



## Mercedes-Benz Club of the ACT

# 2019 Concours d'Élégance and Display Day

Sunday, 22 September 2019  
Canberra Greyhound Racing Club,  
Jerrabomberra Ave, Symonston

In conjunction with Shannons German Auto Day

### BACKGROUND

Preliminary articles on the Mercedes-Benz Club's 2019 Concours d'Élegance were provided in the April / May and June / July editions of *StarACT*, outlining the revised structure and introducing the process of Group Coordinators tasked with responsibility of encouraging and recording membership attendance, thereby enabling assignment of cars to appropriate divisions and classes.

This latter arrangement is aimed at permitting an impressive display in a way that will inform observers about the evolution of the Mercedes-Benz marque. Having been undertaken, these measures have enabled the production of an informative, interesting, challenging and enjoyable concours and display.

A **highlight** of this display is to be, in support of the emphasis on evolution, the replica **1886 Benz Patent Motorwagen**, the world's first motor car, kindly provided by Mercedes-Benz Australia, and Mercedes-Benz Canberra. It is one of the 12 replicas built by apprentices in Stuttgart using only tools and materials available to Carl Benz in 1885. These replicas were then distributed to Mercedes-Benz centres around the world.

### GERMAN AUTO DAY (GAD)

GAD is a multi-club annual event staged by the BMW, Mercedes-Benz, Porsche and VW clubs of the ACT. Each club conducts its own competitive event in a pleasant social setting. Participants are encouraged to bring family and friends to enjoy the day. Food and beverage vendors of varying types have been arranged. Those who wish are welcome to bring their own picnic fare. It is suggested that participants also bring folding picnic tables and chairs to enjoy these arrangements. The Mercedes-Benz Club will be providing a free bus service for participants and family members who, having finished looking into engine bays and boots, wish to visit the spectacular Floriade Festival on the northern shore of Lake Burley Griffin, and other tourist sites on the southern shore including Parliament House and the lakefront.

### MERCEDES-BENZ CLUB CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE

This article sets out the Concours Rules, Structure, Trophies and Awards, Standard of Presentation, Entry Fees and Registration Arrangements.

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## A. CONCOURS RULES

1. Entry is open to financial members of the Mercedes-Benz Club of the ACT, financial members of associated Mercedes-Benz clubs, Mercedes-Benz owners who are members of associated GAD clubs, and Mercedes-Benz owners who are members of other invited clubs and forums who wish to participate subject to the payment of the appropriate fee as detailed in Section F below.

2. Entrants wishing to enter the event must register their car(s) prior to **Sunday 8 September 2019**, or **Sunday 1 September to benefit from Early Bird arrangements**, as detailed in Section G below. A proper display depends on this.

3. It is requested that vehicles for competition or display be at the designated entrance point between 08.30 am and 09.00 am on the day of the event so they

may be properly parked before 10.00 am. The gates will close for participants at 09.45 am.

4. To be eligible for entry into a competing division, a vehicle must:

- have travelled a minimum of 20,000 kilometres from new, or be a minimum of ten years old – those that do not meet at least one of these alternative criteria will be entered in Display Division;
- have current valid registration, be it full, club or trader's unregistered vehicle permit;
- be in allotted position by 10.00 am; and
- be driven onto and leave the concours arena under its own power.

5. Vehicles leaving the area prior to the award ceremony, which is planned to be at 13:30, will be deemed as having been withdrawn from the competition unless previously agreed with the Concours Director.

6. Vehicles will be judged on three criteria:

- Cleanliness;
- Condition;
- Alignment with Original Equipment Manufacture (OEM).

7. Vehicles in the Modified Class are judged on cleanliness and condition only, not originality and not on the degree of modification.

8. A vehicle that has been completely restored will be judged as being a vehicle in original condition that has been extremely well maintained – it will not be penalized simply for being restored.

9. The Chief Judge's decisions are final and NOT subject to discussion.

10. No concours entrant or his / her associate is permitted to interfere with the judging process. Genuine concerns should be raised with the Concours Director as they arise.

11. Concours judges may approach owners / participants to seek clarification on vehicle details.

12. The Chief Judge is permitted to split or amalgamate classes depending on the number and quality of the vehicles entered.

13. If a vehicle has a soft top and a hard top the owner shall nominate which is to be judged. Open top vehicles must be presented for judging with a top in place.

14. Vehicles to be judged must be unlocked to permit access to the vehicle by the judges. Any vehicle that is locked at the time of judging will not be judged.

15. "For Sale" or other advertising notices are not to be displayed in or on any vehicle. Entrants may display such material within the Club marquee.

16. No trailers will be permitted on the concours parking areas.

17. Vehicle movement between 10.00 am and closure of the event, aimed to be at 3.00 pm, is strongly discouraged for safety reasons.

## B. STRUCTURE

There are three competitive divisions (Gold, Silver and Champion Divisions) and one non-competitive division (Display Division). The following table depicts the allocation of models and styles to the Gold and Silver Divisions. Note that vehicles in Display Division will be parked / displayed with their appropriate Gold and Silver class; those in Champion Division may be displayed separately.

Body Models and Styles	Gold Division Class	Silver Division Class
Pre War and Chassis cars - all pre 1945, plus W136, W191, W186, W187, W188, W189	A	1
Roundie - W120, W121 (not 190SL), W128, W180, W219, sedan, coupe and cabriolet	B	1
60s Sedans - W110, W111, W112; W108, W109	C	1
60s Coupe and Cabriolet - W111, W112	D	1
Early Roadster and Gullwing - W121 (190SL), W113 (Pagoda), W198	E	2
70s Roadster / Coupe - R/C107 SL and SLC	F	2
E Class Early - W114, W115; W123, S123 sedan, coupe, wagon	G	3
S Class Early - W116 sedan, W126 sedan, C126 coupe, W100 (600 Grosser)	H	3
C, CLK Class Early - W201, W202, S202, W208 sedan, coupe, cabriolet, wagon	I	4
E Class Mid Era - W124 sedan, C124 coupe, A124 cabriolet, S124 wagon; W210 sedan, wagon,	J	4
Roadster Mid Era - R129, R170,	K	4
Roadster Late, SLK, SL, SLS, SLR, GT - R171, R172, R230, R231, C190, C197, C199	L	5
A, CLA and B Class - W168, W169, W176, W177, W245, W246, W247, C117, C118, sedan, hatch, coupe	M	5
C, CLK, CLS, E Class Late - W203, W204, W205, C/A209, C/A207, W211, W212, W213, W218, W219, W257, sedan, coupe, cabriolet, wagon	N	5
SUV variants Late - X156, X253, R Class W251, Flexivan W638, Viano W639, W447	O	6
S Class Late and Maybach - W140, W220, C215, C216, C/A217, W221, W222, sedan, coupe, cabriolet	P	6
G, GL and M Class - W163, W164, X164, W166, X166, W167, C292, W460, W461	Q	6
Modified Vehicles - pre Merger (1993) AMG, other tuners, custom one-offs	R	N/A
Commercial Vehicles - Vito W638, W639, W447, Sprinter W902-906, W907-910, X Class BR470, all Unimog, all Omnibus	N/A	7

**Gold Division.** There are eighteen classes for Gold Division as shown above. All aspects of these cars will be judged according to our "Standard of Presentation" statement at Section D below. Gold Division winners from the previous year will compete in the Champion Division – see below. Modified Class applies only in Gold 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 produced AMG models (ie post-1993) are not regarded as modified cars.

There is a minimum standard for a win in any Gold Class. If no car within a certain class achieves this standard then the Chief Judge has the right to not award a trophy.

**Silver Division.** There are seven classes for Silver Division as shown in the Concours Classes table above. These cars will be judged on those exterior 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.

There is a minimum standard for a win in any Silver Class. If no car within a certain class achieves this standard then the Chief Judge has the right to not award a trophy. Class winners in Silver Division will be automatically elevated to compete in Gold Division at the next annual Concours, after which, if they do not win their class, they may revert to Silver Division at the following Concours.

Commercial class applies only in Silver Division. Eligible vehicles must be dedicated commercial vehicles, or with a military origin. No deductions will be made for vehicles based on their sign writing.

**Champion Division.** This is our "Champion of Champions" Division. Entrants are the various winners

from Gold (or equivalent) Division the previous year. Because this division has not been contested since 2015, the class winners from 2016 and 2017 have been invited to compete in Champion Division this year, 2019. Cars are judged on the same basis as Gold Division and the winner will be awarded the Mercedes-Benz (Australia) Champions Trophy. All entrants in Champion Division will automatically revert to their respective Gold Division Class in the following year.

**Display Division.** This is the non-competitive Division where we encourage the display of cars that have not been entered in the Gold, Silver or Champion Divisions. All attending vehicles not entered into the competitive Divisions are automatically entered into this "show and shine" category. Through their display we can all admire their beauty and the attention to detail expended on them.

If in the opinion of the Chief Judge a Display car is deemed to have promise and be eligible for a competitive Division, and the owner agrees, the vehicle may compete in its newly designated Class.

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## C. AWARDS and TROPHIES

Trophies are to be awarded within the three competitive divisions as follows:

- "Class Winner Award" for each of the classes within the Gold and Silver competitive divisions;
- "Simple" and "Complex" engine bay awards, with the Chief Judge defining the line between the two awards on the day;
- A "Distance Award" for the greatest distance for a car for judging driven to Canberra from the member's registered vehicle garage;
- A "Best Paint Finish Award" noting that a recent re-spray won't necessarily beat an excellent original paint finish;
- A "Best Interior Award" – this is presented to a vehicle scoring the highest points overall for its interior.
- A "Life Members' Encouragement Award", judged by consensus of the Life Members present on the day, will be awarded in each of the Gold and Silver Divisions. If there are no Life Members present, the awards are to be judged by the Chief Judge. It is generally awarded as an encouragement for the owner of a car that has not been successful in its class but which shows promise.
- The "Champion of Champions Award", to the highest points scorer among the class winners from the previous year's concours that makes up the Champions Division. As noted above, in 2019 this Division will comprise invited class winners from years 2016 and 2017.
- "Outright Winner Award" and "Runner-Up Award". The Outright Winner is the highest scorer of any entrant including those in the Champion of Champions Division, and the Runner-Up is the second highest scorer.
- "President's Award". At the President's discretion.

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## D. STANDARD of PRESENTATION for VEHICLES in GOLD DIVISION

The standard of presentation sought for a vehicle in Gold Division is that of a vehicle in condition as close as possible to that when it left the showroom as a new vehicle. Judging is divided into categories as follows:

**Exterior (max 50 points).** This includes paintwork, chrome, glass and lenses. We hold the view that a well maintained original finish is just as good as a new re-spray. Old paint that has been buffed through to the primer will not attract a high points score. Stone chips that have been filled are acceptable. Chrome bumpers should have the correct finish on the inside. All lenses should be clean and unscratched.

**Interior (max 50 points).** This includes the entire interior except glass. Judging is based on cleanliness, completeness and originality in regard to OEM. Seats and carpets should be clean underneath. Seat covers must be removed – if not removed, a 2 points penalty will be made for the interior category. Non-genuine radios are permitted so long as they suit the age of the car, however genuine radios of the era of the car will attract the higher score. Other accessories must be appropriate to the age of the vehicle.

**Underneath (max 50 points).** Under body inspection will be limited, recognizing that many of our entrants need to travel great distances to get to our Concours. Judges will

look to see that floor pans and suspension were clean when the vehicle left home. Under the guards in the wheel arches should however be as clean as can be achieved at the Canberra accommodation. The odd spot of tar and road grime in the floor pan and tunnel area will not be penalised. Lower suspension arms must be clear of stones. Tyres and wheels should be clean inside and out.

**Boot (max 30 points).** Boots should be neat and tidy with original or genuine boot mats where these were originally supplied with the vehicle. It is expected that the spare tyre is consistent with other road tyres and should be in a clean and roadworthy condition. Available for inspection with the owner in attendance should be keys, owner's logbooks, owner's manuals and tool kit. The underside of the boot lid should be painted as per the original specification eg. generally black or grey depending upon model.

**Engine Bay (max 50 points).** This includes everything seen and checkable with the bonnet open. Engine

components should not be polished nor chromed (exception being with the Modified Class). Aluminium surfaces should be bead-blasted, not silver-frosted. Points will be deducted for incorrect hoses, battery clamps, ignition leads, etc. If the vehicle is fitted with a sound-deadening pad, it should be clean and not oily. If a car alarm is fitted it should be installed discreetly.

**General.** Overall, our Club's definition of a perfect vehicle is one that is both well-maintained and extremely clean – the condition that it was in when delivered to its first owner at the show-room. Should a question of originality (OEM) be a deciding factor in a high points score, the Chief Judge will consult the owner beforehand. A class-winning vehicle will be the one with the highest points score in its class.

Points will not be deducted for non-original first aid kits, nor for the inclusion of a fire extinguisher so long as it is legal. First aid kits should be stored in an appropriate way for the model ie in its correct storage compartment if such exists.

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## E. STANDARD of PRESENTATION for VEHICLES in SILVER DIVISION

Vehicles in Silver Division will have only the exterior, visible exhaust and wheels and tyres judged, and this will be at the same standard as for Gold Division. Judging will be done from outside the vehicle with the doors, boot lid and bonnet closed. In the event of a tie for a class win, the interior will be judged.

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## F. ENTRY FEES

The entry fee for Gold, Champion, Silver and Display Divisions is \$30. There is no cost for additional vehicles per owner. A souvenir concours medallion will be provided to each member entering these Divisions. **An Early Bird incentive discount applies if the registration form and the fee is received by Sunday 1 September 2019. This discounted fee is \$15.**

## G. REGISTRATION

All participants entering vehicles into this event are earnestly requested to register by completing and sending in the registration form well before concours day with the payment, preferably before Sunday 1 September but essentially before Sunday 8 September 2019. This will assist with the smooth organisation of the event.

The registration form is available as an inclusion in the August / September 2019 edition of the Club's magazine,

*StarACT*, or attached below. It is important to complete the registration form fully, including details of the vehicle(s) to be entered. Please include your email address so that your registration can be acknowledged and further information about the arrangements can be provided. Instructions on how / where to send the form are shown on the form itself.

The Club's preferred method of payment is by bank transfer. If paying by bank transfer, please ensure you include the reference details on the registration form so that your payment can be identified. Payment by credit card or cheque is also possible. Details are on the registration form.

If you have any questions please contact the Concours Director by email at [concoursdirector@mbclubs-act.org.au](mailto:concoursdirector@mbclubs-act.org.au).

