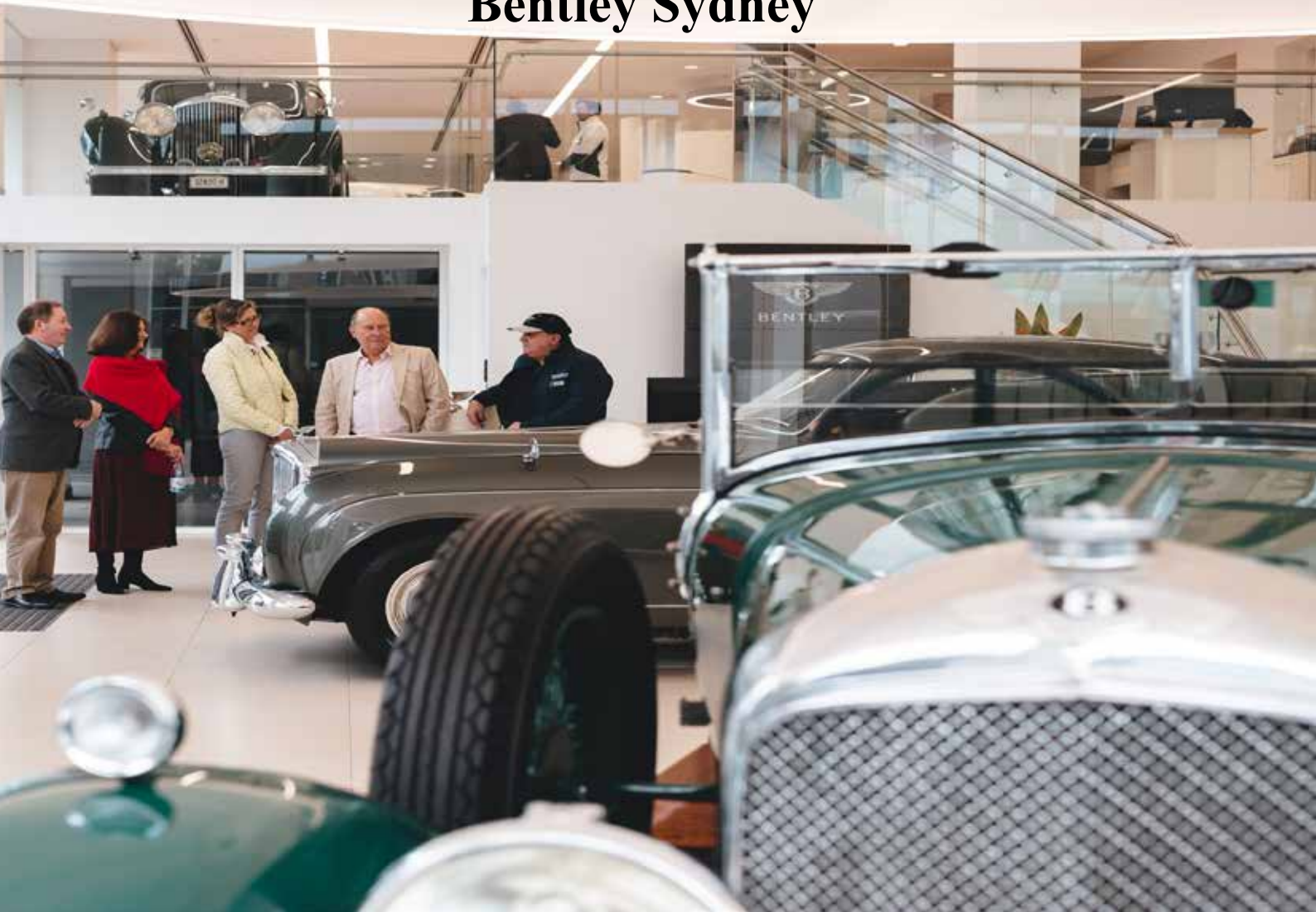




BENTLEY

Drivers Club NSW Magazine

2021 Concours d'Elegance Bentley Sydney



Edition: July / September 2021



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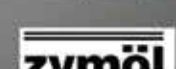
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Meetings

Club Metings are held bi-monthly at the Royal Automobile Club of Australia, Maquarie Street Sydney. Check our website for meeting details.



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Chairman's Chatter



Club Chairman Mike Mulvihill

0404 470 623

mikemulvihill@tpg.com.au

Dear Fellow Motoring Enthusiast

I must admit that I thought we might just get through to the end of the year unaffected by COVID-19, but unfortunately the Delta Variant struck, throwing New South Wales into yet another lockdown. At the time of writing the Chairman's Chatter we have already been in lockdown for six weeks with no end in sight. We were lucky to have been able to hold our Annual Concours d'Elegance just before the lockdown announcement was made and you can read all about it on pages 11 & 12 and see the lovely

photographs taken of the event.

Unfortunately the Classic Car Display and Charity BBQ to be hosted by Miles Felstead at his property in Bundanoon, Our Christmas in July at the Gardeners Inn Blackheath and our General Meeting at the Royal Automobile Club of Australia all had to be cancelled. The W O Bentley Birthday Lunch planned for the 19th of September is looking increasingly unlikely but please keep an eye out for further announcements. It will be interesting to see what comes of the idea of a vaccine passport and what ramifications that might have for our Club.

At our June General Meeting, Treasurer Alan Wellington spoke about the difficulty some people were experiencing reading our name tags at a reasonable distance and brought along some alternate samples for us to consider. As a result, it has been decided to replace all name tags and they will be sent out to each member in the coming weeks.

Work has commenced on a rewrite of the Club's Objects and Rules which have become outdated due to the passage of time. It is hoped that a draft will be distributed for comment before the end of the year and the amendments voted on at either a Special General Meeting or the Annual General Meeting. It is intended not to

hold the Annual General Meeting at the Christmas and Presentation Dinner in December but to hold off until early 2022. The current Objects and Rules provide for the Annual General Meeting to be held within five months of the end of our Financial Year, which is 30 November. Given the events of the past year it might be nice to get together at and enjoy our Christmas and Presentation Dinner without the formality of an AGM, which has been the case in the past. Hopefully this will encourage more members, family and friends to attend.

In closing, I would like to draw members attention to the passing of former member, Malcom Johns. I was fortunate to have sat next to Malcom at a Rolls-Royce Rally dinner in Bendigo a number of years ago and found him completely engaging. Unfortunately Malcom suffered a severe stroke a few years ago and has been in care ever since. In the early years of the club Malcom made an outstanding contribution; in fact, the Objects and Rules of the Club in operation today were written by him.

Safe and happy motoring!



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Date	Event	Organiser
July		
4 July	Classic Car Display and Charity BBQ CANCELLED	Miles Felstead
5 July	Committee Meeting - North Ryde RSL or via Zoom	Mike Mulvihill
17 July	Christmas in July - CANCELLED	Mike Mulvihill
August		
2 August	General Meeting - POSTPONED	Mike Mulvihill
September		
6 September	Committee Meeting - North Ryde RSL or via Zoom	Mike Mulvihill
19 September	W O Bentley Birthday Lunch - Bowral Brasserie	Gregory May
October		
4 October	General Meeting - Royal Automobile Club of Australia	Mike Mulvihill
17 October	Polo, Bentley Cup - Richmond	Gregory May
November		
1 November	Committee Meeting - North Ryde RSL or via Zoom	Mike Mulvihill
20 & 21 November	Club Run - Details to be advised	Mike Mulvihill
December		
5 December	Terribly British Day - Queanbeyan	Mike Mulvihill
11 December	Christmas & Presentation Dinner - Royal Automobile Club of Australia	Mike Mulvihill
2022		
10 January	Committee Meeting - North Ryde RSL or via Zoom	Chairman
7 February	General Meeting - Royal Automobile Club of Australia	Chairman
February	Club Run - Mollymook	TBC
7 March	Committee Meeting - North Ryde RSL or via Zoom	Chairman
4 April	General Meeting - Royal Automobile Club of Australia	Chairman
2 May	Committee Meeting - North Ryde RSL or via Zoom	Chairman
6 June	General Meeting - Royal Automobile Club of Australia	Chairman
November	Bentley Rally - South Australia	South Australian Region



Club Event

Southern Highlands Run with lunch
at Bendooley Estate 23 May

We enjoyed a great turnout for our lunch at Bendooley Estate with over forty members, friends and family in attendance and 19 cars on display in the car park. This was our second run to Bendooley Estate and they didn't disappoint. The food, service and wine were fantastic and everyone seemed to enjoy the table share menu, with plenty of yummy food to go around. The standout dish for the day was the slow roasted whole lamb shoulder with red wine and rosemary jus, coupled with the roasted chat potatoes. For those that had room left, the desert platter was a great way to finish off, with again plenty to go round with some members even managing to put a 'doggy bag' together!

It was nice to see our new Member Jeff Bertucen and his two sons attend on their first run with the Club and get to know everyone a little better.

A big thank you to Mark Sneddon and his team at Bendooley Estate for their assistance in putting the lunch together and for the great food and service.

Words by Mike Mulvihill



ABOVE: John & Margaret Lackey & Bonnie Will



ABOVE: James Wallman & Jenny McCulloch



ABOVE: Allan Simpson, Jeff Bertucen & Sons



ABOVE: Paul Freeman Mke Kennedy, Katrina Mallia & Donna Bailey



ABOVE: Robyn & Mal Henderson



ABOVE: Victoria Knox & Sameh Ibrahim



ABOVE: Dennis & Julie Warner



ABOVE: Brian & Meg Lewis



ABOVE: Graham Lawrence, Miles Felstead & Mary Kidner



ABOVE: Joe Quottrocchi & Alahana Ibrahim

There is something profoundly satisfying about sharing a meal. Eating together, breaking bread together, is one of the oldest and most fundamentally unifying of human experiences.

Barbara Coloroso

A selection of Members cars adorning the carpark at Bendooley Estate



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Member's Article

Thanks to Lloyd Poulton for once again providing the following interesting article about his time at Crewe

The Factory at Pym's Lane, Crewe (circa 1960s and 70s)

Quality Control

Traditionally – and correctly – the Director here is not the one heading up Production. This to avoid a conflict of interest. Dick Garner was my “opposite number here”. But as well as the Chief Inspector, Don Simmons under him, he also had control of purchase. This is because each motor car received about 100 items from outside suppliers – the “complete raw body” from Pressed Steel Fisher – to numerous small pieces. Clearly quality here is vital, also, as the things we made “in house” such as engines, transmissions, suspensions and woodwork or leather items of trim.

Dick Garner and Don Simmons had worked for Rolls-Royce all their careers. The purchase Manager was also much experienced. Ron Hampshire was a leading person in this area, I recall. We all got on very well together, as a team. As I mentioned in an earlier article, at this time we made other things also at Crewe (see edition Sept-Oct 2020).

Car Output

The target was 48 per week and Ron Ashley was Manager of the build line. I would hold a meeting at 9am in his office; it was right on the line, so we could get out among the problems. People would attend from all relevant areas – Purchase, Inspection, Paint Shop, Car Test – depending on the issues. “Shortages” were often a problem – from the many outside suppliers. The line could not stand still, so sometimes we had to retrofit pieces. Engines, Transmissions, Suspensions and similar were all made in the factory, of course.

Separately about one chassis a week would be made for Royalty, Ambassadors and similar top people. The chassis would then go to the coachbuilder of choice. I recall the Peninsula Hotel in Hong Kong had a special small fleet – these however of the standard Rolls-Royce motor cars – but in a special colour scheme of dignified taste.

I would spend much time on the floor of the work areas. Apart from a great interest, it was my duty to know each process. The people doing these were appreciative, and keen to explain things. But I always had the relevant Foreman present; I did not want to “short- circuit” his authority.

The Bentley Name

I attended a Board Meeting about 1970 and was to hear a colleague suggest that we should drop the Bentley name! This was opposed of course.

We were by then making the Bentley “T” series and the Rolls-Royce “Silver Shadow”. Virtually identical mechanically – but I thought the Bentley front end looked far better than the rather box-like square radiator of the “Shadow” on the new body styling. Tho’ I must admit it looked splendid on the former Silver Clouds I & II. Tho’ the III started to look a bit different when they lowered the bonnet line and put in twin headlights. As time went on, we made more Bentleys.

In closing I must note that a certain type of owner only wants a Bentley! Such as my fellow brother – and sister - Members of our wonderful Club.



Club Event

Club Concours d'Elegance
at Bentley Sydney

In early May, Alan Wellington and I met with Andrew Knox and Michael Wirth at Bentley Sydney. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce myself as the new Club Chairman and look for opportunities to build stronger ties between both organisations. During the meeting it was suggested that we might be able to host our Annual Concours d'Elegance at their premises. The idea was well received and within a short time the idea had developed into 'Bentley Heritage Week' where selected vehicles would be left on display in the Bentley Sydney showroom the week following our Concours. In addition to the use of the premises, Bentley Sydney also kindly offered to provide catering, a photographer, and some merchandise for a raffle in aid of the Westmead Children's Hospital.

During our discussions we talked about the number of people that might attend and we thought that the event would attract about 70 people, being a mixture of Club Members and Bentley Sydney Clients. We also thought that we could get about 20 cars in total for the day, with nine also on display in the showroom for the week following the Concours. During the following weeks it became clear that there was a great deal of interest in the event and numbers quickly grew and eventually doubled from our estimate. It was very exciting that we would be able to attract so many people to a Club event! Ultimately we were pleased to be able to accommodate everyone that wanted to attend.

Once the event was confirmed, the cars to be on display during the week were duly selected and the owners contacted to see if they were willing to participate. Everyone spoken to was enthusiastic. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their generosity and cooperation in setting up the event and agreeing to leave their pride and joy on display. The owners of the nine cars on display in the showroom were:

Stuart & Diana McColl	1929 4.5 LTR 4 door Tourer by Van den Plas
Brian & Meg Lewis	1958 S1 Continental S1 R Type 2 door Fastback
Mal & Robyn Henderson	1936 Derby Bentley Coupe by Gurney Nutting
Marguerite Kass	1968 Bentley T Mulliner Park Ward Drop Head Coupe
Joe Quattrocchi	1985 Mulsanne
Keith Wherry	1993 Continental Mulliner Park Ward Drop Head
Greg & Liz Newton	1959 S1 Mulliner Drophead
Graham Lawrence	1997 Continental R
John Lackey	1951 Mark VI

On the ground floor, taking prime position, were the 1929 4.5 Ltr Tourer and the 1958 S1 Continental S1 R Type. The weather wasn't great on the day before the event (Saturday) so all cars had to be chamoised off in the undercover carpark before being moved into their allotted spot on the showroom floor. The cars on the first floor were carefully manoeuvred in and out of the lift to take up their allocated spot. This was a slow and challenging task given the size of the cars and the space available, not to mention one or two of the cars having no power steering, but the whole process was expertly managed by Michael Wirth. Thanks to Garrath Will for sourcing environmentally friendly cloth to be put under each car in the unlikely event that they should leak oil or other fluids! The process of setting up the display cars took up the whole day and at the end they all looked splendid under the fluorescent lighting of the showroom. Thanks to Joe Quattrocchi, who spent the whole day on site helping supervise the display.

If there was an award for determination, then it would surely have to go to Stuart McColl. While on route to Bentley Sydney the heavens opened and he and his beautiful car received a good soaking. Stuart decided that not only was it too wet, but too dangerous to continue and returned home. He called to say that it was unlikely he would be able to get to Bentley Sydney before closing and would try again in the morning. Although disappointing, it was quite understandable given he was in an open tourer. After leaving Bentley Sydney in the late afternoon, I got a call from Stuart advising that there was a break in the weather and he was going to give it another go. This was great news given the forecast for the next day. Sure enough, Stuart was able to make it to Bentley Sydney just before closing and his car was duly put into position. Thank you and well done Stuart!

After weeks of careful planning, the day of the Concours arrived. Some of us managed to get to Bentley Sydney before the forecasted rain, resulting in only minor cleaning of our cars prior to the display. The Concours cars were put into place on the showroom side of the undercover carpark while all other Members cars were on the opposite side. It was good to see so many Club cars in the one spot and really pleasing to have had so many pre-war cars on display, most of them open tourers.

Fortunately for those of us arriving early, the coffee cart was open ensuring we were able to get a hot drink while we awaited the start of the event. The caterers, "Scramble and Bean" were outstanding and provided a fantastic range of breakfast fare and warm friendly service. Thanks to Graham Lawrence who was busy selecting the judges for the Concours and ensured all judging sheets were correctly completed and returned. The results will be announced at our Christmas and Presentation Dinner in December.

Rita set up a table at the entry to the showroom ensuring everyone had the opportunity to look at the prizes for the raffle and purchase a ticket. Thanks to Cameron and Alison for assisting with the ticket sales. The raffle raised \$1,285 for the Westmead Children's Hospital, so a good result. Thanks also to Bentley Sydney for donating to the raffle and Rita and Gregory May for their generosity.

We were fortunate to have had the services of two photographers on the day, one supplied by Bentley Sydney and Nick Fraser, son of Club Members Chris and Ashley Fraser. We now have a fantastic pictorial record of this year's Club Concours and many stock photographs that will be used in future editions of the magazine.

All-in-all this year's Concours d'Elegance was a hugely successful event and the feedback from all those in attendance has been very positive. Thanks again to Michael Wirth and Andrew Knox and the Team at Bentley Sydney for agreeing to host the event and their generosity in supplying not only the premises but also the catering, photographer, and merchandise. I would once again also like to thank the nine owners that agreed to have their cars on display for the Bentley Heritage Week and everyone who participated in this year's event. I make special mention of Alan Wellington, Joe Quattrocchi, Garrath Will and Graham Lawrence for their advice, encouragement, and ongoing support in helping bring it to fruition.

Words by Mike Mulvihill

The photographs on the following pages are from Bentley Sydney and Nick Fraser.



What does Concours d'Elegance mean in English?

A show or contest of vehicles and accessories in which the entries are judged chiefly on excellence of appearance and turnout.







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WO Bentley MBE



The 13th of August 2021 marked the 50th anniversary of the death of WO Bentley MBE.

Bentley was born in Hampstead, London in 1888 the youngest of nine children and died in Woking, United Kingdom on the 13th of August 1971

WO's mother Emily nee Waterhouse, was born in Adelaide South Australia





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