



AUSTRALASIAN RALLY UPDATE

2018 Biennial Australasian Rally of Mercedes-Benz Clubs

Hosted by Mercedes-Benz Club Vic and Mercedes-Benz Club ACT

Kindly supported by Mercedes-Benz Asia Pacific

As at October first, registrations for the Victorian section of the Australasian Rally stand at 70 cars/rooms.

It comes as no surprise that there have been strong registrations from interstate and overseas where we have always enjoyed strong support for our tours over many years. In particular there have been six registrations from New Zealand and all these people have toured with us in the past. It will be great to renew and refresh all of these interstate and overseas friendships.

The surprise in the registration numbers is that only 20 of the 70 registrations to date are from Victorian Club members. We assume that this may arise from a view that as the Rally is still nearly six months away (commences April 14th 2018 in Torquay) there is no hurry to register.

Unfortunately that is a luxury we don't really have. In anticipation of the usual Biennial Rally turnout we have booked every one of the 112 rooms at Peppers Resort in Torquay, and we have an obligation to inform Peppers on a timely basis if we are not going to require all of their accommodation. The time when we must do that is fast approaching, and we urge all Victorian Club members who plan to attend the Australasian Rally to register as soon as possible. Once we have set our total room requirement we may find it more difficult to accommodate additional late entries.

We recognise that due to the Rally not being at a holiday time some members may prefer a weekend only package which we can offer either from Saturday to after breakfast on Sunday for \$ 325.00 per couple (including the welcoming Cocktail Party) or from Saturday to after breakfast on Monday for \$762 per couple (including the cocktail party, the lunch at Apollo Bay and the dinner on Sunday night).

The ACT Passage Rally component of the Australasian Rally which commences on April 11 in Canberra and has its first overnight stop in Rutherglen, is experiencing a similar problem. They have registrations for 35 cars /rooms at this stage and only eight of these are from ACT Club members – the rest being from interstate including some Victorian members who want to enjoy both parts of the Rally and will join up in Rutherglen. Discussion with the ACT President suggests that they may have the same problem as us – a view that there is still plenty of time to register. Their target is 45 cars/rooms and they also face some deadlines with which they must comply.

The Biennial Rallies are always great opportunities to not only enjoy our cars but also to meet up with fellow Mercedes-Benz enthusiasts, not only from our own Club, but also from other interstate and overseas Clubs. Because of this they have been universally successful events since the first in 1976 and we can promise an enjoyable experience for all participants.

Please see the updated registration form for the Victorian Section of the Australasian Rally in this magazine.

Rally committee.