

Concours d'Elegance and Display Day

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. **Sunday, 20th September 2009** is the date for the 34th Annual Concours d' Elegance and Display Day of the Mercedes-Benz Club of the A.C.T. This year marks a couple of significant anniversaries for Mercedes-Benz – the 50th anniversary of the W111 (or Finnie) and the 30th continuous year of production of the G-Wagen. As in recent years, the event will be an integral part of the Shannons German Autofest. We hope that Canberra's superb spring weather will attract visitors from neighbouring clubs with their Mercedes-Benz vehicles to compete or display. Interstate visitors should be aware that water restrictions mean that car washing facilities are limited and may vary between now and Concours time. Combined with opportunities during the weekend for touring through some of the most attractive country in Australia, you can also enjoy the national capital and get thoroughly social with other Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts.

A WEEKEND OF OPPORTUNITY

2. The pre-Concours dinner on Saturday, 19th September 2009 will be held at the Diplomat Boutique Hotel, on Canberra Ave (cnr Hely Street), Griffith (tel. 02 6295 2277). Cost will be \$36 per person for a 2 course dinner, with drinks an additional cost payable as you order.

3. Arrival time is 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start. Gentlemen will be comfortable in a jacket. Payment in advance to the Club should be made on the accompanying booking form and RSVP by Wednesday 9th September. Enquiries to Margaret Walsh on 02 6296 2331 or at margaretwalsh@dodo.com.au If you require a vegetarian or other special meal, please let Margaret know in advance. If you want to stay at the Diplomat, they have a special rate for room and breakfast, but you must mention the Mercedes-Benz Concours to get this rate when you book. There is secure undercover parking at the hotel.

4. This year the Concours is being held at a brand new venue on the southern shore of Lake Burley Griffin, on the area known as the Patrick White Lawns, located lake-side of the National Library in Parkes. The only vehicle access to the venue is from just past the National Library car park on Parkes Place West. Signs will be erected and marshalls will guide you in to the display area. The Mercedes-Benz Club will occupy the area next to shady trees on the northern (lake-side) of the Lawns. The High Court, the National Gallery, the National Library, Parliament House and the new Federation Place are all nearby and Floriade is just a leisurely stroll across the Commonwealth Avenue Bridge.

5. To help with the smooth organisation of the event, we ask that our local and interstate friends alike declare their intention to enter the Concours or to display their car by filling out the Concours registration form and sending it, with the entry fee, to
The Concours Director
Mercedes-Benz Club of the ACT Inc
PO BOX 1093, WODEN, ACT, 2606.

Entry fee for the Concours is \$12 per vehicle. Members wishing to provide display vehicles pay a \$2 entry fee, and may purchase a Concours medallion for an additional \$5 (included in the Concours entry fee). Please register your intention to enter or display by Wednesday 9th September, so we can arrange the best presentation of the cars.

If you have e-mail facilities please e-mail the Concours Director, Peter Mulquiney, at peter.mulquiney@defence.gov.au or mulquineys@internode.on.net of your intentions as well, so that he is informed prior to the event of your impending arrival, and particularly if your entry form will arrive after the 9th September.

Those competing or displaying are asked to arrive between 8.00 am and 9.30 am.

SHANNONS GERMAN AUTOFEST

6. For several years our Concours has been run in conjunction with displays by other German motoring clubs in the A.C.T. Much appreciated financial and moral support from Shannons Insurance Corporation, allows the combined German motoring clubs in the A.C.T., with support from some marque dealerships, to once again stage the Autofest, a public display of historic, classic and modern Audi, BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche and VW cars and BMW motorcycles.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

8. The rules governing the conduct of the A.C.T. Concours d' Elegance are available on the club's website www.act.mercedes-benz-clubs.com or are available in hard copy on request. If you have any questions, please phone the Concours Director, Peter Mulquiney on 0412 242 070. Questions on the pre-Concours function should be put to Margaret Walsh on 02 6296 2331(h).

RULES

INTRODUCTION

9. The Concours d' Elegance display goes back to the time when true coach building was the order of the day, and the proud owners of these vehicles paraded in finery to match their Broughams and Victorias. In later years, these events have been superseded by the mechanical age and the likes of Pebble Beach in the USA. - Daunting stuff but not that of the true enthusiasts' Concours exemplified by the car movement worldwide.

10. Mercedes-Benz clubs around Australia represent the real spirit of motor enthusiasts, none more so than the A.C.T. Club which has staged an annual Concours since its formation in 1976. Like all other authorised Australian MB Clubs, we welcome interstate visitors and competitors and acknowledge the strong support we have received for many years, particularly from the N.S.W. and Victoria Clubs.

11. Our Concours, like many others in the club movement around Australia, recognises that people don't possess the special cars that are a feature of the big overseas events. What Australia does have is a rich motoring history. The A.C.T. Club has designed a Concours structure and rules which encourage competition between cars used every day, as well as the rarely used vehicles. In the rules and the conduct of our Concours, there is nothing to prevent your car winning on the day.

12. Entry is open to financially current members of a recognised Mercedes-Benz Club. The vehicle entered must be owned by or legally the responsibility of the members entering that vehicle. To be eligible for judging for awards higher than Class level, the vehicle must have travelled a minimum 10,000kms since new. The Concours Director must receive the completed entry form and appropriate fee no later than 10 am on the day of the Concours although earlier notification would be much appreciated. The acceptance of any entry shall be at the discretion of the Concours Director in consultation with the Chief Judge.

STRUCTURE

13. There is one non-competitive and three competitive divisions;
- Road Division
 - Club Division
 - Champion Division, and
 - Display Division.

Trophies are awarded for various classes within these divisions, with further trophies available as listed later in this section. All decisions about awarding trophies will be made by the Chief Judge, except for the President's Award, which is at his or her discretion, and will be final. If the Chief Judge becomes aware of a dispute arising or likely to arise, within the judging team or if the ranking of vehicles is very close, the Chief Judge will seek the advice of the review panel comprising the Concours Director, the President and the Vice President.

14. Road Division. There are six trophy classes for Road Division as shown in the table at the end of this publication. To be eligible cars must qualify by completing a specified distance since the previous Concours. Proof of mileage may be required. These cars will be judged on those aspects that would be visible if parked on the street (i.e. paintwork, chrome, tyres etc.) At the discretion of the owner, the car may be entered for the engine bay awards. Winners in Road Division in the 12 months just finished will be required to compete in Club Division.

15. There is a minimum standard for a win in any Road class. If no car within a certain class achieves this standard then the Chief Judge, subject to paragraph 13 above, has the right not to award a trophy.

16. Commercial class applies only in Road Division. Eligible vehicles must be dedicated commercial vehicles. No deductions will be made for vehicles with sign writing. Modified Class applies only in Club Division. Modified vehicles are those that have been significantly modified from the original design. Specifications of modifications may be requested by the Chief Judge to decide if the vehicle is appropriate to enter this class. Official Mercedes-Benz approved AMG models are not regarded as modified cars.

17. Club Division. There are 16 (see my notes on classes) trophy classes for Club Division as shown in the table. There is a minimum qualifying distance of 500 miles or 800 kms to be travelled in the year just finished. All aspects of the car will be judged according to our "Standard of Presentation" statement below. Club Division winners from the previous year will have to compete in the Champion Division. If owners wish to continue to compete in Club Division they will have to travel the qualifying distance for the equivalent Class in Road Division (eg. a W116 which won in Club Division in the previous year must do 10,000kms to compete again in Club Division).

18. There is a minimum standard for a win in any Club class. If no car within a certain class achieves this standard then the Chief Judge, subject to paragraph 13 above, has the right not to award a trophy.

19. Champion Division. This is our "Champion of Champions" Division. Entrants are the various winners from Club Division the previous year. Cars are judged on the same basis as Club Division and the winner will be awarded the Mercedes-Benz (Australia) Champions Trophy. Winners of Champion Division automatically revert to their respective Club Class the following year.

20. Display Division. This is the non- competitive Division where we encourage the display of cars that do not meet, for example, distance criteria. "Museum" cars, or cars which are specifically kept for display and do not get driven, or newly restored cars, are examples. Through their display we can all admire their beauty and the attention to detail expended on them.

21. Trophies. Trophies are awarded for various classes within the competitive divisions and for Outright Winner and Runner-Up of the Concours. There is also a range of trophies for engine bay, interior etc.

22. Engine Bay Awards. There are two awards for best engine bay - "Simple" and "Complex". The Chief Judge will make the defining line between the 2 awards on the day.

23. Distance Award. The distance to Canberra from the member's registered vehicle garage is used to determine an award for the greatest distance travelled to the Concours.
24. Best Paint Finish Award. A recent respray won't necessarily beat an excellent original paint finish.
25. Best ACT Vehicle Interior Award - MB Club of Victoria Trophy. This is presented to an ACT vehicle (judged by select members of the MB Club of Victoria) scoring the highest points overall for its interior.
26. Life Members Encouragement Award. This is awarded by the consensus of Life Members present on the day or, if there are no Life Members present, then the award is to be judged by the Chief Judge subject to paragraph 13 above. It is generally awarded as an encouragement for the owner of a car that has not been successful in its class.
27. Outright Winner and Runner-Up. The Outright winner is for the highest score of any entrant including Champion of Champions, and the Runner-Up is for the second highest such score.
28. President's Award. At the President's discretion.

STANDARD OF PRESENTATION

29. The standard of presentation is that the car is to be displayed in as close a condition as it was when it left the showroom. Judging is divided into a number of categories as follows:
30. Exterior. This includes paintwork, chrome, glass and lenses. Our attitude is that a well maintained original finish is just as good as a new respray. Obviously if the old paint is buffed through to the primer this does not apply. Stone chips that have been filled and repaired are acceptable. Chrome bumpers should have the correct finish on the inside. All lenses should be clean and unscratched.
31. Interior. This includes the entire interior except glass. Judging is based on cleanliness, completeness and originality. Clean under your seats and under the carpets. Non - genuine radios are permitted so long as they suit the age of the car and other accessories must also be appropriate for the car's vintage.
32. Underneath. This is where we differ from some other clubs' Concours rules. As many of our entrants need to travel great distances to get to our Concours we look to see that underneath was as clean as when you left home. Under the guards in the wheel arches should be as clean as you can get them at your Canberra

accommodation. But the odd spot of tar and road grime in the floor pan and tunnel area will not be penalised. Make sure your lower suspension arms are clear of stones. Tyres and wheels should be clean inside and out.

33. Boot. Boots should be neat and tidy with an original boot mat. The spare tyre must be consistent with other road tyres, and be clean and in roadworthy condition. Available for inspection with owner in attendance should be keys, logbooks, owners' manuals and tool kit. Underside of boot lid should be painted as per original specification eg. Generally black or grey depending upon model.

34. Engine Bay. This includes everything seen and "checkable" with the bonnet up. Engine components should not be polished or chromed. Aluminium surfaces should be bead blasted, not silver frosted. Points will be deducted for incorrect hoses, battery clamps, ignition leads etc. If your vehicle is fitted with a bonnet sound-deadening pad it must be clean and not oily. If car alarms are fitted they should be discreetly installed.

35. General. Overall, our definition of the perfect car is one that is both well maintained and extremely clean - as it was when it was delivered to its first owner at the show room. With age taking its toll on all cars, it will be the best cars in their class on the day that will win.

36. While we have mentioned the word "original" several times, we also acknowledge that claiming a certain part to be non-genuine can open a "can of worms". It is our policy that, should a question of originality decide between a win and a loss, the Chief Judge will consult the club member beforehand.

37. All sections will be judged in Club and Champion Divisions. Road Division cars are judged to the same standard but only the exterior and wheels are judged. While the interior and underneath of the car are not judged they are expected to be in above average condition. In the event of a tie for a class win for Road Division the interior will be judged.

38. Cars with either a soft-top or hardtop should have the soft top displayed in the raised position.

39. No points will be deducted for non - German first aid kits, but all first aid kits should be stored appropriately for the model, i.e. in its correct storage compartment and should be as original as reasonably possible.

40. No points will be deducted for upgraded fire extinguishers.

41. Seat covers must be removed for cars in Club Division, Champion of Champions and Outright awards; otherwise a 50% point deduction will be made for the interior section.

DETAILING HINTS

42. Clean all glass with a single sided razor blade, especially the edges against the window rubber. Clean side windows with the window down a bit so you can clean all the way to the top.
43. Wash difficult panels of your car down with Prepsol (single panel at a time, wipe off quickly) before polishing it to remove tar spots and other road grime (Prepsol is available from Allard Auto Paint, an A.C.T. Club sponsor).
44. Park cars with wheels straight ahead, seatbelts neatly displayed, and all logbooks, keys, and owners' manual ready to be inspected. This makes a good impression on the judges.
45. Don't use black paint on tyres. After many applications it cracks and looks dreadful. Use a silicon tyre treatment or, even better, just a good detergent. Don't forget tyres have 2 sides. Wash them both and check them when you get to the Concours. Also, don't be tempted to paint the boot mat with black tyre paint.
46. Remember that judges have fingers as well as eyes! Clean everywhere that a judge could stick his or her finger - eg. Inside lip of mudguards and under air cleaner.
47. Make sure all radiator hose clamps are the same brand and are pointing in the same direction.
48. Clean under the seats on the adjusting rails. After cleaning apply a small amount of white grease. Clean the excess grease around door hinges.

FINAL COMMENTS

49. Entrants who have not registered and/or don't have their car in place by 10 am will not be judged.
50. Judges will not go looking for owners to open a car where this is relevant so either the owner must be beside the car or it must be left unlocked.
51. The Chief Judge can, at his or her discretion, combine classes where there is a poor attendance or split large classes.
52. It is considered bad form to "check out" the judging form on your car whilst judging is underway. Judges come back and mark the score either up or down depending on what other cars score.
53. Remember, come along and enjoy yourselves. The real winners on the day will be our respective clubs, which aim to promote the Mercedes-Benz marque!

MOST IMPORTANT

The whole idea is to get as many of us together with our vehicles as possible. So please, remember that all vehicles are well regarded, and if you wish to compete as well as display, you can always enter in Road Division.

Each year German Autofest supports a local charity and helps them to raise funds. They are always very helpful with publicising our event so it would be great if you could attend the German Autofest with a view to helping out this very worthwhile organisation.

CONCOURS CLASSES 2009

BODY STYLE	ROAD DIVISION		CLUB DIVISION
	Class	Qualifying Distance	Class
Pre-war and chassis cars, Type 170, 220 and 300 sedan, coupe and cabriolet	1	4,000kms	A
Roundie sedan, coupe and cabriolet	1	4,000kms	B
300 SL gullwing/roadster, 190SL roadster/coupe, Pagoda-roof SL	1	4,000kms	C
W111/112 coupe and cabriolet – 220 / 250 / 280 / 300 / 3.5, Finnie 190 / 200 / 220 / 230 / 300 sedan	1	5,000kms	D
W108/109 250, 280, 300, 3.5 & 6.3 sedan, Compact W114 / 115 sedan and coupe, W100 600 Grosser limousines,	1	5,000kms	E
W107 SL and SLC	2	7,500kms	F
S Class W116 sedans and wagons, W123 sedan, wagon & coupe	2	7,500kms	G
W126 sedan & C126 coupe	3	10,000kms	H
W124, W201 sedan, wagon, coupe and cabriolet	3	10,000kms	I
W129 Roadster, W140 S-class, W202 sedans & wagons, W210 sedans & wagons, W208 coupe/cabriolets	4	10,000kms	J
A-, ML- , “Current” models from 2000 on	4	10,000kms	K
Modified or Special Vehicles	N/A	N/A	L
Commercial Vehicles, G-Wagens	5	10,000kms	N/A

**OUTRIGHT WINNERS OF PAST CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE of the
MERCEDES - BENZ CLUB of the ACT (Inc)**

YEAR	WINNER	CAR
1976	J. Farrelley	230 SL
1977	A. Kocandrie	250 CE
1978	K. Montgomery	190 c
1979	K. Montgomery	280 SE
1980	A. Pappin	190 SL
1981	J. Edwards	230 S
1982	A. Pappin	190 SL
1983	J & L Schneider	450 SL
1984	J & L Schneider	450 SL
1985	J & L Schneider	450 SL
1986	C & W Gronau	300 d
1987	G. Woyde & J. Shipton (tie)	240 D & 560 SEC
1988	G. Woyde	240 D
1989	R. Green	220 a
1990	R. Zak	280 SE
1991	R. Green	220 a
1992	R. Zak	280 SE
1993	G. Yanis	600 GROSSER
1994	G. Yanis	600 GROSSER
1995	R. Lewis	600 SL
1996	R. Zak	280 SE
1997	N. Harding	190 SL
1998	S. Morris	450 SLC
1999	S. Morris	450.SLC
2000	L & A Miller	250 SE/C
2001	L & A Miller	250 SE/C
2002	L & A Miller	220 a
2003	W. Fitzgerald	190 SL
2004	W. Fitzgerald	190 SL
2005	W. Fitzgerald	190 SL
2006	W. Fitzgerald	190 SL
2007	J & M. Fleming	CLK 320
2008	L & A Miller	250 SE/C