

“QV ascends 1,862m - then back to Sea Level”

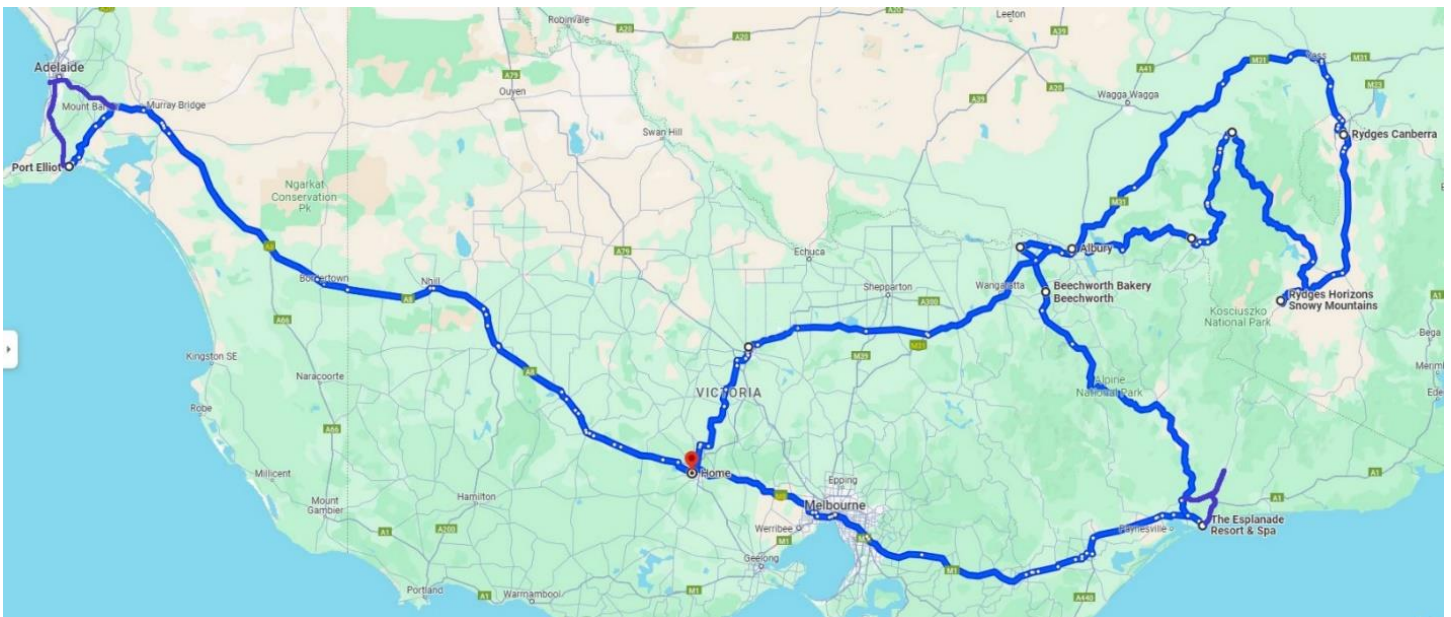
Another 4,000km cruise in the Alfa Giulia

Ballarat (441m above sea level) to **Mt. Hotham** (1,862m) to **Glenelg** (sea level)

Words & Photos by Leon Cottle



‘On Top of the World’ - the 2021 Alfa Giulia QV near Mt. Hotham (Danny’s lookout)

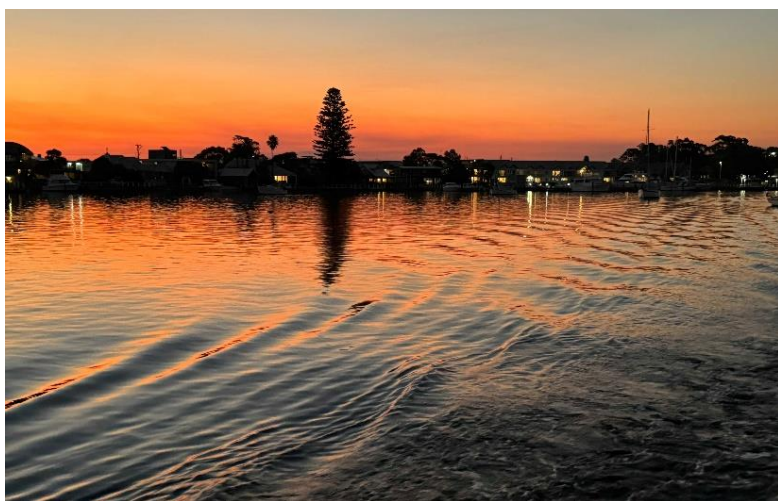


12-days ‘Alfa cruising’ through Victoria, NSW, ACT and SA

One of the benefits I have found in retirement is the new flexibility to get the Alfa out of the garage and 'stretch its legs' - as often as possible. Participating in Alfestas, Alpine Alfisti Tours, local Goldfields Alfa runs and many interstate drives visiting family, I now just find any excuse to cruise in the Giulia. A nice gig this retired lifestyle 😊

28th- 31st March: Alfesta'24 (Ballarat to Lakes Entrance) – 2 days of driving:

I escorted the WA Alfisti from Ballarat to Lakes Entrance for this year's Alfesta. A wonderful 4-day's catching up with many Alfa friends from around the country. Perfect weather helped as we explored this picturesque section of Victoria. Thanks to the Alfesta committee for their hard work – greatly appreciated by all. (see the Alfesta report)



‘Show & Shine’ – Alfesta'24 at Lakes Entrance



AROCA (Qld) Alfisti 'In the Groove' - Alfesta'24 Gala Dinner

1st - 6th April: Alpine Alfisti Autumn Tour (Lakes Entrance to Canberra) – 5 days:

The annual 'Alpine Alfisti Autumn Tour' through the Victorian High Country is always a thoroughly enjoyable event. Delightful 'Alfa' roads through this area's spectacular countryside, all enjoyed with a great bunch of enthusiastic Alfisti. Usually, we tour this area just as the spectacular Autumn tones are at their peak, but this year we were a few weeks early for this explosion of colour. However, with perfect sunshine the scenery was still awesome.

Plus, I had the honour of enjoying the company of AROCA (Vic) Life Member, Anne Beck as my 'co-pilot' for the entire 12 days of Alfesta, the Alpine Tour & Auto Italia as well. Anne was excellent company, and we certainly did have a lot of laughs as we solved all the world's problems! 😊

This year, the number of tour participants was much larger than usual, adding some complexity (49 Alfisti, with 26 Alfas, two Maserati's & one suspicious looking Peugeot 3008 SUV masquerading as a new 'Alfa Milano – at least it is a Stellantis product, even if it doesn't *usually* wear a scudetto!). Despite the large numbers, the entire 5-day Tour was fantastic, with no headaches encountered, apart from Andrew's flat battery in his 105 at Corowa. (Read Peter's full Tour report here https://alpinealfisti.org.au/downloads/AAT24_Report.pdf).



The entire bunch of 'Alpine Alfisti' near Mt. Hotham (minus 'shy' Marie Sharp who took the photo for me)



Alfa Convoy slows at yet more roadworks



Leon & 'co-pilot' Anne Beck at Mt. Hotham



Alfa line-up at the 'Riverdeck Kitchen' Café - Bright



The very suspect 'Pre-release Alfa Romeo Milano/Junior' looking very much like a Peugeot 3008

7th April: Auto Italia in Queanbeyan – 1 day:

This was my fourth attendance at the Italian Car Association of ACT's '**Auto Italia**', which is certainly an amazing ensemble of all Italian marques. The 2024 show celebrated the 60th Anniversary of the Fiat 850, the 70th Anniversary of Abarth and the 110th Anniversary of Maserati. (see my separate '**Auto Italia**' report)



8th April: Canberra to Ballarat – 1 day:

A long day, with an 8-hour drive of 720kms back home. But with Anne Beck keeping me awake and the QV cruising comfortably along the highway, it was thoroughly enjoyable as it literally 'ate up' the distance easily. The fine warm weather certainly helped as well, plus our hearty lunch at the River Deck Café by the River Murray in Albury.



The River Murray near the 'River Deck Café' - Albury

14th April: Ballarat to Pt. Elliot SA – 1 day:

After a couple of quiet 'rest days' back in Ballarat, it was time to head west over to South Australia again to see my 93-year parents plus other family members as well. A relatively 'trivial' 7-hours cruise today of just 630kms to reach Pt. Elliot, south of Adelaide. With the Giulia in 'Cruise Control' most of the way it was a relaxing journey.

21st April: AROCA (SA) 'All Alfa Day' at Glenelg – 1 day:

Fortunately, my SA visit just 'happened by chance' to coincide with AROCA (SA)'s annual 'All Alfa Day' held at the Wigley Reserve in Glenelg. So, this definitely necessitated a slight detour from Pt. Elliot. I've attended this event several times before and it is always a lot of fun catching up with many SA Alfisti who I've got to know over the years. Plus, the opportunity to take yet more photos of more nicely presented Alfas to add to my expanding collection of Alfa images! I also helped the AROCA (SA) club's finances by purchasing a very stylish Alfa 'Bucket Hat' for the day's warm sun plus an all-weather Alfa Jacket ready for Ballarat's impending Winter weather!



The QV back at Sea Level – Glenelg SA



Stylish Fashion Model



This large open grassed area is ideal for such an event, and with fine SA sunshine, there were around 65 Alfas on display and many locals walking through the display admiring these excellent Italian vehicles.



A Victorian Giulia 'Invades' SA & WA magazines 😊 Two years ago, when I last attended the SA's Alfa Day (in April 2022), my 'Victorian plated' QV caused a bit of an uproar by having its photo plastered over the front cover of their Club's 'Le Automobili Alfa' magazine (June'22 edition). My Alfa was the only one lined up for display in their new '2021 to 2030' category and was the latest Alfa model on show, hence their interest.

The front of the Giulia QV has also starred on the first page of the AROCA (WA) 'Alfa Occidentale' e-mag in their December 2021 edition – the Giulia's grill with my then 2-year granddaughter Hannah on her very own specially 'Papa-modified' Alfa badged toy car. No, it's not indoctrination – really - but she can now pick out Alfa Romeos!



AROCA (SA) Magazine cover – June 2022

ALFA OCCIDENTALE
Issue 56, December 2021



AROCA Vic member and Goldfields chapter convenor, Leon Cottle, is also the president of the "Alpine Alfisti Association of Australia." He lives in Ballarat, central Victoria, where he is the extremely proud owner of a brand new Giulia Quadrifoglio. His granddaughter, Hannah, lives in Bendigo; a very nice rural warm-up run from Ballarat for Leon's Giulia. Hannah wasn't to be outdone by her Grandpa when he visited her recently and she proudly positioned her own self-propelled mini-Alfa directly in front of his treasured Quad. (Photo provided courtesy Leon Cottle.)

Alfa Occidentale is the electronic magazine of the
Alfa Romeo Owners Club of Australia (Western Australian Division)

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AROCA (WA) e-mag cover – December 2021

22nd April: Glenelg to Ballarat – 1 day:

Well, all good things must come to an end, so today was time to return the Giulia back to Ballarat. Once again, another ideal driving day with clear blue skies and sunshine for the enjoyable 7-hour 630km homeward journey.

Conclusion:

A delightful 12 days of driving 4,000kms in the Alfa Giulia QV (average fuel consumption was **8 lts/100kms**). Much of the journey was gentle highway cruising, but it also included some 'spirited' driving through the Victorian Highlands & the Snowy Mountains too, so the 375KW 2.9lt Bi-Turbo V6 did well. Thankfully there wasn't any repeat episodes of fuel spillage through the boot or destroying a wide, expensive rear tyre like I did in March 2022!

Despite not being as long as my 7,000km '2021 Tour' in the 2004 Black Alfa GT V6 (C&S June'21 article), it was still a very pleasant way of spending a few days in retirement.

However, both of these efforts fall well short of the very impressive 9,000+km travelled by our Perth Alfisti friends, who drove east to participate in this year's Alfesta at Lakes Entrance, do part of the Alpine Tour plus spend time touring Tasmania before drive home to WA. Now that shows real Alfa commitment. Us eastern state Alfisti will need to replicate their efforts by doing the drive over to Perth for their Alfesta, planned for 2027.

The QV has now done 51,000km, so should be on track to hit the 60,000km mark by its 3rd anniversary in late September this year. Might be time for another QV owner's long-term review perhaps?

My Alfisti Motto "**BDE - Buy 'em, Drive 'em, Enjoy 'em**". As Peter Atkinson says, "it nearly matches the QV's **BSE** Registration". Perhaps I should update the plates!

I was thinking that since the QV is now nearly 3-years old and soon out of warranty, perhaps I should trade-it in and upgrade to a Giulia GTAm!! Doubting that this purchase would ever get passed by 'Home Management' OR my financial planner – I decided to 'Just Do It!' without their blessing and buy one! – All be it in 1/18th scale 😊



The new purchase – an Alfa Romeo Giulia GTAm