

From the Sir Henry Royce Foundation

Donation of Vice-Regal Silver Shadow:

I am pleased to announce that Trustee Eric Henderson and Amanda, Alex and Zara have donated their Vice-Regal 1976 Silver Shadow (LRH24643) to The Foundation. This generous donation is an indication of the status of The Foundation in preserving historically important cars for future generations.

LRH24643 joins The Foundation's two ex-Australian Government "royal" Phantom Vs, the three cars forming an interesting collection highlighting government support of Rolls-Royce as the limousine for State occasions.

LRH24643, with its personal registration "GOV", will be based in Victoria. The Trustees are developing a plan to allow the car to be available to younger members of the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club of Australia (Victoria Branch) to whet their appetite for classic Rolls-Royce motor cars. The Henderson family and The Foundation Trustees see LRH24643 as a car to be used regularly for the enjoyment of Club Members and the public at large rather than as a "museum piece".

A new Rolls-Royce for the Governor of Victoria was ordered in July 1975. The model was a Silver Shadow with a long wheelbase and a division which the company had first produced for Princess Margaret.

The car was ordered by the Victorian Government to "Vice-Regal" specification. Details are: the colour scheme is Black over Cardinal Red with a parchment interior. The coachbuilt features of the car include an Everflex roof, a privacy rear window and dual air conditioning and stereo systems.

As the Victorian Governor has diplomatic immunity, the car (particularly the division) was exempt from the Australian Design Rules.

LRH24643 was shipped in July 1976 in a container on the "Kangourou" and delivered to the Governor on 8 September 1976.

This car is the third of four Rolls-Royce cars purchased by the People of Victoria for Sir Henry Winneke during his term as Governor of Victoria. As the vice-regal car, it was not registered and displayed only the Royal Crown while conveying the Governor to all official events including hosting Prince Charles and other foreign dignitaries.

After 80,000 kilometres the car was traded in on its replacement and first registered in November 1978. In private hands the car was enjoyed by a property developer, a solicitor, a company director and under the ownership of RROCA (Victoria Branch) Members, Michael Bristow and Robin Hickman, as a wedding hire car until acquired by the Henderson family in July 1992 with 200,000 kilometres on the odometer.

In the 28-year custody of the Henderson family the car received all of the maintenance it needed including repairs to the gearbox, differential, ignition, carburettors, brakes and air conditioning. While the car has never been involved in an accident, it was refurbished in 2002 with a bare metal repaint and cosmetic detailing.

As a member of the Henderson family the car participated in many RROCA events. Eric was President of the Victoria Branch from 2002 to 2005 and Federal President from 2006 to 2009. Eric organised many rallies and the car was used to lead Western District Weekends, Overlanders to Federal Rallies and the Australian leg of the Centennial World Tour in 2004.

The Henderson family is pleased that the Sir Henry Royce Foundation is the next custodian and will ensure that the provenance and significance of this car, now 45 years old with 315,000 kilometres on the odometer, is preserved for future generations.

The Foundation is cognisant of the generosity of the Henderson family and takes very seriously the responsibility for the on-going preservation and display of such an historic vice-regal vehicle. RROCA Members will continue to see LRH24643 at both Federal and local rallies.

Royce Voice:

Under Trustee Jeanne Eve's editorship, The Foundation has commenced publication of a quarterly e-newsletter. "Royce Voice" highlights e-news from all Foundation activities. It will let you know about the latest events and acquisitions within the various Collections, Museum and Showroom. Also, it will provide updated information

about The Foundation's community involvement and Awards. I would urge all RROCA Members and friends to subscribe. In line with privacy regulations, it is an "opt in" subscription process. The Foundation's website - www.henryroycefoundation.com - "Information" and "Online Newsletter" dropdowns lead to the "Subscribe" button.

The F J English Photographic Award and The Sir Henry Royce Foundation Research Award, both for 2020:

Please see page 7968 of this edition of *Præclarvm* for details of these awards for 2020. Also please note the Photographic Award is open to members of the RROCA and the photograph must be taken at a RROCA event in 2020, while the Research Award is open to all, not just Members of the RROCA with both closing the upcoming date of 28 February 2021. Entries in the first instance should be directed to the editor@rroc.org.au email address.

Russell Rolls, Chairman of Trustees

below: The view from the back seat of LRH24643 showing the division and glass screen to ensure privacy.

below bottom: GOV at a recent Victoria Branch club event.

