



# NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 37

ISSUE N° 4

MAY 1998

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

**PRESIDENT**  
 Richard Tonkin  
 PO Box 280  
 Greensborough  
 Vic 3088  
 Tel 03 9710 1465  
 email  
 rtonkin@eisa.net.au

**V/PRESIDENT**  
 John Ball  
 PO Box 26  
 Murchison  
 Vic 3610  
 Tel/Fax 03 5826 2518

**SECRETARY**  
 Dale Parsell  
 14 Symons Road  
 Avonsleigh  
 Vic 3782  
 Tel 03 5968 5170  
 email  
 dparsell@ozemail.com.au

**TREASURER**  
 John Twomey  
 53 Park Street  
 Pascoe Vale  
 Vic 3044  
 Tel 03 9386 0439

**EDITOR**  
 John Hetherington  
 102 Balaclava Rd  
 Shepparton  
 Vic 3630  
 Tel 03 5821 6422  
 Fax 03 5831 1586  
 email  
 jfh@sheppnews.com.au

**NEWSLETTER  
 DISTRIBUTION**  
 John & Kay Ball  
 Address as above

**SPARES**

**VINTAGE**  
 Geoff Hood  
 37 Thomas Street  
 E. Doncaster  
 Vic 3109  
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 8 Wimba Avenue  
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 Tel 03 9571 3886

**THREE LITRE**  
 John Ball  
 Address as above

**LIBRARIAN**  
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 Fountain Gate  
 Vic 3805  
 Tel 03 9704 7549

## COMING EVENTS

May	Friday 15th	Club General Meeting. Topics for Discussion include: Trophies - To whom, for what? "Asterisk"- Name. Size. Format.
	Sat/Sun 30/31st	Historic Racing at Winton.
June	Sun 14th	Vintage Hill Climb. Rob Roy.
	Friday 19th	Club General Meeting
July	Friday 17th	Club General Meeting. Expect videos, photos and free Alvis souvenirs from the Senior Executive.

## PAST EVENTS

There was a Club Pub Run to Tooborac. It was a glorious day, the food was good but the service was lousy. There were some nice cars present and a good turn-out of people. The editorial Speed 20 travelled there and back under its own power. No report of this Club activity has been received. Rex Roberts has told me that there was no Alvis competitor at Edington Sprint Meeting which was held on the same day. ED.

# TORQUE OF TONKIN

**1. Senior Executive Grand European Tour.** The President and Mrs. Tonkin and the Vice President and Mrs. Ball are travelling to England in June and will be attending the Alvis Owner Club's International Alvis Weekend at Brooklands, in Surrey. This is a most significant event, as it celebrates the 75th anniversaries of the introduction of the 12/50, of Major Maurice Harvey's win in the 200 Mile Race at Brooklands in a 12/50 and of the first Alvis Day, sponsored by Henlys, at Brooklands. It is also the 50th anniversary of the Alvis Register and otherwise, a good excuse for a party.

The weekend consists of a Saturday morning drive from the hotel where we are staying at Cobham, in Surrey, to a pub by the Thames near Henley and then driving around the English countryside in the afternoon, hopefully in somebody else's Alvis. The guest speaker at Saturday night dinner is Peter Hull ("The Vintage Alvis"). Sunday is spent messing around at Brooklands, on the track and in the museum. There will be lots of British and Continental Alvises present and still and video cameras will be taken, so expect a film night at the July Club Meeting.

I wish I could say that the Club is sponsoring (ie, paying for) the trip but, while Treasurer **John Twomey** is broad-minded, he's not daft. We will, however, be presenting a small plaque to the AOC from the ACCV, to commemorate the event. I hope that our visit will strengthen ties between the British and Australian Clubs.

**2. Magic Metung Weekend.** We had a "full house" of 34, although a couple of partners could not attend at the last minute. There were 10 Alvises present, and it was great to see **Kendall and Joyce McSkimming** and **Alan and Margaret Russell**, who are members of both the Victorian and NSW Clubs (why isn't everybody? It's worth thinking about). The McSkimmings were showing off their "new" TA 14 Tickford DHC and the Russells were in their very smart TA 21 saloon. Surprise of the weekend was the **Caldwell's** TA 14 saloon, which has undergone a metamorphosis, with the able assistance of **Eric Nichol**. It really has to be seen to be believed.

There will be more about the weekend in the June magazine, together with photos (subject, of course, to the editor's red pen). In the meantime, very many thanks to **Andre and Dorothy Chaley** for not only organising a superb weekend, but for throwing open their lovely Metung home to a bunch of tired and thirsty Alvisists, who ate much and stayed late. I think the 2 night weekend is the way to go in the future. Comments?

**3. The Andy Hannam Trophy.** The current scorecard is being held over to the June issue, where the April Club Meeting, the Tooborac Pub Run, the Metung Weekend and the May Club Meeting will be tallied.

RICHARD TONKIN.

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## FUNNY FROGGY FRINGS

If you are not familiar with a **Derby**, think of a sort of Austin Seven-and-a-Half, made in France. You could not say that, in the recent Alpine Trial, the Derby driven by Malcolm Robertson it "went like a scalded cat" but it did go like a pussy with tepid water poured over it. But it went! Alister Cannon, who was navigating, was struggling out of it when a bystander asked "what car is this?" "A French suppository" replied Alister. "Never heard of a car called that" was the response as he headed off.

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## HOLY PRAYER OF THE ALVIS OWNER

The Alvis is my car, I shall not want another.  
It maketh me to lie down in wet places it soureth my soul  
It leadeth me into deep waters.  
It leadeth me into the paths of ridicule for its name sake.  
It prepareth breakdowns for me in the presence of mine enemies.  
Yes, though I run through the valleys, I am towed up the hills.  
I fear much evil when it is with me Its rods and its engine discomfort me.  
It anointeth my face with oil, Its tank runneth over.  
Truly, if this thing followeth me all the days of my life,  
I shall dwell in the house of the insane forever.

*Cribbed from "Fiat Avant" - of the Fiat Car Club of Queensland (November 1996). Sent in By Dale Parsell. Plagiarised by your ED, who believes it is true only when his car is playing up, but thinks that it applies more to Fiats when the Alvis is running sweetly!*

A 1999 ALVIS CALENDAR.

John Lang is the man in charge, he wrote to me with details of what he requires, so his letter is published here. Now is your chance to show off your beautiful machine. Surely no-one will tear off the page with your car on it? The whole calendar will be kept for posterity!

Dear John,

Firstly my congratulations on the first edition of 'ASTERISK,' the presentation and content were excellent. I have an intimate knowledge of how difficult it is to produce a regular newsletter that is interesting to members and of the problems in collecting suitable material.

By now you are probably aware that the calendar for 1999 was approved by the committee at the last meeting and Richard asked me to contact you in regard to what was required in the newsletter to assist in its composition.

The committee determined the following:

A4 page size

Spirex bound along the short side of the page

1 page per month

Transparent front dust cover

Alvis insignia on front page

Cardboard backing

Photographs at top of page, calendar beneath

Photographs printed on half pages (similar to calendar you showed me)

Photograph when lifted would reveal details of car

Members to be asked to submit suitable photographs

Unused photographs returned to members

Committee to decide which 12 photographs to be used

Initial run of 40 copies to "test the water"

Members are asked to submit suitable colour photographs enlarged to 8 x 6 inches, of good quality and sharp focus. The 8 inch side aligned with the length of the car. The photographs will need to be trimmed as the calendar is formatted, so allow a small back ground border at either end.

Also a description of the vehicle, car number, chassis number etc. Owners name if required

**PLEASE SEND PHOTOGRAPHS TO ME AT P.O.BOX 129, GISBORNE, VICTORIA, 3437 (TEL. 03 4526 2256).**

JOHN LANG.

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VSCC ALPINE TRIAL.

The weekend after Easter was devoted to this biennial event. Glorious weather blessed our journey over Mt. Hotham to Bairnsdale for the start and we were equally fortunate during the Saturday and Sunday. On Monday we were called to book! From Adaminaby to Tintaldra the weather was utterly atrocious - and it was pretty awful on the way home as well. The common practice of overtaking civilian drivers cutting in front to try to read the name of the car was made much more dangerous by the down-pour conditions on the Hume freeway. This led to Terry Julien who was navigating in the 12/50 to mutter "yes, madam, we are entirely bloody mad". Distances on the trial were moderate, the scenery spectacular and most of the roads wonderful. There were also some goat tracks - and one way goat tracks at that. There are not many roads in the area to choose from so regularity rather than navigating was the order of the day. Only one Alvis competed (the editorial 12/50) but several ACCV members were present wearing other hats. Andrew Green was navigating in a Delàge. Ron Wilson and Bob Graham were marshals. Bob described the event as "more of an adventure than a rally" and he was probably correct. Alister Cannon was navigating for Malcolm Robertson who was driving a Derby. ED

P.S. Editorial 12/50: Placed equal third in Vintage Class.

## 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.

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

JUNE MAGAZINE  
COPY DEADLINE  
WEDNESDAY  
27th MAY 1998

LOTS AND LOTS AND LOTS OF COPY PLEASE - ITS ANOTHER "BIG ISSUE".

### 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.

### PRIVATEERS.

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

WANTED Twenty inch "Jelly Mould" wheel. Any condition. Peter Fleming. 03 9729 3440 A/H.

REPAIRS TO POINTS etc. Repair or replace magneto points spring or distributor points spring for Speed 25, Speed 20, 12/70, 12/60, 12/50, 14/75 and Silver Eagle. Repair damaged or worn rotor buttons for TA 14, TA - TC 21-21/100 ( which are no longer commercially available). Beryllium/copper\* spring material is used. New spring with "new-old" points approx. \$10.00. One off repair of spring and component wear problems approx \$15 - \$20.00 - sample supplied. Interstate mail order welcome. J.K.M. Instrments. (John McLeod) 25/15 MacQuarie Place, Boronia, Vic. 3155. Tel. 03 9720 2264. Recommended by Alister Cannon. \* A very strong spring alloy.



"He has nothing to do. All his batteries have run down."

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