

# The best of British Rolls into Queanbeyan, and they're not the only ones making a marque

5 March 2022 | [James Coleman](#)



Rolls Royce at Rydges Hotel Canberra. Photo: James Coleman.

The champagne is bubbling, 250-odd rooms are booked, and the car park is full of gleaming Rolls Royces at The Rydges hotel on Canberra Avenue at the moment. But before you think it must be either a dream wedding or the mother of all international delegations, it's the [64th Federal Rally of the Rolls Royce Owners' Club of Australia](#), and they'll all be converging on Queanbeyan on Sunday (6 March) for a concours-style public show.

President of the club Peter Hyland expects up to 120 cars to be parked in order of age at the Queanbeyan Town Park from 10 am to 3 pm.

"People from all over Australia have come for this ... except for WA," Peter said.



Peter Hyland, president of Rolls Royce Owners' Club of Australia (ACT Branch), at Rydges Hotel Canberra. Photo: James Coleman.

The rally is an annual event for the national club and last came to Canberra in 2017. Peter says the owners are overjoyed to be back together after COVID-19 restrictions have put the kibosh on many of their regular events.

“We were concerned about COVID here, and then when everybody realised the borders were open, I just got flooded with applications. They’ve all come!”

The Rolls Royces won’t be the only ones providing a strong whiff of petrol (and probably a bit of oil) in Queanbeyan on Sunday, either. Only a few streets away at the Queanbeyan Showground, another car show will present over 700 cars and bikes from all manner of brands from 10 am to 1:30 pm.



A quick morning tinker. Photo: James Coleman.

Sponsored by Shannons Insurance, the annual [Wheels](#) is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, attracting historic, modified, electric and other special interest vehicles from car clubs in Canberra and beyond.

The local Rolls Royce club usually participates, but Peter says it's "pure coincidence" the two shows align.

"I said to Wheel's organisers that normally, we would be there, but it just so happens, the rally falls on the same weekend."



2022 marks the 100th birthday of the Rolls Royce Twenty. Photo: James Coleman.

Owners first started rolling in during the week, and the Rolls Royces will continue to be a common sight in Canberra and the surrounding region until a breakfast event bids them farewell on Monday, 7 March. A busy activity schedule encourages owners and their families to make the most of their time in the national capital.

“Some of these really old cars can only do 50 km/h as their top speed,” Peter says. “A couple of them took four days to get from Melbourne. You can’t push them fast, and they just don’t go fast.”

Peter himself owns a 1994 Silver Spirit III, which he describes as the last of the true English Rolls Royces.

“The modern ones are Rolls Royce in name, but they’re actually BMWs.”



Rolls Royce at Rydges Hotel Canberra. Photo: James Coleman.