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EVENTS DIARY

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 3RD

Meeting Place The Peg Belfast 10 30am.
Picnic Lunch.
Mel has another interesting run.

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 14TH Gold Card Cruisers

Meeting Place The Peg
Belfast 10 30am.
Picnic Lunch.
Your Hosts Barbara and Murray Bugler



THURSDAY MARCH 14TH

Meeting Place Rolly Inn Carpark 10 30am
Picnic Lunch.

Barry's Banter:

First of all, on behalf of the CMSNZ committee may I wish you all a Happy New Year. It certainly was a pleasure to catch up with friends and family over the festive season. I have noticed though that it has become increasingly more expensive to catch up with the kids. Having brought up Casey and Jasmine during our time as expats working overseas they too have bitten the travel bug and moved themselves offshore. Jasmine to Brisbane where she works as a Chef and Casey back to

our old stomping ground – Qatar - where he works as a personal trainer.

So we all caught up for Christmas in Penang and spent 8 days in a rented apartment overlooking the sea. All great fun. My son, bless him poo poed the very idea of my weightwatchers programme - despite losing 9kgs in three months. He reckons it is a complete waste of time because there is no science behind it to make sure you keep the weight off. To back up his statement he gave me an on line version of a book for my Xmas present. It is called 'Fat Loss Forever' written by Peter Baker and Layne Norton PH.D.

It's 378 pages long. My gosh, the most I can read (or write!) is three, so getting through the entire contents is going to be a challenge. From a quick scan I can see this book is based on pure medical science and has seen fit to tackle some of the misinformation we are being fed about diets and nutrition. For example, Casey drinks Coke Zero. Both Kay and I told him it was bad because it contains saccharin and will cause heart problems. He laughed and said that theory has never been scientifically proven. He said it was the same for nearly everything we are being told about nutrition. We never hear the whole story.

He said "The problem with artificial sweeteners is that some people are convinced that by having a diet coke it's OK to have another slice of cake, or nail another serving of KFC. They then put on even more weight and have a heart attack..... Look, just read the book."

This got me thinking that the whole issue of the quality of information we now have to hand is becoming a worry.

When the interweb was first introduced we welcomed the newly available deluge of information now at our fingertips with open arms. Twenty years down the line I wonder if we are actually any better informed or are we simply turning ourselves into computer literate cavemen watching and believing fake news.

For us petrolheads we are constantly seeking information. i.e. What car to buy. What car to hire. Which is the most reliable SUV? What parts to buy. We search for ideas to solve technical problems, etc, etc.

YouTube is full of people creating DIY movies. Mainly tone deaf Yanks who never made it onto X- Factor but are still hoping to achieve stardom. These home movies show how to do every conceivable thing e.g. from changing brake pads to full suspension overhauls, cleaning spark plugs to rebuilding engines and touching up scratches to total body off restoration projects. The list runs to infinity. So when I inadvertently ruined a brand new and very expensive lead top battery for my 1963 Austin Healey BJ7 by leaving it laying around for a year, I was desperate for a way to fix it. Bring on YouTube.

There, I found a recipe for bringing new life to a dead battery. All it required was some baking soda and epsom salts. Well I tried it. Twice in fact. Took about two weeks of intense acid removal, fluid replacement, low and high level charging and ended up with second degree burns and a deader battery than when I started out. Bogus bunkum! When I asked the guy at Battery Town why this wasn't working, he just laughed his socks off and told me to stop wasting my time with those idiots on YouTube. "Look mate, Just bring it into the shop, leave it with usand we'll chuck it away for ya!"

Automobile club forums are another source for bogus information. Pretty certain the comments made by some of the club members are genuine. Unfortunately, most of it is pure conjecture. But then a drowning man will clutch at a straw and faced with the alternative option of huge garage bills we try to work it out for ourselves. E.g. My car fell off a bridge and landed upside down in the river and won't start. Must be someone on the forum had that problem. I wonder what they came up with.

Wicked Willy : Sounds familiar. Had the same problem with the Mk2. Always falling off bridges

but only when there's a river beneath for some reason. Goes great over rail crossings.

The third time it happened, the engine wouldn't start so we towed it into the main dealer but they refused to cover it under warranty because the dog was driving.

Bugger Lugs: Yo Wicked. I agree, dreadful cars mate . Unlike you, we didn't drive off a bridge. We only tried crossing a shallow river to test the two wheel drive system and the car just flipped onto its roof and wouldn't start. I'd read on the forum that they handled badly under water but didn't believe it. Had a massive argument with our main dealer too. We requested a replacement vehicle with scuba gear but they just refused. Thought about taking them to court but bought a new battery instead. Been fine ever since.

Thanks to these forums I've been to hell and back with my 1995 Alfa 146 1.7L 16V. The last of the Alfa boxer engined cars and according to the Alfa forum considered to be a classic. I was determined not to let this car follow in the footsteps of those that have gone before me by ending up in the wreckers yard because no one made the effort to solve the problem simply because of its European heritage.

This car chews cam timing belts for breakfast. Three in the last three years. It's been off the road for two of those three years so it hasn't seen much mileage. After the second belt broke the head was skimmed, ports polished, valves replaced, new belts water pump and tensioners fitted. All was well for a day or so and then it started running rough when cold, warm or hot. It also jerked viciously on the overrun at all temperatures.

'Let's try the Alfa forum', I thought. Night after night I trolled through all the issues that people were having with Alfas and wondered how Alfa Romeo actually sold any cars. Anyway with the symptoms I described I was told it could be:- the Lambda Sensor, Spark plug leads, iridium spark plugs, the coil pack, mass air flow meter, temperature sensor, idle sensor, incorrect cam timing, camshaft positioning sensor, ECU module, air leaking from inlet hoses, unbalanced throttle bodies, fuel pump, fuel sender unit, fuel filter, broken wires in the ignition circuit, fuses, relays, ECU reset.

Over the past two years of working through this 'List for Losers', the car has sat waiting for genuine Alfa parts to arrive from Lithuania, Croatia, Bulgaria, Latvia and Poland.

Each time I thought I had it sorted only to be bitterly disappointed. Faced with ordering the next item on the list, then waiting another month for the part to arrive. I was so fed up I put the rego on hold for another year.

In desperation I would try a professional. At the garage the first question the mechanic would ask as he scanned the engine bay was "Er, where do I plug in my diagnostic computer?"

I would reply, "It doesn't have one. Say, are you a real mechanic or just a hologram?"

A month later and with the engine ECU, temperature sensor and iridium plugs replaced the car ran no better.

As I paid the bill he said. "See how you go and if you break down anywhere really remote give us a bell!"

On the way home the car completely died in front of DOIG, the local auto electricians. I locked the car and threw the keys over the fence and walked home. The next day I rang them and said the car they had recently tried to fix was broken down outside their gate. Two months later, they've replaced the cam timing belts and mass air flow meter without asking and presented me with another whopping great bill. And yet the car still ran rough.

By now I've spent too much to send it to the wreckers or even to sell it.

So I went in search of the Holy Grail. A real mechanic. Someone with the ability to develop a flow chart in his head of how this engine management system actually functions. A real man who can use a bit of common sense and electrical know how to work out where the problem could be.

AND GUESS WHAT! I found him. That guy is Les Summerfield and he works at Autotech in Rangiora. He had the car for a couple of days and announced that the problem was in the throttle positioning sensor. He said it tests up OK. No problem with the spade terminals or connecting cables, but if you put your finger on it, the car idles smooth and when you take it off it runs like dog.

Les checked over the whole engine tightening hose clips, plug leads and even fixed a fog light which hadn't worked for ages. He then gave the car a warrant. I picked the car up today and he was beaming. "It actually runs now. It's a great car to drive too. Now you can really enjoy it."

It's been a long and painful wait but what a wonderful car to drive when everything works. There's that sweet sound of a boxer engine

intertwined with a rasping Italian exhaust on the breeze. So yummy!

When I got home, I washed the car, removed all the cobwebs, collected up the piles of defective Eastern European parts and threw them in the bin. I lifted the bonnet to give the engine bay a quick spruce only to find somebody's middle finger had been fastened to the throttle positioning sensor by means of a plastic tie. Jeremy Clarkson was dead right about the joy and pain of Alfa ownership.

I then went indoors and renewed my AA breakdown membership.

My thanks to Les (all joking aside) for a job well done.

REPORT ON SUNDAY DEC 2ND:

The weather report was iffy but we still had a turn out of more than 20 cars at the start point. Several members came who we have not seen for a while and it was good to see them plus the 2 new members who joined us for the day.

Zac (one of our younger members) collected the Secret Santa gifts – with the Santa Sack filling very quickly it was lucky that Julian had a second bag in his car.

We had a good long run to the lunch stop.

Through Halswell – Prebbleton – Springston – Selwyn – Dunsandel – Hororata – Rakaia Gorge – Methven and Rakaia Domain for our Lunch Stop.



Zac entertaining us at Rakaia – photo Mel Peters.

At lunch Zac entertained us with some well played tunes on his Bagpipes - this was enjoyed by us all. Then we co-opted Zac again to be our Santa for the day – Julian bought along a fancy Santa Hat for him to wear. To cap all of that off Kathy produced a delicious

Christmas Cake for us all to enjoy. All very Christmassy.

We were reluctant to get going again but we had an appointment at the Raspberry Cafe for our Christmas Coffee & Cake date.

This was excellent as usual, it was good to see Geoff & Carol who have both been dealing with ill health for a while.

Thanks Mel for another great day out.

Gill Peters



Zac with our lunch time entertainment.
Photo Mel Peters

REPORT ON GOLD CAR. CRUISERS DECEMBER 13TH

Gold Card Cruisers Report Thursday December 13th 2018 This was our last run for 2018 and we had arranged lunch at Crate and Barrel Leeston but first we had to drive there. Nineteen cars arrived at West Melton, the day was fine and cloudy and on the cool side for December. We left to drive through Izone at Rolleston and from there to go south parallel with the Main South Road along Two Chain Road. We had a short tour through Burnham Camp many of us had not been there before so found it interesting. We followed the back roads to Telegragh Road turning right onto the Main Road then left at the White House to head through

Brookside. The countryside was lush with grass after all the rain no need for irrigators. We approached Leeston from a back road and arrived at Crate and Barrel in good time. We enjoyed a very good lunch in excellent company these gettogethers are always special.

Gill Milne.



Julia enjoying a Birthday / Christmas treat at the Raspberry Cafe – photo Gill Peters



The “brains trust” swapping car sales stories - photo Gill Peters



Jim and his friend – photo Gill Peters

REPORT ON SUNDAY RUN JAN 6TH 2019 :

Another really good turn out for the first run of the New Year – some have been away – some are going soon – so happy holidays. We turned Left out of the Car Park and travelled around the foot of the Port Hills to Motokurara where we turned left to go over Gebbies Pass to Teddington – we were expecting a lot of cyclists but the weather must have been too hot as only the really hardy were out and about. We followed the edge of the Harbour to Lyttelton and off through the tunnel – always a different experience in an open top car. We then went for a quick look at Sumner & it was a quick look as there were so many people there parking was an issue. We then headed to South Brighton Domain for our lunch stop where the first arrivals found a nice cool spot for us to enjoy. After lunch we explored the Brighton area looking at some of the Red Zone – then we were off to Under The Red Verandah for a very enjoyable Coffee & Cake stop.

Thanks Mel for another enjoyable day out.
Gill Peters

REPORT ON GOLD CAR. CRUISERS JANUARY 17TH

We had hoped for a fine day for this run and it was just that. A good number of cars arrived at Rolly Inn and we set off on a near perfect day towards the Main West Road. Those with

convertibles drove with the top down and we all just cruised through Darfield, Sheffield, and Springfield and on over the lower mountains to Lake Lyndon for our lunch stop. It was so warm and calm and pretty that it was really difficult to move on and as we sat chatting lots of fish were spotted jumping out of the water. Reluctantly we had to leave the lovely scenery and we all motored back to Darfield Bakery for afternoon tea.

Gill Milne.



Coffee & cake at Under The Red Verandah



lunch at Lake Lyndon

2019 ALPINE CLASSIC



G1 and G2 have finished plotting our Alpine and tell us that they have used a great range of roads between Timaru and Timaru. They have made a few changes to their original plans to stop duplication with Nelsons April Fool Tour and to try and moderate costs.

DAY ONE: TIMARU TO WANAKA:

A loop around the back of Timaru on some rally roads and then down to Waimate and Kurow before going to Omarama and then over the Lindis Pass to Wanaka where we will spend the night at the Mt Aspiring Holiday Park [used to be the Top 10] **Distance 260km.**

DAY TWO: WANAKA TO QUEENSTOWN

A short trip of about 60km for the day over the Crown Range, through Arrowtown and on to the Arthurs Point Top 10 for the night. A day to explore, perhaps a trip to Glenorchy or Kinloch, or the Gondola, Jet boating or whatever takes your fancy.

At 5:45 pm we board the Earnslaw for a trip to Walter Peak Station for a deluxe BBQ before catching the Earnslaw back to Queenstown. This little adventure will take up about 50% of your entry fee. **Distance 60KM**

DAY THREE: QUEENSTOWN TO GORE:

Hoping for a nice day as we drive down the lakeside before heading inland to use the famous Switzers Road which is a favourite of the GG's. Then down through Waikoikoi [known locally as the kui] before heading to Gore for a night at the Croydon Lodge. Good dining room there. **Distance 261km**

DAY FOUR: GORE TO DUNEDIN:

Opportunity to visit Mandeville Train and Aviation Museum en route this morning before a loop to Maitland and back to Waikoikoi. [Ask G2] Across country to Lawrence before heading into the excellent Waipori Falls Road through

stunning country on the way to the Top Ten in Dunedin for the night. **Distance 247km**

DAY FIVE: DUNEDIN TO TIMARU:

We head out of Dunedin to Mosgiel [great sandwich shop to buy lunch] before heading toward Middlemarch and tackling the magnificent Moonlight and Ramrock ikouati. Its then off to Palmerston and Oamaru via the coast road to visit the recently restored old mill water wheel. A straight forward run to Timaru and a final dinner at the Timaru Town and Country Club. **Distance 330km.**

Preferred accommodation list and entry form available from G2. info@saabclassics.net. Or phone 021 395944. Entry fee \$585 per car [two people] Includes Earnslaw and Timaru functions. Extra person: \$280 per person.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA ODYSSEY 2019.

4th – 23rd September 2019 .

We have a full field of 21 crews, 15 of whom are making the trip across to Perth on the train from Sydney. Bookings are confirmed for the train. G2 has most of the route sorted and promises a grand journey. Getting accommodation for 43 people [21 rooms] has and is proving to be a challenge in a couple of the more remote regions and is adjusting the route accordingly. He tells us that in one town on his proposed route the total population is 25 so the Odyssey will not be stopping there.

Max Clarke has done a brilliant deal for rental cars and has arranged our Perth accommodation with parking almost opposite the train station and only a block or so away from the car hire office.

The tour group will be spending two days in Perth with plenty of attractions to visit before they start the grand trek.

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

New membership cards will be printed in the next 10 days or so.

Graeme [G2] has had some renewals returned to him because of incomplete or wrong addresses. We have had a couple of issues with the data base and it is possible that G2 has the wrong addresses for some members.

Those returned are

- David and Kelly Richardson
- David and Rosemary Nathan
- Glenn and Susan Wilcox
- Juliana Hiddlestone
- Phil and Sarah Jerard
- Alan Smellie.

If your current membership card is valid until the end of 2018 and you have not received a renewal notice, or are on the list, could you send your correct address to Graeme [G2] at info@saabclassics.net so he can organise your renewal and get your new cards printed.

He will appreciate your help in getting the data base sorted.

FOR SALE

Club Caps only \$15 each

sew on **Badge** \$8 each

see Kit & Carol Peverill or Rod Hurst



OTHER EVENTS THAT MAY INTEREST YOU:

The April Fool Tour April 5th to 7th 2019

Organised by the Classic Motoring Society of Nelson and Marlborough

Simply copy and paste link below into your web browser to download tour details, form, details and accommodation suggestions.

Then print out page one and send to Geoff - address and bank details at bottom of that page Suggest you print off the other 2 pages too.

Highland Park raceway have offered us two tracklaps and entry into their museum on Fri afternoon @ 4.00pm then entry into their classic car race meeting with VIP car parking on the Sat morning all for \$75.00 per car . The total entry fee is \$620 so if you don't want to do this then simply deduct \$75.00 from \$620.00 On Sunday the Taieri Gorge train trip is also optional so if you don't want to partake then deduct \$96.00 per person from the \$620.00 . Hope this helps clarify things for everyone , again my apologies for any confusion. Lindsay P

<http://www.classicmotoringnelson.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/aprfool19.pdf>

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