

GENTLEMAN JIM RICHARDS & THE WILLMENT ESCORT

ISSUE 94

MARCH-APRIL 2021

NZ CLASSIC DRIVER

SOUTHERN SOJOURN

THE CLASSIC ALPINE TOUR



THE MOTORSPORT
PHOTOGRAPHY OF
TERRY MARSHALL

RARA AVIS:
PELLAND COUPÉ

COME ON, FEEL THE
NOISE: CLASSIC
RACING ENGINES



10

REGULARS

32 MAILBAG

Feedback from our readers

34 CLASSIC NEWS & VIEWS

42 FROM THE COMMENTARY BOX

Donald McDonald on Southern men and swift tales from the south

64 FULL CHAT

Inspired by the blood-curdling scream of a BRM V16 – and the continuation cars currently under construction – Tim Nevinson attempts to analyse why the sounds of certain racing engines send tingles down our spines

86 BURNING A GREY PIPE

Allan Dick always has something interesting to discuss

98 FEDERATION OF MOTORING CLUBS

Despite recent troubles, the contribution heritage motoring makes to the worldwide economy is growing

MARKETPLACE

90 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Check out our special offers

93 TRADE DIRECTORY

PRIZE WINNERS

Crossword Winner –
David North, Riverton

Triumph TR4 & TR4A –
John Avery, Auckland

**Stories From Our Back Roads:
The North Island** –
Allan Gough, Geraldine

**Stories From Our Back Roads:
The South Island** –
Darren Goodall, Renwick

SOUTHERN SOJOURN

We report from the second running of The Classic Alpine Tour, an event run in the Queenstown region for '50s, '60s and '70s European sports and GT cars of note.

Words: **ALLAN WALTON** | Photos: **WILL SCOWN (DAYSRUN STUDIO)**
Additional photos: **NEIL FOX & MICHAEL WYATT**



Rick and Gayle Pettit's 1965 Porsche 356C heads Robb and Eric Simpson in their 1976 Lotus Esprit S1



1



2



3



4

1. A mouth-watering collection of classic cars gather together at the historic Thurlby Domain; 2. Still one of the most gorgeous cars of all time, Tony and Kim Olisoff's 1968 Lamborghini Miura; 3. Garry Boyce's award-winning 1957 Mercedes-Benz 300SL roadster; 4. Rod and Anne Corbett prepare for the first leg of the tour in their 1979 Morgan 4/4 – a car that was once on display at Monterey Park in Auckland during the early '90s; 5. The cars left the domain with a traditional bagpipe send-off; 6. Stunning overhead shot at the domain; 7. Event co-organiser Jeff Williams briefs the drivers before they depart Thurlby Domain.

The timing for The Classic Alpine Tour was originally put in place to take full advantage of the wonderful red and gold colours that decorate Central Otago's scenery during the early months of autumn. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, event organisers, Paul Halford and Jeff Williams, were forced to postpone the event, finally settling on a date in late November.

This is a non-competitive event, with the emphasis firmly placed on the social experience, entrant camaraderie and, of course, the opportunity to enjoy touring through the beautiful scenery of the region. One special feature of the first Classic Alpine Tour was a gob-smacking public display of all the participating cars along the lakeside at Queenstown – a show that was not only well attended by locals but which also attracted a large number of international tourists. In post Covid-19 New Zealand, that international aspect was missing, with tourism restricted to Kiwis. However, it was hoped that the sight of 50 classic cars touring through the tourist-starved region gave locals something of a morale boost – and, of

course, the travelling band of 100-plus tour entrants provided much needed revenue for local hotels, cafés and shops.

THURLBY DOMAIN

On Friday, November 27, 50 classic cars converged on the Thurlby Domain in Dalefield, near Arrowtown, for the event welcome, registration and for the evening cocktail party. Around half of the cars that gathered together at the domain travelled from the North Island, with some having committed themselves – and their classic cars – to a marathon 4000 kilometre round trip! Classic cars taking part in the tour included no less than three Lamborghinis. Tony and Kim Olisoff arrived in a magnificent 1968 P400 Miura, the model that really put the 'raging bull' on the automotive map. Like the Olisoffs, Myles Hicks also drove down from Auckland in his 1970 Espada, a car that was rescued from a barn and recently re-commissioned especially for this event. Rounding this trio off was co-organiser Paul Halford's 1968 400GT, a car believed to be the very first Lamborghini to arrive in New Zealand, if not Australasia.



5

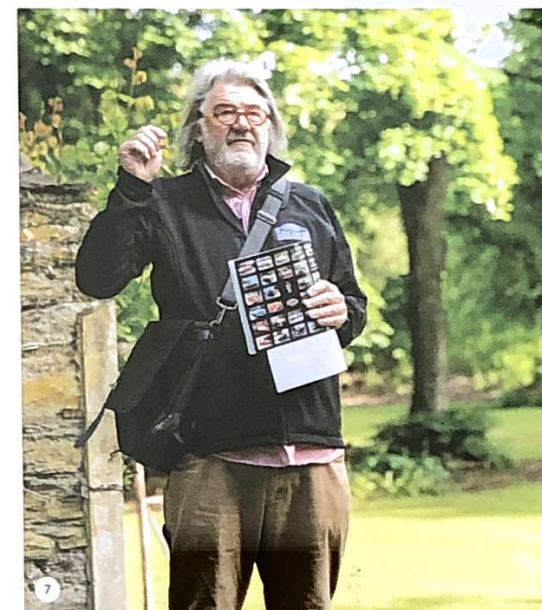


6

Other standout cars included Garry Boyce's Mercedes-Benz 300SL roadster – a show-stopping car that has won concours events both here and in the USA – and Snow and Pam Chisholm's stunning 1964 Maserati 3500 GTi. And how could we miss spotting Barrie Brown's gorgeous Dino 246GT, one of the most beautifully styled Ferraris never to wear the famous prancing horse badge. Barrie has owned this classic sports car for over 30 years and competed in classic racing during the '80s.

Fans of lesser-known classic cars would've been delighted to spot the Chevrolet V8-powered 1966 Iso Grifo owned by Amanda and Phips Rinaldo, or Francois and Jacques Cronje's 1968 Matra Djet, a French car designed by René Bonnet that, when introduced in 1962, was the world's first mid-engined production car.

These classics were joined by an eclectic variety of cars representing a wide variety of marques, including Alfa Romeo, Triumph, Austin-Healey, Porsche, Lancia, Jaguar, Bristol, Alvis, Sunbeam, Bentley, MG and Morgan.



7

Entrants admire Doug Cleverly's lovely little 1965 Lancia Fulvia HF.



CLASSIC COVER

KEEPING IT REAL SINCE '83



LAMBORGHINI 400GT 2+2



TRIUMPH TR3A



JAGUAR XK150 ROADSTER

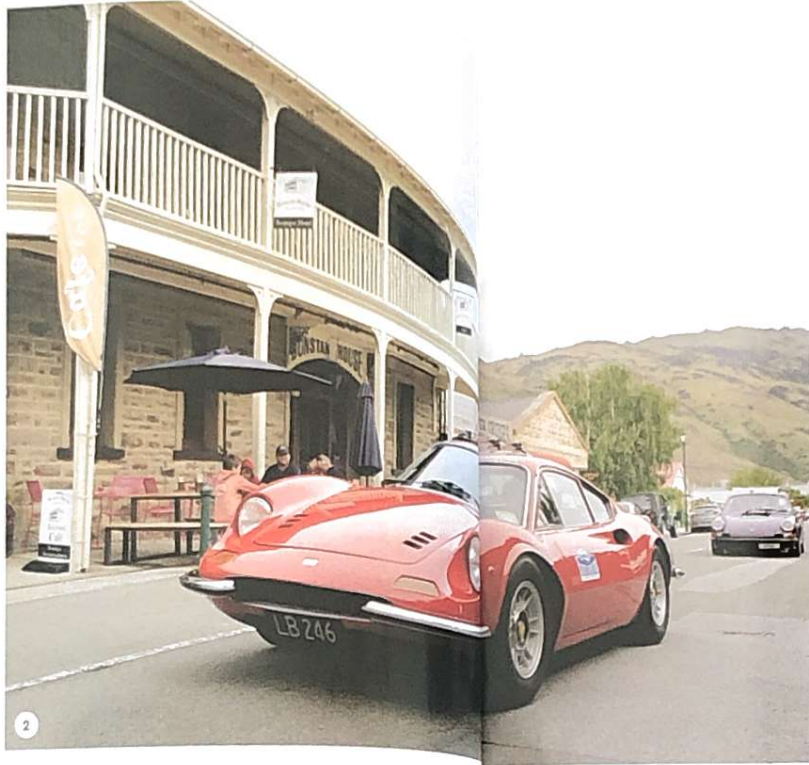


FERRARI 365 GTC/4

WHERE AGREED VALUE MEANS AGREED VALUE – NO FISH HOOKS

For all your classic car insurance needs, Classic Cover has a policy specially designed to cover your prized possession. Classic Cover – the original specialist vehicle insurance provider – accept no substitutes.

PHONE US NOW FOR AN OBLIGATION-FREE QUOTE ON 0800 456 254
OR CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE WWW.CLASSICCOVER.CO.NZ



1. Bryce and Marion Gliddon in their MGA coupé stop for a quick roadside check-up; 2. Barrie and Diane Brown's lovely 1971 Dino 246GT at Dunstan; 3. Enjoying the countryside - event co-organiser Paul Halford on the road in his 1968 Lamborghini 400GT 2+2.

DAY ONE: THURLBY DOMAIN TO GORE

On Saturday morning, the cars received a traditional bagpipe send-off as they departed the domain to complete the 244km leg from Dalefield to Gore. Driving over back roads rarely used even by locals, entrants were prompted to enjoy local sights and places such as Roaring Meg, a hydro scheme that takes its name from the stream that runs through the Kawarau Gorge just outside Cromwell.

Moa Flat and a vista looking over to the Blue Mountains always provides one of the best experiences on offer in New Zealand, and it did not disappoint. The weather had been threatening but held off for the tour to loop around to get two lingering looks at the stunning view. The field gathered together once again at the lunch stop at the Tapanui Community Centre. For film buffs, the 2015 Disney movie, *Pete's Dragon*, was filmed in the Tapanui area. Following lunch, the car continued onwards to Gore for the first overnight stop.

After checking into their hotels, the entrants were encouraged to gather together outside Gore's Arts and Heritage Precinct for a public car show. By special arrangement, entrants were granted exclusive access to the Eastern Southland Gallery, home of the internationally acclaimed John Money Wing and Ralph Hotere Gallery.

DAY TWO: GORE TO TE ANAU

On Sunday morning the cars headed out of Gore to the Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre in Mandeville on more back roads that allowed the horses to be taken beyond a canter. A wonderful blast through the countryside really sharpened appetites for breakfast. The Croydon centre houses mostly aircraft from the '20s and '30s, including one of the largest collections of different types of de Havilland aircraft - the internationally-famous Croydon Aircraft Company workshops are considered to be world leaders in de Havilland restoration.

Visitors to the aviation restoration workshop can also spend time checking out the collection of vintage aircraft, most of which are air-worthy, or clamber into a Tiger Moth for a quick sightseeing flight. Those with stronger stomachs can even experience a spot of aerobatics - barrel rolls and loop-de-loops - all from the Tiger Moth's passenger seat!

However, our intrepid tourists were there for breakfast, and as a special treat for the entrants the tables were set amidst the museum's collection of aircraft.

After that interesting start to the day, the cars headed off to Riverton (Aparima)

for lunch at the cliff edge Beachhouse Restaurant. This township, located at the western end of Oreti Beach, is sometimes referred to as the 'Riviera of the South' and is a popular holiday spot.

From the historic town of Riverton, the cars travelled onwards to Cosy Nook, a picturesque and rocky cove on the south coast that very few Kiwis know about. A safe haven for fishing boats, the cove is also home to a number of holiday cribs. An important cultural and historical Maori settlement site, the cove's original name is Pahi after Ngai Tahu Chief Pahi - the modern name Cosy Nook being coined by Captain George Thomson, Harbourmaster of Bluff, who named the cove after his homeland Scottish village of Cosy Neuk.

The cove also provided a great location for photography, as can be seen from some of the images presented here.

Following the side-trip to Cosy Nook, the cars headed to Te Anau for a free evening. Ravaged by the lack of international tourists, many of the shops and eateries in the town were oddly quiet - so the arrival of over 100 Classic Alpine Tour entrants effectively led a friendly invasion of the town as they took over local restaurants and bars for the evening.



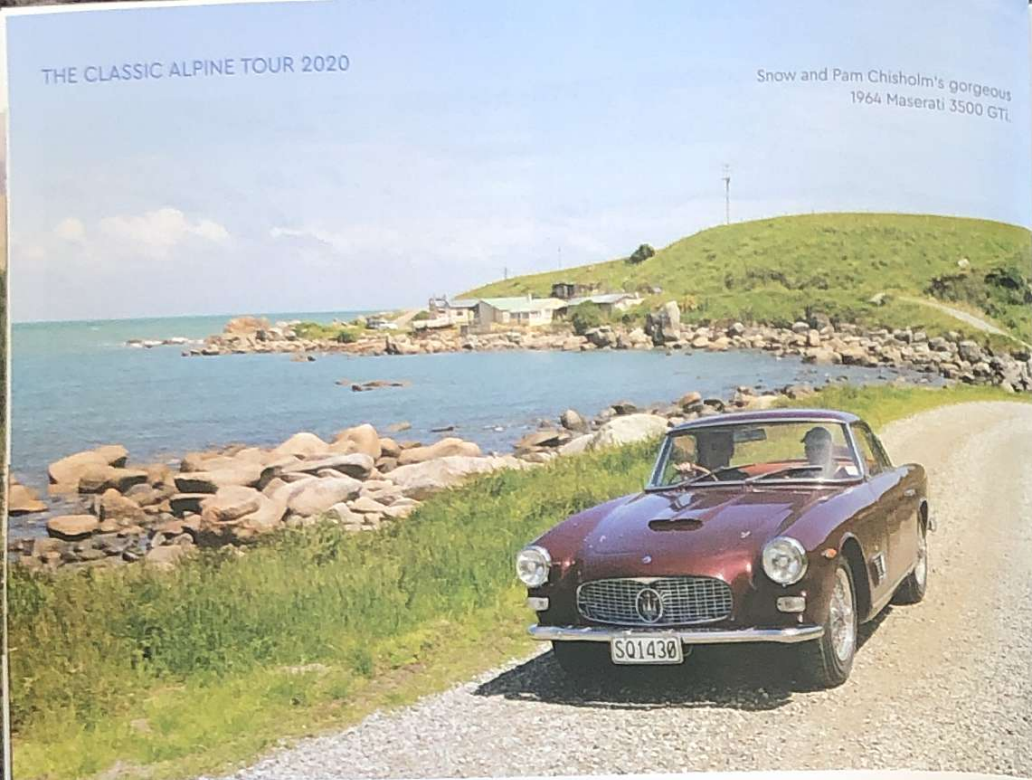
4. The cars were flagged off from Gore by Tracy Hicks, the Gore District mayor; 5. Breakfast in amongst the aircraft at the Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre; 6. Lionel and Mary Rodgers explore the countryside in their 1972 Ferrari 365 GTC/4; 7. Magnificent scenery is free with The Classic Alpine Tour.



A wonderful blast through the countryside really sharpened appetites for breakfast.



Snow and Pam Chisholm's gorgeous 1964 Maserati 3500 GTL



1. Kids at Mararoa School admire Greg and Malaina Chapman's 1978 Fiat 124 Spider;
2. Prize-giving dinner at the Fiordland Military Vehicle Museum;
3. Francois and Jacques Cronje's rare Matra Djet – the only French classic car on the tour;
4. After spending many years unwanted in a rural barn, this 1970 Lamborghini Espada was put back on the road by Myles Hicks, especially for The Classic Alpine Tour;
5. Deserving winners of the Spirit de la Tour award – Amanda and Phips Rinaldo and their magnificent Iso Grifo.



On the beach – Neil Fox's 2+2 E-Type strikes a pose with Amanda and Phips Rinaldo's 1966 Iso Grifo at Cosy Nook.



DAY THREE: TE ANAU

On Monday, the final day of the tour, the cars gathered together by the waterfront at Te Anau before heading towards Lumsden and Mossburn. Along the way, the entrants enjoyed an excellent lunch provided by the Mararoa School at the Fiordland Military Vehicle Museum. Situated on the Te Anau-Mossburn Highway, Duncan and Tina McGregor's privately owned museum includes a collection of restored wartime trucks, jeeps and tanks, and military memorabilia, all housed in especially built 'sheds', with everything situated amongst manicured gardens. Enhancing the overall atmosphere, the museum also contains a number of displays showing wartime bunkers and sandbagged trenches. Entry to the collection is by appointment only (www.fiordlandmilitarymuseum.co.nz).

The Classic Alpine Tour farewell lunch and prize-giving then took place amongst the museum displays, with long tables creating just the right atmosphere to round off a tour that some said was the best of the best.

The top prize – the Spirit de la Tour – was awarded to Iso Grifo pilots, Amanda and Phips Rinaldo from Kaikoura. Their gorgeous car, coupled with the Rinaldos' passion for classic era cars and their contribution to classic motoring in New Zealand, made them well-supported winners.

Other special prizes included 'Fabulous Contributors', awarded to Revell and Vicky Buckham for the use of Thurlby Domain, while the 'Most Unique' award went to Francois Cronje and his mid-engined Matra Djet, the only French car entered. Michael Wyatt's lovely 1962 Alfa Romeo Giulietta Speciale scored the award for 'Best Look (Italiano)', with the 'Best Looker (German)' going to Peter Chudleigh's 1971 Porsche 911S, especially for its amazing special order green paintwork. A special award was also handed to Blair Broughton, the tour's official mechanic extraordinaire. Blair ensured

all the entrants and their cars managed to complete the whole tour. Other prizes (far too many to mention) were awarded, with much-appreciated Rockburn Wines-sponsored items of wine and clothing.

Despite being delayed by many months, the 2020 event went off as planned, with all entrants thoroughly enjoying the tour and the camaraderie. The next Classic Alpine Tour is expected to take place in March 2022, with the location still to be announced. ☐

[For more on The Classic Alpine Tour 2020, visit: www.classicalpinetour.com]





The Classic Alpine Tour 2020

November 27-30, 2020



The
Classic
Alpine
Tour
2020

