



This 250SE Coupe owned by Rod Barrett took Gold division D



Shannons 'Best Car Overall' was this 280SL owned by Eros Lazzaro



In need of a last minute polish



Dominic Renda owns both these cars. The 170 won Gold division A.



W111 coupes are always pleasant to see



Terry Ward from Queensland won Gold division I with his red CLK



Awaiting new owners – trophies for the event



Mercedes-Benz Canberra showed this factory replica of the original Benz Patent Motorwagen



Mercedes-Benz Club of the ACT

**2019 Concours
d'Élégance
& Display Day**

**German Auto Day
Sunday, 22 September 2019**

CONCOURS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The German Auto Day (GAD) event, held on Sunday 22 September at the grounds of the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club (CGRC), was a noteworthy success, with fine weather and a great roll-up of participants and the viewing public.

The GAD is an annual event which has been principally sponsored for many years by Shannons. The event is organized by the German car clubs of the ACT – BMW, Porsche, VW and of course Mercedes-Benz. This year, the lead organizer of the event was the VW Club, with the other clubs assisting in various areas. Audi also displayed this year, not yet as a formed club but nevertheless in very good style.

CGRC was a new venue for our annual show, and the staff there provided much appreciated support to the GAD planning team. During that planning it was recognized that a risk existed with the need for all displaying cars to cross the dog track through only one crossing point. But happily, all was okay on the day, and everyone breathed much easier when all were inside!

The largest marque attendance was by Mercedes-Benz with about 120 vehicles, while VW had about 90, BMW and Porsche each showing about 35, and Audi presented about 55. At peak of the day, the ground looked very full!

That Mercedes-Benz attendance was very pleasing - this was a record for us, best ever! A total of 96 vehicles were

registered for the concours before the weekend, and another ten registered early on the day. Further cars entered after registration activity ceased, with observation identifying approximately 120 overall. Most credit for this excellent roll-up must go to early planning and the use of Group Coordinators to encourage members and record their intentions to participate – a system introduced years ago for organizing annual WHEELS displays.

The subsequent requirement for pre-registration by set dates (including the 'Early Bird' concession) aimed at planning the layout down to individual cars. This enabled cars to be grouped by era, type, and model to reflect development of the marque over the generations. Accordingly, those cars to be displayed and not judged were combined with cars being judged. Well-designed windscreen sheets identified clearly those cars to be judged by Division and Class. All this helped quicker parking of cars by our guides.

The grouping approach also opened the way for the creation and proper siting of Story Boards – historical descriptions of grouped cars, including features of models and their production figures. These display boards were mounted on stands expertly manufactured by Larry Foley, to whom much appreciation is due. One set of those story boards naturally focused on Bertha Benz and her famous drive in 1888 of 106 km from Mannheim to Pforzheim – the world's first woman driver in the world's first motor car

(the 1886 Benz Patent Motorwagen), completing the world's first long distance motor car journey!

Our Club deeply acknowledges the support from Mercedes-Benz Canberra, our dealership, which, with Mercedes-Benz Australia/Pacific, ably assisted by John Green at MB Spares and Service, provided the Replica 1886 Benz Patent Motorwagen for display. This replica was one of 12 built in the 1990s by Mercedes-Benz apprentices in Stuttgart using only the materials and tools available to Carl Benz in 1885/6. This feature was most popular with those present on the day. Our local dealership also provided two of the latest model cars which also drew much interest. Our thanks for this support goes to our Dealer Principal, Adam Scarr, and we ask him to relay our appreciation to Mercedes-Benz Australia/Pacific in Melbourne.

Participation from within our own Club, including the attendance mentioned above, was very good. Over recent years, as reported in this magazine, there has been a declining enrolment in the top/most demanding levels of competition, previously known as Club Division and more recently as Concours Division. This year that trend was reversed, with 30 entries in the Gold Division, and another 18 entries in Silver Division. A very pleasing outcome!

Support from our neighbouring interstate clubs was excellent, most notably from the NSW Mercedes-Benz Club with more than 22 cars, and the Mercedes-Benz Classic Car Club of Newcastle with another eight cars. We had a sizeable contingent of ten cars from OZBENZ, the on-line forum hosted by our Club member John Green, displaying and competing within our concours, rather than, as in the past, providing a separate display. This was a valuable contribution, much appreciated – as were the long distance voyagers from Victoria and Queensland, with three and five cars respectively. As the smallest 'authorised' Australian club within the marque, we depend on neighbourly support for this most important annual event; without such, it would not be the success that we enjoyed this year.

Another two factors leading to stronger participation, and to improvement in competition numbers, were the reduction of competition entry fees and the application of those fees to be common for all levels of participation. This made participation more attractive and avoided penalizing participants for choosing to compete. Perhaps of interest to all of us, these measures almost achieved an overall financial 'break even' outcome for the concours – taking into account the asset values of items carried over from previous years' concours'.

The annual concours is very much a social occasion to be enjoyed by all – members, families and visitors. There was plenty of evidence of such socializing all over the area, with groups making good use of the excellent permanent facilities of the CGRC, and the Club's marquee well sited among the parked cars. Social activity was also enhanced by Kyle Hanley who took many attendees, not only from our Club, on tours to Floriade and other Canberra attractions in his Club Plate-registered Mercedes-Benz bus.

My personal thanks go to all the members of the concours team who, with their years of experience in running such events, made my job of being Concours Director a lot easier than it would otherwise have been. They are: Brooke Thorpe, for impressive preparation of computer documentation, score recording and analysis; Bob Sobey, for his meticulous layout planning and execution; Richard Binks, for overseeing the judges and judging; Peter Mulquiney, Lynn Harrison and Ken Edwards, for reception and guidance of participants and general problem solving; Colin McPherson, for auditing data inputs and scoring; and John Green, for trophy management, marque expertise and judging assistance. Central to the success of the day were the judges – Sam, Glenn, Barry, Martin, John, Adam and Johann. In addition there were the many willing and effective helpers who pulled it all together on the day – my deep appreciation, to you all. Finally, thanks go to everyone who attended on the day – participants whether competing or displaying, and visitors and observers – without you, the whole thing would have been rather pointless!

A commanding feature of the whole display was the very high standard of car presentation. Whether competing or displaying, the cars were all most impressive – the announced winners were "peak performers in a sea of excellence" might be one way of putting it.

I was especially gladdened to see Marilyn Scott-Findlay present with her Roundie 'Blackbird' – her winning the President's Award was most appropriate. My particular thanks also go to Dominic Renda, member of the Porsche Club, for agreeing to show his 1954 W136 170S Sedan, his 'second car', for which he won the Gold Division Class A award.

Our aim was not necessarily to be the first club finished and awarding trophies, but to be the happiest club with success in judging and display. Good things can take a bit longer! Without the volunteer help reflected here, we would not have been able to hold the event in the successful and amicable way that it was.

In closing, my special thanks go to our Club Committee for administrative and financial support of the event, and to Richard Jackson for effectively representing our Club within the context of German Auto Day.

The GAD Shannons Prize Winners were:

- The Best Car Overall on the day – Eros Lazzaro, of the NSW Mercedes-Benz Club, 1968 W113 280SL
- The Best Mercedes-Benz on the day – Mark de Jager, ACT Mercedes-Benz Club, 1971 W111 280SE 3.5 Coupe

Congratulations to you both!

A table showing the concours winners follows, Congratulations to you all!

Lindsay Miller

Concours Director 2019

Photos: Peter Kunz, Mark Bradbury and Graeme Steadman

THE ACT CONCOURS WINNERS WERE:

Gold Division Classes

A	Dominic Renda - White 1954 W136 170S Sedan	J	Pat Walsh - Blue 1990 W124 300E Sedan
B	Nick Nikola - Grey 1960 W121 190b Sedan	K	
C	Richard Jackson - Green 1965 W111 220S Sedan	L	
D	Rod Barrett - White 1966 W111 250SE Coupe	M	Lynn Harrison - White 2013 W246 B250 Hatch
E	Steven Hall - Brown 1965 W113 230SL	N	Victor Nadjarian - Red 2006 A209 CLK350 Cabrio.
F	Martin Kass - Silver 1979 C107 450SLC Coupe	O	
G	Richard Binks - White 1973 W114 230 Sedan	P	
H	Peter & Susheela Mulquiney - Green 1986 W126 420SEL Sedan	Q	
I	Terry Ward - Red 2000 C208 CLK430 Coupe	R	Ian Johnston - Yellow 1978 W123 500E Sedan

Silver Division Classes

1	Bryce Dunn - Silver 1965 W111 250SE Cabriolet	5	Ken Wakefield - Silver 2012 W204 C250 Sedan
2	Graeme & Barbara Steadman - White 1988 R107 500SL	6	Adam & Peter Bates - Silver 2001 C215 CL500 Coupe
3	Doug Meates - Grey 1988 W126 420SEL Sedan	7	Adam & Peter Bates – 1980 1217/48 Truck
4	John Green - Red 1996 A124 E220 Cabriolet		

Simple Engine Bay Award	Nick Nikola – 1960 W121 190b
Complex Engine Bay Award	Warren & Peta Martin – 1988 R107 560SL
Distance Award	Terry Ward, Toowoomba – 2000 C208 CLK430
Best Paint Finish Award	Martin Kass – 1979 C107 450SL
Best Interior Award	Pat Walsh – 1990 W124 300E
Life Members' Encouragement Award - Gold Division	Anton Leshinskas – 1986 R107 560SL
Life Members' Encouragement Award – Silver Division	Samantha Williams – 1971 R107 350SL
President's Award	Marilyn Scott-Findlay – 1957 W180 220S Sedan

Mercedes-Benz (Australia) Champion of Champions Trophy	Ken & Alida Edwards – 1964 W111 220SEb Cabriolet
Mercedes-Benz Club ACT Outright Runner-Up Trophy	Pat Walsh – 1990 W124 300E Sedan
Mercedes-Benz Club ACT Outright Winner Trophy	Ken & Alida Edwards – 1964 W111 220SEb Cabriolet



Alida and Ken Edwards and their award winning 220SEb cabriolet



Pat Walsh receiving his award from Tony von Brandenstein. Pat's car is unique for its original equipment flagpole



A RANDOM SELECTION OF CARS AND WINNERS



One of the story boards mentioned in the report



Anton Leshinskas



Graeme Steadman



DISPLAYS FROM PORSCHE AND AUDI



Terry Ward and Doug Meates



Ken Wakefield and Mark de Jager

