



THE CAPITAL LETTER

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



Branch mailing address:
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DEDICATED TO ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY ENTHUSIASTS

Summer 2019 / 2020



WXA31

1938 Wraith H.J. Mulliner sedan de ville

Real Car Co., U.K.



From the Editor & President

hjmullinersw@bigpond.com



I trust that all members had an enjoyable Christmas and holiday period, and I join with the other members of the Committee in our best wishes to all for 2020.

My thanks to the 20 Branch members who turned out for the End-of-year Get-together at our house on November 30th. These were as follows:

Joe Quattrocchi (Federal President)
Jane & Stephen Beer
Martin & Manuela Bennett (hosts)
Ray & Raine Gulson
Peter Hyland
Ian & Ida Irwin
Ken & Frances Lo
Ian & Tina Oliver
Chris & Narelle O'Rourke
Bryce & Marcia Ronning
John Tetley
Peter Toet



I particularly thank my wife Manuela for the superbly efficient way in which she carried out the task of catering for so many, and Bryce & Marcia for very kindly arriving early to assist.

The following day the pleasant location of Queanbeyan Park came into its own again as we enjoyed another excellent Club 

Below: One of my U.S. correspondents, Bill Wolf, sent this shot of the latest version of the Bentley Continental GTC at a Bentley centenary function in New York.



Front Cover: 1938 Wraith H.J. Mulliner sedan de ville, WXA31. This elegant car is the subject of a most enjoyable movie clip on Youtube, with pre-war jazz accompaniment by Lionel Hampton. Photograph courtesy of the Real Car Co., U.K.

turn-out for the Terribly British Day, with 16 Rolls-Royce & Bentley cars including five from the N.S.W. Branch. Members of our neighbouring Branch who were seen on the day included the following:

Jeanne Eve (President) & John Matheson – Bentley Bentayga
 Mike & Linda Eames – Bentley Continental GT
 John Elmes
 David Glasheen and Mark Glanville – Goodwood 2-door model
 LeRoy Jones – Silver Spirit
 Mike Mulvihill – Silver Cloud II

Many if not all of these members had attended their Branch's Presentation dinner in Sydney the night before, so driving down to Queanbeyan the following morning was an heroic effort. My thanks for swelling our numbers and apologies for any omissions in the above list.

Our first event for 2020 will be our annual joint A.C.T./N.S.W. event to commemorate the arrival of the first Rolls-Royce car into Australia (see below). At the end of April there is also a tremendous opportunity for A.C.T. Branch members with the 'Great Gatsby' Federal Rally being held within easy driving distance in Leura, N.S.W. Our members are encouraged to register for what will undoubtedly be a particularly enjoyable Federal Rally.

Martin Bennett
Branch President

Branch Events Calendar

Members should please note that dates and details of events listed here are in some cases indicative only and are subject to change. Timely notice of forthcoming events is provided by email but in the event of any doubt please contact the Secretary or President to confirm – contact details on the back cover of each edition of *The Capital Letter*.

FEBRUARY

Wednesday February 5th: Branch Meeting at the Ainslie Football Club. Dinner from 6.00 p.m., Meeting at 7.30.

Saturday & Sunday February 15th & 16th: Annual joint A.C.T./N.S.W. event commemorating the first Rolls-Royce car to arrive in Australia. 'Gourmet Gadabout' dinner on Saturday evening at Le Tres Bon, Bungendore. To take part please contact Nick Illek at nicklin@nicklin.com.au or mobile 0418 220 013. Sunday February 16th, Tour of Riversdale Homestead, Goulburn, 11.00 a.m., followed by a light lunch at the same venue. Contact: Jeanne Eve (jeanneeve@gmail.com or 0466 667 041) or your Editor. *Please note amendments to earlier information regarding this weekend.*

MARCH

Sunday March 1st: 'Wheels' 2020, Queanbeyan Showground.

APRIL/MAY

Wednesday April 1st: Branch Meeting at the Ainslie Football Club. Dinner from 6.00 p.m., Meeting at 7.30.

Wednesday April 29th to Monday May 4th: The 62nd annual Federal Rally of the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club of Australia, Leura, Blue Mountains, New South Wales. Please use the Rally Registration Form to register and pay.

Sunday May 24th: Branch Brunch run to Sutton Bakery. This was well-supported last year and we look forward to your company again. Car inspections and discussions in the Bakery car-park.

JUNE

Wednesday June 3rd: Branch Meeting at the Ainslie Football Club. Dinner from 6.00 p.m., Meeting at 7.30.

Sunday June 14th: Battle of Waterloo. British and French car owners battle it out for the supremacy of their respective marques. The winner is the side with the greater number of vehicles on the battleground at 12.00 noon.

JULY

Sunday July 5th: Vineyard run to Shaw's of Murrumbateman, where you can sample award-winning cool-climate wines and enjoy lunch at Olleyville restaurant within the winery.



SMART Register weekend

Orange N.S.W.

Photographs from Peter Hyland.

Above: Third from left is our Secretary Peter Hyland's 1982 Silver Spirit ASC04176.

Left: Peter Hyland is on the right of the photograph. The lovely 1963 Silver Cloud III under the portico is SCX245, owned by Victoria Branch member John Bidgood, nearest the camera.





***Above:** It is not difficult to detect in this photograph a quiet contentment. And why indeed would member Bryce Ronning be feeling any other way while driving his 1949 Silver Wraith? **Below** we see the vital signs reading very satisfactorily. This wonderful car is seen again on page 12, at the Terribly British Day, and its luxurious interior is seen on page 19 with its previous owners. Photographs by the Editor.*





Steve Stuckey and the Phantom III

Advertising the Rolls-Royce Phantom III, by Steve Stuckey. Published 2019 by Nubes Argentea, Italy.

A.C.T. Branch member Steve Stuckey is known world-wide for his unrivalled knowledge of, and enthusiasm for, the Rolls-Royce Phantom III. Following the 2015 publication of his fabulous book *The Spectre Arises: the Story of the Phantom III, the ultimate Pre-war Rolls-Royce*, the publisher in Italy, Nubes Argentea, has released a further Phantom III book: *Advertising the Rolls-Royce Phantom III*.

Aside from being a wonderful exercise in pre-Second World War nostalgia, this new publication shows us how Rolls-Royce cars were advertised in the mid- to late-1930s – and in some cases a little later – by the Company, the coachbuilders and the dealerships, in the motoring press and in ‘society’ magazines of the time. Most of the advertisements are very charming, and Steve has drawn on his incomparable knowledge of the Phantom III to identify nearly all of the cars shown. In some cases the very picturesque photographic locations are identified, too. A remarkably fine book of which we in our Club can be justly proud.

Martin Bennett

1937 Phantom III Park Ward saloon, 3BT147.





Above: Strange though it may seem, many of the photographs I receive from other countries these days feature Silver Wraiths! This handsome example, from New Zealand, is a 1948 Freestone & Webb saloon with division, WVA75.

Below: Bill Wolf spotted this 1949 Silver Wraith in apparently disused condition, parked just off a street in Santa Monica, California. The original U.K. number-plate, still displayed on the rear, allowed it to be identified as WZB53, a James Young saloon. A nice project for somebody.





Above: Bryce Ronning and Federal President Joe Quattrocchi relaxing outdoors.

End-of-year Get-together

30th November 2019

Below: Manuela Bennett and Marcia Ronning remained gracious and cheerful throughout the marathon effort of preparing twenty breakfasts!





Above: Ian & Tina Oliver's 2016 Bentley Continental GT, BNG56355.

Below: Chris & Narelle O'Rourke's 1957 Silver Cloud SED51.





Above: Ian Irwin, with Stephen & Jane Beer.



Above: Bryce Ronning and Tina Oliver.

Below: From left-to-right: Narelle O'Rourke, Marcia Ronning, Chris O'Rourke, Joe Quattrocchi, with Stephen Beer in the background.





Above: Federal President Joe Quattrocchi's 1986 Bentley Mulsanne BSG14738.

Below: John Tetley's 1987 Bentley Turbo R BSH21535.





Above: Ray Gulson's green 1988 Bentley Eight BEJ23222 blending nicely with the lush green of Queanbeyan Park.

Terribly British Day Queanbeyan Park

1st December 2019

Below: From left-to-right: Bryce Ronning's 1949 Silver Wraith Hooper touring limousine WFC67, Chris O'Rourke's 1957 Silver Cloud SED51 and your Editor's 1950 Silver Wraith H.J. Mulliner touring limousine WHD101.





Above: LeRoy Jones (N.S.W.) brought his 1987 Silver Spirit ASJ22283. Behind is Peter Toet's 1935 Phantom II Thrupp & Maberly limousine, 93TA.

Below: N.S.W. member Mark Glanville pointing something out under the bonnet of your Editor's Silver Wraith WHD101. Photograph by Jeanne Eve (N.S.W.).





Above: A brace of Branch Presidents: Martin Bennett (A.C.T.) and Jeanne Eve (N.S.W.).
Photograph by John Matheson (N.S.W.).



Above: A brace of Bentley Continental GTs: 2013 model BND85948 owned by Mike & Linda Eames (N.S.W.) alongside Ian & Tina Oliver's 2016 model, BNG56355.



Below: The two Bentleys on the left are 1987 Turbo R BSH21535 and 1981 Mulsanne BSB03228, both owned by John Tetley, while the right-hand car is 1961 Silver Cloud II SZD313, owned by Mike Mulvihill (N.S.W.).

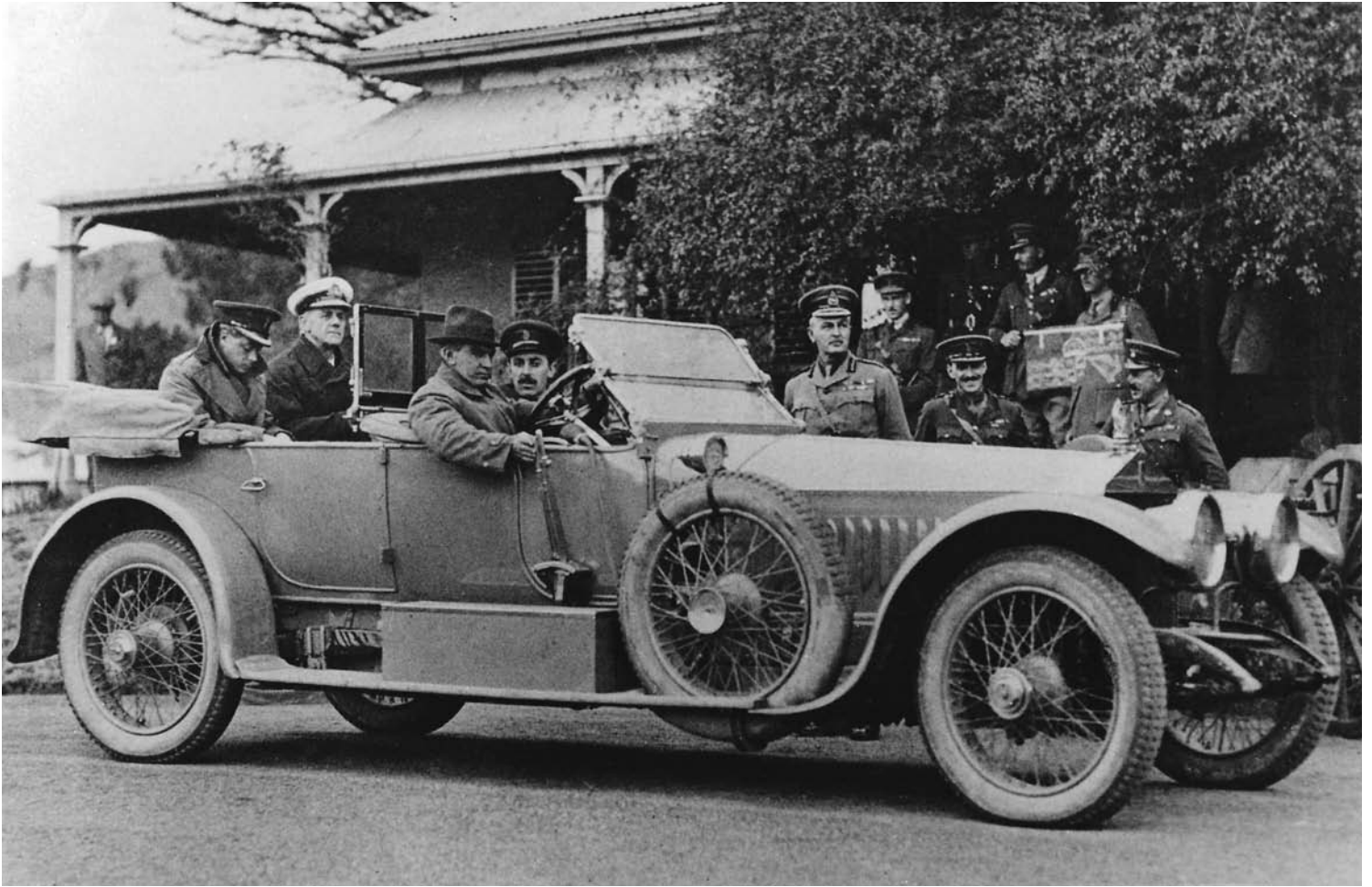




Above: Neither a Rolls-Royce nor a Bentley, the Editorial eye was nevertheless caught by this delectable mid-1960s Alvis TE21 – or perhaps TF21, the final series. The magnificent drophead coupé coachwork is by Mulliner Park Ward, with several features in common with Bentley Continentals of the period.

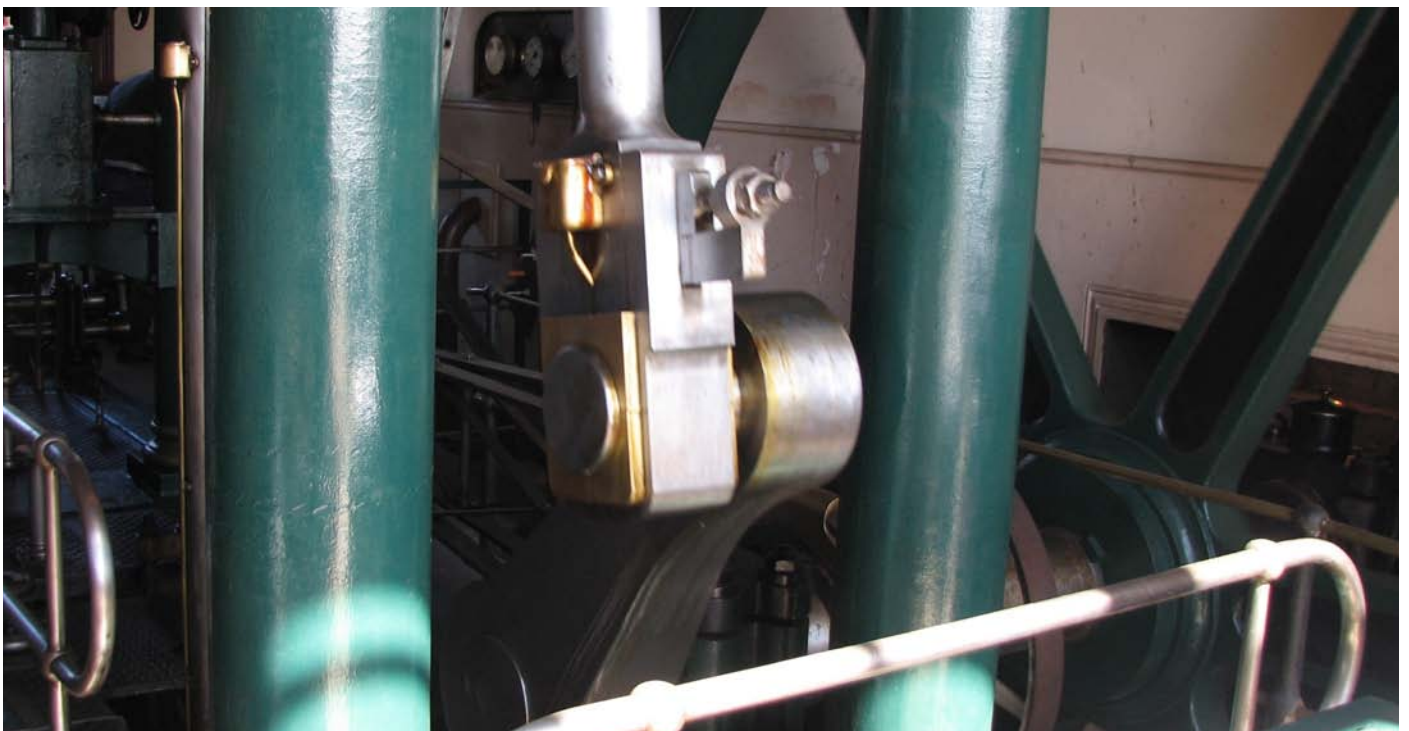
Below: Also with magnificent coachwork by Mulliner Park Ward, this very handsome early Silver Shadow two-door saloon is not on our Branch register, and with A.C.T. registration probably not a New South Wales car either. It was parked with our group but I didn't see the owner – so we have a mystery car!





Above: At the end of World War 1, HMS Renown was refitted as a royal yacht to transport Edward, Prince of Wales, to Australia for his highly successful 1920 Royal Tour, to officially thank the people of Australia for the sacrifices made during the Great War. The official war artist, Arthur Streeton, captured the arrival of Renown in his painting, HMS Renown, Sydney Harbour, which conveyed great excitement at the Prince's arrival. The Prince, later King Edward VIII, is seen here in the then eight-year-old Silver Ghost, chassis 1884, with Naval and Army 'top brass' at Duntroon, Canberra. This wonderful photograph has been previously published more than once, not least by Ian Irwin in his books, but was thought to be worth running again, particularly for the benefit of those members who may not have seen it before.

Below: Henry Royce would have been proud of the design, engineering and craftsmanship inherent in the Goulburn Waterworks' 1883 steam beam-engine, which in September several members saw in its smooth and silent operation.





Above: Roger Thiedeman sent this photograph showing the result of perhaps the first serious accident in India involving a Rolls-Royce. The car involved was a 1908 Silver Ghost Barker Roi-des-Belges tourer, chassis 60738. The scene of the accident, which occurred around March 1910, was the Anderson Bridge in Madras. The clearly ill-fated car was repaired but during the Great War an attempt was made to return it to Britain, possibly for potential war use, and the ship on which it was conveyed was torpedoed and sunk.

Below: During the End-of-Year Get-together, any member venturing into the hosts' garage, as some did, might have spotted the illuminated sign that used to reside over the main customer entrance of the erstwhile Rolls-Royce London Repair Depot at Hythe Road, Willesden. The sign was seen in its original situation on page 18 of our Winter 2019 edition.





Above: With the coming of the Silver Cloud II and III, their Bentley equivalents and the Phantom V, James Young Ltd had perhaps reached the pinnacle of their styling excellence, though their history was nearly at an end. This 1965 model, CEL71, photographed by your Editor at the 2019 R.R.E.C. Annual Rally, is an example of their 'SCT.100' styling on the Long Wheel-base Silver Cloud III chassis, known as the 'mini-Phantom' due to being a scaled-down James Young Phantom V.

Below: Publisher Dalton Watson always has a stand in the Real Car Company's hospitality tent at the R.R.E.C. Annual Rally. Rolls-Royce book collector Raymond Richard of the Netherlands was photographed with your Editor at the 2017 Rally, after receiving his leather-bound, limited edition and signed copy of Rolls-Royce Silver Wraith.





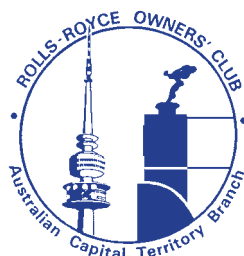
Above: This lovely photograph is included as a tribute to our late member Michael Zwar, seen here with wife Suzie in their 1949 Silver Wraith Hooper touring limousine soon after Michael had completed the fine restoration that brought it to the condition we see today. This is of course WFC67, now the pride and joy of the contented gentleman we saw on page 5.

Below: Auctioned in Melbourne recently was this 1961 Bentley S2 Continental Park Ward drophead coupé, BC69BY, which has been a Club car off and on over many years. A second example with a slightly later chassis number, BC86BY, has also been offered, in as-new condition or perhaps better given today's superior finishing techniques and materials.





Secretary Peter Hyland's 1982 Silver Spirit ASC04176 during the recent End-of-year Get-together (page 8).



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