



THE CAPITAL LETTER

Quarterly journal of the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club of Australia ACT Branch Incorporated
Serving the Australian Capital Region



Mailing address:
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DEDICATED TO ROLLS-ROYCE & BENTLEY ENTHUSIASTS

Spring / Summer 2025 / 26



CAL7

1962 Silver Cloud III Long Wheelbase Saloon



From the President

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Club Website: rroact.org.au



Since the last edition of *The Capital Letter*, our club has participated in only two events during this traditionally very quiet period – the first was the Terribly British Day at Queanbeyan Park on 2nd November run by the Canberra Antique and Classic Motor Club. Our Club and marque cars were again well represented and participants enjoyed this good-time local event.

Our Club's End of Year event was held at the Statesman Hotel in Curtin on 6th December at which 16 members enjoyed the usual camaraderie in the lead up to the festive season. It is pleasing to witness this event affording the opportunity to catch up with members who are unable to join in other Club activities.

The next major event is the annual Wheels of Canberra display on Sun 22nd March 2026, this year at Thoroughbred Park in Canberra. This is another event we have traditionally attended and arrangements for attending it this year appear on our web-site.

Speaking of which, our domain name for the web site (noted above) has been renewed for another five years – so again, thanks to Luke Drady for his efforts in maintaining the site.

National Registrar for the Cloud/Bentley S models Martin Bennett, has again organised the 'Head in the Clouds' tour centred on Wangaratta for 23rd-27th March. I'm sure it will be another great run for our A.C.T. and interstate participants. Likewise, I'm in the planning stages for the SMARTing to the Riverina run for 6th-9th October this year.

Until next issue, happily proceeding!
Peter Hyland



Left: The beautiful trophy that we won for 'Best Club Display on the day' at the 2025 Terribly British Day. Photograph from Tina Oliver.

Front Cover: Silver Cloud and Bentley S Series models came in a choice of two wheelbases. These were the standard length at 10ft 3in wheelbase and the much less numerous Long Wheelbase model which was 4 inches longer. All the additional length was in the rear compartment, mostly taken up by the division with which most were fitted. Note the additional quarter-window aft of the rear door. This is a very early (1962) Silver Cloud III Long Wheelbase saloon, chassis CAL7, the fourth one built.

From the Editor

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While every care is taken to check information published, no responsibility can be accepted for errors. Views expressed by the Editor and contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Club. Nothing in this journal, including any advertisement, should be construed as endorsement by the Editor or the Club of the quality or suitability of any product, service or procedure.

Although it remains unclear why the 2025 Terribly British Day was a month earlier than usual, it turned out beautifully for us, with superb weather and a terrific turn-out of our members and their cars. To cap all of this, we were awarded the trophy for the Best Club Display on the day. Our Secretary Tina Oliver sent the photograph on the opposite page showing the beautiful etched glass trophy, which will be proudly displayed at our HQ.

On a sad note, our Membership Registrar Ian Dunn informed me of the passing of his long-time friend and fellow member John Curry. Ian's and John's membership dates from the very beginnings of the Club in the A.C.T. Our condolences to Ian at this sad time.

Our traditional End-of-Year Get-together, or Christmas Party, was held on Saturday 6th December at the Statesman Hotel in Curtin. A very creditable number of members participated.

Members attention is drawn to the May 6-day Autumn Tour referred to in the Events Calendar below.

Also, on 20th June, a celebration of 70 years of the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club of Australia New South Wales Branch, which was formed in 1956 and now functions as the Rolls-Royce & Bentley Club NSW. From the following year, that original Club formed the beginnings of the truly national Club of which we are part. See below and page 15.

Martin Bennett

Branch Events Calendar

Members should note that events dates and details listed here are in some cases indicative only and are subject to change. Timely notice of each forthcoming event is provided by group email and/or text message but in the event of doubt please contact the Secretary or President to confirm.

FEBRUARY 2026

Wednesday 4th February 2026: Our first General Meeting of the year, 7.00 p.m., 72 Gladstone Street, Fyshwick.

MARCH

Sunday 22nd March: 'Wheels', Thoroughbred Park. Arrive between 9.00 and 10.00 a.m. Pre-paid tickets \$5 from the Club, otherwise on the day, \$10.

APRIL

Wednesday 1st April: General Meeting, 7.00 p.m., 72 Gladstone Street, Fyshwick.

MAY

Sunday 17th May to Saturday 23rd May: Orange N.S.W. 6-day Autumn Tour. Contact Mike or Linda Eames, 0493 496 163 or carclubevents@proton.me

JUNE

20th June: Lunch at the Wollongong Golf Club to celebrate 70 years of the R.R.O.C.A. See also page 15.

Lunch Bookings via Trybooking - <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1506374>

Lunch Venue, the Wollongong Golf Club - <https://www.wollongonggolfclub.com.au/>

Accommodation at the Golf Club - https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotels-in-wollongong/best-western-city-sands/propertyCode.97360.html

Accommodation at The Sage Hotel - <https://www.nexthotels.com/sage/wollongong/>

Accommodation at the Astra Apartments - <https://www.astraapartments.com.au/locations/wollongong/?>



Above: Stephen Beer's 1965 Silver Cloud III SJR309.



Above: According to Club records, Prue & Ken Wedgwood's 1974 Silver Shadow SRH19525 is exactly 300 chassis numbers apart from (below) Shane Mortimer's SRH19825, which is of course also a 1974 Silver Shadow.

Terribly British Day

Queanbeyan Park

Sunday 2nd November



Left: Tina Oliver's Bentley Bentayga represented the post-2003 models in the A.C.T. Club line-up.





These two cars are of the same era of Rolls-Royce production. **Above** is Bryce Ronning's 1949 Silver Wraith WFC67 which is a coachbuilt car, in this instance with coachwork by Hooper & Co., while **(Below)** is Ian & Tina Oliver's 1952 Silver Dawn SFC66, representing the standard steel saloon of the period.



Above: Chris O'Rourke's 1957 Silver Cloud SED51.

Below: V8-engined Silver Cloud / S Series cars: on the left, your Editor's 1960 Bentley S2 B25CT and on the right Mike Mulvihill's 1961 Silver Cloud II SZD313.





Above: Since our special meeting in late 2025 to amend our Constitution, Vintage Bentleys (i.e. pre-1931) such as this superb 4 1/2-Litre Le Mans-style tourer are now eligible cars in our Club. Owned by a non-member, this car was appropriately exhibited adjacent to, and contributed strongly to, our display.

Below: This 'barn find' Silver Cloud II is understood to be the subject of a future restoration project, while there is also the possibility of a new member.



Above: Paul James's 1997 Bentley Turbo RT, BNPW66365.

Below: David Kimmorley's 1986 Silver Spirit ASG14563.



More pictures from the
SMARTing to the Silos
 rally

Tuesday 7th – Saturday 11th October 2025

Photographs by Tina Oliver

This page: In this endlessly fascinating museum in Gundagai Smart Registrar Peter Hyland and Federal President Louise Matthews may be seen in the middle left of the photograph.

Opposite page, upper: Some of the 2025 SMART Rally cars outside Kellyland in Glenrowan, Victoria, where participants were able to observe a re-enactment of Ned Kelly's Last Stand through the magic of a most impressive 'animatronic' show.

Opposite page, lower: Tina Oliver, Ian Oliver, Manuela Bennett and Martin Bennett at the Sir George Coles silo art at St James, Victoria.





Well met in Harden

Thursday 5th February

Photographs by the Editor



*President Peter Hyland and your Editor arrived minutes apart at the Harden workshop of Phil Sproston – Excelsior Garage – for work on our cars. On the **opposite page** Phil is working on the driver's window electrics of the Presidential Silver Spirit III. With silo art fresh in our minds it was interesting to see another example (**left**) visible from Phil's premises.*



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Come Celebrate 70 Years of our Club 1956 to 2026

Yes! Our Club's Constitution was signed
20th June 1956.

We will celebrate our Platinum Anniversary
with a wonderful luncheon
20th June 2026.

Whilst the luncheon is on Saturday 20th June 2026 at
The 19th, Wollongong Golf Club
we hope you will make a weekend of it and catch up with friends.
Sunday will see a Club Run from the Golf Club
to Kangaroo Valley where we will meet
for a picnic and a Car Gymkhana.

Do join us to celebrate

Finer Details

Tickets for the lunch will go on sale 1st February via Trybooking.
Kangaroo Valley Run - BYO picnic
An in-situ Photographer will take car photos on the road.

Accommodation

Onsite accommodation [Best Western City Sands](#) - (02) 4222 3111
Within one block: [The Sage Hotel](#) - (02) 4201 2111
or the [Astra Apartments](#) - +61 480 053 951



During the recent 'SMART' Register tour, led by our President Peter Hyland, this pair of two-door coachbuilt models came together in Beechworth, Victoria. On the left is 1984 Camargue AJE08943 (John & Marjorie Wilson, Vic.) and on the right 1997 Bentley Continental R BBW63021 (Graham Lawrence, A.C.T.). Photograph by the Editor.



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