

## Formal Recognition of The Foundation's 20th Anniversary

During the Presentation Dinner at the recent Bendigo Federal Rally there was the opportunity to give formal recognition to The Foundation's 20th "birthday". For Club Members who were not at Bendigo, the following is a précis of my speech at the Dinner:

"2016 is a very auspicious occasion – it is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of The Sir Henry Royce Foundation.

The Foundation was created from a discussion at the 1995 Federal Rally that a stand-alone body be created to preserve the past in relation to items manufactured by Rolls-Royce and Bentley, the history of the Founders and all printed material relating to the automobiles and the aircraft engines.

I would summarise the major achievements of The Foundation over the past twenty years as:

The Foundation has received generous financial support for its activities from RROCA Victoria Branch Members Jean Allsep and Lionel Gell. The Trustees decided to use this financial support to purchase premises in Melbourne as the home for The Foundation's extensive collection of historical documentation, memorabilia and engines. The Foundation operates from two separate premises in the Melbourne - Bill Allsep House (referred to as BAH) and the Lionel Gell School of Instruction for Rolls-Royce and Bentley (referred to as LGSi). Importantly, BAH is also the clubrooms of the Victoria Branch with LGSi being the "home" of the Victoria Branch Technical Section.

Currently there are over 20,000 historical items owned or under the care of The Foundation. Many of these items have been donated by RROCA Members or by people who understand that The Foundation's "Archive" is an appropriate place for the care and display of such important material.

The Foundation owns and displays at BAH or LGSi an Australian-built Rolls-Royce Avon aero-engine, a cutaway 20/25 HP car engine, a cutaway Rolls-Royce C Series Supercharged diesel engine and the electrical and mechanical components of a very rare Royce crane, for example.

The Foundation has been recognised for its "museum" standard conservation and display practices. As a consequence, we have a Rolls-Royce Merlin aero-engine on long-term loan from the Australian War Memorial and a rare Rolls-Royce Eagle aero-engine and a cutaway early Rolls-Royce Derwent jet engine on long-term loan from Museum Victoria.



The Collection is under the expert care of The Foundation's Honourary Archivist, Gilbert Ralph. Gilbert is assisted by a group of volunteers who meet regularly to curate and catalogue the "Archive" material. I would urge Members not to discard any material relating to Rolls-Royce and Bentley. The Foundation's "Archive" is built on donations of such material.

The Foundation's flagship is the 1967 Rolls-Royce Phantom V, chassis number 5VF159, a former Australian Government car that transported visiting royalty and Governors-General. (It should be noted that the Phantom V was donated to The Foundation by RROCA NSW Branch Member John Matheson under the Australian Government Cultural Gifts Programme.) The NSW Branch has undertaken the project of maintaining and conserving the Phantom V. To achieve this, Trustee Brian Crump, as The Foundation's custodian, is assisted by a Phantom V Conservation Committee drawn from NSW Branch members.

The Foundation has published a number of books relating to Rolls-Royce and Bentley. I would mention, in particular, "Rolls-Royce and Bentley in the Sunburnt Country", Rolls-Royce and Bentley in the Rear View Mirror – A History of the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club of Australia", "The Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost – Origins and Development 1906-1926", "50 Years with a Rolls-Royce Twenty" and Fred English's extensive indices of "Praeclarvm".

As part of its education objectives, The Foundation continues to support the apprentice training programmes at the Kangan Institute Centre for Automotive Excellence. Two "Awards" are presented at the Institute's awards function each year.

Overall, I think we can acknowledge that The Foundation has had a very successful first 20 years and that it has made significant strides in promulgating the engineering ethos of Sir Henry Royce – one of The Foundation's core objectives."

## Foundation Trustees

The current Trustees are – Russell Rolls (Chairman), David Vann, Brian Crump and Eric Henderson.

David Vann was one of the original Trustees when The Foundation was established formally in 1996. It is with some regret I can advise that, after 20 years continuous service as a Trustee, David has decided to retire as of September 30 this year. I wish to acknowledge David's major contribution to The Foundation over the past 20 years and in particular his time as Chairman of Trustees.

It is with great pleasure I can advise that Frank Carroll, (a Member of the RROCA Queensland Branch) will fill this vacancy and will be appointed as a Trustee as from October 1.

**above:** The Foundation's Rolls-Royce Avon Jet Engine on display at Bill Allsep House in Rowville, Victoria.

**below upper:** Honourary Archivist, Gilbert Ralph selects a records box for study from the Archive's material.

**bottom:** (l-r) David MacArthur and Richard Knight, both Archive volunteers, discuss an item from the Archive.





**The Sir Henry Royce Foundation Trophy**

Each year The Foundation selects a person who has made a significant contribution to the pursuit of excellence in all matters that are cogent to the objectives of The Foundation.

For 2016 the Foundation Trophy was awarded to Steve Stuckey, a long-standing Member of the ACT Branch. Steve has applied his professional expertise as an historian and an archivist to a 40-year journey of researching the Phantom III. He has been a towering force in the Phantom III Technical Society, virtually since its inception. He has published widely on the Phantom III - he has written articles for Rolls-Royce and Bentley club magazines, he was the co-author of "The Rolls-Royce Phantom II & Phantom III" and has recently released his magnum opus "The Spectre Arises: The Story of the Phantom III, the ultimate Pre-war Rolls-Royce". This book covers the development of the Phantom II through its innovative technology, the magnificent coachwork and the individual history of many of the cars.

"The Spectre Arises" is one of the most elegant and comprehensive works on the Rolls-Royce marque yet published. Steve's research reflects the attention to detail and the perfection that was Sir Henry Royce's ethos.

Steve has certainly made a contribution to the pursuit of excellence that is one of the core objectives of The Foundation.

**The FJ English Award for Club Photography for 2015**

Long-standing Victoria and NSW Branch Member Fred English continues his generous support of The Foundation's activities through the annual Award for Club Photography.

The winner of the Award is Liam Carson, a younger Member of the Queensland Branch.

*At Home on the Farm* - The Queensland Branch Scenic Rim, Dairy and Valley Kitchen Outing. Liam has captured the spirit of Club membership – Ken Follitt's 25/30HP (GGM3) with Branch Members and their families. It is a well-composed photograph of a classic 1930's Rolls-Royce in a typical Australian setting. Perhaps more importantly, the photograph highlights the family-friendly nature of the Club and its activities. The Foundation encourages the participation of the next generation of enthusiasts in the preservation of the engineering ethos of Sir Henry Royce.

It is The Foundation's intention to continue with the Award this year with the winner being announced at the 2017 Federal Rally in Canberra. The conditions of entry are that the photograph must have been taken at a Club event during 2016. All Members are encouraged to participate.

**The Kangan Institute Centre for Automotive Excellence Awards**

The Foundation, as part of its educational outreach, sponsors two awards annually to recognise achievement of excellence for automotive industry trainees at the Centre for Automotive Excellence.

The Sir Henry Royce Foundation Award for Excellence recognises Kangan Institute's best body making apprentice for the year. Rhys Attwood was the winner of the award for 2016. Rhys undertook his apprenticeship training in body making at the Kangan Institute and is currently a body maker in

Volgren Australia where he completed his apprenticeship.

The Lionel Gell School of Instruction Award for Excellence recognises the best trainee across all automotive trades. Jeremy Franciosa is the winner of the award for 2016. Jeremy works at Harley City – his long-time passion is motorcycles.

We congratulate Rhys and Jeremy for

**above:** Winning photo of the FJ English Club Photography for 2015: *At Home on the Farm* taken by QLD Junior Member, Liam Carson.

**below upper:** : Russell Rolls present the 2016 SHRF Award for Excellence to Rhys Attwood and:

**bottom:** Lionel Gell presents the 2016 LGSI Award to Jeremy Franciosa, both at the recent Kangan Awards night.





particularly in Sydney. As witness to this profile, there was a major article – “Royal and Regal Rolls-Royce” – included in the July 2016 edition (#58) of “Retroautos”. Ignoring the usual application of journalistic licence, this article is good publicity for The Foundation and of the activities of the NSW Branch. One of the core objectives of The Foundation is to promote the engineering ethos of Sir Henry Royce to a wider audience than just Club Members. “Retroautos” ([www.retroautos.com.au](http://www.retroautos.com.au)) is a monthly electronic magazine celebrating classic and collectible automobiles, and their owners, around the world. Please take a look at the article on the Phantom V and enjoy the other articles on classic cars.

the hard work and dedication that they have shown in their training, their work and for their contribution to maintaining Sir Henry Royce's high standards in automotive industry technology.

### BAH and LGSJ Open Day

The Trustees have decided to organise another Open Day for Members to visit both BAH and LGSJ. This Open Day will be on Saturday, September 10. The Victoria Branch Concours Display Day will be held on Sunday, September 11. Therefore, Members will be able to enjoy an interesting Rolls-Royce and Bentley weekend in Melbourne. Full details of the weekend's activities will be published in forthcoming Branch Newsletters.

### Consultative Committee

The Foundation Trustees communicate with the RROCA via the Consultative Committee, chaired by the Federal President and made up of all Branch Presidents.

The Consultative Committee meets annually at each Federal Rally. At the recent meeting in Bendigo there was a wide-ranging discussion on The Foundations' activities. Branch President's will report back to Club Members on the matters discussed.

### Donations to the “Archive”

As I have mentioned, currently there are over 20,000 historical items owned or under the care of The Foundation. Many of these items have been donated by RROCA Members.

In this regard I would like to recognise recent donations of historical documents or artifacts from – Jean Allsep, David Axe, Martin Bennett, Margaret and Barry Gillings, David Heuzenroeder, David Marshall-Martin, Steve McDonald, Ross Meakins, Wallace Moorhouse, Bruce Moran, John Mould, Gilbert Ralph, Ken Swinbourne, Rex Vincent and the RROCA South Australia Branch (including material from the Estate of the Late Charles Wright).

It is pleasing to see this level of support for the “Archive”. The Foundation is the logical repository of historical material on the Rolls-Royce and Bentley marques and on the activities of the RROCA and the Branches. Please contact Gilbert Ralph to discuss donations of such material.

### Phantom V

The Foundation's Phantom V is gaining a higher profile amongst the public and classic car enthusiasts,

Might I remind RROCA Members that this is your Foundation. Please continue to support its activities by buying Foundation merchandise, by donation or by placing Rolls-Royce or Bentley memorabilia in The Foundation's “Archive”.

Russell Rolls  
Chairman Of Trustees

**above:** The SHRF Consultative Meeting attendees at the 2016 Federal Rally (l-r): Eric Henderson (SHRF), Bruce Duncan (NSW), Ian Irwin (ACT), Frank Carroll (QLD), Mick Rust (WA), Noel Baker (VIC), David Furness (SA), Brian Crump (NSW), Steve McDonald (RROCA), Russell Rolls (SHRF) and Neil Matthews (RROCA).

**below:** The Foundation's 1967 Rolls-Royce Phantom Mulliner Park Ward Limousine (arrowed here) was one of the centre points of activity at the 2016 Bendigo Rally Concours Display Day. (photo Chris Gillings)

