



DIE THE BENZ LENS

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA



Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa
 #MBCSA1
 mercedesbenzclubsa

From the DESK

Club President: Waldo Scribante

With the highly successful AGM of the MBCSA safely packed away, I began to experience a need that became an itch, which finally became a crazy idea to do a road trip around our beautiful country.

The crazy idea became a dream

and then took on a reality which saw us depart George at 07h30 on Friday the 10th of June, in search of the scenic route through the Lang Kloof to East London.

(It was a rainy yet very relaxed journey and it never occurred to me to check the fuel gauge until we were in East London – we managed to put 102 liters of fuel into the 100 liter tank. The GL500

consumed 13.6l per 100km!)

Pieter Moolman is a wonderfully welcoming person and to my mind certainly someone who is going to do a fine job as Membership Secretary! Our meeting, in this regard, over coffee was most productive and was followed by some old style Eastern Cape hospitality in the company of Erald Hohls and his very committed

From the Desk

team/members, whilst enjoying the best burgers and pizzas in South Africa at the Café Sanook.

The next leg of our journey took us through the Transkei and down to the Wild Coast Sun - just south of Port Edward - where we met up with Avish and Mira to enjoy a sneak preview of the venue that is set to house the 2017 AGM!

SAVE THE DATE 27 – 29 April 2017 KZN - AGM Take a walk on the Wild side

Surely it is going to be a huge event and a National Gathering not to be missed!

We left the Wild Coast early on Monday morning, confident that the venue is going to be a winner!

The next stop on our journey was Westville and an opportunity to visit Cormac, an Old English Sheep Dog we bred and who now resides in the suburb. It was really an opportunity 'to visit two old dogs with one bone!' Pat da Editor, has his offices almost around the corner from Cormac and we were able to say a quick hello, before travelling on to Van Reenen, where we stayed overnight - hoping for snow and very grateful to find that our room had a very efficient fireplace.

Tuesday brought Johannesburg into view as well as a fabulous dinner with the Northern Region Committee. It was a great privilege to join Leon in handing over the

money collected at the 2016 AGM to their nominated beneficiary - CHOC.

Wednesday, I visited a man that very few know of - Billy Raaths - who does the layout of the Benz Lens and who was of great assistance in the redesigning the front page. The balance of Wednesday was spent with family, catching up with news and cementing the bonds that bring strength too us all.

Thursday morning: We leave Pretoria - home of the Blue Bulls, in search of the City of Roses and the Cheetahs, Bloemfontein. Laat ek sommer nou, vir julle almal waarsku - die mense ken van 'party'! Chris Kuhn and his lovely wife Rensche arranged for us to visit Annalie and Jaco Kachelhoffer in their Merc Shed, (Stunning...) where they connived to ply us with large quantities of ice cold beer... they then, with the assistance of the Central Region Committee took us out for a sumptuous Italian dinner accompanied by a superb selection of fine wine!

In freezing cold weather we departed from Bloemfontein at 05h00 for George, where we were able to effect personal running repairs and re-charge our batteries before driving down to Cape Town, where another cold front lay in wait for us just before the Huguenot tunnel.

Monday evening – a meeting with Dirk and Johan, to discuss the club's finances – and thereafter attended the monthly meeting of

the Western Cape Region, with Kurt giving a special welcome to Rene', to mark her first meeting as a Western Cape member!

Again to much red wine juice.....

Tuesday morning: In just over a week and 4,832km later and we have visited every region of the club, except the Southern Cape.

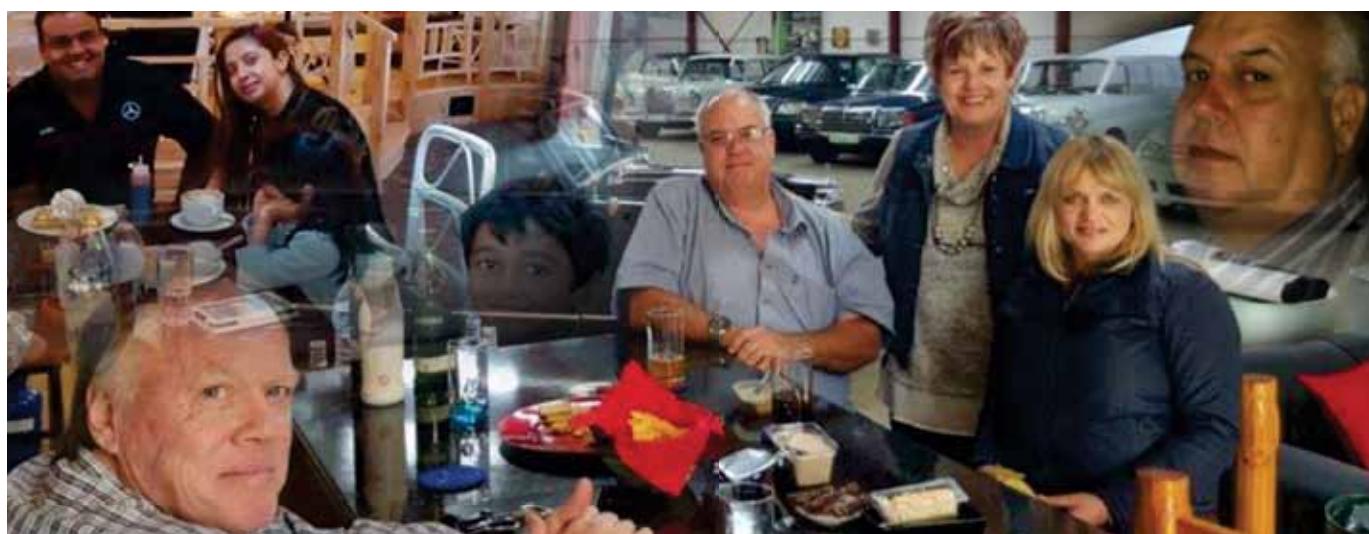
We were generously welcomed, entertained and experienced a unique form of hospitality that only the Mercedes-Benz Club of SA can offer!! The support from the Chairmen, Regional Committee's and individual member, that Rene' and I received was overwhelming and greatly appreciated. It is this dedication and effort from everyone concerned that makes our club the greatest!

During the trip, I visited MBSA, to introduce myself and to see how we can co-operate and work towards common goals. I realized we need to be more proactive on social media. We need to boost our Facebook visibility.

Please involve yourself in this effort - follow us on Twitter #MBCSA1 as well as Instagram - mercedesbenzclubs.

I call on our younger members to assist us in driving the growth of our social presence - it is a vital component of our future!!

Waldo Scribante - President - Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa



Editor Notes



Necessary Endings and New Beginnings

The pleasure of discovering Miss Mercedes and being able to finance her restoration and reintroduction to the world of classic motoring – will remain a highlight of my life and linger in amongst my memories forever.

The sheer joy that Linda and I experienced introducing her to far flung backroads that, without our intervention she would never have travelled, was a magnificent reward for the effort expended.

We felt her revel in her release!

The decision to put her on the market was largely driven by a book that I recently read called

Necessary Endings by Henry Cloud. The premise is that one has to let go of things in life in order to create new beginnings.

The idea of hanging on to the past, for example, stunts your ability to fully connect with the future. New Beginnings are important in that they assist the soul to regenerate the curiosity that is vital to keeping the brain active and inquisitive.

I am delighted that she has found an owner like Chris Kuhn – I know he will enjoy the ride... and take good care of her.

My New Beginning is a 1989

230CE – ex Norman Hickel – and I am like a kid with a new toy!

The ride back from East London was a thing of beauty! She is a very comfortable ride, she can gallop and she holds a line through the tight corners of the Umkomaas Valley with imperious ease.

I only have room for one Classic in my garage – I replaced Miss Mercedes with Miss Benz, a thoroughbred mare who is going to share our travels and our delight in discovering new beginnings.

Travel safe... Pat da Editor

Pat Smythe
- The Editor





EASTERN CAPE REGION

Living the dream (on a budget)

By Rudi Le Roux

I have always hankered after a C126... I had a die cast scale model of a Silver 500SEC when I was a kid and played with it until the wheels literally fell off.

One of my friend's dads had a silver 380SEC, back in the late 80's. Whilst seemingly impossible - I fell in love with this baby and her navy blue interior!

Fast forward to 2016 - and a garage that was full and a bank balance running on empty... I still had that "itch" for a SEC...

For the past two years I have been doing this thing called the 'Jam Jar Rally'.

This is essentially a fun, charity rally, where a bunch of guys do a road trip in cars that must be older than 30 years and worth less than R30000. Old Mercs are a very popular choice for this Rally as they are plentiful, more than reliable, comfortable and certainly more rugged than some of the other cars of their generation. In the 2014 Edition of the Jam Jar - I used a 1978 W123 240D. In 2015 a 1978 W116 280S.

Both cars served me magnificently and have been snapped up by new owners due to their reliability, reputation and principally because I still had that 'C126 itch' - that really needed to be scratched long and hard!

I started scratching - I started thinking - I started doing sums - Why not a C126, older than 30 years and worth less than R30 000, was a thought that started running wild.

This was no small challenge considering that they were

becoming collectable and at a time were the most expensive Mercs on sale! I was fortunate, however, to discover a candidate in Port Elizabeth and started negotiations.

I didn't drive her, but I heard the engine run for about 1 minute and those few brief moments kick started the impulse that formed the decision - I wanted her for the Jam Jar!

I started negotiations with the seller and eventually settled on a price. She had to be one of the roughest SEC's I had ever seen - but she was a runner (sort of) and I got her well within my budget.

The following Saturday found me and a friend hitching up Colin's trailer and hauling the highway to fetch a car - a Light Metallic blue 1984 500SEC..!

I was excited and nervous. I had only heard the car run for a minute. I had never driven it - Did it move under

an ambitious task. I don't think the C126 500SEC's were ever officially sold in South Africa, only the 380SEC and later 560SEC but quite a few made their way over here in the form of "grey" imports for wealthy buyers. Back in 1984 it was the most expensive Mercedes on sale in the UK and today it was worth less than an Air shock on a new S Class.

We arrived in PE and I paid the seller and collected the keys and papers. He started the SEC and drove it onto the trailer for us - at least I now knew it moved.



its own power - Could I get her across the finish line?

I am not one to shy away from a challenge but this was quite



We strapped her down and hit the road back to East London. My friend Bevan, who was helping me fetch the SEC, was just as excited about the prospect of the SEC.

He had taken part in the previous Jam Jar in the 280S and had done a lot of the driving then and loved it.

Back in East London we got the SEC off the trailer and I drove it for





it would probably make more sense buy a better example than do a full restoration on her - in her own crazy she speaks to me and I'm in love - I think she is

happy too, she seems to sense that she has been saved from a scrap yard and is responding by making me forget her travel scars and making me feel like I am back in 1984, driving the top of the line 'Benz S Class Coupe!

I might do more than one Jam Jar with this lady!

the first time... into the garage! It's amazing how much you can tell is wrong with a car, by just driving it a 100m... I started making a list of things, from front to back that were palpably wrong and quickly realised how much TLC this old lady was going to need. (Most people would have rated this a - 'parts car' - at best!)

Now you have to remember that there was a budget I had to stick to so I had to focus on safety and reliability topics first. I am lucky in that I can do most of the work myself. Lots of parts and litres of fluids were ordered and the following weekend I got to work. Many hours were spent in the garage in a relatively short time but each little thing I did brought the car back to life.

The car is now driving quite well and all electronics are working. Cosmetically it's still a nightmare and it still has a "few" worrying issues but at least it's at the point where it can be driven anywhere safely which is all we need for the Jam Jar Rally.

I would literally drive her to Cape Town right now if I had to. She is a fun drive with a surprising amount of power and a lovely V8 sound. Whilst she is nowhere near fit to form part of a collection and



Johannesburg
P.O.Box 1037 | Houghton | 2041
Tel: 011 511 2358 | Fax: 011 486 1551
Email: jhb@choc.org.za

Per email to: president@mercedesbenzclub.co.za

16th August, 2016

Mr. Waldo Scribante
President
Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa

Dear Mr. Scribante,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

On behalf of the Committee, staff and children at CHOC Childhood Cancer Foundation, we thank you for choosing CHOC as your charity of choice to donate funds to.

We are very grateful for your donation of R28 900.00 deposited directly into our CHOC account on the 14th June, 2016.

At CHOC we aim to provide the best possible support for children with cancer and life-threatening blood disorders, and their families. Beginning as a parent support group in 1979, CHOC has developed into a nationwide organisation with a head office and six divisions, and 13 housing facilities. Our holistic approach includes psychosocial support in the hospital wards, from diagnosis onwards, and practical support ranging from accommodation to transport and recreation. We also support paediatric oncology staff, fund the upgrade of treatment facilities and ensure hospital wards are child-friendly. Our early warning signs programme promotes early detection.

Your generosity in supporting the work that CHOC does is sincerely appreciated and we thank you for helping us in "Keeping more than hope alive" for the children we serve.

Kind regards,

Brenda Steyn
Office Coordinator
CHOC Childhood Cancer Foundation SA
Gauteng South Region
Tel: 011 486 1212
Fax: 011 486 1551
email: brenda.steyn@choc.org.za

Keeping more than hope alive!

NPO Registration no. 001-338 NPO
Registered in terms of the tax act 1962 to be used exclusively for PBO 93009201

CHOCCHILDHOODSA
CHOC Childhood Cancer Foundation SA
www.choc.org.za



Eastern Cape Region

MBSA HIGH TEA

By Erald Hohls

This past Saturday 13th August, MBSA honoured the plant's women by hosting a Woman's Day High Tea at the plant's auditorium in East London. It was a glamourous affair with the ladies dressed up to the nines and there were lots of sweet treats for everyone to enjoy.

The event was also held to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the 1956 Women's March to the Union Buildings.

We were given the opportunity to display three of our club member's Pontons in the auditorium and the Commer LDV, part of MBSA's collection, was also on display inside. This was in particular reference to the 50's, which is also when the production of vehicles first commenced at CDA in East London, as it was called then.

Outside, my 170da was parked at the entrance next to MBSA's 1886 Benz three wheeler replica, where a red carpet had been laid as an honorary pathway which was beautifully lined by roses.

Norman, Colin & I got MBSA's three wheeler replica going, and on Saturday afternoon, Taryn Woodbridge (senior financial & controlling manager at MBSA) made a grand entrance into the auditorium driving the three wheeler). This was to emulate the drive Bertha Benz made in 1888, when she drove a similar car a distance 104km from Mannheim to Pforzheim with her two sons without her husband Carl's consent.

This was a very special occasion and we thoroughly enjoyed being part of it.



A Photo – Edited with Care – A Story without Words. – Nikki Georgiou



NATAL REGION

DEZZI RACEWAY JAUNT

By: Richard Tudor-Owen



1



3

Saturday the 4th of June brought with it a sunny dawn to accompany ten or so members, some with wives and family, on an adventure south, to the Dezzi Raceway in Port Shepstone.

With a stunning view of the Indian Ocean, the track is ideal for a wide range of motor-sporting activities and offers excellent spectating from several trackside grandstands. (*The eating and comfort facilities are well laid out and the standards are of a high order.*)

One of the attractions for the MBC members that made the pilgrimage, was that Chris-Carlisle Kitz was set to give his new car a run in the Historic Racing class of "Little Giants".

Well known in previous years for piloting a Mercedes-Benz in Historic Racing - Chris has this year chosen to go with a 1963 Ford Corsair and with five or six old Mercs racing in the field, albeit in other categories, it was sure to be a day of racing worth watching, particularly through the tight sections of the track.

Our arrival at the track was, however, greeted with bad news - Chris' car had destroyed its differential during the Friday

practice and seemingly his race was run!

How wrong we were... Historic racers are not known for giving up in the face of adversity and after many phone calls a replacement was located in Richmond.

Not exactly close by but delivery was promised as being definitely early the next morning, in time to be installed for the first race. Ably assisted by mechanics Richard Edwards and KZN Chairman Avish Maharaj as well as other fellow racer's, the diff was quickly installed and after a brief scare with a leaking seal Chris made the start line with minutes to spare.

Having missed qualifying and being forced to start from the back of the grid, Chris made a good start and after two laps had made up a couple of places... disaster then struck!

On his third lap Chris sensed something wasn't right and sure enough a glance at the oil pressure gauge confirmed his worst fears. With plummeting oil pressure,



2

- 1 Chairman Avish Maharaj consoles Chris Carlisle-Kitz
- 2 Nick van Wyk (Marque Car Chairman) and Fanie Kloppers
- 3 Fanie Kloppers at speed.

but no sign of oil spilling onto the track, there was no alternative other than to pull to the side of the track. With a philosophical shrug, "That's motor racing", Chris called it a day and spent what was left of the day spectating.

In total I counted seven models of Mercedes-Benz in various events. Mercedes-Benz Club member Fanie Kloppers (1974 280) acquitted himself well in the Pre '79 Historic Saloon race and although the usual coastal breeze picked up in the afternoon it was a thoroughly good days racing at the seaside that demonstrated clearly that old Benz's make excellent race-cars.





WESTERN CAPE REGION

Picardi Place/Tuka

Colin Hunt



Sunday 14 July: Our run on this beautifully clear Cape winters day, was organised by Juan. He does them well, there is always a pinch of something that he adds to the journey - a hint of adventure, flavoured with the bite of an exotic spice - which when combined, capture your imagination and hold your attention!

We made an early start under clear skies with a slight chill in the air and took a leisurely drive over the 'Old Du Toits Kloof Pass', breaking our journey at the first viewing point. The light was perfect and permitted us a fabulous photo opportunity to capture four beautiful Benz' with the majestic Table Mountain as a backdrop.

We continued over the pass into Rawsonville and followed the signs to our destination Picardi Place/Tuka, situated in the Deetlefs Wine Estate. Here we were to learn about the art of sustainable gardening under the expert tutelage of Jaco Brand as well as taking part in a wine

tasting, guided by Kobus Deetlefs - the Deetlefs Winemaker. (2nd Oldest Estate in South Africa)

On arrival Jaco walked and talked us through his sustainable garden. It was very encouraging for us to learn that one can grow your own, in a sustainable manner, wherever you may live (*be it in a flat or a mansion*). We were then entertained by winemaker Kobus Deetlefs and what he said, that truly resonated was - "there's no right or wrong about your choice of wine". We tasted a selection the Estate's superb offerings - and were particularly taken by their 'Champagne' with its interesting asides! (Example. Have a sip of Chardonnay, bite into a lemon and sip again - taste buds on alert!)

After these two very 'tasteful' talks, we then took up the challenge of making our own pasta and sauce, under Jaco's watchful eye -using ingredients from his 'hands on' garden.

It proved to us all, that all things are possible, particularly when a regular slurp of wine (to

create flavour) was deemed a compulsory component of the process

With our taste buds buzzing and hearts warming to the task, we were split into teams of two and were given aprons, a rolling pin, a ring of flour, 4 eggs and olive oil - followed by a demonstration with verbal instructions by Jaco on how to make pasta.

What fun it was, we kneaded, we rolled and cut our pasta on two large dining room tables, (Personal Note: I now have serious admiration for homemade pasta makers.) Once done we moved into the kitchen where our collective strands of pasta were put into a huge pot of bubbling, boiling, unsalted water while Jaco created a simple yet fabulous sauce - this time *under our watchful eyes!*

The day - like all good things - had to end. It was a very pleasurable experience which you should add to your 'To Do List' ... do it! Pasta la Vista



Western Cape Region

Riebeeck Kasteel Article

Op 31 Julie het ons op 'n koueoggend by die N1 ENGEN bymekaar gekom met 'n verskeidenheid Mercedes-Benz motors. Hiervandaan het ons teen 'n rustige spoed die pad gevat Riebeeck Kasteel toe via Wellington en Hermon. By die ingang na Riebeeck Kasteel het Mauritus gewag en ons tot in die middedorp geneem.

Hier het die meeste die winkeltjies gaan verken terwyl 'n paar by GARAGISTA gaan bier en ciders proe het. Na omtrent 'n uur het almal weer bymekaar gekom en het ons vertrek na Old Dalby in Riebeeck Wes.

Hier is ons verwelkom met sjerrie waarna ons by die tafels gaan aansit en verder gekuier het. Na die voorgereg het ons sommer by die tafels wyne geproe waarna die hoofgereg bedien is. Na die nagereg en baie gekuier het ons weer die pad huis toe gevat. Almal was dit eens dat ons dit 'n jaarlike instelling moet maak.

The Editors Version:

Ons het op die... Ons nou die dag op 'n blerrie koueoggend, by die gewone garage bymekaar gekom met 'n verskeidenheid ou scrap karre. Hiervandaan het ons teen 'n gevaarlike spoed die pad gevat, Put sonder Gat toe via Put met Gat en Kleinhuis.

By die ingang na Put sonder Gat, het Piet Poskantoor gewag en ons tot in die middedorp afgelewer.

Hier terwyl die meeste die winkeltjies gaan verken het – is paar van die boytjies by die kroeg in, om 'n paar stywe dubbel tripples agter die blad te bere.

Na omtrent so 'n uur, het almal weer by mekaar gekom en ons het vertrek na die Septic Tank in Put sonder Gat.

Heir is ons verwelkom met sjerrie – en baie daarvan – waarna ons by die tafels gaan aansit en verder gekuier. Na die voorgreg het ons sommer met die tafels wyne klaar gemaak waarna die hoofgereg bedien is. Na die nagereg en baie gekuier moes ons die pad huis toe gevat het – maar dit was te ver...

Almal was dit eens dat ons dit 'n jaarlike instelling moet maak







A Western Cape Meeting –
Silent Movie...
but very moving.





CENTRAL REGION

Technical Day 11 June 2016 – Kundendienst

By: Chris Kuhn

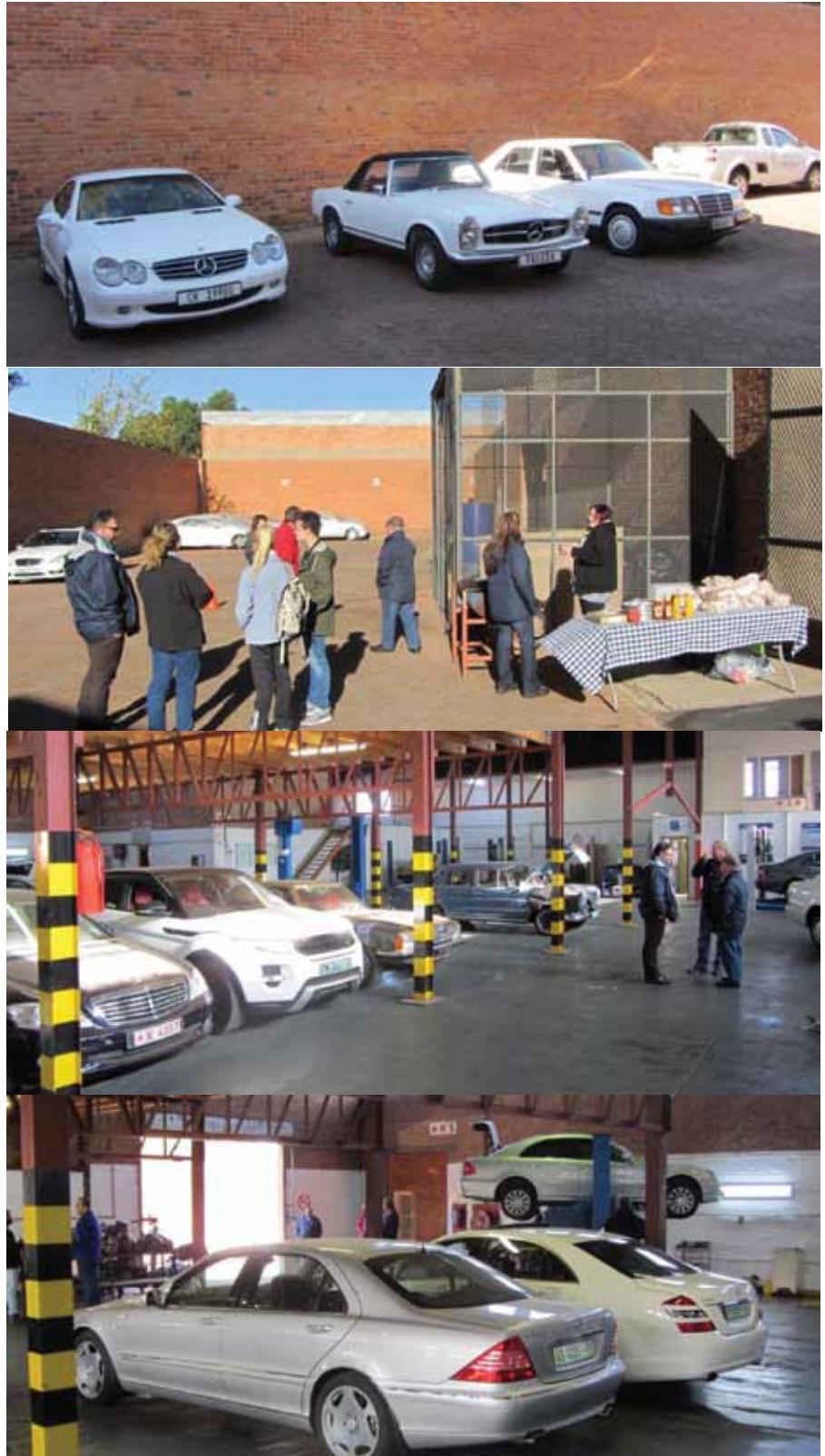
Our local Mercedes-Benz 'Doctors' - Kundendienst, invited us to join them for a technical day at their new, bigger and much improved premises in Harvey Rd. This has become a greatly appreciated annual event and the Kundendienst Team of Theo & Christelle Jansen van Rensburg and Herman & Amanda van As really rolled out the red carpet for the members who attended.

(It is wonderful to have their technical support, as well as their friendship and committed membership of the Club. Members also had the opportunity to put their own cars on the lifts and ask questions and get help where needed.)

The day started with Herman providing us with some very interesting info on a variety of suspension systems as well as an explanation which clearly illustrated the difference between Turbo Chargers and Kompressors.

He also demonstrated the self-park function on the A and C-class cars which was both fascinating and fun! (*Editor's Note: Could also be described as a quantum leap in the direction of human redundancy?*) The highlight of the day, however was undoubtedly the setting off of an airbag from an old SLK that had expired - Huge explosion and clouds of dust!

We are very fortunate to have specialists like Herman and his team to help keep our old cars on the road. Knowledge of the older cars is the vital ingredient necessary to keep our hobby alive.



Central Region



Cars in the Park 2016

Our region's flagship event, Cars in the Park, hosted by the OFSVCC was held on August 9 2016. Months of planning came together with a braai at the venue on Monday night and the show on Tuesday.

The pre-show braai was well attended and I think it extends the reach of CITP a little for everyone to enjoy longer and make memories last a little longer! Our theme this year was the 'Fintail' and we were very fortunate to have 16 Finny's - of all body styles - gracing us with their presence.

Only the diesels nl. 190D and 200D eluded our display. It seems that the lesser models when new are now the hardest to come by! We even had a 300SEL and a 230S Universal on the stand! These two models are extremely rare and not often seen. Thank you to Pieter Pienaar and Louis Coetzer for bringing them out. Prizes on the day went to:

- Japie Vos- Car of the show 1965 220SE Cabriolet
- Annalie Kachelhoffer- Oldest car 1959 190
- Des Bosch- Best Fintail 1968 230S
- Van Zyl van Pletzen-Most original 1963 190
- Deon Nel- Best two door 1984 380SEC

Our stand was soon filled to capacity with 34 Stars in total. The tent was well utilized by the members with coffee and tea available the whole day. Des Bosch and his son Shaun treated us to curry and rice for lunch that went down very nicely on a wintery Free State day! All too soon the show wound down and all the beauties started to leave us until next time!

The new venue and stand we had this year really worked very well and I'm sure will contribute to growing the show in years to come!



Central Region



Lunch at Kimberley Club 24 July 2016



We are invited by our Kimberley members for lunch at the historic Kimberley Club on an annual basis and it is always an invite that we look forward to receiving.

Eight cars left in convoy from Bloemfontein and were joined by others from Hartswater.

We were met on the outskirts of Kimberley by Koot and Saartjie du Toit who in keeping with tradition dispensed each and all a generous portion of sherry to help with the winter cold!

The Kimberley Club is renowned for their buffet which

is, extensive, wonderful value for money and way to tempting to refuse!

Great food, great cars and great company = a great club outing – Nuff said!





SOUTHERN CAPE REGION

In Recognition of Fine Women

By Johan Sloet



The 9th of August is an auspicious day in the lives of many. It commemorates and recognises the efforts of the women of South Africa to improve their lot in life and create a better space for their children, loved ones and society in general.

It is a day of remembrance and recognition they thoroughly deserve! In an effort to mark the day we planned a lunch outing at the Bramon Wine Estate. In this respect we have taken a leaf out of the book of our friends who live in the surrounds of a Mountain and are now following the custom of the Western Cape MBC - to visit wine estates on a regular basis and combine a day of great food and wine with the very necessary task of giving our four wheeled ladies the chance to stretch their legs and feel the breeze through their radiators.

The Bramon Wine Estate is approximately 100 km from George, just off the N2 near The Craggs overlooking the Tsitsikama Mountains, with the restaurant set in the

vineyards - a very pleasant outlook made even better by a fairly wide selection of wines bearing the Bramon label to complement an excellent menu

Whilst we were there, the other visitors to the Estate were more than impressed with our Mercs, and took many photographs of themselves posing beside or in front of them. Especially Andre Fourie's 300 convertible and Bernd's Pagoda.

Bramon have an excellent 'Bubbly' that we took quite a liking too... This grew from liking to immense admiration and luck-



ily we had President Waldo in our company and he picked up the bill.

We are indeed deeply indebted to you Sir!





NORTHERN REGION

THE SYLVIAVALE HERITAGE MUSEUM

By: Andre Esterhuizen



On 28 August, a handful of Northern Region members set off on an outing to The Sylviavale Heritage Museum located on a smallholding in the suburb of Sylviavale - on the western side of Vanderbijlpark.

It's funny how Club outings are variously dominated by one or other model and this turned out to be no exception and was comprised as largely an SL run, with four R129's and one C107, an SLK and a few other models.

The Sylviavale Museum wasn't planned as such, it simply evolved over time due to the efforts of Siggi Düvel who has lived on the property and operated his construction company from there

since 1992. When things were quiet Siggi used any spare capacity in his construction company, to erect various buildings in a somewhat unusual style, resembling a bygone-era village.

The 3600m² Museum, consisting of five halls and outdoor display areas, host to name a few, a range of large agricultural implements and tractors to motor vehicles, motorcycles, bicycles, old furniture and even antique clothing all from bygone times.

The many cultural artefacts are exhibited in street-scene recreations and traditional museum displays. It was absorbing to spend a few happy hours in this time-warp,

marvelling at such anachronistic items as mangles, typewriters and rather un-sporting looking racing bicycles.

It was also a wonderful opportunity to support a self-sufficient museum that generates its only income from its tea room, a small restaurant/pub and a weekly country market. It does, however have a wonderful ambience and we thoroughly enjoyed a very relaxed and sociable lunch of pizza's or potjies before climbing into our cars and travelling back to the future!

Many thanks to Leon Wannenburg for organising a memorable event - it was a very enjoyable outing!



Northern Region



Air Force Day 2016

By: Sven Krassnokutski

The first weekend in July is a date which is always eagerly pencilled in on the calendars of most members of the Northern Region: it is our annual Air Force Day which is held at Zwartkops Air Force Museum. This event, organised by Hilton Wolff, is now in its sixth year and is a perennial highlight on the Northern Region calendar. It is very special in that it is one of only twelve annual flying days held by the Air Force Museum, and it is dedicated to the members of the Mercedes-Benz Club, joined by our friends from the Porsche and MG Clubs. However, the Mercs have always been in the majority and this year was no exception, with 58 cars bearing the three-pointed star present on the runway apron.

It is pleasing to see that the work being undertaken at the Air Force Museum is progressing, and the ditch which had to be carefully negotiated in prior years is now closed and the apron beautifully concreted again. It is wonderful to see that resources and effort are being put into the preservation of this heritage. A huge debt of gratitude is owed to the dedicated members and

friends of the Air Force Museum who so passionately set about maintaining the rich, almost century-long, history of The South African Air Force.

The parking arrangement on the day is conducive to being able to drift between the cars and admire the many beauties which make an appearance. These range from rare classics to more modern Benz's, but it is always a pleasure to spend some time admiring the lovingly cared for and pampered cars, compare notes with owners of similar models and admire the newcomers to the Club or 'barn finds' which have been recently unearthed.

As always, the highlight of the day was the flying. Through Hilton's persistence and constant dialogue with the Officer Commanding, we were indeed fortunate to have no less than six flights in the Puma helicopter made available to us during the course of the morning. A few lucky members were able to fly in the Alouette2, Alouette3 helicopters as well as Harvard aircraft. With so many flights made available, virtually everyone in attendance was able to fly on the day. Thank you, Hilton, for

making this possible.

For those members who didn't want to miss the rare photo opportunity which the day presents, it was possible to have professional photos taken of your car with an Impala aircraft as a backdrop, which resulted in pictures well worthy of framing and display!

There is always ample opportunity to kuier, another highlight of the event. The Friends of the Air Force Museum always live up to the task of feeding the masses, and from early in the morning, the braai fires are lit. The hot coffee is most welcome in the chilly early morning and the drinks and eats provided later in the day are very much appreciated.

Thank you to Hilton for the impeccable organisation of the event and to everyone who so ably assisted on the day - André Esterhuizen, Donovan Seeliger, Ian Otridge, Koos du Toit and Carlos Cardoso. The smooth running of the day may seem to go unnoticed, but the effort required to achieve this is definitely not unappreciated.

We hope to see many more members next year!



Central Region



and much appreciated.

There were about 60 Mercedes-Benz models on display, which was quite appropriate as we had made a special effort to highlight the 60th anniversary of the SL range of cars introduced in 1956. These flagship convertibles were allocated pride of place and were parked in the front row, along the track for all to see and share in our proud heritage.

Our Club certainly ranked as one of the best represented single marque clubs on the day. It was wonderful to see so many newly rebuilt and restored cars ready to take to our roads again. The rapidly expanding Unimog display next to our stand was a perfect example of this.

A highlight of the day was the opportunity for members to meet with our new President – Waldo Scribante and share a glass of champagne. Thank you, Waldo, for the champagne, it was very much appreciated by all - the Northern Region wishes you all the best for your term of office and we look forward to growing and enjoying the Club under your leadership.

Cars in the Park – Zwartkops

By Leon Wannenburg

The Pretoria Old Motor Club hosted their annual Cars in the Park event at the Zwartkops Raceway on the 31st of July. This annual event is truly a tribute to the commitment of Members of the POMC to the preservation of motoring history. We wish them well in the celebration of their 50th anniversary this year.

This event is without doubt the biggest car show, with the widest diversity of vehicles in South Africa – truly a gathering of vehicles that have been driven from all points in our wonderful country to be put on display by their proud owners!

All the marques were represented on the show, from a hearse to an ambulance and everything in between. Thankfully the traffic control on entry and exit has improved greatly - but it remains a challenge to manage such a huge amount of vehicles on the day, so coming early and leaving late was the way to go – with plenty to do in between!

Thanks to support from MBSA and the National Committee, we were again able to use the AMG Dynamic Driving Centre next to the track. This privilege is unique

Advert

**Members to confirm prices:****Jaco Kachelhoffer – Regalia Officer**

C: 082 771 1731 F: 086 671 9688

E: regalia@mercedesbenzclub.co.za

Still worth every penny!**Three in One Jackets**

S Featureremovablefleeceinnerjacket. Outer jacket featuresconcealedzipoffhood, weltedouterpockets. Inner jacket featuresinnerandouterpockets. Outer jacket: Waterresistant100%Polyesterfabric. Inner jacket: Micro polarfleecefabric.

M

L

XL

2XL

3XL

4XL

5XL

Civic Lounge Shirt (NEW)

S Vertical stripe pattern with raised collar, double layer drop shoulder yoke and back box pleat. 65/35 Poly cotton blend.

M

L

XL

2XL

3XL

4XL

5XL

Fleecy Tops

S Converts a long sleeve into a sleeveless sweater.

M Full zip front with two side pockets.

L

XL

2XL

3XL

4XL

5XL

250g 100% Polyester

V-Neck Jerseys

S Long sleeved v-neck jersey with ribbed welts and cuffs.

M

L

XL

2XL

65% Cotton / 35% Polyester

Pullover/ Sleeveless Jersey

M V-shaped collar with reinforced ribbed cuffs and hem. Lightweight jersey.

L

XL

2XL

3XL

Fusion Lounge Shirts

4XL Casual lounge shirt that can be worn as long or short sleeves by buttoning-up the sleeve.

5XL Curved hem, back yoke, sleeve loopand two chest pockets with inverted pleat and flap. Poly cotton blend with soft raised collar and subtle stripe design. Last of the range - no other sizes available.

Monza Shirt

S Racy design with contrast stripes across the chest withtwo patchpockets. Poly cotton twill fabric.

M

L

XL

2XL

3XL

4XL

5XL

Stealth Golf Shirt (NEW)

S 150g Polyester fabric with 3 button placket and double contrast stripe on sleeves, underarm insert and contrast neck binding.

M

L

XL

2XL

3XL

4XL

5XL

Sally Ladies Shirt (NEW)

S Lightly brushed polycotton in soft pink, 3/4 Sleeves, side slits and curved hem. Feminine cut with chest pocket detail and top stitching. Relaxed fit.

M

L

XL

2XL

3XL

MBCSA Grill Badges**Key Rings****AGM Central 2013 Grill Badges****License Disc Holders****Tog bags****License Stickers****Club Caps****Sun Shades**

STICKERS | www.merc.club • Eastern Cape
• Northern Region • Western Cape • Central



DIE THE BENZ LENS

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA

P.O. Box 999, George, 6530 | www.mercedesbenzclub.co.za

The only officially recognized Mercedes-Benz Club in Africa
Member of the SA Motor Club Association

Waldo Scribante (President)

C: 082 802 3280

E: president@mercedesbenzclub.co.za

Frik Roux (Vice President)

C: 083 229 7601

E: vicepresident@mercedesbenzclub.co.za

Johan Kemp (Treasurer)

C: 083 457 1092

E: treasurer@mercedesbenzclub.co.za

Sven Krass de Krassnokutski (Chairman: Northern Region)

C: 082 685 8204

E: northern@mercedesbenzclub.co.za

Erald Hohls (Chairman: Eastern Cape)

C: 082 443 8379

E: ecape@mercedesbenzclub.co.za

Chris Kühn (Chairman: Central Region)

C: 082 779 0451

E: central@mercedesbenzclub.co.za

Pat Smythe (Editor)

C: 082 781 4410

E: editor@mercedesbenzclub.co.za

Pat Smythe (Club Approved Insurance Broker)

T: 031 701 0226 C: 082 781 4410

E: pat@smythebros.com

Annalie Kachelhoffer (National Secretary)

C: 084 205 5411

E: secretary@mercedesbenzclub.co.za

Pieter Moolman (Membership Secretary)

C: 083 780 4727 | F: 043 704 4406

E: membership@mercedesbenzclub.co.za

Note: The membership secretary is only available on Wednesday mornings from 09h00-12h00

Kurt Stassen (Chairman: Western Cape)

C: 082 415 8815

E: wcape@mercedesbenzclub.co.za

Johan Sloet (Chairman: Southern Cape)

C: 083 640 7455

E: scape@mercedesbenzclub.co.za

Avish Maharaj (Chairman: KZN)

C: 071 672 8156

E: kzn@mercedesbenzclub.co.za

Jaco Kachelhoffer (Regalia Officer)

C: 082 771 1731 F: 086 671 9688

E: regalia@mercedesbenzclub.co.za

Dirk Lombard (Webmaster)

C: 079 314 2109

E: webmaster@mercedesbenzclub.co.za

Honorary Life Members

Sir Stirling Moss | Steve Rademeyer | Ettienne Geel | Philip Kannemeyer | Graham van Heerden | Dirk van der Westhuizen

Hero / Special Members

Kobus Harris | Hein Lorentz | Okkie Potgieter | Brian Slingers | Anna-Lee dos Santos | Chris Carlisle-Kitz



Mercedes-Benz

PLEASE NOTE: The placement of ads is a service rendered to our members. Neither the editor nor the committee accepts any liability pertaining to condition or ownership of goods advertised. It remains the responsibility of the reader to investigate these issues before closing any transaction.

DISCLAIMER: The Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa, although an authorized user of the Mercedes-Benz Trademarks, is an independent organisation and the views expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those Mercedes-Benz SA, Daimler AG or the Mercedes-Benz Museum GmbH.* Opinions expressed are those of the individual contributors and should not be interpreted as official club policy. While great care has been exercised in the compilation of the material published, members are advised to personally verify information, statements and claims before committing themselves to acts on transactions.

* Mercedes-Benz Museum GmbH is a Daimler Company.

