

Annual 2017

BENZ LENS

DIE
THE

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA



MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB

Annual 2017



Annual 2017

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Introduction

Having said our farewells to the printed Benz Lens quarterly, we look forward with great excitement to a new era – the new Benz Lens Annual - fuelled with passion, and steered by our editor Stephen Kaalsen. I thank Stephen for doing a sterling job – as well as our many contributors, for making the Benz Lens the highly anticipated, quality publication that it is.

Of course, there would be nothing to fill the pages of the Benz Lens if it were not for the dedication and efforts of our regional committees, putting on their incredible club events and creating wonderful memories for everyone involved. And then, our loyal members are among some of the world's finest enthusiasts. Without you the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa simply would not be the prestigious organisation that it is today.

I thank each one of you for filling the pages of the Benz Lens with your passion and enthusiasm. Your

appreciation for the three-pointed star has always been captured so heart-warmingly between the covers of our quarterly, and now in our Annual. The Benz Lens in its whole, truly is a publication for the enthusiasts, by the enthusiasts.

At this significant time in the history of the Benz Lens, I also pay tribute to the absolute commitment of our Benz Lens editors past, who lovingly nurtured the publication, ensuring that its standards reflected those of the brand.

This Benz Lens Annual contains all the highlights of 2017, compiled from

the digital editions of the Benz Lens. I do hope you will enjoy it just as much as I have – and that you will cherish it as much as I do.

As always, THE BEST OR NOTHING! ■



Waldo Scribante
*President -
Mercedes-benz Club*



Covers of the 32nd Editions of the Benz Lens

Volume 21 | No. 1
March 2017



DIE THE **BENZ LENS**
MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA

get starred in the benz lens



MB - 600

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Preface



Annual 2017

With the elimination of the free printed Benz Lens with effect from the 32nd edition of the Benz Lens in March 2017, the great year of firsts that we were about to have, was announced. It felt like visiting an airport and having usufruct of the Wifi, and suddenly your flight number was called and you had to change your internet device to flight mode. It was not like the world had come to an end when the free printed editions were terminated, but still – the party had come to an end. Or did it?

The high resolution editions of the Benz Lens became downloadable on the website, and the electronic copies were emailed to the members. A printed edition became available, but at the additional cost of the member. Another first for the club was when Mercedes-Benz South Africa, our main sponsor and associate broke the misery by announcing the sponsorship of a yearbook, which you are reading.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is my privilege to announce: The Benz Lens Annual 2017.

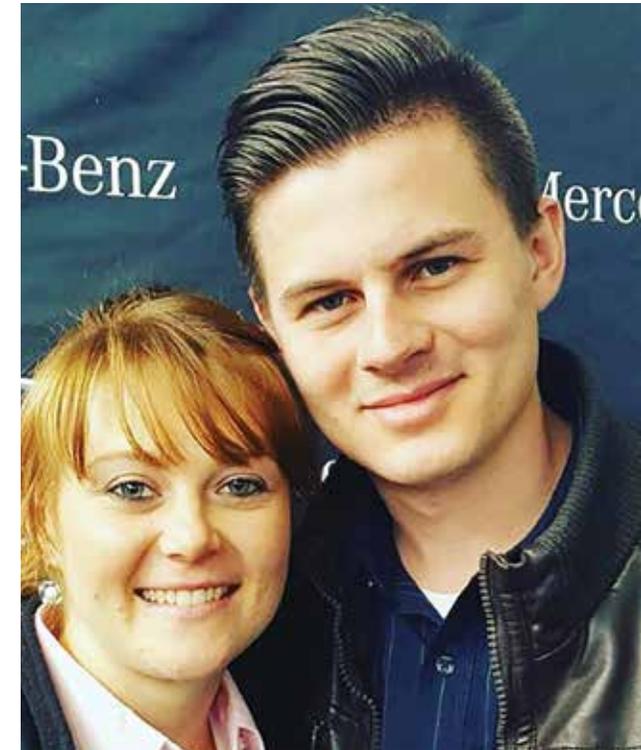
The Benz Lens Annual 2017 is a summary with happenings and stories, highlights and glories which were featured in the four editions last year. This is a very prestigious book, and worthy of collecting in every aspect. In the collectable “100 Jahre Automobil” edition of the In Aller Welt from 1986, the editor Werner Breitschwerdt concluded his editor’s letter by saying: “In our constant pursuit of the best, we see not just a legacy to which we are committed in every way, but above all, the key to further success.” This, dear reader, is what I aim for too. I am committed to creating something memorable for your coffee table, which includes YOU!

I dedicate this first Benz Lens Annual 2017 to the 32nd edition of the Benz Lens – which was my first ever edition. My idea of “Get starred in the Benz Lens” really took off with a boeing’s wings, with the iconic 600 featured on the front page. I would like to thank all who participated in the year of firsts, by taking part in the initiative by telling your story of your special car.

I am blessed to have been chosen as the editor of this nice project. I would like to thank Waldo Scribante for his driving force to help me complete the puzzle you see in the Benz Lens as a whole. I will definitely still erect a monument to thank him, but let me first compile another few magazines for you to read. I am a better writer than I am a monument builder.

I would also like to pay a tribute to all of you glued and supportive contributors and readers of the Benz Lens. If it was not for you the contributing members, we would have nothing to read. And also, if the Benz Lens did not interest the reader, the contributors would have no platform.

To the contributors - if your story made it to the publisher in this Benz Lens Annual, I trust you feel as important as the queen in this 600. ■



Preface



President's Report 2017



Thank you to all our members for their continued membership and support of the Club. Without bias, I do believe that ours are among the greatest enthusiasts in the world – and it starts with every member being involved, and inspiring the next. “The best or nothing” has never rung truer!

Hero Awards

At the KZN Gala event, I had the privilege to once again bestow Hero Awards to a few of our esteemed members.

Congratulations to our Hero Award recipients of 2017 - Norman Hickel, Louis Coetzer, Chris Carlisle-Kitz and a posthumous award to Maxim Erdmann. We thank each of them for their superb efforts and service to our Club.

National Committee Members & Administrators

A great big thank you to our National Committee for a job very well done! Twice a year, we have formal National Committee meetings - the first held on the Friday before the George Old Car Show, and the second one on the Saturday morning of the National Concours. A great deal of energy is

put into these meetings and I thank everyone on the National Committee for their enormous effort – a true reflection of their dedication to our Club and their fellow members.

I thank Frik Roux, our past Vice President, for the time and expertise he has contributed to the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa, through his active participation on the National Committee as National Secretary and Vice-President. His ideas, input and enthusiasm, along with his commitment and continued support of our Club, have been invaluable. We wish Frik and Jasmyn all the very best for the future, and we look forward to their continued participation and support of the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa.

A hearty congratulations to Chris Carlisle-Kitz on his election as our Vice President. He is doing a superb job of representing me at events. By now you have all heard him at

meetings and gatherings, where he starts his speeches with: “Gentlemen, I bring you greetings from your President **Waldo Scribante!** He sends a good luck message...” Thank you, Chris. I appreciate your effort and your enthusiasm!

Thank you to Annalie Kachelhoffer for her excellent job as National Secretary. She inspires us with her boundless enthusiasm for the job - always on time with the necessary documents, and always willing to go the extra mile.

With Johan Kemp in charge of our finances, you can be sure that our budget is kept in careful check and that the Club's finances remain healthy. His firm is now handling our audit and Financial Statements - and are reporting to SARS on our behalf. Thank you to Johan and his team!

Gerrida Baard also deserves a huge thank you for doing the necessary bookkeeping for the Club. We are very

grateful, Gerrida.

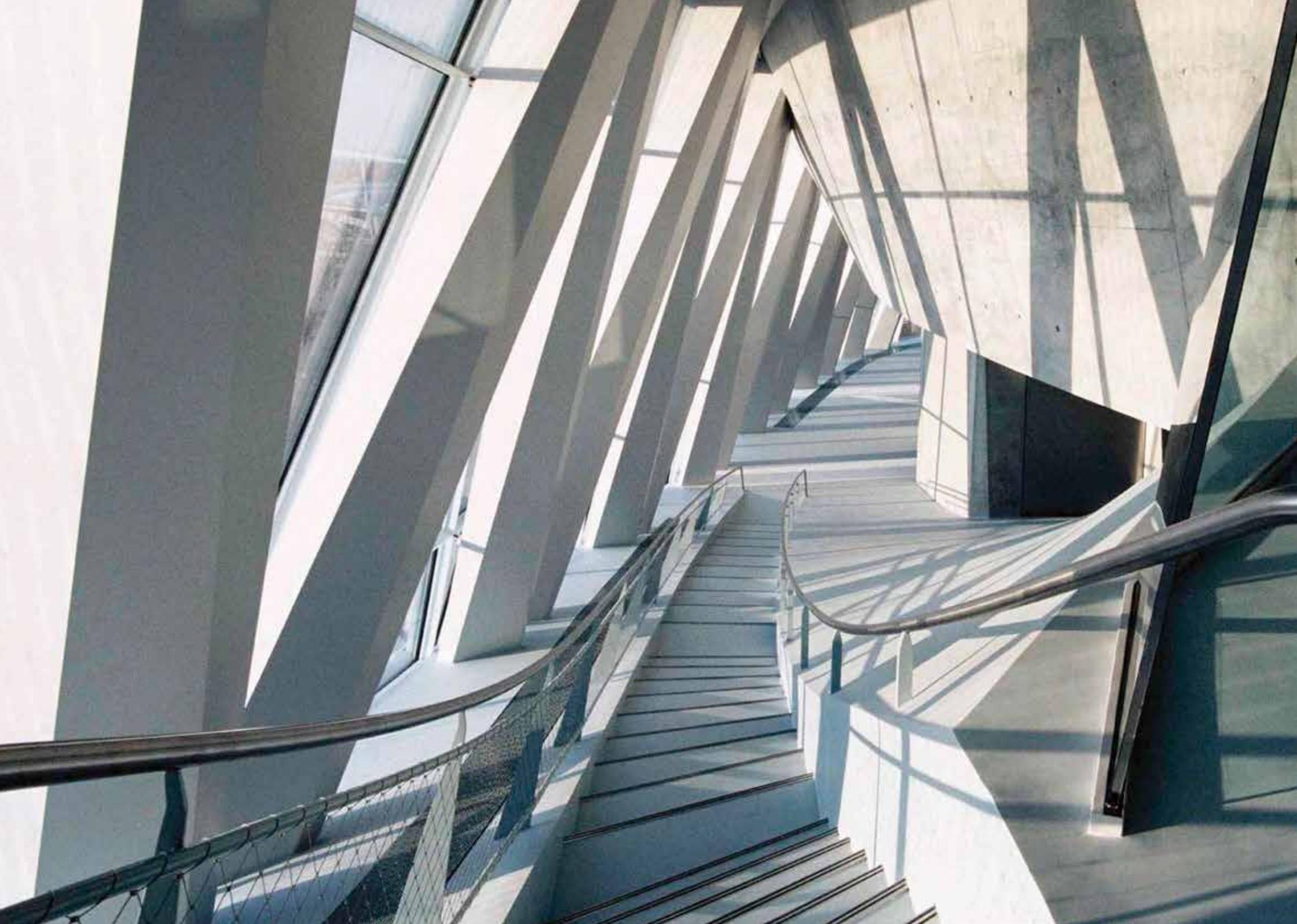
Pieter Moolman, our Membership Secretary, has undertaken to manage our memberships, which is a mammoth task! I thank him, too, for the tremendous effort.

Marlize Herold has been helping Pieter with the admin and I thank her for this.

Regional Management

Congratulations to Sven Krassnokutski (Northern region), Kurt Stassen (Western Cape), Johan Sloet (Southern Cape), Erald Hohls (Eastern Cape), Chris Kühn (Central region) and Avish Maharaj (KZN region) for being re-elected.

I cannot thank our Regional Chairmen enough for the excellent job that they are doing for the Club. They are at the frontline, heading up the regions and maintaining the excellent standards of our Club. Together



with their regional committees, they are doing the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa very proud indeed! Heartfelt thanks to each and every one of our regional management team members, for your commitment and for the support of your regional Club members.

Thank you to PJ Ryan and Chris Carlisle-Kitz for presenting the Club at SAMCA.

Selvin Govender – Honorary Member

I once again thank Selvin Govender, Marketing Director for Mercedes-Benz Cars – a division of Mercedes-Benz South Africa - for his continued support of the Club, along with his generous sponsorship of the AGM Gala evening and the Club in general. I first met Selvin in 2009, when he represented MBSA at the AGM held in George, and he immediately struck me as a true gentleman. He is an absolute pleasure to deal with and I look forward to our continued professional association.

At the 2017 AGM, the National Committee proposed to present a special membership to Selvin, which was unanimously accepted by the members at the AGM. This award is bestowed upon a person who has rendered a valuable and beneficial service to the Mercedes-Benz Club and Mercedes-Benz Marque. I cannot think of a recipient more worthy.

Website

The long-awaited new Club website is up and running. It is now hosted by MB Classic Clubs Management with direct links to their sites. Please visit www.mercedesbenzclub.co.za and follow the link to enter the website or the well known old forum.

The website is an ongoing process, like a living document, and I invite all members to contribute by sending ideas and material, especially photos of their cars, Club-related events and anecdotal stories.

Regalia

I am proud to announce our new online shop for Regalia. Visit our secure shop at <https://www.mercedesbenzclubshop.co.za>, where all our regalia is available with country wide door-to-door delivery by Fastnet couriers.

We had our first sale in October. Don't miss the next one!

We were sad when Jaco Kachelhoffer announced his resignation as Regalia Officer. Together with Annalie, he travelled up and down the country, selling the Club's regalia. They did a wonderful job - to the extent that we made a sizeable profit the last financial year, pushing the Club's finances out of the red.

Thank you very much to Jaco and Annalie!

Welcome to Francois and Olga van der Westhuizen, our newly appointed Regalia Officers.

They had their first sales at POMC Cars in the Park at Zwartkops. I wish them a wonderful time, travelling around the country to the different shows - the very best way to meet Club members, and make new friends!

Benz Lenz goes digital

The success story of the year is our digital Benz Lens, with our editor Stephen Kaalsen at the wheel. He has done a magnificent job and we are very proud of each edition he has published thus far. We are looking forward to many more editions under his editorship.

I am also very proud of our first printed BENZ LENS ANNUAL. Again, Stephen did all the editing. It is a huge accomplishment. Well done Stephen!

Social media

Under the Directorship of Marcel Mostert, we are increasing our footprint in the digital Social Media World, with increasing "likes" and followers on our Facebook page and group.

This is the way to communicate, with fast, up-to-date info.

SCOCC George Old Car Show

We had our 21st SCOCC George Old Car Show this February, which had a special German exhibition. Norman Hickel once again displayed the 1886

Benz Patent Motorwagen from East London, with the 1901 Benz Ideal of the Crankhandle Club, as well as René's 1913 Benz on show.

We had our first, very successful Valuation Seminar the day before the George Show. Thank you to Dirk van der Westhuizen for taking the lead. We all learned a lot.

I also want to thank Dirk for his efforts in establishing a well-documented Archive for the Club, safekeeping historical documents and Club memorabilia. If you have any Club memorabilia, please consider donating it to the Club for safekeeping.

KZN National Gathering and AGM

The 3rd KZN National Gathering and AGM was a historic event, years in the making, with the 1st Gala dinner having been held precisely 16 years earlier at McCarthy Motors in Pinetown. The 2nd event had been a joint venture with the other regions, with the KZN region hosting the 2011 Gala evening at Gariep.

Congratulations to Avish and Mira Maharaj, and the KZN team, for an excellent and highly successful weekend. We thoroughly enjoyed every minute!

I am glad to report that the budget for the KZN AGM was finalised after a small contribution from the Club. Once again, well done!

One might have assumed things would quieten down after the hype of the KZN AGM. But... NO!

Two weeks later, I returned to KZN for the Pietermaritzburg Cars in the Park, where once again, René and I were hosted by Avish and the KZN guys. What a treat! I thank them for the wonderful collage of AGM photos gifted to me.

Fintail Register

Thanks to Chris Kühn for organising the 1st Fintail Register event at Gariep over the weekend of the 16th of June 2017. This was a personal highlight, as I was able to attend with my very first old Merc, namely a 1965 300SEL. What a sight to see all 23 Fintails from around the country. We had a fantastic weekend, Gariep once again proving an ideal venue for Register events.

Swartkop Airforce day

I attended my first Swartkop Airforce day at the South African Air Force Museum, and I thank Hilton Wolff for arranging such a historic event. The "Friends of the SAAF Museum Society" are doing a sterling job of maintaining and flying the old aircraft. It was really an amazing experience that I can truly recommend.

Sven, Avish and I had the first ride in an Alouette helicopter over Pretoria, flying past the Union buildings and over Loftus Versveld, then back past the Voortrekker Monument. Avish seemed a bit quiet at times, clutching the canvas seat and looking for the paper bag - but we landed safely back

at Swartkop Airforce Base, without incident.

Our "Tour du Cap"

In the beginning of June, I was contacted by Tim in der Smitten, Editor of Mercedes-Benz Classic magazine, to feature a story about the Club's history. Chris Carlisle-Kitz immediately volunteered to join me and flew down to George. We drove to Cape Town, he in my 1964 300SEL Fintail and I in my 1970 280SE 3.5 Coupé.

The storyline was a weekend trip around the Cape, with a special insert about the history of the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa. It was a wonderful trip, with the most perfect weather for photography. What a special camaraderie - the President and newly elected Vice President, on a road trip around the Cape of Good Hope.

We were joined by Tim in der Smitten, journalist Jürgen Berderow and South African born photographer Marc Bielefeld. We look forward to the printed story, to be featured in an upcoming edition of the Classic Magazine.

National Concours

One of the highlights of the year (and my personal favourite), the National Concours, once again took place in the Northern region in September, at McCarthy Motors in





50 YEARS AMG

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Centurion. Special thanks to Hein Lorenz for his continued support and sponsorship, making this our STAR event.

Many thanks to Sven Krassnokutski, Koos du Toit and André Esterhuizen for all their hard work, as well as to Ettienné Geel and his panel of judges.

Thank you very much to Mercedes-Benz South Africa, Hein Lorenz and our members for sponsoring our new trophies. We consolidated the categories, creating new classes, and would like to thank everybody who has participated in the event.

Congratulations to Roley Nöffke, winner of the Prix d'État Pre-War, Grand Prix d'État and Prix d'Honneur, with his 1928 260 W11 Stuttgart. Congratulations to the Prix d'État Oldtimer winner – Thasvir Premrajh, with his W115 220 and the Prix d'État Youngtimer winner – Pieter Booysen, with his R129 500SL.

Roley Nöffke also won the President's award, with his 1928 260 W11 Stuttgart, and walked away with the Ladies choice, with his 1955 300 Adenauer.

Congratulations to all the participants who took the time and effort to show their beauties. It is an absolute privilege to share in the joy of admiring these classics that are dear to all of our hearts!

International President's Meeting

During October, I once again had the honour of representing our

Club at the annual International Presidents' Meeting, hosted in Stuttgart by Mercedes-Benz Classic Club Management (MBCCM). True to purpose, the MBCCM provided a wonderful opportunity for club leaders from around the world to network and exchange invaluable ideas - strengthening international bonds through a shared passion for the brand.

Mercedes AMG maintains that the spirit of the brand can be experienced most intensely during a guided tour of the AMG Headquarters in Affalterbach - and that is exactly where our weekend started, on the Friday.

We had the pleasure of a private tour of the customer workshop, followed by a tour of the factory, where their famous V8 engines are hand-built with AMG's "One Man, One Engine" philosophy. (It takes approximately four hours to assemble a single engine and there are only around 50 AMG engine builders.)

We were also treated to presentations from the various model Design Leaders, highlighting the finer design elements of the AMG GT C Edition50, AMG C63s cabriolet (Ocean Blue Edition for 150 lucky ladies out there!), the AMG S63 sedan and AMG S65 S-Class coupé. All the V8 AMG's now feature the "Panamericana" grill, which first made its debut on the GT R.

After the tours, we were hosted by AMG for dinner in their Private Lounge, which provided a wonderful opportunity to meet and network

with MBCCM members and fellow presidents.

Our Saturday commenced with various presentations from MBCCM members, including an interesting presentation of the results of a 2016 international survey of all club members. This was followed by an open bus tour of Stuttgart, with its numerous vineyards. We even stopped for a quick visit to Stuttgart's famous TV tower (151 m high viewing deck), where we enjoyed a panoramic view of the city, topped off by the beautiful autumn sunset.

That evening, we had a "Küchenparty" where we participated in preparing our dinner at various food stations. What an experience!

On Sunday, we visited the MB Museum, where we were privileged to have a preview of the "50 years of Mercedes-AMG - Half a century of Driving Performance" exhibition - currently on display at the museum and definitely worth a visit!

They have a replica of Aufrecht and Melcher's original Red Pig (300SEL 6.3) on display. Also, on display, was the newly revealed AMG Project One, of which they plan to build 250 vehicles - all sold for €2.5m before it was launched!!

Before lunch, we had a look at the Classics and Youngtimers for sale at "All Time Stars", and after lunch we had time for a quick farewell, not believing the weekend was over so soon.

Heartfelt thanks to Georg



Wohlfarth and Marcel Schuh of MBCCM for a wonderful, inspirational weekend - and of course, for their support of MBCSA.

Year-end functions

The Central region had their year-end function at Fanie du Preez's Diner, and the KZN region at Warren Geysers place. We are very grateful to both hosts for putting on such a fine event for their fellow members.

The Eastern Cape region joined the annual Amatola Run, before venturing off to have a lovely lunch at Komga Country Club.

I had the pleasure of attending the Western Cape year-end function and regional Concours, held at Neethlingshof. We brought with us a little bit of rain to the Cape, just to tide them over – and we trust and pray that their drought will soon be history!

The following weekend, René and I hosted the Southern Cape Year-end Sheep braai and Concours d'Élegance, with a relaxed picnic under the old American Plane tree and the usual Magnums.

That same day, the Northern region had their year-end function and regional AGM at Velmore Hotel & Spa. We trust that all in attendance had a wonderful time.

Another amazing year gone by...

2017 thus came to an end. Another successful year for the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa, seeing us into 2018 with many new friends and fond memories.

I once again extend my gratitude to the National Committee and all the members of the Club for the trust and belief they have placed in me, as head of our team. To the members of the National Committee, congratulations on being elected for another term.

Last (but certainly not least), to my wife René, without whom I would not be able to lead our Club: Thank you for joining me on this journey and for your constant support.

Here's to an event-filled, inspiring 2018. Here's to the BEST... OR NOTHING! ■



One Man - One Engine



Handcrafted
by

Rico Weip
Mercedes-AMG
Germany



Handcrafted
by

Jessica Galin
Mercedes-AMG
Germany



Handcrafted
by

Gaetano Rabino
Mercedes-AMG
Germany



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Aurelio Mantu
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Andreas Bock
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National Committee 2017



Annual 2017

Meet the National Committee Members

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- National Concours
- Club Forum
- BENZ LENS
- Valuations
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- International MBClub card

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SELVIN GOVENDER

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP

Selvin Govender brings his flair for interpreting trends, and understanding market needs to the role of Marketing Director for Mercedes-Benz Cars – a division of Mercedes-Benz South Africa. His career advancement in the Mercedes-Benz South Africa group of companies is based on a wide range of expertise gained throughout his career, and also through his formal studies.

Having an MBA, Selvin also has a degree in Supply Chain Management and National Diplomas in Transportation Management and Mechanical Engineering. He has excelled in all three of the organisations that make up the Mercedes-Benz group in South Africa, having cut his teeth at Debis Fleet Management (a part of the company's Services Group) as a key accounts executive. Other positions include gaining experience in areas such as remarketing, pre-owned, residual value management, and fleet services at Mercedes-Benz Financial Services. Selvin's position as National Sales Manager for Mercedes-Benz SA has been the final stepping stone before his appointment to head up the Marketing Division as Marketing Director, Mercedes-Benz Cars, making him a well-rounded asset to the business.

A posh evening like our Gala Dinner at the Wild Coast Sun could not have happened without our main sponsor, Mercedes-Benz South Africa. I wish to thank Mr. Selvin Govender for his continued support of the club and his generous sponsorship of that evening and the club in general. I am looking forward to our continued professional cooperation. I am sure he agrees that this prestigious event follows the standard set by Mercedes-Benz. The National Committee proposed to bestow a special membership to Selvin Govender, which was unanimously accepted by the members at the AGM. This award is bestowed on a person who has rendered a valuable and beneficial service to the Mercedes-Benz Club and Mercedes-Benz Marque. I cannot think of a better recipient than Selvin. I first met him in 2009 when he represented MBSA at the AGM held in George. We cannot forget his generous sponsorship of last year's AGM in Gauteng, having sponsored the track day at Zwartkop for us. He is well known in the club and a very worthy recipient. ■

Selvin, I salute you.



Special



HERO AWARD

Norman did an apprenticeship as a diesel mechanic with the old Road Transport Services of the South African Railways and then went on to Diesel Electric to repair injector pumps. Norman married his lovely wife Jill in 1969. His association with Mercedes-Benz started in the early 1970's when he joined MBSA as a Commercial Vehicle Assembly Process Engineer at the CDA Factory in East London.

He also worked at MBSA's Head Office in Pretoria and spent some time in Germany as well. After returning to MBSA East London, Norman retired from MBSA in 2003. In his earlier days, he raced Go-Carts and did a bit of off-roading. Being a petrol head, he got involved with the old car movement in East London.

Norman joined the Mercedes-Benz Club of SA in 1988 and has been a very well-liked and invaluable member with a great sense of humour. He keenly assists everyone with his technical knowledge when servicing or repairing especially the older vehicles.

Having owned several classic cars, Norman has a wealth of knowledge across all ranges from; among others a pre-war 170V, Ponton, 190E2.3-16 etc. His latest acquisition is an SLK320.

Having close links with the plant even now in his retirement, has given Norman the opportunity to stay in touch with the heritage cars owned by MBSA and of course the three wheeled Benz Patent Motorwagen, which he knows particularly well.

With his incredible technical knowledge, his humour and willingness to help certainly makes Norman a very special and invaluable member of the Eastern Cape Region and this Hero Award for Norman is very fitting.

Congratulations on being presented with a Hero Award, Norman! ■

Hero

CHRIS CARLISLE-KITZ

HERO AWARD

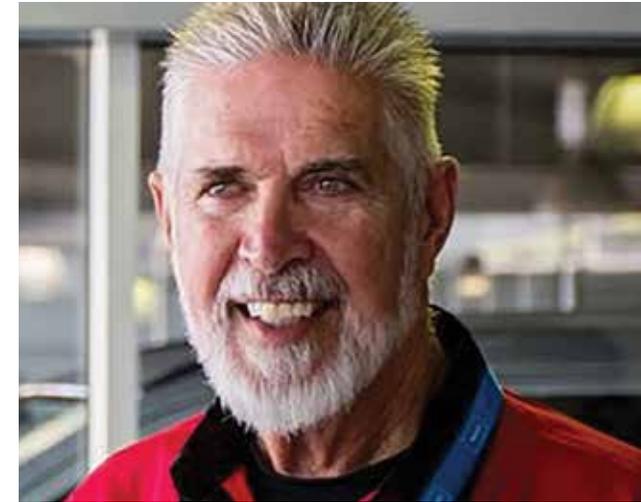
Chris has been an old car fanatic and enthusiast all his life. He grew up in East Africa in the 1950's when the motor car played an important role in life. Watching racing at a local track in Nairobi from the age of five and helping his dad build an Austin seven racer before he could handle a spanner sure had ignited a love for cars inside of him. The East African Safari was an institution which he became passionate about. Today he has created a small museum dedicated to the Safari. Chris has nearly finished the building of a Mercedes 220SEb which competed in three Safaris. At university in the UK during the 1960's he enjoyed the golden age of the cars which were to become today's classics. Club racing and rallying with these cars was the order of the day. He got hooked on restoring old cars and amongst several others that he played around with he finally built a Concours quality 190SL which he brought with him when he came back to Africa in 1972.

A lifetime of building and repairing old cars as well as creating Concours winners out of old wrecks became his passion. He has owned classics of all descriptions from entry level cars to highly desirable collector vehicles. Top of the list was a 1965 230SL which he restored and owned for 33 years.

In the 1990's he owned a panel beating and spray painting business which specialized in the repair of Classic Cars. Today, Chris is rebuilding a 1963 Mercedes-Benz W111 sedan and a rare 1958 Mercedes-Benz Ponton

bakkie. Chris has become so involved in the history and specifications of the Ponton bakkie that he thinks that he is a world expert on this rare vehicle! In 1979, he joined in with three other young enthusiasts who tried to start a Mercedes Club in KZN. Not really knowing what they were doing their valiant efforts were soon on the rocks!

Chris has been member of the Vintage Sports Car Club since 1976. He was Chairman of the KZN Region of the Mercedes Benz Club of South Africa for seven years, a member of the Club's Executive Committee and serve as one of the Club's official valuator. He also served as a Concours d'Elegance judge. He is also a member of the Sports Car Club of South Africa and Historic Racing South Africa where he is a passionate participant on the South African Historic Racing Circuit. He raced two different Mercedes race cars and now competes with a purpose built 1962 Ford Corsair and a 1962 Ford Anglia. He recently won the Little Giants class of the Legends of the 9 Hour event at Kyalami. Chris is keen to get younger people involved in the old car scene and within the Club and on the race track. Plans are already in place for this to happen. Congratulations on being presented with the Hero Award, Chris! ■



Hero



HERO AWARD

I met Maxim as a member of the Club. At that time we were both serving on the National Committee as Chairmen of our respective regions. Maxim and I bonded instantly, as he did with most of his fellow club members. We particularly shared our mutual love for a “finny” and I remember his and Chris’s adventure with Bonita and later with Emilio. Maxim joined the Club in 2006, became Regional Chairman of the Northern region in 2008, and hosted very successfully in 2010 the Club’s 25th Anniversary AGM and National Gathering in Gauteng.

Maxim was an active, contributing member of the Club and was well known to many of us across all the Club’s regions. Maxim’s geniality transcended the regional structures, but he was a passionate supporter and organiser of the Northern Region. Maxim remained at all times a Mercedes-Benz authority and a dyed-in-the-wool enthusiast of the marque. Maxim’s cheerful demeanour, keen wit, fun-loving nature and “can-do” attitude will be missed in the Club and in the racing circles in which he keenly participated.

Maxim was a true gentleman, a hero of the Club.

It is incredibly sad that Maxim’s life ended so soon and I cannot put into words how much we will miss him. Even though Maxim may be gone, his memory will live on in all of us forever. Maxim, we appreciate your friendship and camaraderie and will never forget you. Janine, wife to our late friend – to you and the boys, may you and your family always find peace and love in our Merc family.

In your absence, congratulations on being presented with a Hero Award, Maxim! ■

Hero

LOUIS COETZER

HERO AWARD

The Central region is very fortunate in having a member with one of the largest collections of classic cars in the country. This collector has more than a 100 Mercedes-Benz vehicles, some of them with a rich and colourful history. An example of this is a 1951 Mercedes-Benz 'bakkie'; former Foreign Affairs Minister, Pik Botha's, 300SE sedan, and King Moshoeshoe II's 600 Grosser limousine.

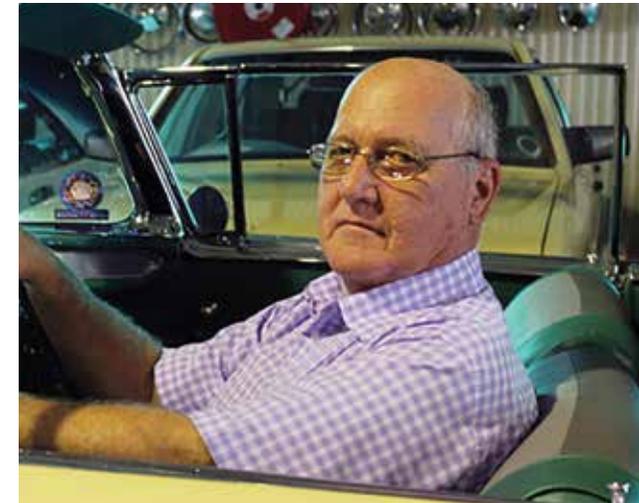
Louis started collecting at a very young age, whilst still in primary school, but as he could not afford the cars at that stage, he started buying and collecting Dinky Toys. He also went from scrapmetal yard to scrapmetal yard in order to buy wheelcaps – at that stage for 1c each. These Dinky toys were his companions and playmates until he was in Matric and according to him, girls were not a priority at that stage. This apparently changed in 1971 – 46 years ago - when he married his wife, Hermien. It is common knowledge that you will be able to buy a Mercedes-Benz from Louis, but not a wheel-cap or a Dinky toy!

He realized the value of the Mercedes-Benz brand in the middle 1980's and from there his collection of old beauties just flourished, his favourite being a 1968 250 SE Cabriolet. He joined the Mercedes-Benz Club in 1987 and has been a stalwart in the Club ever since. He and his wife handled the membership duties for approximately 3 years and he has also served as the Chairman of the Central region for quite a number of years.

His passion for the brand is widely known and he shares this freely with all who are interested in all things classic car related. Many articles have been published on his collection, even in popular international magazines such as the Mercedes-Benz Enthusiast and he truly is an ambassador for the club and the brand.

The members of the Central Region as well as the Mercedes-Benz Club of SA would like to thank Louis for all that he has done for the Region and the Club.

Congratulations on being presented with a Hero Award, Louis! ■



Hero



SEC111 GP

19211

BP 55 DF GP

Aarya

Doona's Restaurant, Masterchef SA



Regional Review

Northern



Northern Region



Annual 2017

After hosting a very successful AGM in 2016 under the confident leadership of Leon Wannenburg, the Northern Region was able to focus on our regional events and innovations during 2017.

A new and enthusiastic committee chartered a way forward for the region, starting with a membership engagement survey and revitalising our regional calendar. We have also been very fortunate to have had our Club President's full support in pioneering new technologies to ease the process of joining the Club and improving the Club's presence on Social Media. The Northern Region gained forty new members in 2017 – a very positive and vital sign.

The Northern Region Committee underwent a number of changes throughout the year. We were sorry to receive Hans-Rudolf Bosch's resignation from the committee during the year owing to work commitments. Chris Carlisle-Kitz also stepped down from the position of Vice-Chairman of the region to focus on his duties as Vice-President of the Club following his election to the position at the 2017 AGM and National Gathering. We are grateful to Pieter Booysen for volunteering to step in to the vacated Vice-Chairman position. As Chairman, it was

indeed a great privilege for me to have had a most able team running the region: Jan-Willem Wielsma as Regional Secretary, Anna-Lee Dos Santos as Regional Membership Secretary, Suzette Bouwer as Regional Events Co-Ordinator, PJ Ryan as Sponsorship Co-Ordinator, Carlos Cardoso as Event Organiser, André Esterhuizen as Regional Treasurer and Marcell Mostert as Social Media Representative, both for the Northern Region and the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa at a National level. We are also extremely grateful to Olga and Francois van der Westhuizen who agreed to take on the role of Regalia Officers (also a National function) and to Stephen Kaalsen, the editor of the Benz Lens, for the contributions they make to the Club.

The year was a mix of tradition and innovation, with many favourite and long-standing events being complemented with new ideas. Angela's Picnic, Zwartkops Cars In The Park and Two-Door Day remained as popular as ever, as did our annual Airforce Day organised by Hilton

Wolff. Unfortunately, as it turns out, it was to be our last Airforce Day at the Zwartkops Airforce Museum, but Hilton has new plans up his sleeve for 2018, with a flying day of a different sort being organised – be sure to watch this space! Our monthly regional outings have also been "refreshed", with most enjoyable visits being organised to new and different venues. The attendance at our events has been growing steadily and is an indication of the members' acceptance of this adventurous spirit in the region.

New life was also breathed into that most prestigious of National events hosted in the Northern Region, the National Concours. A beautiful new trophy set was kindly sponsored by Mercedes-Benz South Africa, Hein Lorentz, most of our Club's past Presidents and members. The event, hosted by Hein Lorentz of McCarthy Mercedes-Benz, continues to improve year after year with the quality of the judging and participating cars continuously improving. We are grateful to all parties involved in the National Concours for all their efforts

and for ensuring that the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa remains one of the last custodians of this proud tradition amongst South African car clubs.

2017 also saw the return of a much loved favourite, with Suzette Bouwer resurrecting the tradition of Midmas. The event was fully booked with members from both the Northern and KwaZulu Natal Regions attending a fun-filled weekend in the Natal Midlands. This will be a much bigger event in 2018 and we look forward to welcoming members from more regions to join in the fun.

During 2017, a number of members in the region were involved in organising events. We are very fortunate to have such a number of active, involved members and I thank them for their contribution to the region.

The year culminated with a very elegant year-end function at the Velmoré Hotel. At the Regional Annual General Meeting the Chairman and Secretary for the region were re-elected and PJ Ryan was elected as



Vice-Chairman for the Region.

While I am very grateful for the generous contributions by members and sponsors throughout the year, the driving force behind the consistent improvement and increasing momentum in the Northern Region has been the ongoing effort of the committee. I have indeed been privileged to serve the members alongside this group of dedicated and

talented people and look forward to another successful year together in 2018. ■

Sven Krassnokutski
Chairman Northern Region









Regional Review

Western



Western Cape Region

The year 2017 has been a very busy one in the Western Cape with monthly club meetings and runs, classic car shows, Mercedes-Benz Stellenbosch Workshop Days, Benz Lens articles, Facebook postings, our region's Whatsapp group and obviously the planning of the big event - the 2018 AGM.

In January the club attended The Timour Hall Classic Car & Bike Show in Plumstead, but due to the limited parking space we showed only eight cars. Most car clubs in the Western Cape exhibit at this event and all of the proceeds go towards charity. On the last Sunday in January the Kepplers took us on a scenic drive via Gordon's Bay and Rooi Els to Betty's Bay for lunch at the Harold Porter Botanical Gardens. The theme was '107's' and we arrived in style!

In the month of romance, David Shakeshaft organised a sleep over-weekend at the famous Angora Stud Farm owned by club members Bertus & Rozitha Oosthuizen. It was a very well-organised event from the early departure on Saturday morning at Mercedes-Benz Paarl, lunch at Nuy on the Hill and a stunning dinner amidst beautiful classics to, of course, a farmstyle breakfast the next morning.

In March, Ederik Kritzinger took

us on a trip to Grabouw, the valley of apples, where we had a leisurely lunch at the Rojaal Teekamer. Some of us then decided to take the scenic route home via the Franschoek Pass, where I stopped for the best chocolates in the country, and Ederik, David and George decided to end the Sunday with a wine tasting at Rickety Bridge.

The 2017 AGM in April was held in KZN and a few of us took the long road to the sunny Wild Coast Sun where Avish and his team entertained us for three amazing days of fun and laughter. Our convoy left KZN with fond memories.

I had the privilege to organise a run in May and I decided to take the club members to Diemersfontein Wine Estate on the outskirts of Wellington. We had a very decent wine tasting followed by a sumptuous lunch and a leisurely cruise home.

Dan Esterhuysen took us on a trip to Thali Thali game lodge in June.

We travelled along the West Coast road and met Johan Kemp, Coenraad Botha and their families at the game lodge. The staff at Thali Thali served an interesting variety of potjiekos and afterwards some of us enjoyed a game drive before setting off home.

JB Wiese put up his hand at our first meeting in January, and the month of July was his to spoil the members. He took us to Faber at Avondale Wine Estate which is one of the top restaurants in the country. In the beautiful farmhouse overlooking the Paarl valley the kitchen forms part of the dining room where the fine dining was much appreciated and enjoyed by all (although, I'm still not happy about seeing rabbit on the menu due to the fact that we've got two spoilt ones at home...)

The run of the year which attracted a lot of interest from all regions, the Hantam Vleisfees in August, was organised by Dirk van der Westhuizen.

The legendary king of the Karoo Crossing took us on a luxury bus trip to Calvinia. Capetonians, of course, have no problem with drinking wine at nine in the morning, and there was more than enough on board for everyone! During our stay in Calvinia we had lamb, lamb and more lamb and after a few hours, more lamb. (I still don't know how the three vegetarians survived the Vleisfees!)

In September Brendan Moran organised a special day at the Killarney Racetrack followed by lunch at the Meerendal Wine Estate. On arriving at the racetrack Brendan spoils us with snacks and coffee and tea during the briefing ("How to drive slowly around the track"). That went well for the first lap or so, but when the AMG's took over, that was a different story! Hannes Pienaar took the lead in his CLK Black Series followed by all versions of AMG's. The speed was one thing, but what a wonderful sound!



Annual 2017

Our annual car show at Killarney was held in mid October. We had a lovely display of various series with Graham van Heerden's V114 and Jurgen Apel's C114 that took centre stage. We once again had a marquee for club members with liquid refreshments and a variety of platters for lunch. A big thank you to everyone who attended the event. Jannie and Ingrid Gildenhuys invited the club to Jannie's garage. To those who have not yet been there, this is a very special garage with a stunning collection of cars, bikes and loads of memorabilia. Rare classics in top condition can be seen here! Afterwards we all had lunch at Shuntin Shed in Botrivier.

Our last meeting for 2017 was held at the Long's family estate just outside Stellenbosch. We were treated to eats and drinks, but most of all, their car collection ... wow! Not only do they love their SL's, but you should see their American cars! Ford Model T's, Dodge Vipers and Hummers to name a few and some British cars as well.

David Shakeshaft put up his hand twice at the first meeting in January. (Thank you David!) This time around he took us to Babylonstoren after a drive through the very dry but still beautiful Cape winelands. We had lunch in the beautiful gardens chatting away about petrol, oil and tyres. It was

Donald and Amelia Abbott's first run and they showed off their beautiful red R107 560SL.

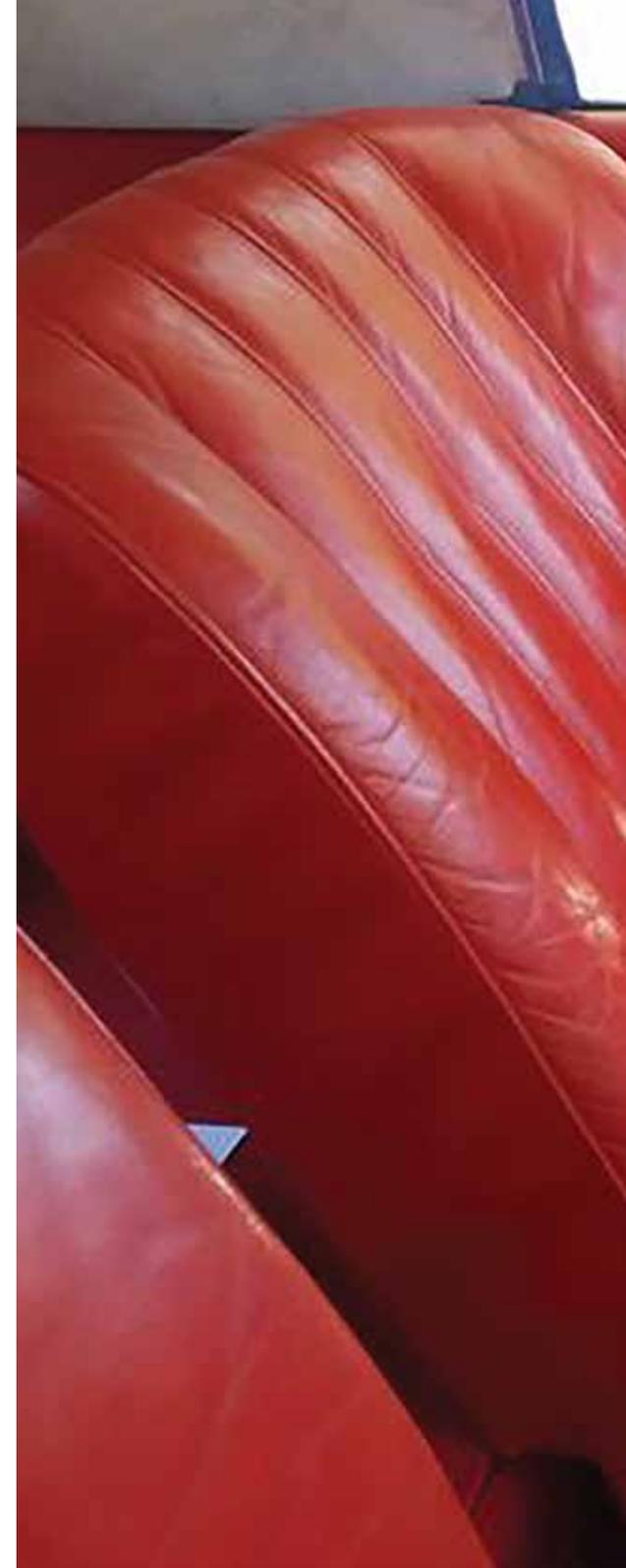
Our end of the year event and concours was held at Neethlingshof Wine Estate. It had a rainy start (which we welcomed), but the contestants were determined to show off their pride and joy. Various prizes were handed out on the day, and Noel Grove took the overall winner's trophy. After the prize giving ceremony, we had a lovely buffet lunch.

Just as we thought 2017 had disappeared over the hill, Brendan Moran sneaked in a 107 run to Mont Rochelle in Franschhoek. A total of fourteen 107's attended the event!

As chairman of Western Cape Region of the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the club members who made 2017 a special year, especially our regional committee. And a big thank you to the president of the club, Waldo Scribante, and the national committee for their support! ■

Kurt Stassen

Chairman Western Cape







MERCEDES-BENZ KLUB



SUID KAAP

21st SCOCC
George Old Car Show



Regional Review

Southern



A person in a red shirt and white pants is standing to the left of the cars, holding a camera.

Mercedes-Benz
M

38 W142-WP

XMW
880GP

Southern Cape Region



Annual 2017

The Southern Cape region is the oldest region in the club. Our region was established under the guidance of Kobus Harris (the first regional chairman) 22 years ago.

Among beautiful and rare cars in our region, it is also best known for two very special events. The participation in the George Old Car Show and the annual Snoekbraai are two events at the top of the attendance list. Both these events took place also for the last 22 years. This is no coincidence. This region played an active role in the start up process of the Old Car Show and is still plays a major role.

The Old Car Show, arguably one of the best shows in the country, annually attracts between 900 and 1000 entries. Usually at least 10% of the participants are members of our club who undertakes the great trek every year. We are indeed indebted to our members who sacrifices many hours on the road for their support.

The main feature of the 2017 show was concentrated on German vehicles, and once again our region

(with the support of other regions) was the major contributor. As far as the annual Snoekbraai is concerned, it is difficult to describe this event. It is easy to describe it as an excellent and well attended event, but those who have experienced it will understand.

Another event where we have established our presence is the Knysna Old Car Show. Participation in this event is by invitation only and it speaks volumes that we (the club) are on the list of invitees.

Monthly activities are organised which includes out rides, garage days and plain old bring and braais.

Our year end function, with a spitbraai, is held in the garden of our president. It includes our local concours and the election of the next year's committee.

The committee elected for 2018 are the following:

- **Chairman:** Johan Sloet,
- **Secretary:** Aldo van Zyl.
- **Additional members:** Pieter Lourens and Chris Kuhn.

Without our members participating, not only in attending events, but also the organising, no region can function. We are grateful to report that in this aspect we are well supported.

We are eagerly awaiting 2018. ■

Johan Sloet

Chairman Southern Cape

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB
OF SOUTH AFRICA, EASTERN CAPE REGION



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Regional Review

Eastern



Eastern Cape Region



We are grateful to have a number of passionate members in the Eastern Cape Region, who commit to the club wholeheartedly and who share their knowledge freely with fellow members.

Some members have had long-serving careers within the Mercedes-Benz organisation, going back to the early CDA days at the Daimler Plant in East London.

We also have a few new members who are currently employed at the Daimler Plant and some who are involved as suppliers or service agents to the Daimler manufacturing facility, who share the passion of the brand and keep us updated with new developments.

We also appreciate the support received from the local Mercedes-Benz Dealership, Ronnies Motors, who share our endeavours to promote awareness and the unique heritage of the Mercedes-Benz brand.

2017 was an interesting year with a variety of events & activities in our region, which were well supported.

We have informal workshop meets every Monday evening, where everything about our cars, current projects & motor industry news are discussed over a drink or two, together with the usual banter that goes with it. These evenings are most enjoyable and

always very informative.

Apart from these weekly get-togethers and bring 'n braai's with fellow members, we arranged a number of runs throughout the year which among others included Morgan Bay, Kidd's Beach, Thomas River, Gonubie, Komga, Bathurst and Emerald Vale Brewery. We joined the Amatola run to Kei Road and supported the Jolly Old Fellows run, where the Old Folks are taken on a classic car drive and treated to a lunch at the Osner Hotel on the East London Beach front.

We visited two high level classic car collections in our region during the year; The first one of these was the special Porsche collection owned by the Hoft family in Fort Beaufort. They have an outstanding collection of rare Porsche's, which are well kept in a warehouse on the outskirts of town.

We combined this visit with the Thomas River week-end further along the route, which certainly is one of the highlights in our region.

We also visited Rod Ketterer's awesome Alfa Romeo collection in East London. This pristine collection

consists of many classic Alfa's in exceptional condition, housed in a first class facility.

Lawrence Kropf invited us to his place at Glen Navar on two occasions, where we saw the superb restoration of his very rare 1935 Mercedes-Benz 200 cabriolet.

He received many accolades and went on to win Car of the Show at the East London WOW Show later in the year. This, without doubt is the Eastern Cape's Car Restoration of the Year!!

The Wizard on Wheels Car Show is the Eastern Cape's premier event, held annually at the end of September. 2017's Show was a tremendous success with no less than 50 Mercedes-Benz cars on display. A big thank you to all who contributed to the success of our Show.

The Eastern Cape region supported a number of National Shows & Events outside the province as well, including the National Concours held at Mercedes-Benz Centurion, where Lawrence Kropf once again did very well by winning two prizes with

two cars entered. Congratulations to Lawrence for receiving these awards.

After extended negotiations, the MBSA Heritage Car Collection, which consists of many makes & models produced at the CDA East London factory over the years, was finally moved to a very nice warehouse controlled by MBSA's Department of Corporate Affairs. The cars are now overseen by a team of enthusiasts within MBSA and are well kept and displayed under their supervision. We are fortunate as a club to have access to this collection from time to time and we have met there on numerous occasions.

After a number of meetings with the Kempston Group, we were given the go ahead to display our classic cars in the group's Lifestyle Centre in Nahoon, which has now become a regular meeting place for our members.

At the Regional AGM held in November, the existing Committee was re-elected for another term of office with Erald Hohls as Chairman, Malcolm Campbell as Secretary and Colin Meyer, Pieter Moolman



and Johannes Coetzer as committee members. Thank you for the committee's support.

The Year-end Function was held on the same day as the Amatola Run with a very nice country style lunch at the Komga Country Club. This was very well supported and enjoyed by everyone.

The EC region has seen a renewed interest in the club with a number of

new members joining the club during the year.

A special thank you to everyone in our region for their continued support in making this such an enjoyable and successful region.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead. ■

Erald Hohls

Chairman Eastern Cape





MEERES-BENZ CLUB SA
The Flight of the Phoenix
FTG 598 FS



Regional Review

Central



DWH 348 FS

Central Region

Jaco & Annalie Kachelhoffer once again got 2017 going with a 'Bring and Braai' at their museum on the outskirts of Bloemfontein.

Annalie's now famous punch really got the party and year started amongst their beautiful collection of MB's.

Other monthly functions included lunch at the FS Botanical Gardens, a cruise and lunch on the Modder River and a visit to the Kimberley Club.

We were also invited to Des & Susan Bosch's collection of Borgwards and MB's in their stunning museum. Members were treated to great food and wine amongst remarkable low mileage cars in a truly world class setting!

Our region also played host to the first Fintail register event held at Gariiep Dam. A highlight of the year for everyone who attended!

February, May and August saw some of our members attending the George, Pietermaritzburg and Pretoria car shows respectively. These shows really are showcases for the club and all the hard work the different committees put in to host them!

Our own Cars in the Park held on the 10th of August annually is well supported by our Central members and guests from other regions. This year we had a SL and Coupe theme with a good variety of the different models on display.

Thank you to the Northern region for hosting the National Concourse in September and for all your efforts to revitalize this flagship event on the club's calendar.

Our regional AGM meeting was held the morning before our closing function with a new committee elected as Rensche and I have relocated to the Southern Cape. Best of luck to the 2018 committee:

- Theo Potgieter – *Chairman*
- Fanie du Preez – *Vice Chairman*
- Anita du Preez – *Secretary*
- Van Zyl van Pletzen – *Additional Member*

Our closing function ended up being our farewell to the region held at Fanie and Anita's newly completed

museum at their home. We had a 50's themed party amongst their vast collection with the pontons in the spotlight. We also had contrasting models from America and Europe to complete the picture. Having been in the region all my life it really was an emotional good bye to all our amazing friends! It has been a pleasure to serve on the national committee over the years and I can only hope that my contribution has been a positive one. A special thank you to Rensche for all her work and support over the years too. ■

Chris Kühn

Chairman Central Region



Annual 2017





Regional Review

KwaZulu



MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB

SOUTH AFRICA

KZN AGM 2017

KwaZulu-Natal Region



Annual 2017

2017 started off with our very special Annual Chairman's Braai with breakfast on Durban's Beachfront Promenade, a surprise visit to one of the most sought after Car Collections that belong to Brahmanand Tony Outar of Tony's Car Sales.

We were treated to a real feast for car lovers from all brands and by far, the one that everyone loved the most was the gorgeous red and white Chevrolet Impala, the "dancing car". Tony is very well known throughout the country for his collection and received numerous awards for his beauties as well. Afterwards, we were treated to lunch by our Chairman as he does, every year, to say Thank You to all KZN members for their hard work, loyalty and support. 2017 was by far going to be a big one for KZN with us hosting our very first AGM in April.

The highlight of 2017 was our very first KZN National AGM held at the beautiful Wild Coast Sun on the KZN South Coast. It took months and months of planning, meetings, scheduling, bookings, budgeting, timing, frustration, anger, long nights, insomnia, fun, laughter, blood, sweat and tears to arrive on that fateful first day 27 April 2017 to welcome our Mercedes-Benz Family from around the country at Union Motors. The

next three days were definitely a blur to those of us on the AGM Committee and only after we reflect on the photos of the entire event so beautifully captured by Keshlan Nadasen of Lens 3 Photography, did we appreciate the fruits of all our efforts. Our opening Eastern themed dinner was something quite spectacular with heartfelt welcomes and speeches, dazzling dance performances from our very own club member Matt du Sart and his partner Suze Nunes, fire dancers, couple quizzes, giving us way too much insight into our members relationships and the most scrumptious buffet dinner that left no palette unsatisfied. The second day had us all up early and ready for our first adventure down to Leopard Rock with a very detailed quiz en route to the venue. I think from all aspects of the AGM, timing this particular drive was the most stressful. It had 3 components – the quiz while driving down, the individual photos on the bridge and on the death defying rock at Leopard Rock and of course,

the lunch being served timeously by the Leopard Rock staff. Our guests were so mesmerised with answering the quiz and by the breathtaking views at Leopard Rock, no one noticed all of us in such a frenzy to make sure everything went off smoothly.

Our second night's themed dinner at the Wild Coast Sun Waterpark was a ball of fun. The whole atmosphere of the venue had everyone in a party mood, dancing it up and even in the water; late into the night. Gifts and prizes were awarded for our organising committee and quiz winners and dinner was served in the park. It was one of the most special evenings from the entire event.

The 3rd day had us all decked out in our racing gear venturing up to and spending the day at the onsite skid pad at The Wild Coast Sun. The vehicle in question looked decent enough, w123 200, except for one small problem, the car was tampered with to turn in opposite directions. This brought about some very comedic moments from

our members who all gave it a shot much to the enjoyment of the crowd chilling out underneath the stretch tent enjoying their refreshments and lunch brought down to the skid pad. This is what happens when you belong to the MBCSA, you don't have to move a muscle, things get delivered to you for your comfort. The photos from this aspect of our AGM are captured especially beautifully and are some of the greatest moments from our AGM.

Almost home free, set up for the 'oh so glamorous' Gala Dinner, got underway while members attended the Annual General Meeting. The culminating dinner always has and always will be the crowning glory of our year. Everyone decks out in their finest and it can very well be equated to the 'Oscars' of our club. There was much to be celebrated and that was made evident by the opening of the dinner with dancing from our very own KZN Chairman. His elation at getting through this entire event was infectious and got everyone into the

vibe of the evening especially the guys from Klerksdorp. The highlight of the evening was most definitely our guest of honour, the head of marketing at Mercedes-Benz South Africa, the dashing and very charming Selvin Govender and his beautiful wife Ashi. His talk and presentation left all our imaginations going wild at the prospects of the future of MERCEDES-BENZ.

You'd think that KZN could have a break after pulling off their very first, very successful AGM but these guys down here in KZN don't sleep, so 2 weeks later, they hosted their premier event in KZN, Cars in the Park Pietermaritzburg. An all weekender event that begins with our team setting up early on Saturday mornings and hosting guests to the enjoyable night before braai at the show grounds, members were still riding high from the success of the AGM and in a party mood. Once again, pulling out the best hospitality tent at the show grounds with all day breakfast, round tables, draped tent, décor and entertainment for the day that included the infamous KZN biryani lunch served to all our members.

July has our KZN members down in Scottburgh for the very popular Scottburgh Classic Car Show which we have seen grow into the huge success it is today. Also a weekender event seeing our members setting up from early on a Saturday morning and attending the 'out of this world' themed dinner and show held at the Blue Marlin Hotel every year along with our Klerksdorp

family. It becomes a fun filled weekend that brings our three pointed star family together. The morning of the show has us all in the only hospitality tent on the show grounds with all day snacks, teas, coffees and cake for our members. Although the Scottburgh car show is a bit more relaxed, there is much entertainment planned for the day by the organisers which include featuring a specific brand every year, fashion shows, dancing, live bands and competitions.

One of our members John Aritho arranged a most stunning Lunch run for us in September. We started off our morning with breakfast at the beautiful Durban Country Club. Members enjoyed their morning coffee while taking in views of the spectacular Indian Ocean and Durban Country Club Golf Course. We then took more advantage of the stunning venue by taking this opportunity to get our stars photographed out front along with their owners. Never forgetting our ladies, we scheduled a brief stop at the Wonder market out in Umhlanga enroute to our 5 star lunch venue, Zimbali Coastal Resort. Another spectacular venue with views of the Indian Ocean and, the many Zimbali pools and a chef assigned to us for our every beck and call.

One of the perks of being a member of our KZN leg of the Mercedes-Benz club of South Africa is having our very own tourist guide, Des Armstrong as a member. He is one of the most interesting members to spend time with, as his love for adventure and

knowledge of South Africa is what draws you to him. We met in Howick for breakfast and thereafter drove through the beautiful Midlands where Des gave us a brief history of the forestry industry. We then stopped in the middle of nowhere to view a very secret collection of cars in a huge warehouse. This collection belonged to a very kind man by the name of Malcolm, who, along with his family welcomed us so warmly into their home. This is how Des is, he takes you on trips sharing little golden nuggets of information and finding the most secret of locations to see. He is indeed a very special and very celebrated member of our KZN team.

2017 came to an end for KZN in the beautiful city of Pietermaritzburg being hosted by the beautiful Geyser Family at their scenic home. Warren and Dody pull out all the stops when it comes to entertaining and it felt like we were being welcomed into another world, on arrival at their home. Being chauffeur-driven up to the house by their daughter Mia and listening to the sounds of the live saxophone player on the large green grassy lawn set up with tables and chairs for a banquet made each one of us feel very special. A very chilled out and relaxed lunch and final Regional AGM followed with members staying well into the evening feeling right at home. ■

Avish Maharaj
Chairman KwaZulu-Natal







best.

2017 National Concours

On 9 and 10 September this year the most prestigious event in our clubs' calendar was again held at McCarthy Mercedes Benz Centurion.

We were spoilt by our generous host Hein Lorentz and his magnificent team. From a spectacular dinner with great food, décor and music to an equally tasteful lunch on the Sunday before the winners of the great competition were announced.

This year saw 41 entries from our members showing off their pride, spending weeks and even months preparing their three-pointed stars. The judges certainly had an extremely difficult task ahead of them as all the cars were in top form. A special thank you to Ettiene Geel and his team of judges for performing this difficult task with such enthusiasm.

In a very tight battle the overall winner in the Prix d'Honneur competition was Roley Nöffke with his 1928 Mercedes-Benz 260 W11 Stuttgart.

Herewith some history of this spectacular automobile...

Roley obtained the vehicle in 2003 (from the Late Estate of Piet Fouche) and carefully stored it under a cover until restoration began in 2010. The 260 Stuttgart's first date of registration

dates back to January 1928. It appears that the vehicle started its life off as a "Taxi" in Windhoek, Namibia before making its way down to South Africa. License numbers TRB 34382, TP 893 and LKZ 268T bare testimony of its existence in South Africa. Registration numbers recorded in three Benz Lens issues over the past 3 decades. The vehicle belonged to Piet Fouche for many years and spent roughly 17 years of its life in East London on loan to the Mercedes-Benz Museum.

The vehicle was completely stripped down and meticulously restored with the help of Andreas Modrzewski. It was established that the car was originally painted black when the body tub was stripped down and not two tone green as he bought the car. Sections of many body panels had to be remade and even some engine components such as the radiator grill and thermostat housing were constructed from drawings and photographs.

The upholstery was redone in Pretoria and the engine rebuilt by Rutland Motor Engineering in Johannesburg. The ring gear and Bosch starter motor had to be sourced from Europe. The windows and door

handles were reproduced in Brisbane, Australia.

Some specifications of this magnificent vehicle

- **Engine type and Capacity:** Six-cylinder, 2 581 cc
- **Power output:** 50 bhp/38 kW at 3 400 rpm
- **Transmission:** Three-speed manual, rear-wheel-drive
- **Acceleration:** 0-60 km/h in 25 seconds (estimated)
- **Top speed:** 50 mph - 90 km/h
- **Price new in 1928:** DM 3 300+taxes (estimated)

The Stuttgart 260 was available in the same range of variants as the two-litre model. The better-equipped variant of the 260 models was called the "luxury" version. Exterior signs of the superior equipment level included nickel-plated bumpers, hub plates, window frames and headlamps. The radiator cap and headlamp connecting rods were likewise in polished metal. The instrument panel was more comprehensively equipped with the conventional speedometer as well

as the standard clock, and the rear luggage rack featured a large trunk with a smaller trunk inside or dual spare wheels.

The standard equipment also included protective spring gaiters. High-grade fabrics were used in the interior. The choice of interior fabric as well as the colour of the paintwork could be specified according to the personal preferences of the customer.

Thank you Roley for sharing this car with us at the National Concours.

Earlier this year it was decided that the trophies for the Concours are looking a bit worse for wear (unlike the cars that they are awarded to!) and therefore needed to be replaced.

Through a "bidding" process members were given the opportunity to sponsor a trophy which carry their name. ■

We wish to thank the following trophy sponsors

“Sven Krassnokutski was once again the main driving force behind the success of this event and the smooth processing of the results. A huge amount of time and effort is spent on this event and Sven is the one who makes sure that nothing goes wrong.
Thank you Sven!”

Mercedes-Benz SA	Carl Benz Trophy	Prix d'Honneur
Hein Lorentz	Gottlieb Daimler Trophy	Grand Prix d'Etat
Waldo Scribante	Wilhelm Maybach Trophy	Prix d'Etat – Pre-War
Steve Rademeyer	Ferdinand Porsche Trophy	Prix d'Etat – Oldtimer
Lizaan Kemp	Concours d'Etat Oldtimer	Class 170 / 220
Louis Coetzer	Concours d'Etat Oldtimer	Class 300
Gary Dodds	Concours d'Etat Oldtimer	Class Ponton
Chris Carlisle-Kitz	Concours d'Etat Oldtimer	Class Fintail
Koos du Toit	Concours d'Etat Oldtimer	Class W108 / W109
Leon Fourie	Concours d'Etat Oldtimer	Class /8
Des Lemmon-Warde	Concours d'Etat Oldtimer	Class Grosser
Clive Winterstein	Concours d'Etat Oldtimer	Class 300SL
Vinesh Ramdass	Concours d'Etat Oldtimer	Class 190SL
Yousuf Mahomed	Concours d'Etat Oldtimer	Class Pagoda
Ettienne Geel	Paul Bracq Trophy	Prix d'Etat – Youngtimer
Carika Aucamp	Concours d'Etat Youngtimer	Class W123
Jan-Willem Wielsma	Concours d'Etat Youngtimer	Class W116
Waldo Scribante	Concours d'Etat Youngtimer	Class W201
Johan Kemp	Concours d'Etat Youngtimer	Class W124
Johan Kemp	Concours d'Etat Youngtimer	Class W126
Paul van Wyk	Concours d'Etat Youngtimer	Class R/C107
Pieter Booysen	Concours d'Etat Youngtimer	Class R129
Warren Geysler	Concours d'Etat Youngtimer	Class Open
Dirk van der Westhuizen	Bruno Sacco Trophy	Prix d'Etat – Newtimer
Sven Krassnokutski	Emil Jellinek Trophy	Prix d'Elegance
Kurt Stassen	Concours d'Elegance	Class Pre-War
Northern Region	Concours d'Elegance	Class Oldtimer
Southern Cape Region	Concours d'Elegance	Class Youngtimer
Anna-Lee Dos Santos	Mercedes Jellinek Trophy	Ladies' Choice
René Scribante	Bertha Benz Trophy	President's Choice



Winner

NATIONAL CONCOURS 2017





The final results of the competition were as follows

Prix d'Honneur	1 st Place	Roley Nöffke	W11	260 "Stuttgart"
	2 nd Place	Carika Aucamp	W123	200
Grand Prix d'Etat		Roley Nöffke	W11	260 "Stuttgart"
Prix d'Etat – Pre-War		Roley Nöffke	W11	260 "Stuttgart"
Prix d'Etat – Oldtimer		Thasvir Premrajh	W115	220
Concours d'Etat Oldtimer				
Class 300	1 st Place	Roley Nöffke	W189	300d
Concours d'Etat Oldtimer				
Class Ponton	1 st Place	Gary Dodds	W105	219
Class Ponton	2 nd Place	Doeke Tromp	W105	219
Class Fintail	1 st Place	Pieter Booysen	W111	230S
Class Fintail	2 nd Place	Pieter Botha	W111	220S
Class Fintail	3 rd Place	Jorge Tenente	W110	190D
Class W108 / W109	1 st Place	Gary Bowes	W108	280S
Class /8	1 st Place	Thasvir Premrajh	W115	220
	2 nd Place	Mia Geyser	W115	220
	3 rd Place	Spike Middleton	W114	280E
Class 300SL	1 st Place	Connie Oosthuizen	W198	300SL
Class Pagoda	1 st Place	Lawrence Kropf	W113	250SL
Prix d'Etat – Youngtimer		Pieter Booysen	R129	SL500
Concours d'Etat Youngtimer				
Class W123	1 st Place	Lawrence Kropf	W123	230
Class W123	2 nd Place	Hennie van den Berg	W123	300D
Class W201	1 st Place	Warren Watters	W201	190E 2.5 Cosworth
Class W124	1 st Place	Johan van Heerden	C124	300CE
Class W124	2 nd Place	Daleen Geel	W124	230E
Class R/C107	1 st Place	Pieter Booysen	R107	500SL
Class R129	1 st Place	Pieter Booysen	R129	SL500
Class R129	2 nd Place	Neil Kandasamy	R129	SL320
Class R129	3 rd Place	Warren Watters	R129	SL 60 AMG







Prix d'Elegance		Nico Boshoff	R107	500SL
Concours d'Elegance				
Class Pre-War	1 st Place	Jorge Tenente	W136	170V
Class Oldtimer	1 st Place	Gary Dodds	W111	230S
Class Oldtimer	2 nd Place	Gary Dodds	W108	280SE
Class Oldtimer	3 rd Place	Clive Winterstein	W198	300SL
Class Youngtimer	1 st Place	Nico Boshoff	R107	500SL
Class Youngtimer	2 nd Place	Hein Lorentz	W126	560SEL
Class Youngtimer	3 rd Place	Steffan Liebenberg	W124	230E
Concours d'Elegance				
Class Newtimer	1 st Place	Sarel Mostert	R172	SLK 55 AMG
Class Newtimer	2 nd Place	Francois van der Westhuizen	W219	CLS350
Discretionary Awards				
Ladies' Choice		Roley Nöffke	W189	300d
President's Choice		Roley Nöffke	W11	260 "Stuttgart"



“ Thank you once again to all involved in making this event a success, from the sponsors to the entrants. We look forward to seeing more magnificent cars next year. ”



2017 AGM & National Gathering

One does not simply host an Annual General Meeting and National Gathering, particularly when under the auspices of a brand whose slogan reads "The best or nothing". No. Instead, months of painstaking preparation, late nights and deep-breathing culminates into one, single weekend.

But what a weekend! The Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa held their thirty-second Annual General Meeting and National Gathering at the Wild Coast Sun in KwaZulu Natal, the first time for this region in sixteen years. Under the direction of Avish Maharaj, the KwaZulu Natal Chairperson, and the regional committee, attendees from the furthest reaches of South Africa were in for a 27th – 30th April 2017 full of thrills, spills (almost) and exceptional hospitality on the South Coast of the Sunshine Province.

Registration for the one hundred and forty odd strong attending members and their families took place at Union Motors in Shelley Beach. The mood at the registration tables (and the lunch tables!) mirrored the

effervescence of the little coastal town as it showed off with brilliant sunshine and balmy temperatures, a precedent which would carry through the entire sojourn.

KwaZulu Natal is renowned for its rich and diverse culture. The Eastern-themed dinner which officially opened the festivities on Thursday evening was magnanimous in its testament to this claim. The crowd was entertained by Tribal Fusion Belly Dance duo "Yin and Yang" while feasting on a curry buffet. If the cuisine on offer was not hot enough, the uni-cycling fire dancer certainly turned the temperature up with a spectacular display of his skill. A Couple's Quiz kept diners riveted as the words to Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes "If You Don't Know Me By Now" rang true as each contested

couple, new and experienced, were paced through their general knowledge of each other...

From dance expression and mendAhi hand-painting to haute cuisine, nothing punctuated this first night of the weekend better than the echoes of good humour and camaraderie, feeding the energy of the warm Indian Ocean from just beyond the breakers.

Armed with a loud-hailer and a clipboard on a very early Friday morning, Master of Ceremonies Christopher Carlisle-Kitz called to order the chatter recounting the previous evening's activities. The grouping was rearing to embark on a Travel Quiz; a test in skill of observation, team work and (for some of us) a steady foot on the accelerator







pedal. At precisely 09h00, the grouping set off “mit aufregung” on an hour-long adventure beginning in the highly-favoured and picturesque holiday towns of Ramsgate and Margate, all the while collecting answers to the quiz centred on the Banana Capital of the South Coast.

As the journey continued further inland and the landscape morphed from coastal to escarpment, no

prize to this quiz could compare to the reward that was the experience of Oribi Gorge Nature Reserve. As the convoy descended further into the emerald bounty of sub-tropical vegetation, there was indeed a true appreciation for this magical province. A quick stop on the low level bridge over the Mzimkhulwana River allowed members to have their photograph taken with their prized autowagens.

And what a sight to behold. From saloons to coupés and convertibles (and even a Maybach!), striking vegetation and cliff-faces offered up an unrivalled backdrop to showcase engineering finery.

Onward to Leopard Rock Coffee Shop and Restaurant where ravenous revellers tucked into a hearty lunch, awestruck by the magnificent vista of the Oribi Gorge. Carved out of

sandstone by the Mzimkhulwana River, this natural canyon is a site to behold and worthy of its state protection. Those who wished for a closer and less obstructed view girded their loins and ventured out onto Leopard Rock, a three- to four-metre overhang onto the steep walls of the gorge. It is so called owing to the nature of the cliffs and caves in the area, generally favoured by the majestic leopards which populate



the locale. Not for the faint-hearted...

An afternoon at leisure, guests made their gradual way back to various accommodations to rejuvenate for another evening of merriment. Despite the cooler temperatures beyond sunset, few were discouraged by the notion of a beach party at the Wild Coast Sun Water Park. With temperatures low but spirits high, guests feasted on braaivleis and beer

while the winners of the Travel Quiz were announced and suitably spoiled. Well done to Chris and Anna-Lee for taking top spot! Even after a Sudden Death round.

Ladies and Gentlemen! Start your engines! Saturday morning breakfast consists of tyre smoke served up on a bed of baking tarmac, all washed down with high octane fuel!

Well... not quite.

The modified gymkhana brought out once again, high levels of competition within the crowd, even with the prospective challenge posed by the W123 200s which were the steeds to lead each valiant warrior onto the battle field.

Less dramatic that implied, the course was a simple three hundred

metre oval on the Wild Coast Drift Track which drivers were required to navigate around only once. The fastest recorded time to complete the course would eventually have the title of "winner" bestowed upon them. But that would be far too simple... Each Mercedes-Benz vehicle had been slightly modified to ensure directness of steering – in the opposite direction. This meant that turning to the left

would result in the car careening off to the right and vice versa. Not a standard item on the options list offered by Mercedes-Benz. Pat Smythe in the commentator's seat kept up the cheers, jeers and chuckles as Pieter Booysen achieved the quickest time in the men's category while Alta van Heerden claimed top spot for the ladies, demonstrating that the fairer really are better drivers. Even in the opposite direction.

The order of business on Saturday afternoon saw to the formalities of the Annual General Meeting. The National Committee met with its members to discuss the affairs of the Club with exciting movement into the future. Congratulations to Christopher Carlisle-Kitz on his election to Club Vice-President!

An evening of glitz, glamour and poise awaited guests arrival at the venue for the Gala Dinner, a description befitting not only of the fine Mercedes-Benz and Mercedes-AMG (four-wheeled) models which served as the evening's pre-cocktail Welcoming Committee. The doors to

the banquet hall opened to exquisite décor and an air of elegance, more than appropriate to the brand being celebrated. Divisional Marketing Director for Mercedes-Benz South Africa and esteemed guest of honour, Selvin Govender, provided a glimpse onto the imminent highway of global motoring, following the Star of Stuttgart into the future.

A special guest joined the event via video call. Janine Erdmann accepted a special award presented to her late husband, Maxim Erdmann, for his contribution to the Club. Maxim sadly passed away in 2016.

Amid mass congratulations to the KwaZulu Natal Team on an outstanding undertaking and after the last speech was spoken, guests whiled away the last few hours of a spectacular weekend in the company of friends and family, old and new, under a sky of three-pointed stars. ■





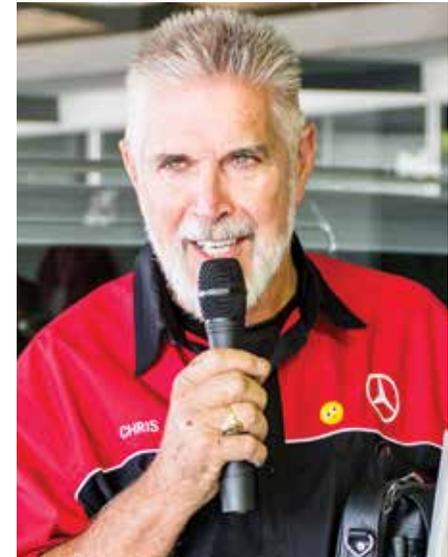


TAILEND

Keep your classic Mercedes, it is better than money in the bank! For years the doom sayers have been predicting that the bubble will burst, I do not think it will.

Good classics are now a commodity that you can either hide away in the garage or you can enjoy playing with it on a regular basis by sharing it with fellow members on any of the regular club outings. Then when you are tired of it, sell it at a profit then buy another, but expect to pay lots for the new one!

Tail end says here is one of the best investments being restored. A rare 1959 190D Binz bakkie. The only one known to exist! ■



Chris Carlisle-Kitz
*Vice President -
Mercedes-benz Club*

End



Mercedes-Benz
The best or nothing.



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