

# BUSHFIRE RECOVERY RUN

Due to Andrew decamping to the opposition and competing in the VSCC 24 Hour Night Trial in a Darracq, I was in the enviable position to have a ride in two different Alvis cars. We met in the car park at The Greenery Plant Nursery in Templestowe and a variety of cars were at the start.



*The Tonkin Graber, McKaige 12/50 & Remfrey 12/70 Special.....*

Richard and Pauline Tonkin in the Graber, Thorpe in the 12/70 Special, Chester in the 12/50, Chris in the 12/50, Frank Mornane & Doug Stewart in the Speed 25, Alan & Noeline McKinnon in the MGA, Dale & Maritta in the MG PA, John & Margaret Hetherington Modern and John & Lois White Modern. We were joined in Kinglake by John & Margaret Lang and Geoff Hewitt in his Vauxhall 14/40.

The run up to Healesville for morning tea was through some



*.....and the McKinnon MGA & Parsell PA MG*

interesting back roads and lovely countryside – made all the better when seen from the comfort of the back seat of the Graber. The closer we got to Healesville evidence of the recent bushfires could be seen. I had a wonderful trip up in the Graber and made me wonder why we persist with open cars!! After a scrumptious morning tea provided by Pauline we motored on to Kinglake. The full effect of the Black Saturday fires in February soon became evident. It was a sobering drive.

We were greeted at the Kinglake Pub by John & Marg Lang and the Morris Car Club was there as well. The pub was full and the open fires were welcome as it was distinctly cooler in Kinglake. Lunch was good and there was lots of chatter and our new member Geoff Hewitt joined us as well.



*Frank Mornane in his SP25 tourer*

When it was time to leave I changed my mode of transport to Chester's 12/50 Ducksback for the run down the Kinglake –St Andrew's Road. It was an exhilarating drive round the sharp corners and sweeping curves – I now know why we persist with open cars!! I found it interesting to compare the handling of the Ducksback to our 12/50 Tourer – it was a very different experience. The destruction by the fires was all around us on the way home but it was good to see the new shoots on the trees and the intense green of the new growth against the black of the fires – recovery is on the way.

I was dropped off at the Greenery and then had to drive home in my little yellow Suzuki – not at all as exciting as my two rides in two different Alvis

My thanks to Richard and Pauline Tonkin for organising the event and for taking me in their Graber and my thanks to Chester for taking me in the 12/50.

Frances McDougall



*Photography by  
Frances McDougall  
Dale Parsell  
Chester McKaige*

*.....and always good for a photograph, Chester McKaiges 12/50*



*.....and always reliable, Chris Higgins all the way from Rosebud.*