



ALVIS AT AVENEL: A COUNTRY WEEKEND AWAY **26 – 29TH OCTOBER 2012**

What a fantastic weekend away in the country. A weekend of great Alvis touring roads, perfect weather, much laughter and good times.

The weekend started with perfect spring weather on the drive to Broadford for lunch, where we met up with most of the participants in the Alvis Weekend Away. It was good to see Helen & Chris Storrar and Andrew Robison (from the UK) and Liz & Mike Williams (from Tas) again.



Army tank museum - Puckapunyal

After lunch we made our way over a scenic drive to the Army Tank Museum at Puckapunyal. The route took us along country roads, empty of traffic, just made for Alvis cars. The Tank Museum made for an interesting visit in that it traces the history of the armoured division from the early days of the light horse through to the present time including a couple of Alvis made tanks and scout cars. It was then a short drive to Avenel and Rusty Springs.

Rusty Springs is a uniquely themed bed & breakfast facility run by the congenial hosts Bob & Judi McGrath. We were all accommodated in rooms around a central gathering area that ranged from the Mayors Chambers to the Police Lockup, the General Emplorium, the Fire Station, the Bakers, Butchers, the Barbers, the Bank, the Doctor, the Lawyer, the Iron Monger & Funeral Parlour, the Chapel of Love and Patricia's

Palace of Phylical Pleasures! There was quite a lot of laughter as everyone found their rooms.

Saturday's run was a tour taking in the Avenel Maze – with a Ned Kelly Theme, Longwood, the Shepparton Car Museum, the Four Bridges Trail and Tahbilk Winery. It was a cool start to the morning so a quick run around the maze looking for clues (based on the Ned Kelly story) and trying to make sure you didn't get lost, soon warmed us up, as well as the coffee at Longwood Gem Shop. Lunch was at the Shepparton Car Museum during which we looked at the cars and bikes on display. By now the sun was out and our journey home took in four old timber bridges that cross the Goulburn River and were built between 1891 and 1937. Some like Chinaman's Bridge are no longer used by traffic but are still standing. Some like Kirwan's Bridge are in a very poor state – this timber bridge is one of a few that have a bend in it. It was good to see the Goulburn with so much water in it.

Saturday night saw the participants getting into the character of their allotted rooms ready for the murder mystery that was played out during the various courses of dinner. The photos will tell the story and the effort everyone went to with their costumes.



Our host Bob had soon set the scene of the murder of poor Mrs Parker – what did she have stuck in her back, was it the butcher's knife or the barber's scissors or maybe one of the iron monger's tools. And just who had the unfortunate lady been seeing – was it the Mayor or maybe the banker! Much

hilarity followed the twists and turns of generous amount of ad-libbing that was flying around the room, nobody was safe from having suspicion thrown their way, not even the two oriental gentlemen from the General Emplorium or the Minister from the Chapel of Love. In the end it was the banker (aka Chester) who dun it. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.



Left: Maritta Parsell, the assistant Fire Chief.
Right: Chris Storrar the Irish Lawyer



Marg Lang, Policewoman McCarthy

Sunday's run was over the hills via Ruffy to Alexandra. This was an excellent road to let your Alvis have it's head – rolling hills, winding road and wonderful corners. I was able to experience it in Chester's 12/50 Ducksback, just the right sort of car for this road. The Timber Tramway & Museum was open in Alexandra and the cars looked good lined up in front of the station. We had a talk on the history of the tramway and the timber industry

around the area before we had a ride on the old tramway before lunch on the station platform.



From the left: Chester as the banker "Interest cut! You've got to be joking!"
Helen Storrar, the Lawyer's partner.
Jocelyn Coates as "Patricia" from "Patricia's Palace of Phylical Pleasures."
Darrell Horton as Patricia's pimp, Chris Storrar, Richard Tonkin as the baker.
Chris Higgins as R So1 and his brother R So 2. John Hetherington as the butcher with a knife for every occasion. Mike Williams as the Curate from the "Chappell of Love." Bob Northey the Iron Monger.



Dale & Maritta, both with degrees in arsony. Alan McKinnon as Dr Spreadum & nurse Noelene whose best line was "sorry but the pathology specimens got put in the wrong Safeway bag & the path report said that the frozen beans were past their use by date and the cream was sour."



The Curate's lovely wife Liz. "He saved me from a life of sin!"



Left: Andrew Robison was the mayor with Roger Kettle as Assistant Mayor. Right: Bob the Iron Monger with Lesley the Undertaker



Marg Hetherington was the butcher's wife and Pauline Tonkin the baker's wife



Andrew McDougall, grasping his barber's pole, attempted to cut anybody's hair



Left: the editor dressed as Sgt McGrath
Below: sadly the only person missing from the line up is Frances McDougall who was always smiling behind the camera. Frances was the barber's assistant. Thanks for the photos.



Above: Dale & Maritta Parsell's Silver Eagle Chassis 7809

Some of us had to return to Melbourne that afternoon, while the rest returned to Rusty Springs before heading home on Monday. It really was great to be able to enjoy driving our cars on near empty country roads. Many thanks to John & Margaret Hetherington for organizing such wonderful weekend away.

Frances McDougall

(special thanks to Dale Parsell for his photography)



Eric Nicholl's 14/75 chassis 5935 with Chris Higgins at the wheel



*The Northey's 1925 12/50 Super Sports Chassis 3391
Chester Mckaige's 1933 12/40 Chassis 2417*



John Hetherington's 1935 SC Speed 20 Chassis 12120



The Tonkin's 1964 TE21 Chassis 27048



The McDougall's 1926 TE 12/50 Chassis 4213



*John Hetherington's 1964 TE21 Chassis 27127
& Mike Williams 1949 TA14 Chassis 23435*



The Lang's 1939 SC Speed 25 SC Chassis 14668