



THE CAPITAL LETTER

Newsletter of the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club of Australia (A.C.T. Branch) Inc.
Serving the Australian Capital Territory, Goulburn, Wagga Wagga and surrounding areas.



Branch mailing address:
PO Box 773, Mawson, A.C.T. 2607

FOR ROLLS-ROYCE AND BENTLEY ENTHUSIASTS

July / August 2015



SRH4032

1968 Silver Shadow Panelcraft estate car

Phil Sproston



From the Branch President

Usually when the cold weather well and truly with us, the incentive to head out is somewhat diminished. That was not the case, I'm happy to say, for our run to visit Phil Sproston's workshop, Excelsior Garage, at Murrumburrah.

There was a mix of members from our A.C.T. Branch along with a few from the N.S.W. Branch.

The names I recorded of those in attendance, and I apologise if I have missed anyone, were: Gos Cory, Ken & Francis Lo, David Ross, Bob Logan, John Tetley, Jordan Devine, Garry Parrott, Peter Hyland, Ian & Ida Irwin, Garry Ward (N.S.W.), Peter Davidson (N.S.W.), David Ross (N.S.W.), Graeme (?) (N.S.W.), and our host Phil Sproston.



Phil was enthusiastic in outlining some of the issues associated with the maintenance and good care of post-war cars, through the Cloud series, and Shadows, right up to the cars of the '80s. Time was a constraint, and Phil who was wound up, had to call a halt when we were due to go off into downtown Murrumburrah for lunch that was catered for us at the Terracotta Café. This was a very nice restaurant, run by a very pleasant Irish family.

Phil had spoken of so many issues, with examples of wear and tear, or simple neglect, that some were concerned about having their own cars checked out.

Many thanks to Phil for giving up his Saturday for this 'workshop' for the unwary. It was very much appreciated.

On Saturday 4th July, Ida and I attended the invitation event in the Southern Highlands which was organised by the Bentley Drivers' Club from Sydney. This was an occasion attended by members of several other clubs also. The weather was great, if a little cool. At 3 p.m. we gathered to inspect a private collection of many fabulous motor cars and motor-cycles. We were told there were over 500 vehicles in this collection, which had been commenced over 40 years ago. It was really the Daddy of all barn finds! But I was sad to see these cars sitting idle, wishing for them that some day they would have the wings to fly again. Makes of cars in the collection was numerous, too many to recall. But to mention some that come to mind: Sunbeam, Packard (maybe several dozen), Studebaker, BSA cars of 1910s and 1930s), Riley Tri-car c.1901, Maxwell, Buick, Bristol, Jaguar, Cadillac V16, Stutz, etc. Gos was our only other Branch member whom we saw there, and what an exceptional experience it was. Other members in attendance were Gos Cory, Chris & Narelle O'Rourke, Joe Quattrocchi and Peter Limon

As I write this, ahead of our Christmas in July Meeting / Lunch in Goulburn, I offer my sincere congratulations to Branch member Bob Clarke, from Wagga Wagga, who has won the Sir Henry Royce Foundation Award at the 2015 Federal Rally. You will be appraised of just how Bob earned this at the July Lunch. A fabulous achievement. And it has been drawn to my attention, that after Bill Coburn, Martin Bennett and myself, Bob is the fourth person to win this coveted award from our Branch, the smallest Branch in the nation. No other Branch has achieved this level of recognition. We should all be proud of this record.

I have been honoured to be asked by the S.H.R.F. Chairman, Russell Rolls, to present Bob with his S.H.R.F. Award at the lunch in Goulburn.

Ian Irwin O.A.M.

New members

The Committee and members offer a warm welcome to the following new members:

Anthony SMITH
Fairbairn, A.C.T.

Rob SWAIN
Urila, N.S.W.

Roger WARBURTON
Hamilton, Vic.

1985 Silver Spirit ASF13363

1957 Bentley S1 Continental
BC14CH

1923 Twenty Horsepower 78A1

Front Cover picture: Phil Sproston's 1968 Silver Shadow estate car SRH4032, formerly a hearse by Panelcraft, during the Branch's recent Harden run. Peter Hyland photograph.

From the Editor

hjmullinersw@bigpond.com

Two awards to our members to report in this edition. As reported in the last issue, and more comprehensively in PRAECLARUM, Bob Clarke was awarded this year's Sir Henry Royce Foundation Award for excellence according to the ideals of the late Sir Henry Royce (see below). Also, Kerry Bos has been awarded a certificate to mark his exceeding 50 years as a member of the R.R.O.C. of Australia, as a member of the Victoria and Australian Capital Territory Branches.

Please accept my apologies for any perceived lateness of this edition. We are supposed to have five editions per year and although I try to adhere to that, other demands on my time sometimes need to take precedence.

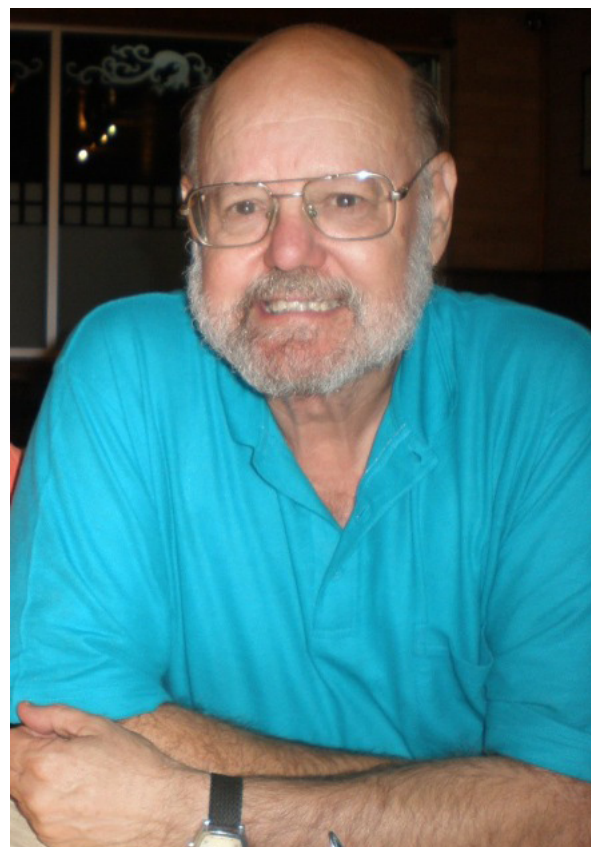
Martin Bennett



Left: Branch member Kerry Bos has been presented with this certificate of appreciation in recognition of his half-century of faithful service as a Club member.



Right: Branch member Bob Clarke, who has been awarded the Sir Henry Royce Foundation Trophy for 2015. Below is the handsome wall plaque that goes with this award.



Branch Events Calendar

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday September 9th: Monthly Meeting and Annual General Meeting kindly hosted by Ian & Ida Irwin at their house – 30 Huelin Circuit, Flynn.

The Monthly Meeting will be short, commencing at the usual 7.30 p.m., and will be immediately followed by the AGM and election of your 2015/16 Committee.

Sunday TBA Lunch at Bowring Café.

OCTOBER

October 17th/18th

Manildra-Cowra Weekend Run. Cowra Motel overnight Saturday night.

Arrangements to be finalised.

NOVEMBER

(Yet to be determined.)

DECEMBER

Sunday December 6th Terribly British Display Day, date TBA + Christmas Function.

Below: Steve Stuckey sent this shot of Lawrie & Jane Nock's 1973 Corniche Convertible DRH16855 at the recent 'Battle of Waterloo' display day. Note the gun, believed to be a 28-pounder, to help vanquish the French competition!





Participating cars at Phil Sproston's Excelsior Garage in Murrumburrah, just outside of Harden, N.S.W. and (below) inside the workshop.

Harden Run

June 21st

Photographs by Peter Hyland





Host Phil Sproston's 1933 20/25 Hooper limousine, GBA1, showing (*below*) the comfortable interior.





More of GBAI's fine interior. Photographs from Peter Hyland.





Gos Cory's 1949 Bentley Mk VI Freestone & Webb saloon B474DA outside the historic Goulburn Court-house, across the park from our lunch venue, the Fireside Inn. From here Bryce Ronning treated the hardier souls to an informative and entertaining – though very cold – architectural walk-around culminating in an inside tour of St Saviour's Cathedral courtesy of the Dean.

Goulburn Run

July 12th





Above & opposite lower: The attendance at this event did our Branch great credit as these two pictures taken at the Fireside Inn show to some extent. Below: Our President took the opportunity during a lull in proceedings to present Branch member Bob Clarke with his Sir Henry Royce Foundation Australia Trophy wall-plaque.





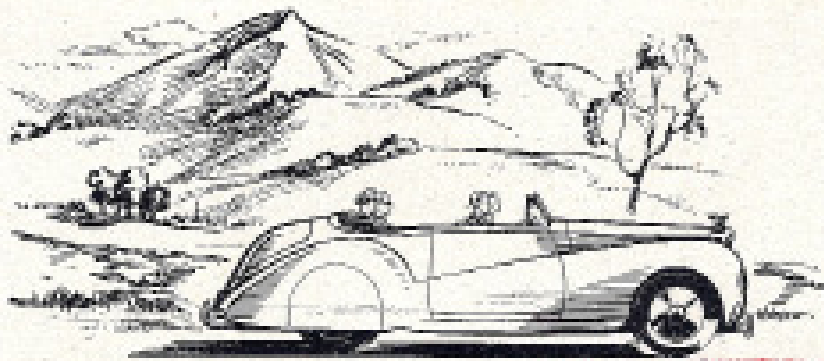
Above: Bob Clarke with wife Bronwyn and daughters Nicole (left) and Kathryn (right). Bob is holding his Sir Henry Royce Foundation award for excellence according to the ideals of Sir Henry Royce.

Below: Narelle O'Rourke (centre) with Gos Cory and Liz Knight.



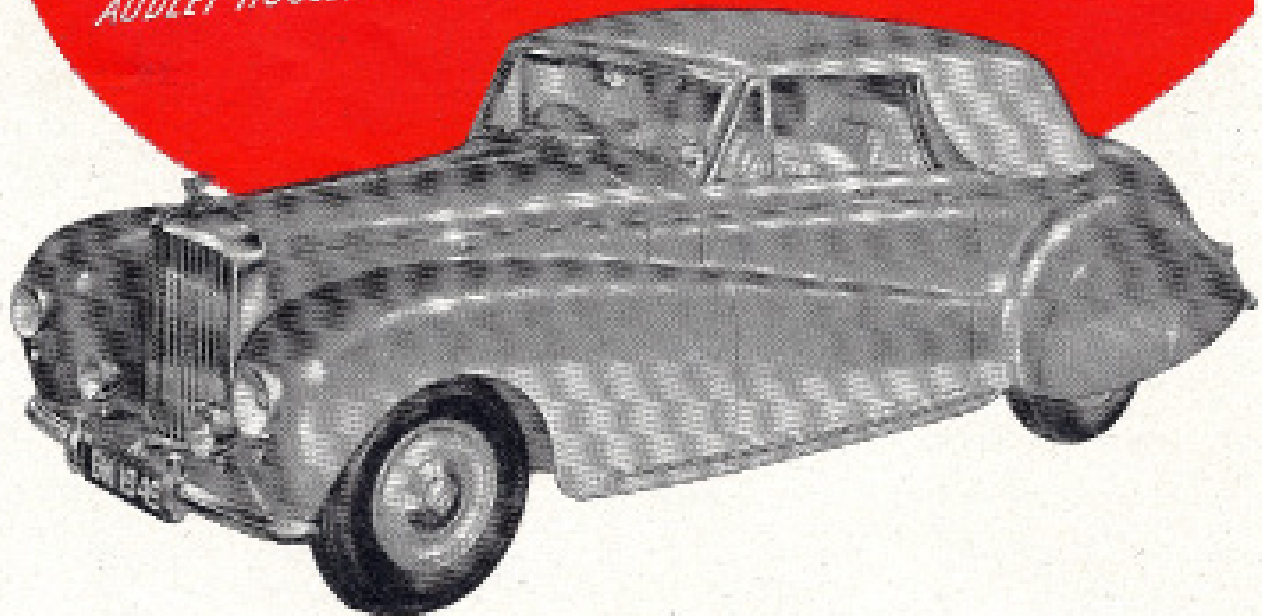
The Motor

October 5, 1949.



*Jack Olding
of Mayfair*

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Tailpiece . . .



Steve Stuckey sent this shot, which he took at the recent 'Battle of Waterloo', of 93TA, the 1935 Phantom II Thrupp & Maberly limousine owned for many years by our late member Bob Skillen.

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