

# Body snatching for a display in Geebung

Removed from its Ghost, a body is preserved

Notwithstanding the issues surrounding the COVID pandemic, the Foundation's Geebung Museum continues to make excellent progress under the watchful eye of Curator Barry Sparks. January 2022 sees a major new exhibit: the ex-Gillings Silver Ghost Grice body is now at Geebung and is being prepared for public display.

A few years ago, after Bill Hall (NSW) bought Silver Ghost chassis number 1492 from the Gillings, he donated the Grice body to the Foundation. At that time the Foundation did not have the facility to display it and so it was placed in storage. Recently, Trustee Frank Carroll and his wife Joan took their trailer down to Sydney, retrieved the body from storage and transported it to Geebung.

The Grice body is important to Australia's Rolls-Royce heritage. Originally fitted with a UK-built Brainsby landaulette, 1492 had a succession of coachbuilt bodies fitted. In 1925, it had a splendid hearse body by Kinsella Funerals in Sydney. Subsequent to Barrie Gillings' (NSW) purchase of 1492 in 1956 he had the hearse body removed and the Sydney coachbuilders Grice re-bodied the car as a landaulette. WS Grice operated from Summer Hill in Sydney and was one of the smaller coachbuilders in business from the late 1920s to the late 1950s. Tom Clarke and David Neely in their book *Rolls-Royce and Bentley in the Sunburnt Country* note that only two Grice bodies were fitted to Rolls-Royce chassis.

So, the Grice body is a rare example of a coachbuilt body from a small Australian coachbuilder.

The body is currently without a firewall and some other incidental items. If you have any Silver Ghost chassis or body parts that would suit the display, Barry would love to hear from you. His contact details are in Chassis Plate.

## BILL ALLSEP HOUSE (BAH)

With the relaxing of the Victorian COVID restrictions volunteer activity is back in full-swing at BAH. Gilbert Ralph (VIC) has handed over the Archivist's role to Geoff Down (VIC). Shelf space within

the Archive is now at a premium and Geoff is looking at ways to create more space within what has become a rather crowded area.

We welcome a new volunteer, Howard Wraight. Howard, the current RROCA Victoria President, is a long-time classic car enthusiast and Rolls-Royce owner. He has a deep interest in the history of Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars and will make a significant contribution to the activities of the Archive.

## HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS

The Foundation is one of the major automotive heritage organisations in Australia. We are a member of the Australasian Motor Museums Association and of Automotive Historians Australia. The Foundation's Archive is a major research resource on Rolls-Royce and Bentley cars and of the RROCA. We are able to catalogue, store and preserve this important documentation under museum-like conditions.

The Foundation is the logical repository

RUSSELL ROLLS (VIC),  
SHRF CHAIRMAN OF TRUSTEES

of all your surplus automotive books, magazines, etc. Please do not dispose of this material without giving consideration to donating it to the Foundation. ■



1. An example of what's in the SHRF Archive. Your donation doesn't have to as rare!
2. The Grice body fixed to a trailer of unknown chassis number, departing for Geebung
3. Barrie Gillings slides out from the behind the wheel of 1492 and its Grice body