



DIE
THE **BENZ LENS**

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA

get starred in the benz lens



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From the President

Waldo Scribante

It is with regret that I must announce the end of an era, the printed version of the BENZ LENS. At the same time I am very enthusiastic about the future of our new digital e-version of the Benz Lens, under the new editorship of Stephen Kaalsen.

As you are reading this on your PC, tablet or smart phone, I want to take time to reflect on the history of the Benz Lens. Firstly, before the club was officially formed, a couple of Merc enthusiasts got together and produced a few newsletters called the MERC NUT.

Once the club was officially formed and recognised by Daimler-Benz AG in October 1985, Theo Odendaal the first club editor, sent out the first monthly newsletter in May 1986. Steve Rademeyer took over as editor in September 1987. Eventually in June 1988 a competition was held to name the newsletter and a certain Mr J L J van Rensburg won and the first BENZ LENS was published in August 1988, with Steve Rademeyer as editor. For many a year this was the way of communication with members with editorial and presidential sections, reporting on numerous events with black and white photos, technical articles, a correspondence section with member letters, notice of future club events, a market section and

club management info.

Eventually the first full colour edition was published in June 2005 with Graham van Heerden as editor. But unfortunately due to rising costs, the pages per edition became less and we ended with quarterly editions with our last printed version in November 2016.

I want to thank all the past editors starting with Theo Odendaal and Steve Rademeyer, followed by Boela Naudé, Philip and Christina Kannemeyer, Owen Jackson, David Galloway, Basil Cassoulas, Johan Swanepoel, Graham van Heerden, Juan Rossouw, Grant Viljoen and lastly Pat Smythe, for the huge effort and time, they dedicated to the club and BENZ LENS.

I personally want to thank Pat for his editorship producing the previous editions of our articles. We are going to miss him and wish him all the best with his future writing endeavours.

As I mentioned in the beginning I am really excited about the future of our club, as we are entering the digital era with the help and co-operation of Mercedes-Benz SA and the MB Clubs international AG, setting up and hosting our new website on the MB International Clubs' site.

MBSA's Marketing Department indicated with the help of their



Media Team, the upgrading of our Social Media platforms and supporting us in the production of our digital Benz Lens and hopefully our printed "BENZ LENS ANNUAL".

I am thrilled to report that the KZN National Gathering and AGM is open for bookings! What a blast it promises to be! You will never know how much fun you will have, unless you attend. I look forward to seeing you all there.

I want to thank Marcell Mostert, joining us as our Social Media coordinator, taking over the running of our Facebook Page and Group, as well as our Twitter and Instagram accounts."

We happen to have the best enthusiasts in the world – and it starts with every member being involved. **THE BEST OR NOTHING!**

 Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa

 #MBCSA1

 mercedesbenzclubsa

www.mercedesbenzclub.co.za





Time to say goodbye.

An Editorial Goodbye

The Editor – Pat Smythe

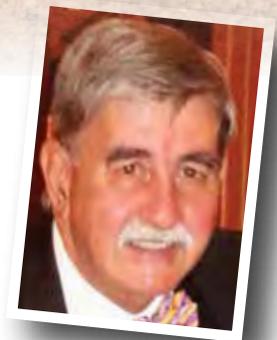
Accepting the Editorship of the Benz Lens was somewhat like being dropped into a swimming pool that only had a deep end – particularly when faced with creating my first edition and the deadline became a tiger shark intent on proving that swimming was never my strong point!

It got easier as it went along and I met wonderful people who really put great effort and care into crafting their submissions. There were instances where my grasp of Afrikaans was severely challenged – it was in moments like these that I came to experience the great support structure that exists within this wonderful Club – ‘Bel maar... mense sal vir jou help’ – is a statement that one can stake your life on.

Time flies, particularly when you are having fun and the four years that I ‘held the pen’ went by at great speed. I was blessed to visit many of the regions and had great fun in Miss Mercedes, the fabulous Finny that I had the great pleasure of ‘bringing back to life’. Linda and I then acquired Miss Custard – a majestic W123 and undertook Karoo Crossing 111 in the company of generous, warm hearted people!

Miss Custard will always remind me of an elderly mare, very elegant and not averse to getting her skirts dusty if it meant proving that she was still capable of taming the Swaershoek Pass en route to a night out in Cradock. She now lives in Johannesburg.

Recently, I managed to steal



Norman Hickels’ 124 Coupe. She sticks to the road like Cappuccino to a Kombers - warm, soet en sexy!

Why am I saying Goodbye? My kids now live in England and I want to visit them as many times as I am still able to. There are still a few towns and villages that I need to visit in this beloved country. I want to drive the R27 from Upington via Kenhardt to Loeriesfontein with Linda – vir ‘n bietjie langarm liefde en brandarm wyn.

It was great fun and I thank the Club for the trust they placed in me. It is a great honour to have served. – Pat – da Ex-Editor





Editorial

The Editor – Stephen Kaalsen



Lily Allen sings a song which goes like this: "It's twelve o'clock in the morning, the conversation got boring..." So I received a telephone call from Waldo Scribante, our dear and devoted club president. And it went something like this: "It's six o'clock at night, I am on my way to go fly a kite. Suddenly my phone rings, I see it is one of our club kings. My heart starts to race, it feels like I am out in space..."

"Hello oom Waldo?" I said. "I am not an oom he said, please call me Waldo. Stephen, would you be interested in being the next editor of the Benz Lens and take over from our stalwart editor Pat Smythe?" Waldo continued. I started trembling, my mouth dried up like a 600's fuel tank, cold sweat was running down my spine, man was I in shock! And before I could say: "I'll have to think about it", I heard myself saying "Yes!"

Pat Smythe has left deep footprints in the world of publication. Pat is a thorough petrolhead, but he also has a feeling for language. He is a clever man, and definitely someone who knows that the pen is mightier than the sword. He has been an editor of note, taking the Lens to great heights. Pat has had the ability to awaken great anticipation for every next edition. On the forum, people were always curious to hear when they could expect his next masterpiece, and this is what his work was known for – masterpieces.

Dear reader, thank you for your dedicated support to the Benz Lens. Thank you for welcoming me. Thank you for dedicating your time on reading this profound

publication, of which I am delighted to be the new editor of. I regard the Lens as one great project I am in the fortunate position to be the editor of. This new quest reminds me of a project I had when I just waved my school career goodbye in Matric – an ivory 1963 220S Fintail that I have restored. It took time, it took perseverance, it took a lot of dedication. It took months of love; when it was more attractive to enjoy my student life, I chose to count the links on my fintail's timing chain to order a new one. At the end of the day, I could not have done it without passion. And that, is what I vow to give this publication – passion.

Thank you for your dedicated support to the Benz Lens

I have started a discussion on the forum, namely "GET STARRED IN THE BENS LENS". The front page of this publication also exclaims it. With this initiative, I want

to get the whole of our remarkable club to participate in the building process of an edition of a Benz Lens. I want to hear stories, get images, receive telephone calls with inputs from members to make our Lens memorable. I have attended the latest National Committee Meeting in George at the annual George Motor Show, and I must add, the committee has got great plans for the Lens. Let me know if you have a story for example of someone who has bought a brand new pagoda, and still owns it today. Maybe you know of any restoration projects, barn finds, anything that is worthy of publishing. Please take my hand, and let me know what you want to see publicized!

Ladies and gents, to conclude, again I say, I vow passion for the Lens!





AGM and National Gathering 2017 at Wild Coast Sun KZN

Remember to
secure your booking!

**27 to 30
April 2017**



Please click on the link below OR copy and paste the link as URL
<https://goo.gl/forms/BI0RV2CeZmVvKdVt2>

Enquiries can be directed to
Avish Maharaj, chairman of the KZN Region

084 095 1980

kzn@mercedesbenzclub.co.za



Durban | KwaZulu-Natal





NORTHERN REGION

End of Year Function

By Ntshale Phalatse



On Sunday November 27th 2016, it was time to ignite the four combustion chambers of my 1979 W123. My son Motheo and I left Mafikeng early that morning, and we were headed to the evergreen Bryanston Country Club. They were the fine hosts of our club's Year-End Function for the Northern Region. Upon arrival, the most glorious comprehensive range of Classic Stuttgart Stars ranging through the years was available to feast your eyes on. And what a stunning view it was! It is obvious that these classic cars were spoiled to a thorough wash, a spit and a polish after being taken out from their garages. Folks dressed in club attire began to gather, "Hey's" and "Hello's" filled

the air and everyone was thrilled to see one another.

Along with all the speeches and formalities concluded, the new committee of the Northern Region was introduced to members and guests, with the following people to engage in the different positions:

- Chairman:** Sven Krassnokutski
- Vice chairman:** Chris Carlisle-Kitz
- Secretary:** Jan Willem Wielsma
- Treasurer:** Andre Esterhuizen

The retiring committee was thanked for their inputs, and we bade them a heartfelt goodbye.

When the time was ready, we indulged in the most wholesome lunch and enjoyed the Benz

company of each other. Stories were told, advice was exchanged and memories were made.

On the way back to Mafikeng, I gave my Benz family a thought. For all the years my interest in the brand was zero, it was because I had never driven a Mercedes and I never felt the comfort of one. It is only now that I realise the sense of belonging to the Stuttgart Sign is not only bound to the most wonderful, trustworthy and elegant investments we drive, but also to the priceless friendships I have made in the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa.







100% Class (iC) By Cathy Mothlabane

When my non-club member friends received my offer to join me at the 2017 Mercedes Benz Club opening function, the question that arose from most of them was "Where are we going?" I could not resist tempting them by answering "Paris". "You are joking" one said, "You mean Paris in France? Awesome! But sorry, we can't afford to go with you. The notice is too short."

Parys is a quaint little town on the banks of the great Vaal River with a population of just over 8000 (2011 census). Built in 1904 and proclaimed a provincial heritage site in 1986 this has become a unique and one of our historical towns in South Africa. Classic indeed! Having a keen interest in geomorphology, I could not miss the adjacent historical world heritage site, the Vredefort Dome. This structure formed 2020 million years ago when an asteroid of 10km diameter collided with the earth at an estimated speed of 30 000km/h. It is the World's oldest and largest impact structure and was declared South Africa's

seventh World heritage site in 2005. Vaal River is the oldest river in the world though not nearly as old as the crater. Leon Erasmus and his team from the Klerksdorp Sports Car Club who were the organisers of this prestigious opening function could not have chosen a better place. Bravo! You have Class!

The awesome sight of the cars that assembled outside the O's Restaurant where we were hosted was a view that words will battle to express. Shiny chrome and well-polished paint work is the sign of just how these cars are the pride of their owners.

Inside the venue there were unique guests who came to greet each other. The theme for the day was "Hats". Only images can suitably describe the various styles and patterns worn at that occasion. The gentleman chosen as winner had a unique and classic hat with a Mercedes Benz emblem on. The lady from Klerksdorp took the flag to North West with her own design.

The restaurant manager's

choice car of the day was Fanie Kloppers's 1966 250S W108. He surely has pampered and taken care of this prize winner. Fanie is also a member of the Klerksdorp Sports Car Club, the club that organised this successful day. The members of this unique club pride themselves in looking well after their cars, just like we do. One such owner is Pieter Booysen, who has preserved his 2000 R129 SL500, with just above 65 000 km on the clock and is spotless. This well preserved car also won a number of awards at the Concourse. The inside still has the smell of new leather. He parks it in a garage that is carpeted. This displays pure love for his SL500 Merc.

Ntshale Phalatse from Mahikeng also displayed his uniquely coloured two tone W123.

My friends ultimately accompanied me to "Paris" of it dit Parys? What a day! Mingling with the best and eating our hearts out! My car seemed to whisper to me saying, "I wish I was a classic" when purring away from the French settlement in the Free State.



MEET THE NORTHERN REGION COMMITTEE



Name: Sven Krassnokutski

My history with the Club and Mercedes-Benz: I have been a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club since 2010 and have served on the Northern Region Committee since 2011. I have had a passion for the three-pointed star ever since I can remember which was cemented by my first car – a beige-grey W114 230.

What I enjoy about the Club: Having a reason to drive my Mercs and networking and socialising with like-minded enthusiasts.

Committee Portfolio: Chairman

Contact me about: Anything you wish to discuss about the Club.

My contact number: 082 685 8204

Name: Chris Carlisle-Klitz

My history with the Club and Mercedes-Benz: I have recently moved to Gauteng from KZN, where I was Regional Chairman. There together with a dedicated committee we created an exciting and vibrant region. **What I enjoy about the Club:** I enjoy the camaraderie of the Club, I love the Car Shows around the Country and I enjoy being a Concourse Judge. I enjoy being challenged on my knowledge of Fintails, Pontons and Bakkies!! **Committee Portfolio:** Vice-Chairman. **Contact me about:** My special responsibilities are for the planning and control of the Technical Days and Historic Racing Calendar as well as managing the activities. **My contact number:** 082 966 3463



Name: Jan-Willem Wleisma

My history with the Club and Mercedes-Benz: I joined the Mercedes Benz club in 2014. I grew up on the back seat of a w114 280e and numerous w108 Mercedes Benz vehicles. The love I have for the shining star was instilled in me being by my dear father – He created a monster. **What I enjoy about the Club:** Create opportunity to socialise with enthusiasts sharing the love for the shining star. **Committee Portfolio:** Secretary. **Contact me about:** Club membership, meetings and general administration. **My contact number:** 082 461 5883

Name: André Esterhuizen

My history with the Club and Mercedes-Benz: I have been a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club since 2010 and have served on the Northern Region Committee since 2015. **What I enjoy about the Club:** Being able to see cars that you don't see on the road everyday. With the various events around the country the club offers the opportunity to discover new places and meet interesting fellow admirers of the three pointed star. Create opportunity to socialise with enthusiast sharing the love for the shining star. **Committee Portfolio:** Treasurer. **My contact number:** 083 556 2790



Name: Suzette Bouwer

My history with the Club and Mercedes-Benz: I joined the Club with PJ about 10 years ago. The early cement in our relationship because PJ was struggling to find a chick who was not embarrassed by his old wheels. My Mother, fondly known as the Merry Widow drove sports cars so the only option for me to use for my driver's licence test, back in 1979, was a Merc 450SL. PJ and I have toured far and wide in our Mercs, most notably to the Equator in 2008 in a Ponton. **What I enjoy about the Club:** We cruise around for fun and the Merc Club is a pretty good place for that! **Committee Portfolio:** Events Coordinator. **Contact me about:** Lekka place to kuier or to organise a Club Event. **My contact number:** 073 274 1120

Name: Anna-Lee Dos Santos

My history with the Club and Mercedes-Benz: I was the Secretary of the Mercedes-Benz Club of SA KZN Region for 7 years, since the region was established, until I relocated to Gauteng in 2014. Together with Chrts, we enjoy the gatherings and we co-hosted the AGM at Gariep Dam. In 2016, I was asked to be part of the Northern region organizing committee for the 2016 AGM. I was awarded Special Membership of the MBCSA at the 2016 AGM, for my contribution with the establishment of the KZN region. **What I enjoy about the Club:** I share Chrts' passion for old cars and racing! I love socializing with the members. **Contact me about:** Membership matters. **Committee Portfolio:** Regional Membership. **My contact number:** 081 474 7460



Name: Marcell Mostert

My history with the Club and Mercedes-Benz: As a child I obsessively studied the Autotrader, especially the "Bargain Buys" section. The Bargain Buys was my first exposure to classic MB. Later, when I was 15 years old, I fell in love with a W108 after a 280SE drove past me and parked. I stared inappropriately at the car. I joined the club in February 2014 after buying my first W108 - a 1966 250SE. Classic Mercedes-Benz has taken over my life. **What I enjoy about the Club:** It's like a dream come true to be surrounded by cars that one usually sees in movies. I love meeting all the club members and hearing every car's story. **Committee Portfolio:** Member communications. **Contact me about:** My responsibilities include communication with members via social media, social media coordination, uploading photos. **My contact number:** 083 704 3223



Name: PJ Ryan

My history with the Club and Mercedes-Benz: I joined the Club about 10 years ago after moving back to SA from Zim. My entire life is bench marked by cars. Ask me a year and I'll tell you what we were driving, starting with my Merc Ponton purchased by my dad in Salisbury the year before I was born. I learnt to drive at the age of 10 in a 1928 Model A Ford and my school boy transport was a 1936 Ford V8 Pick-up truck. I love visiting car collections almost as much as Cathedrals! **What I enjoy about the Club:** Any excuse to drive my old Mercs but best with like-minded enthusiasts. **Committee Portfolio:** Sponsor Liaison. **Contact me about:** Anyone that will sponsor events in cash or kind. **My contact number:** 083 303 4304



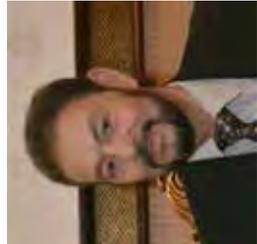
Name: Hans-Rudolf Bosch

My history with the Club and Mercedes-Benz: I have been a member of the Mercedes-Benz Club since 2016 and am serving on the Northern Region Committee in 2017. I have been actively participating in club activities since 2007. **What I enjoy about the Club:** Driving beautiful cars, networking with club members and sharing a common interest with all involved. **Committee Portfolio:** Membership Communication **Contact me about:** Any communication and club related queries. **My contact number:** 071 161 6454



Name: Carlos Cardoso

My history with the Club and Mercedes-Benz: About 6 years ago I took my W114 for an outing to the annual Zwartkops Classic Car Show after completing its restoration. On arrival we were ushered to the Mercedes Benz stand. This was the beginning of our relationship with the Club. I am passionate about cars, enjoy touring SA in the comfort, style, reliability and beauty of the various Benz models over time. **What I enjoy about the Club:** I enjoy attending MBCSA events to admire each classic car and to chat to the enthusiasts that share my passion. **Committee Portfolio:** I recently agreed to join the committee and will be supporting to organize events. **Contact me about:** Any ideas or interesting places you would like to visit with fellow members. **My contact number:** 082 780 6315





Northerns' Merc Club Valentine-ish Run

by Suzette Boucher

Sunday 12th February started with a meeting of about 15 Mercs meeting in Jozi for a run to the South – Henly-on-Klip, well known as the location of Oprah Winfrey's girls' school. We took our members for a never-to-be-forgotten lunch; as Oprah would say: "You get a lunch! You get a lunch! Everybody gets a lunch!"

The impressive convoy departed, including a wide variety of stars from Tania Borges' 1958 190SL, to the Van der Westhuizen's sexy red plastic and new members: the Middleton family's noble W114 280 in between. A particular and special welcome to the latter on their first run as new members of the Club; also, to Chris and his wife from Middelburg in Mpumalanga, for your early start to join us.

A country drive via Heidelberg was not only scenic but shared the route with a vintage motor-bike run heading in the opposite direction and, a few classic cars

enroute, to add interest.

Our lunch venue, The Hound, is owned and managed by car enthusiast and collector, Mark Gory who, despite planning to be at the George Car Show, was forced to be in situ because of a scrape in his (Can't mention this

**The impressive
convoy departed,
including a wide
variety of stars**

here but its British and rhymes with 'Over').

The Hound is a fabulously quirky restaurant with dogs and more dogs – even the "William" is presented in a doggie bowl. Regret no apologies to cat lovers on this run as the odd local Hound wandered through welcoming

patrons on their way!

The food presentation was right up there with top restaurants and not to be let down by appearances, the Pork Belly option was scrumptious. This would certainly be worth a run in that direction for a Sunday lunch, if you missed it this time round. The light and lovely Pavlova rounded up a rather delightful gourmet experience. The bespoke classy menu in keeping with our much loved brand was a particularly pleasant touch and yet another example of the attention to detail at this venue.

Prizes were sponsored by Tiger Brands, and we contribute a special word of thanks to Elizabeth Jacobz.

Last and definitely not least a BIG Thanks to the 41 people and 19 cars supporting the Northern Club Monthly outing for a Run would be no Fun without you!



CENTRAL REGION

Closing Function – 3 December 2016

Chris Kuhn



During our planning meeting early in 2016, we decided as committee that we would like to do a formal closing function to break away from the norm. Us Freestatians thought that a little bit of a black tie and a suit had never hurt anyone in the history of mankind.

To find the perfect venue within our tight budget proved to be almost impossible! I made contact with one of the local hardware shops, just to hear who had been their biggest clientele. I asked them who placed the biggest order of cement and bricks in our region for building a function event? And, dear reader, you would not believe this – they gave me the contact detail of club members Fanie and Anita du Preez who were busy building their very own proper museum for their cars at their home, and that they have just finished the most remarkable place for hosting our function! I was so relieved! Fanie was able to split the work into two phases with the first section set to be finished just in time for our function. Lots and lots of blood, sweat and tears went into what turned out to be a huge effort to get everything ready!

Formal invitations were sent out to our members in October so there was no turning back from there. The beautiful white interior of the new museum they built gave us the idea of a night in black & white. The most beautiful selection of black and white cars was selected from the du Preez collection to be the stars of the night! The 40 guests were in awe as the doors were opened after we enjoyed sundowners in the company of Fanie's concourse winning W123 280E. Having a function amongst our passion and sharing with good friends is

something very special.

Thank you to Fanie & Anita for the amazing effort they put in. Special thanks also to my wife, Rensche for all her efforts and support! Thank you to John Williams Motors for their sponsor and supplying me with a white

GLC for the weekend and to the rest of my committee for their ongoing support.

Truly a very special and memorable night that makes one proud to be a member of this wonderful club!





EASTERN CAPE REGION

Bringing Caramel back home....

By Pieter Moolman



Taking possession in 2010

On January 22nd in 2010, I had the wonderful privilege of taking ownership of a 1984 W123 230E with 100,000km on the clock. It had been meticulously cared for by an old teacher here in East London for most of its life who, although it was their family and holiday car, they took care of it in a special way.

The family story is that it was ordered and specified for the wife, of the then chief of the Mercedes-Benz plant. (Champagne paint colour, unusual cloth/velour/leather combination for the upholstery, electric windows, aircon, sunroof – but with manual transmission!) The son of the teacher who was the second owner was a lawyer, who did legal work for the plant and arranged for his father to buy the car when she got a new one – or so I was told ...

When at an advanced age the teacher could not drive anymore, he allowed me to buy the car from



Taking possession from Anneet in Jan 2017

him. I only had the car for a short while and then got an itch for a W116 280SE and in a moment of stupidity swapped the W123 for the W116 – hoping to buy it back soon. That took 7 years....

The W123 went to club-member Chris Carlisle-Kitz, followed by Frik Roux (who took it to the concourse in 2012).

It was then sold to Anneet Kessow from Cape Town, where his children named it Caramel. He used it as a family car and even took it on the Karoo Crossing



Lovely car in beautiful Cape Town

III in 2015 – where he and his passengers had a real scare with a blowout causing a 360 degree spin....

Then in early 2016 he put the car on the market, but withdrew it soon after. Every time it changed hands, I was aware of it, but unfortunately I was not in a financial position to buy it back. Then a few months later, Anneet put the car back in the market, and I knew it was now or never! He was very accommodating to give me an opportunity to get my finances right – unfortunately my W124 230TE had to go too ...

Although the car was all paid for by October 2016, I requested Anneet to keep the car for me in Cape Town. I retired at the end of November last year and then in early January 2017, I went on holiday to Cape Town to “bring Caramel home!”

This I did in style by taking a roadtrip back to East London that took me 4 days – that could have been done in one day... We bonded properly, and this time – she is staying home!



On the Karoo Crossing III



At RiebeeckKasteel



Going home slowly...



Back home where she belongs!



MBCSA EASTERN CAPE COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Erald Hohls

My History with the Club: Previously from KZN, I joined the Club in 2008. We relocated to East London in 2011, and I am currently Chairman of the EC Region.

What do you enjoy about the Club? The awesome friendships among fellow members. The support and general advice shared. I enjoy taking part in classic car drive-outs and attending events & classic shows nationally.

First Classic Car: 1959 Ponton 190, Ex - Akker v/d Merwe of George **Contact No:** 082 443 8379



Johannes Coetzer

My History with the Club: I attended my first AGM in 2009 and have been an Eastern Cape Committee member since 2013. I grew up on the back seat of an S123.

What do you enjoy about the Club? I enjoy the willingness to help, the camaraderie and passion of the members.

Contact me about: All communication including media and uploading photos on Facebook and the Forum.

First Classic Car: C123 280CE
Contact No: 083 570 7228



Colin Meyer

My History with the Club: I joined the Club in 2000 and attended my first AGM in Cape Town that same year. I have lived in East Londo since 1990.

What do you enjoy about the Club: Apart from the camaraderie amongst like-minded people, I enjoy being able to share in the vast amount of technical knowledge amongst the members.

First Classic Car: 1967 230S Fintail, a one owner car that belonged to my wife's cousin. I have owned it for 18 years and it now has 82,000 miles on the clock.

Contact No: 082 456 4910



Pieter Moolman

My History with the club: Member since 1997

What do you enjoy?: Friendship and road trips

First classic car: 1966 230S Fintail
Contact No: 083 780 4727

Malcolm Campbell

My History with the Club: Joined in September 2012 when I purchased a 1978 450SLC. I am currently the secretary for our region having been elected to the local committee at our 2015 AGM.

What do you enjoy about the club?: The passion for the 3 pointed Star. The friendliness and helpfulness of all members of our local club as well as of the national club. The outings in our "old" cars, a highlight is the George old car show and Waldo's legendary spit braai. If I had not been part of this wonderful club I would not have experienced the annual get togethers or the Karoo Crossing 3.

Contact me about: Membership, outings and anything to do with our local branch.

First Classic Car: 1978 450SLC (C107)
Contact No: 083 700 6274





SOUTHERN CAPE REGION

THE TALE OF OUPA JANNIE

By Chris Smit

January 1965 - a Landrover pickup is smoking forth on the highway to Salisbury. Behind the steering wheel, is a man in his early sixties - keeping the Landy on track. His name: Johannes Jacobus du Toit, or "Jannie" for short as people knew him at the tobacco auctions in the district. Today, he is not on his way to the auctions, he is on his way to Norton Motors in Salisbury, where a brand new Mercedes Benz W111 220SE (Floorshift) is waiting for him. Whilst Jannie is activating the indicator stalk on the Land Rover to turn he is crossing his fingers, hoping, that his WRS Playmate Radio is already installed as per his instruction upon arrival...

April 2014 - I am looking at the 220SE, late Oupa Jannie's. The car is nestled on bricks under a carport behind the family residence in Polokwane. The dust of almost twenty years is the caring blanket on the 220SE, and a colony of spider families have declared land in the red interior of the 220SE. I have just bought the car for seven thousand five hundred rand from the estate of my late mother-in-law, which was Oupa Jannie's eldest daughter. During the sixties and seventies, this German saloon car has travelled the roads from Oupa Jannie's farm at Gutu, to Fort Vic, to Salisbury and back. When he passed away, the car retired at my mom in law's home in Polokwane.



Oupa Jannie and his family



Waiting patiently for me

Ek besluit om die kar te vernoem na Oupa Jannie.

Een van die eerste dinge wat my totaal verbaas het, is toe ek begin om die kar skoon te maak en in die cubby vind ek nog die kar se handleiding, sy diensboekie, sy Afrikakaart wat al die MB dienstasies aandui in lande soos Nyjasaland, Tanganjika, Noord-Rhodesie, Betschuanaland, en ook 'n logboek en laastens die houtpaneeltjie wat afgehaal was van die dash toe die radio geïnstalleer was. In die katebak was daar nog meer verborge skatte soos die kar se gereedskapsak met MB se gereedskap, sy domkrag, sy "allocating pin" vir wanneer mens 'n wiel moet aansit, 'n baie ou Tyre Puncture Repair Kit, die wit woloortreksels wat Oupa Jannie op die voorsitplekke laat sit het, Ouma du Toit se kombersie vir haar seer bene, 'n spesiale bedekking vir die dash asook een vir die paketterak agter wat Oupa Jannie laat maak het sodat die son nooit daar sal skade aanrig nie. Ek gebruik dit vandag nog net so.



Ek bewonder hierdie merkwaardige mens, 'n besondere netjiese man wat altyd elke ding terug gesit het op sy plek en nooit toegelaat het dat daar aan die kar gepeuter word nie. Die diensboekie is klokslag op elke vyftienduisend myl gestempel by Norton Motors in Salisbury en later by B&Y Motors in Fort Vic. Toe ek op 'n dag die kombersie uit die katebak haal en daar eenkant gooi, het my vroujie my vertel dat sy nog in Std 6 was toe hulle een slag saam met Oupa in die Merc vanaf Karoi in Rhodesie deur gery het na Groblersdal in RSA om vir Ouma du Toit daar by die hospitaal te kom haal, en toe het Ouma daardie kombersie oor haar seer bene gesit.

Vandag is "Oupa Jannie" (die kar) weer spik-





splinternuut oorgedoen en pronk hy trots met sy "CBS" nommerplate. Registrasie het my maar net so R17300-00 gekos (vervlakste uitstaande lisensiegelde en boete vir agterstallige betaling), maar ek doen dit met 'n glimlag vir so 'n besondere kar. Hierdie Merc was direk uitgevoer na Rhodes. Die feit dat hy Branstofinspuiting en "Floorshift" het, maak dat hy skaars is in hierdie land... en hy loop steeds soos 'n droom oor die talle speedbultjies en om die slaggate.



Enjin soos nuut gemaak



Oppad in die Kaap in

Die beste van alles was toe ek einde laas jaar die kar na 'n motorskou in Mosselbaai neem, en terwyl ek maar daar by die kar rondstaan kom 'n man in sy mid-sewentigs nader en vra vir my waar kom hierdie kar vandaan? Ek antwoord toe "Salisbury, 1965" Hy vra toe of ek nog die kar se diensboekie het, en ek haal dit toe gou uit die cubby. Groot was my verbasing toe hy deur die diensboekie blaai met bewende hande en opgewonde sê "look! here's my signature, and here, and here ..." Bob Young, nou 76 jaar oud en hy het die kar gediens in Fort Vic by B&Y Motors (sy motorhawe) in die sestigs en sewentigs. Dit is sowaar merkwaardig! Bob sê toe "I remember the owner of this car, Mr JJ du Toit. He was a very prim and proper gentleman, and I used to say to him: remember the car has a fourth gear too, you don't have to drive so slow with this car".



Floorshift Handrat met rooi leer

Oupa Jannie se Merc behoort nou aan die derde geslag van dieselfde familie, en eendag sal ons seun Leon (tans 40) hom erf en dan weer sy seun (tans 9) die vyfde geslag - Groot Oupa Groeitjie se kar vir 'n troukar..? en so aan.



Mooi in Mosselbaai

Ten slotte, net 'n laaste gedagte: Toe ek die Merc uiteindelik in Sept 2016 by Mosselbaai gaan registreer het en die registrasiebeampte deel my mee dat ek R17300-00 moet opdok, het ek my verbeel ek hoor 'n tarentaal in die verte roep "bankrot-bankrot-bankrot" en 'n ander een het geantwoord "tjrrr tjk tjk tjk"





SUID-KAAPAFSLUITINGSFUNKSIE

Die geleentheid was soos elke jaar 'n baie suksesvolle en aangename funksie in die pragtuin van ons Presidentspaar.

Ons is baie dank verskuldig aan ons gasvrye gasheer en -vrou, Waldo en Rene Scribante.

'n Paar kompetisies het plaasgevind voordat daar gesmul is aan spit gebraaide lam, pap en sous. Waldo het intussen ontpop as 'n papmaker van formaat, soos almal wat daar was kan getuig.

Eerstens was daar ons plaaslike Concours.

Die winner vanjaar was Leon Diederiks se W114 280 en die naaswenner die Pagoda van Pieter

Lourens.

Die tweede kompetisie is vir die bes gedekte tafel. Die Diederiks egpaar het vanjaar 'n tweekuns behaal deur ook hierdie kompetisie te wen.

The regional committee for 2017 has also been elected at this gathering, and the following positions have been filled:

Chairman: Johan Sloet
Secretary: Pieter Lourens
Additional member: Aldo van Zyl

Kobus Harris, receiver of a HERO Award at the AGM, has also been thanked by the

Southern Cape committee for his contribution and achievements towards the region.

As previously stated, Kobus is the big spirit behind the origin of the region which celebrated its 21 year celebration during 2016. After more than 60 guests enjoyed their lunch, the last treat was presented: A magical Magnum Ice Cream was served, with compliments of our star hosts.

We thoroughly look forward to a year of joint collaboration.



GEORGE OLD CAR SHOW 1997 – 2017 By Johan Sloet

From a humble beginning to what the George Old Car show is today, the George Old Car Show certainly is one of the best shows in the country, in my opinion.

Somewhere in the distance, a presenter in a cubicle is handing the microphone to Kobus Harris. Kobus tells the attending people that this milestone is one of the biggest milestones in the history

of the Southern Cape Old Car Club. A bit of history goes like this:

During 1997 the members had in mind to exhibit the member's cars to the public, instead of keeping them garaged. Paul Fick suggested that the cars are set to be seen on his farm "Blackwood" close to Victoria Bay, just outside of George. The club members immediately started arranging the

first annual George Old Car Show, it was held on Sunday 23rd of February in 1997. Exactly 205 old and classic cars were amongst the eye candy to see, and some new car dealers had 50 new cars to appreciate. The Mercedes-Benz Club was the first club which put cars on exhibition. A swop meet was also presented by Paul Fick which enticed a lot of attention.



People from all over joined, and from the first show things were pumping with excitement and there was not a lack of support in any way.

Refreshments were offered by the Lions Club of Mossel Bay, under the iron fist of Gawie and Lettie Breytenbach. The breakfast Burger was born just there, and is enjoyed until today – 21 years later. The club soon realized that “Blackwood” was too small, and was presented at the George Horse Riding Club the following year. Even that was too small after a year or two, and was then moved to the facilities of the P. W. Botha College where it is still presented and where it evolved to, in my opinion, the best car show in South Africa.

The 21st car show has happened this year on the 11th and 12th of February. The success of this show was purely the art work of the devotion of the club members.

The central theme of this year's show was German cars. The most desired selection of cars was on show. A very comprehensive selection of cars were seen at our tent, from Waldo's collection of fintails, Bill Tolken's 350SL 4.5, Andre Fourie's 600, the 6.3 of Pieter Venter is one of the special cars that our club members have brought. Speaking of which, our friend in the spares business, Stephan Du Toit and Daleen Deyzel were the lucky drivers of the 6.3 of Pieter Venter. These two love birds finally got engaged a few days prior to the show! That was also one of the highlights of the show, especially the enormous treasure that Daleen now wears on her left ring finger! So many precious cars were seen, from the old-timers to a 2016 GTS AMG and everything in between. Not one car was unworthy of being there.

Lawrence Kropf's 1935 200's under carriage was also to be seen. It is undergoing a nuts and bolt restoration at the moment, but the concourse judges could only

see the undercarriage for now. Of course, we cannot wait to see the end product (one day)! Special mention must also be made to the 1928 Mercedes Benz Stuttgart that was on show. That was actually the car that was used as a rental car in Windhoek years and years ago.

There were key members in 1997 responsible for the success of the show of those years like Japie van Rooyen, Paul Fick, Jack & Jean Boshoff, Roelf Vermeulen, Keith Baines, Dave Bardin, Attie van Der Walt, Kobus Harris, Roelf Botha and Mike Alexander. As always, Kobus Harris was involved then and with this show as well. A special word of thanks to you Kobus, and the immense contribution to the success he was responsible for this year. Special thanks are of the order of the day for the contribution of Aldo van Zyl who sponsored the coffee and rusks with his team, Pieter Lourens and Peet Botha who was on the premises early that morning, preparing the great success of the two days. Waldo Scribante, who arranged a lambs on the spit for more than 140 people! At the end of that evening, everyone was spoilt to his special chocolate sauce and ice cream.

Thank you to all our friends who transported and unveiled the Patentewagen with so much care. So many more people were involved, but my memory refuses to recall all involved. As I drove back home after this 21st annual George Old Car Show, I caught myself day dreaming, how it is impossible for car enthusiasm to die with so much excitement caught up in one show.





Our own Bertha

By Waldo Scribante

My lovely wife René and I participate in the SCOCC Veteran tour every year with our very own 1913 8/20PS Benz Tourenwagen.

Ours is a 1913 8/20PS Benz Tourenwagen. The tour is only for veteran motors that were built prior to December 1918, but includes old cars which were built before 1920 which only have brakes in the front! That thought alone is enough to shake the whole Euro NCAP institution, who regards a Datsun GO as unsafe, not even achieving one star out of 5, for not having airbags.

The tour takes place every year, this year on the 10th of February. I could not go along, as I was involved in the valuation seminar of our club. René along with André du Toit and Ronel Scribante decided to load the Benz on a trailer and take it to Uniondale where the tour would start on that Friday morning. At 9h00 sharp, René was behind the steering wheel already. Low and behold, that was the first time ever for her! She concluded a distance of 84km in total with no trouble whatsoever. André has

tried his utter best to beg her to slow down, but nothing made her stop. Seems like she enjoyed it so much, she would not be making use of our R Class everyday driver any time soon. As soon as she mastered the double clutch and unsynchronized gear box, she could travel to Benoni and back if Andre did not stop her.

The Benz would be called "Benzie" from now, and it seems that I would not be the designated driver for it anymore...





Left: These are the conditions under which the honourable chairperson of th Southern Cape have to submit articles

Diaz Festival 2017

Deur Johan Sloet

The attendance of this wonderful opportunity is on our calendar for many years, and happens only a week before the annual George Old Car Show.

It is a little difficult to get used to the fact to be out of bed long before 7h00 on that Saturday morning to travel from George to where the official convoy departs from. Although we all attempt to keep the old ladies (I mean our cars) in perfect shape, we got a little bad news early on. My pride and joy 450SLC, which was cleaned to perfection, decides that to have a full tank of petrol is totally overrated, and that the

4.5 V8 would take way too long to consume it. So it popped a pipe and petrol was sprayed like a comb all over the engine. I rushed home, to fetch the second cleanest car for the trip.

At the assembly point in Voorbraai, Kobus Halliday's W116 280S decides that being a fully functional and sound carburetted W116 is totally wrong. So there we were - stuck. But good advice and a #10 spanner never kept a convoy stranded for too long!

Finally the convoy departed and travelled through Mossel Bay, all the way to where the festivities awaited.

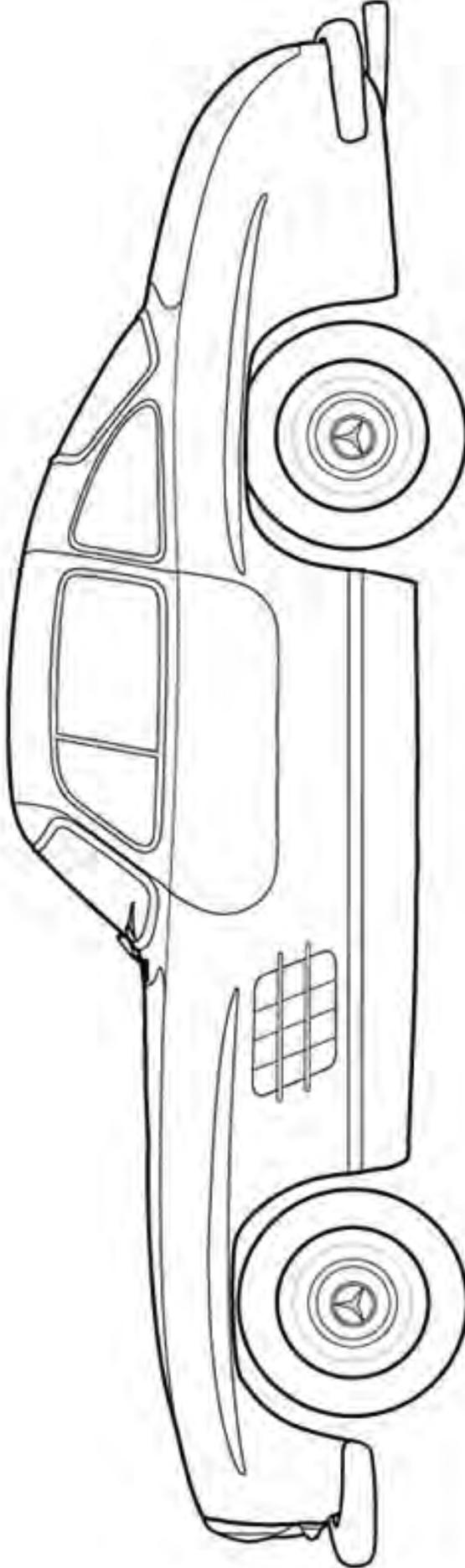
With a lot of help and input from bystanders, our gazebo got erected and the coffee could be poured to officially declare Diaz Festival 2017. The pancake stalls were a welcome discovery. The whole day was a wonderful experience, and when it was time to leave - I almost wanted to stay. But then I remembered my SLC with a burst fuel pipe at home, and I had to go make sure my car gets ready for next year's Diaz Festival - even if it entails getting out of bed long before 7 o'clock...



For all the Youngsters

Get your crayons, pencils, skills and tricks and colour in this SL!

Colour this, let dad cut it out. Scan and email it to editor@mercedesbenzclub.co.za and stand a chance to be featured and crowned as the winner in the next Benz Lens!



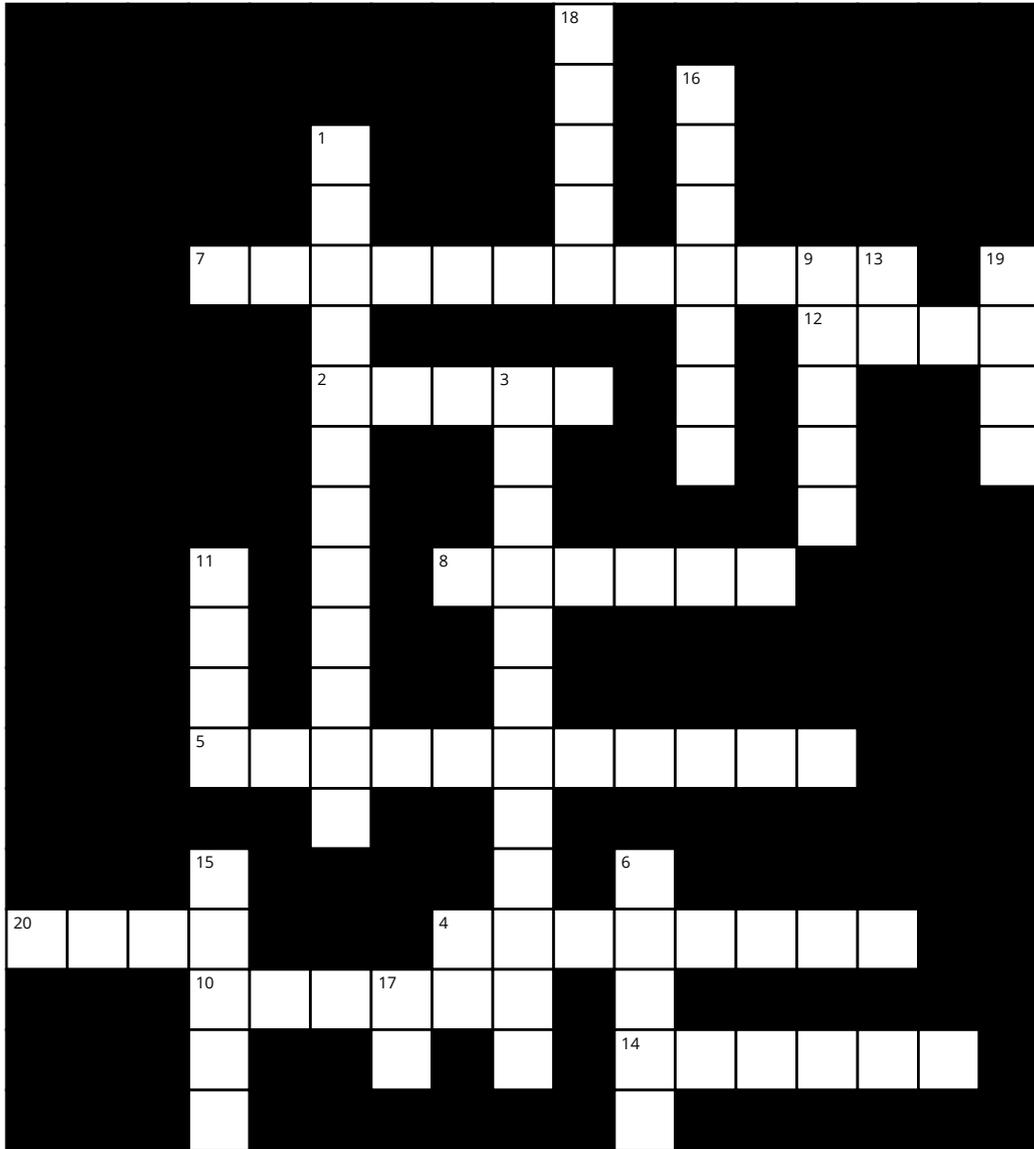
Name and Surname: _____

School: _____

Grade: _____ Age: _____

Our own Crossword Puzzle

Kopkrapper



Down

- 1 S
- 3 Not a carburetor
- 6 French German designer
- 9 450 SL owner
- 11 Before Mercedes-Benz South Africa
- 13 Travelled by many a Benz
- 15 A Transvaal MB Dealer
- 16 Fintail clock manufacturer
- 17 The reason for our friendship
- 18 Owner of a 770
- 19 Merger year

Left to right

- 2 Daughter of the founder
- 4 An engineer working on the 300SE racing engine
- 5 Sends fire to the head
- 7 Assembly plant
- 8 735
- 10 Fintail ignition key manufacturer
- 12 Lady Di
- 14 United Motors Executive
- 20 German Bantam



WESTERN CAPE REGION



Killarney Car Show

By Kurt Stassen



The Western Cape region's premier event, The Cape Classic Car Show has seen a revamp recently, with a new venue, the Killarney Race Track and a new name - the Killarney Car Show which will, from now on, be an annual event on our show calendar.

Our stand this year had a marquee for our members' enjoyment as usual, and we had 50 beauties on display which made our stand one of the biggest and most comprehensive of the day.

So many people contributed, assisted and made donations in order to contribute to the day's success and without them and the financial assistance of The Mercedes Benz Club of SA this day would not have been possible - a heartfelt thank you to all involved from my side!





Western Cape End of Year function 2016

By Kurt Stassen

With 2016 a distant memory only, we can now look forward to a busy 2017 Mercedes-Benz Club year in the Western Cape. We have wonderful members here and I have the most wonderful support structure to help with all the events.

I had great support in the past year from a wonderful group of people. People like André du Toit, David Shakeshaft, Dirk & Cathy van der Westhuizen, Wayne & Lydia Keppler, JB Wiese, Dan Esterhuysen, Len Weyers, Sana-Ullah Bray, Daleen Deyzel, Jannie Gildenhuys, Graham van Heerden, Mauritus Coetzee, Nigel Tiffin and Ederik Kritzingen contributed hugely to the success of the club this past year by organising meetings and club runs, and/or submitting Benz Lens articles. Everyone who assisted with the Killarney Car Show 2016 deserves a special mention as well, as it contributed to the overwhelming success of the day!

Our year-end function lunch and annual concours competition was hosted at Neethlingshof Wine Estate outside Stellenbosch. It was a beautiful summer's day with loads of classics scattered around the estate under lush green oak trees and about 100 people in attendance.

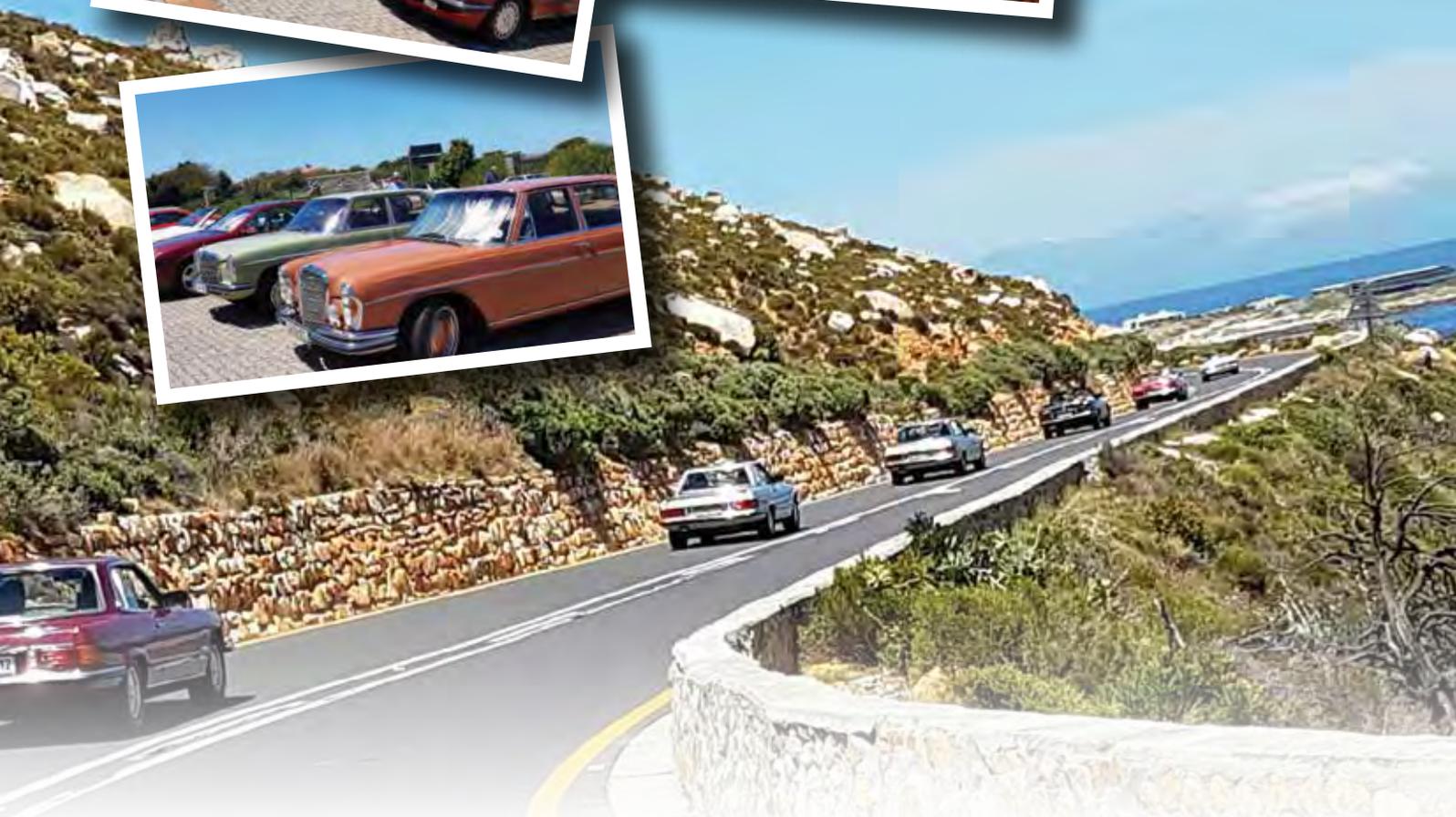
The concours competition saw a turnout of 12 cars and our trophy winners for the day were:

- **Best R107** – Bill Tolken 350SL 4.5
- **Best W108** – Okkie Potgieter 280SE
- **Best W115/W115** – Thys de Jager 280E
- **Best W113** – Kurt Stassen 280SL
- **Best 124** – John Andrews E320 Cabriolet
- **Best W126** – Johan Kemp 280SE
- **Best R129** – Wayne Keppler SL600
- **Oldest & Most Original** – Okkie Potgieter W108 280SE
- **Ladies Choice** – Bill Tolken R107 350SL 4.5
- **Chairman's Choice** – Johan Kemp W126 280SE
- **Best Polished Car** – Ederik Kritzingen C208 CLK430
- **Best Event Organiser** – Lydia Keppler Pagoda Run
- **Novice of the Year** – JP van der Poel
- **Member of the Year** – Dirk van der Westhuizen
- **Most Outstanding Contribution** – Illan Horesh Killarney Car Show
- **Best Cabriolet** – John Andrews A124 E320 Cabriolet
- **Best Coupé/Sedan** – Okkie Potgieter W108 280SE
- **Club Champion** – Kurt Stassen W113 280SL

After the prize-giving, Neethlingshof served a scrumptious buffet lunch and everyone had the time to relax with good wine and great friends.

Thank you to everyone who made this function enjoyable and memorable.





The Keppler Run to Betty

The theme was R107. If you have a R107 specifically, or any Mercedes lurking in your garage and you fantasize about taking it out from under its sheets, turn off its electric blanket, open its garage's curtains, then this one was for you. Oh and it would have been an advantage if you stayed in the Cape, otherwise you had to travel far! Anyway, if you had missed this one, better catch it next year!

The day was a perfect day to do a top down trip around the False Bay coast line. The meeting point was at the Engen One stop on the N2. It was amazing to see such clean examples pull in at the fuel pumps and all the admiring comments received from the

public about these amazing cars. The normal questions were raised, like are the cars heavy on fuel, can you still buy fuel for them, do you still start it with a lever, etc. After a brief chat and some coffee we all departed in convoy to Betty's Bay, via the coastal road past Gordon's Bay and Pringle Bay. What a perfect day and awesome sight to see all the gleaming R107's and 60', 70's and 80's and younger Mercedes driving along, many hooters and thumbs up along the way were experienced.

On arrival at the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens, we had a section of the parking area reserved for our cars and it made for a lovely photo opportunity, what a beautiful sight. We were a

total of 12x R107's, a W108, and a W115. There were beautiful R129's joining and a few clean R230's. An SLK also joined in on the excitement.

Everyone waved goodbye after a delectable bite to eat, in the awesome company of great cars. We even had music to skoffel on, but that is on the agenda for next year. (The skoffeling now.)

Herewith a special word of thanks to everyone who attended the run, and a warm compliment to the Red Disa Restaurant for their excellent service and arrangements. It was practically perfect in every single way like Mary Poppins.





Mercedes-Benz Western Cape, Ladies Run, November 2016

By: Cathy van der Westhuizen.

On Saturday 20 November 2016, sixteen ladies arrived at the club house in Parow, in their husbands favourite Mercedes-Benz's I'll let you know. The husband's jolly well polished and filled up before they handed the keys to their ladies who joined me in the run. We were dressed all Funky, we set out to Okavango Park, Industria. The ladies had absolutely no idea where we were heading! I told them to follow the leader, and they did.

On arrival we were met by my very own Dirk van der Westhuizen, who took the photos below from his office window. Then, he had to keep quiet, and we were off. The ladies were all in a panic, worrying where we were off to and exactly why we stopped in the industrial sites.

We then put foot to the accelerator pedal to BoereSjiek, a 5Star Coffee/Gift shop. Some of the ladies were pleasantly surprised by this cosy place. In

these glamorous surroundings we enjoyed a light lunch with cake, coffee & teas. Lots of chatting and laughing took place, memories made, koek resepte were exchanged, whilst having the times of our lives!

The ladies were requested to bring a little gift (Maybe a redundant handbags, filled with toiletries, make up, jewellery, clothing or any treat) for some less fortunate ladies in our community, to be spoilt for Christmas.

These gifts were distributed to the ladies of Huis Jabes, a safe home for abused women and children in Parow. Thank you to everyone who attended, and who contributed to make a difference. I would like to offer a special word of thanks to Lydia Keppler for her help with arranging this wonderful day.





Jaco Kachelhoffer – Regalia Officer

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Three in One Jackets



- S Featuring removable fleece inner jacket. Outer jacket features concealed zip off hood, welted outer pockets. Inner jacket features inner and outer pockets. Outer jacket: Water resistant 100% Polyester fabric Inner jacket: Micro polar fleece fabric
- 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. Full zip front with two side pockets.
- M
- L
- XL 250g 100% Polyester
- 2XL
- 3XL
- 4XL
- 5XL

V-Neck Jerseys



- S Long sleeved v-neck jersey with ribbed welts and cuffs.
- M
- L 65% Cotton / 35% Polyester
- XL
- 2XL

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. Curved hem, back yoke, sleeve loop and 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.
- 5XL

Monza Shirt



- S Racy design with contrast stripes across the chest with two patch pockets. 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



Lapel Pin



Rear Window Sticker (available in Large or small)



This only an indication on how the sticker looks like, lettering in white



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