



DIE  
THE

# BENZ LENS

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA



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# Editorial

Stephen Kaalsen

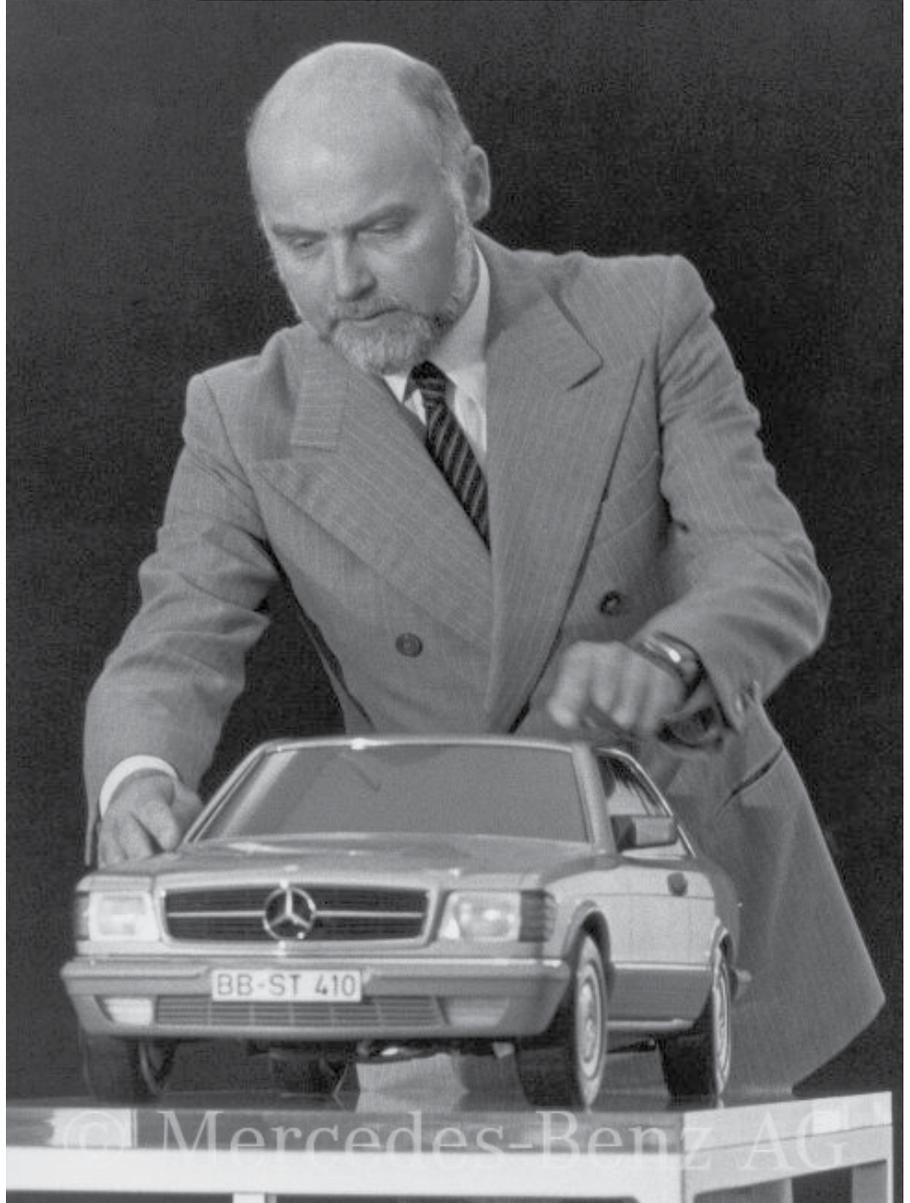
Since my lovely wife Claudine “fell” pregnant, her physical abilities have become a little limited. She usually managed to shop by herself, or along with my ‘grande’ mother-in-law. I had no use going with and it suited me perfectly, as a quick trip to the local shopping mall for bread and milk amounted to one standard Sasko brown bread, two piquant pairs of ladies shoes, one large lamp shade, one luscious L’Oreal lipstick from the local Edgars store, and one litre of long-life milk!

Alas! with the change in her physique – I have no choice but to go along and push the trolley for the bread and milk.

When I am on one of these tiresome shopping expeditions (with my lovely pregnant- fairy wife) I discovered a nice old Mercedes-Benz in the parking lot upon our exit from the mall. I had spotted a nice W115 220 in Caledonian Green once. I also saw a nice low kilometre W123 280 Auto in DB419 “Ikonengold metallic”. The biggest question always arises: Who is the aunty behind the automobile? Who is the old owner or the car’s custodian? Is it for sale? Who exactly is the person responsible for parking the car right there where I can see it ‘long’ for it? Who is the person behind the car?

Well, to be exact, Bruno Sacco is actually the man behind the motor, or rather the design thereof. Dear reader, we are investing a little time today to become better acquainted with the head of styling at German car giant Daimler-Benz between 1975 and 1999 – Mr. Bruno Sacco.

Sacco admitted that his first inspiration towards car design came as a young eighteen-year-old, after seeing a Studebaker



Commander Regal that Raymond Loewy styled in 1950 as he cycled through the streets of Tarvisio, Italy in 1951. After seeing the sight of a revolution in car designs compared to the forties, he could not get the car out of his head. "I knew my life had been decided" he said.

After becoming a mechanical engineer and obtaining his degree at the Polytechnic University of Turin he attempted to get a job at the world renowned Ghia and Pininfarina carrozzerie. His efforts were not successful. Daimler-Benz then hired him as a stylist in 1958, and although he intended to stay only briefly, his marriage to the Berlin girl Annemarie Ibe in 1959 and the birth of their daughter Marina the following year, made him reassess his plans.

Sacco climbed the corporate ladder at Daimler-Benz over the next fifteen years, becoming head of engineering in 1974, before he took over from Friedrich Geiger as head of the Daimler-Benz styling center at Sindelfingen in

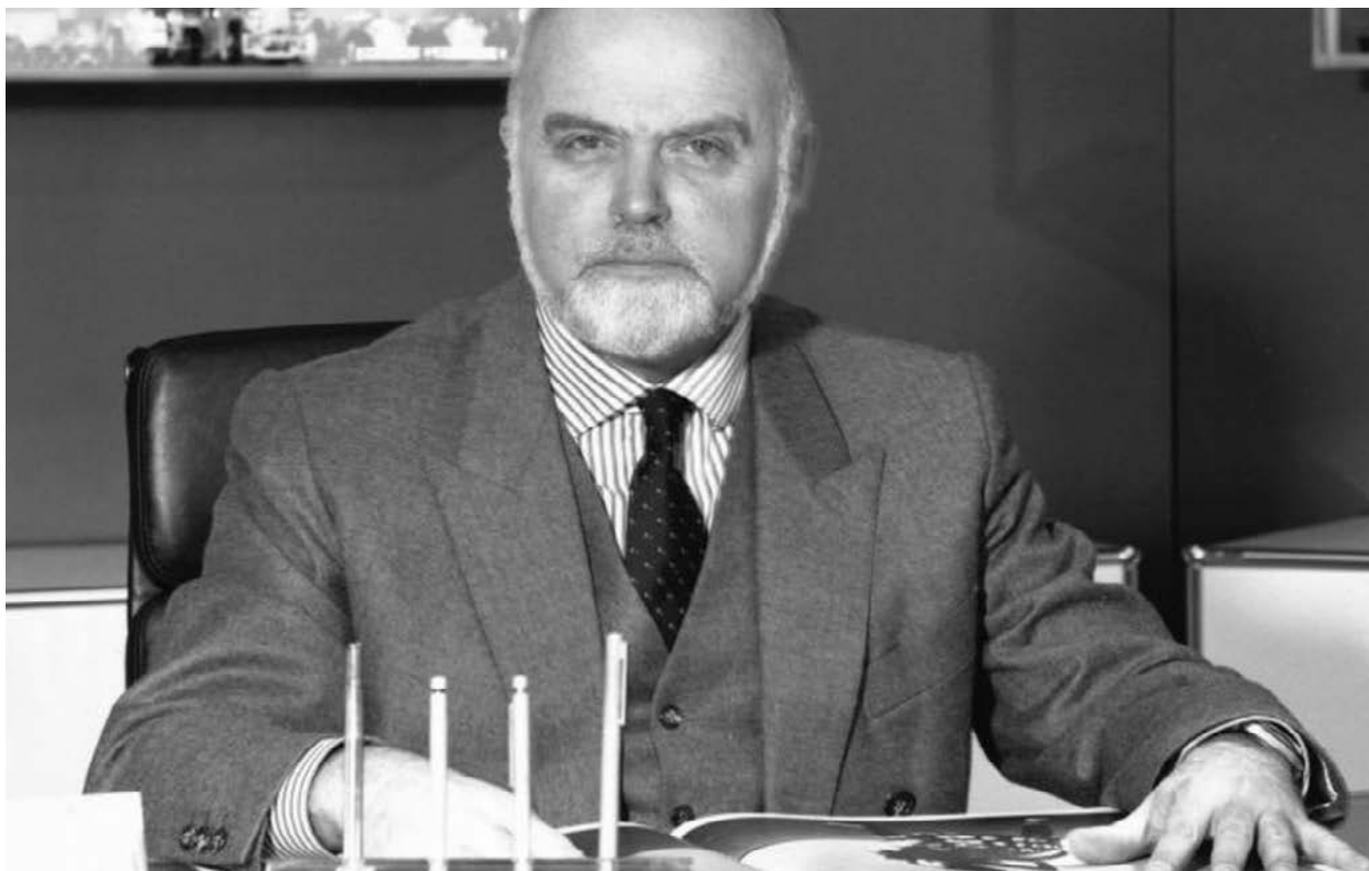
1975. For the following 25 years until his retirement in 1999 he was responsible for the design of every Mercedes-Benz road car, bus, and truck. Among his numerous works are the C111 concept car, three successive iterations of the S-Class luxury car (the W126, W140, and W220), the R129 SL convertible, the C-Class W202 compact executive car, the W124 and W210 versions of the E-Class sedan, the CLK and SLK sports cars, the M-Class luxury sport utility vehicle, and second generation C-Class W203. Bruno made significant contribution to the design of the timeless and renowned W123, the best ever selling Mercedes-Benz as well as his very last design R230 SL convertible (in 1997). His favourite design, because of its significance to the company, is the Mercedes-Benz W201 190E, while he confesses dissatisfaction with the 1991 S-Class, which he considers to be "four inches too tall". In his retirement he has given up his old red SLK convertible in favour of a

black C126 560SEC.

Driving off from the local shopping centre, after admiring the old Mercedes parkade finds and supporting my wife from shop to shop, to obtain the bread and milk that we went for – not mentioning all the extras and all the additional shopping, I get back into the plush driver's seat of my 500SE W126. As it slips into gear and the V8 roars into action, I have a new sense of admiration for Mr. Bruno Sacco and his designs.

His designs were admirable, and still are. I'd like to quote from Bruno which probably was his finest and most well known: "A Mercedes-Benz must always look like a Mercedes-Benz." – and he succeeded! I say, The Benz Lens must not always look like the Benz Lens. A little variety and something different is always nice.

Dear reader, I trust that you will feel nailed to your seat when reading this 'hot off the press' Benz Lens digital magazine on your digital platform!



# from the President

Waldo Scribante



## Dear fellow members

The year 2020 started on a tragic note, with the passing of Central Region Club Members Louis and Hermien Coetzer. They were involved in a fatal 4x4 accident in the Naude's Nek pass. It was with great sadness that we learned of their sudden passing, and we continue to hold their

family in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

I met Louis and Hermien in 2006, at a National Committee meeting which was held in Bloemfontein. They handled the membership duties for the Club and Louis also served as Regional Chairman of the then Free State region. That meeting was the

start of a very special friendship, and I will always remember their hospitality and kindness. In 2017, I had the privilege to bestow a Hero award upon Louis, which was a most prestigious award for a well deserving recipient.

<https://mbcsa.mercedes-benz-clubs.com/about-us/hero-awards/>

Louis and Hermien, your love for one another will always be remembered. Your passion and enthusiasm for old cars was tremendous, and many of us looked up to you as a couple, as friends, and as motoring enthusiasts. As your MB family, we will truly miss you, and your memories will be imprinted in our hearts forever. Rest in peace...

## George Old Car Show 2020

This year, René and I had the privilege to become more involved with the George Old Car Show, with the SCRIBS BENZeum becoming the named sponsor of the event.



GEORGE OLD CAR SHOW

George 2020  
Old Car Show  
DRIVEN BY  
SCRIBS BENZEUM

8 & 9 FEB 2020  
SATURDAY 8AM - 7PM | SUNDAY 8AM - 2PM  
PW BOTHA COLLEGE

CONTACT  
KLAUS OELLRICH  
076 764 0897  
WWW.SCOCC.CO.ZA

PROTEA HOTEL, GEORGE, MIZAS, CASTLE, CLICKIT, MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB SOUTH AFRICA





We started the weekend, with René and André du Toit, participating in the annual SCOCC Vettoer, which started in Albertinia this year. After an early morning start, she drove Benzie all the way back to George, enjoying every minute of it!

I am very pleased to report that the Show was a great success and that the Southern Cape region again played a major role in that success. However, we cannot forget to thank our members from other regions for supporting the show.

This year's theme was Bakkies, and the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa certainly rose to the occasion. Many thanks go to Kobus Harris for arranging the special exhibit of Bakkies, where we had "Frikkie" the 170V of Theo Claassen, as well as the award winning 180D Ponton bakkie of Warren Geyser as part of the special display. At the MBCSA display, we also had another display of bakkies and commercial vehicles, which was spectacular!

Our hospitality tent was once again a huge success, with members thoroughly enjoying the camaraderie.

We welcomed Leon Erasmus and Jacky Lavin, our new Regalia officers at the show, where they had extremely good sales of regalia. Well done to them!

I thank the SCOCC organisers, as well as Aldo van Zyl and Dirk Lombard, for managing the Southern Cape portion of the event. Southern Cape stalwarts Kobus Harris, Peet Botha, Pieter Lourens, Leon Diedericks and JC Coetzee made a superb job of arranging the professional layout of the show. Once again, our Merc's stole many hearts in their world-class display.

## President's Braai

On the Saturday evening of the show, René and I again hosted the annual President's Braai at the SCRIBS BENZeum. A highly anticipated event that continues to grow in popularity, with 190 of our members and friends in attendance. Fuelled by Benz camaraderie, I can tell you it's one of the absolute highlights of my year.

We were very fortunate to have our past Presidents attending the George Old Car Show, as well as the President's Braai. It is always an honour to host them at this special event.

I presented special certificates to all the members who displayed a Mercedes-Benz Bakkie at the 2020 George Old Car Show and I also had a special PONTON BAKKIE grill badge made to celebrate the

Bakkie exhibition. There are still a few badges available. Should anyone be interested, please do contact me.

## Valuation Seminar

As part of the GOCS weekend, we held our 4<sup>th</sup> Valuation Seminar - another successful event!

A special word of thanks goes to Sven Krassnokutski for updating the Valuation model and Chris Kühn for his presentation, highlighting the various model changes of the Youngtimers (W123/W124/W126/R129).

## National Committee Meeting

The National Committee also had their 1st annual meeting of 2020 in preparation for the 2020 AGM and I can report back with confidence that our Club's management is sound. I once again thank our highly dedicated National Committee members for their hard work and enthusiasm.. It is a pleasure and an honour leading such a wonderful group of people.



# from the **PRESIDENT**

## **Mercedes-Benz Sponsorships**

I am glad to report that Mercedes-Benz South Africa has extended their sponsorship of the Club, but unfortunately the sponsorship for the "BENZ LENS ANNUAL" has been cancelled.

## **MBCSA Memberships**

On a serious note, our membership numbers are still in slow decline. We need your support to strengthen our numbers. You can help by sharing our Facebook posts and events, supporting our Forum, finding new members, and inviting friends/potential members to join us on outings and events. We will be collaborating with MBSA to increase our Social Media footprint with more regular posts and PR drives, and we look forward to the closer cooperation and sharing of posts.

*As always, the best or nothing!*



## **René and I hope you and your loved ones are safe.**

The whole world is shocked by the COVID-19 crisis.

Both, our private and business lives, are significantly influenced by the current regulations of the Government.

In such situations, we have to make far-reaching and responsible decisions - for the benefit of our members and the general public.

The National Committee of the Club has therefore decided to follow the recommendation of SAMCA and has cancelled our club events for March and April 2020. We will continually assess the situation and inform our members. We are in the process of considering postponing the AGM and National Gathering to a later date.

We wish you and your loved ones the best for the time ahead. We are convinced that we will overcome this crisis together.

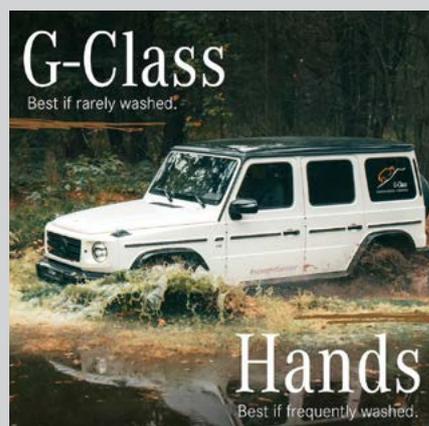
We are all available on our Social Media platforms, namely FB, WhatsApp and our Club's forum. Please join us in this virtual world, while we are in this period of lockdown.

If you don't have access to these platforms, please contact your regional committee.

**#stayhome #staysafe**



Watch Video





## SCOCC George Old Car Show 2020

By Aldo van Zyl

One of the biggest annual motor shows in South Africa is held at George – this year it was no different – again one of the most spectacular and most successful motoring events that the eye can behold!

The great success this year was as a result of the Benzeum's main sponsorship and sure enough the Benzeum did the Southern Cape Region proud. This region pulled out all the stops in arranging an exquisite motor show – definitely one of the highlights of the motoring industry in South Africa.

Our event already started the Friday morning when a valuation seminar was hosted at "The Benz" for the National Committee members, all the while our faithful members were already starting to prepare the big freeform canvas tent. Members and participants from other cities and towns as well as various clubs started to gather from Friday afternoon, polishing and buffing every piece of chrome



# SOUTHERN CAPE REGION



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trim to a brilliant lustre. Not to be outdone was of course the Mercedes-Benz club with all of its glorious entrants with members getting their autos to a marvellous shine - and getting that three pointed star to a gleaming glow.

From early Saturday morning even more entrants started to roll on in - we had very special cars on display. As the show's main theme

was "The Bakkie" we had our X Class of Waldo on show as well as the show's darling: the "Benz" dating from around early 1913. Our members did a wonderful job of setting up the tent as well as assisting all patrons at the hospitality tent, without them it would not have been possible. The show was well attended and we had an exhibition that was well

worth the visit. Our hospitality tent was crammed full of members and visitors, from early on they had coffee and rusks and as the day became hotter, the cooler side of drinks were eagerly consumed. Many new friendships were formed and some older and established friendships strengthened, with great laughs and memories. The day went by flawlessly - and everybody had a great time.

The Sunday is usually a slow-paced day other than the Saturday, but to our surprise it was rather well attended with a lot of the cars still on display - making it all the more reason for the general public to attend. The show went by so fast and it is with some sadness that at the end of the weekend we must say our goodbyes to all, from far and wide. As all set their sights to head home, we look forward to the next motoring show.

The George Motor Show 2021: we are already making plans for the next year and we hope to see you there. Until then, drive safely.



## 4<sup>th</sup> President's Braai

By Aldo van Zyl

Our esteemed presidential couple Waldo & Rene Scribante have become synonymous with big events and entertaining – thus it will come as no surprise that the President's Braai is an event of epic proportions.

The event was after all masterminded by Waldo, not naming the event to himself, but because it is attended by most if not all of our club's previous Presidents.

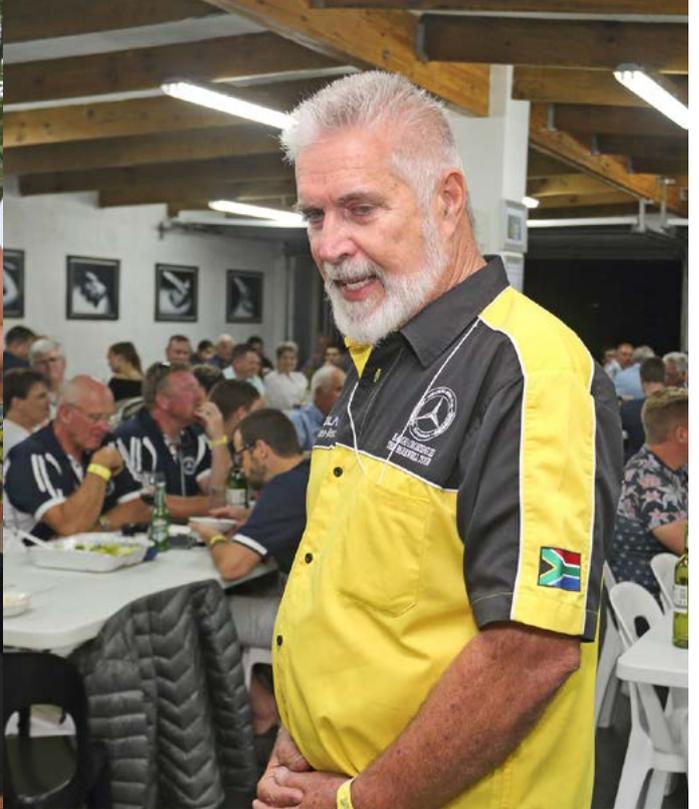
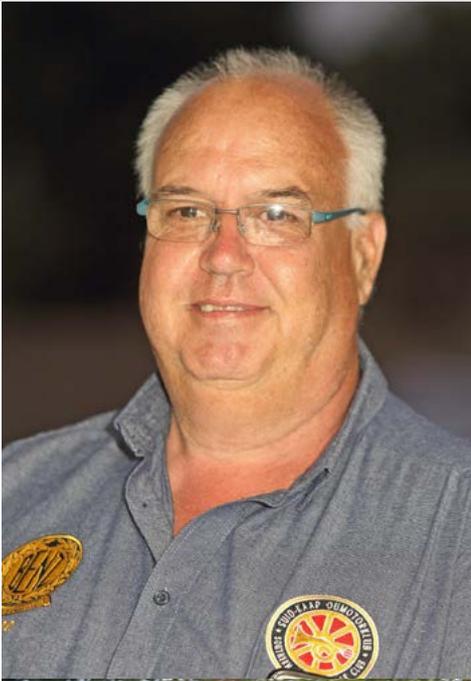
This year we were about 200 attendees – fun, laughter, lots of food and wine was on the menu. The Scribante's pulled out all the stops for this year's dinner, we were treated to the most tender and succulent meat, plus the cherry on top must be the ice cream with Waldo's famous chocolate sauce. The place was abuzz with conversation between friends of the three pointed star, all sharing their thoughts on the show, as we dined the night away. Patrons were studying some of the cars that were parked in the garage and scrutinising every aspect of the Teutonic design, craftsmanship, the elegance and stance, all of which is encompassed by our favourite brand Mercedes-Benz. It can truly be said that the brand Mercedes-Benz is not just a brand anymore, there is much more to it than that. It has become a shining beacon to all of the motoring fraternity, always setting the standard, always setting the pace, and to that we thank our President for keeping us connected to one of the most iconic cars and also one of the most iconic clubs in the world, the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa. We once again thank all that were involved in organizing the George Motor Show, and further more also Rene & Waldo for making this event possible.



# SOUTHERN CAPE REGION



# SOUTHERN CAPE REGION



# SOUTHERN CAPE REGION

## Vettoer with the Benz

By René Scribante

So.... it is Friday morning before the George Old Show 2020. I wake early with great excitement! I am driving our 1913 Benz on the SCOCC Vettoer from Albertinia to George. As I am getting ready for the day ahead, I realize what a privilege it is to not only go on the tour, but to actually be at the steer of this beauty...

...and it did not disappoint!

I met up with my co-pilot, André du Toit in Albertinia and so the adventure began. We drove the gravel road from Albertinia towards Herbtsdale and this was the part I was looking forward to, the most. Not only was it a gravel road, it rained the day before and there were mud pools all over! André offered to drive but I wanted

to try. AND I LOVED IT... dodging the bigger pools and being in the moment!

The day did not disappoint and the Benz treated me well. André and I did selfies, laughed a lot and made time to stop and take in our surroundings. In short, FUN! What a morning, the scenery was gorgeous; together with exquisite light. Definitely a day I will cherish and certainly never forget...

Thank you to Phillip Kuscke and the SCOCC for organizing the tour and inviting me.

Thank you to André du Toit for being my co-pilot and also to Johan Zanoli, driving my backup vehicle, but also taking the most beautiful pictures. It was a privilege!



Watch  
Video





## 4<sup>th</sup> Valuations Seminar

By Sven Krassnokutski

The George Motor Show weekend is always a highlight, not only in the Mercedes-Benz Club, but for car enthusiasts across the country. The weekend is a particularly busy one for the Mercedes-Benz Club National Committee, as it includes not only the car show, but also a National Committee Meeting and our annual Valuations Seminar.

This year, the seminar was held at "Die Benz" in George, a clubhouse for the Mercedes-Benz Club Southern Region and the Southern Cape Old Car Club.

The focus of the seminar was on 'Young time'r cars, which includes W123, W124, W126, R129 and W201 cars. These are the cars the valuation community are most often called on to value and, given the movements in market values in recent times, a fresh look was warranted.

Chris Kühn gave us a brief history of each model, updates and changes made, which was very interesting and informative, even to the aficionados of the brand. Sven then recapped the valuation model which the Club has used for the past two years and some interesting and heated debates ensued on various matters, such as which the best of a particular model range is, whether certain optional extras are a good or a bad thing, and whether MB-Tex

is better than leather – the never-ending debate!

The group then broke into teams to evaluate some cars which Waldo had organised to be there – and the heated debates continued. The discussions and debrief were informative and helped to drive alignment on some points in the valuation community, but it also became very clear that the valuation process is destined to remain a blend of both art and science!



# VALUATION SEMINAR 2020



# VALUATION SEMINAR 2020





# EASTERN CAPE REGION

## EC Trip to George Old Car Show

By Erald Hohls

February is always a highlight, with many of our members supporting the George Old Car Show.

This year was no exception and we thoroughly enjoyed the weekend once again.

As has now become tradition, most EC Members stayed at the Alpine Inn where we had a wonderful braai on the Friday evening before the Show.

Thank you to Johan Minnaar and his twin sons, Stefan and Hans for doing the salads & eats and for setting up the braai for the evening. Well done to the Southern Cape Region for a fantastic Show and to Waldo & Renê Scribante for once again hosting us in style at their Benzeum, for the annual President's Braai.

On the return trip to East London, we had our traditional Breakfast at 34° South Restaurant at the Knysna Waterfront.

We thoroughly enjoyed the trip.



# EASTERN CAPE REGION



# EASTERN CAPE REGION



## The Humble W123 240D

By Paul Merifield

Often, enthusiasts of the Mercedes Benz brand will acknowledge the W123 series as the best car produced by Mercedes Benz. Some even say it's the "finest saloon car of the 20th century"

The W123 (manufactured between 1975 and 1986) gained a reputation for being reliable, durable, well built and over engineered, whilst looking modern. Few will argue that it's a fine motor car!

In the book about the Mercedes W123, Martin Buckley and Mark Cosovich write the following about the W123: "It was never designed to be an exciting car, but a balanced one, intended to impart a sense of lasting satisfaction".

As collectors, we may look for the more unique, or powerful, or rare, or low production volume models, none of which the base model 240D is or was.

Rated at 48kW at 4,200rpm and 137Nm at 2,400rpm, with a top speed – on a good day – of 138km/h, this 2.4litre diesel is a seriously underpowered car by today's standards.

Taking these factors into account, the humble 240D would not be something that many enthusiasts would look for to add to their collection. However, this mostly original, early version 1978 model car came across my path, having been owned by the same gentleman for about 30 years, but standing for the past 5 of those

years in Aberdeen (Eastern Cape, not Scotland!).

With a fresh battery installed, and a good long preheat of the glow plugs, the engine fired up promptly upon turning the key. A deal was struck, tyres were pumped, and the car driven away.

This car is not flashy or very collectable, but it is unique in terms of the oh-so-70's canary yellow colour and the once very popular, and now increasingly scarce, diesel powered no frills version.

*Editor's note to author: Every car is special, and a 240D like this is very special to own. Congratulations on owning a very special car.*

## My Ponton 219 restoration journey

By Sacha Vaupotic



I joined the Mercedes-Benz Club 5 years ago and loved the camaraderie between the club members.

Going out on trips with the club and going to car shows got me very interested in buying an older Mercedes-Benz of some sort. Time would have told which one!

I asked around, and to my surprise there was a Maroon Ponton 219 standing at a radiator repair shop right here in East London.

After some investigation I heard it belonged to a Mr van der Zee, an EC Club Member.

He told me that the Ponton had a clutch problem and that he wanted to sell.

That was it!! I fell in love!

I bought it 'As Is', but was very scared, as I wasn't sure what else could be wrong.

I jumped into the deep end, but I knew it was the right thing to do - my wife didn't agree of course. LOL!

After searching far and wide for almost a year, I managed to get a new fly wheel in Durban.

I had a good friend locally who installed it and also fitted a refurbished clutch kit.

We were so surprised - it ran beautifully and I was very happy to finally have a running classic Merc.

I took it on the Bertha Benz run to Thomas River, which is the longest distance it has travelled, since I have owned it. I greased all the grease nipples etc and checked everything, so she ran very well.

Even my wife loved chilling on the bench- like seat in the front, catching a few winks on the way home from Thomas River, (a special place everyone needs to visit sometime).

I then put the Ponton into storage for year or so, as I wasn't sure what to do next, either sell it, or do a restoration. I had even advertised it for sale, but then



# EASTERN CAPE REGION



decided against it and am very pleased I did.

There was a lot of surface rust especially on the rear fenders, where they are joined to the body and some paint imperfections all-over. Some rust and plates had to be cut out and welded, in places.

The chrome work wasn't great, so I eventually decided to do a full restoration although the general condition of the car wasn't that bad.

Then in November last year, I went on a hunt to find the right guy to help me restore it.

I got to know Eric Johnson, who

owns a local Panel Shop. What a special guy.

He did exactly what I asked, and he got stuck in properly, stripping the Ponton to pieces in no time and doing a thorough restoration job.

The restoration took 5 months.

I renewed many parts; water pipes, door rubbers, brakes, tyres etc; you name it, but all these had to be done.

Then finally the day arrived for the big reveal of my newly restored Ponton 219, to my fellow Merc enthusiasts.

We had a special evening at

Eric Johnson's Panel Shop.

There were a lot of discussions around the choice of colour and the two-tone combination I chose; some said no, some yes and some not so sure, but in the end, everyone loved it.

I wanted something different, but not totally out of spec and it turned out really well.

I drove it home that evening, a very happy man.

I love this beautifully restored Ponton and I think it is here to stay - I even got a wink and a Nod from my lovely wife.





## Central region happenings

By Fanie du Preez

The Central Region of the Mercedes-Benz Club in South Africa kicked 2020 off with a bang! We took part in a very hospitable and hearty Braai on 11 January at Louis and Hermien Coetzer's breathtakingly beautiful Louizeum. The function was well attended by the Central Region's club members! That said, if we only knew what shattering news of our beloved hosts would be waiting because on the 14<sup>th</sup> of January, we received the devastating news of Louis and Hermien Coetzer's fatal

accident. Words cannot describe how much we will miss them as friends and as members of our club. Louis and Hermien left very big shoes to fill in our region as collectors, entertainers and friends.

In February a few of our Region's members attended the Annual George Old Car Show and enjoyed every minute of it. I drove down in my W126 500SE, Annalie and Jaco Kachelhoffer drove down in their 280SL R107, Lofty Nel drove down with his beastly CLK

to mention only a few.

We had a technical evening clubrun to the local Tyremart shop in Bloemfontein on 4 March. There we learnt more about the world of car tyres. I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to for everyone attending, the technical evening at Tyremart was a huge success and we understand the world of car tyres much better.

We are looking forward to 2020 sharing love, joy and health in our very special and world- renowned club!





# KWA-ZULU NATAL REGION



## New beginnings for Steampunk

By Pravishkar Chandaka

Despite the raging storm which left trees uprooted and mud slides across the Midlands on the evening of February 22nd, enthusiasts braved the conditions and cold weather to attend a Classic Car meet at one of South Africa's famous coffee houses the following morning.

For Steampunk Coffee, this would be their last Classic Car gathering at their Thokan's Garage premises in Lidgetton after five years in business. The shop has, since, relocated just 3km down the road.

Steampunk prides itself as an ecological coffee house with a largely reduced carbon footprint through maximizing reuse and supporting local. Their menu also hosts a range of plant-based foods. It is through these, that they set an example for an ecological coffee industry.

In attendance were classic vehicles of all makes and models,

which included two vintage tractors and several new and classic Mercs.

A real eye-catcher was the bizzare, custom-built "Red Pig" replica of Warren Geyser. More of a "Wolf-In-Sheep's Clothing" rather than a "Red Pig", this 60's bad boy has been modified to house an M156 engine as well as the drivetrain, suspension and electronics from a CLK63 AMG. It truly captures the essence of the work of Hans Werner Aufrecht and Erhard Melcher, the original creators of the "Red Pig" and founders of AMG, by making the seemingly impossible, possible.

Other Merc's showcased, included a 220 Ponton, a W201 190E 2.3 Track Car, and a V126 560SEL. On the newer end of the scale we had a CLK, SLK and a G-Glass AMG.

Members of the KZN-Region and fellow car enthusiasts, including members of the Vintage

Car Club, flocked in as the morning progressed. The better part of two hours was spent conversing and getting to know each other, as well as sharing their passion for motoring.

Despite the gloomy weather, Steampunk's final Classic Car gathering at Thokan's Garage hosted an impressive array of classic automobiles and provided the chance for owners and enthusiasts to form new relationships on their underlying passion for automobiles.

On behalf of MBCSA, we wish Steampunk everything of the best for their new business venture, and look forward to more meets and exceptional coffee at the new premises, The Patchwood Elephant.





## Lourensford Coffee run – March 2020

By Brendan Moran

Our first club run for 2020 took place on the last week of February, as January's event was the Timour Hall car show. I am pleased to say that we got the year off to a great start with a record run attendance of 72 members! It was a spectacular blue skied summer's day with not a cloud in sight when we gathered at 9am at our usual meeting point...the Engen Winelands Garage on the N1 towards Paarl.

While at our meeting point, a local VW Classics club also gathered there for their run and it was great to see this cross culture of classics all in one spot. From that point we travelled via Stellenbosch and the R44 to Somerset West, taking in beautiful

mountains, winelands, and sea-views along the way. The weather was perfect allowing many of our members to put their roofs down or at least have an arm out of a window or a sunroof open.

On arrival at Lourensford I had pre-arranged for a reserved display area for our cars on their lawns, adjacent to their own Motor Museum so that visitors to the estate could also enjoy the cars as an added attraction. Zillen our club chairman went through a bit earlier to help set up our club banners and direct us to park in a neat formation.

Our members came to the party bringing some of their finest cars out for the run, helping make our display very special. We had Sana-Ullah Bray's gorgeous two-tone 111 Coupe, and 3 lovely 19 SL's owned by David Shakeshaft, Dennis Porter and a new member Andre Venter who brought an immaculately restored white example with fresh red leather interior.

Lydia and Wane Keppler's black Pagoda also wowed the crowd, as did Vido's incredible Adenauer which was sporting some recently fitted whitewalls.

Two more new members joined us, Cliff in his immaculate silver SL55 and Natie and his wife in their maroon W123 200 with only 70000km on the clock!

On top of this we had a collection of various 107's on display including a late model 300SL and a rare 420SL. R129'S and R230's, 2x 114 Coupes, a very neat 300 SE 126 and 2 SEC's were also on the lawn. All in all we had a great selection of sports and saloon models through the



ages on display making a good attraction for visitors to the Lourensford market and Motor Studio, as well as making us all oh so proud! A special mention must however go to JP van der Poel our club secretary who pulled up in style in his black Fintail with their Old English Sheepdog Dora on the back seat with her head out the window. She was by far the star of the show!

Members then gathered at the coffee shop on the estate for a morning coffee and pastry and a good 'catch up', after which everyone was free to enjoy the numerous attractions of the Lourensford estate, which include restaurants, food markets, art galleries, deli, curio shops and wine tasting.

The venue was a hit with all members and we will be sure to visit again soon, for another event.



# WESTERN CAPE REGION

## Timour Hall Classic Car Show – January 2020

By Brendan Moran

Our first official club event for 2020 was our participation in the annual Timour Hall Car Show.

This two day event is held in Plumstead Cape Town each year in aid of the International Police Foundation which supports numerous community charities. It has become an institution on the classic car calendar here and is well supported by both the public and the various Western Cape Car clubs.

The event is held over two days. Saturday is traditionally for modern car clubs such as Subaru,

BMW, GTI's and modified customs, whereas Sunday is dedicated to classic cars.

We attended the show with 2 W108'S... Rashmi's 2.8 and Peter Breen's 3.5. We also showed a 220s fintail, my C123 280CE, David Shakeshaft's C107 450 SLC, and Willem and Diane's R107 500SL. Our former club secretary Ederik Kritzinger sneaked in his lovely CLK420.

By about 11:30 the rain started coming down and stayed with us for the rest of the day, making for an interesting afternoon trying to

keep dry and warm.

As you can see from the photos our dedicated members braved the elements in raincoats and umbrellas, but despite the rain we had a good laugh and enjoyed the day. The show was well attended despite the poor weather, and the most popular car in our display was definitely Rashmi's black 220S Finny which drew the most attention and received the most comments.

We will be back again next year with a bigger and better display, and hopefully a little less rain!





## Crossley & Webb – Club meeting

By Brendan Moran

At our second club meeting of 2020 we were fortunate to be hosted by Graham Crossley and his team at Crossley and Webb in Gardens Cape Town.

Crossley&Webb are a high-end classic and sports car dealership in Cape Town who specialize in the sale, restoration, detailing, servicing and storage of high-end investment cars.

The premises is in a beautiful old reclaimed raw red brick commercial building with high open beam lofted ceilings and polished grey screeded cement floors. One would not know when driving past the building that such automotive beauty and rarity lies

within.

Our members arrived at 18:00 and were treated to complimentary coffees at Crossley's in-house Barista Bar, where after they could walk around and enjoy looking at all the beautiful classic and sports cars on offer.

Graham Crossley gave a brief talk about the history of their business and the services they offered, and mingled with the members...many of which are former or existing clients of Crossley&Webb

Mercedes Benz's on offer currently for sale at Crossley include two Pagodas and a lovely 111 convertible.

There was also an exquisitely restored and detailed 111 coupe belonging to one of their customers which was in the detailing booth for some work. This car had all our members drooling over its impeccable glossy paintwork and high standard restoration.

It was a great evening surrounded by fabulous cars in a spectacular setting.

If you are ever in Cape Town please do pop in at Crossley&Webb for a coffee and a look around their lovely showrooms.

We will definitely be partnering with them in future for more events.





# NORTHERN REGION

## 2020 Opening Function

*By Jacky Lavin*

It was a bright, Summer's day. At the crack of dawn we were up and on our way to the first fun event of 2020 (not knowing then how few there would be this year!) We left Klerksdorp, our destination the Berry Farm in Parys - South Africa ( not France!)

At the Berry Farm we met the other half of our convoy, coming all the way from Gauteng – and at last, the Northern Region (as well as some important VIP's all the way from Bloemfontein) were on their way to the Vintage Yard! The Opening Function of the year was under-way. Before the event we were told to bring along two gifts each wrapped in Newspaper – but so many of us just couldn't bring ourselves to wrap anything in newspaper that we resorted to gift bags, wrappings and paper. But wrapped they certainly were.

Greeted by our hosts for the day, and with greetings from the President, the fun began. The stunning view from the reception hall of the Vintage Yard, overlooking the Vaal River got us all in the mood for some relaxation. Soon we forgot that we had dragged our precious "MerCs" along a dusty sand road of about 900m!!!!!! The bar was a buzz of activity on this warm, humid day beside the Vaal. Leon

Erasmus welcomed all to the event and we were given the somewhat bewildering rules to "Kadootjie" - the reason we had brought so many gifts! With the roll of the dice and double sixes earning you a prize, we started collecting our treasures. And then the kink in the tail, the kick in the teeth – a round where a double six gave you the opportunity of "stealing" someone else's loot! Wine glasses, cell phone fans, screwdriver torches, a McLaren shirt were all up for grabs and the temperature was rising as our treasure chests were emptied. The game was great fun and enjoyed by all – especially those who managed to pocket a prize. Followed by a delicious lunch, we were able to patch up friendships and renew wedding vows due to our losses and wins at Kadootjie. Roast Lamb, chicken, rice, potatoes and vegetables were the order of the day and managed to please many a fussy taste-bud! A delicious Malva pudding, custard and ice-cream were the ideal way to end this divine meal.

As usual the day ended too soon and we were shocked at how late it was. With a bit of a trip home, we reluctantly left – some of us with some sponsored wine from The Klerksdorp Classic and Sport Car Club under our arms. Aprons, cooler bags and other gifts were also appreciated. What an event our opening function has become. Now old enough to be considered a tradition, I can think of no better way to start a year than with a road trip to an event organised by such a lovely group of people. To all involved, your efforts are noticed and appreciated. Now, what's on the calendar for next year...?





## 40 Years of the Geländewagen celebration

By Steve Rademeyer

The 26<sup>th</sup> of October was awaited with great excitement to partake in the 40th year celebration of the beloved G wagon. Organised by Geländewagen guru Johann Marx it could only be a great event and it did not disappoint. Some 27 G's turned up at Sandwani lodge in the vicinity of Cullinan, ranging from the lowliest examples to the mighty G63's. Our president honoured us by arriving in a G63 supplied by Mercedes-Benz but with strict instruction that it is not to partake in the fun. Ederik Kritzinger travelled all the way from Cape Town which was an admirable effort. Other brands

like Land Rover, Amaroks, Jeeps and a Puch Haflinger also joined in the fun and I partook in a GLC 350d to check out how capable the vehicle was.

We headed for the academy track at 9am. The first obstacle I tackled was the twister where opposing front and rear wheels have to traverse a highly raised section and the other two opposing wheels a deep cavity that really tries to twist your vehicle. The G's with solid axles have two wheels air borne on this obstacle. Next we had the inclines ranging from 30 to 40 to the maximum of 45 degrees. The G's took all of

these in their stride and the GLC also passed the test. Johann Marx in his 280G with some 900,000 km on the clock then demonstrated the 49 degree sideways drive. It was amazing to see although he was anchored by ropes for safety.

Before heading off for lunch some of the members partook in a slalom race which made for great fun. After lunch we headed off for the big photo shoot and the afternoon was ended off on the gravel track which included a quarter mile race, slalom and obstacle course. Well done Johann for a most enjoyable day. The G register is alive and well.



# NORTHERN REGION



## Valentine's day run

By Sandra (and Tshepiso) Malele

I received a rather curious invitation from my husband to join him at a Valentine's Day High Tea on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020. The request was strange, primarily because it included the words 'Valentines' and 'High Tea' in one sentence, two things my husband would typically never do. I must admit, I was a bit sceptical.

When Tshepiso explained that the event was being hosted by the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa's Northern region it all made sense – he was keen to attend the event for the cars and for the camaraderie that he would share with other enthusiasts who love the Mercedes – Benz brand and engineering just as much as he does.

When we arrived at the Buitengeluk Restaurant we were struck by how beautiful it was. The gardens and the dining hall area were immaculate and romantic, sporting a very vintage and elegant style. The food provided at the event was delightful and we indulged in both savoury and sweet treats. We received warm welcomes as new members and enjoyed the event with good



# NORTHERN REGION



banter and rich interactions with members who have been involved with the club and its operations for a longer time. Members gave us plenty of tips about where to source parts, services and new purchases.

The highlight of the day was of course seeing the cars themselves! Much to our excitement we were able to spot a Ponton, a 500 SEC, some SL Roadsters (R107 and 129 models) and a new E class coupe. Listening to the members talk about how they got into collecting, refurbishing the current stock and trading was enlightening and fascinating. It was a great introduction to this club as the 'newbies' on the block and we look forward to the next event.





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The committee of the *Benz-Lens Magazine* CHALLENGE ALL OUR MEMBERS to submit their own personal stories and images. The winning articles will be published in the quarterly magazine and on our digital media. Annual prizes will be awarded according to contributions on photos, articles and Facebook posts.

**PLEASE CONTACT OUR EDITOR FOR ASSISTANCE**





Watch  
Video



**Dear Members,**

In line with the lockdown announcement by President Ramaphosa and in consultation with the National Committee, we regrettably have to cancel all club events planned for March, April and May 2020.

We regrettably also decided to postpone the 35th AGM & National Gathering, to similar date next year. We are considering a suitable date later in the year to have an AGM meeting.

We thank Erald Hohls and his team, for all the work they have done!

We will recommence with our normal activities, once the full impact of the pandemic is assessed.

**“Humanity has fought much nastier bugs than this, and won, every time. We will win this time, too.”**

Share on social media, inform your friends, protect the groups at risk.

**#stayhome #keepsafe**



**KNYSNA MOTOR SHOW**  
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