

Foundation History and Operations

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of The Sir Henry Royce Foundation Australia. For newer Members (and perhaps as an aide memoire for long-standing Members) I thought it appropriate to highlight the background and achievements of The Foundation.

The Inspiration

In all his designs Sir Henry Royce (1863-1933) demonstrated an attention to detail never previously seen in the automotive and aeronautical worlds. His motto was his engineering standard - "Whatever is rightly done - however humble - is noble". "Rightly done" are the key words in Rolls-Royce engineering and there are many fine examples of Sir Henry's determination to strive for perfection. He was also guided by the philosophy, "Strive for perfection in everything you do. Take the best that exists and make it better. When it does not exist, design it."

Establishment of the Foundation

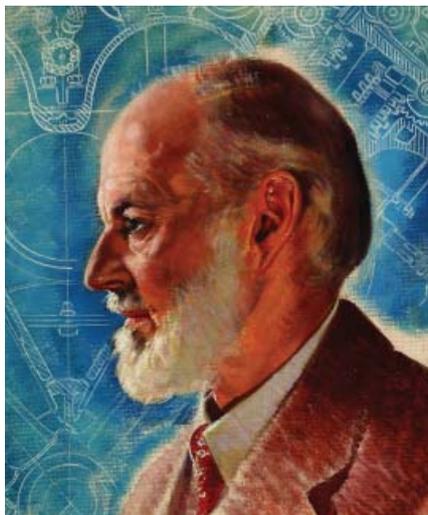
The Sir Henry Royce Foundation was created from a discussion at the 1995 Federal Rally of the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club of Australia that a stand-alone body be created to preserve the past in relation to items manufactured by Rolls-Royce and Bentley, the history of the Founders (Sir Henry Royce, The Hon C. S. Rolls and W. O. Bentley) and all printed material relating to the automobiles and the aircraft engines. Following much discussion and professional advice, a charitable Trust was created and named "The Sir Henry Royce Foundation".

The formal "Instrument Creating the Sir Henry Royce Foundation" was signed by the four Founding Trustees, David Jones, Malcolm Johns, Jim Kelso and David Vann, all former Federal Presidents and Honorary Life Members of the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club of Australia (RROCA). The signing was witnessed by two of the Foundation Members of the RROCA, Barrie and Margaret Gillings.

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

The Objects of the Foundation

The Foundation is a registered charitable trust and is subject to the stringent legal and financial regulations set out by the Australian Taxation Office. All donations to The Foundation are, therefore, tax



deductible for the donor.

The Charitable Objects of the Foundation are for the advancement of the science and technology of mechanical engineering for the public benefit. Particular "Objects" include:

- Making available for study and research purposes the corpus of the published and unpublished work of the late Sir Henry Royce and by promoting and providing facilities for such study and research and for the study of the history and development of the pursuit of excellence in the science of mechanical engineering.
- Establishing, providing and maintaining a library containing books, manuscripts, records, photographs, films, microfilms, sound recordings, computer discs and other material.
- Establishing, providing and maintaining a museum for the preservation and exhibition of objects illustrating or connected with Rolls-Royce and Bentley.
- Allowing the public reasonable access to any material in the Trustees' hands and to provide copies of such material.

Premises

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 suburb of Rowville – Bill Allsep House (BAH) and the Lionel Gell School of Instruction for Rolls-Royce and Bentley (LGSi).

The Collection

Currently there are over 20,000 items owned or under the care of The Foundation. These include:

- An extensive library that contains hundreds of books relating to Rolls-Royce and Bentley. In addition to general books the library has a huge collection of Rolls-Royce company publications including handbooks, manuals, service manuals, parts books, sales brochures, catalogues, newsletters and magazines. In the magazine library we have long runs of RREC Bulletin, RROC Inc, Flying Lady, Bentley Driver's Club Review, a bound set of Restored Cars and perhaps more importantly, a bound set of the complete run of Praeclarvm. The NSW Branch has donated a complete bound set of London & Derby. Also, there is a complete bound set of the Victoria Branch Newsletter.
- An extensive collection of photographs including 32 CD's containing the Victoria and NSW Branch Member Fred English's collection taken over Fred's 50 years association with the RROCA.
- The complete record of York Motors service histories. There are about

above: Sir Fredrick Henry Royce OBE (1863 - 1933), created 1st Baronet of Seaton, in 1930 for his services to British Aviation, the inspiration for the Foundation named in his honor.

below: The Chairman of Trustees, Russell Rolls, speaks to Members present at the opening of Lionel Gell School of Instruction for Rolls-Royce and Bentley at its opening in March 2014.





6000 records in all. For a small fee, copies of individual car records are made available to Members.

- As a courtesy The Foundation also houses the archival collection of the Australian Chapter of the 20-Ghost Club.

The Foundation owns and displays at BAH or LGSJ 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 Merlin aero-engine on long-term loan from the Australian War Memorial and a rare Eagle aero-engine and a cutaway early Derwent jet engine on long-term loan from Museum Victoria.

The Collection is under the expert care of The Foundation's Honorary Archivist, Gilbert Ralph. If you wish to access any of the documentation in the archive please contact Gilbert. If you wish to visit BAH or LGSJ please contact Gilbert or myself to arrange a suitable time.

Phantom V

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.

The RROCA NSW Branch undertook the project of maintaining and conserving the Foundation Phantom V a couple of years ago. To achieve this Brian Crump, as The Foundation's custodian, is assisted by a Phantom V Conservation Committee drawn from NSW Branch members. The aim is to conserve the vehicle as a significant icon of Australian political heritage and as a fine example of a coach-built Rolls-

Royce motor car. The Committee's aim is to maintain and conserve but not to restore the vehicle. (Currently, the PV is in excellent condition and so no restoration is required.)

The NSW Branch raises funds to maintain the car in a road-worthy condition with the aim of presenting the car to as many RROCA events as is practical. The Phantom V will be present at this year's Federal Rally in Bendigo. However, it is not always manageable or consistent with The Foundation's conservation policy to take the vehicle on longer distances, although this would be desirable if it could be done without increasing the wear and tear on the car.

At a recent Wombat Flats Run in NSW, which was also a fund-raiser for the car, NSW Branch Members were encouraged to ride in or drive the Phantom V. The car proved to be a real drawcard with Members who wanted to experience it first hand and discover what an easy and delightful vehicle it is to drive, despite its imposing size.

To date the Phantom V has required little more than regular servicing, the replacement of worn items and some correction to paintwork and judicious cleaning and reinstallation of interior fittings. Indeed, many have remarked that as time progresses the Phantom begins to look even better, clearly reflecting the attention paid to it by

the Conservation Committee.

The Phantom V has appeared at events such as the ACT Terribly British Day, Royal Automobile Club of Australia events and the NSW All British Day as well as at RROCA events. It has an uncanny ability to capture the imagination of the public who see it as a symbol of bye-gone excellence. On display it attracts crowds of admirers who want to sit in it, be photographed beside it or simply ask about its mechanical pedigree and historical past. In this role it serves as an important ambassador for the general Rolls-Royce movement in Australia and for The Foundation and the RROCA is particular. I believe it is fair to argue that the Phantom V is earning its keep in its role of promoting both The Foundation and the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club of Australia.

Russell Rolls
CHAIRMAN OF TRUSTEES

above left: The Rolls-Royce Merlin Engine presently on loan from the Australian War Memorial and on display at Bill Allsep House.

above right: Honorary Archivist, Gilbert Ralph, is here seeking accessing material from the considerable amount of material held by the Foundation in its archive at Bil Allsep House, Rowville, Melbourne.

below: The Foundation's 1967 Rolls-Royce Phantom Mulliner Park Ward Limousine is under the care of the NSW Branch and is here on display at the recent NSW Concours Day.

