

From the Sir Henry Royce Foundation

Official Opening of SHRF Coolum

Through the generosity of Trustee Frank Carroll, The Foundation now has a presence at Coolum, Queensland. Frank has established large, purpose built premises to store and exhibit his stable of cars and has made available, at no cost to The Foundation, a significant area in this building. The Trustees attended the official opening of SHRF Coolum on the afternoon of November 17.

The formality of the opening was conducted by the local Member of Queensland Parliament, Dan Purdie. There were some 40 people present, including Members of the RROCA Queensland Branch and local people with an interest in classic and historic cars.

The SHRF Coolum provides The Foundation with a facility to store and display cars and larger items of technical interest. It is an adjunct to the Sub-Archive Queensland at Geebung. The first item of The Foundation's collection to be restored and displayed at Coolum is a "C" Series Rolls-Royce diesel engine, built in the early 1950's and originally the motor for a Vickers crawler tractor.

The SHRF Coolum has already been put to good use with a gathering of 70 people for a Christmas function. The activities at Coolum are attracting a deal of local interest with donations of automotive memorabilia already received or promised.

The Foundation's Phantom V (5VF155) is now at Coolum and after a minimum of detailing will be on permanent display there.

The Trustees thank Frank and Joan Carroll for their generous support of The Foundation.

Sub-Archive Queensland

The Sub-Archive Queensland, an integral part of The Foundation's activities, goes from strength-to-strength. The Trustees visited Geebung on the morning of November 17 to meet with and to "kick-off" the operations of the Committee of Management. This Committee, whose membership includes RROCA Queensland Branch Members and Geebung volunteers will assist Curator Barry Sparks with the administration and operation of the day-to-day activities. Thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of Barry and Ann Sparks and the Geebung volunteers, the Sub-Archive Queensland has come a long way in a very short time and houses, in particular, a very impressive display of engines and associated technical items.

right upper: The Coolum Sub-Archive's 1950s, "C" Series Rolls-Royce diesel engine.

right: At the opening of the Coolum sub-Branch were: (l-r) Queensland Parliament's Dan Purdie, Trustees: Eric Henderson, Frank Carroll and Jean Eve, Federal Politician, Ted O'Brien and SHRF Chairman, Russell Rolls.

The Vin Kean Memorial Archive

The late Vin Kean built a very successful motorcar dealership group with brands such as Holden, BMW, Volkswagen and Ferrari. He was the instigator and financier of the Holden Dealer Team when General Motors withdrew from motor sport.

The pinnacle of Vin's career was his close relationship with Rolls-Royce and Bentley through the dealerships in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney. Vin was instrumental in the preservation and donation to The Foundation of significant archival material relating to these marques. The Vin Kean Memorial Archive has been established to preserve and display the historical documentation that Vin collected over some 60 years association with Rolls-Royce and Bentley.

In late September, along with past Federal President Neil Matthews and RROCA Victoria Branch Members John Reis and John Wilson, I travelled to Adelaide to collect all this documentation. We transported some 20 filing boxes of valuable historic material back to Melbourne (Bill Allsep House) for cataloguing and accession to The Foundation's Archive. Honorary Archivist, Gilbert Ralph, and his group of volunteers with undertake this task over the next couple of months.

Of particular interest is the collection of service records of the Rolls-Royce and Bentley vehicles that passed through the United Motors/Motors Limited dealership. When these records have been sorted and catalogued The Foundation will be in a position to supply copies to Members who own a SA delivered car.

It is the longer-term wish of The Foundation that a suitable repository will be found in South Australia for The Vin Kean Memorial Archive.

The People's Mosquito

In the last issue of "Praelarvm" I mentioned that engineering experts from The People's Mosquito (www.peoplesmosquito.org.uk)

were undertaking a detailed technical assessment of the suitability of The Foundation's Merlin engine for the Mosquito project. It is a great disappointment to the Trustees that this assessment has proven negative. The Foundation's Merlin is an engine built for the later de Havilland Hornet and is not suitable for the Mosquito.

Given this outcome, it is the Trustees intention to display the Merlin at SHRF Coolum.

Donations of material for The Foundation's "Archive".

Recently, the following have made donations of a wide variety of interesting documentation and artefacts: James Baxter, Crail Douglas, Brian Harper and David Neely.

F J English Award for Club Photography

This Award is made possible through the generous support of 50-year Club Member, Fred English. Fred has confirmed that the Award will be made again for 2018 – refer to entry details on page 7504

The Sir Henry Royce Foundation Research Award

This Award, to encourage the use of The Foundation "Archive" for research, will be available again for 2018. Full details of the Award can be found on page 7504 as well.

Russell Rolls

Chairman of Trustees

