

## The Myth of the Rare White Lotus Elise

We thought club members would enjoy reading about the adventures of Murray Walls' Lotus Elise which was seen frolicking in Fiordland - without Murray or Heather!

Amanda Williams' Elise developed a fault that could be unreliable the day before departing on the 1600km Transalpine trip. In a great example of the generosity of our club members, Murray Walls persuaded Amanda & Scott to borrow his Lotus Elise to drive on the Transalpine. Amanda kept Murray and Heather up to date with their car's activities by emailing them media releases with photos.

### Media Release Fri 31 Oct - Rare White Lotus Elise seen in Otago and Southland

A rare white Lotus Elise was spotted nesting near Murray Park in Tekapo on Thursday night. An excited tourist photographed the sleeping Elise before alerting interested parties.

Locals report it was gone by morning. Lotus enthusiasts quickly gathered to form a hunting party.

The elusive white Lotus (affectionately known as KLA) was later seen lurking in Murray Place and Scott Street before fleeing the Tekapo area.

Following confirmed sightings in Murray Terrace and Heather Lane in Cromwell, it's thought that the rare white Lotus Elise is using family connections to move around.

Numerous Lotus enthusiasts continued South following the trail.

The public is encouraged to allow this rare beast to roam freely. It is seldom seen in Southland so is a real treat for everyone that sees it.



## Media Release Sun 2 Nov - More Rare White Lotus Elise sightings in Southland

On Saturday excitement continued to build after the rare white Lotus Elise was seen browsing at NPD.

Lotus experts observed that KLA is travelling south for the breeding season.

Confirmed sightings indicate KLA has been sheltering among white Lotus cars as well as travelling in a larger group of Lotus cars. They are thought to be making their journey via Milford Sound to the breeding grounds near the mythical Murray Mountain.

Keen observers suggest that rare white Lotus Elises can even appear to drive on water during their mating rituals.

Rumours of interest from an unnamed red Lotus led to speculation about the possibility of a union resulting in a never seen before in New Zealand pink Lotus.

Social media posts suggesting KLA had been seen at Heather Jock Hut near Glenorchy and at Heather Place in Picton were dismissed as amusing diversions designed to divert attention from the search.

Experts say the rare white Lotus Elise is expected to return north to nest and will be seen flying across the Land of the Long Black Road this summer.

