



Council News

4/10

BMW Clubs International Council Newsletter



The participants of the International Council Meeting 2010 in New Zealand

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The Council in New Zealand

By Ian Branston, Chairman of the BMW Clubs International Council

At last, after several attempts, the annual International Council Meeting was held in New Zealand. It was worth the wait. The scenery surrounding Queenstown was a spectacular backdrop for the meeting and after years of travelling to other parts of the globe for Kiwi delegates, the rest of the Council

delegates experienced long distance travel for a change! Others will report on the social side of the gathering, but here I will highlight some of the business that took place. Full details will be provided through the meeting minutes.

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Dear BMW Club Members,

As 2010 draws to a close, we can all proudly look forward to the 30th anniversary of the International Council, which we will be celebrating next year. The secret of this success can be seen not only in the 200,000 organised members that the BMW Club has all over the world, but also the BMW Club umbrella organisations that work actively together with their affiliated BMW Clubs in all of the important regions, and, not least, the living partnerships they maintain with BMW AG. But what would all of these organisations be without you, its members, whose enthusiasm for the BMW brand is the very substance of the community, emphasising its human aspect and preserving its vitality.



Equally, the International Council is called upon to perform this task, to enhance its visibility, while conveying an awareness of its activities and functions.

May we all – delegates, observers, presidents and executive committees – use the start of this new decade to begin working towards this common aim. Our various organs: the Council News, the International Council website, your club magazines and websites, and the BMW Clubs International Office are the building blocks of lively communication within the BMW Club network. However, I am convinced that it is just as important that we get to know personally those people who work in these areas, to discuss ideas with them, and to fill club life with new meaning and potential.

The beginning of 2011 provides us with an excellent opportunity, in the form of the “Techno Classica” show in Essen on 30 March–3 April. As many as 20 international BMW Classic and Type clubs will, together with BMW Classic, once again be presenting a lively and interesting display of various milestones from BMW’s history. However the event will not only be characterised by the BMW automobiles and motorcycles on display, but also the dialogues between the various BMW clubs and among its members. The executive committee of the International Council will be taking the opportunity to meet and get to know you, whether you are a club member, club president, or an interested visitor to the BMW clubs International Council stand.

Furthermore, the participation of International Council committee members in various BMW and BMW Club events is planned for 2011. These include the BMW Motorrad Days, the BMW CCA Oktoberfest in the USA and annual meetings of BMW Clubs.

I would like to personally wish you a fulfilling end to the “BMW year 2010”, and maybe we will see each other soon at the “Techno Classica 2011” in Germany.

Dr Bernhard Knöchlein

Vice-Chairman Vintage
BMW Clubs International Council

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Invitation to the 47th BMW Clubs Europa Meeting 2011

Come and join us – in Mayrhofen, Tyrol in 2011

The 47th BMW Clubs Europa Meeting is being organised by BMW Clubs Österreich (Austria) in cooperation with BMW Clubs Europa and BMW Group Austria. And we hereby wish to invite all members of BMW Clubs in Europe and the rest of the world to attend the event.



BCE Europa Meeting

The BMW Clubs Europa Meeting 2011 will be taking place on 7–10 July 2011 in Mayrhofen in the Austrian Tyrol, immediately following the BMW Motorrad Days 2011. Beginning already on 4 July, there will be an interesting programme of accompanying events on offer to all participants and international guests, in a fantastic setting surrounded by wonderful scenery. The miles of

Alpine roads, fantastic panoramic views and mountain-style inns together make up an ideal location for an unforgettable driving and riding experience. The unique setting makes Mayrhofen an ideal starting point for a wide range of fascinating motorcycle and automobile trips in the surrounding mountain landscape.

To mark the 47th BMW Clubs Europa Meeting, BMW Clubs Österreich has organised a number of special attractions, especially for you. Look forward to local-style musical entertainment and a range of acrobatic show performances, plus the ever-popular Concours d'Elegance and an exciting quiz rally through Zillertal, Tyrol, Pinzgau and other regions. As a special guest, BMW Clubs Österreich has managed to engage the world's top motorcycle acrobat and freestyle world champion, Chris Pfeiffer, to amaze and entertain guests with his breathtaking stunts. BMW Clubs Österreich and BMW Clubs Europa e.V. are looking forward to this chance to offer BMW fans and guests a highly interesting, entertaining and fascinating programme of events. We hope very much that you will be able to attend.

More information on the website as from January at: www.bmw-clubs-meeting.org

Yours, Harald Flecker, board member of BMW Clubs Europa e.V.

Donation to a nursery school

Nursery school delighted with four new BMWs

By Ralf Pusch, board member of ClubE31 Worldwide Owners Group e.V.

In the early morning hours of 19 August, as I was taking my son to the Protestant nursery school in Fussgönheim, I was overtaken at the entrance by four Bobby-Cars making an ear-splitting noise. My son Ernest put his hands over his ears. Yet the noise wasn't made by the children themselves, but by the wheels on their toy cars.



After three of the supervising adults had hectically put the brakes on the children's antics, the plan first came to me of how to remedy this problem as quickly as possible. During a call to the BMW dealership Cuntz in Speyer, I was able to find out about the availability of BMW Baby Racers. Following talks with the head of parts services, Mr Mack, the management was thrilled by the idea. Two other Baby Racer II cars were donated in addition to the two I had ordered. The equipment on the Baby Racers speaks for itself:

indestructible technology, soft seat, whispering wheels, sports steering wheel, front spoiler, speedometer and tachometer. Quite simply a genuine BMW!

This also provides the background to how ClubE31 e.V. of Fussgönheim arrived on the scene. ClubE31 e.V. is an association of BMW 850/840 drivers from all over the world. With over 260 supporting and about

2,000 free members, the club operates on an international level and, as an umbrella organisation, represents the link to BMW in Munich and to Cuntz in Speyer. Equivalent in value to about €400, the donation was handed over during a nursery school trip in Wachenheim. The Baby Racers were immediately tested and run in. The head of the nursery school and the supervising staff expressed their heartfelt thanks for the whispering "BMW nerve savers".

Rally of BMW Z1, Z3, Z4, Z8 converging on Buochs, Ennetbürgen

BMW Z Rally converging on Buochs/Ennetbürgen

By René Michel, President BMW Z3 Club Vierwaldstättersee

On Sunday, 29 August 2010, this year's BMW Z Rally brought Z fans to the foot of the Bürgenstock in Switzerland. The meeting was held under the motto "15 years of BMW Z3 – the joy of reunion".



Stopover with panorama view

Under the guidance of club members, the rally set off from seven of the starting points specified by the club, following defined routes towards Vierwaldstättersee. Some BMW dealers had started with their customers directly from their dealerships. Again, all of the BMW Z models (Z1, Z3, Z4, Z8) were officially invited. As in recent years, the long-distance travellers were offered a supporting programme this year, too, which benefited our friends from Germany, Belgium and Switzerland.

Motto

The BMW Z3 Club did not organise a meeting in 2009, so this year's rally was held under the two-part motto "15 years of BMW Z3 – the joy of reunion".

- It's surprising that the BMW Z3 has already seen its fifteenth birthday, when you look at the cars arranged in their positions and bear in mind that said model has not been produced since July 2002. It was a true joy to see how the participants have taken care of their cars!
- This year saw the BMW Z3 and Z4 (both model series) presented in a colourful mix. Only the BMW Z1, BMW Z8 and a number of guest cars were presented separately.
- The signposted premises this year were on the outskirts of an urban area, and a crane organised specially for the occasion (0–20 m) presented a good view. Great opportunities for aerial and ground-level photography, intense talks about fuel preferences and contacts at the club stand all helped to fill the time at the event until the award ceremony.

To sum up

With 330 cars (roadsters and coupés) at the event, the rally proved to be a success this year, too. And we were once again able to gain new club members from the participants. From the faces and from comments at the event itself, on the feedback form or via email after the rally, we could see that the meeting had gone down very well.

Prospects

According to the plans as they now stand, the BMW Z Rally in 2011 is expected to be held in Germany. In 2012 the rally will again be converging in Switzerland.

How can I learn about the BMW Z Rally in Germany and Switzerland easily in future? Just send an email with your name, postal address and email address to president@bmwz3club.ch, and you will receive all the details in advance.

Responsible for the organisation to date: BMW Z3 Club Vierwaldstättersee

Set up in 1999, the club has now organised its seventh BMW Z Rally. Originally a BMW Z3 Club, since 2004 we have been catering to all BMW Z drivers (Z1, Z3, Z4, Z8) who want to share their joy of driving with others. We not only share our joy in driving, but also our friendship.



A fine view – the BMW Z vehicles from a distance

More details

BMW Z3 Club Vierwaldstättersee
www.bmwz3club.ch

BMW motorcyclists met in Belgium for a good cause

Discovery Day 2010

By Guy Timmerman, President BMW Motor Club Vlaanderen



Brightly polished BMW bikes

Autumn 2008: an historic meeting took place between the Belgian BMW subsidiary, “the Daddies” and the Flemish BMW motorcycle club. “The Daddies” are a group of industrials, who are of course dads, and who pursue the goal of giving something back to society. BMW Motor Club Vlaanderen is the Flemish-speaking BMW motorcycle club in Belgium, which currently has nearly 2,000 members and organises over 100 activities a year.

We must say that it was the Belgian motorcycle department who got the ball rolling. It had the idea of bringing the three partners together. The goal was and remains to raise funds for the “Against Cancer” project. The Daddies brought their connections and the strength of their companies, BMW Motorrad Belux brought prestige and logistical capabilities, and BMW Motor Club Vlaanderen brought with it the organisational skills and manpower.

The aim was to organise a fundraising event, the “Discovery Day”, which should be a pleasant day with plenty of activities, and to which we would invite the motorcycle crowd and their families. By the first Discovery Day in April 2009, the Motorrijders on Tour team had grown to over 100 helpers. An open forum on the Internet was used for coordination. There was a website containing all information and, thanks to lots of lobbying, the city of Sint-Niklaas reserved its grand market square for the event.

But the worst storm in months flooded the streets of Flanders. The whole event got soaking wet. But, despite the weather, over 500 BMW motorcycle riders came along. We learned many things. Yes, this can work! Yes, we are a great team working effectively together. And yes, we need a better place to organise.

BMW Belux believed in the future success of the project and opened its doors. The 2010 Discovery Day would take place at the national BMW headquarters!

And it worked. The 2010 Discovery Day was a success! A band was playing, we had test rides with motorcycles and cars, a stunt team, a Discovery Ride, plenty of gifts, a BBQ, pancakes, vendors, quads, even bouncy castles for the kids, exclusive cars and many other things. And companies sponsored the event. The entire headquarters was swamped with participants and we had close to 1,000 donators.

We are still counting and the number is still rising. But in the meantime, the organising team is already sitting together to plan the next edition of the Discovery Day. We have found the right format: a day with plenty of activities, with things to see, to experience and to enjoy all around the BMW motorcycle club family. And we feel good afterwards, because we know that our efforts not only offer a fine day out for the participants, but also help those who are less fortunate in terms of their health.

The 2011 edition will bring even more things to experience. This time the whole industrial area of Bornem will be part of the organisation grounds, new partners will be involved and we already know there will be a great atmosphere. Six months to go ...



One of the activities on offer – the test rides

17 April 2011 is Discovery Day again. If you happen to be in Belgium, don't miss it. Visit our site www.bmw-mc-vl.be for more information. You're more than welcome.

160 BMW Motorcycle enthusiasts met on Lake Hamanako in Hamamatsu City, Shizuoka

BMW Motorrad Club Japan National Rally 2010 in Hamanako

By Ayumi Sugiyama, Secretariat BMW Motorrad Club Japan

BMW Motorrad Club Japan Annual National Rally took place at the shore of Lake Hamanako in Hamamatsu City, Shizuoka from 18–19 September 2010. Hamamatsu City is the home of YAMAHA and HONDA motorcycles. A great view of Mt Fuji also makes Hamamatsu City the best touring spot for all motorcycle lovers. In the aftermath of the extremely hot summer, temperatures continued to reflect those of mid August. Nevertheless, 160 enthusiasts gathered for this special event.



Participants enjoyed the test rides with different models

At the parking lot of Homanako Royal Hotel, we had vendors from several of our sponsors to welcome the rally participants. With the support of BMW Motorrad Japan, participants enjoyed test riding BMW motorcycles, including the BMW S1000RR. Throughout the day, staff worked very hard to accommodate the many participants. In the evening, Mr Hosobuchi, chairman of BMW Club Japan, Mr Ide and Mr Osumi of BMW Japan, as well as chief editors of two major BMW motorcycle magazines joined us at the party.

Since BMW Motorrad Club Japan is a non-profit organisation aiming to contribute to society, every year at the National Rally, we give honourable recognition to the regional block whose practices exemplify club beliefs. Out of nine regional blocks, the Tokai block won the award this year. Their annual charity event "Tokai Rally in Takasu Dynaland", their donations to the WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) and their emergency life-saving workshops, have lead them to receive this award.

One of the highlights of the party was a magic show by Lumiere du Soleil. The mysterious music and lighting and women in sexy costumes caused great excitement in the audience, who even broke out in cheer. The half-hour show, packed with non-stop illusions, hardly gave amazed onlookers a chance to catch their breath.

At the end of the party, draws were held for superb prizes donated by sponsors. The real eye-catcher was a pair of Men's and Women's BMW Santiago suits. As per BMW Japan's wishes, these two suits will stay together as a set and be presented to one lucky couple. The couple who won the extreme paper-rock-scissors competition was Mr Yoshitaka Okumoto and Ms Saemi Nakajima. It was a nice surprise present for them since they will be getting married next year! Congratulations!

The next day was another great day for touring. After a group photo in the morning, everyone left early to have fun on the road. The event was very successful. We appreciate all the support we received from participants, staff and sponsors. Next year, the National Rally is going to be in October. We will be welcoming international members from all over the world. We're looking forward to seeing you at BMOJ National Rally.

For further information, please email bureau@bmw-moj.org



The happy winners of the BMW Santiago suits

Continued from front page: International Council Meeting 2010 in New Zealand

As was the practice some years ago, all delegates provided a "snapshot" of activity over the past 12 months. The Club Office reported a reduction of approximately 7% in its budget but was confident the budget would return to previous levels for 2011. A report on the transition to new-style logos showed many regions had fully converted, while for other areas there was still work to do before 1 January 2011.

Two new BMW Classic and Type clubs were accepted and the Council approved two Friend of the Marque Awards and one Prof. Dr. Knöchlein Award. A new nomination process for Board vacancies was adopted, and the terms of office of the chairman and two vice-chairmen were staggered to reduce the possibility of all three positions becoming vacant at the same time. During the group work sessions, delegates considered broader issues related to developing relationships between clubs and BMW dealers/importers, as well as the question of maintaining the relevance of

the Council. In addition to several worthy ideas, the Council agreed to look into introducing a kind of "Club of the Year" award, to recognise a club that has performed exceptionally well in the previous year or so.

The Board meeting in 2011 will take place in Essen to coincide with Techno Classica and will thus provide the opportunity to meet with some European club members. This will be followed by the Council Meeting in September in Berlin. Preliminary approval was given to accepting the invitation from the BMW Riders Association to host the 2012 Council Meeting in North Carolina, USA.

The meeting was memorable and successful. Thanks must go to Gerry and Barbara Hodges and their team from the BMW Car Club of New Zealand for all their efforts. We are also grateful to Mark Gilbert, Managing Director of BMW Group New Zealand and the staff of the BMW Clubs International Office.

BCE travels to the Kiwis

By Sabine Benz, Delegate of BMW Clubs Europa e.V. (BCE)



Loud and impressive – the performance of the Maoris

Now that's something really cool: a trip to New Zealand! It's only for four nights, though, but I'm representing the BCE there together with Predrag Trkulja, the president.

If only I was there already, over thirty hours of travelling time ... On Saturday, therefore, I arrived in Queenstown and was given a very hearty welcome by Barb and Gerry Hodges. At the Heritage Hotel, too, the venue for the meeting, the reception was very friendly. In the lobby I then met the first of the other participants. They all gave me a very hearty welcome: after all, it was my very first council meeting. That evening we travelled in the Gondola high above Queenstown and had a magnificent meal. To liven things up a bit, Maoris gave a brief show, loud and impressive.

After breakfast on Sunday, it was time to get in and drive out. BMW New Zealand and members of the BMW Car Club of New

Zealand had kindly provided us with a number of cars for the occasion. After a few passes – small ones in my Swiss opinion – we had lunch in Wanaka. On the way it actually started to snow and even to hail! At the Cardona Hotel, a venerable building in the gold-digger style, we could enjoy morning tea, or morning beer, and the hot muffins were also nothing to be sniffed at. On the way back we stopped at an absolutely fabulous farmyard shop where we all busily tucked into the delicacies on offer, such as fresh ice cream made from fruit you could choose yourself. At Pier 19 we finished the day with excellent food and a relaxed atmosphere.

On Monday we were greeted at the start of the meeting by the most glorious sunshine, which continued the whole day. During the breaks, gifts and souvenirs were distributed by the delegates. Thank you again for these nice memorabilia. Tuesday morning, another meeting, the calm before the storm ... The afternoon took us to the Shotover Jet! I admit, I felt uneasy. The fast jet boats took us into the canyons, as close as possible to the rocks so that the passengers could also benefit from the experience! On the TSS Earnslaw, the oldest steamship in the southern hemisphere, we chugged a little more comfortable to Walter's Peak, a sheep farm. After yet another excellent meal, we could witness work by a sheepdog and some sheep shearing.

The long and short of it: it was simply a dream, everything was organised perfectly. The meeting was also very impressive, and I could take much of it back home with me.

We should continue this opportunity to organise an international meeting once a year, to ponder on the joy of driving and to talk with other like-minded fans.

The private bike tour before the International Council Meeting

New Zealand on two wheels

By Jeffery Yost, Vice-President BMW Riders Association



Panorama of the Southern Alps

“And in the end it is not the years in your life that count, it’s the life in your years.” (Abraham Lincoln)



GS off-road to Flea Bay, near Akaroa

The perfectly cambered road curls beneath us as we lean in unison side to side, threading our way up and down over one glorious mountain to the next. The ever-changing landscape is intoxicating; it quickly turns from tropical to alpine, making it difficult to maintain our perfect line through the tight curves. If I were back in my country I would be driving on the wrong side of the road, yet I’m not. We are in the midst of an unbelievable fantasy land. Springtime is in full bloom on the South Island of New Zealand. Life is good.

The challenge of unlearning old riding habits while quickly learning new ones is priority one for survival. Luckily, within our intimate group of five, another American and I are following a seasoned South African, while another South African trails as sweep. Driving on the left side of the road is nothing new to them. Fortunately we are piloting agile, high-performance BMW motorcycles with ABS, and not right-hand drive automobiles. Yet the learning curve of riding on the “opposite” side astride a motorcycle does not leave much room for human error, especially since my inner clock is still 17 hours behind New Zealand.

David de Bruyn, Vice-Chair of BMW Clubs International Council and his wife Rita lead our group on their Garmin-guided BMW

R1200GS, followed by Debbi Harbour, President of the BMW Riders Association (BMW RA) on a BMW F800GS, and me, Vice-President BMW RA astride a BMW R1200GS. The last rider is Allen Bullard, President of BMW Motorcycle Club Durban, South Africa, on his BMW R1200GS Adventure.

David’s logistical preparation ensures that our ride during the next five glorious days unfolds flawlessly. City Bike Motorcycle Rentals, Christchurch, has our BMWs waiting out front for us to load our gear and blast off. Our itinerary includes the northern, tropical coastal roads to Nelson, combined with the snow-capped Alps of Arthurs Pass, returning back to Christchurch via the volcanic landscape of Akaroa. The South Island of New Zealand is an enchanting fusion of landscapes similar to Hawaii’s tropical coasts, the rolling, emerald-green hills of Ireland, coupled with the Austrian Alps, with northern California and a dash of Colorado thrown into this magical mix. 4.4 million Kiwis take pride in owning over 34 million sheep. The ratio is almost eight sheep per person! Herds of sheep are everywhere.

Our final day was spent in Akaroa, our inviting rooms overlooking a gorgeous bay. While some of our group shopped and toured, Allen took me on my first off-road GS adventure up into the nearby mountains. The one-lane gravel mountain road snakes through the mountains for about 30 km and down to the base of Flea Bay. With the azure Pacific shining in the background, the scene is breathtaking. Standing on the pegs, traversing the mountains to Flea Bay is a ride I’ll never forget.

During our final evening together, all five toasted a perfect trip that created many fond memories and unforgettable friendships; BMW friendships that transcend oceans and borders. Touring New Zealand on BMWs should be added to your bucket list. After all, “... it’s the life in your years” that counts.



The group: Debbi, Allen, David, Rita, and me, f.l.t.r.

A reason to celebrate

Ten years of BMW E30 Freunde Bodensee e.V.

By Martin Brucker, BMW E30 Freunde Bodensee e.V.

BMW Club
E30 Freunde
Bodensee e.V.



In the spring of 2010, our club was able to mark its ten-year anniversary. And this occasion gave rise to the idea of an anniversary weekend that was to remain an indelible experience for club members and other BMW E30 owners alike.

Our club was set up in 2000 by a group of eight BMW E30 owners who had already resolved at that time to accompany these cars on their path to youngtimer, and later to oldtimer. Today, our club numbers about fifty active members from all three countries bordering on Lake Constance: Germany, Switzerland and Austria.

As the central highlight, the internal club organisational committee (OC) collaborating with the Swiss Museum of Transport were able to offer a very attractive option: on Saturday, 11 September 2010, the cars could be seen in the inner courtyard of the Swiss Museum of Transport.



The 3 Series generations

The OC and the helping hands provided the perfect preparations. Some of the club members had already arrived on Friday, when they could experience an attractive supporting programme with a visit to the historical glassworks and a highly informative tour through the old city districts of Lucerne.

The chosen meeting place on Saturday morning was a large car park directly in front of the transport museum in Lucerne. Cars kept on arriving, and the organisational teams proved their professional skills in handing out the well-prepared information folders to the participants.

Just a short time later, the doors to the inner courtyard opened exclusively to our BMW 3 Series E30 cars, and a convoy of about seventy vehicles advanced in order to their assigned presentation spaces. After a few minutes, the engines of our cars went silent. As if by magic, the 3 Series BMWs arranged among the permanent displays likewise transformed into exhibition objects.



View out of the ALPINA corner

Practically all of the E30 models were present: convertible, two doors, four doors, Touring, and the most diverse BMW M3 and ALPINA representatives.

The weather was at its best, and the well-cared-for 3 Series shone out. For us, the hours we spent at the transport museum simply flew by: on the one hand, we of course had the interesting programme in the exhibition halls, and on the other, there were many intense talks that were immediately struck up among the car owners and visitors.

At three o'clock, the engines again started up, and the cars drove out of the transport museum in convoy. A perfectly planned drive out then took us through side streets and a former mountain racecourse, the "Michaelskreuz", to the next meeting place near Meggen.

The anniversary evening on Saturday was a festive occasion accompanied by excellent catering in Küssnacht am Rigi.

On Sunday, the final drive out took us out of Schwyz and on the Ibergeregg Pass 1,400 m above sea level to Lake Sihl. And again the weather was at its very best – to the great joy of the many BMW E30 convertible drivers, of course. And yet again the organisational team could prove their brilliant all round skills.

To all BMW E30 friends involved, our anniversary event will be an indelible memory. And who knows? In a number of years, perhaps one of the cars will even take its rightful place at the Swiss Museum of Transport in Lucerne.

More details:

BMW E30 Freunde Bodensee e.V.
www.e30-club.de

Club jubilee in Australia

BMW Car Club Canberra celebrated its 25th Anniversary

By John Comino, Friend of the Marque

My wife Elly and I had the particular pleasure of being present at the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the founding of the BMW Car Club Canberra, formerly known as BMW Drivers Club of Australia (ACT Chapter), in Canberra on the evening of 21 August 2010.

Twenty-five years ago, we had the privilege of being present with other members of the BMW Club movement from Sydney, Garry and Sue Speechley, along with BMW enthusiasts from the Australian Capital Territory who were wishing to establish a club Branch in the ACT.

The 25th anniversary celebration was a wonderful evening bringing together BMW enthusiasts not only from the ACT but also from various parts of New South Wales, as well as the Gold Coast in Queensland. It was marked particularly by the fact that four Friends of the Marque were present, namely, along with me, Heather Lambley, John Hebron and Ron Andrews. The evening was strongly supported by BMW Group Australia and Rolfe

Classic BMW, the local dealer in the ACT. All I can say is what a memorable occasion it was and congratulations to the BMW Car Club Canberra, Ian Branston, Lin Thorncraft and the organising committee on achieving 25 wonderful years and wishing you many more!



J. Hebron, H. Lambley, J. Comino and R. Andrews f. l. t. r.

Portrait: BMW Car Club Gauteng, South Africa

BMW Car Club Gauteng, South Africa

By Ryan Herd, Chairman BMW Car Club Gauteng



Introduction

The BMW Car Club Gauteng is run in Johannesburg, South Africa. It is currently the largest official BMW Club in South Africa and is the founding member of BMW Clubs Africa. It has also earned itself the reputation of being the most active, professional and well-run car club in South Africa.

Events

Since 1981, the BMW Car Club Gauteng has been run by a group of committed enthusiasts, passionate about BMW, who organise a number of activities to develop and strengthen the BMW community within South Africa. These activities include events that cater for all tastes and preferences including track days, gymkhana, breakfast runs, dyno days, cryptic-clue poker runs and charity drives to name a few. The club also prints a quarterly magazine, which is distributed to its members and via the 23 Gauteng-based BMW dealerships.

In this issue we've selected two of our events to give you an idea of what we do down south.

Track Days

Although we don't enjoy the same luxury as the European-based car clubs with a number of international racing circuits to choose from, we do have three very special places to push the limits of our Bavarian beauties.

Club members are treated to three Kyalami track days a year, which proves to be our most popular of the three circuits we visit throughout the year. A new record was recently set on 25 July 2010 where we had a field of 111 cars.

Having hosted Formula 1 Grand Prixes in the early 1990s, and currently home of the South African World Superbike leg and

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Photo: Paul Louw

BMW Track Day

the Italian V8 Superstars, it definitely meets the necessary FIA safety standards. Should you get it horribly wrong, though, you'll be sure to bend some metal.

The second circuit we visit is located on the outskirts of Pretoria, approximately 50 km from the centre of Johannesburg. It is a slow to medium-paced short clockwise circuit that proves to be a solid training ground for first-time track day amateurs. Splitting the Kyalami outings, we visit Zwartkops twice a year. Kyalami is an anticlockwise circuit, so by alternating these two venues, drivers get to use both sides of their tyres, perfect for prolonging the life of your rubber. Many a club member has been heard to utter, "If you've mastered your own racing ability around Zwartkops, then you are ready to take on Kyalami."

The third and final racing circuit that we visit is Phakisa Freeway in the heart of the Free State, just on the border of the mining town Welkom. Its design configuration was specifically tailored for motorcycle racing and was awarded a five-year Moto GP contract. A high-speed Oval was also developed as part of the offering, but was never used up until this year. Phakisa Freeway played host to one of the American Stockcar Association's rounds this year in January, dubbed the ASA Free State 500. Let's hope it hosts many more to come.

An action-packed home-based event doesn't really promote sufficient socialising, so an away-from-home venue forces the members to stay over and, in many cases, bring their families along for a weekend away. Over the years, this event has grown into a BMW Clubs Africa run event. The inaugural gathering, dubbed BMW CLUBFEST 2009, was a great success and is being repeated this year in September. BMW CLUBFEST brings all seven BMW car and bike clubs together for track sessions, gymkhanas, drifting competitions, treasure hunts and GS outrides.

Charity Drive

On 23 May 2010, Cedar Isle BMW and the BMW Car Club Gauteng partnered for a breakfast run with a difference. Although club members and Cedar Isle BMW customers were ready to take on some of the best driving roads in the Magaliesburg Mountains, their main objective was to support a worthy charity. The Refilwe Community Project was depending on us for some much-needed blankets and other goods just before winter.

With roughly eighty cars, the parking areas were packed, not to mention the charity boxes downstairs in the service reception. The generosity of everybody was heartfelt, and I will never forget the sight of little kids throwing their toys inside the boxes. Just for that alone the day was a success.

The day was glorious, the cars even more so and everyone's spirits high. Not only were the cars going on the run a great reflection of the BMW brand, but the dealership had organised a marvellous static display. Members were treated to a BMW E30 M3, a number of BMW 2002 and Isetta derivatives, some historic and relatively new-age race machines and the highlight, a very rare BMW M1! This was a truly special display seeing as the BMW E30 M3 was never officially sold in South Africa and the only BMW M1 example in the country was kindly offered up for display by BMW SA themselves.



Photo: Paul Louw

Cedar Isle run

The age group ranged from six to sixty, and whole generations of families were present in the name of charity. The guys from Refilwe were very grateful and inspired us to host this event again in the months to come.

In a car world now filled with targets and budgets, and with evil words such as invoicing and debtors, it's not often that a company can appreciate the other side of the fence filled with the emotions inspired by the very products they sell. It is the people that come to these events and the laughter of kids that sets a special mood for a different day in a car dealership.

Cedar Isle Auto in association with the BMW Car Club Gauteng is proud to be different in this way, and will continue to set this mood for years to come!

BMW Car Club Gauteng

Founded:	1981
Members:	642
Type:	Car club
Website:	www.bmwcarclub.co.za

Diary

The year 2010 is drawing to a close, but the planning for the upcoming events in 2011 is already going strong. Below we have compiled the first fixed events for you. Would you like to have your event listed in the club newsletter? Then simply send us all your event details.

You will also find a current calendar of events on our website at www.bmw-clubs-international.com



Five friends in New Zealand

December	December 31	New year's eve at BMW Welt (D) www.bmw-welt.com
Preview 2011		
February	February 4 – 6	Bremen Classic Motorshow (D) www.classicmotorshow.de
March	March 10 – 13	Retro Classics in Stuttgart (D) www.messe-stuttgart.de
	March 30 – April 3	Techno Classica in Essen (D) www.siha.de
April	April 2 – 6	Working Meeting of the International Council Board in Essen (D) www.bmw-clubs-international.com
	April 22 – 25	BMW Clubs Australia Nationals 2011, Gold Coast, Queensland Email: ways@winshop.com.au
May	May 13 – 15	BTI on tour (D) www.bti-ontour.bmw-clubs.org/tour2011
June	June 2 – 5	35th annual meeting of BMW Veteranen-Club Deutschland e.V. in Paderborn www.bmw-veteranenclub.de
	June 22 – 26	Bavaria Tour 2011 (D) www.bavaria-tour.info

Further information

All websites given in this newsletter are listed here for quick reference

Clubs:

- www.bmw-club-europa.org
- www.cms.clube31.de
- www.bmwz3club.ch
- www.bmw-mc-vl.be
- www.bmw-moj.org
- www.bmw-clubs-international.com
- www.e30-club.de
- www.bmwclubact.asn.au
- www.bmwcarclub.co.za

Events:

- www.bmw-welt.com
- www.classicmotorshow.de
- www.messe-stuttgart.de
- www.siha.de
- www.bmw-clubs-international.com
- www.bavaria-tour.info



50 Jahre BMW - DIE WAGEN DER NEUEN KLASSE
25 Jahre BMW 02 Club e.V.