



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.



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FOR ROLLS-ROYCE AND BENTLEY ENTHUSIASTS

May / June 2016



WFC67

1949 Silver Wraith Hooper touring limousine

Bryce Ronning

The City of Bendigo

From the Branch President

Congratulations to Steve Stuckey on receiving the Sir Henry Royce Foundation Award for 2016. This award was announced by Russell Rolls, Chairman of the SHRF, at the 2016 Federal Rally Dinner at Bendigo recently, but Steve was unable to attend. I was subsequently asked by Russell if I would make the presentation on behalf of the Foundation.

And so it was, that we organised a lunch at the Goulburn Fireside Inn on Sunday 19th June. Around 20 members and friends came along on a very wet and miserable day. The Award comes with the Foundation's citation, and I was delighted to be able to advise all present of the background to the presentation, reading from the mounted plaque, before I presented it to Steve.



Steve has spent some 40 years in the research of the Phantom III cars of the world, and written two works that have received global recognition. Earlier this year, his wonderful extensive work, *The Spectre Arises*, was published. This is a massive tome that covers all of the world's great V-12 Phantom III cars. Brilliantly presented with superb period and recent photos, it is rightly said by the Foundation that it is the most magnificent work ever published on the marque.

So, once again, my sincere congratulations to you Steve. Wonderful recognition for a really wonderful book.

I mentioned on the day too, that we have severed our relationship with the Irish Club, It did not seem that we could ever get access to the room that both Peter and I were told we would be able to use there. In fact we only managed to accEss the room for one meeting. Homeless once more, we are looking for an alternative venue. We will keep you informed.

Meanwhile, Ida and I will host the July Meeting in our home. Details will be circulated by Peter Hyland shortly. It will be held on the first Wednesday to enable those alienated when we moved to the second Wednesday, to return to the fold.

So the next meeting is on 6th July at 7.30 pm.

Happy motoring! (As Bob Dyer used to say.)

Ian



Left: This photograph is from Ray Gulson and if my understanding is correct it shows a new engine, from England, fitted to Ray's 1988 Bentley Eight BEJ23222.

Front Cover picture: The gracious and elegant city of Bendigo, Victoria, as seen from the gracious and elegant WFC67, Branch member Bryce Ronning's Federal Concours trophy-winning 1949 Silver Wraith Hooper touring limousine. Photograph by the Editor.

A considerable number of A.C.T. Branch members went to this year's Federal Rally in Bendigo, hosted by the Victoria Branch, including Bryce Ronning in the Silver Wraith and Gos Cory in the Mk VI, with yours truly as passenger/co-driver and both cars running beautifully with minimal oil consumption. We departed from my home bright and early, meeting up with Chris & Narelle O'Rourke, Joe Quattrocchi and Charles Chelliah for second breakfast near Gundagai.

The Rally itself and the city of Bendigo were very enjoyable, packed with nostalgia for me in terms of cars and people. To cap it all, two of our Branch members won awards: Bryce won the Class trophy in the Federal Concours with WFC67 and Steve Stuckey was awarded the Sir Henry Royce Foundation Award for excellence in accordance with the ideals of the late Sir Henry Royce, so all was well with the world.

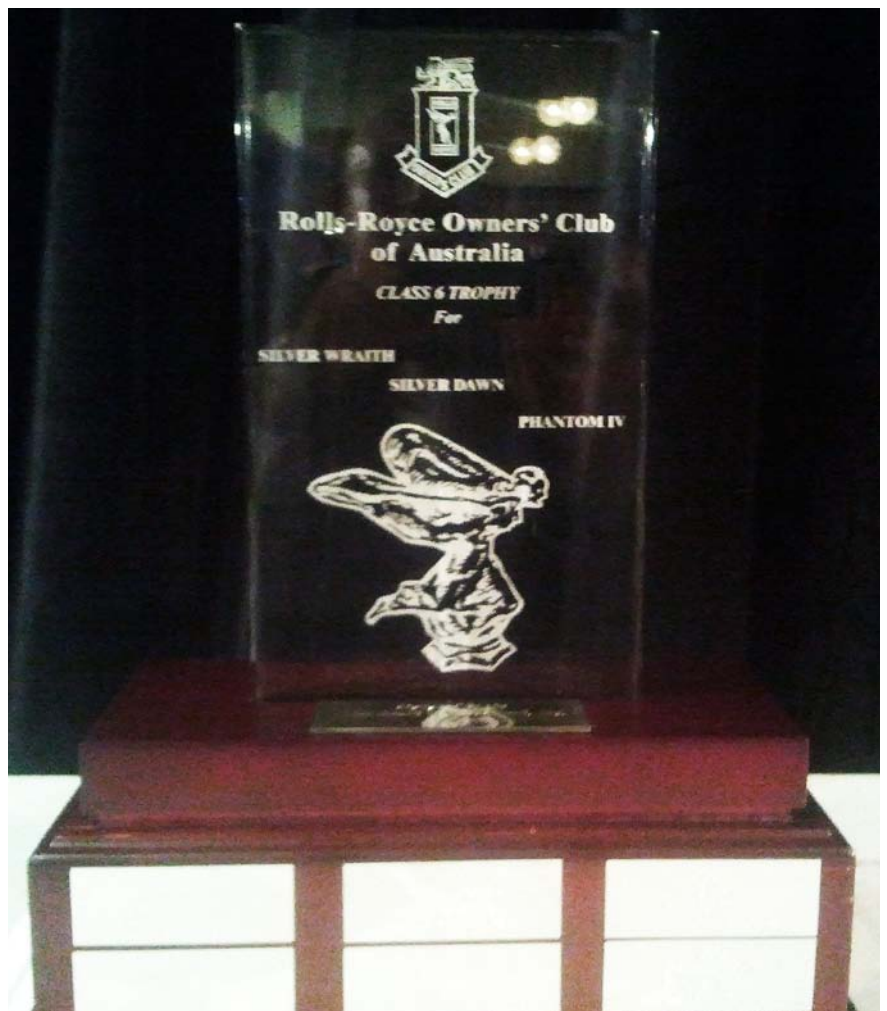
After arriving back in Goulburn, Gos continued home to Noosa the next day in B474DA. His total milage over a week or so was huge, with the 1949 Bentley running smoothly throughout.

Ian Irwin, himself a previous winner, accepted the Foundation Award at the Federal Dinner on Steve Stuckey's behalf, and in turn presented it to Steve on June 19th at Goulburn's Fireside Inn (photographs page 4).

Martin Bennett



Right: The very handsome trophy for Class 6 in the Federal Concours, for Silver Wraith, Silver Dawn & Phantom IV, was won this year in Bendigo by Bryce Ronning and his 1949 Silver Wraith Hooper touring limousine, WFC67.
Photograph by Gos Cory.



Branch Events Calendar

As you are now aware, our arrangements with the Irish Club for our monthly meetings / bistro meal get-togethers have collapsed, so we are moving forward. With one exception (see below) we will revert to our traditional first Wednesday of the month for our future meetings. As we are yet to identify any suitable long-term venue, members have very kindly agreed to host the next few meetings at their private residences. Meeting venues in the near future will be as follows:

Sunday August 14th. Laurie & Jane Nock's home at 84 Darmody Place, Sutton, N.S.W.
Library Day and August Monthly Meeting at 12.00 Noon. Further details to follow.

Wednesday September 7th. including the AGM: Al & Di Kinloch's home, 1 Mugga Way, Forrest. 7.30 p.m.



Left: At the Fireside Inn, Goulburn, President Ian Irwin presenting Steve Stuckey with this year's Sir Henry Royce Foundation Award, which Ian had accepted on Steve's behalf at the Federal Rally in Bendigo.

Below: No fewer than five members of our Branch have been recipients of this award, of which four were present, from left to right: Steve Stuckey, Martin Bennett, Ian Irwin, Bob Clarke. Not present was Bill Coburn.





***Above:** Rally Headquarters with Bryce Ronning's Silver Wraith WFC67 at the main portal. **Below:** Judging of cars entered for the Concours was carried out at the Bendigo Exhibition Centre, where no judge was heard to complain of a lack of space!*

Federal Rally, Bendigo, Victoria

May 12th - 16th





Above: This 1953 Silver Wraith Long Wheelbase touring saloon by Park Ward, BLW78, was one of the first cars with which your Editor became acquainted in his early days in the R.R.O.C. Today it remains in the same family ownership as then, and is completely original and unrestored. Even the paintwork is original – not just the colour, but the paint itself, or most of it anyway. Gos Cory and I were privileged to ride in the considerable luxury of its rear compartment to breakfast on the Dawn Patrol during the Rally. Owners: Neil & Louise Matthews. Neil is our Federal President.

Below: The same morning, Gos and I returned from breakfast in 60RF, a 1927 Phantom I Martin & King limousine owned by Tony James (Vic.), and your Editor found that there was a great deal on this Rally to serve as reminders of youth. Even before becoming associated with the Club, 33KG, a 1922 Silver Ghost H.J. Mulliner tourer then owned by Tony, was a familiar sight to me in and around Geelong in the days when such cars were still often used as daily drivers.





Gos, comfortably ensconced in 60RF, returning from the Dawn Patrol breakfast.

Below: The Overall Winner of the Federal Concours d'Elegance was the superbly presented 1957 Silver Cloud SFE121, owned by George & Fiona Forbes (Vic.).





Above and below right: In his youth your Editor was often obliged by school friends to field jibes to the effect that Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars were “old-fashioned”. In 1963, came this knock-down answer to the argument! Bentley S3 Continental Park Ward two-door saloon, perhaps BC126XA that our late Branch member Geoff Goodman used to own, and **below** the equivalent coachwork on the Silver Cloud III, SJR583C owned by Martin Cherry (N.S.W.).

Below: Branch members Gos Cory and Peter Colwell during the Concours display day at Bendigo Racecourse.





***Above:** 1927 Twenty Horsepower Barker tourer, GHJ39, in the very long-term ownership of John Reis (Vic.). Polished aluminium coachwork minimises paintwork worries!*

***Below:** The beautifully presented under-bonnet condition of 1935 20/25 h.p. Hooper sports saloon GPG23, owned by Greg Johnston (Vic.), speaks for itself. See also back cover.*





Above: This elegantly-styled modern Bentley is called a Brooklands – clearly not the Bentley Brooklands of the 1990s with which we are more familiar, but a 2008 two-door car of the same model name, BC913832, owned by John Wilson (Vic.).

Below: This 1938 Wraith H.J. Mulliner saloon with division, WXA38, was owned new by Mrs K. Tennant of South Australia. Some older members will recall its restoration by a Hong Kong gentleman in the 1980s. Owner: John Rowney (Qld.).





***Above:** Said to have been a recent local 'find', this Twenty Horsepower roadster was photographed on the Concours day but could not be identified using the Rally Handbook.*

***Below:** 1966 Bentley T Series H.J. Mulliner, Park Ward two-door saloon, SBH1973, owned by Brian Williams (Vic.).*





A man and his car. In fact a man who could scarcely be more relaxed or content with his motor car. Greg Johnston (Vic.), an old friend of the Editor's from the early days of the R.R.O.C. membership of both in the mid-1960s, with his fine 1935 20/25 h.p. Hooper sports saloon, GPG23, during the Federal Concours at Bendigo Racecourse. Photograph by the Editor.

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