



Volume 36 | No. 2  
December 2021

# DIE THE BENZ LENS

MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB OF SOUTH AFRICA



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# Editorial

Stephen Kaalsen

Disney actor Dean Jones told the story that one day, Walt Disney walked past a Mercedes-Benz dealer showroom. He said that Walt had admired a very specific new car through the window of the showroom, but kept on walking because he initially said to himself that he couldn't afford to buy such a lavish car. At the time he was still building his empire, building Disneyland and putting away enough money to be able to retire. After walking past the dealership, it dawned on him that, in fact, he could afford it if he wanted. He went back to the dealer, had a thorough look at it, and then bought it. It was Walt Disney's very own brand new 1964 Mercedes-Benz 230SL. This would be Walt's last car that he bought, as he passed away a mere two years after the purchase of his very own brand new Pagoda.

In 1965, just a year before Walt's passing, Jones had a look at the Disney film "That Darn Cat", and he noticed a very "suspicious" car being featured in the movie. He noticed that it was Walt Disney's 230SL, the one that Walt bought just a few months prior to the filming of "That Darn Cat", with Roddie McDowall driving it on the

set. When Jones inquired about the car, he found out that Walt was being paid by his own Disney company \$100 per day rental for use in the film, and that it was Walt's propaganda to pay off the lease he took on the SL!

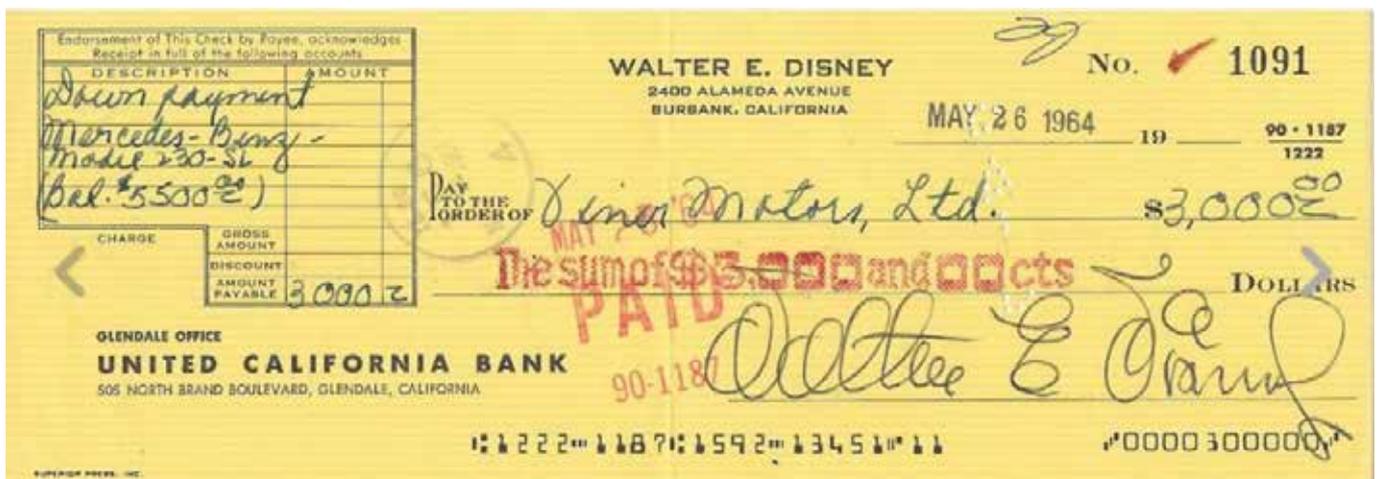
## Walt Disney's very own brand new 1964 Mercedes-Benz 230SL

Jones speculated that Walt felt a bit guilty for spending so much on a car and that renting it out to his studio made it a bit more of a practical purchase and that his mortgage would simultaneously be settled. Disney Historian Jeff Kurti says that Walt owned so few cars in his life so that he could continue to invest in his studio and build Disneyland.

This reminds me of myself, and a few tales of other fellow club members over the years; of plans people made and still make to acquire the cars that they have. It reminds me of plans that I made to collect the very few cars that I have, and similar stories of others. Some of us had to borrow money, pawn some stuff or rob a bank to eventually get the cars we have. Not to mention the lies we had to tell our wives regarding the purchase prices we paid for the cars we have...

Dear reader, the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa is the biggest car Club in South Africa, existing for more than 35 years. It is our club, it is who we are. In our club members' private collections we have almost the whole spectrum of classic Mercedes-Benz that was ever built. We are custodians of the fine cars, we save them, restore them to former glory, ride them, service them, enjoy them, and one day we let go of them to a next generation and its chapter.

**But how did we lay hands on them?**





I'd like to share a short personal story of how a very special Pagoda also made its way to our Club. Well known Club member, Connie Oosthuizen wanted to buy a Pagoda as a young man; with all his might. He fell in love with the 1967 250SL that used to belong to a gentleman in Klerksdorp with the name of Charlie Czank. Charlie wanted to sell his five year old Pagoda for R12 000,00 in 1972, and Connie was just not able to afford it. So Connie bought a fair 1968 Mercedes-Benz 280SL in the same year, 1972. It was a resprayed car in another colour than the original which he from a dealership showroom in Klerksdorp. He bought it for more money than he paid for his four bedroom house in a very smart and upmarket area in Klerksdorp. He paid the large sum of R 8 000,00 for it. In 1972 that was a load of money! He bought a used four year old Pagoda that had a colour change and he paid more than double for it than the price of a brand new W115 220 manual. When he arrived home with it, he almost faced a divorce from his dear wife Myrtle, and fortunately an acquaintance of him saw him with the car that he just bought. This acquaintance of him came to his rescue and before Connie could say a word,

his neighbour offered a cash cheque for the car for the amount of R12000,00. Connie agreed, and took the cheque from the buyer. Connie then immediately rushed to Charlie Czank for the 250SL and when Charlie opened his front door, Connie handed him that same cash cheque for R12 000,00 and he left with the 250S: Pagoda that he initially fell in love with.

2022 will mark fifty years of ownership by Connie Oosthuizen, and in his garage, next to his R197 300SL beside his R121 190SL stands one of the most original and cleanest R113's in original condition known to us. It is the exact same R113 250SL Pagoda he bought in 1972 which he kept for 50 years. How nice is that?

Dear reader, I am sure we can all relate to this very special story with a very special car we all once owned, or still do. Each of us trembled when we once signed a contract or cheque for a car that we didn't need and we knew all too well that we could not afford the car we were buying at all! After a few years of shedding blood sweat and tears, we realized that it wasn't us who needed the old project car. We realized that it was the project car that needed us as we did a pretty good job of restoring or conserving a very nice car that could be enjoyed

and looked after by the next generation for a few years still to come. This is the same for all of us, including Connie Oosthuizen and Walt Disney! Coincidentally both Connie and Walt bought a white Pagoda. Both Connie and the Walt Disney Foundation still owns both white Pagodas after all these years.

This sums up my turn as editor for one of the most outstanding publications in car club circles. Today I'd like to thank each and every reader for your support and love for the journey I had as editor for five years. I had a tremendous time and I enjoyed every single moment of it, but alas, it is time for me to say goodbye. Goodbyes are never easy, but it is time to give someone else a turn and an improvement is always good. Please sit back and relax while you read the last edition from my editor's pen. This is your virtual participation in all the sights and stories, glamour and glories of our Club, the largest car club in South Africa.

On the next page of this magazine I will reminisce on every front page from the editions I was responsible for. I enjoyed every single one of them and I am sure you, dear reader, did too.

*Until we meet again, mooie wense en vele Benze!* ■



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get started in the benz lens



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Stargazing



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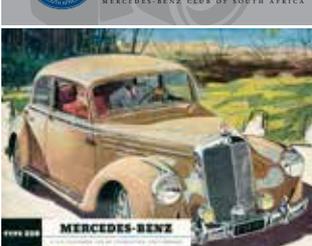


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**MERCEDES-BENZ**

A Prince, a Princess and a Car with No Door, is a classic. The Benz of legend and the Prince and Princess Hebrich is commemorated by the brand, now Mercedes-Benz, at the Pecos Ridge. The Prince and Princess Hebrich is a classic car that can be considered to be better. Now, however, we are pleased to have the Mercedes-Benz model, which is a classic car with no door, as a case of exemplary branding, carefully considered by Mercedes-Benz.

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# from the President

Waldo Scribante

Dear Fellow Members, Here we are, at the end of a rather tumultuous year. I must admit that it hasn't been easy for me to find positive things to say about this year in general. It's been trying, frustrating, upsetting, disappointing and very sad at times. Through it all, the three-pointed star, and what it stands for, has been a guiding light, inspiring me to keep going, to stay strong and always give my best. This has also been my experience of my fellow Club members, who, despite the many challenges presented by Covid-19, have given their best too.

This was particularly evident at our National Gathering, hosted

by the Eastern Cape region and held in Graaff-Reinet at the end of October. Despite last year's postponement and the prevailing uncertainties around lockdown levels and gatherings, Erald and his team did a superb job. It was wonderful to get together again and I thank our hosts for pulling out all the stops. I also thank Erald for his hard work and dedication in his role as Chairman for the Eastern Cape region. He has since resigned from the position and we extend a warm welcome to Fabian Cairns, who has taken the wheel. I also thank outgoing chairman, Sven Krassnokutski, for his dedication and service, with a warm welcome to Anna-Lee dos

Santos as our new Chairwoman for the Northern region.

I thank all of our existing National Committee members, regional Chairmen and teams for inspiring our Club members with their enthusiasm. Your hard work is appreciated and I look forward to working with all of you in the new year.

Finally, René and I wish each one of you a blessed, peaceful festive season. Stay safe and enjoy your time with friends and family if you are able.

*As always, the best or nothing! ■*



Waldo & René wish all  
our members a Merry  
Christmas and Happy  
New Year



# WELCOME TO THE SECOND DIGITAL INTERNATIONAL MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB PRESIDENT'S MEETING

Dear Mercedes-Benz Club Presidents,

Herewith we are happy to provide your personal log-in data for our digital International Mercedes-Benz Club Presidents' Meeting 2021.

As already communicated, we want to familiarize you with the most important topics and content for 2022 and it is our goal to provide this content in digital form on demand.

We also take this e-mail as an opportunity to inform you about a current personnel change, which came up after the editorial deadline of our digital content.

Thus, it was unfortunately no longer possible to take this topic into account in the lectures and presentations. However, it is important to us not to withhold this information from you.

Christian Boucke, currently Head of Mercedes-Benz Classic, will retire well on December 31, 2021 after 28 years in various management positions in the Daimler Group.

Under the leadership of Marcus Breitschwerdt, currently Head of Mercedes-Benz Vans, all aspects of brand and corporate heritage incl. the Mercedes-Benz Museum, as well as all business activities in the Classic area will be realigned on January 1, 2022.

Best regards,

Your Mercedes-Benz Classic Club Management





**George Wohlfarth**

Manager Mercedes-Benz Classic Events  
& Club Management



**Britta Seeger**

Member of the Board of Management  
of Daimler AG and Mercedes-Benz AG,  
responsible for Marketing & Sales



**Bettina Haussman**

Member of the Management Board  
Mercedes-Benz Museum GmbH





**Ralph Wagenknecht**

Mercedes-Benz Classic Communications



**Dennis Heck**

Manager Strategy, Topic & Collections Management  
Mercedes-Benz Classic



**Michael Abelle**

Social media Manager  
Mercedes-Benz Museum





## Mercedes-Benz Classic Topic Planning 2022

MS/MCC  
November 2021

Mercedes-Benz  
Das Beste oder nichts.



# Topics 2022

Mercedes-Benz Classic



## Mercedes-Benz Classic Topic Planning 2022

|   |  |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Mercedes-Benz Classic „Insight“</b></p> <p><b>20</b></p> <p>An event format with static and dynamic components. We focus on the brand(s) and the uniqueness of their products. Special stories and individual pieces play a special role.</p> |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |
| <p>Spare Parts – Workshop – Classic M@RS – Expertise – Originality/Brand protection</p>   |  |  |  |  |  |
| <p>Storytelling: <i>Collection/Archives/Workshop/Museum</i></p>   |  |  |  |  |  |
| <p><i>Think and act like a luxury brand</i></p>   |  |  |  |  |  |

Mercedes-Benz Classic Topic Planning 2022

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## Topic Planning 2022 – Communication Messages I

|                            |  |  |
|----------------------------|--|--|
| <p>„Insight 2.0“</p>       |  | <p><b>10 years of Mercedes-Benz Classic Insight:</b> In authentic places, bringing together inspiring people and historic vehicles to provide different media and multipliers with ideas for stories. Together, we further develop the format and contribute to the brand(s) and their products with the measure.</p>  |
| <p>70 years of SL</p>      |  | <p><b>70 years: SL – Two letters one myth.</b> Since its launch in 1952 with the W 194, no other Mercedes-Benz vehicle has stood more for sport, luxury and lifestyle. With this milestone anniversary, we are extending the SL theme into the year of the market launch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Market launch of new cars: <b>Mercedes-AMG SL 43 – 63 S E (R 232)</b></li> <li>▪ <b>30 years 600 SL (R 129)</b></li> <li>▪ <b>10 years of the R 231 series</b></li> </ul>  |
| <p>50 years 116-series</p> |  | <p>With the <b>116-series Mercedes-Benz celebrates a double premiere</b> in September 1972: Together <b>with the full-size vehicle</b>, the Stuttgart-based brand is establishing a <b>new name at the International Motor Show (IAA) in Frankfurt am Main</b> – henceforth the luxury-class sedans are officially called <b>"Mercedes-Benz S-Class"</b>.</p>  |
| <p>40 years 201-series</p> |  | <p>40 years ago, the premiere of the <b>201-series</b> in autumn of 1982 was a <b>milestone</b>. As the third model series family, the compact and <b>technically groundbreaking</b> sedan paves the way for a broader portfolio and points to the future of the entire brand. Additional C-Class themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Market launch of new cars: <b>Mercedes-AMG C 43 &amp; C 63</b> (four-cylinder engine – direct reference to 190 E 16-valve engine can be created)</li> <li>▪ <b>30 years of DTM Championship</b> Klaus Ludwig on <b>190 E 2.5-16 Evolution II</b></li> <li>▪ <b>30 years of special models AVANTGARDE</b></li> <li>▪ <b>25 years of the C 43 AMG (202-series)</b></li> </ul> |

Mercedes-Benz Classic Topic Planning 2022

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## Topic Planning 2022 – Communication Messages II

E-Class / EQ



Mercedes-Benz Classic supports **the new vehicle communication** of the new E-Class (214-series) as well as Mercedes-EQ products.

In addition to the new vehicle event, the E-Class communication also includes historical anniversaries:

- 75 years 170 V sedan
- 20 years of the E-Class Saloon (W 211)

**Idea:** Broad approach that is not model-related but brand-related an supports the EQ brand towards future communication.

AMG Classic



As part of **the AMG Classic project**, the hist. Communication will be taken over by Mercedes-Benz Classic. In addition, there are the following occasions for the sporty exclusive products from Affalterbach:

- Market launch of new vehicles: **Mercedes-AMG SL 43 – 63 S** and **C 43 / C 63**
- 25 years **CLK-GTR** (C 297); **C 43** (W/S 202); **E 55** (W/S 210)

Motorsport



With motorsport story(ies) we trigger emotions. In addition to luxury, motorsport is part of the DNA of our brand. The following events in 2022:

- 120 years of race victories Mercedes-Simplex 40 PS
- 100 years of victory Targa Florio G. Masetti
- 90 years of victory SSKL on AVUS
- 60 years of rally successes 220 SE
- 30 years of DTM victory Klaus Ludwig (190 E 2.5-16 Evolution II)
- 25 years FIA GT World Championship (CLK-GTR)
- 10 years of 3-fold victory 24h Dubai (SLS GT3)
- 10 years 1. Victory of the new F1 works team (GP China, N. Rosberg)

125 years TAXI



On June 18, 1897, the first motorised taxi, a Daimler Victoria with taximeter, is delivered to Stuttgart-based operator Friedrich Greiner. His Motorised Carriage Service "Motor-Wagen-Kutschei" duly becomes the first motorised taxi company.

## Good things to know and other events in 2022

### Product anniversaries

- 130 years of delivery of DMG's first production car
- **125 years of construction of tube coolers (Wilhelm Maybach)**
- 60 years of the 300 SE Coupé/Cabriolet (W 112)
- 50 years of ESF 13 (Experimental Safety Vehicle)
- 50 years of LE 306 electric van with battery change technology
- **50 years of the M 110 engine**
- 40 years 280 TH hydrogen
- 30 years of the S-Class Coupé (C 140)
- 30 years of large-scale electrical project (190 E & MB 100)
- 30 years 400 E (W 124)
- **25 years of product offensive (CLK-, A-, M-Class)**
- **25 years "Moose Test" (A-Class W 168 available)**
- 25 years F 300 Life Jet
- 20 years CLK-Class Coupé (C 209)
- **20 years of PRE-SAFE**
- 20 years Maybach (W/V 240)
- 10 years new generation A-Class (W 176)
- 10 years SLS electric drive

### Company anniversaries

- 175 years founding of Maschinenfabrik Esslingen
- 140 years Gottlieb Daimler buys villa in Cannstatt
- **140 years of expansion of Daimler greenhouse**
- **130 years of construction of the Daimler Tower**
- 60 years of the Wörth plant (ground-breaking ceremony)
- 60 years SG Stern
- 40 years opening of assembly plant Jakarta, IDN
- 30 Years Advanced Design Studio Yokohama, JPN
- **25 years of The Cannstatt engine plant**
- **25 years of Tuscaloosa plant, USA**
- 20 years of Center of Excellence, Sindelfingen
- 20 years of the Köllda plant
- 15 years of day nursery "sternchen"
- 10 years Keoskemét plant, HUN (opening)
- 10 Years Chennai Plant, IND

### Racing drivers

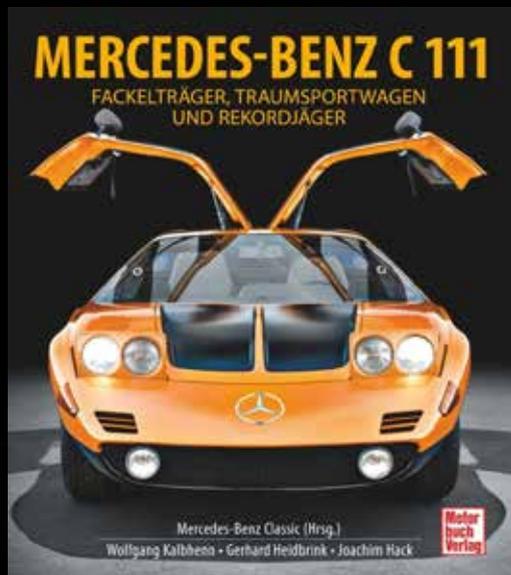
- 130. Christian Werner (19 May)
- **100. Birthday of Eugen Böhringer (22 Jan.)**
- 100. Birthday Werner Engel (29 May)
- **75. Birthday Ron Dennis (June 1st)**
- 70. Birthday Stanley Dickens (May 7)
- **70. Birthday Norbert Haug (24 Nov.)**
- 60. Birthday Jörg van Ommen (27 Sept.)
- 60. Birthday Al Unser junior (April 19th)
- 60. Birthday Heinz-Harald Frentzen (18 May)
- **50. Birthday Toto Wolff (January 12th)**
- 40. Birthday Susie Wolff (December 6th)
- 40. Birthday Jamie Green (June 14)

### Pioneers

- 115. Béla Barényi's birthday (1 March)
- 115. Birthday of Karl Wilfert (1 July)
- 95. Prof. Werner Breitschwerdt's birthday (Sept. 23)



Now available finally: the new book on the development of the C 111.



Special edition limited to 111 copies, signed by the authors exclusively available at the Mercedes-Benz Classic Store ([www.mercedes-benz-classic-store.com](http://www.mercedes-benz-classic-store.com)) while stocks last. 432 pages, 940 pictures/illustrations, 69 Euro  
Language: German (others unfortunately not available)

Mercedes-Benz Classic Topic Planning 2022

7

## Thank you

Mercedes-Benz Classic Topic Planning 2022

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## 2021 NATIONAL GATHERING – GRAAFF-REINET

By Erald Hohls

After several postponements brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Eastern Cape Region of the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa was finally able to host the club's National Gathering in the historic Karoo town of Graaff-Reinet; established in 1786.

Passionate Mercedes-Benz Club members came from all-over the country in their classic cars to attend the special weekend.

Celebrating the 36th year of the club's existence, the 3-day event was based at the Drostdy Hotel, with a well-planned programme including a drive to the Rubidge family's Wellwood Sheep Farm established in 1938, and the Rubidge Palaeontology Museum which houses one of the largest private collections of fossils in the world and started by Dr Sydney Rubidge in 1934.

Some interesting facts on Sheep farming and historical Palaeontology were given by Rob & Bruce Rubidge respectively, which gave real value to the visit.

The lovely Homestead and the immaculately kept gardens,

flower beads and lawns are testament to the commitment of Marion Rubidge in maintaining such an oasis in the harsh Karoo environment.

The hospitality at the farm was awesome. This was followed by a drive to the interesting village of Nieu Bethesda, where members experienced the historic village and the well-known Owl House, where the reclusive and enigmatic artist Helen Martins lived. This was followed by a wonderful country style lunch at 'Die Waenhuis' Restaurant.

Upon return from Nieu Bethesda, we paid a visit to the Recollection Rides Classic Car Museum owned by Hannes van Jaarsveld. A very special and lively Oktoberfest was enjoyed by everyone that evening, at the Recollection Village across the road from the museum, which carried on till late. Also on the programme was a drive up to the Valley of Desolation viewpoint in the Camdeboo Conservancy the following day, where refreshments including some champagne was a

welcome treat after the long walk to the viewpoint.

Following a moving organ recital in the Dutch reformed church, built in 1886, a lavish Gala Dinner was held at the Drostdy Hotel on the last evening of the National Gathering.

A well supported auction was held in aid of the Vuyani Safe Haven, which provides safety and care for children whose families cannot or do not care adequately for them. During the evening, acknowledgement was also given to Dr Carl Benz, who patented his motorised carriage in 1886, officially introducing the first Automobile to the world, 135 years ago.

Supported by Mercedes-Benz South Africa, the new W206 C Class sedan, proudly built in East London, was positioned next to the 1886 Benz Three-Wheeler replica in the courtyard of the historic Drostdy Hotel. This was to show the evolution of the Automobile from the humble, revolutionary motorized carriage in 1886, to the technologically



# 2021 NATIONAL GATHERING



# 2021 NATIONAL GATHERING



# 2021 NATIONAL GATHERING

advanced new W206 C Class of today. Both vehicles were kindly loaned to the club by the Daimler Plant in East London.

Norman Hickel was our Three-Wheeler specialist on hand to give a run down of the vehicle's history and mechanical workings.

Special guests; Selvin Govender, Vice President Sales & Marketing of MBSA and Russell Grigg, Dealer Principal of Ronnies Motors were thanked for their generous contributions as major sponsors towards hosting this prestigious event. Special mention must also be made to Janus Schoeman, Drostdy Hotel Manager for the commitment to ensure a successful weekend stay at the Hotel. The generosity from the Hotel Management and excellent service received from the staff there was outstanding.

I wish to thank the National

Committee and in particular, our Club President, Waldo Scribante and National Secretary Annalie Kachelhoffer for their support in our planning of the National Gathering, it is much appreciated.

Lastly, but by no means least, a big thank you to the Eastern Cape Region's organising committee, who put in many hours to make the weekend such a great success. I should not single out anyone as the combined efforts were enormous, but I must mention Johan Minnaar who did a sterling job as MC by keeping everyone well informed and amused throughout the weekend. Being a local resident, Johan had some invaluable information and many stories to tell of the greater Graaff-Reinet area's people and its wonderful history.

A big thank you to everyone who attended this memorable

weekend in the Gem of the Karoo.■

**All the National Gathering photos can be downloaded here:**



- **36<sup>th</sup> AGM 2021 - Gala evening**  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/195333296@N07/albums/72177720297852680>
- **36<sup>th</sup> AGM 2021 - Day 1**  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/195333296@N07/sets/72177720297846731/>
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- **36<sup>th</sup> AGM 2021 - Day 3**  
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# 2021 NATIONAL GATHERING



# 2021 NATIONAL GATHERING





# DAY ONE



# 2021 NATIONAL GATHERING





# DAY TWO



# 2021 NATIONAL GATHERING





# DAY THREE



# 2021 NATIONAL GATHERING



# WESTERN CAPE REGION



## Stellenbosch Flying Club Breakfast Run

By Brendan Moran

2020 and 2021 has been rather quiet in terms of Club events due to the impact of Covid-19. The health and wellbeing of our members was always top of the list and unless outdoor venues were available, we rather chose to gather in smaller groups or not at all.

A positive that came out of Covid however was an appetite from members for smaller more impromptu gatherings which didn't require large numbers and full restaurants. On Sunday 19 December I arranged exactly one of these impromptu runs to the Stellenbosch Flying Club. It was a truly perfect Summers Cape Town morning. We met as per usual at our meeting point at the Engen Winelands on the N1. Although we were a small crowd of 14

people we had a lovely mix of classics. We had Jean Le Roux in his marvelous W115 250ce, Pieter Venter and his fantastic W116 450 SEL 6.9

Hanjo Stier brought his rather rare C107 380 SLC, our region's secretary JP van der Poel brought his lovely black Fintail and I went along in my beloved S123 230TE wagon.

After the convoy to Stellenbosch we parked at the Flying Club for a lovely breakfast on the lawns where we were able to watch the planes landing and taking off on the runway which is right next to the clubhouse. Thanks to Pieter Venter, who is a member of the Flying Club and a "frequent flyer" we were able to gain access to a portion of the runway and hangers for a quick

photo shoot of our cars. I am sure you will enjoy the photos!

If you are ever in Stellenbosch and looking for a tranquil spot to enjoy a well-priced breakfast, lunch or afternoon drink, pay a visit to the Stellenbosch flying club. For those interested in aviation there are also a few decommissioned military jets on display, as well as a rare sight of a few black hawk helicopters who are stationed at the flying club and on standby in case of any fire-fighting missions in and around the Western Cape.

We look forward to sharing more of these impromptu club runs with you, over and above the more official runs we arranged to various destinations in the Western Cape. ■





## Western Cape Year End Function – Leopards Leap

By Brendan Moran

Our Western Cape Club Year End Function was held on Sunday 5 December 2021 at Leopard's Leap Wine Farm in Franschoek. This was the first time in over two years that we were together as a club in large numbers, and it was amazing for everyone to see one another again and catch up over some good local wine and food.

Leopards Leap is a fantastic venue with a relaxed ambience situated just before Franschoek on the R45. They offer an informal

and hearty harvest table style lunch menu as well as their own local Wine from the farm.

We were a large group of 90 people and we pretty much booked out the entire indoor section of the restaurant. The weather was not the best with some morning rain showers, which understandably meant that some of our finer classic cars were left at home to remain dry and clean. Despite this we still had an impressive display of the three-pointed star in the

reserved parking at the front of the restaurant.

Apart from the great food and setting, members each received a gift from the committee of a branded Mercedes Benz wine cooler bag which was much appreciated by our members. I would like to extend a heartfelt word of thanks to all who attended and made this event so memorable. ■





## A Classic Teutonic Dream

By Roger Metcalfe

Should a motoring enthusiast wish to travel back down the corridors of time, he or she will discover a few gems that still hold their own sense of timelessness. One of them is surely the iconic 1994 Mercedes S600 with its 6-litre, 390 bhp powerhouse V12 engine.

Although a quarter of a century old, this remarkable vehicle will deliver one of the smoothest rides you will ever experience. Its very surprising economical fuel consumption cruising figure of 11.8 litres per 100 km makes this modern classic car a very nice addition to any collection. Consumption on the urban cycle is naturally higher, but then the enthusiast owner or collector will seldom use this vehicle for grocery shopping or school runs.

Despite its 2-ton weight, this solid, luxury vehicle will remarkably accelerate to 100 km per hour in just over 6 seconds and reach speeds of up to 250 km/hr. effortlessly. All this, whilst giving a silken, silent ride that would befit royalty.

I'm doing my best to convince an Austrian collector and friend not to sell his two-tone, metallic





blue S600 coupe. However, he plans to live on his small holding and prefers to use the proceeds to buy a luxury 4 x 4.

He purchased this car which is a rare two-door coupe from one of our well-known captains of industry. It has a full service history and it's been parked under cover for most of its life. With only 160 000 genuine kilometres (100k miles) on the clock, this is a gift and an investment for any Mercedes-Benz enthusiast.

These models come out with electric sunroofs, double glazed glass, polished wood trim, heated electric seats with memory function, electric rear roller-blinds climate control and a host of other features putting it way ahead of its time.

Here are a few Internet comments from owners of these rare gems:

Mercedes Enthusiast from Glastonbury, Connecticut

*"I have owned nothing but Mercedes for the past 12 years... and I have to say this is a real showstopper."*

*"I bought this as my work car and to take clients out. The interior is so spacious and has all the bells and whistles, including heated lumbar supported seats all round, separate controls for airconditioning system in the back and 4 illuminated makeup mirrors. The Bose sound system transforms this ride into a perfect audio experience. This is a solid car designed to deliver refined power and comfort. You really feel like you are in a Limo."*

August 25, 2013 – By Justin from Marina Del Rey, California

*"I always loved this model, I bought this one used, and it has been a true super car!"*

*I read that Mercedes-Benz took*

*a loss on this car, because they needed so few repairs, and people kept them for years, used them for taxi cabs too. Very fast, yet safe. Too many features to mention. Built with "Green" parts & process, water-based paints, eco-friendly wood etc. Yes, in 1994!"*

April 8, 2013 – By an S600 owner from Denver, Colorado

*"I have to tell you that there is NOTHING about my S 600 coupe that I don't love. Yes, I might spend a little more on it than an average runabout ... it's a bit like living with a beautiful woman. Think of them both the same way, except this one will never leave you" ■*





## Northern Region Year – End Function 2021

By Sven Krassnokutski

**T**True to the rainy summer we have been having, 5 December 2021 dawned a cloudy and rainy day, but it was not enough to put a damper on the spirits of the Northern Region members who donned their finery for one of the highlights of the regional calendar – the year-end function and regional AGM. We were delighted to welcome members from across the whole region and are grateful to those who made the effort to travel far to attend this prestigious occasion.

Anna-Lee Dos Santos arranged a suitably classy venue at the Pretoria Country Club and the 'olde world charm' complemented the beautiful table decorations which Anna-Lee provided. Christopher Dooley arranged Mercedes-Benz

Club funky socks as gifts for all attendees, which were a fitting tribute to our late Vice-President, Chris Carlisle-Kitz, and have been well received across all regions of the Club. A moment's silence was observed as we remembered all those who had lost their lives during the second year of the pandemic, as well as their loved ones who remain behind.

As is tradition, the order of events began with the regional AGM. Koos du Toit, our regional secretary, has become extremely adept at running this meeting and business was dispatched with efficiency, after which the festivities could begin. We are very grateful that Koos has made himself available for re-election and will continue to support the





region in his capacity as Northern Region Secretary. Koos, a heartfelt thank you from all of us for the ongoing effort that you put into making sure that the region's administration runs smoothly.

Sven Krassnokutski decided to step down as the chairman of the Northern Region and we are delighted that the leadership of the region has been taken over by none other than the dynamic Anna-Lee Dos Santos. I have no doubt that Anna-Lee will bring fresh ideas and her unbridled passion to this job and we look forward to great things happening in the Northern Region in 2022. In addition, Anna-Lee is already busy planning the 2023 AGM which the Northern Region will be hosting. Anna-Lee, thank you for taking on the role of chair.

Anna-Lee and Koos will be supported by Marcell Mostert, Christopher Dooley, Jan-Willem Wielsma and Sven Krassnokutski, who will remain on the Northern Region Committee for 2022. André Esterhuizen has elected to stand down and we thank him for his years of service to the region. We are delighted to welcome Winnie du Toit to the committee as a co-opted member. Winnie has already hosted her first event in 2022 and has set the bar extremely high. I have no doubt that 2022 is going to be one highlight after another for the Northern Region. ■





# EASTERN CAPE REGION

## Eastern Cape Region – Year End

By Roger Metcalfe

The Eastern Cape Region held their Year-end Function at the Red Apple Restaurant at Bushman's River on the East Coast on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2021.

A number of members joined us from around the Eastern Cape for a great lunch at this lovely venue.

It was a very relaxed atmos-

phere and we reflected on the many activities we had during 2021 but most importantly of course, was the very successful National Gathering we hosted in Graaff-Reinet just a month before.

It was a lovely day out, with great camaraderie - thank you to all who joined us on the day. ■





# SOUTHERN CAPE REGION



## Southern Cape Year end Function

By Aldo van Zyl

Our annual custom is that our year end function is hosted at Waldo & René's spectacular house under the old oak tree. This year however we were weary of the weatherman's prediction, and decided it should be hosted at "die Benz".

The weather turned out great after all and we had a beautiful day. We were graced by the hospitality and friendly faces of all our club members as well as gorgeous automobiles – que Waldo's sleek black and chrome 600 GROSSER, which have become a beacon and good luck charm of our Southern Cape Region. There were also quite a few other Benz's gleaming in the South Cape sun; too much

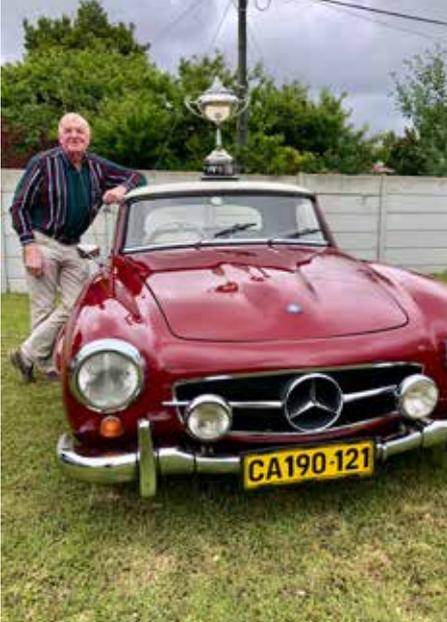
to mention.

Our region has seen such growth over the last few years – and has become quite the popular motoring destination, and it is no surprise given the lovely surroundings that we have. Our year end function was quite well attended by various members of our motoring and Benz community, and our annual "spit braai" has become a highlight of the motoring fraternity. This year we were treated to a fantastic bread and snack table which made for fantastic side dishes. We also decided to judge a few of our cars that were on display. And our winners for the year André Fourie with his red 190SL as well Gerrit Lamprecht with his

splendid charcoal 560SEC, and last but certainly not least, is the prize for the best dressed table, and it could not be given to any other than to our dear Alda Lamprecht who is as always setting the bar so high. Congratulations to all of our winners and looking forward to seeing all again at the 2022-year end function. Thank you all who were in attendance and thank you to Waldo and René for their true commitment to the Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa and in particular to their commitment to the Southern region. Without them none of this would have been possible. ■



# SOUTHERN CAPE REGION

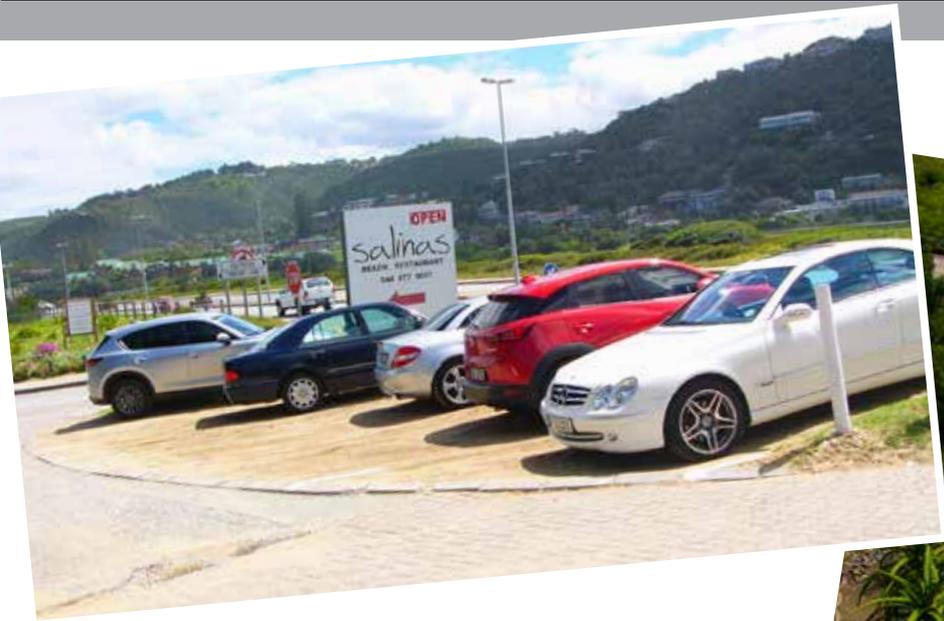


# SOUTHERN CAPE REGION



# SOUTHERN CAPE REGION





## Mercedes-Benz Klub Middagete

*Deur Koot du Toit*

Op 3 Oktober het ons by Selinas gaan middagete eet in die Wildernis. Die lede wat van Mosselbaai af gekom het, kon oppad die pragtige Outiniqua berge en groen landerye en weidings langs die pad bewonder. Na George, kon ons padlangs die

indrukwekkende Kaaimanskloof, rivier en pas sien en bewonder asook die mooie branders op die Wildernis strand.

By Selinas aangekom, was daar lekker gesels, oor al wat 'n ding is, om nie te praat van die heerlike ete aan tafel nie.

Na die inkamping en beperkings van meer as 'n jaar, is dit so aangenaam om weer uit te kom en byeenkomste by te woon.

Baie dankie vir die reelings Aldo en baie dankie aan elkeen wat die geleentheid bygewoon het.

*Tot 'n volgende keer. ■*





## THE TALEND OF 2021

By Jaco Kachelhoffer

After the success of our region's 50<sup>th</sup> celebration of the 107 models, the COVID-19 factor started looming again and larger official club events were put on hold once again with our big event, Bloemfontein Cars in the Park being cancelled for a second year.

Despite this, our region still managed to get together on a smaller scale and during August the Bloemfontein members gathered at the Kachelhoffer barn for a steak and hotdog lunch and in September our Northern Cape members had a very successful get together at the Kimberley Mercedes-Benz dealership. Our planned visit to Frankfort in September to see Paul van Wyk's extensive collection also did not realise, but we were not too

worried about this as we know that Paul will have even more vehicles in his collection for us to see in 2022! Our Northern Cape contingent also hosted other breakfast runs in their area.

October fortunately brought some more opportunities and on 16 October 2021 we visited the exceptional collection of Bloemfontein's Frikkie Esterhuizen, consisting of about 6 Ferraris, 3 Firenza V8 Can Am's, Capri and Cortina Peranas, Mustang Shelby's and other rare models, all in concours condition.

It was really great to see some of our club friends again and to chat about all things car and family related, in times when this privilege is unfortunately very rare. Everyone really enjoyed and appreciated Frikkie's hospitality





and his wide knowledge of the various Ferrari models. It was an unforgettable experience for everyone.

A few of our Region were privileged to attend the 2021 National Gathering function that was held over the weekend of the 29<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 at Graaff-Reinet, which was organised and presented by the Eastern Cape Region, with Erald Hohls at the steer. I believe that all of us who visited Graaff-Reinet, gained a much better perspective and appreciation for this historical Karoo town and its surroundings, of which the history and attributes were so well told and presented by Johan Minnaar. There were numerous highlights to this weekend and the Eastern Cape organising committee did a splendid job, in all respects!

In November it was time for our year-end function and regional Annual General Meeting and this event was planned for Saturday 27 November to Sunday 28 November 2021 in the small town of Orania in the Northern Cape. We travelled from various locations in the region and met up in Orania at about 11h00. From there a local tour guide took us to see the historic residence of Mrs Betsie Verwoerd, the wife of the late SA Prime Minister, Hendrik Verwoerd. We also visited the "Koeksister" monument after which we were taken for a drive to see all the developments in the town.

Following that we checked in at "Die Oewer" holiday resort and met up for a picnic under the shade of the many trees in this resort. Then it was time for our regional Annual General Meeting which was attended by





15 members and where I was re-elected as Chairman and Annalie as Regional Secretary. We had a small prize giving ceremony where Bart Opperman was awarded the region's Star Member Award for his enthusiasm, support and ongoing commitment to the club. Michael Holland- Muter (Northern Cape) and Paul van Wyk (Free State) received gifts for travelling the furthest to attend this event and Meyburgh Erasmus received a gift as an Eastern Cape member regularly supporting Central Region activities. I again want to thank the following people: Mercedes-Benz Club of South Africa for their financial contribution towards our year-end function; Annalie for her work done as National as well as Regional Secretary; Bart

Opperman and Charlie Simkin as additional members to our committee; John Williams Motors and especially Gustav Rossouw and Johan Strydom for the gifts they have sponsored; Dups Towing who is always there to lend a helping hand (ride) to our members and then lastly but very importantly our members who have supported and joined the few events that we were able to host. Without our members' participation the club will die a slow death.

We are carefully optimistic about the 2022 possibilities and we sincerely hope that we will be able to resume a closer to normal year of events for our club. I wish all our fellow members the best for 2022. ■





# KWA-ZULU NATAL REGION



## Year- End Function 2021

By Matt du Sart

With much of what we accept as our regular lives disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic over the course of the last two years, finding yourself with your Mercedes-Benz family in one of the most beautiful settings of our beloved province makes it easy to forget how grey the world has become. This was precisely the break from reality (all protocols observed, of course) that our regional Year-End Function brought.

Members were greeted by a chilly thirteen degrees Midlands but there was nothing frosty about the charmingly beautiful Rawdons Country Estate in Nottingham Road; our home for the weekend. It would not take long to warm up, though. Members were treated to a tour of the brewery as well as a gin-making experience led by Gin Master, Nick Cahill. From distillation to bottling and flavouring, Nick shared his extensive knowledge of the

craft. Of course, the proof of the "ginning" is in, well, the tasting. There were no issues with keeping warm for the rest of the weekend!

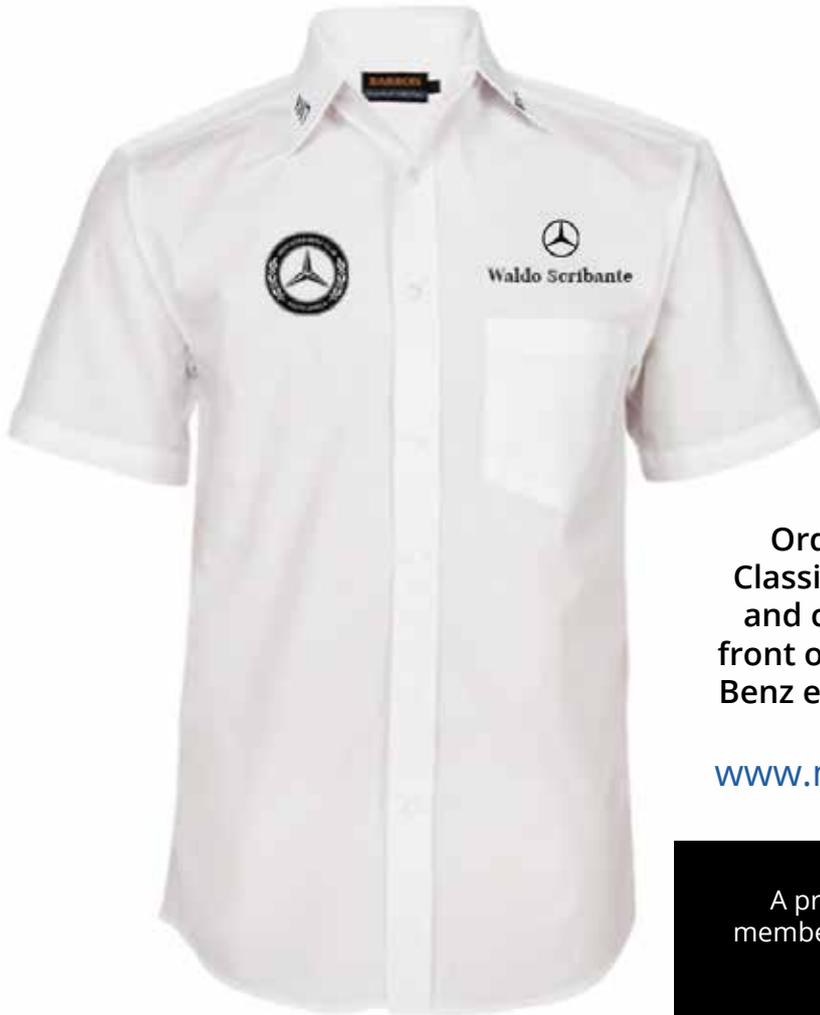
Members were privileged with Star Treatment by hotel staff who took exceptional care of us. This stunning venue will be one to beat in the future! ■







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