

September 2006

Editorial

The prizegiving dinner was enjoyed by every one who turned up the food was excellent the company was great.

New Members

Welcome to Tom and Jutta Frei and their 1961 220SE. We are glad to have you with us, and we look forward to seeing you at a Club function.

Past Events:

2006 Annual Prizegiving Dinner

This year's event was held at the Kingsgate Hotel, on the 8th of August, and whilst the numbers attending was in keeping with current Club attendance, we enjoyed excellent pre dinner discussions. We handled everything from new born babies, about to be born babies, solution to the Libyan situation, generally formulated better ways of conducting international trade, and off course our Mercedes Benz.

The Buffet Dinner was well presented, offering a large variety of scrumptious cold and hot meals, a cheese platter, and an excellent desert all for \$25. As neither Gary nor Roy could attend Ken Williams was roped in to present the awards, ably assisted by Thomas Müller, who did an excellent job of getting all relevant trophies together, had them engraved, polished, and presented them on display. Ken proved to be a most jovial presenter and the evening proceeded in a most enjoyable fashion.

This year's awards were as follows:

Lyn Hood	Club Person trophy (The 3rd time Lyn has won this trophy and the only woman ever win it.)
Willy Vankan	Family member trophy
Marianne Hobson	Ladies attendance trophy
Ian Hillier	Fleming trophy - Best Magazine Article
Paul Kaiser	Committee award - Intermarque Concours d'Elegance
Garry Boyce	Award of merit - Intermarque Concours d'Elegance
Martin Kennedy	Lloyd Marx Award - Intermarque Team Event
Jack Nazer	Alan Grey award. Galaxy of Cars – Western Springs
Allison Reid & Howard Jack	Trial's trophy – Mystery Run
Lyn Hood & Willy Vankan	Millennium trophy
Klaus Buwert	Hard luck
Lorraine Halkett	Stirrer trophy wooden spoon

Finally a big thanks to Thomas for arranging and co-ordinating the evening, well organised and enjoyable.

Cilla & Paul Kaiser

Coming Events

Sunday 17th September – Join the Midland Club for a run to Raglan. For more details refer Midland website <http://www.freewebs.com/mercedesbenzmidlandclub/index.htm>

Sunday 24 September 10am . Run to Matakana with the BMW Club as our guests. Meet at BP Dairy Flat. Convoy to Matakana. Matakana is revamping the township. A new shopping area is being establish, art galleries, etc then off to Leigh to “Sawmill restaurant” which has its own home brewed beer. The lunch will be a set menu, slightly discounted. A side trip could be included to Goat Island if the weather is nice. Contact Paul Kaiser Ph 537 0408 for more details.

Sunday 15 October. Auckland Club will be meeting the Midland Club for a trip to Waitomo Caves. For more details refer Midland website <http://www.freewebs.com/mercedesbenzmidlandclub/index.htm>

Sunday 19 November 2006 2pm. Watercare Rain Forest Express. This event you have to attend. It offers a spectacular train ride through the Waitakere native forest, loaded with history. The journey ends at the Upper Nihotupu Dam delivering drinking water for more than 1 million Aucklanders and a key asset to Auckland. Hear about the men who built the Dam in the early 20th Century, be brave confronting the giant cave wetas and be charmed by the glow-worms inhabiting the ten tunnels en route. Marvel at the Quinn’s viaduct whilst being bathed in the sunlight filtered through vast stands of native trees lining steep valleys. This is a rain forest with all the mystical and spiritual atmosphere your imagination can conjure up. At the end of the outward journey you have two options to ascend the dam. Straight up its face – the fast way, or along a gentle path – the easy way. Upon your return you can have a picnic – don’t forget to bring the food – in a clearing with spectacular views back to the city, before returning on the back journey to your car. It’s a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

To get there, drive to Titirangi Township, through the Roundabout onto the Scenic Drive. Do not turn off on Woodlands Park Road, but continue past the Scenic Café on your right, to Jacobson’s Depot 500m further on your left. If you are lost, phone 817- 4216 See you there. The cost for the train charter is \$740 so we need to fill the train to keep the price per person to about \$25.00. You need to book by 1st November. Any questions, please call Paul Kaiser on H 537 0408 or B 255 7246.

Sunday 10 December – Annual Xmas party at Klaus and Liane Buwert ’s home. 18

Treetops Way , RD2, Albany 1311. For more details Ph (09) 444 9366

5 November to 12 November. AA Classic Car Rally which will be using Southwards Museum as a base, and with a week long entry ticket to the museum plus a tour of the workshops and areas where most visitors do not get to go, this is sure to be a great rally. Rally days will include many local attractions of interest. For those that have been to these rallies in the past I know they would recommend them to you as great fun and a wonderful opportunity to show off the 'marque'. Numbers are limited and each time these classic rallies are held they have become more and more popular, so if you are interested, contact Brian or Lyn Hood for further information, Ph 6343573 or membership@mercedesclub.org.nz

February 4 2006. Galaxy of Cars at Western Springs. Contact Brian Haslip for more details.

February 11 2006. Ellerslie Intermarque Concours d'elegance. Contact Garry Boyce or Brian Hood for more details.

Club Member and Family Person Points

Club Member

Klaus Buwert 30, Paul Kaiser 30, Thomas Muller 30, Frank Parker 30, Garry Boyce 20, Brian Haslip 20, Brian Hood 20, Howard Jack 20, Jack Nazer 20, Hein Vankan 20, Jim Hetherington 12, Barry Bollington 10, Andrew Campbell 10, Russell Clark 10, Brian Fleming 10, Nigel Gerbic 10, Roy Hobson 10, Rod Klarwill 10, Malcolm Reynolds 10, John Tait 10, Ken Williams 10, Graham Yan 10, Krishna Gopal 10, Ian Hutchinson 6,

Family Person

Liane Buwert 32, Lyn Parker 30, Lyn Hood 26, Cilla Kaiser 20, Willy Vankan 20, Marion Bollington 10, Sheryl Campbell 10, Wendy Clark 10, Judith Fleming 10, Alison Haslip 10, Estelle Hetherington 10, Karin Klarwill 10, Marilyn Nazer 10, Heather Newkirk 10, Alison Reid 10, Noeline Service 10, Eveyln Tait 10,

HOW COMPUTERS HAVE ENHANCED OUR LIVES

For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on.

At COMDEX recently, Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "if GM had kept up with the technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25.00 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon."

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating: If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash twice a day.

2. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull over to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
4. Occasionally, executing a manoeuvre such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive, but would run on only five percent of the roads.
6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single ‘This Car Has Performed an Illegal Operation’ warning light.
7. The airbag system would ask “Are you sure?” before deploying.
8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.
9. Every time a new car was introduced, car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again, because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
10. Oh yeah, and last but not least. . . you’d have to press the “Start” button to turn the engine off.

Courtesy ‘topdown’ magazine

(Brian Hood)

MERCEDES RACING NEWS by Ken Williams

Well, my BBM Mercedes single seater is still ready for action. My 280CE is ready to race again after replacing the LF guard & door, & steering arm. Tim's 500SEC is ready after replacing a RF guard. Lawrence's 500SEC is nearly ready after replacing both front guards.

The last meeting at Pukekohe in the downpour sure punished the Mercs. Our next meeting is at Pukekohe on Sept 16 & 17th, then Taupo on Oct 7 & 8th, then Manfeild on Nov 11 & 12th. We are really looking forward to the season with hopefully dry tracks & no crashes or breakdowns. If you come to watch, come & say hello to me in the pits.

A Mercedes Collection by Default and a Business ;

It all started with a Sunday afternoon car yard crawl in September 2003. The CEO had a '97 BMW 323, bought in '99 at a good price when BMW NZ brought in some secondhand cars to bolster the market. After owning it for a few years, I persuaded her that while she liked the Beemer it might be time to “trade up”. Maybe we should look at a

car that we could have a bit of fun in – like a convertible. One weekend after looking in a few “European” yards we ended up in Coutts Mercedes in Newmarket. On their yard was a ’93 E220 cabriolet Sportline in white with blue top and upholstery. Craig was very generous and we had it for a couple of days to try out.

Fatal for us, great for Craig.

While waiting for it to have some work done on it I did a little web research on these cars and discovered the previous owner lived over our back fence! She had been trying to sell it privately and had ended up trading it in at Coutts - but at that stage we had not even thought about a car like this, so an opportunity missed there.

The driving was great with the top down and “that” emblem sitting at the front of the bonnet. One felt rather regal. I had a few conversations with Craig about wanting to tryout the 6 cylinder 320 model and compare it to the 4 cyl. 220. If the opportunity arose to upgrade we might be interested.

Fast forward to December 05. A phone call from Craig. “We’ve got a 320 Sportline in the yard, just come in. Same colour, same year, same mileage as yours.” Off to have a look. Took it for a drive. Again, fatal. I think we ended up with it for the weekend.

The price negotiations ended up with us owning both cars, as we decided to sell the 220 privately. Everyone basically said that the W124 and the cab Sportlines in particular would become a classic., so we did not want to sell it too cheap (like most car owners of course) We had a few lookers and enquiries.

We waited for a real offer.

In the meantime - one Saturday morning, driving through town past the wharves, big passenger liner in dock. Lightbulb – why not use the cars as an Auckland tour business. A little further on, I drove past a wedding procession of BMW convertibles. Second lightbulb.

Much discussion and talking to wedding planners and the like. Decision made – we would start a wedding car business.

So, here we are in the process of setting up our website, obtaining P endorsements, having business cards and brochures printed.

We have called the business Class-E-Convertibles so keep an eye out for us – and any referrals are welcome.

(Unfortunately, being a weekend business we may end up missing a few MB club events, unless Sundays are free)

by Howard Jack / Alison Reid