

ELFIN

OWNERS and DRIVERS CLUB Inc.

NEWSLETTER



NUMBER 136 - March 2015



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ELF – IN



❖ Small, slight, and delicately - made or proportioned, quick, agile and delicate (as in movement or thought), having an otherworldly, unearthly or magical quality.

- Webster's Dictionary.



ELFIN OWNERS and DRIVERS CLUB Inc.

EDITORIAL:

Welcome The soon-to-be-with-us 2015 Australian F1 Grand Prix in March means it's time for the first newsletter to give members and guests time to prepare for our annual BBQ. Details follow.

We will once again have a healthy display of Elfins at Albert Park thanks to the efforts of **MIKE BARKER**. And thanks to all who have made their cars available (a list of cars and owners is included).

A recent trip to Perth provided an opportunity to speak with one of our WA members, **JOE RICCIARDO**, Daniel's father. Read about what Australia's latest star F1 driver has been up to during the 'off' season.

Membership renewals have been rolling in nicely, and thanks to all who have attended to this matter promptly. Hasn't payment by direct credit made life a lot easier? Cheryl is currently mailing out your 2015 membership cards. Special thanks to those who added something extra to help the club along – it all helps at a time when affiliation with CAMS and incorporation fees (both considered worthwhile) cut slices into our funds.

Bits 'n Pieces (our gossip section) has plenty of "goss" this issue – enjoy reading what our members have been up to.

It's also time to make the important announcement of our 'Clubman of the Year' award. Now in its 31st year, our 'Clubman of the Year' is a fitting reward for someone who has made a special contribution to the EODC. Who will it be for 2014?

A reminder that we have great stocks of Elfin merchandise including our latest polo shirts and caps. Badges, decals and key rings are also in good supply. Have you ordered yours yet?

Also a reminder that many members have not sent in a photo of their car for inclusion in our club register. Even if you have submitted something in the past another one won't go astray. This is a very important part of your membership so please go to it and send your pics to me at PO Box 447, Aireys Inlet, Vic. 3121 or email a digital copy to Cheryl at reidywithchampers@yahoo.com.au. Action shots are preferable, but static photos are fine.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Grand Prix barbeque on Friday, March 13. It's our main social function of the year, but we need to know if you plan to attend to assist us with the catering.

I hope 2015 is a great year for you – lots of happy times with your Elfin, and if you don't have an Elfin, lots of happy times anyway.

Brique

EODC DIRECT CREDIT DETAILS

Bank Account No. 5003785

BSB 633-000

Bendigo & Adelaide Bank

Make sure your **NAME** appears on the transaction so your payment can be identified.



ELFIN OWNERS and DRIVERS CLUB Inc.

BITS 'N' PIECES

How good it was to speak with **JOE RICCIARDO** during a recent trip to Perth. I received a phone message saying "Brian, Joe Ricardo (sic). Yeah, gimme a call when you get five. Thanks".

Our conversation soon got around to what son Daniel was up to during the all-too-short off season, and at the time (early January), our latest Formula One star was spending some quality time with family and friends in WA. Daniel was accompanied by his trainer who, no doubt, was keeping an eye on his diet and fitness. They were heading back to Europe around mid January to prepare for the opening round of the new season which is back here in Australia (February 12-15).

It's worth remembering that Mercedes lost only three races during 2014, and all three went to the popular young Australian. Joe and his wife Grace managed to see four of the overseas races (Spa, Monaco, Monza and Barcelona) plus Albert Park. They were proud to be at Spa to see Daniel score a brilliant win in the Belgian GP. "We were in the grandstand at Eau Rouge", Joe said, "and the crowd couldn't understand why we were cheering so much - no one knew Grace and me!"

I asked rather hopefully if Joe and Grace might be able to attend our GP barbeque, but not surprising, he said they were committed to attend the official Grand Prix Ball. "It's a pity the Elfin barbeque isn't on the Wednesday night", said Joe.

He also indicated that he will be having a drive in the Historic Demonstrations at the AGP behind the wheel of a 1972 F2 racer. The car is a De Tomaso owned by Peter Bell from SA. It will be a unique experience having father Joe driving in the Historic Demonstrations and son Daniel competing in the F1 race.

Joe has been a keen racer over the years and has a nice stable of cars to look after. Unfortunately he doesn't have an Elfin (*yet!*) "The Elfin Mono is one of my favourites", he said, "and I also like the Catalina". (His pronunciation of "Catalina" had a nice touch of Italian - well worth hearing). "And I wouldn't mind an Elfin sports car", he added. So don't be surprised if an Elfin of some sort is added to his collection some time soon.

The EODC looks forward to meeting Joe and Grace at the Phillip Island Historic meeting (March 6-8) and at Albert Park for the Australian Formula One meeting (March 12-15).

While in Perth I met with a long time friend John Edwards who was founder of the Alfa Romeo Owners Club. He said both Joe and Daniel had joined as members. Also, my son Brendan said a friend of his has a Cigar Lounge in Subiaco, and Joe occasionally goes to it with his brother-in-law, "a keen cigar man".

"I only go a couple of times a year", said Joe, "and that's to have a cognac, not a cigar".

Thanks, Joe for sparing me some of your time - I look forward to meeting you personally.

The only Elfin amongst 800 veteran, vintage and classic vehicles taking part in this year's RACV Great Australian Rally was the immaculate Streamliner of **JOHN BECKER**.

The one-day annual event runs from Melbourne to the Mornington racecourse, and John and wife Christine looked resplendent in their white Goodwood overalls and matching helmets. Although they

actually live in Mornington, they drove their Streamliner to Melbourne for the start. Apart from being road registered, the amazing thing is they are able to pack all their gear in the back of the Streamliner - folding picnic table, two benches (padded, I might add!), vittles, and the mandatory champagne. Quite a feat. And thanks for your hospitality after the rally, John and Chris - it was most enjoyable.





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BITS 'N' PIECES

EODC MEMBER INCURS FINE FOR INFRINGEMENT...

Long time Geelong member BRYAN TIMMS recently sent a cheque for \$60 saying..."It occurred to me that I may not have paid my 2014 EODC membership! As a result I have included a cheque for \$20 for 2014 as well as \$25 for 2015. I fined myself \$15 for overlooking the 2014 membership!" I hope you sleep easier now your conscience has been cleared, Bryan. He added... "(the newsletter) is read the moment I open my inbox, with all other work put on hold". These sentiments are shared by others and are much appreciated by Cheryl and me.

During January I had a visit from **JOHN ANDERSON** who, with wife Diane has been holidaying in Lorne. John arrived in his beautifully restored 1971 Jaguar E-type and proudly told me he has had his CAMS competition license restored after he suffered a serious heart attack. He has been on a fitness campaign, and after a stringent medical is once again able to compete in his famous Cooper Butler. He looks extremely well, and all credit to him for making such a determined effort to regain his license. John had some interesting stories to tell about his years working for Ian Walker in England and Walker's involvement in motor sport. There were also some good yarns about Australian larrikin Paul Hawkins and the antics he got up to apart from his outstanding motor racing exploits.

(You can see John's Cooper Butler at this year's Australian F1 Grand Prix as part of our Elfin display at Albert Park).



ELFINS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2015 AGP CARNIVAL AT ALBERT PARK

Thanks to the sterling efforts of MIKE BARKER, a fine cross section of Elfins has been assembled for display at this year's opening round of the Formula One season (March 12-15). The following members have agreed to make their cars available:

SEAN SORENSEN (620B Formula Ford); **LAURIE BENNETT** (620B F2); **SHANE HUGHES** (620B FF); **PETER JOHNSON** (Catalina); **BILL HEMMING** (Vee); **CHRIS REEKS** (Malmark Vee); **GRAEME WRIGHT** (Mallala) (and possibly **PAUL FAULKNER**); **MIKE BARKER** (Clubman Type 3); **MARK JUDD** (Clubman Type 3); **JEFF BROWN** (622 F2); **BILL HEMMING** (MS8 Streamliner and MS8 Clubman) (and possibly **DAVID McCausland**); **JOHN ANDERSON** (Cooper Butler).

CHRIS REEKS is particularly committed - apart from having his Elfin on display he is also a part of the fire control team during the AGP carnival.

A special thanks to all who have participated, and to those who will act as supervisors of our display during the four days. Mike has asked you all come along in your Elfin gear (caps and shirts) to add a further professional touch.



ELFIN MERCHANDISE

Our latest range of polo shirts come in all sizes from S to XXXL and are available for \$35. Our new Elfin caps are \$20 each, or you can purchase both items for \$50. (Add \$10 for postage). Alternatively, a supply of merchandise will be available at the Elfin BBQ on Friday, March 13, along with lapel badges (\$8), key rings (\$12) and decals (\$2).



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EODC MEMBER TO BE PHILLIP ISLAND CLASSIC PATRON:

2015 is the 50th anniversary of the famous Ford Mustang, and club member **BRYAN THOMSON** has been invited to be patron of this year's Classic Festival of Motor Sport at Phillip Island (March 6-8). The VHRR has acknowledged "Thommo's" racing achievements behind the wheel of the famous ex-Norm Beechey Mustang, a car which he raced successfully in Europe during 1967. The green and gold livery became well known wherever it competed, and "Thommo's" bus became a popular meeting place after the races for Aussies who happened to be overseas at the time. He will be guest speaker at the Phillip Island Saturday night dinner and will then lead a fine display of Mustangs on laps of the track. Well done, Bryan!

2015 AGP ELFIN BBQ

As usual, our Grand Prix barbeque will be held at the Elfin Heritage Centre, 29 Capella Crescent, Moorabbin.

Date: **Friday, March 13**

Time: **6:30pm onwards**

Cost: **Free for current financial members, \$20 per head for visitors.**

It's a great way to get into the Grand Prix spirit, enjoy master chef Arthur's culinary delights and share an opportunity to catch up with other members at this fabulous venue.

FOR CATERING PURPOSES IT IS IMPORTANT TO LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE ATTENDING.

Please contact **Cheryl** on **0419 581 815**, email reidywithchampers@yahoo.com.au or **Brique** on 0427 395 296.

To find the Elfin Heritage Centre use Melways map 78 B7.

(From the city, turn right into Cochrane Rd. off Warrigal Rd. at Bunnings).



Over the Christmas break, EODC member **REX COLLIVER** has been working on a very significant Historic race car, the very first Lotus V1 to come to Australia when purchased by Alec Strachan. "This car has an incredible history", Rex said.

CLASSIFIEDS:

FOR SALE -

Rex adds "A customer of mine of 30 years standing is reluctantly selling his 1969 Lotus Elan + 2. The car has had only two genuine owners and travelled only 61,000 genuine miles. "I have looked after this most of its life, and is excellent condition throughout, being always garaged and even covered as well," said Rex. He said "This is an excellent opportunity to purchase an appreciating classic Lotus + 2. "Similar ones in the UK are selling for mid-25,000 pounds. It is finished in original Lotus yellow with black interior. Everything works as it should. Price is P.O.A. "Either the owner can be contacted on 03 9818 2130, or me on email colliver47@bigpond.com or 0400 173 365".

(A Lotus ad. in our Elfin newsletter??? Rex did his apprenticeship at **JACK HUNNAN** Motors (the Victorian Elfin distributor), and prepared and raced Elfins. Every year he adds a donation to his membership renewal, so I reckon he deserves a free Lotus ad!)

FOR SALE - More Lotus stuff! **ROY WILLIAMS** has available some Lotus 7 bucks - (nose cone, and LH and RH rear guards). Contact Roy on 03 5248 7131.



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Fast that's Past... the final instalment

That Mallala time took another beating in June, down to 1:17.8 during one of the number of races Ramsay had to himself at his home track, then he went to Calder again in August and took his time there down to 49.2 before yet another Mallala and then a trip to the north.



Ramsay's trip took in Surfers at the end of August and Warwick Farm on September 8. He luckily did the deed before crashing at the Queensland circuit, taking two seconds off the Glyn Scott record to leave it at 1:17.7, and there was time to repair the car so that it was ready to dice with Bob Muir's 23B at the Farm.

Muir was using a larger engine in his car to run in the 2-litre class, but even though he beat Ramsay over the 10 laps his best lap of 1:36.9 was three tenths slower than Ramsay left the 1500cc record that day. Six weeks later the Calder record came down by over a second more to 48.1 seconds.

So far the only record that had escaped one or the other of the cars was at Sandown, where Ramsay hadn't run. Robertson's car made an appearance in Tasmania, entered by Lyn Archer for Mike Bruce. It didn't have much success at Symmons Plains, but at Baskerville on March 30, 1969, it took the record down to 1:03.3 while beating resident Lotus 23B owner Alan Ling. In a mixed race with John McCormack stroking along in front in the 2.5 Brabham, Bruce took fastest lap at 1:02.4 to further lower his time. Four weeks later Bruce took another half a second off this time.



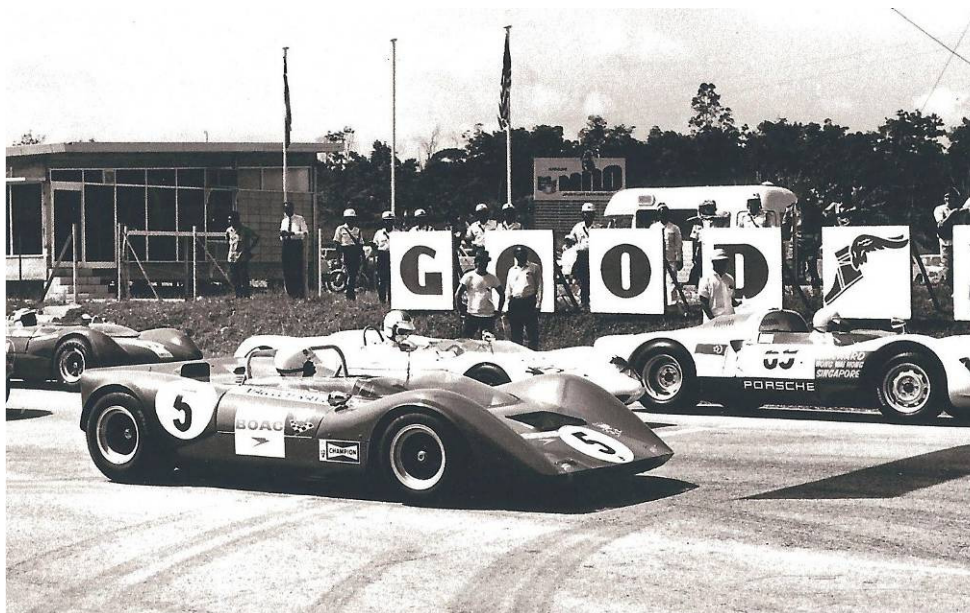
The start line at Symmons Plains with Mike Bruce in the middle between Bevan Gibson, in Jane's Elfin 400 and Bruce Gowans in Ling's Lotus 23B ©old race photos



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...that's Past... the final instalment continues

So in a little over fifteen months the three cars had taken the class lap record on every circuit they'd run except Sandown and Symmons. They'd eclipsed the Lotus 23s admirably with their more up to date suspension geometry and aerodynamics.



One would think that Elfin would be building lots more of them, but it didn't happen. Ramsay sold his car to Dennis Uhrane in Melbourne and took delivery of a 300B (SS69-8) and raced it successfully in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, filling third place in the GP for each country and winning both sports car races. He sold this car, which had a 1750cc twin cam engine, to Hengkie Iriawan from Indonesia and

Elfin 300B (SS69-8) driven by Malcolm Ramsay at the 1969 Malaysian GP sports car race

it raced on in the ownership of Rodney Seow before Vaughan Stibbard bought it back to NSW from Singapore.

Finally, Ramsay ordered a 300C (SS69-10) but before it was completed he was offered a drive in a 600C and sold the new car to Phil Moore.

The sad part is that this little car was forgotten as sports car racing tended to head upward in the capacity classes. Sure, there was always the bigger cars, but there were enough keen racers in the smaller cars to create interest. But as the outright cars, those with the 5-litre engines and serious owners, grew in number, the secondary cars grew in size. The 2.5-litre class became very popular in the wake of the introduction of F5000 as Repco and Climax engines were no longer needed for Gold Star racing.

Peter Woodward bought the sole Elfin 350 (SS69-9) and won the 1970 Australian Sports Car Championship with it in a year when reliability counted for everything. Phil Moore came second in his 300C (SS69-10) and Niel Allen third in the Championship in the Elfin ME5 (6901). Repco 2.5 V8s were fitted into the next Elfin development, the 360, with Phil Moore (S71-01) and Henry Michell (S71-02) driving them to win the Australian Sports Car Championships in 1973 and 1974 respectively.



Peter Woodward in Elfin 350 (SS69-9) at Phillip Island 1970. Heat 1 of the Australian Sportscar Championship © Autopics



ELFIN OWNERS and DRIVERS CLUB Inc.

Fast that's Past... the final instalment

As the cars grew they lost the innocent aesthetic appeal of the 300. Like the Mallala and 23 before it, there was good taste in its lines as they combined function with form.

Today Bruce Lynton races one (SS69-6) in Historic events. He wrote to me, "I purchased the car in 1978, and have raced it, firstly in open competition, and since 1989 in Historic, each and every year since. In fact the car has competed in each of the 39 years of its existence." Bruce has added to that string of lap records too, putting Amaroo Park, Eastern Creek and Lakeside records into its resume.

It's unfortunate that so few were built, and that early efforts at export didn't bear more fruit. Still, there were more sold offshore than in Australia, which no other Elfin production racer achieved.

They were a marvellous little car, these Elfin 300s. One day at Mallala, Ramsay pressed hard on the tail of Noel Hurd's 5-litre Ford V8-powered Elfin 400 (BB66-1), looking all the time for a way past. For fifteen laps he was right on its tail, ready for any mistake and making an interesting race for the spectators to watch. It must have been fun to drive too!

Now, in 2014, Mark Goldsmith owns Hurd's 400 and Richard Nitschke owns Ramsay's 300 and you can still throw the proverbial blanket over both cars as they share the same Adelaide workshop.

(Thank you again to Ray Bell and **IAN HOBBS** for this article.)

2014 EODC 'CLUBMAN OF THE YEAR'

Following discussion with our patron **LORRAINE COOPER**, it has been decided that our 'Clubman of the Year' should go to **MARK GOLDSMITH**

from South Australia. Mark has done much to promote the Elfin marque both in SA and through the internet. He travels far and wide to compete in his Elfin 622 and currently is undertaking a major restoration of the former Globe Elfin 400 sports car. Mark compered the 50th anniversary Elfin dinner in

Adelaide a few years ago, and last year provided valuable assistance to visiting and local members at the 2014 Clipsal meeting when our Elfins were on display. Always willing to help, Mark also garaged **BILL HEMMING'S** bus in order to save Bill unnecessary interstate travel. Like our other 'Clubman of the Year' winners over the years, Mark is a worthy recipient.

Congratulations, Mark!



FACEBOOK:

For those interested in social media **MARK (GOLDSMITH)** has been using Facebook as a way of sharing images of the major restoration of his Elfin 400 (known as the 'Globe 400'). Some EODC members and other enthusiasts have used this as a way of providing Mark with valuable information relating to the car's past history. Mark invites members to join his Facebook page - **ELFIN 60's Sportscars**. There are two other Facebook pages - **Elfin Types 600 to 600E** - and - **Elfin Monocoque Aficionados** - also devoted to the sharing of Elfin information and history. Why not join all pages! Thank you to the administrators...





ELFIN OWNERS and DRIVERS CLUB Inc.

MEMBERSHIP:

Since our last newsletter, the following new members have joined our club:

No. 622 - Richard WRIGHT Jnr. (S.A.)

Dick's son Richard Jnr. Says "I thought it was time I became a member as I have shared the driving of dad's Elfin Clubman many years now!" The car referred to is a 2001 Type 3 Clubman, the car the Wrights drove in our Elfin demonstration at last year's Clipsal meeting in Adelaide.

No. 623 - Geoff COHEN (Q'ld.)

Geoff owns the ex-Ross Rundle/Peter Fisher/K. Clarke Malmark Elfin Vee (chassis No. 33543) built in 1971. Geoff says the car has a significant log booked race history in NSW and Victoria and now runs in Historic events.

No. 624 - Adam FAIRBANK (Vic.)

Adam has circled "enthusiast" on the membership form, and owns a 2009 Caterham powered by a Ford Sigma engine. Under "Events Contested" Adam lists the 2009 Caterham Academy in the UK. (*sounds interesting!*) Former owner listed was Romeo Szakal (2009 - 2012).

No. 625 - Grant GRAY (Vic.)

Grant has also circled "enthusiast" - it's always good to have members join us who love the marque and don't necessarily own an Elfin. Maybe one day, Grant?

Welcome to our new members. We hope you have a long and happy association with the Elfin Owners & Drivers Club.

VALE:

IVAN JAMES TIGHE:

EODC member and Elfin racer **IVAN TIGHE** #208 passed away on November 29 aged 83 years. Ivan was a respected Vincent motorcycle racer in Europe during the 1950s, and on return to Australia built a 'special' powered by a Vincent engine. In this car he won the 1964 Australian Hillclimb Championship at Silverdale, NSW. Over a 27-year period, Ivan won three Australian titles - including Mt. Leura, 1985 (Chevron B38), and finally at Mt. Cotton, 1991 (Kaditcha F2). He also took the NSW titles in 1987 and 1992.

As well as racing an Elfin Mono and a 600 (both of which were sold to **BOB MINOGUE**), Ivan competed in the Australian Grand Prix in a F5000 originally built for British F1 driver Peter Gethin.

Ivan had a passion for engineering, and this led him to work for Repco Research under the late Sir Jack Brabham. On 1966 he set up his own company, Ivan Tighe Engineering in Brisbane and became famous for the manufacture of camshafts.

A wake was held in Ivan's honour at Ken Horner Equipment featuring a fine lineup of Vincent motorcycles. And one of his Elfins was also on display.

We extend our sympathies to Ivan's family and to his many friends and colleagues in motor sport.





ELFIN OWNERS and DRIVERS CLUB Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name (PLEASE PRINT)

Address

Postcode.....Fax No.....Mobile No

Phone No.....(home)(work)

Email.....

I am an owner/ex-owner/entrant/driver/mechanic/enthusiast of Elfin cars. (Please circle)

CAR.....

YEAR OF MANUFACTURE.....

CATEGORY.....

CAPACITY.....

ENGINE.....

ENGINE NO.....

CHASSIS NO.....

COLOUR.....

Any other significant mechanical details?

- HISTORY OF CAR -

EVENTS CONTESTED (include results and dates)

PREVIOUS OWNERS (and years)

◆◆◆ Please include a photograph of your car ◆◆◆

I wish to become a member of the Elfin Owners and Drivers Club, and

☐ have enclosed a cheque for \$25 - membership fee (no cash please).

☐ have paid my membership via direct credit -

Bank A/C No. 5003785 BSB 633-000 (Bendigo & Adelaide Bank)

Signed

Please return to Brian Reed
Box 447
AIREYS INLET 3231

or email reidywithchampers@yahoo.com.au

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