

Greetings and Best Wishes to every fellow member throughout the country.

Before I wrote this report I reviewed my cherished album of photos of all the events of the past year. All the better since my son connected my laptop to the LED TV set. And it struck me how blessed we are to be part of such a great club, the friends and places we have visited and the pleasure of owning the catalyst that brings us all together: Triumph !

Our last official run before the Christmas Luncheon was another combined visit to Peter and Dawn Manelis' collection of mostly Italian and American classic cars in Alberton. Half of the collection was housed in a showroom above the restoration workshops on the residential property and the rest were found in a shopping centre (Glenvista) basement parking. This was a great photographic opportunity and thanks, on behalf of the club members, go to Mike Bilson and Russell Haselau for organising and guiding us through a collection of at least sixty fascinating cars and memorabilia. The day was rounded off with a few beers and a good lunch on the verandah of Aroma Café within the aforementioned Glenvista Shopping Centre.

The year was suitably rounded off by enjoying a grand buffet Christmas Lunch once again at Kloofzicht Lodge in the Muldersdrift area together with our friends from the Pretoria Centre. It's always a pleasure to combine these events and the more the merrier, I say, with seventy five guests enjoying the day at such a nice country lodge, designed by none other than Gino. Look it up on Google to get a feel of the place.

I have come to realise that my sense of direction is very limited (don't get me started on the inside of shopping malls) so, armed with the news flyer that I compiled for the members, giving directions and a Google Map, complete with nifty little direction arrows, we set off on the Annual SAMCA run to the Sylvania Museum near the Vaal River. A large contingent of enthusiasts from a variety of clubs met at the Engen Blockhouse on the R59 freeway, whereupon we proceeded to the museum. Horrors of horrors, I found myself leading the pack, dammit; Triumphs, MGs, Porsches and Jaguars, you name it, and of course, when we crossed the Vaal, I realised that, yes, once again, I was lost. To see fifty-odd cars doing u-turns all at once is something akin to rush hour in Delhi ! We quickly recovered without incident and arrived at the museum, more or less on time to a bewildered group of local enthusiasts who marvelled at the sudden traffic jam at their entrance. I heard later that Bill Flynn had used R600 of liquid gold (Texas Tea) to do the round trip from Pretoria in his restored Ford F100. Oh Dear! Sorry Bill. The venue is classified as a working museum; very interesting and is worthy of a visit for anyone visiting the area and open to the public on the first Sunday of every month. The event was marred somewhat by the incessant smoke of a large stationary steam engine on display, and some of us left early for lunch at Stonehaven on the Vaal River itself.

New beginnings for January. As a result of members expressing a need for change, a new venue has been found and we brought in the New Year by having our first Noggin at the Route 101 Bistro which forms part of the Classic Car Centre in Midrand. We had a bumper attendance with Pretoria Centre joining us. This stretched the caterers somewhat, but they did a fine job and a few teething problems will be sorted out by the time we have our next Noggin. The Pretoria Centre will revert back to their Wednesday evening meetings. The evening was a time for renewing annual subscriptions which kept Eddie Steele on his toes and for a short presentation by Ryan Ferreira of Evans Cooling Systems. He discussed the merits of waterless engine coolants: No water, no overheating, no corrosion, no pressure and no scaling/liner pitting. Check out the website on www.evanscooling.co.za. It was particularly nice to see Vernon and Liz Roeder at our Noggin after a long absence, as was the good

turnout of members. Judging by a consensus, it has been decided to use this facility again. For those who are not aware, the facility offers final detailed restoration to vehicles that have been refurbished. They offer upkeep and storage of classic cars, cars for sale, etc.; and of interest to regular customers of Motor Books, they have relocated to these premises from Jan Smuts Avenue. The Classic Car Centre is also a supply and fitting agent for the waterless coolant, mentioned earlier. Essentially, the owners would like the facility to become a hub for all clubs to congregate, be it social, a meeting place before or after Sunday runs, or a venue for noggins.

British Car Day at the Piston Ring Club and Historic racing (some call it Histrionics) at Zwartkops and Kyalami has come and gone for January/February and it was good to see Triumph enthusiasts supporting the events. Alan Grant experienced a few gremlins both on and off the track (restored Lotus 61 single seater) so we wish you well, Alan.

Cheers,
Mike Gilchrist.