

Alvis in the Barossa Valley

For many years in Australia, it has been traditional to hold a bi-annual National Rally and this year it was the turn of the South Australian owners.

The Barossa Valley is known, worldwide for its wines and picturesque countryside.

What better place for a car rally!

Advertising for the event began following the 2013 NatRally in Victoria and with two years notice, this allowed international owners, to plan ahead.

Thus we were graced with the company of Tudor Francis, Mike & Jan Baker, Malcolm & Jennie Kindell, Chris & Helen Storrar, Mike & Ruth Hirst, Ian & Jo Todd, Norman and Claire Blundell, .

With nearly 40 Alvis cars present and a total company of about 85 Alvisists, the scene was set for a great rally.

One of the pleasures of the NatRally is getting there and back with varying routes and stops along the way, from the most direct, to the most scenic.

Sadly the weather forecasters were right and the weather was not kind!

Sunday 3 May was registrations and welcoming dinner.

Monday

was a visit to the Seppeltsfield winery established in 1851 and a talk and visit to the original homestead and a walk through the 1878 Centennial Cellar. Lunch and wine tasting completed the visit and a trip to a well known chef's establishment was a further option.



Tuesday

This interesting day began with a drive to and over Mengler's Hill to visit to the historic Victorian period house, "Collingrove Homestead". Built of local stone with a slate roof, Collingrove is a fine example of how our pioneers created a new Australian architecture retaining



the Old Country atmosphere of their origin. It is set in attractively landscaped grounds.

Collingrove was commenced in 1856 as the Angas family



home and headquarters for their considerable pastoral interests. Most of the initial development of the property was carried out by the nineteen year old son of the Newcastle-upon-Tyne based coachbuilder George Angas who had acquired the property. One of his Newcastle-built coaches is on display and the house contains many artefacts from the various generations who had lived there. Various 'modernisations' of interior and exterior aspects of the building are evident. The Angas family made significant contributions to the growth and development of South Australia from its earliest days, through political involvement, pastoral endeavour and philanthropic gesture. Collingrove was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1976 by Ronald Angas.

We were provided with a sumptuous morning tea of scones with jam and cream, served to us all seated at tables scattered through the house, by National Trust volunteers.

We then drove to the Collingrove Hillclimb, owned and operated by the Sporting Car Club of SA. First used in 1950, the hillclimb has an unusual layout, with a very steep, straight initial section, before curving around the

hillside in sundry bends, as seen in the photo of a Morgan on the bend known as "The Wall".
The Alvises drove over the track (in convoy, not at



speed!) before adjourning to the clubhouse for a sandwich lunch. Some of us spent the rest of the afternoon visiting a couple of fine vineyards.

Wednesday was a visit to a craftsman toy shop adjacent to a huge wooden rocking horse.

Further driving took us on what used to be the Lobethal road racing circuit which was the location of the 1939 Australian Grand Prix. The road was interesting to drive and would obviously been in poorer condition than we saw. No doubt some of the same trees close to the roadside would have been present during the thirties. Our experience gave us an insight into the fearless men and women who raced in those days.

On to the Birdwood Car Museum and lunch prior to inspecting the exhibits which provided an insight into much of Australia's motoring heritage.

We were parked on a reserved section of grass and the 40 Alvises certainly added to the atmosphere of the venue.

The car museum is a place where you could spend many hours studying the information available with each of the

exhibits and listening and watching the audio visual displays.



Richard Harvey's FWD, the Australian AGP car of the thirties, was on display in between its various restoration periods.



Traditionally the NatRally has a theme night and this event's theme was "Vintage" which obviously left much to the imagination. A fun dinner resulted. You might recognise some of the faces.





The Murray being a major route for transporting goods to Adelaide.

Looking at the smiles on the ladies' faces the visit obviously added to the finances of the town.

Friday morning took us to the Kegel Club in Tununda. Half the group drove to the Kegel Club while the others to the Lindner collection of Jaguars and other marques.



Kegel in the Barossa dates back to 1858, when the German settlers replicated the game of their homeland after church service. They lined up the skittles and competed in knocking them down with stones as a replacement for a wooden ball. Indeed, they were an inventive bunch.

The skittles were hand-carved work tools, used as a hammer, or sometimes a weapon. The church-going settlers were also optimistic, having convinced themselves each skittle hit would absolve for a sin. This was the beginning of the Tanunda Kegel Club, which has run continuously since.

Thursday's destination was Mannum, a town on the Murray River. Famous for its paddle steamers, ship building and repairs.

Morning tea was self catered and we sat by the banks of the Murray River in an idyllic setting. The town museum was interesting in that it reflected much of the farming and boating past of the area.



The Lindner Collection was housed in several sections of an industrial estate and consisted of a number of Jaguar cars, some of which were original and some that were replicas.

Two SS Jaguar cars were on display. Several E types lined one wall of their area. Replicas of both C type and D type were present along with Mark2s and others. In other sections there were cars awaiting restoration or sale.



The afternoon was spent preparing the cars for the trip home. Participants had come from Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia.

Acknowledgement is made of the following photographers. And similarly the subjects many of whom may prefer not to be identified.

Andrew McDougall, Dale Parsell, Chris Storrar, Mark Weller, Jo Todd

Many thanks must go to the South Australian team who organised a great event:

Wendy & Frank Smith
Clare and Stuart Macdonald
Anne and Peter Mott.
Pamela and Richard Harvey
And any others of whom I might not be aware.

Flynn Silver

KYNETON

SUNDAY 19 JULY

John Hetherington has organised a visit to Dan Flynn's silver smithing business in Kyneton followed by a pub lunch.

Flynn's silversmiths make magnificent silverware for civic functions - trophies for grand prix etc.

There is a limit of 20 people of which 2 groups of 10 will be for a 45 minute tour.

FIRST IN FIRST SERVED

Details of the meeting place and the route to Kyneton will be forthcoming.

PLEASE KEEP THE DATE FREE

There will be a \$5 entry fee directed to a charity of our nomination