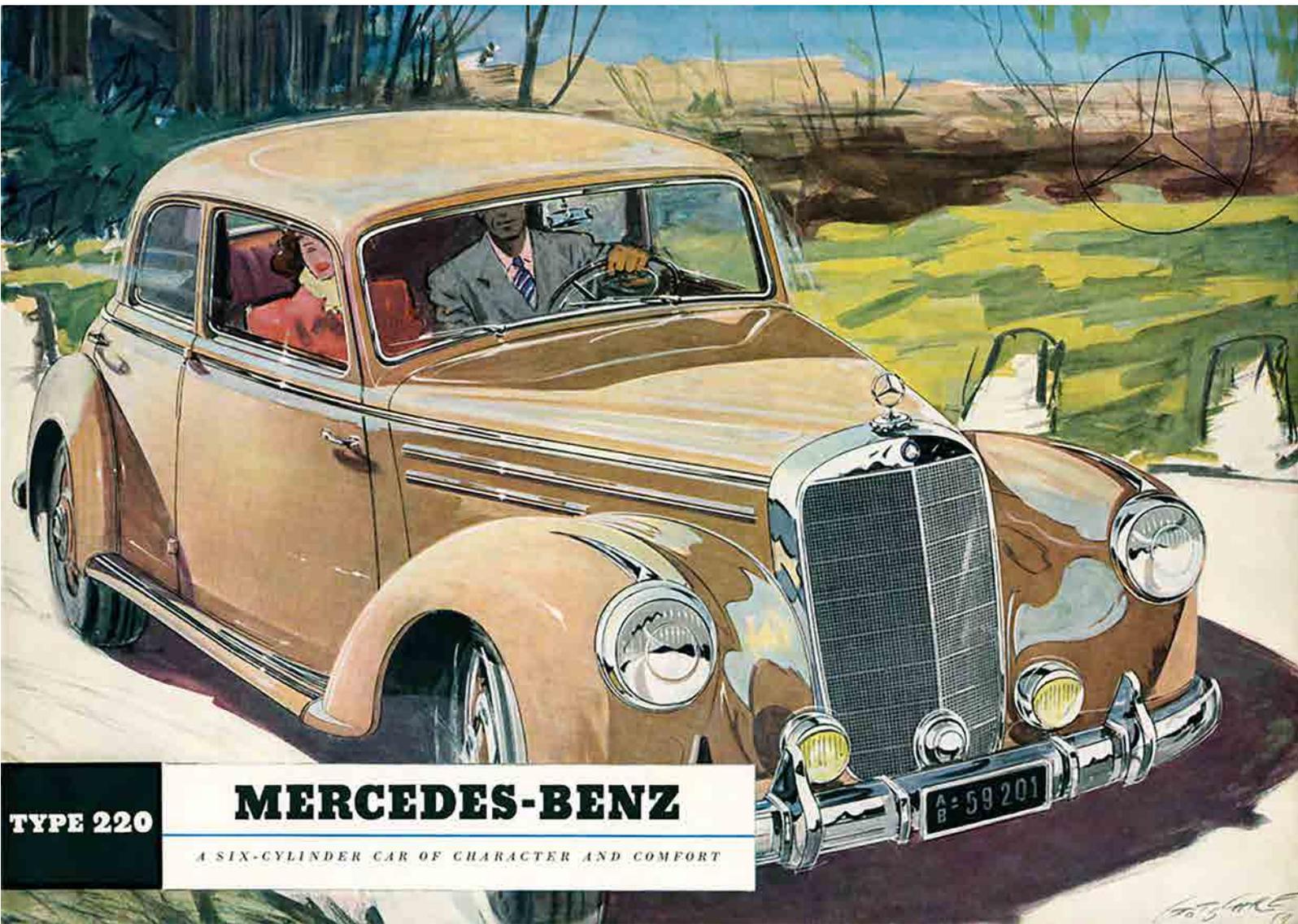




Volume 35 | No. 2  
December 2020

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



**TYPE 220** **MERCEDES-BENZ**  
A SIX-CYLINDER CAR OF CHARACTER AND COMFORT

# IN THIS EDITION

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# Editorial

Stephen Kaalsen

You may think that my Editor's letter will consist of a long exaggerated list of regrets that Covid-19 ruined our club and events and that camaraderie is down the drain. Well, I am surely not going there.



This letter is not about regrets, nor is it there to tell you about the great impact it had on our club. Thank God neither my wife nor I have been sick with the virus, but hearing of all the dreadful stories of people, families and businesses that have been destroyed with this virus, is sickening in itself! Rest assured, I am not going to say another word about the virus. This is the Benz Lens, not the "Illness Illustrated", for crying out loud!

Dear reader, we are moving swiftly on, or let me say, moving

swiftly back... in time! Yes we are moving back exactly 70 years. Today we are stargazing at the grossly underrated Mercedes-Benz Type 220; a designation used for decades to come.

The car in question is not a W204 C220 CDi, a W124 E220, nor is it a W123 220D. It is not a W115 220, or a W111 220 Fintail.

You see in April 1951 at the Frankfurt Motor Show, the veil was pulled off a brand new model; the W187. This very new single overhead camshaft inline six cylinder "benzinmotor" was

available as a sporty saloon, a classy coupe and an ever collectible cabriolet, all designated with the 220 emblem.

All of the 220 models used the newly perfected M180 six cylinder 2195cc engine producing a staggering 59 kW, which was an absolute milestone for the day. In contrast with the rather old fashioned look of the car's body at the time, the new engines attracted much attention in the motoring press. The M180 was the first new engine presented by Mercedes-Benz in more than ten





years! The valves were operated by short rocker arms from an overhead camshaft. The engine was unusual in Europe at this time in having oversquare cylinder dimensions with a bore of 80.0mm and a stroke of only 72.8mm, which facilitated the design of an ultra efficient reverse-flow cylinder head.

The plant claimed a top speed of 140 km/h for the saloons and 145 km/h for the cabriolets which was way faster than the 38 kW powered 170S Cabriolet which the cabriolet version of the W187 replaced and from which its bodywork was derived. The new six-cylinder engine would form the basis, repeatedly enlarged and upgraded as the years went on, for a long line of six-cylinder engines powering mainstream Mercedes-Benz models including the six-cylinder version of the early S-Class models in the 1970s.

Because of the extra power in what was, by modern standards, a heavy car, the W187 was equipped with Duplex drum brakes. With the sedan/saloon bodied cars about to be delisted by the manufacturer in May 1954, in April 1954 the "Cabriolet A" and its Coupé derivative were fitted with a new higher compression 63 kW engine that had been developed for the soon to be announced

Ponton bodied Mercedes-Benz W180. These faster sporting versions of the W187 continued in production for a further year.

The 220 saloon was replaced by the W105/W180 line in 1953. The coupé and cabriolet continued until August 1955.

Laying your hands on one of these beauties today anywhere in the world especially in South Africa is as rare as getting a sausage in a dog's bed, as only 18514 total units were built and only 85 of them were coupé. How many of these are left? I'd say an extremely small percentage internationally. I only know of one in the club, there may be one or two others, I would love to find out. These are cars to be admired, cherished and appreciated, if spotted somewhere.

This edition of the Benz Lens is again jam-packed with photos, memories, sights and stories for you to behold. Like always this is a sumptuous and read-worthy edition of the official magazine of the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa - The Benz Lens. May you enjoy every moment.

Reader, we have new horizons in 2021, barn finds to find, restoration projects to complete and above all, club friendships to cherish. May 2021 find you healthy, well, prosperous and very

fortunate! Until I see you all again, may God bless and keep you in 2021! ■



# from the President

Waldo Scribante



## November 2020, Recorded message

Dear Fellow Members

2020 has certainly been a trying year for every one of us. But despite the disappointment of missing out on the various events that I so looked forward to, I am no less thrilled to reach out to you on this very special day in our Club's history. Since our face-to-face contact has been severely limited for most of the year, I thought I would embrace technology to bring us just a little more closer.

I extend my heartfelt thanks to our past Presidents for taking the time to do the same.

To all our regional Chairmen and their committees, as well as our National Committee, I thank you for continuing your work throughout the year, despite all the challenges and uncertainties that we have faced as a collective. I know it's been a quiet year in terms of activity, but for many it's been one of the hardest in terms of peripheral responsibilities and challenges, and I thank you sincerely for electing to keep up your duties, as well as the morale of your regions.

All of that said, I suppose it should come as no surprise that the passion for the three-pointed star could not be suppressed by a mere pandemic! After all, ours is a Club whose very existence was brought about through the successful combination of enthusiasm, camaraderie and sheer determination.

Today, on the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa, we come together to celebrate the success of an organisation that did not come about easily. Where the first two

### A Star-studded Celebration

Celebrate 35 years of recognition with the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa



On 19 November 1985 The Mercedes-Benz Club of Southern Africa was officially recognized by Mercedes-Benz (AG).

**This 35th anniversary is honoured with stylish custom souvenirs.**

**The 35th Anniversary gift pack includes**  
1x star-studded Black tie & 1x Ladies scarf & 1x Lapel pin @R490.00  
35th Anniversary - Grill badge @R300.00

**Shipping options**  
Collect at Regional chairman: Free of charge  
Fastnet / Postnet (Main centers): R100.00  
Rural areas: Options / Costs to be confirmed

**Banking details**  
René Scribante; Standard Bank Savings Account: 287736091

*(Please use your name as reference. Send proof of payment to Marlize Herholdt at membership@mercedesbenzclub.co.za or WhatsApp to 073 305 6214)*

attempts to form a Club did not quite make it off the ground, it took the enthusiasm and determination of a small group of

owners, a great deal of planning, with the support of Henner von Eisenhart of Mercedes-Benz South Africa, and the leadership of Steve







Rademeyer, to finally establish the Mercedes-Benz Club of Southern Africa as the organisation that we know and love today.

Much like a Mercedes engine, our club refused to work without proper design and planning; with everything perfect and in its place. Even then, it was the best or nothing. This is still true today.

I therefore thank each one of you for your enthusiasm, dedication, friendship and camaraderie, as we celebrate 35 years past, and the many years to come!

To commemorate this special milestone, we have exclusive 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gift Packs available, which include a custom designed ladies scarf, black tie, and lapel pin – all for R490, as well as 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Grill badge for R300. If you have not ordered yours yet, please take advantage of this opportunity and be sure to contact Marlize Herholdt to make arrangements.

I wish all of our regions a wonderful celebration today. I am sorry I could not be with you, but I am certainly there in spirit and I look forward to the feedback from our Regional teams. ■

Enjoy! And as always, the best or nothing.



# WELCOME TO THE FIRST DIGITAL INTERNATIONAL MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB PRESIDENTS' MEETING

Dear Mercedes-Benz Club Presidents,

Thanks for logging in. It's great to have you with us. Special times call for special measures and we are all the more pleased that we can find each other digitally this year. We hope you have made yourself comfortable in front of your computer and are ready for our content. We are well aware that a "digital meeting" cannot, of course, even come close to replacing shared experience and networking on site. So our objective is somewhat different. Our primary concern is the appreciation of your voluntary work. In addition, we offer you a basic supply of relevant information for 2021 and would also like to entertain you a little and take you on the search for clues to our founding fathers. Questions and feedback are explicitly welcome and can be communicated directly via the feedback tab or by email. We will get back to you as soon as possible in the coming weeks.

We wish you good entertainment and look forward to seeing you again.

Stay healthy.

## Your Mercedes-Benz Classic Club Management



**George Wohlfarth**

Manager Mercedes-Benz Classic Events & Club Management



**Ola Källenius**

Chairman of the Board of Management Daimler AG and Mercedes-Benz



**Christian Boucke**

Director Mercedes-Benz Classic and Customers Events



**Monja Büdke**

Member of the Management Board Mercedes-Benz Museum GmbH





## Mercedes-Benz Classic Club Management

Georg Wohlfarth,  
Head of Mercedes-Benz Classic Club Management & Classic Events

Mercedes-Benz  
The best or nothing.



Mercedes-Benz Classic Club Management

## Review of Silver Star Award 2020

The award for special services this year goes to:

Two Australian club members who both will not find out about their good fortune until the end of the year. The clubs will organise respective small surprise events themselves and, unfortunately, we can't reveal anything yet – sorry!

Nevertheless, we would like to offer our congratulations in advance!!!

60 years

# SURPRISE!

Mercedes-Benz

21st International Mercedes-Benz Club Presidents' Meeting 2020 | Mercedes-Benz Classic Club Management 9



## Current topics

### Sponsoring club anniversaries

We are really pleased that the clubs are getting "older" every year and that they can look back on a long and successful club history.

- A sign of consistency in an otherwise often fast-moving time.

**That is why it has been a special concern of ours for many years to support the clubs with their club anniversaries.**

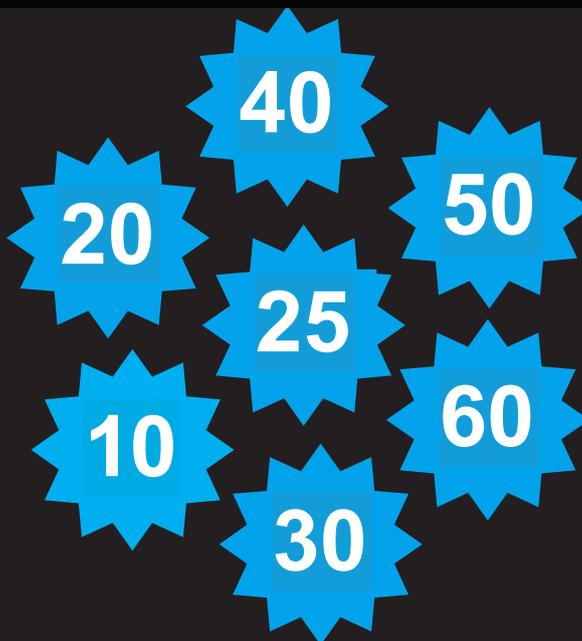
So far, the amount of sponsorship has grown exponentially with the age of a club.

- The older the club, the more money is awarded for the anniversary.

Unfortunately, even with the same budget, this approach can only be compensated by leaving out other things and is no longer up-to-date.

**As a result, we will support all club anniversaries from 2021 with a uniform amount of € 5000.**

A clear commitment to safeguarding our future sponsorship activities, which gives the clubs the necessary planning security for their anniversary celebrations.



## 2021 outlook

### Exhibition dates

- Retro Classics 2021  
Messe Stuttgart, February 25 – 28, 2021
- Techno Classica 2021  
Messe Essen, April 07 – 11, 2021



## 2021 outlook Club anniversaries

20 years	<p>AMG Owners Club e.V.</p> 	<p>Mercedes-Benz R129 SL-Club e.V.</p> 	<p>Mercedes-Benz Club Estonia</p> 	<p>Klub Zabytkowych Mercedesów Polska</p> 
25 years	<p>Mercedes-Benz W 123 Clube.V.</p> 			
30 years	<p>Mercedes-Benz SL Club Schweiz</p> 	<p>International M-100 Group USA</p> 		

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Mercedes-Benz Classic Club Management

## 2021 outlook Club anniversaries

40 years	<p>Mercedes-Benz SL-Club Pagode e.V.</p> 	<p>Mercedes-Benz SL-Club Austria</p> 
50 years	<p>Mercedes-Benz Veteranen Club Deutschland e.V.</p> 	<p>Mercedes-Benz Club of Queensland</p> 
60 years	<p>Gull Wing Group International USA</p> 	

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## Mercedes-Benz Classic Topic Planning 2021

MS/MCA, October 2020

### Mercedes-Benz Classic Topic Planning 2021.

#### Legend of the Mercedes-Benz SL

We accompany the launch of the new SL (R 232) with historic anniversaries.

50 years R/C 107

20 years R 230

Topic list from 2020: Dream Cars communication



BRAND LOVE

New vehicle communication  
C-Class (206 model series)



EASE

125 years trucks  
125 years vans



EASE TRUST

120 years  
Mercedes successes



Brand story !

100 years Maybach vehicles



RESPECT

75 years Unimog



RESPECT LOVE

40 years C 126  
(15 years C 216)



EASE

30 years 140 model series



TRUST

Vehicle trading – Spare parts – Workshop – Classic M@RS – Originality/brand protection

Mercedes-Benz Classic topic planning 2021

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## Topic Planning 2021-Communication Messages I.

SL



SL: Only a few abbreviations show so much enthusiasm for automotive enthusiasts as the SL series from Mercedes-Benz. SL stands up to today for sportiness and aesthetics. What began in **1952** with the **300 SL racing sports car** (W 194) and developed into a legend in the following years will be continued in 2021 with the launch of the new SL (R 232).

Trucks/Vans



In October 1896, the Daimler-Motoren-Gesellschaft in Cannstatt delivered its **first truck** to British Motor Syndicate, Ltd. to London. Daimler is thus expanding its product portfolio very early to include the truck division. 1996: 25 years ago Mercedes-Benz is setting another important milestone in truck construction with the presentation of the **Actros**.  
The **Benz "delivery van"** delivered to Paris in December 1896 with box body is considered the first van.

Mercedes



At the week of Nice at the end of March 1901, factory driver Wilhelm Werner dominated the event with the Mercedes 35 hp. The successes of the new car are so impressive that Paul Meyan, General Secretary of the Automobile Club of France, is looking back on the race: "**Nous sommes entrés dans l'ère Mercédès**" (We entered the era of Mercedes).

Maybach



In September 1921, **Maybach** Motorenbau GmbH showed with the **W3** its first production car at the motor show in Berlin and will thus become an automotive brand. **Karl Maybach** - son of Wilhelm Maybach - decided to extend the portfolio of the Friedrichshafen company to automobiles in future. This forms the origin of the new luxury brand of automobiles.  
In 2021 we use this historic background to accompany the communication of the new Mercedes-Maybach cars.

Mercedes-Benz Classic topic planning 2021

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## Topic Planning 2021-Communication Messages II.

Unimog



The first **prototype** of the "Universal Motor Gerät" designed by Heinrich Rössler were produced in **October 1946**. Around five years later, in June 1951, the first versions built at Daimler-Benz were completed at the Gaggenau plant.

SEC Coupés



In **September 1981**, the S-Class Coupé 380 SEC and 500 SEC (C 126) will debut at the IAA in Frankfurt. Premiere also has the Mercedes-Benz energy concept, which in particular makes it possible **to significantly reduce** fuel consumption in six-cylinder and eight-cylinder cars.

S-Class



The new S-Class sedan of the 140 model series - presented in **March 1991** - is characterized not only by a multitude of technical innovations, but also as a pioneer for **innovative environmental technology** and **sustainability**. In its development, the S-Class has been consistently designed for recyclability, for the use of recycled materials and for the complete avoidance of polluting fluorine chlorine hydrocarbons.

SLK

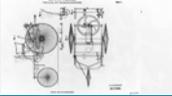


The presentation of the series version of the SLK (R 170) was a sensation **25 years** ago at the International Motor Show in Turin and makes the fascination of the Mercedes-Benz brand once again tangible. The most striking feature of the compact sporty two-seater is the innovative vario roof.  
The *production of the R 172 series is expected to end in the summer of 2020 - now referred to as SLC - and will not be replaced.*

Mercedes-Benz Classic topic planning 2021

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## Good things to know ...

Origin: 1886	Commercial vehicles: 1896, 1906, 1971 & 1996	Motorsport: 1901, 1931, 1956, 1971	Research & Development 1971, 1991, 1996 & 2001
<p>Carl Benz patents his three-wheeled "vehicle with gas engine operation".</p> 	<p>The first truck is delivered from DMG to British Motor Syndicate, Ltd. To London.</p> 	<p>Mercedes dominates the race week of Nice. <i>'Nous sommes entrés dans l'ère Mercedes'.</i></p> 	 <p>Daimler-Benz presents the ESF 05 experimental safety vehicle.</p>
 <p>The patent No. 37435 applies from today's perspective as a "birth certificate" of the automobile.</p>	 <p>The first fire-extinguishing gas sprayer in Germany powered by a gasoline engine is put into service.</p>	 <p>Rudolf Caracciola is the first non-Italian to win the Mille Miglia on Mercedes-Benz SSKL.</p>	 <p>Mercedes-Benz presents the experimental vehicle F 100.</p>
<p>Gottlieb Daimler builds the first four-wheeled automobile.</p> 	<p>Mercedes-Benz presents the new light transporters at the Düsseldorf plant.</p> 	<p>With a 300 SL, the team wins the Europe Championship of Touring Cars. Paul O'Shea also wins the US sports car championship behind the wheel of a 300 SL.</p> 	 <p>Mercedes-Benz presents the experimental vehicle F 100.</p>
 <p>Gottlieb Daimler tests his engine in the first motorboat.</p>	 <p>Mercedes-Benz presents the new Actros "Actros" heavy-duty truck.</p>	 <p>In Spa-Francorchamps, the 300 SEL 6.8 AMG wins its class and becomes second in the overall classification.</p>	 <p>Mercedes-Benz presents the F 200 Imagination study.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>September 1921: The DMG presents the world's first series passenger cars with a <b>compressor</b> motor in Berlin with the four-cylinder models 6/20 hp and 10/35 hp.</li> <li>October 1936: The model <b>540 K (W 29)</b> is presented at the Paris Salon with an uprated 5,4-l compressor motor as a successor model of the 500K.</li> <li>January 1951: The <b>safety passenger cell</b> is registered for patent. This invention by Béla Barényi forms the basis for <b>passive safety</b>.</li> <li>October 1971: Daimler-Benz AG patents the <b>airbag system</b>.</li> <li>Spring 1981: Daimler-Benz presents <b>the airbag</b> and belt tensioner at the Geneva Motor Show. An anti-lock braking system for commercial vehicles is also presented.</li> <li>June 1996: At the French Grand Prix at Magny-Cours, AMG provides for the first time the <b>Official Safety Car</b> of Formula 1.</li> </ul>			 <p>Mercedes-Benz presents the experimental vehicle F 400 Carving.</p>

Mercedes-Benz Classic topic planning 2021

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## Further anniversaries in 2021.

### Corporate anniversaries

- 125 years of Daimler Motor Company Ltd., Coventry/UK
- 115 years of German Mercedes-Benz sales outlet GmbH, Frankfurt
- 105 years of apprenticeship departments at Benz & Cie. (Mannheim) and DMG (UT)
- 100 years of trademark "Three-pointed star in the ring"
- 95 years of Daimler-Benz AG (interest group 1924 and merger 1926)
- 95 years of Mercedes and Benz trademark in laurel
- 70 years of founding Mercedes-Benz Argentina S.R.L.
- 35 years of founding Mercedes-Benz Japan Co., Ltd.
- 35 years SG Stern (sport department for employees)
- 25 years of Daimler(- Benz) intranet

### Pioneers

- 175. Birthday Wilhelm Maybach (February 9)
- 150. Birthday Adolf Daimler (September 8)
- 115. Birthday Rudolf Uhlenhaut (July 15)
- 70. Day of death Ferdinand Porsche (January 30)

### Race Drivers

- 130. Birthday Alfred Neubauer (March 29)
- 120. Birthday Rudolf Caracciola (January 30)
- 110. Birthday Juan Manuel Fangio (June 24)
- 75. Birthday Jochen Mass (September 30)
- 60. Birthday Manuel Reuter (December 6)
- 50. Birthday Bernd Mayländer (May 29)
- 50. Birthday David Coulthard (March 27)
- 45. Birthday Ricardo Zonta (March 23)
- 40. Birthday Gary Paffett (March 24)
- 35. Birthday Paul Di Resta (April 16)

### Model Series anniversaries

- 70 years Type 300 "Adenauer"
- 60 years W 111 Coupés/Cabriolets
- 60 years W 110
- 60 years W 112
- 30 years A 124
- 25 years C-Class Wagon
- 25 years of the M-Class (1996: Showcar AAVision, first SUV of Mercedes-Benz)

Mercedes-Benz Classic topic planning 2021

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## Social Media

### Mercedes-Benz Museum / Mercedes-Benz Classic

Michael Abele | October 2020

Mercedes-Benz  
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### How to find us:

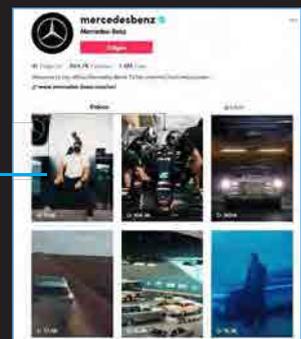


**Facebook**  
@mercedesbenzmuseum



**Instagram**  
@mercedesbenzmuseum

**TikTok,  
YouTube,  
Etc.**  
@mercedesbenz



**Twitter**  
@MB\_museum



Mercedes-Benz

Social Media - Mercedes-Benz Museum / Mercedes-Benz Classic 2





1 - John Aritho

## Locked Down

By Marcell Mostert

**The imposed National Lockdown caused by this global pandemic forced most South Africans to isolate, remain indoors and spend time alone.**

This resulted in cancelled dinner dates, no more parties and no more club events. This had an impact on the mental health of many people and to some this was an opportunity for self-reflection. I was fortunate enough to be locked up (or down) with my parents, two people I consider as my closest friends and allies, and we had a jol! I discovered a love for cooking, and each Saturday I prepared a feast for us, inspired by one of my favourite chefs Yotam Ottolenghi.

Additionally, I was silly enough to buy a V126 500SEL over a WhatsApp conversation, and had it delivered to my gate. "Surprised" is a slight understatement of my reaction when this neglected limo arrived at home.

Spending many weeks with this new project yielded many cool pictures and an in-depth identification of all the work required to rescue this once glorious machine from a salvage yard. Luckily, Ryan Uys is on my speed dial and we started planning the resurrection of this ex Anglo American company car.

Lockdown forced many car clubs to think out of the box, and MBCSA was no exception. We launched the Lockdown Photo Challenge to encourage our members to share insight to their situation at home, and to have some fun with their cars. We received many interesting submissions from sneaky road trips, home based washing exercises and sleeping beauties.

Gerhard Roets showed us how he and his cars took extreme caution against Rona with the help of digital enhancements. Pieter Lourens was weeping away as his cars were gently tucked away in his garage. The Kachelhoffers were ever so entertaining with their "home remedy" to fight the virus! Johan Sloet and Stephan du Toit showed us their more creative sides with their artistry. Chris Kuhn and his family demonstrated how to "properly" wear your mask, and how the mask is to be worn by a classic Benz, this is in addition to the purpose of an air filter.



# Photo CHALLENGE



2 - Chris Kühn

The winner of our challenge was John Aritho from the KZN region, who managed to have a bunch of fun with his daughters, being his actual daughter and his fleet of SLs.

The initiative and creativity of our members provided much needed comic relief and a good load of fun. Despite the unfortunate times resulting from the breakout of the virus, sharing in our member's fun lifted the mood quite a bit.

As difficult as it was, I am grateful that I had 3 months of being locked up with my family. It was an opportunity for us to talk, to understand each other better, to laugh, to cry, and ultimately grow closer together. This was my silver lining, something that was much needed at the time.

Thank you to each member for the submission of their lockdown experience. I believe that the near future will have us spend more time together - 1.5m apart from each other, of course! ■



3 - Pieter Lourens



# The Kachelhoffer Lockdown Lift-off!!

4 - Jaco & Annalie Kachelhoffer



5 - Johan Sloet





6 - Stephan du Toit



## Region End of Year Function 2020

By Avish Maharaj

**“A lovely relaxing day in the Midlands for our KZN year end function.” This was just what the doctor ordered for our members after a difficult 2020.**

Upon leisurely arriving at our destination and being chauffeured up to Wally's place for welcome drinks and soft music, we gazed at many beautiful classic cars on display in the yard. Members were happy to see each other whilst having their temperatures checked and ensuring that everyone was comfortable and had their masks on.

Small but much needed formalities ensued to reflect upon the year and bring us up to date on current Club affairs. Warren Geysler, Matt du Sart and I had everybody laughing and crying with amusement whilst feeling thankful for the friendships and

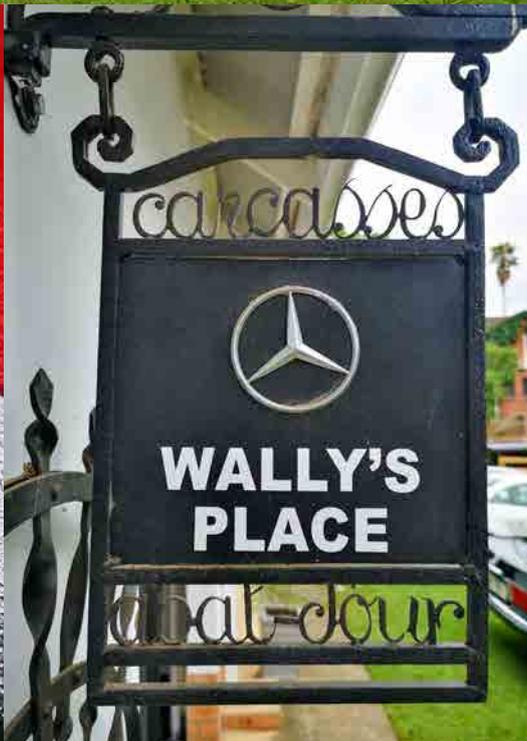
connections we have in our region. We stopped for Waldo's virtual nationwide speech and cheered him on from afar for the outstanding job he's been doing.

Sherry Hamblin from Hamblin's catering made us divine appetisers and drinks throughout the morning, followed by a scrumptious lunch and short formalities. What would KZN be without the downpour of rain to end of the day? Four seasons in one day is what we're known for and we do not disappoint.

A hearty thank you to everyone who attended, we look forward to the next time that we will see each other! ■



# KWA-ZULU NATAL REGION



# KWA-ZULU NATAL REGION



# KWA-ZULU NATAL REGION





## Year End Function

By Fanie du Preez

Central Region started in 2020 when a couple of members joined the Northern Region for a special opening function in Parys. As usual, we enjoyed the trip in our old ladies' and we spent a wonderful time with all the members.

When Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 came, just before the strict lockdown, we had a run to Buckley's Restaurant in Smithfield for lunch. We enjoyed every moment, and we knew not what waited for us in the unprecedented Lockdown that was upon us.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of March the national lockdown started. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a

material impact on individuals, societies, families, businesses and even countries. It has also had a devastating effect on our Mercedes Benz Club and our blue chip event of the year, the Annual General Meeting in Graaff-Reinet was postponed.

The 1<sup>st</sup> event after level 3 lockdown was suspended, was a technical evening at The Oil Shoppe. We learnt about the world of oil and lubricants and we had a great "get together".

The Central Region's AGM was held at the local Mercedes-Benz dealer, John Williams on Saturday 28 November 2020. Jaco

Kachelhoffer was nominated as the new chairman of the Central Region and Annalie Kachelhoffer as the secretary. Congratulations to the new committee and we wish them all the best for 2021.

On Sunday 29 November Central Region took part in the 35<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations of the Mercedes-Club of South Africa. We went to the Middel Water Farm near Bloemfontein for lunch and celebrations.

We are looking forward to 2021 and hope the corona pandemic is brought under control to allow us to enjoy our passion for the Mercedes-Bens Classics. ■



# CENTRAL REGION





## Southern Cape Activities

*By Aldo van Zyl*

We all are aware that the year 2020 has been full of challenges and lots of heartache, and the chances for organising any club events were curtailed in every way.

Fortunately for us, we did however manage to do a few club activities. The first outing we had after the unprecedented national lockdown was a club run to Mosselbay, where we converged for a quick chat and a few pictures after which we all went down to the beach parking lot at Hartenbos. We arranged to gather there to keep distance from each other, but still have a nice chat and view the cars.

We were quite a few faces and I think the fact that we did not see a lot of each other this year contributed to the fact that we all thoroughly enjoyed the gathering – we were treated to

a rather splendid day in terms of the weather which was also boosted by the food that we had on hand from Chris and Rensche's restaurant.

Usually we have our October Fest – and despite all of the troubles that we had this year we still decided to proceed with it and we had an absolute great evening. As usual we had the German-themed menu – but this year the menu was a bit more extensive and we were all treated to scrumptious eisbein and various side dishes, including Giant Pretzels with the most amazing cheese sauce. We wined and dined deep into the night, where after we headed home.

The year was well planned and we had a lot of great activities on the list – but alas, the virus struck! We had all of the catering planned for our annual year end function

– but I had to make a call and it really was a very tough call to cancel our function, which for as long as I can remember was held at Waldo & Renè's house under the old oak tree. In hind sight I think I made the right choice as our Covid figures were just escalating. We had a different approach this year with an online "Zoom year end" – although not as fun as usual we still had the opportunity to see each other to greet and have a drink and a chat.

With this all taken into consideration, that even in these unfortunate times we take the trouble to enjoy our cars, to look after them and to most of all take care of our family and friends so that we can enjoy all the gifts and splendour the new year has in store for us. Happy motoring – and have a wonderful 2021. ■



# SOUTHERN CAPE REGION





## Thomas River Week-End: 2<sup>nd</sup>–4<sup>th</sup> October

By Erald Hohls

After a lengthy lockdown period due to the CoVid-19 pandemic, the EC Region planned a week-end stay at the Thomas River Historical Village.

This is always a highlight on the EC Region's calendar and this year was really well supported.

Accommodation was split between the Station Foreman's House and the new accommodation units Jeff Sansom had just completed there.

The week-end started off late

on Friday afternoon with drinks in the Tavern Pub, followed by a pub meal ordered off the menu.

The spirit was fantastic and drinks flowed late into the night with everyone having a great time.

There were quite a few headaches to nurse the following morning for sure!

After an early coffee and some rusks, we ambled through the village to see Jeff's amazing collection of classic cars and motoring memorabilia and to see

all the other outstanding historical collections Jeff has accumulated over the years.

We then enjoyed a lovely brunch, after which most of the guys drove off in 4x4's to the adjoining Granta Farm to do some bass fishing in one of the dams. After some bites and having caught one or two smaller bass, we went on a trail drive around the farm to experience the area.

Once back at the village in the afternoon, we gathered at



# EASTERN CAPE REGION



the Station Foreman's house for some camaraderie and drinks while others slept off the previous night's indulgences.

Many stories were told; some old, some new and some not so true.

On Saturday evening we had a fantastic braai on the deck of the Ramble Inn Restaurant.

Once again Jeff and Ann Samson hosted us, as only they can, with the best braai meat and salads.



# EASTERN CAPE REGION



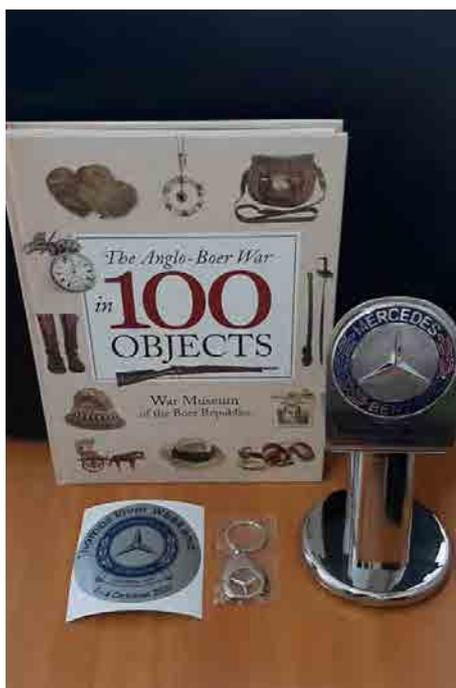
After the braai, we all went back into the Tavern Pub for some drinks with a lot of banter around the fire. This continued until late that night. After a slow rise on

Sunday morning, we had a nice brunch and then departed for home.

This was once again a relaxed and wonderful weekend,

thoroughly enjoyed by all.

I would like to say a special thank you to Jeff and Ann Sansom for their unselfish generosity in hosting us for the weekend. ■



# EASTERN CAPE REGION





## AGM & Year-End Function: Bathurst

By Erald Hohls

After a tumultuous year, turned upside down by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Eastern Cape Region had a lovely year-end function and 35<sup>th</sup> Year of the Club Anniversary week-end held on the 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> November. This was centred around Bathurst.

We met at the Albany Vintage & Classic Motor Club in Port Alfred on Saturday morning where we saw some of the valuable classic cars in the Club's facility.

After enjoying some coffee, tea & snacks, we drove towards Bathurst, situated in one of the largest Pineapple Farming areas in South Africa and which also boasts the biggest Pineapple in the world.

The Big Pineapple is 16m high, has three levels and was constructed by members of Bathurst agricultural community. It is made of metal, concrete and fiberglass and features an observation platform. The inside of the pineapple contains a museum dedicated to the fruit with a variety of pineapple products available for sale. Our next stop was the Pig and Whistle Inn in the heart of the village, from there we



# EASTERN CAPE REGION

experienced what Bathurst had to offer. The ever-popular Pig 'n Whistle Inn is reputedly the oldest continuously licenced pub in the country, built in 1821 by Thomas Hartley and offers superb country-style hospitality & great food. Other places of interest included shops & galleries in the town, Bradshaw's Mill, the Agricultural Museum and the Blacksmith's workshop established by Thomas Hartley in 1831 and St John's Anglican church, the oldest unaltered church in South Africa built between 1832 and 1834 and the first service held in 1838.

This was followed by a visit to the Toposcope where we were given an interesting presentation by Daphne McNeil on the 1820's settler history of the area.

The Toposcope is a heritage site commemorating the 1820 settlers and their descendants.

It is located on a scenic hill above the town with beautiful landscape views.

There are many plaques reflecting the names and ships of the settler parties arriving in the Eastern Cape in 1820. The plaques create a compass direction indicating the location of the various settler parties. Following the day's activities, we held our Regional AGM at the Ploughman's venue in the village after which we had a Pig on the Spit Braai in the evening.

At the AGM the Regional Committee for 2021 was elected.

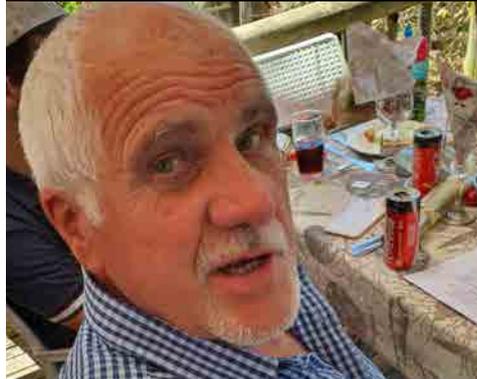
**Chairman:** Erald Hohls

**Secretary:** Johannes Coetzer

**Co-opted members:** Colin Meyer Pieter Moolman & Sacha Vaupotic. On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> we had our year-end function & 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations at Stanley's Restaurant just outside Kenton on Sea.

This was a lovely lunch thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

All-in-all this was a great weekend, well supported by everyone from across the EC Region. Thank you to all who attended. ■



# EASTERN CAPE REGION





# NORTHERN REGION

## Jacaranda Run 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2020

By Jan Willem Wielsma

What a year 2020 with COVID 19 has been! It was the absolute topic of so many discussions and has most certainly been the reason for many of the Mercedes-Benz lovers to sit at home and isolate themselves from the world as we knew it. On the 25th of October 2020 the Northern region said that we had enough of isolation. We want out! We got together on a warm sunny day at the Fort Klapperkop monument in Pretoria.

The trip started with a beautiful view of Pretoria and the lovely Jacarandas colouring the city skyline with purple and the odd white blossom. We were an almost full house with 33 supporting Mercedes-Benz motorcars and close to 70 club members and their loved ones. This was a very clear sign that everyone missed each other to such an extent that and



# NORTHERN REGION



it was time to escape hibernation. Amongst the amazing cars lined up for the trip around Pretoria was a lovely 190SL. The old ladies were thankful for the slow drive under calming purple Jacaranda's. The highlight of the trip was most certainly the white Jacarandas all along Herbert Baker street in Groenkloof.

The winding road under the purple canopies of Pretoria passed the traditional stronghold of the Blue Bull supporter, Loftus Versfeld and over the mountain down Tom Jenkins drive with a view of the Northern suburbs of Pretoria. What beautiful scenes we witnessed! We followed the purple line created by Soutpansberg road and up at Colbyn, one of the sought after suburbs of Pretoria. The procession ended at the well-known Pretoria Botanical Gardens where we were fortunate to line up the beautiful classic soldiers maintained by the members of our wonderful club. We need to especially note that the Klerksdorp support was in full glory and as usual provided warmth and happiness so common in the environment where friends and club members experience the feeling of one big family.

The Mercedes-Benz club family ended the day with a lovely picnic under the trees of the Botanic Gardens where after we all returned to our COVID 19 shelters. ■





## Breakfast Run, Purple Cow, 13 September 2020

By Anna-Lee Dos Santos

The Northern Region of the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa arranged a Breakfast Run to Purple Cow in Midstream, which is on the outskirts of the beautiful Centurion City.

Midstream was established in 2003 and is a sought-after residential estate that offers a

village lifestyle in the heart of Gauteng. Purple Cow, is one of twelve restaurants in the estate, based at the golf course in Midstream.

Given the Covid situation, Purple Cow launched a contactless-parking lot breakfast setting or alternatively a spaced

out Covid friendly patio set up, overlooking the golf course and the lake. We were pleasantly surprised to welcome 46 people to breakfast. Twenty classic cars were parked in a dedicated area at the entrance of the Club House and a most enjoyable morning was had by all. ■

# NORTHERN REGION





## Van Gaalen Cheese Farm, 4 October 2020

By Anna-Lee Dos Santos

**The Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa's Northern Region visited the Van Gaalen Cheese factory situated in Hartbeespoort in the beautiful surroundings of the Magaliesburg, for a fabulous Cheese Tour.**

Van Gaalen was established by Annelies Van Gaalen in 1994. The farm is situated at the foothills of the Magaliesberg mountains in a small community called Skeerpoort near the Hartbeespoort Dam. Annelies decided to learn the art of cheese making because she wanted to introduce Dutch cheese to the South African market that was mostly familiar with Cheddar or "rooi skil kaas". Due to her Dutch heritage, Annelies made Gouda cheese from the very beginning. It only seemed natural to follow the principles of cheese making from her country of origin. Today Van Gaalen still produces Dutch Gouda in the traditional way, staying true to the authentic methods of

cheese production. Fresh milk is collected from local suppliers ensuring that high quality ingredients go into the Van Gaalen range of artisanal cheese. Their cheese is matured on the farm and a wide variety of and herb cheeses are available. Cheese tours started in 1996 and what started as a small group visiting under the trees next to a small production facility, has grown into an educational activity for school groups and an informative morning for individuals and family members of all ages. In 2000, the building with the production side, cooler room, shop and restaurant was established. This is where you will find yourself when visiting . 8 years later, Annelies's

husband, Erik Schipper, started developing trails over 50 private properties for mountain biking, hiking and birding. The manicured routes took many years to build and maintain and the farm now offers over 100 kilometers of ever changing trails, much of which is single track. Several sports events, corporate and private functions have been held on the farm since 2000.

A most wonderful day was enjoyed by the 72 people who attended, with their 30 classic cars parked on lush green lawns. Everyone enjoyed a fabulous lunch with background live entertainment in a lovely country setting. ■

# NORTHERN REGION





# WESTERN CAPE REGION



## Spring Run

By Brendan Moran

After months of inactivity in the club due to Covid Lockdown restrictions, I organized a Spring club run on Sunday 6 September.

Our members were clearly itching for an outing and an opportunity to catch up with one another and drive some classic cars, (while adhering to Covid regulations.)

It was a perfect spring morning. We met at 09:30 and enjoyed a scenic run to Franschoek Motor Museum via beautiful back roads. We had exclusive private use of

the museum and the grounds for the morning till 11:30. We even had the privilege of being able to display our cars between the museum display halls which was a treat for our proud members.

In total we had close to 60 members who joined us for this informal coffee run, which included at least one example of every desirable classic Mercedes money can buy.

We had various 107's 114 two doors, 108's, 129's, a fabulous 300sl roadster, 116 6.9, 123 TE, an

Adenauer, Pagoda's and a 190sl, amongst others.

Armed with face masks and sanitizer, members spent the morning walking the museum halls looking at the great Rupert collection of cars on display, after which they caught up with one another over a socially distanced coffee.

A beautiful day, a beautiful venue and some of our best cars, making our first post lockdown run an absolute pleasure and success. ■





## Lockdown Activities

By Brendan Moran

With Covid, Lockdown, and sanitizing being the order of the day for all of us during the past few months, there has naturally not been too much activity to report on for the early part of 2020.

For the most part we really only kept in contact with one another via our whatsapp group, sharing interesting articles and photos of all things Mercedes Benz and used our classic cars for essential items shopping runs just to keep them going.

Prior to our first official post covid club run in September, there were no runs planned but we can share with you one event that some of our members took part in during this time.

Cars and coffee is a concept which started in America as a platform to allow car lovers from all different walks of life to congregate in an informal manner to share their mutual love of cars.

Unlike car shows, these events

are free to enter, have no club affiliation, no concours, and no prizes. All you need to take part is an interesting classic or youngtimer, and a general interest in cars of all makes and models.

The founders of Cars.co.za, the online vehicle sales and buyers-guide website, started a sub-division of their business a few years ago called Sentimetal. Sentimetal is dedicated to celebrating classic cars and youngtimers in South Africa, as well as restoring and preserving car models that are unique to South Africa. Some of these cars include, BMW's E12 530 MLE, the Opel Kadett Super Boss, BMW 333i and 325is Shadowline, the Dodge Dart, Ford Capri Parana, Ford Sierra XR8 and the Chevrolet Firenza Can AM.

Sentimetal started hosting Cars and Coffee events about two years ago and they have grown in popularity even since. The best thing about them is that it allows

for an eclectic mix of car lovers to congregate for short informal coffee get togethers and enjoy one another's cars and antics.

Where these events started out as small gatherings in car parks they have now grown in size to attract well over 150 cars and owners at a time, necessitating a larger safe parking area.

Two Cape Town Cars and Coffee events took place this year at Killarney, one just before lockdown in March and one in October just as lockdown levels lifted.

4 Events are usually planned per year, two in Cape Town and two in Gauteng. Take a look at their website or Instagram for future events and more information about Sentimetal. Also look out for articles on their website by motoring journalist Graeme Hurst, who is one of our members. ■





## Year end Function 29 November

By Brendan Moran

The Western Cape Region held its Year end Function on Sunday 29 November, in sync with the rest of the regions in celebration of the national clubs 35 anniversary.

Okkie Potgieter was once again gracious enough to host us at his beautiful Land en Zeezicht estate in Somerset West. After days of heavy winds in Cape Town, we were greeted on the morning of the function with the most beautiful and sunny wind-free day.

Our year end function took the form of a lamb spit-braai picnic. On arrival we found a shady spot under the many trees on the lawns for ourselves and our cars to get relief from the blazing summer sun. Our members had a great time catching up with one another while still practicing responsible social distancing.

Our Club Chairman Zillen Venter had made a short

welcome speech and thanked the 72 members who joined us for making the effort to attend. He also thanked Okkie Potgieter for his generous hospitality and presented him with a thank you gift from us all.

Lunch was then served after which we enjoyed Malva pudding and a lazy relaxing Sunday afternoon together in Okkie's beautiful gardens, while admiring one another's cars and talking endlessly about various automobile inspired antics.

Okkie's current collection of classic Mercedes's were also on display including a near perfect W108, and a lovely S600 v12 S-class.

We would again like to thank all our members for their attendance and contributions to the club during 2020 and for their enthusiastic return to club activity once lockdown levels allows it. ■





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