

*March 2015*

# *Alvic*

*The Newsletter of the Alvis Car Club of Victoria*





**March 2015**  
**VOL 54 ISSUE 2**

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## Alvis Car Club of Victoria (Inc)

A0017202F

CLUB ROOMS: - rear of 'ALVISTA' 21 Edgar St, Glen Iris (MELWAYS 59 F8)  
Meetings—third Friday of each month [except DEC/JAN] at 8.00pm. Newsletter  
Deadline - first Friday of the month.

POSTAL: ACCV P.O.Box 634, EMERALD, VIC 3782  
[www.alvis.org.au](http://www.alvis.org.au)

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Well it won't be long before the UK visitors arrive in Australia for the Alvis Tours before the National Rally. I understand that 9 entries from the UK are going on the Tour of Tasmania and then together with the UK contingent, there are quite a few more people joining in for the Great Ocean Road drive across to the National Rally. This all came about from a suggestion by Noeline McKinnon and its "want to happen" interest grows beyond expectations. I wish to sincerely thank Noeline and Alan for the tremendous amount of effort and planning they have devoted to these events and in making the experience in Australia far more enjoyable for the visitors. They say if you want something done then ask a busy person and this certainly applies to the McKinnons.

An early morning run (EMR) had been proposed for the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March, however this has had to be postponed until a later date. This leads us onto the major event of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner which is being held on ANZAC DAY, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April, between the Tour of Tasmania and the Great Ocean Road run. We wish to see as many people as possible along for this dinner, including our regulars, the UK visitors, those members who we seldom see and long term members who maybe not so mobile these days. Any person interested in Alvises and who happens to be in Melbourne on the day is welcome. It will be a great opportunity to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, which is no mean achievement and also to catch up with old friends and to reminisce about earlier days. A special effort to attend will be appreciated by the hard working organising committee members.

In 2010 John Hetherington went to a lot of effort to produce a census of Australian Alvis owners, their vehicles and their contact details. This has proved to be a very handy booklet, to which I refer frequently. However, it is now somewhat out of date and I know that my copy has numerous hand written notations in it. The NSW Alvis Club produces a comprehensive membership list every two years and is due to produce a new one in 2016. There have been discussions between the NSW and Victorian Clubs that we build on the NSW publication and produce a combined register of members only. There will be an opt out provision for people who do not wish to have their details recorded in a publication, however it has to be said that the information will not be going on Club Web Sites and will only be in printed booklet form, distributed to members of both Clubs. It is seen that this will replace the John Hetherington census publication and that it will be easier to produce an updated register every two years. Confirmation of members' details will be sought at subscription renewal time.

There has been more discussion with the Alvis Owners Club (AOC) on the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Alvis. As TG John formed his company in 1919, but did not produce the first Alvis until 1920, it seems appropriate that the celebration straddle two years; 2019 and 2020. The current plan is to celebrate the anniversary world wide and that there be an Australian leg of the International Alvis Tour timed to coincide with our National Tour which is being

run by the NSW Club and held around March/April of 2019. The event will be centred on Albury/Wodonga.

Additional tours for the visitors will be timed around this and will be undertaken through the combined efforts of the NSW and Victorian Clubs. I am unsure whether there is a proposal for a stand alone NZ tour or whether the New Zealand Alvis owners will come across for a combined event. However it is proposed that later in 2019 there will be an American leg of the International Tour. In Spring/Summer 2020 it is proposed to hold celebratory tours in Europe and the UK, the thought being, to start a tour in the Eastern part of Europe, driving across to England and culminating with celebrations in Coventry. Obviously the plans are currently in their infancy and will need a lot of detailed planning, however this is being brought to your attention so that you can factor these celebratory runs into your long term planning. I for one am keen to take the 12/50 to Europe and finish by driving down the road past the site of the factory where she was created.

I wish to welcome new member Tony Concannon. Tony has purchased and refurbished a magnificent historic Speed 25 Special. The car has been prepared for the 2016 Peking to Paris Rally and we wish Tony and his wife every success. In the mean time we look forward to meeting them and seeing the car on the upcoming National Rally in the Valley.

The Editor's job can be a difficult one especially when there is a paucity of articles. ALVIC can only be a success if there are articles of interest. I have asked a number of new members in their welcome letter if they

can put pen to paper (or more appropriately fingers to the keyboard) and write a short article about themselves, their interest in cars and information about their particular Alvis. I know some people have joined both the NSW and Victorian Clubs and that there have been some articles submitted to Alvibatics. We would like to re run these articles in ALVIC as a number of our members only belong to the one club, so please forward the articles to John Lang and help make his life easier. Of course we will also welcome articles from long standing members, be they reminiscences, recent car repairs or of a technical nature. In particular we thank Richard Wallach for his prolific contribution with articles about the improvements to the TA21. As the TA21 is now in fine fettle there is little more to report on. Therefore we desperately need to find Richard another car about which he can report as he applies his meticulous magic!

Please remember that Mac Hulbert will be talking about his racing experiences at the March meeting. Mac's presentations are always good and well received, so I hope to see a good roll up of members and their partners on the night. It is our intention to have a guest speaker every second month

Andrew McDougall

## SUPPER The HETHERINGTONS

### 2015 COMING EVENTS

Club events are listed in BOLD and non-Club events are in Italics

Mar	20th	General meeting	Jul	17	General Meeting
	22	<b>EMR POSTPONED</b>		19	Kyneton Pub Run
Apr	17	General meeting	Aug	16	Rob Roy
	14-23	Pre-NatRally Tassie Tour		21	General Meeting
	25	60th Anniversary Dinner	Sep	11-13	Metung Weekend Away
	26	Cranbourne Botanical Gardens		18	General Meeting
	29-2	Rally to the Rally	Oct	16	AGM & Awards Presentation
May	3-9	NatRally	Nov	8	Combined outing with the Jowett Club to Maldon
	15	General Meeting		20	General Meeting
May	17	Petanque (National Heritage Day)		28-29	Geelong Revival
Jun	19	General Meeting	Dec	6	Christmas Party - the Langs

### FRIDAY 20TH March Meeting

*Guest Speaker: Mac Hulbert "Historic Racing - One Man's Experience"*

Front Cover picture: Jon Voller's Grey Lady



From Jan Barnett

Dear John

Thank you very much for sending *Alvic* to me all these years, I always read it for old times sake.

Sadly it is 7 years now since Warwick passed away and I miss him and the vintage car life, dreadfully. Especially the *Alvis National Rallies*, but I don't have any link now with the old life except being friendly with some of the Brisbane people, which is very good.

Also I've moved and downsized so probably cross me off the list with regret.

Thanks from Jan Barnett

Hello John

Congratulations on 60th anniversary of the Alvis Car Club of Victoria. It sounds as though you have a good programme arranged.

David's Alvis is still in the garage here in Polesworth, He is still planning to have it down in Worthing.

My greetings to all friends who may remember me.

Very best wishes to you and Margaret  
from Sue Holmes (UK)

## ***IT'S ON AGAIN!***

### **THE DAVID & MOIRA WISCHER INTER CLUB BOULES CHALLENGE TROPHY**

**COMPETITORS:** Alvis, Bristol and Daimler/Lanchester Car Clubs, Armstrong Siddeley Club and Jowett Car Club.

**DATE:** Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 (National Motoring Heritage Day)

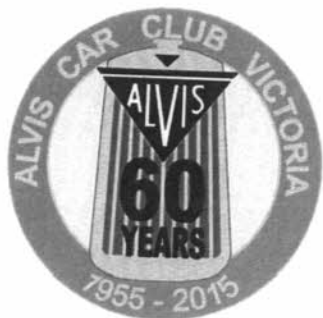
**VENUE:** Michael & Pat Pringle's home at 113 Sandy Point Road, Somers 3927 (Melway 194 E8). About 55 minutes from the eastern suburbs via Eastlink and Peninsula Link. Adequate off-street parking; prime positions given to 'classics'

**START:** Arrival from 11.30 am for socialising prior to lunch around 12.30 pm. BYO lunch and drinks. BBQ and tea and coffee making facilities will be available. Some tables and chairs are available but it might be prudent to BYO just in case.

**COMPETITION:** Which is expected to be 'fierce' will commence around 1.30pm and is expected to conclude around 3.30pm to 4.00pm with the presentation of the trophy. Some bowls sets will be available however it will assist if those attending bring along bowls sets if they have them.

**RSVP:** Could each club appoint someone as co-ordinator and then please advise Michael Pringle by telephone 0418 311 422 by Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 of the likely numbers.

**REMEMBER ITS BRAGGING RIGHTS NOT SHEEP STATIONS WE ARE PLAYING FOR.  
MAY THE BEST TEAM WIN!**



**Alvis Car Club of Victoria  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner Invitation  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015 (ANZAC Day)**

Members and friends who have been associated with Alvis Car Club of Victoria are cordially invited to join us for dinner, to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Club. We wish to have as many people as possible who have been associated with the Club and the Alvis movement attend the evening.

It is appreciated that it is on ANZAC Day, however it has been selected to coincide with the visit of the overseas Alvis members attending the Australian National Alvis Rally, and the evening falls between the return from the "Tasmanian Tour" and the "Rally to the Rally" via the Great Ocean Road, to the National Rally in South Australia.

**Meal Format:**

A three choice Spit Roast, with hot potatoes, salads, desert, fruit platter and tea/coffee biscuits and cheese. Some good wine, beer and non alcoholic drinks are included. If you wish, you can supplement the drinks by bringing your own.

**Venue:**

The Veteran Car Club Australia (Vic.) Clubrooms at Lynden Park, Wakefields Grove, Camberwell (off Through Street), Melways 60 F4. There is plenty of off street parking.

**Time:**

6.30pm for 7.00pm

**Cost:**

\$30.00 per head.

**Reply:**

Please return your INVITATION with payment by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. Please note the earlier your response, the easier it will be for the organisers to ensure you have an enjoyable evening.

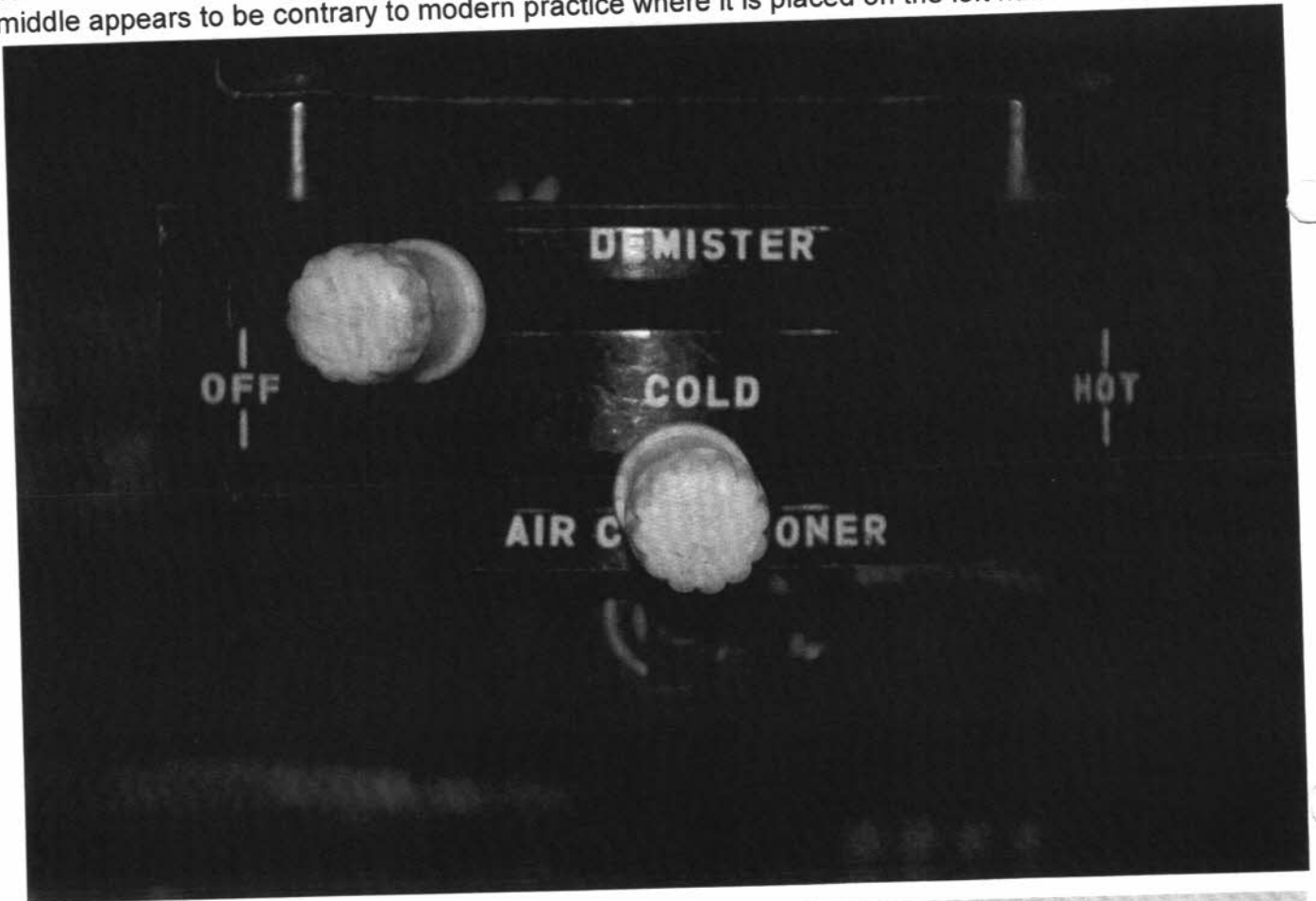
**“For the sheer joy of driving ..... I’d like to go there in an Alvis”**

(Advertisement in The Motor 1952)

### Smiths Heater water tap as fitted to the TA-TC series of cars.

The image below is the familiar heater and ventilation control unit. In this particular image a later modification {far more convenient} was made by adding the fan switch to the bottom control lever as was the case on other variants.

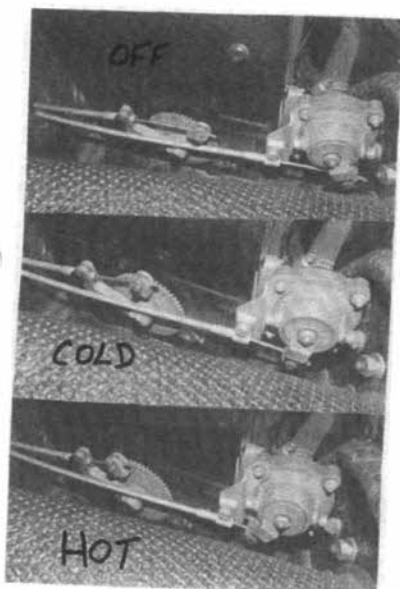
The bottom lever is the one that activates the heater tap. The fact that the “cold” position is in the middle appears to be contrary to modern practice where it is placed on the left hand side.



This however is deliberate and needs to be borne in mind when one is tempted to replace the heater tap with the commonly available one depicted below. This tap looks like a quick and easy fix to the problem of a corroded and unworkable original cast tap as it can be made to fit the heater unit quite easily. When the controls are connected to this type it now acts like a more modern unit where the cold/off position is on the far left hand side. This was **not** the intention of the manufacturer as the cold {tap off} position in the top image is in the middle. The replacement tap cannot be made to fit this configuration. With an unmodified Smiths unit when air conditioning {to use their language}, being either heating or cooling, is not required the control unit {bottom} lever is moved to the far left, **off** position.



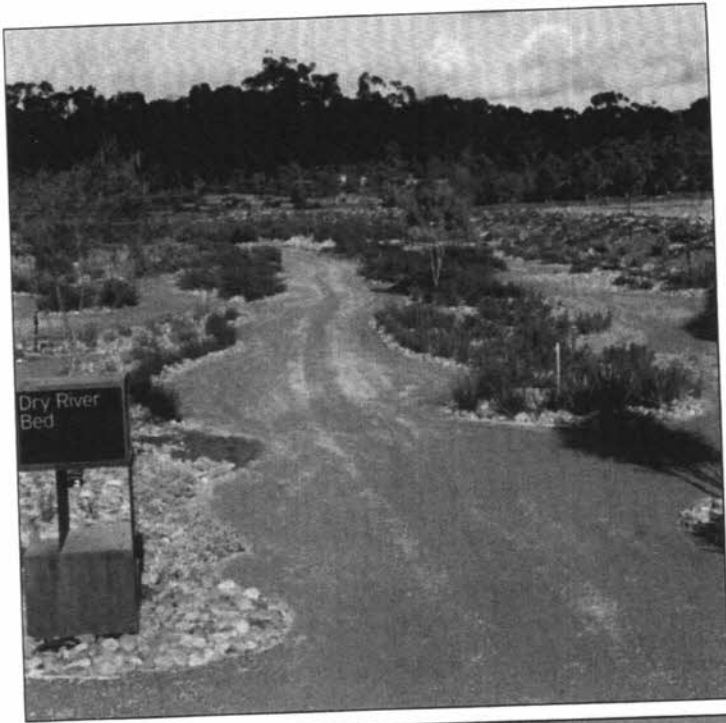
The diagram below, courtesy of Keith Dodge {ACC- NZ} shows the correct configuration. The tap is in fact a 3 position unit with two on and one off position. When one studies this and the top image it becomes clear that the **off** position is in fact "on" and hot water is flowing through the unit. This is the same as the **hot** position. The actual off position for the tap {cold} is in the centre of the tap and likewise corresponds with the centre of the control unit. The reason why the **off** position does not transfer heat into the car is due to the placement of the internal heater unit air direction flaps which are also partly controlled by the bottom lever. In the image below different positions of the flap mechanism on the left hand side of the three images can be seen. In the first image the flap position now blocks heat entry into the car.



You might now be asking why Smith's produced heaters with this configuration. This unit was a common fitment to many premium car brands and Smith's would have manufactured the heater units to meet the car manufacturer's requirements. Whilst the author has found nothing definitively written on this subject it appears that this configuration will aid in a more rapid and uniform warming of a cold motor upon start up. The system in essence provides a water pump driven circulatory path through the head/block via the heater hoses and core. Unless one keeps the more commonly available tap variant in the "on" position all the time, which is hardly likely, then the designed even warm up of a large cast iron motor is not achieved.

Whilst good tap units are as scarce as hens' teeth even a rather tatty one may serve as a pattern for the remanufacture of these taps. I am aware of at least one club that has remanufactured the tap diaphragm.

Richard Wallach  
[richardwallach@hotmail.com](mailto:richardwallach@hotmail.com)



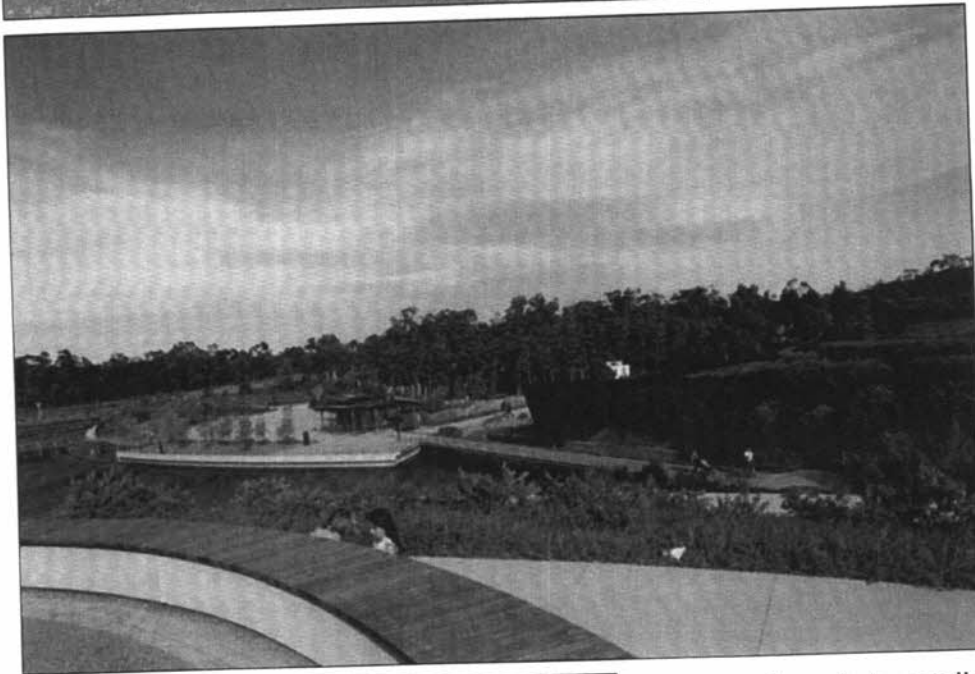
## CRANBOURNE BOTANICAL GARDENS, Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April

Start, 9:30 for 10am, Stamford Hotel Carpark, corner Wellington and Stud Roads Rowville {Wellington Road Entrance} Melways Pg 81, H3.

Come and join us for a short but interesting drive through some of Melbourne's outer eastern leafy suburbs and then some of its newest ones (some not even on the drawing board yet) before visiting the Australia Garden at Cranbourne Botanical Gardens. The Australia Garden depicts the wide ranging

Flora and arid landscapes that can be found across our vast country.

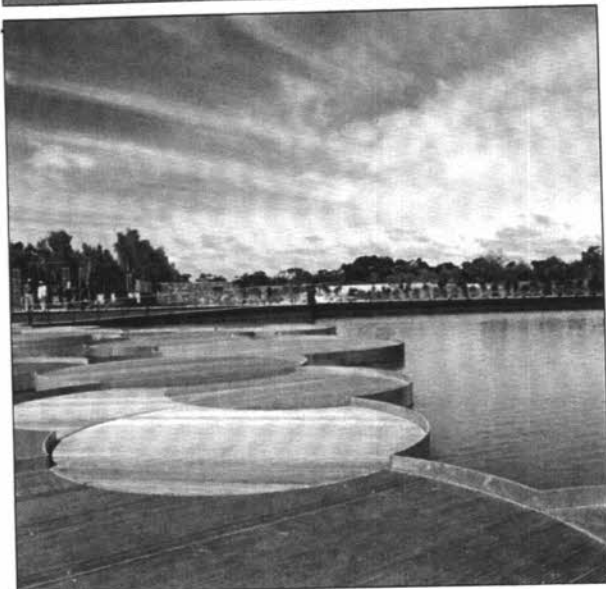
Entry to the gardens is free however we have organised to have a tour guide who will talk on the **evolution of Australian plants and includes the all day Hop on Hop off bus for \$10/ head (this must be booked and paid for in advance so please let us know if you want to do the tour).**



Lunch is available at the Gardens Café where we have organised a private room (lunch at your expense).

The easiest way for most members to find the Stamford Hotel is to take either the Eastern or the Monash freeway out of the City to Wellington Road, exiting left towards Rowville. Follow Wellington Road to the Hotel which is on your left.

Email [dparsell@ozemail.com.au](mailto:dparsell@ozemail.com.au) with any questions.





## Competition results

### RESULTS FOR 2015 VSCC NIGHT TRIAL

Outright Vintage PVT Navigator

Mark Burns [Alvis] 1st

John Balthazar [Alvis] 4th 3rd Sharon Balthazar

Andrew Green [Alvis] 5th 2nd Robin Green

*Results courtesy of the VSCC Newsletter*

**A very warm welcome to Tony & Catherine Concannon  
who have joined our membership.**

### ALVIS 1937, Speed 25 Special tourer



Built in the 1960's by Ian Woolstenholm, proprietor of 'Woolies' to compete in Vintage Sports Continuous Competition history for the past 45 years, mainly in VSCC events.

Featured on the cover of November 1965 Autosport in its original colour of racing blue at the start line of Prestcott Hill Climb. Won the Hulbert Trophy three times.

Recently competed in "Circuits des Remparts" event in Angouleme, second place in the sports car event.

# AUTOSPORT

NOVEMBER 12, 1965

2/6

EVERY FRIDAY

Vol. 31 No. 20

BRITAIN'S MOTOR SPORTING WEEKLY

Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper



*Alvic*

March 2015

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# CARS, CLUB, HISTORY



One day when I get the time to do it properly, there are some interesting stories and information in the Club archives just waiting to be ferreted out. I guess having never grown up, when I see photographs I turn them over to see if the previous owner has left some clues as to the subject matter.

John Read has provided four photographs of which two have been reproduced here. The other two will wait until I have done some more research.

The top photograph tells the following story:

"TA21 Alvis, with speedboat fitted with a 1916 Wolseley Viper V8 aircraft engine. Previously owned by Carl Jammers, well known during the 1930s racing driver and importer of DKW cars, whose business was in Heidelberg. Using this boat, we were foundation members of the Victorian Speed Boat Club, when the total boats in the club were approximately 12. The photo was taken at Albert Park Lake in 1950. Mrs Read is the model."

John P. Read  
1978

The lower photograph:

"TA21 Alvis, the first drophead registered in Australia, "The Grey Lady" bought new in 1950 from the then agent Devon Motors. A second drophead, maroon in colour was dropped on it's (sic) nose whilst being unloaded from the ship, and was nit registered for some 6 months, after a new front end was obtained from the UK."

John P. Read  
1978

The 1978 date on the text I think was during the period when the late Bob Graham was asking Alvis owners to send him information about their cars. Bob's intention was to provide a history of Alvis cars in Australia.

It was also during a period when there was some animosity between the two Australian Alvis clubs in which the free passage of information for the project, was lacking and the project was put on the back burner.

I think Bob Graham had asked various owners to jot down Alvis information as they recalled it and pass it on to him.

Further jottings show that John Read owned a Speed 25, a TA14 and a Grey lady (May have been the TA21 in the photographs). He reports that he ran the TA14 at Nar Nar Goon against Stan Beasley - track car and Cec Warren in a Bugatti.

His additional notes are not necessarily in reference to his own car/s.

Bomb thrown in Detectives window in Geelong in '37 or '38. One of the 4.3 litre Police cars did Melbourne to Geelong in 43 minutes (at the time the Melbourne - Geelong highway was 2 lanes only and 43 minutes was a very fast trip) Another 4.3 broke spokes in one of its back wheels and took 50 minutes.

Maroon Grey Lady (referred to earlier) dropped onto the wharf and new front fitted, belonged to Russell Stapleton.

Ran Grey Lady (sic) at Rob Roy.

If this information pricks other memories from some of the more senior members, please write to the editor.





# ALVIS PEOPLE BEHAVING BADLY



*I wonder if anyone remembers the occasion!*

## FOR SALE

1965 Alvis TE21 series 111 saloon

Features:

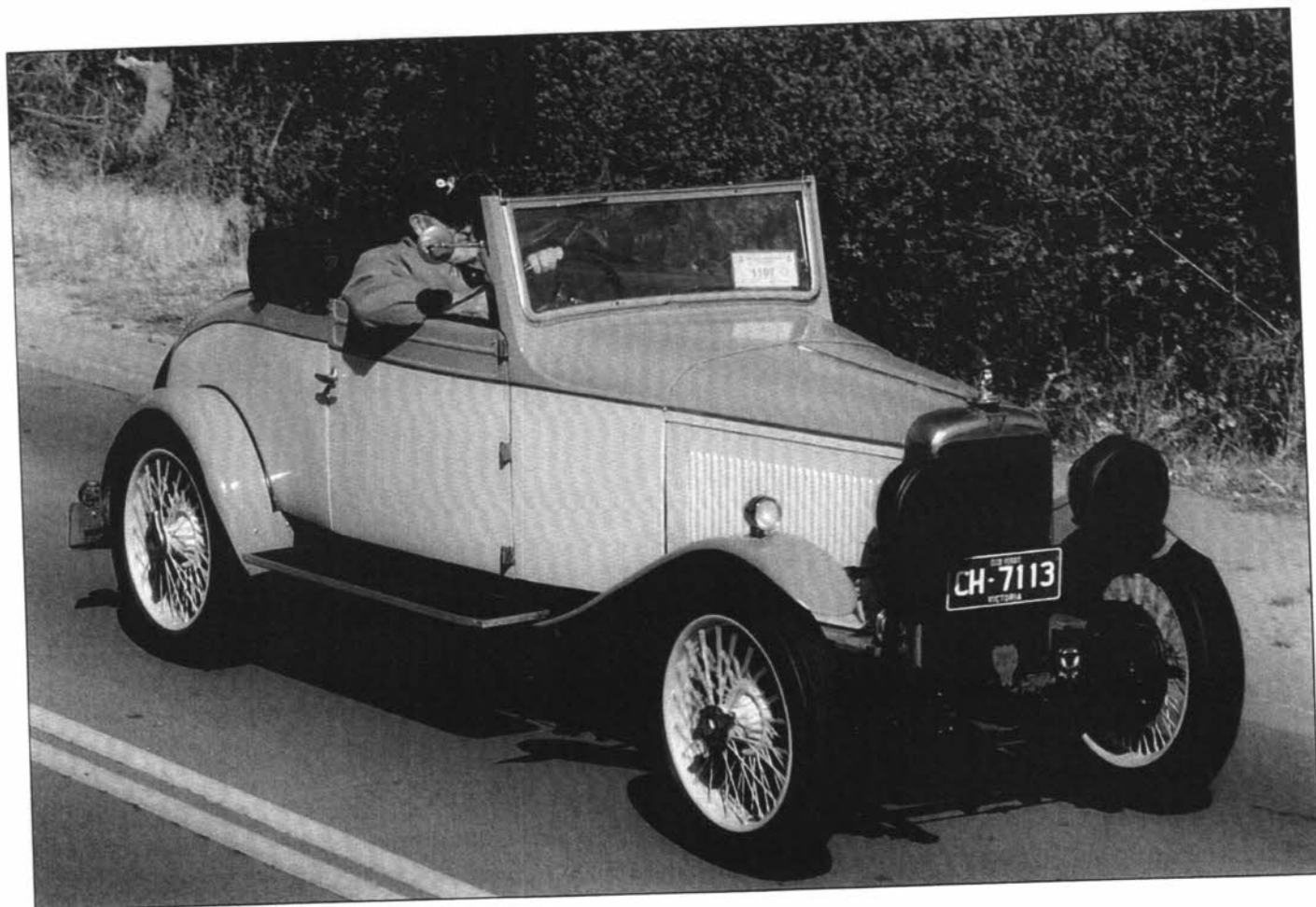
- All wheel power assisted disc brakes
- Chrome wire wheels
- Power steering
- 5 speed manual gearbox
- Original colour - mid grey
- Sound condition throughout
- Registered in Victoria TE-021

Car located in Bendigo

Price: \$65,000 negotiable

Contact: Ron Allen 03 5449 6321

Mobile : 0427 843554



**FOR SALE** 1932 TJ12/50 Doctor's Coupe. Engine 3884 chassis 9367 body 14223. Engine & body rebuilt 1997-8. Runs well. Last 12/50 to come to Australia through an agent. \$45,000 or best offer. CHRIS HIGGINS (03) 5986 1510

# FOR SALE

FOR SALE:- ALVIS 12/50 2 seater fabric bodied tourer. 1926.

The 84 year old car is in very fine going condition but its younger owner has broken down so reluctantly must sell after more than 30 years of great vintage motoring.

The car is well known in Australian Alvis circles having attended many rallies and covered many more miles of roads in eastern Australia. Many miles indeed: about 90,000 of them in my care. Victorian "Red Plate" permitted 4.026.

John Hetherington. 0419 319 319 or 03 5821 6422. [jfh@mcmmedia.com.au](mailto:jfh@mcmmedia.com.au)

\$50,000 ONO



## FOR SALE



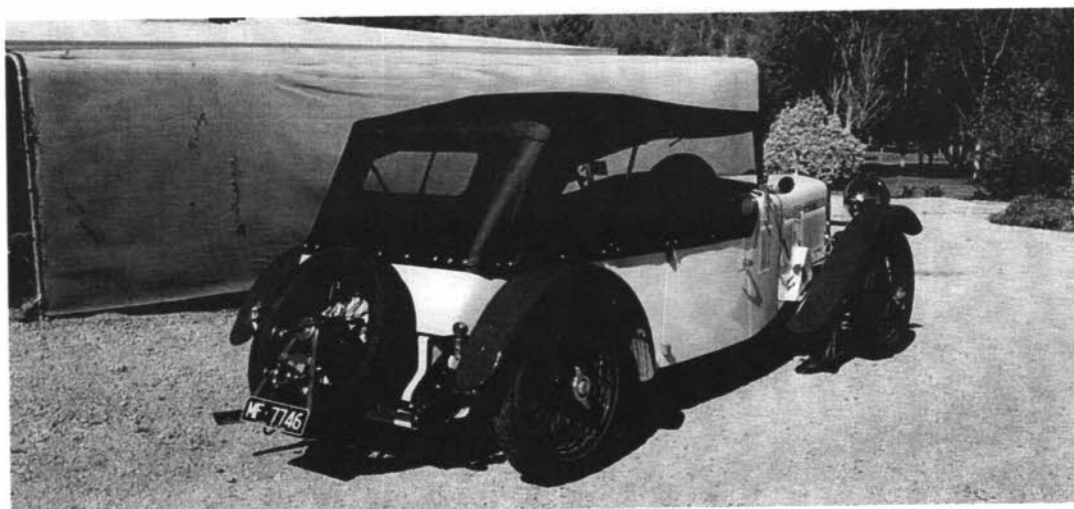
### SG Silver Eagle Sports Tourer

12,000 miles since complete restoration including new body & full weather equipment & tonneau. Chassis No. 12684 Original books & full history available

Restoration details available on request.

\$95,000 O.N.O.

Murray Fitch Telephone: 03 5766 2529



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