



Owners Club of Australia

With State Divisions in QLD, NSW, VIC, SA and WA

Alfesta Stories – The Early Years – 1975-1979

Alfesta 1975 - Victoria

The first Alfesta was held at Lake Boga near Swan Hill Victoria, over the Queen's Birthday weekend.

The late Bob Gardiner coined the name "Alfesta". At this inaugural event, there were three people from Western Australia, one from Queensland, a small contingent from New South Wales and the rest were from the host state of Victoria, about 45 participants in all.

A motorkhana and barbecue were held in addition to a visit to the Motor Museum. Dinner on a River Boat, which had quite a list to port, or was it the "Port" that gave us the list!

Alfesta 1976 - South Australia

Based at the Weintal Hotel Motel, Tanunda in the Barossa Valley, South Australia on the Queen's Birthday weekend.

By 1976 the States of Western Australia and Queensland had Divisions of the AROCA and participants attended from Western Australia, Queensland, New South Wales, Tasmania and Victoria and of course, the home State of South Australia. Bruce Wood and family organised the event and went on to form the South Australian Division of the Club.

A Motorkhana, an Economy Run and Concours, and a visit to the Birdwood Mill Museum made up the motoring events and Social events included visits to Wineries.

Red and White Wines with the Alfesta 76 label were used and available for purchase.

Alfesta 1977 - Queensland

Accommodation was at the Broadbeach Hotel on the Gold Coast in Queensland and this event was also held on the Queen's Birthday weekend.

Participants from South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, and Queensland enjoyed what was up to this time the best organised Alfesta.

The weekend started with Visits to Seaworld and Binna Burra and a Cabaret at the venue. The next day an Observation Run and lunch at Advance Town Dam was followed by a concours and Motorkhana at Surfers Paradise Raceway. A dinner/dance and presentation of trophies was held at the Hotel that night to finish off the event.

Alfesta 1978 - New South Wales

Held at Leura near Katoomba in the Blue Mountains area of New South Wales. This event was the first Alfesta held over Easter, a tradition that has continued even since.

The States of South Australia, Victoria, Queensland and the host state of New South Wales were all represented. In addition to those "living in", about 30 locals attending from Sydney on the Sunday.



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What at first seemed a novel idea turned out to be great because of bad weather. This was the use of Coaches to take participants on a scenic tour and a trip to the Jenolan Caves. A dinner/dance was held at the Motel on Saturday.

On Sunday an Observation and Economy Run was held, as well as a visit to the Norman Lindsay Gallery, with the best maintained car judging by popular vote.

Alfesta 1979 - Victoria

This event was held at Mulwala, a dot on the map across the river from Yarrawonga, in Victoria.

Participants attended from New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland and the host state of Victoria, with a total of about 100 people participating in the festivities.

On Friday an Economy-Observation Run was held with a barbecue lunch at Rutherglen and dinner at the Golf Club.

The highlight of this Alfesta was the Saturday at Winton Race Track, where Sprints were held and Col Goldie drove the Typo 33 Alfa around the track at lunchtime.

Sunday brought a concours and ferry trip on the lake. By this time a familiar pattern had emerged which was to be followed at all future Alfesta, all night parties after the official functions were finished keep many Alfisti up most of the night.

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