



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 37

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APRIL 1998

CLUB ROOMS:- Rear of "ALVISTA", 21 EDGAR ST., GLEN IRIS. Melway p59 P 8.
MEETINGS:- THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH EXCEPT DEC./JAN.) AT 8 pm.

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NEWSLETTER

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COMING EVENTS

APRIL	FRIDAY 17th 18th, 19th, 20th	Club General Meeting. VSCC Alpine Rally
MAY	1st, 2nd, 3rd	Club Weekend Away at Meeting. Full details were in February Newsletter. Further info. from Richard Tonkin.
	FRIDAY 15th SUNDAY 17th	Club General Meeting. "Restoration Roundabout" with Bristol & Daimler Car Clubs.
	SAT/SUN 30th & 31st	Winton Historic Racing.

AOMC.

Bob Graham attended the AOMC Meeting in March; he reports that three points emerged:-

- 1 Changes are to be made to the Incorporation Act which may affect our club.
- 2 AOMC and three other Clubs have formed a body to hold monthly Swap Meets at Melbourne Markets.
- 3 A proposal was made to link subscription rates to the AOMC with the size of Club Membership.

Items 2 and 3 are designed to generate more income for the AOMC so that it can expand its functions and actions on behalf of and for the benefit of Car Clubs.

TORQUE OF TONKIN

Greetings. The first edition of our new quarterly magazine, temporarily called "Asterisk" was well received. Editor John Hetherington did an excellent job (as always) and the colour centrefold was spectacular. We are now looking at the economics of running the middle pages in colour or black and white and it may be that two issues a year will be B&W and two colour. John displayed the B&W version of the centrefold at the March meeting, and the quality was first class. Doing it that way makes the cost of production about the same as the old newsletter format.

We have been having some discussions with the NSW club about the possibility of joining forces on the quarterly magazine and making it a co-production - a national journal. There are financial, editorial and content advantages in doing that, as well as bringing the two clubs, and their members, closer together. Those of you who see "Alvibatics", the NSW newsletter, will have read two letters in the March issue, one proposing similar co-operation on the newsletter with the ACCV and the other suggesting that we should have joint rallies over long weekends in the years when the National Rally is not held. For example, a run involving the South Australians, NSW and ourselves and another where the Queenslanders and NSW got together. Two Sydneysiders, who are members of both clubs, are coming on the Metung Weekend in May.

Of course, there will be howls of protest about both of these ideas. The origins of our club go back to the days, in the 1950s, when we split off from the NSW club and became independant. A bit like the British colonies in Africa. However, while the Brits generally took that in reasonably good humour, regarding the colonies as children who had grown up and were entitled to leave home, a certain amount of animosity seems to have lingered between our two organizations, on each side of the Murray, and in the past there has been a lot of resistance to suggestions of closer ties.

Perhaps now is the time to review these attitudes. We share a common interest in a great marque, whether we own one or not, and anything that broadens and furthers that interest should be encouraged. President Kennedy said, in his inaugural speech, way back in 1961, "The torch has been passed to a new generation." There are new presidents in both clubs with fresh ideas that they want to implement. The wise counsel of those who have led and shaped the two clubs in the past should always be sought and carefully considered, but both clubs have to move forward, or risk losing the interest, and membership, of their rank and file.

RICHARD TONKIN.

ALVIS AGNITIONS

A lively bunch of members and spouses attended the March general meeting and there were nearly as many Alvisi at Kalorama two days later. **KAY BALL** has written a report of Kalorama which appears elsewhere. At least twenty Alvisi were present and seven Alvises. Yet again at a significant gathering of the marque there was not one 12/50! **REX ROBERTS** with the 12/40 and **ED. NICHOL** with the 11.75 provided the bookends but the library was empty! **BOB GRAHAM** won "The Peoples Choice" with his Speed 20. **RICHARD TONKIN'S** Crested Eagle competed in regal manner but really is not a gymkhana car. Such activities are probably beneath it! **JOHN & MARGARET LANG** had hoped to attend but elected to stay on their property because it was a day of total fire ban and indeed the Trentham/Springhill bush fire gave them a fright. **FRANK MORNANE** was there with the 3 litre Bentley but is missing the superlative smoothness of his PVT Alvis. He would like to acquire a replacement for the 4.3. **JOHN WHITE'S** TA 14 was running roughly but there were so many expert opinions being offered that it is unlikely that the car would get him home. It did. It was a pleasure to catch up with **JOHN KENT** who is not often able to attend Alvis events. He bought the just-on-the-road Vauxhall 13/98 with a pretty Wensum body. He and **WENDY** hope to come to Metung in the car. In preparation for the VSCC Alpine Rally which will be held just after Easter **ALISTER CANNON** still hopes to have the clutch modifications finished in time to compete. The **EDITOR** bought some tyres for the 12/50 from **ALAN & NOELINE MCKINNON'S** "Vintage Tyres". Alan was unable to fit them because he wasn't there. He was late returning from Sydney. Guess why? He had a flat tyre. So they were unable to attend the March meeting. **PETER FLEMING'S** Firebird Saloon attended Kalorama but **DALE & MARITA PARSELL** were in the MGB because the Firefly is still suffering rear-end interruptus. Sixty and seventy year old metal sometimes just breaks. By the time you read this the Sunday Pub Run to Tooborac will have taken place. Unfortunately, late in the piece a clash with Edington Sprints was noted but hopefully not too many members have been inconvenienced. During the last weekend in March the VSCC ran its "Wing and Wheels" event. Dale Parsell reports that it was an excellent event with about forty cars and twenty planes attending. Fog at Tyabb delayed the arrival of some of the planes and others couldn't make it at all. Alvis was represented by **ANDREW & ROBYN GREEN** and **REX & CAMERON ROBERTS**. Happy motoring for another month.

ED.

A recent issue of "Thoroughbred & Classic Cars" carried a report of the Lands End to John o'Groats Rally ["LEJOG"]. From behind a derelict building on a windswept air field was heard, as the minutes ticked away, "There's no point in being a fast driver if you're a slow piddler".

Dear Editor,

Congratulations on the first "magazine" issue of the Newsletter. I think the colour photos are a first for a car club newsletter, I can't think of another car club magazine with colour photos.

Your footnote to my last article about the Newsletter is a true politician's answer. You waffle on about rules and guidelines for editing the Newsletter whereas I specifically asked for rules and guidelines for changing the Newsletter.

I repeat my assertion that the masthead should be printed in RED!

Now, about the name (title) of this publication. I bet you don't receive many suggestions but I am prepared to stick my neck out. I propose "ALVIS VICTORIA".

R GRAHAM

Dear John,

You were quite right about not receiving any rules or guidelines on Newsletter production when you volunteered for the Editor's Desk 10 years ago.

They actually were there - according to my memory, which is not all that sharp, and were contained in the Constitution of many years ago that was in force prior to being superseded by the "Inc" arrangement.

I think it stated that there was to be a monthly news sheet with a quarterly magazine featuring photos, which is exactly what you have done and are preparing to follow.

Now I also feel that there was a proposal that the name "ALVIC" was to be applied, but perhaps some of the older (?) members can substantiate this and come up with more details.

"ALVIC" is really a very good and apt title for your quarterly job and "ALVISTA" should also be considered, but I certainly would not put down "ASTERISK" which I understood - even if no one else did, stands for "A Service To Educate Restorers In Specific Knowledge".

RON WILSON

NEWSLETTER

The pilot edition ("Asterisk") of the Club's quarterly magazine has been well received. The Editor thanks those members who have taken the trouble to give it their support at the meeting - and by post, from NSW, West Australia, Queensland and Singapore. Development and fine tuning will continue before the next issue is published in June. Cost is a major consideration and several options are available. They will be discussed over forthcoming weeks and a firm decision made at the May general meeting. The other important decision to be made before the June issue is what to call the thing. Again, the May general meeting will decide. In addition to those already published the following suggestions have been received: ALVIC, THE ALVIST, THE ALVIS, ALVIS VICTORIA. Received just in time for this issue, from Dean Prangley: THE ALVIS,(again) THE CLASSIC ALVIS, ALVIS IN AUSTRALIA, AUSSIE ALVIS, (and several more which, along with the rest of Dean's fax, will be published in June. Anyone interested: please attend the May general meeting or write to the Pres. or myself.



THE ANDY HANNAM TROPHY - PROGRESSIVE TALLY

My apologies for the lack of info. on this important trophy. As discussed in the November newsletter, the trophy will now be awarded to the member who brings his/her Alvis to the most meetings and events during the year. Adjustments may be made to allow for country members, who cannot always get their cars to Monthly Meetings. The tally started with the November Monthly Meeting and this year ends with the AGM in October. The progressive total so far is below. In future, there will be monthly reports. So, Bring Out Your Alvises !

November Meeting - Bob Graham, Dale Parsell, Richard Tonkin, John White.

Alvis - Bristol Run to Merricks - Maureen Adnam, Bill Barber, Bob Graham, John Hetherington, Dale Parsell, Rex Roberts, Richard Tonkin, John White.

December BBQ - John Ball, Bob Graham, John Hetherington, Geoff Hood, Alan McKinnon, Rex Roberts, Richard Tonkin, John Twomey, John White.

February Meeting - Bob Graham, Dale Parsell, Richard Tonkin, John White.

March Meeting - Bob Graham, Ian Parkinson, Richard Tonkin, John White.

Kalorama - Peter Fleming, Bob Graham, Rex Roberts, Richard Tonkin, John White.

PROGRESSIVE TALLY - Bob Graham (6), Richard Tonkin (6), John White (6), Dale Parsell (3), Rex Roberts (3), John Hetherington (2), Maureen Adnam (1), John Ball (1), Bill Barber (1), Peter Fleming (1), Geoff Hood (1), Alan McKinnon (1), Ian Parkinson (1), John Twomey (1).

RICHARD TONKIN

CARS & PARTS FOR SALE AND WANTED

THE CLUB CARRIES A LARGE SELECTION OF SPARE PARTS WHICH ARE AVAILABLE TO FINANCIAL MEMBERS OF THE CLUB AND TO MEMBERS OF THE ALVIS CAR CLUB OF NEW SOUTH WALES. ONLY REPRODUCTION PARTS CAN BE SUPPLIED TO NON MEMBERS AND A SURCHARGE WILL BE APPLIED. MEMBERS CONTEMPLATING THE MANUFACTURE OF SPARES ARE ASKED TO CONTACT THE CLUB TO SEE IF OTHERS NEED SUCH A PART OR IF IT IS FEASIBLE TO ORDER SOME FOR CLUB SPARES.

MAY NEWSLETTER

COPY DEADLINE

WEDNESDAY

27th APRIL 1998

Enquire about spares to the appropriate SPAREPERSON listed on p. 1.

CLUB.

Handbooks, technical data etc. TA 21 Specification sheets. \$5.00 each plus p&p.
"Motor Trader" technical data sheets. Speed 25, 3½ Litre, 12/70 and TD 21. \$5.00 each plus p&p.
Spares catalogues. Silver Eagle 1930 -1933. TD 16.95, TB-TC 19.82 and 12/70 SB 13.22. Price on application.
Owners Handbooks for several vintage, PVT and post-war models. Availability and prices on application.
All reproduced expertly by the world famous "ROYBOOKS" Press.

Tel: Roy Henderson 03 9704 7549

Radiator Caps for PVT cars - principally to provide perches for the recently migrated low winged Eagles. Dale Parsell says they will be ready soon. They have a slightly domed top and will cost about \$80.00.

Contact sets for BTH JD6 Distributors. The hoped-for supply from UK has not happened. But the Club has acquired, thanks to Alister Cannon & David Caldwell, several points sets. Tungsten tips on BA#4 threaded screws. \$10.00 each. Make your own arm, spring, lifter etc. (They work! ED!)

PRIVATEERS.

WANTED All the bits for André Tele Shock Absorbers. Pipes, dial, knobs, connectors etc for Speed 20
Geoff Hood. 03 9842 2181

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FROM THE BACK SEAT!

"You missed a really good day" has been repeated over the years as John and I were for various reasons unable to attend Kalorama. This year we made it, as passengers in Mrs Simpson. Oh! what a stylish way to travel - sitting on Mrs. Simpson's ample back seat.

Although it was a very warm day, there was a good roll up.

Eric Nichol, Rex Roberts, Richard Tonkin and Bob Graham had an Alvis on the oval and on the "outer" were Peter Fleming and John White. A dozen or more Alvis members were seen variously sitting, strolling, lounging and lurking between the cars. John Kent and son Kirsten drove down from Wangaratta in a very handsome 1924 30/98 Vauxhall Wensum boat-tail which John has meticulously restored. Frank Mornane was there too (Bentley).

The Alvis contingent performed well - Bob Graham's car was one of three considered the most well maintained car present. Richard Tonkin drove Mrs. Simpson in two events - the Clover Leaf (laning rings off a post) an accurate if not speedy performance, and the Mad Hatter - placing witches hats on poles. The MC duly noted that the witches hats were somewhat unbecoming such a regal lady as Mrs. Simpson and that coronets would be more fitting and perhaps could be supplied next year!

Our own David Caldwell is the President of the Kalorama organising Committee and so he was "on duty" capably supported by Margaret.

Mrs. Simpson's stately departure was described over the PA with the President at the wheel, the Vice President at his side, and the 1st and 2nd ladies again seated in comfort in the rear. You will be disappointed dear readers to know that in truth Mrs. Ball was not wearing an "off the shoulder gown" as described.

And so - to those who weren't there - "you missed a really good day".

KAY BALL