok, you enter ‘the platteland’ in a serious way that requires one to totally relax! With this in mind we adopted the theme – A Family Weekend in Family Saloons – and were delighted by the fact that all the chalets were fully booked in a very short space of time.

So it happened that on Saturday morning, the 19th of September, a convoy led by President Dirk set off towards Moorreesburg – 32 adults and 12 children, faithfully guided by 15

Pointed Stars. (The Stassen's and Keppler's, constrained by other matters, joined us later in the day, much to the delight of everyone present.)

Org de Rac

From Moorreesburg, we continued along the N7 towards Piketberg and our first destination – the organic wine farm - Org de Rac.

This beautiful farm is situated on top of a hill that offers spectacular views over the Swartland and we wasted no time creating a wonderful photo opportunity, comprising five generations of S-class and four generations of E-class saloons, beautifully framed by the Swartland, still green this time of the year, in the background.

Thanks to those guys that, on my request, changed to other cars so that we could have the complete line-up as we did – (Pat Jansen, Pieter Venter, Aneet Kessow and Hannes Pienaar, take a bow).

With the children happily playing outside, the staff of Org de Rac entertained and educated us in the subtle art of chocolate and wine pairing.

To our amazement we suddenly understood why certain combinations of chocolate and wine at the end of an evening can enhance a memorable meal, whilst the wrong pairing of wine and chocolate can lead to memories of a great meal fading

into mediocrity. (This is also true for food and wine and as one guy remarked explains his wife's cooking on occasions!)

With the lesson on how our mouths and taste buds interact, fresh in our minds, we partook of a very light brunch, snapped a last few photo's and got the convoy back onto the N7.

The Damhuis Bistro

Having received directions at the outset, the remainder of our journey, was a case of everybody at its own pace. We went up the Piekenierskloof Pass, passed Citrusdal, all the citrus farms and the Clanwilliam dam before turning right onto the R364 en route to a leisurely lunch at the Damhuis Bistro in the centre of Clanwilliam.





We were soon happily seated in shaded comfort, enjoying a bite to eat, sharing wine, getting to know newer members and generally sharing our three pointed passion – before taking on the Pakhuis Pass in search of the Travellers Rest.

The Traveller's Rest

The Pakhuis Pass and its astonishing rock formations, provides a very special experience to those that traverse it for the first time. The very pace of life changes as you climb this spectacular pass. The tension of modern living is swept away by eagles effortlessly riding the thermals in full view, before soaring effortlessly skyward with the wind beneath their wings.

The Traveller's Rest was an apt name for our destination – a venue where relaxation and nature combine to push the 'switch-off' button that releases stress with great ease and replaces one's frown with a smile



as silence clears the mind.

As sunset approached we gathered in the restaurant for reasons of rugby and the prospect of a Springbok RWC victory against the Land of the Rising Sun...!

I take my hat off to the fortitude of our members in the Western Cape. In the spirit of sport we did not allow the result to eclipse the evening or the prize giving that followed.

Dinner involved a buffet where one could tuck into the traditional meat dishes of the area, and after dessert it was the one story after the other recounted with great skill and conviction by that 'raconteur par excellence' - Bryan Slingers.

It was turning late and one by one people were beginning to return to their cottages – in many cases this decision being forced by some very grumpy and exhausted children. For others it was an opportunity to gather together and make a fire.... My sincere thanks to Ian van der Westhuizen and George Padley for their help in disturbing my sleep patterns... I had a great time!

Breakfast – Sunday the 20th

Besides nature itself, the two main attractions at Traveller's Rest are its hiking trail and the rock climbing in the region. Every year they receive many visitors from all over the world.

The hiking trail is internationally renowned because of its nine clearly marked sites of interest, where some of the finest remaining examples of San Rock Art can be viewed.

The effects of a hectic programme meant that only a few of us tackled the hiking trail, early on Sunday morning. I can certainly recommend it if you ever get the opportunity of passing that way, whilst going nowhere slowly.

After a leisurely breakfast, it was time to find the road home. The Pakhuis Pass provided some of us with a last stop – where we paid our respects at the grave of the great Afrikaans author, Louis Leipoldt.

Lunch in Moorreesburg @ The Hut - The idea was twofold - one to "prevent" everybody from speeding home, directly after breakfast and secondly to showcase -The Hut - a family owned restaurant that offers a 'Sunday Boerekos Buffet' on a farm adjacent to the entrance to Morreesburg.

We ate, we drank, we conquered...suddenly it was all over and for once Lizaan and I had the shortest journey home.

What about the cars? Before we are accused that this is not an outdoor magazine, it was all about the cars!

S-classes: A Six cylinder Ponton, W111 Fintail, 2 x W108, W116 and W126

E-classes: W114, W123, W124, W210 and the latest E400

Other: R129, R107, Geländewagen and GL

Not a single car missed a beat over the almost 600 km travelled, no incidents at all – a simple journey in sheer comfort and no trailers required for the luggage! Thank you to all that attended!



National Concours







National Concours By: Andre Esterhuizen

Hein Lorentz and his wonderful team at the Mercedes-Benz Lifestyle Centre - Menlyn, once again rose to the occasion and excelled in their hosting of the Annual MBC SA - National Concours Event, held on 12 and 13 September.

Their efforts, over the years, have turned this event into a spectacular affair that consistently sets the standard and raises the bar of excellence, year after year. It must surely rate as the finest Concours event in South Africa – bar none!

The prestige of the event attracted a very strong field of over 30 entrants from all corners of the country, who presented to the judges, club members and members of the public their vehicles, in their finest condition.

It is no small undertaking to seek entry to this prestigious event and requires of the owners that they bestow weeks of hard labour for the privilege and pride of putting their vehicles on display.

Grown men became boys again - inspecting, admiring, comparing and desiring all the beautiful cars that stood proudly before them.

An immense vote of thanks must go to Ettienné Geel and his worthy team of judges who acquitted themselves most professionally and with even hand, in the difficult task of judgement. To Chris Carlisle-Kitz, the event coordinator, well done on presenting and delivering an excellent event!

The Hashtag - #LifestyleCentreMenlyn is one

that can claim the pursuit of excellence as one of its core desired outcomes and Saturday evening saw Hein and his team deliver a fantastic 'potjiekos evening', which was thoroughly enjoyed by the M-B Club members.

Sunday was truly 'Judgement Day' in more than the biblical sense and saw the arrival of literally hundreds of members to witness and enjoy the announcement of the winners in the various categories of the 2015 National Concours - The parking lot was filled with a splendid display of cars from an Adenauer and a fully restored Ponton bakkie, to a new SLS AMG and could have, in fact provided sufficient entries to hold a separate event of equal vehicle quality.





Category	Entrant	Car
Class W198 (300SL)	Connie Oosthuizen	1957: 300SL
Class Ponton 1 st	Gary Dodds	1958: 219
Class Ponton 2 nd	Doeke Tromp	1958: 219
Class W110/111/112 (Fintail)	Warren Geysler	1968: 200
Class W113 (Pagoda)	Connie Oosthuizen	1967: 250SL
Class W108/109	Gary Bowes	1972: 280S
Class W114/115	Jorge Tenente	1975: 230.6
Class R/C107	Anita du Preez	1977: 450SLC
Class W123	Stephen Kaalsen	1984: 230E
Class R129	Pieter Booysen	2000: SL500
Class W140	Leon du Preez	1995: S500
Class SLK	Chris Cloete	2012: SLK200
Tops Only: Modern (1986-2015)	Richard Tudor-Owen	2000: SL320
Tops Only: Youngtimer (1966-1985)	Anita du Preez	1977: 450SLC
Tops Only: Classic (Pre-1966)	Theo Pienaar	1958: 220S
D'Etat: Modern (1986-2015)	Chris Cloete	2012: SLK200
D'Etat: Classic (Pre-1986)	Stephen Kaalsen	1984: 230E
D'Honneur	Fanie du Preez	1985: 280E
Oldest Car Entered	Connie Oosthuizen	1957: 300SL
Ladies' Choice	Connie Oosthuizen	1957: 300SL

To the Entrants – We extend a sincere 'Thank You' for the time and effort put into the preparation and presentation of your entries. You entertained us royally, you set standards that held us in awe and honoured the Marque!

To the Judges and the Event Co-ordinator – A task undertaken with pride, an outcome delivered with precision!

To Hein Lorentz and the Lifestyle Centre Menlyn Team – Skitterend!











Mercedes-Benz



KWAZULU-NATAL REGION

Annual General Meeting and End of Year Luncheon

By Richard Edwards

Things are buzzing in the Mercedes-Benz Club in Kwazulu Natal.

It was with pleasure and delight that we were joined at our year end function by none other than Frik and Jasmyn Roux. You cannot be more honoured than to have the Vice President and his charming wife grace a function in your area. Thank you for giving us your time at our lunch, and for driving all the way to The Last Operational Outpost of The British Empire.

Saturday the 7th November was the date, and we were privileged to be invited by Warren, Dody, Courtney and Mia Geysler, to enjoy the grandeur and tranquillity of their magnificent home, to hold our Annual General Meeting and Year End Lunch with them. All four of them welcomed us and went out of their way to make us all feel at home. Thank you all so much.

The Annual General Meeting was an occasion of sadness at the start. Chris Carlisle-Kitz

presented his final address as chairman to the assembly. He founded the KwaZulu Natal Club, and has been chairman since its inception. His contribution to the running and wellbeing of the club has been immense and the shoes to be filled are enormous.

With the usual items on an agenda duly attended to, we moved on to election of office bearers and the cheerfulness came back into the meeting when Avish Maharaj was unanimously elected to replace Chris. A big man, with charisma and drive, has accepted the job of filling the vacated position and we are all looking forward to many years of



From Left to Right: Klaus Pieper-Warren Geysler-Tazz Premrajh-Dave Roux-Richard Edwards-Richard Tudor-Owen-Mat Du Sart- Des Armstrong-Avish Maharaj-Chris Carlisle-Kitz and Frik Roux.



pleasure and camaraderie with Avish at the helm.

It was a day when we were able to welcome new members and some old that we had not seen for some time. Richard Tudor-Owen was there with his wife Jane and their immaculately turned out SL 320, First in Class Tops Only, and Second in the highly contested 129 Class at this year's concourse. It was their first AGM at the club and we look forward to many years sharing events with us.

Matthew Du Sart arrived in his spanking SLK 350. A most eye catching Blue. A man of great talent. He is a Dancer, Pianist and a Chorister and we are expecting many hours of entertainment with him leading the tardy old faithful. Who can forget the rendition of Ag Pleez Deddy at the 2015 National Gathering.

Below is a group photograph of the members who were there, with Frik taking the opportunity of being a member of KwaZulu Natal. Quite an honour for him

Our preliminary events calendar has been drawn up, and 2016 promises to be a very active one for our region. We

are planning to visit some of our neighbours and to show off various of our award winning vehicles.

Klaus Pieper and his wife Monica joined us. We don't see nearly enough of them as he is diligently working away preparing his Pagoda. He is so busy on that project that he doesn't have time to come on outings. We are going to be working hard to entice him out. All Work and NO Play makes Jack a dull boy.

On display in the museum was Warren's concourse winning Fintail. A really well prepared car, and thoroughly deserving of the cup.

Watch this space for more news on the small but happy band of enthusiasts from the province that once won the Currie Cup, but still shows up well with their Mercedes Benz displays. KwaZulu Natal.

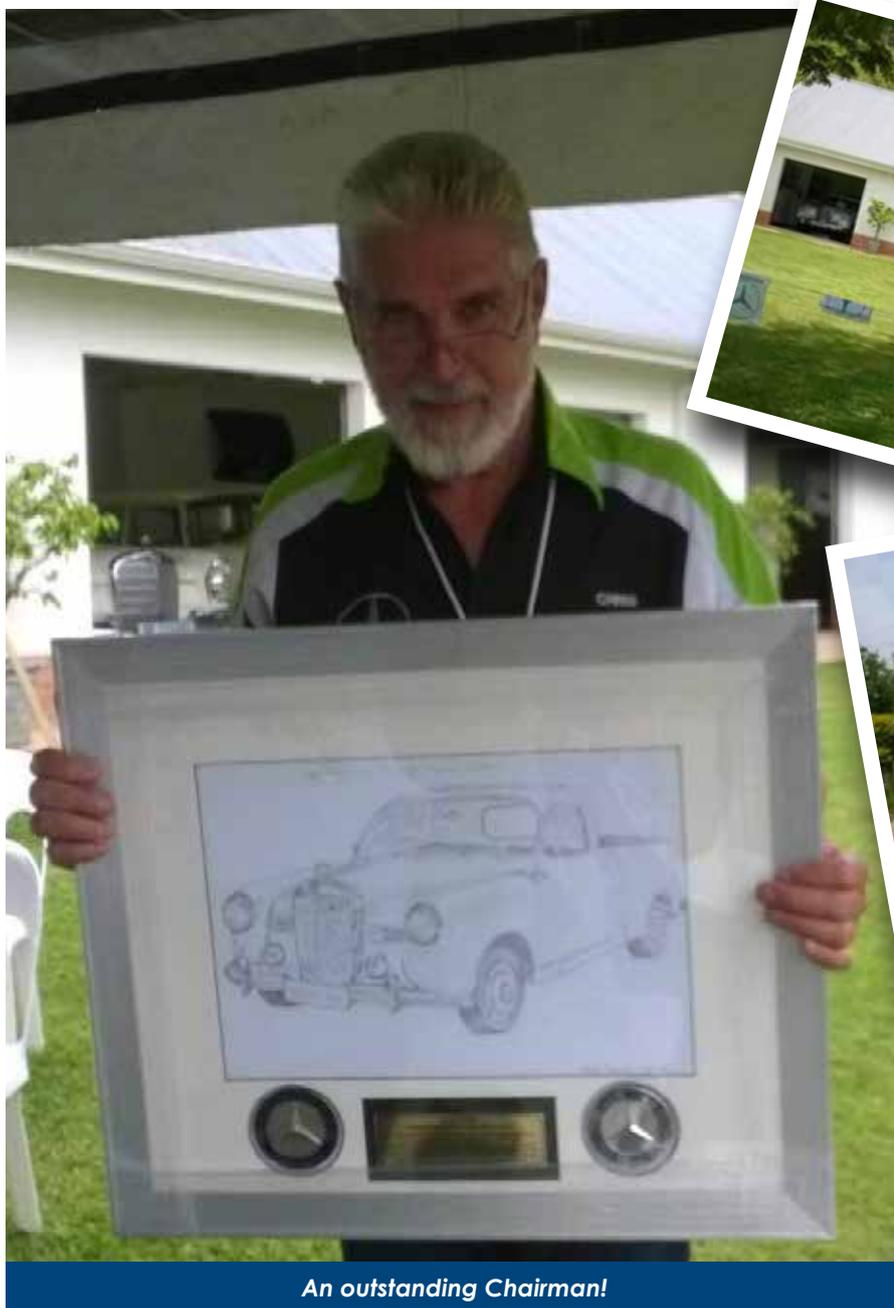




REGOLIA

Still worth every penny!

Members to confirm prices: Jaco Kachelhoffer – Regalia Officer | C: 082 771 1731 F: 086 671 9688 | E: regalia@mercedesbenzclub.co.za



An outstanding Chairman!



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Graham van Heerden | Philip Kannemeyer



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