

# **Mercedes-Benz Club Auckland Inc**

**February 2007**

## **Editorial**

I hope you all had a happy Christmas Holiday and a great New Year. Welcome to 2007 and the first Mercedes Benz magazine. Can I draw your attention to the coming events where we will have a lot of new and exciting events coming up but please if you have any suggestions for an event or to improve one please let us know.

Thank you very much for coming to the Christmas Party I think we all enjoyed it. A special thank's to all the helpers and Alex the quiz-master.

## **New Member**

A very warm welcome to Graeme Collie 1928 SSK replica, we look forward to meeting you all at a club event.

## **Past Events**

### ***Christmas party***

We did have summer! It was on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of December last year. Now that was quite amazing considering that we had had such, dare I say it, crappy weather up until the very Sunday of our Annual Christmas party. Thank you Liane & Klaus, or should we say Clause, for first of all providing the weather and then for providing the venue, quite outstanding. Thanks also to the Club ladies for helping with the food, and drink.

There was a splendid cross section of member present from long standing to most recent and it was good to catch up with Dave & Barbara Firkin before they took off in their camper on a tour of the Islands.

Alex kept us amused with quick fire general knowledge questions for prizes provided by the club, we need to start reading more encyclopaedias in order to keep pace with you regular quiz night junkies.

A great event enjoyed by all. A Happy and prosperous New Year to all and see you at our next event.

by Peter and Chris Fieldsend

## ***Rainforest Express***

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of November 2006 the Auckland Mercedes Benz Club set off on a great outing. We gathered at Jacobson's Depot to ride the Rainforest Express. Such an adventure required that we gathered for a safety briefing before boarding the train.

For Paul Kaiser, our organizer, the ticket sales had been a bit slow, so extra passengers were needed to fill up the train. Paul invited Yvonne McCracken, and Giresh Meher and his wife, as well as some members of the BMW Club - Reynout de Court, and Burnley and Brenda Jones. Mercedes Benz club members made the number up to thirty.

Our train driver for the day gave us some safety tips, in a dead pan delivery, which had us all laughing. He also told us some of the history of the area. Watercare has three bush tramways, and the Rain Forest Express operates on the six kilometer Nihotupu Tramline, which is still used for maintenance of the pipeline on the Upper Nihotupu dam.

We folded ourselves into the little train carriages and off we went, grinding our way along the track. There are lots of tunnels on the route, hand hewn by people now long gone. The work must have been extremely hard, camping out in the bush as they did. The second generation Rain Forest was really beautiful. We stopped on Quinns Viaduct and got out to take photos.

We arrived at the historic Upper Nihotupu Dam, alighted from the train and walked up to the dam and lake, before enjoying after-noon tea in a shelter built on the old camp site.

On the journey home we were given torches to view some glow worms and cave wetas, who have taken up residence in the tunnels.

Although cold and windy, the day was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Paul for his hard work in organizing the trip, and thanks to our guests for joining in.

by Marianne Hobson

## **Coming Events**

**February 4 2007 9am start. Galaxy of Cars** at Western Springs. Our annual show and shine. Display your car and enjoy a magnificent day's outing. All club vehicles welcome. Bring your champagne and food and BBQ your own brunch to eat among great company, then look around the other exciting car and museum displays at this well attended annual event. Contact Klaus Buwert on ph 4449366 or Brian Haslip (09) 232 1305 for more information.

**February 11 2007. Ellerslie Intermarque Concours d'elegance.** New Zealand's most prestigious car club event. If you would like to help out at this event, which last year netted your club a substantial cash injection to club funds, then contact either Brian Hood (ph 6343573 hm) or Garry Boyce (ph 366 4748 hm) to see how you can help. This could be with organising our club car display or simply by being there on the day there to talk to prospective members or those interested in the marque. Garry is going to flesh this out a bit more.

**March 13 Tuesday 2007 7.30pm. A 220SEC Odyssey 7794.42.** Join us at Garry Boyce's, for an evening of fascination as we watch and listen to him while he guides us through his recent journey to Germany and Austria. Hear about the joy's of Classic motoring in Europe. Directions: 390 Parnell Road, entrance and roadside parking on St George's Bay Road. For further details contact Garry on Ph 366 4748.

**April 29 Sunday 10.00am. Mystery Run.** Other German Marque Car Clubs will be invited. Meet at the car park by the sunken garden at One Tree Hill for some fun and laughter as we explore Auckland, and just in case you get lost, we will finish at Villa Maria Winery in Mangere where you can either purchase a late lunch at their restaurant or enjoy your own picnic in their stunning grounds. Bring maps, cell phones, a pen and a sense of humour. An indication of numbers for lunch would be appreciated so please contact Paul Kaiser soon if you are interested on Ph 537 0408 or 021 758 354

**May 8 Tuesday 7.30pm. Noggin and Natter.** Horse and Trap, Enfield St, Mt Eden. Join us for a convivial evening among fellow enthusiasts as we discuss "The Marque", recent events, future ones and what ever else takes our fancy. Why not come early at 6.30pm and enjoy an inexpensive meal first. Street and off road parking available. For further details contact Garry on Ph 366 4748 or Brian Hood Ph 6343573.

## **2008 National Rally Of Australian Mercedes-Benz Clubs**

Mercedes-Benz Club of Victoria

### ***Preliminary Advice***

The 2008 National Rally will be predominantly a driving event and after commencing in Albury, will then travel through North Eastern and South Eastern Victoria from 18th to 22nd April 2008. We have chosen to conduct the Rally away from Easter for best accommodation availability and lower costs. It is also the time that places like Bright are seen at their best.

The Rally will commence in Albury on Friday, 18th April. We have reserved all 120 rooms at the Country Comfort Hotel in Dean Street, and any additional accommodation we might require will be at the Hovell Tree Inn, at the corner of the Hume Highway and Hovell Street, about 500 meters away from the Country Comfort, where we are holding 30 rooms.

Registration will be on the Friday at the Country Comfort Hotel and the welcoming function that evening will be at the Commercial Club, which is adjacent to the hotel. On Saturday night a

dinner dance will be held at the same venue.

The hotel car park will be under comprehensive security surveillance during the hours of darkness on both nights.

On **Saturday, 19th April** we will display our cars at Oddies Creek Park by the Murray River during the morning, and have a sausage sizzle lunch before travelling to the historic town of Beechworth in the early afternoon. Reserved parking is being arranged for us there by the local Shire Council.

On **Sunday, 20th April** participants will travel along the Kiewa Valley and over the Pinnacles Range into the Ovens Valley. We will then follow the Great Alpine Road through Bright, where the autumn colours should be at their peak (the annual Autumn Festival will be held the following weekend), over the Great Dividing Range at Mount Hotham and down through Omeo, Swifts Creek and Bruthen to Lakes Entrance – a total distance of 345 kms over scenic and great driving roads. A box lunch will be provided by the hotel at breakfast.

Accommodation at Lakes Entrance on **April 20th and 21st** will be at two motels – the Bellevue and the Esplanade, and dinner will be at the Lakes Entrance Golf Club on both nights. Breakfasts for the whole group will probably be at the Bellevue.

On Monday, 21st April our Rally will be in two parts. One part will be a 2½ hour cruise on the Gippsland Lakes and the other will be a tour to Buchan Caves. For those who do not wish to go to the Caves, alternative tours to places such as Metung or Orbost/Marlo will be arranged. For this day we will have to be divided into two groups, one taking the cruise in the morning and one in the afternoon, because the catamaran we are using can only take 150 passengers. Once again we will have a box lunch provided by the hotel.

Our final evening will be a dinner dance at the Lakes Entrance Golf Club and the 2008 National Rally will conclude at breakfast **on Tuesday, 22nd April**.

### **Optional Extension**

An optional extension to the Rally will be available to all participants. The Victorian Club traditionally celebrates Anzac Day with a picnic and autokhana on a farm at Romsey and participants in the National Rally are welcome to attend this event.

Those who wish to participate will be able to take alternative scenic routes back to Melbourne and spend one or two days there before attending Romsey on 25th April.

If there is sufficient interest, we will arrange accommodation in Melbourne and some activities on **23rd and 24th April**. Possibilities are visits to the RAAF museum at Point Cook, the Fox Museum, the Dizane Collection, a Melbourne Cricket Ground tour or a visit to the Yarra Valley vineyards and Badgers Creek.

*Registration forms will be available mid-2007.*

**For further details, please contact Bob Cumberlidge on (03) 9836 2750  
([norbor@bigpond.com](mailto:norbor@bigpond.com)), or Gordon Gates on (03) 9758 6889  
([nodrog3156@optusnet.com.au](mailto:nodrog3156@optusnet.com.au))**

## ***MERCEDES RACING RAMBLINGS by Ken Williams***

The Whittakers Classic Motor Racing Weekend in early November each year has been on my calendar of events since the late 80s. It's been a fun weekend away with mates, normally leaving town on Thursday evening, stopping the night in Taupo & arriving in Feilding on Friday to be ready to race Saturday & Sunday. Then it's a long haul home Sunday night. Tiring but most enjoyable!

This year I took the 280CE (the BBM was in Sydney). I was in 4 races plus the 'Flying Farewell'.

Saturday was dry & windy, but Sunday was mostly rain with a wet slippery track.

For each race I was 8th, 9th, or 10th on the grid, & had great battles with Torana XU1, Viva GT, Capri V6, hot MGB roadster (which later rolled spectacularly 3 cars ahead of me & is on my in-car video), Fiat X19 Abarth, BMW M3, Sierra Cosworth, Fiat 124 Coupe, & a Jaguar D type. I just love seeing the variety of classic cars out there! The 280CE fared well against the competition, with a few people very surprised at it's performance. The best I finished was 6th & the worst was 11th.

The last race, the 'Flying Farewell' has about 60 cars in it with no set grid positions. You just grid up where you feel like....fantastic fun!! I waited & lined up near the back & had a great time catching & passing about 20 cars... great fun!! Come & try it sometime?? I also saw some Manawatu Club Members in the pits.... Good to catch up with!!!

### ***Points Table:***

#### **Club Member**

Hein Vankan 60; Paul Kaiser 53; Garry Boyce 50; Brian Hood 50; Ken Williams 48; Peter Fieldsend 42; Jack Nazer 42; Klaus Buwert 50; Brian Haslip 40; Frank Parker 40; Howard Jack 33; Judith Fleming 32; Roy Hobson 32; Thomas Muller 30; John Tate 30; Gary Upchurch 30; Jim Hetherington 22; Russell Clark 20; Iain Fletcher 20; Rod Klarwill 20; Pater van den Brink 20; Peter Brown 12; Phil Ainsley 10; Barry Bollington 10; Eoin Burns 10; Alex Buwert 10; Andrew Campbell 10; Roger Clavell 10; Barbara Firkin 10; Tom Frei 10; Nigel Gerbic 10; Krishna Gopal 10; Geoff Halkett 10; Gerald Koller 10; Alex Newkirk 10; Harald Pech 10; Geurt Renzenbrink 10; Malcolm Reynolds 10; Craig Stratton 10; John Stratton 10; Graham Yan 10; Ian Hutchinson 6;

#### **Family Person**

Liane Buwert 58; Heather Newkirk 50; Lyn Hood 44; Cilla Kaiser 43; Chris Fieldsend 42; Lyn Parker 40; Noeline Service 40; Willy Vankan 40; Brian Fleming 32; Marilyn Nazer 32; Alison Haslip 30; Eveyln Tate 30; Pam Upchurch 30; Alison Reid 23; Marianne Hobson 22; Alison Boyce 20; Wendy Clark 20; Linde Fletcher 20; Estelle Hetherington 20; Karin Klarwill 20; Zena Renzenbrink 20; Robyn van den Brink 20; Gail Godfrey 12; Sarndra Ainsley 10; Marion Bollington 10; Rosemary Burns 10; Sheryl Campbell 10; Carol Clavell 10; Dave Firkin 10; Jutta Frei 10; Lorraine Halkett 10; Margaret Koller 10; Jan Pech 10; Marilyn Stratton 10; Lucy Tate 10