

# BENTLEY

**Drivers Club NSW Region** 





BENTLEY DRIVERS CLUB NATIONAL RALLY 2016









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FRONT COVER: Photos of cars from the BDC National Rally, photography by Jerrfrey Hinks.

## Chairman's Chatter

#### By Garrath Will

Hello One and All, First! A thankyou goes out to the people who helped to make this year a success, the Wellingtons, Dickies, Astons, Lackeys, Ellis' and May and those from the past Committee who started the ball rolling with the National Rally.

The overall picture for the Club in 2016 has been good, with steady membership support from the Bentley dealership and new Bentley drivers and enthusiasts joining as members and associates, this will put the Club in good stead for the years to follow.

Different events attract various numbers of members and guests; some events have been well supported, while others have been very light on attendance to say the least, Yes there's always a reason why! but that was last year - we hope you can support your Club Events in 2017.

To encourage more attendance in 2017, our Club's Challenge this year is to bring one (1) extra person (young, middle-aged, or old) to each Event this coming year, so they can enjoy our Club and Bentley's – maybe even drive one!

Additionally, next year (apart from the structured events) there will be an invite's list, so if something catches your fancy, you might like to take it up and enjoy that event and report at the Club's regular meetings.

The Committee are in the process of finalising a company for updating our Club's Website with some exciting new features. We are now also on set up on Facebook, so if you find a photo of a Bentley or event with a Bentley with a Member or friends you like, you can share it on our Facebook Page - Bentley Driver Club NSW Ltd.

Over the past year, the Committee decided to replicate the Laurie O'Neil Shield, as this trophy was one of the earliest trophies in the Club's history. The original trophy was made of Tobin Bronze and was given to another Club to symbolise a sponsored event by a past Bentley dealership and is still in use. This current Committee decided the Club's history should not be given away but should be held for perpetuity for all Members in years to follow, and if a trophy is to be retired, it should remain with a Member or in a permeant Club house so the Club can obtain this for the purpose to display our history. The new trophy is in keeping with WO's love of alloy for lightness - Aluminium alloy & composite materials, an article on the making of this trophy will follow later in the Magazine in 2017.

This year, it was our Club's privilege to hold The National BDC Rally (which only comes around only every 8 years), and our chosen place for this HUB Rally was Wollongong, this turned out to be a fantastic Rally, we had the opportunity to highlight a portion of our beautiful State. Weather was on our side; great driving was enjoyed, for instance, down 3 of the 5 mountain passes which link the Wollongong to the Southern Highlands with the National Concours at H.A.I.R.S. The overall Rally winner was a 3-Litre owned by John Lackey. The finial drive was through the Royal National Park. Our interstate guests were from Tasmania, Queensland, South Australia, and Victoria; they were all motivated and excited with our venues, plus we had an unexpected venue thanks to William Bickford of S.A whose

friend, Marcia Yeats owns the Wingecarribee homestead, after lunch on the first day we were invited to the Oldest Kit home in Australia built in 1857 called Wingecarribee from which the council shire was named after.

It was great to meet fellow Bentley drivers and their Navigators as there were many events that left lasting impressions for years to follow from this Rally. The baton is now handed to Victoria for the next National Rally, which we are all looking forward to.

At this year's Annual General Meeting (A.G.M) that was held on the 5th of December, nominations were called from the floor. These positions were taken-up, filled and have been accepted by:

Garrath Will > Chairman + Events Gregory May > Vice Chairman Secretary > Athena Will Allan Wellington > Treasurer Magazine > Cameron Blinman Miles Felstead > Committee + Librarian John Lackey > Committee Member **Barry Ashton > Committee Member** 

On in the camaraderie towards driver and navigators who are fortunate enough to own these most extraordinary cars under the Bentley marque. Upcoming events for 2017 as set out early this year;

Feb - Bathurst Run - Combining Bentley Racing & Mayfield Gardens, Oberon NSW

Mar - Canyonleigh - Picnic BBQ & Planes

May - Picnic Day - Run North

June - Mid week run

July - General Meeting held at Bentley Dealership & Christmas in July (over night).

August - Concour & All British Day-Kings School

November - Polo Meet - picnic day

December - AGM / Christmas Dinner

Bentley Drivers - with RMS classic car plates.

Please don't forget - RMS, The registered operator must be a member of a Roads & Maritime recognised historic vehicle club that has chosen to participate in the log book trial - The Bentley Driver Club (NSW) Ltd has done so.

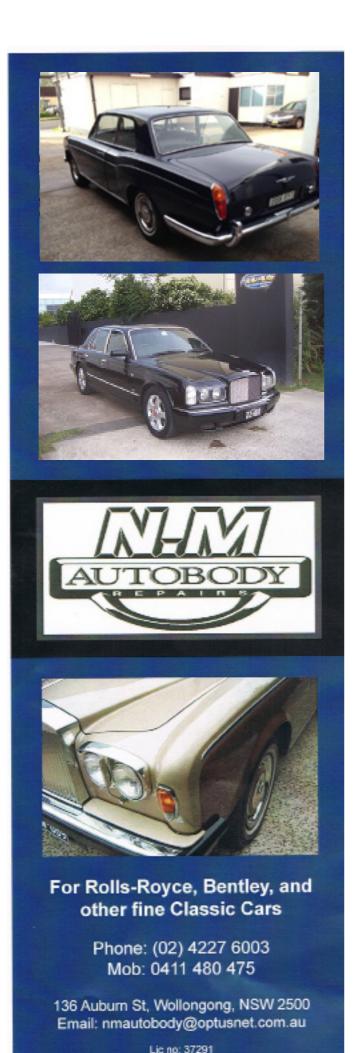
If you have RMS Classic Car Plate/s which you have nominated the Bentley Driver Club (NSW) Ltd as a primary club, you can use your car for 60 days of general use (i.e., maintenance and personal use) each year, outside of club organised events.

The THINGS you must remember are;

Have you Club Magazine or RMS log book in your Bentley vehicle filled out prior to the vent "Because"; if it's not a club event, it must be a log book entry (however long the event is) and if caught by police you most likely will be charged with driving an unregistered vehicle and having the vehicle towed at your expense. It's the most generous scheme by RMS, the so don't abuse it or we will lose it.

I hope you enjoyed your Christmas and holiday break with family and friends and have much merriment.

You're Chairman, Garrath Will



# Bentley News

All the latest news in the world of Bentley, here and abroad...



# **HRH The Princess Royal Opens New Bentley Research And Development Centre**

Bentleymedia.com, October 24, 2016.

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal today visited the Bentley Motors headquarters in Crewe to open a new research and development centre - 25 Pyms Lane - which is home to more than 400 Bentley engineers.

The new building covers 7,200 square metres over four storeys and was constructed in just seven months. The building marks the first stage of Bentley's headquarter expansion which continues to develop the site as an industry-leading, modern, efficient manufacturing facility.

Commenting on the visit, Wolfgang Dürheimer, Bentley Chairman and CEO, said "Our research and development centre, 25 Pyms Lane, is where a new generation of Bentleys will be developed, which will continue our commitment to luxury, performance, quality and engineering excellence.

"We are honoured that we could welcome Her Royal Highness once again to our expanding headquarters, not just to celebrate the continued evolution of our site, but to demonstrate firsthand the skill of our engineers, craftspeople and trainees here in Crewe."

Before unveiling a plaque to officially open the new building, The Princess Royal visited Bentley's flagship showroom, CW1 House, and then toured the main production facility where the company's four model lines, Bentayga, Continental, Flying Spur and Mulsanne are handcrafted.

Her Royal Highness also met both apprentices and colleagues working on bespoke training islands in wood and leather, learning more about Bentley's innovative approach to training young people and continuously improving the skills of colleagues in all areas of the business.

Bentley's manufacturing apprenticeship programme has recently received national recognition by The Princess Royal herself, being named outstanding by the inaugural Princess Royal Training Awards, created to recognise learning and skills development in industry. Her Royal Highness will host the Awards ceremony at St James's Palace in November.



# **Bentley Apprentices Team Up To Restore Classic T-Series**

Article and Images by Carscoops.com, October 13, 2016.



Becoming familiar with traditional techniques is not an easy job for a apprentices, which is why Bentley allowed a team of youngsters to return a classic car to its original factory specification.

The ride of choice was a 1965 Bentley T-Series, which returned to the company's headquarters more than half a century after it left the assembly lines, only to be stripped, painted and have its engine rebuilt, as part of a renovation project, described as "a key part of the Bentley apprenticeship learning program".

"Bentley's apprenticeship scheme offers a solid foundation to enable our trainees to learn and grow. Working on one of the most iconic Bentleys from our illustrious past is a truly unique experience, and one which will enhance their skills and knowledge and help them become experts in their chosen field", said the brand's Member of the Board for Human Resources, Marlies Rogait.



Bentley was responsible for putting together the T-Series between 1965 an 1970. The car represents a significant turn for the automaker as it was the first Bentley to feature a monocoque chassis. A total of 1,004 units were produced and each one was powered by an early version of the 6.75-liter V8 engine found in the modern Mulsanne, which allowed it to go from rest to 62 mph (100 km/h) in 10.9 seconds and up to a top speed of 115 mph (185 km/h).



# Bentley Be Extraordinary Tour opens

Article by *Ken Gratton*, Images by *Carpoint.com.au*, *November* 24, 2016.



Prestige brand's pop-up store welcomes Melbourne visitors this week before heading to Sydney

An 'immersive display' outside Crown Casino is providing Melburnians with a rarely seen perspective of iconic British brand Bentley.

Named the 'Bentley Be Extraordinary Tour', the promotional event is packing up at the end of Sunday, November 27, to move to Sydney over December 7-9, before touring other Australian capitals.

On show will be three of Bentley's current product range: the Continental GT V8, the Flying Spur V8 and the Bentayga. While the modern cars deliver a sense of the brand's attention

to detail and quality materials and workmanship, the event also focuses on Bentley's motor racing heritage.

"Through the Be Extraordinary Tour, we are bringing a unique experience to the Bentley enthusiasts in Australia and at the same time building the awareness of the Bentley Financial Services that our retailer network is now providing," says David Jackson, Bentley's Regional Manager for the Asia/Pacific region.

"We are excited to be able to offer a wider audience more flexibility in purchasing a Bentley and we look forward to welcoming them."



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6

COMING EVENTS
FOR 2017

# PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

**FEB** 

6th: Club Meeting.

25th - 26th: Bathurst Oberon and Bentley Bathurst 12-hour Race.

MAR

25th - 26th: Canyonleigh BBQ and Run.

**JUN** 

5th: Club Meeting.

21st: Mid-week Run

JUL

15th - 16th: Christmas in July.

SEP

16th: W.O. Bentley Dinner.

**NOV** 

TBA: Stay tuned for more!

# DO YOU

HAVE SOMETHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR CLUB'S MAGAZINE?

WE WOULD LIKE AN ARTICLE OR EVEN A SHORT PARAGRAPH FROM YOU.

IMAGINE IF ALL MEMBERS CONTIBUTED
AN ITEM JUST HOW MUCH INTERESTING
MATERIAL WE COULD ALL BENEFIT FROM!

JUST SEND IT TO THE EDITOR
AT THE EMAIL ADDRESS ON PAGE 3

**APR** 

3rd: Club Meeting.

MAY

14th: Picnic Run to Central Coast.

**AUG** 

7th: Club Meeting.
27th: All British Day and BDC Club
Concours.

**OCT** 

9th Club Meeting. TBA: Polo at Richmond, or Opera in the Vineyard.

DEC

Club Meeting / A.G.M / Christmas Dinner.



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Club Events

Article by Athena Will, Images by Jeffrey Hinks, Jeffrey Hinks Photography.

The latest events the Club has enjoyed...



## Sunday October 9

Check in for the rally commenced from 2pm with Barry & Carol Ashton waiting patiently for the last rally participants to arrive.

From 6.30pm, drinks and dinner were served on The Illawarra Deck at the Novotel, Wollongong where we got acquainted with other Rally participants. Much laughter, drinks and banter ensued until we were shunted from the dining room out to the hotel's bar where further frivolities continued until the wee hours of the morning.

#### **Monday October 10**

At 8.00am, Bentley drivers (some with a delicate disposition) were given a brief on the day's agenda after which we enthusiastically boarded our Bentley's with our navigators and crew members. We then proceeded to tackle the Illawarra mountain pass's steep road of notorious hairpin bends, lush green rainforest and, in parts, extremely narrow lanes. Many an eyebrow raised in anticipation of the next straight stretch of road with the Southern Highlands and a cup of tea almost within our grasp.

We arrived in beautiful Bowral with a sense of achievement and a heavy foot (or arm as in my case) from all the gear changing. Our cars were directed to the Bradman Museum where they were positioned with precision by our photographer, Jeffrey Hinks, who even bought his own ladder to get that elusive angled shot. An informative tour of the museum followed morning tea where several members photo bombed Donald Bradman's doppelganger.

Centennial Vineyard was the next port of call, nestled quietly amongst the rolling hills and vineyards in Bowral. A splendid lunch started with The Centennial Tasting Slate of 6 sensational items, followed by Pork Belly or King Fish for mains and array of wines to further tantalise the tastebuds.

After lunch, we were invited to the Wingecarribee Homestead in Bowral where Marcia Yates took us on a fascinating tour of her home. Our cars lined her long impressive tree lined driveway as it wove its way to the austere front entrance. Wingecarribee was Australia's first kit home and built in 1857. The homestead was brought out from England in sections and erected on the site. The home, made entirely of iron, is painted cream and brown, with a deep red roof. The ornate cornices are surprisingly made from paper mache!





## **Tuesday October 11**

Our day started leisurely after 11am as our Bentleys set off for the Illawarra Regional Airport in Albion Park for the Historical Aircraft Restoration Society (HARS) Museum. On arrival at the airport, our cars were directed to the tarmac where they were impressively positioned in front of the hangar before us. We were welcomed into the main hangar and then escorted to a Boeing 747, which was conveniently parked nearby, for canapés and drinks in First Class. Our first theme day saw an excellent turn-out of flight attendants, pilots (Keith Wherry looking very dapper in uniform), a couple of impressive ground staff with paddles in hand (Marion & Tim Harper) and a few riff raff passengers trying to sneak into First Class. We were treated to a tour through the 747 and invited to a private audience in the cockpit with the Captain who answered every question we could throw at him and only too happy for any photo opportunity.

We headed back to the main hanger for a buffet lunch and compared notes on plane disaster movies. Note to self: Sit at the back of the plane, preferably near rear exit door. Switch phone to flight mode.



Now on to the serious side of the day: Judgment day - Concours on the Tarmac.

Pen and voting paper in hand, we ventured onto the tarmac. To the left a Neptune, to the centre a Catalina, and to the right a Caribou. These impressive and imposing planes, surrounding the Bentleys, as if lionesses protecting their cubs.

Our votes were collected in a majestic red box, then whisked away for counting.





A tour of the facility ensued with our tour guide taking us behind the closed hangar door to the restoration site which was not open to the public. Tales of war planes, drug lords and near death misses filled us with awe, horror, and elation as our tour guide regaled story after story. I would never have thought that plane stories could mesmerise and captivate each and every one of us. Begrudgingly, we bade our farewell to H.A.R.S. and cruised back to the Novotel.

In the evening, for our free night, we sampled the buffet delights of the Windjammers Restaurant and regaled the delights of the day then onto the Novotel bar for a few nightcaps, more banter, and more frivolity.







# BENTLEY DRIVERS CLUB NATIONAL RALLY 2016



#### Wednesday October 12

Wednesday was options day. Free vouchers were given to explore The Illawarra Fly, The MotorLife Car Museum, have a coffee in Berry or visit the Nan Tien Temple. I chose the Nan Tien Temple which is the largest Buddhist temple in the Southern Hemisphere. Set in serene quiet gardens, the temple is an important cultural centre bridging different cultures. An offering of a candle can be bought so that that the eyes will be radiant, careers will progress smoothly and right thoughts will prevail with complete wisdom.

Then, on to lunch at the Crooked Winery in the rolling hills of Gerringong. Another fabulous meal in a beautiful setting of lush green hills and vineyards.

Ah, but there was one flaw in this grand majestic scene and that was Graeme Ellis' Derby Bentley that failed to proceed. As luck would have it, our esteemed Chairman, Garrath Will,

was there on hand to get to the bottom of the matter (see our new Facebook page "Bentley Drivers Club NSW Region" for a compromising photo). Needless to say, Graeme and his Derby Bentley (with a little persuasion) chugged along home quite nicely. However, Garrath and his destiny were once again about to lock horns. Another Bentley stranded on the side of the road with the looming possibility of being unceremoniously toward.

Beach Party Night – What a roaring success. The place was awash with Hawaiian shirts, life savers, leis, shorts, zinc, sunglasses, and bad taste in hats. Held at the Moonlight room in the Lagoon Restaurant, North Wollongong with just a short convenient stroll from the Novotel. We had a very talented singer called who kept us singing and dancing all night.

We were also very fortunate to witness two miracles that







The first miracle: Bonnie Will arrived to the party in a wheelchair, being pushed by her devoted daughter and son-in-law. Bonnie had been feeling poorly and could not walk without becoming breathless and even considered not going to party so as not to inconvenience anyone. The music started, her feet started tapping, her head started swaying - she arose from her chair and then, hallelujah - she danced the rest of the night till she was ejected at midnight.

The second miracle: The party was in full swing. Everyone was enjoying themselves immensely (including Bonnie) when the party went into red alert. Bentley driver down on the dance floor with legs a kicking (Graeme Ellis). Luckily, we had Marion Harper in the room who sprang immediately into action with her Life Saver buoy and conducted mouth to mouth resuscitation on the poor hapless man. Another tragedy averted thanks to the selfless actions of a Life Saver.

The Moonlight Room at the Lagoon Restaurant could well become the new annual pilgrimage site for future Bentley Drivers.

#### **Thursday October 13**

On the Thursday morning, the Bentley Drivers left the Novotel to go in a convoy to Flagstaff Hill where the media took photos and film of the cars and interviewed our Chairman, Garrath Will, about the Rally.

We then drove in a convoy along Grand Pacific Drive, across the amazing Sea Cliff Bridge and through to the National Park. Another challenging drive of steep and winding roads. We arrived just in time for lunch at the Bundeena Bowling Club. After lunch, I heard giggles and hoots of laughter coming from the bowling green. There were Bentley drivers bowling barefoot on the green. Greg May made a valiant effort, when he stopped laughing, and put his best foot forward and had a go! A word of warning: better to stand beside him than behind him when he is armed with a lethal weapon. The ladies had the upper hand on the day and were of no end of amusement to us all.

Night was looming, the rain was coming and I had no windscreen wipers! The collateral damage was starting to pile up. The lock in the front passenger door had fallen out, so I couldn't lock the door. Garrath had smeared some anti-fog wipes on the outside of the window and I could barely see out. I was crossing my fingers, toes and eyebrows that it didn't rain. My navigator Michael Bart and crew member Bonnie Will had decided that a nap was in order and it was then that I knew I was on my own coming through the National Park. My Bentley came limping back into head quarters just in time for the Grand Finale and the rain.

The Grand Final Gala Night dinner started with pre-dinner drinks and canapés. The room was abuzz with talking and laughter. It was great to see the ladies and gentlemen looking so smart and elegant in their formal wear. Everyone seemed to have enjoyed the Rally immensely and I heard numerous comments on how nice it was to get to know the other rally members and not just participate.

The meal was excellent. The trophies were presented and everyone was good spirited for the winners. Albeit, they were all male. Just saying.











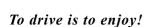


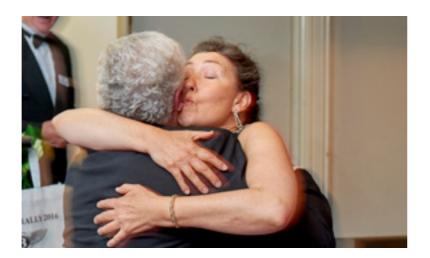


Although, secretly I was hoping for the "I Can't Believe She Drove That Thing" Trophy. Oh well, there's always Victoria in two years.

\* \* \* \* \* \*

I must say that the Wollongong Rally was an absolute success and would have to be the most social Rally I have ever been on. Everyone made the effort of getting to know each other and would sit with different people each night and chat. I would like to thank the Chairman and the committee for making this Rally such a success and I look forward to the next Bentley Drivers Club Rally in Melbourne.









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# 2016 Annual Polo Day at Richmond

Article by Cameron Blinman, Images by Garrath Will, Cameron Blinman and Greg May.





Every year, the Cub meets at picturesque Richmond for the Annual Polo Day. And every year, friends and members come together, enjoy food, wine, and being spectators to a fantastic game of Polo. This was my first attendance at the Polo Day, and once I navigated to the correct location at Richmond (I may have mistakenly thought the equestrian event up the road was the Polo event for a brief period...), I too partook in friends, fun and being witness to a great game.

This year saw the club set ourselves up under the familiar Greenroofed tents, Club flags and regalia flying amongst the breeze, along with some fabulous Bentleys, classic and contemporary on display for both members and non-members to admire.

And, like every Polo Day, we had the Bentley Cup, a coveted award that was as always competitively fought for by Polo players!

To do the event justice, we have included some fantastic snaps from the day. Like all Club events, these are a secondary substitute for attendance – be sure to come along to our next event!







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