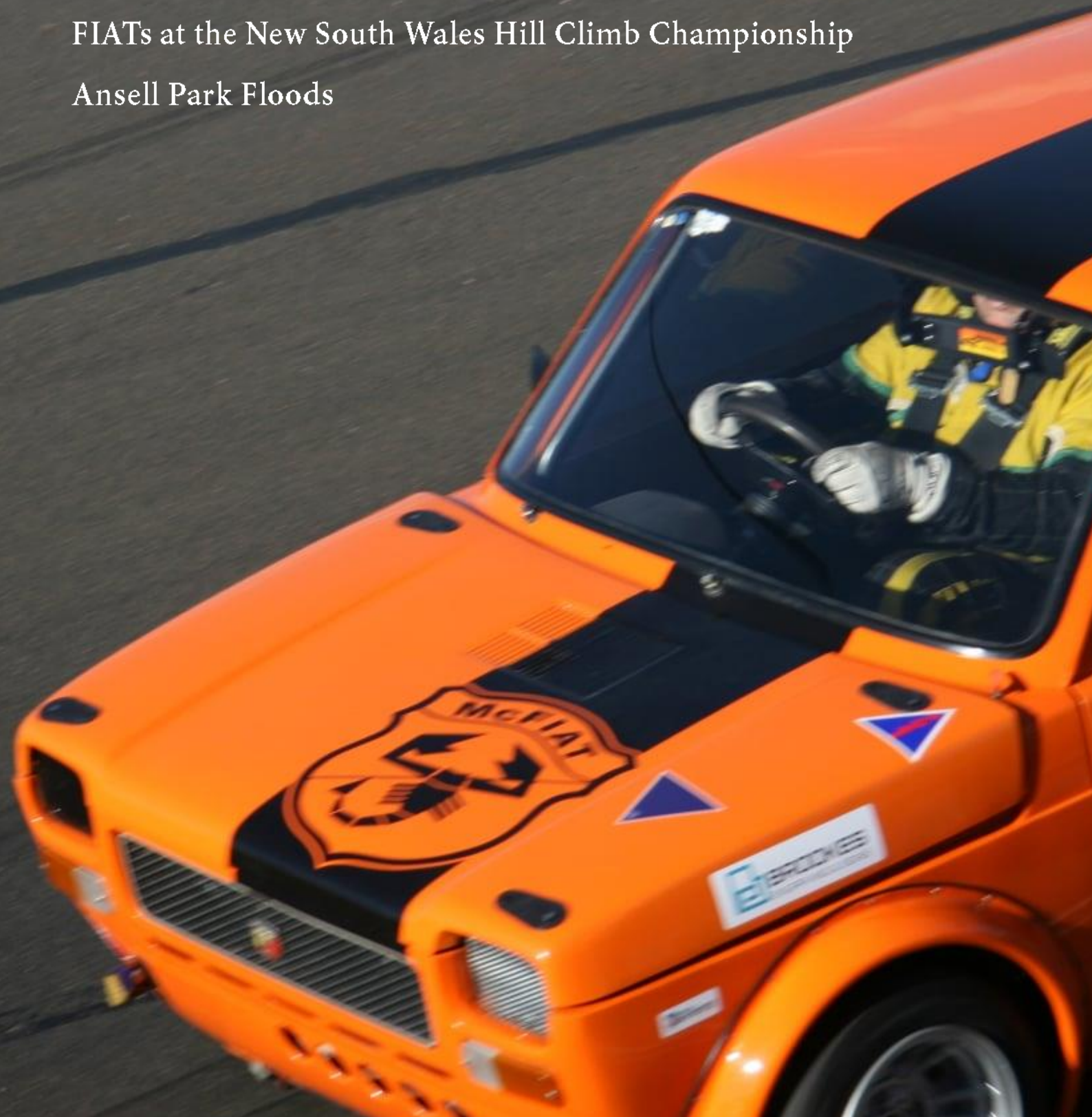


FIAT focus

THE JOURNAL OF THE FIAT CLUB OF NEW SOUTH WALES Inc. (Est. 1949)

FIATs at the New South Wales Hill Climb Championship

Ansell Park Floods



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FIATFocus acknowledgements;

FIAT Focus is the monthly journal of the FIAT Club of NSW. It is issued by email on the first Wednesday of each month .

Many thanks to Martin Gallard and Travis McGeorge for their contributions to this edition of Fiat Focus.

Cover Photo; A shot of Michael McGeorge in his modified 127 at Mount Panorama, Bathurst. (Photo by Travis McGeorge).

FIATFocus Magazine is available from the FIAT Club of New South Wales website. If you are after any of the issues from 2019 to the present just go to www.fiatclub.com.au, click on the 'Magazine' tab and download the magazine you are looking for.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in advertisements and articles published in this magazine are not necessarily those of the FIAT Club of NSW.

New Members

A warm welcome to the following enthusiasts:

Lachlan Holswich - 1978 X1/9

Justin Harrison - 1982 124 Spider

Historic Vehicle Use - always remember to carry the following 4 items; 1. Club Run - carry a "paper, not electronic" copy of the club calendar with the event listed, 2. Personal Use - fill in your RMS log sheet before you leave - as fines & points apply, 3. Certificate of Approved Operations (purple A5 sheet issued by the RMS), 4. FCNSW membership card - to confirm your financial status.

SOCIAL MEETINGS are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown, starting at 7.30 pm.

ANSELL PARK is the Club's Motorkhana Grounds located at 2 Percival Street, Clarendon, on the corner of Percival Street and Hawkesbury Valley Way.

DATE	EVENT AND LOCATION	HVS code	Pointscore
April 2021			
Tues 6th	Oasis Run - Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum (see page 4 For details)	CE124060	No
Sun 11th	Auto Italia Canberra, (see President's report and page 11 For details)	CE124011	Yes
Tues 13th	Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.	CE124031	Yes
Sun 25th	FIAT Club - Patio & Pizza @ Putney, 83 Charles St, Putney; 5.00- 8.00 p.m. (see page 11 for details)	CE124052	Yes
May 2021			
Tues 4th	Oasis Run - Holroyd Gardens Nature Reserve (see page 4 for details)	CE125040	No
Sun 9th	FIAT Club Lunch Break @ Cavallino's; Cnr McCarrs Creek Road & Yulong Ave, Terry Hills; 12.00 to 2.00 p.m. (see page 11 for details)	CE125090	Yes
Tues 11th	Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club	CE125011	Yes
Sun 16th	National Motoring Heritage Day (various venues, see page 15)	CE125061	Yes
Sun 23rd	FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 2, Ansell Park, 2 Percival Street, Clarendon, on the corner of Percival Street and Hawkesbury Valley Way.	CE125032	Yes
Sun 30th	FIAT Club Coffee Break @ The Grid Café, 5 Peter Brock Drive, Oran Park; 8.30 to 10.30 a.m. (see page 11 for details).	CE125003	Yes
June 2021			
Tues 1st	Oasis Run - Mountain High Pies, Wentworth Falls.	CE126010	No
Sun 6th	FIAT Club Coffee Break	CE126060	Yes
Tues 8th	Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club, 7.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.	CE126080	Yes
Sat 19th	FIAT Club Coffee Break - Northside	CE126019	Yes
Sun 20th	FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 3	CE126002	Yes
July 2021			
Sat 4th	FIAT Club Coffee Break	CE127040	Yes
Tues 6th	Oasis Run - CHRISTMAS IN JULY Nepean Rowing Club (TBC)	CE127060	No
Tues 13th	Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club	CE127031	Yes
Sun 18th	FIAT Club Coffee Break - Northside	CE127081	Yes
August 2021			
Sun 1st	FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 4	CE128010	Yes
Tues 3rd	Oasis Run - St. George area Hotel Lunch TBC	CE128030	No
Sat 8th	FIAT Club Coffee Break	CE128080	Yes
Tues 10th	Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club	CE128001	Yes
Sun 15th	Shannons Sydney Classic TBC	CE128051	Yes
Sat 21st	FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 5 - Day Night Motorkhana	CE128012	Yes
Sun 22nd	FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 6	CE128022	Yes

OASIS RUN DETAILS

The OASIS runs occurs on the first Tuesday of each month (note that there is no run in January and the November run occurs in the second week of the month to avoid clashing with the Melbourne Cup festivities). Details are not usually available until just before each event, however, consult the Club's magazine or website for the HCRS permit number applicable to the event.

ALL SUBJECT TO ANY RESTRICTIONS THAT MAY BE IN PLACE

April 6th - Its on, wet or fine.

Meet: Wollondilly Heritage Centre & Museum 43 Edward St. The Oaks 2570

TIME: Arrive by 10.30am for morning tea & Museum Inspection

COST: \$10.00 per person

DEPART: 12.00 noon

LUNCH: 12.30 pm Wallacia Hotel 1590 Mulgoa Rd. Wallacia

BOOKINGS REQUIRED FOR CATERING

Bookings & Museum Les ph: 9838 8063 m: 0418 973 866

Wallacia Hotel Enquires Brian Jubb ph: 9602 9591

May 4th - Holroyd Gardens Nature Reserve, Duck Pond, & Historic Brickworks Ruins.

MEET: From 10.30am onwards. **WHERE:** Walpole St, Entrance Gate, Cnr. Pitt St. Merrylands
More details closer to event.

June 1st - BY POPULAR DEMAND WE ARE RETURNING TO MOUNTAIN HIGH PIES .

MEET: Wentworth Falls Lake, Sinclair Cres. Wentworth Falls (New toilet block has been built.

TIME: Anytime from 10.30am onwards. Bring your own morning tea, chairs etc.

DEPART: 12.00 noon.

LUNCH: Mountain High Pies 293 Great Western Hwy Wentworth Falls

July 6th - CHRISTMAS IN JULY Nepean Rowing Club (Subject to any conditions)

August 3rd - St. George area Hotel Lunch. To be confirmed.

September 7th - MOUNT ANNAN BOTANICAL GARDENS. Details Brian Jubb ph: 9602 9591

October 5th - T.B.A.

November 9th - REMEMBRANCE DAY RUN. Details Les Watton: ph: 9838 8063 m: 0418 973 866

December 7th - CHRISTMAS LUNCH. To be confirmed.

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CLUB COMMITTEE AND OFFICIALS

- ♦ **PATRON** - Mr Nat Zanardo OAM
- ♦ **PRESIDENT** - Warren Smith; president@fiatclub.com.au; 02 9605 2301 / 0419 754 515
- ♦ **VICE PRESIDENT** - Murray Irwin; vicepresident@fiatclub.com.au
- ♦ **SECRETARY** - Lorenzo Aventi; secretary@fiatclub.com.au; 0425 374 014
- ♦ **TREASURER** - Susan Halliburton; treasurer@fiatclub.com.au; 0413 184 148
- ♦ **COMPETITION SECRETARY** - Michael McGeorge; competition@fiatclub.com.au; 0414 965 425
- ♦ **ASSISTANT COMP SECRETARY** - Martin Gallard; assistcompetition@fiatclub.com.au
- ♦ **EDITOR** - Lorenzo Aventi; editor@fiatclub.com.au
- ♦ **WEBMASTER** - Mark Weinberger; webtech@fiatclub.com.au
- ♦ **MERCHANDISING** - Kevin Halliburton; merchandise@fiatclub.com.au; 0413 992 369
- ♦ **COMMITTEE PERSON** - Adrian Sandrin; committee1@fiatclub.com.au
- ♦ **PUBLIC OFFICER** - Warren Smith; publicofficer@fiatclub.com.au; 02 9605 2301 / 0419 754 515
- ♦ **HISTORIC PLATE REGISTRAR** - Richard Dalziel; histrego@fiatclub.com.au; 02 9489 3553 / 0412 709 228

Historic Plates form postal address details are:

12 Page Ave, Wahroonga, NSW 2076

- ♦ **MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR** - Cheryl Sandrin; membership@fiatclub.com.au; 0417 283 107
- ♦ **SOCIAL EVENT CO-ORDINATOR** - Giovanni Ciampa; events@fiatclub.com.au; 0410 336 987
- ♦ **CMC DELEGATE** TBA
- ♦ **HONORARY AUDITOR** - Rebecca Gallard
- ♦ **ANSELL PARK CO-ORDINATOR** - Michael McGeorge; ansellpark@fiatclub.com.au; 0414 965 425,
- ♦ **FIAT CLUB LIBRARIAN** - Lorenzo Aventi; secretary@fiatclub.com.au

Please direct all correspondence to:

THE FIAT CLUB OF NSW Inc.

PO Box 3034 Bangor NSW 2234 Australia

BANKING DETAILS:

Bank - National Australia Bank (NAB)

BSB 082-067

Account 03 665 7020

Account Name - FIAT Club of NSW Inc.

SOCIAL MEETINGS

Held at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of the month at the Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade Bankstown, NSW, 2200.

ANSELL PARK is located at 2 Percival Street, Clarendon, on the corner of Percival Street and Hawkesbury Valley Way.

Life Members

- Tony Bray
- Steve Gotch
- Pauline Gotch
- Doug Tory
- John Godfrey
- Warren Smith
- Graham Mumby
- Wal Glading
- Alan Steele
- Hank Breen
- Ian Allison
- Kevin Halliburton
- Susan Halliburton
- Tony Studans
- Wayne McGeorge
- Michael McGeorge
- Naomi McGeorge



Ansell Park Disaster

As you all would know, our motorkhana grounds at Windsor have been inundated in the March floods. I was away in Tasmania when I heard the news and apparently the water came up so quickly and no-one was available to do anything about it, so all 3 of our club cars as well as our tractor and slasher have been under 4 metres of water. We have also lost many items inside our office container and at the time of writing we don't know if we even have any tables and chairs left in the shed. No-one can get in to check yet.

Once we are able to gain access, our plan is to do an assessment of damage and losses. When we know what needs to be done, we would appreciate some volunteers to help in the cleanup and even in sourcing replacement items.

For those of us who love our Motorkhana days at Ansell Park, this is another frustrating delay as we didn't have any 'khanas in 2020 because of Covid, and the scheduled Motorkhana on March 14th had to be cancelled due to heavy rain. Little was anyone to know that this was the start of the big flood! We look like having next to no practice for the 2021 Nationals, unless we enter State Round Motorkhanas. This is actually a good idea as they are mostly held on bitumen. Five of our members entered the last one held at Quakers Hill on March 28th; Michael, Naomi & Travis McGeorge, Martin Gallard and Glenn Smith all enjoyed the day and I'm sure there are photos elsewhere in this mag.

////

With some of us away, the March Social was down on numbers, but I would like to note that for the first time in the history of the club (as far as I am aware), we had a woman chair the meeting; our Treasurer, Susan Halliburton. Thanks Susan, I'm sure you were able to keep everyone in line!

We are intending to keep having Social Meetings at Bankstown Sports Club as long as the Covid situation allows

(even with the low numbers), but **please let us know if you are coming as the club needs to know how many to expect to set up the room for us.**

////

We will be getting our 20 tickets for the CMC Shannons Sydney Classic at Sydney Motorsport Park next month, so please contact Giovanni if you want one of the \$25 tickets. Date for the show is 15th August.

////

Auto Italia in Canberra is on April 11th and is now to be held in Queanbeyan Park in Queanbeyan. Entry fee for cars is \$15 with spectators free. To ensure you have a spot for your car you MUST pre-register online. You will get a ticket emailed to you with a barcode to gain entry. It is possible just to arrive and pay cash at the gate, but a place cannot be guaranteed if you do this. More info and registration form here...

<https://www.autoitaliacanberra.com/exhibit-2021.html>

I have my ticket and intend driving down on Sunday morning, stopping for breakfast at 7 am at the diner at Sutton Forest. Mark Weinberger will also be heading down on Sunday and will be at Sutton Forest at 6 am, so you can take your pick of who to meet! Your car needs to be in by 9.30 am though and must remain in place until 1.30 pm.

////

On a personal note, Diane and I had a good trip to Tassie in March, even enjoying our first helicopter flight. This was around Cradle Mountain and was spectacular. I didn't see many Fiats while down there though; only 3 Fiat 500s (modern ones) and 2 Abarth 124 Spiders, both of them white. One was in Hobart outside the airport terminal (welcomed me to Tassie!), and the other in Launceston.

Warren Smith

2021 President



Ansell Park, to the left an aerial photo taken this year on January 24. To the right, a photo taken on March 25 !

Secretary's Report

Fiat Club NSW – Social Meeting Minutes – Bankstown Sports Club Tuesday March 9, 2021.

Welcome:

Susan Halliburton opened the meeting at 7.30 p.m. and welcomed members to the Bankstown Sports Club.

Apologies:

Warren Smith, Murray Irwin, Richard Dalziel, Norm Mitchell, Cheryl Sandrin, Adrian Sandrin, Roger Malcolm.

Previous Minutes – Business Arising: Nil.

Secretary's Report/ Correspondence:

Received the following magazines; Il Topolino (South Africa), FIAT Lancia Mania Western Australia), Micro Motoring Magazine (Micro Car & Scooter Club).

Correspondence from the organisers of Auto Italia – the event has been moved forward to Sunday 11 April and will be held at Queanbeyan Park, Queanbeyan.

Correspondence received from the FIAT 500 Club of Italy regarding the cancellation of Garlanda for 2021 to be replaced by a virtual event, "The International FIAT 500 Festival". This correspondence forwarded to the member's e-group.

From the Historic Plate Registrar, there are 131 members with 197 vehicles on HVS in the FIAT Club.

Ansell Park Report:

A working bee was conducted last week with 7 attendees. A number of cars damaged due to the flooding last year were identified for disposal. Two more club cars were added to the fleet. Dual control from one damaged car to be transferred to another vehicle. Comp. Secretary still looking for a small car for the junior clinic.

Overgrown scrub cleared to create a pathway to one of the containers.

Further work to be conducted;

Containers - New roof and floor required for one. Another t/b scrapped.

Regular mowing required to keep the grass at manageable levels.

Grounds have recovered well after a year of minimum activity.

Competition Report:

Huntley hill climb Feb 28 was run and attended by Graham Bates, Martin Gallard and Michael McGeorge.

NSW Hill Climb Championship rounds 1 & 2 run at Bathurst on March 6 & 7 attended by Martin Gallard and Michael McGeorge.

Congratulations to Martin & Michael for 1st & 2nd place in class for 2020 NSW Championship.

Motorkhana March 14. Need Volunteers for time scribe & BBQ.

Next Events:

Round one of the FIAT Club's Motorkhana Championship will be held at Ansell Park on Sunday 14 March. Volunteers required to assist for the day.

Social Events:

Past Events;

Grid Café, Oran park and Benzin Café, Dural well attended.

Next Events:

Auto Italia brought forward to Sunday April 11.

The Lobby Café at Rozelle on Sunday March 14, the drive to Ansell Park.

Burger Break, Wakeley, Sunday March 28.

Communications:

Editor.

Many thanks for articles submitted, especially updates on HVS compliance.

Editor would like more Autobiography articles from members regarding cars, especially FIATs they have owned.

President's Report / 2020 Nationals Update:

Hotel & venue bookings from last year have been retained. Wakefield Park and Sutton Road confirmed.

General Business:

Query received about the number of FIATs owned by club members. Editor to follow up with membership and HVS Registrars..

Meeting Closed at 8.30 p.m.

Next meeting – Tuesday 13 April at Bankstown Sports Club.

SOCIAL MEETINGS are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown, starting at 7.30 pm.

Competition

NSW Hillclimb Championship Rounds 1 & 2 - Mount Panorama, Bathurst.

When the Fiat Nationals (the Fiat Al Monte at the time) last run at Bathurst in 2008, it was the very beginning of some club members starting to expand their motorsport interests from motorkhana to more circuit work. Over the many years that would follow, the Fiat Club started to do many more speed events on different tracks through not only the Fiat Nationals, but also our own clubs desire to do more events like sprints and regularity races like the AROCA 12 Hour. These events have been great, but Michael McGeorge & I would constantly discuss what it might be like to head back to Bathurst for another crack at the hill climb with not only a lot more experience under our belts, but also a lot more confidence in our cars. The expectation being our times today should surely be light years faster right? Another great feature of this weekend is the whole family comes too, as it's a great place to set up a campsite and take the pressure off. Plenty of space for riding bikes and getting away from the big smoke. Even a little bit of star gazing with a port in hand.

In 2019 we had our first crack at returning to the mountain, as the NSW Hillclimb Championship utilises the track for rounds 1 & 2 over the same weekend. So much fun, it solidified this weekend as an annual event going forwards. The Saturday Round 1 is The Esses, where you run backwards up the track from the Bathurst Light Car Club (just after Forest Elbow), all the way up through the dipper and across to the finish on the flat of McPhillamy Park. Only one major heart attack moment for this event, as the concrete wall of the dipper does come at you very fast.

The Sunday Round 2 is a much faster event, with the Mountain Straight layout. Here you start on the small bump half way up Mountain Straight, and you run the track the correct direction up to the flying finish on the flat of McPhillamy Park. No heart attack moment for this layout, but you do need to take your brave pills if you dare hold it flat as you start to get your speed up as you climb.

As usual, there is absolutely nothing in it between the two 127's. Our cars are very similar, yet have a lot of differences. I wont bore you to death with the fine details, but they are far from identical. As a result, the strengths and weaknesses of the cars are hard to spot at a track day, but hillclimbs tend to show things a lot clearer. We are either impossible to separate, or one of us has the other by an impossible margin. How close is it? If you add the four round times of our 2020 championship together, the Orange Beast finished with a total time

of 235.72 seconds, whilst the Grey Goose finished with a total time of 235.02 seconds. Find me closer racing anywhere else on earth, I will wait!



on, given the concrete walls of Mount Panorama don't tend to be very unforgiving to cars. Despite the delays, we managed to get four runs in which is the minimum requirement of the championship. Mic took the class win with a PB time of 37.42, whilst I took a very happy 2nd with 37.61. First blood to Mic!

Round 2 was as equally disrupted, with timing issues, oil on track, a competitor crashing across the line running over the timing gear, and a two lap parade for another event at the bottom of the hill. Again, very hard for competitors to get into a rhythm with so much down time.

Once up and running, there were very few opportunities to get the level of trust needed to be right onto the pace. We both had some good runs, with Michael clocking a time of 69.15 vs my 67.54. Revenge was sweet!

A victory for each driver was a great way to start our campaign, but to also be awarded Class Champion for the 2020 Championship was icing on the cake. Mic was awarded second in class, he just needs to fins 0.70 of a second to come steal that outright win!

Round 3 heads to the Huntley Hillclimb Dapto April 11th. Something about this track makes Mic's car impossible to catch, but rest assured I will throw everything at not giving it to him too easy. Come on down and have a look, or even better, come on down and give it a go! We would love to see more club members enjoying the thrill of driving their cars under a safe competitive environment. We even have a coffee machine if that helps sweeten the deal

Best Regards,
Martin Gallard.



Photos from the NSW Hill Climb Championship, Bathurst. March 6-7, 2021.



Competition Calendar

April 2021		HVS code	Pointscore
Sat 10th - Sun 11th	State Round Motorkhana - Armidale	CE124001	No
Sun 11th	NSW Hillclimb Championship Rd 3 - Huntley	CE124011a	No
May 2021			
Sun 2nd	NSW Hillclimb Championship - Kempsey	CE125020	No
Sun 23rd	FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 2	CE125032	Yes
June 2021			
Sun 6th	State Round Motorkhana - Nirimba	CE126060a	No
Sun 13th	NSW Hillclimb Championship - Grafton	CE126031	No
Sun 20th	FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 3	CE126002	Yes
Sun 27th	Huntley Hillclimb - come and try day	CE126072	No
July 2021			
Sun 18th	NSW Hillclimb Championship - Tamworth	CE127081	No
Sun 25th	State Round Motorkhana - Nirimba	CE127052	No
August 2021			
Sun 1st	FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 4	CE128010	Yes
Sun 8th	NSW Hillclimb Championship - Ringwood	CE128080a	No
Sat 21st	FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 5 - Day Night Motorkhana	CE128012	Yes
Sun 22nd	FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 6	CE128022	Yes
Sun 29th	State Round Motorkhana - SMP	CE128092a	No



coffee break (write up)

14th March 2021

Cafe Lobby @ Lilyfield



Sunday was a very wet morning and obviously kept a lot of our club members rugged up dry in the comfort of their homes.

A small group turned up for a coffee and light breakfast at Cafe Lobby in Lilyfield.

To our relief the carpark gates have re-opened to allow full use of the massive private car parking facilities.

The highlight was sharing a laugh with club members wearing wrong club shirts! We also had a special guest from ACT FIAT Club - Giancarlo and his partner up for the weekend, joined us for coffee.

The planned drive to Ansell Park was cancelled as the rain picked up and set in for the rest of the day also cancelling the scheduled Motorkhana unfortunately!

We hope the weather improves for the next events and we see many more club members and their cars. Keep safe!

Ciao Giovanni Ciampa
(social events co-ordinator)
FIAT CLUB of NSW Inc



FIAT fanatico

www.fiatclub.com.au

Coffee Breaks & Activities for April & May 2021



Auto Italia

Sunday 11th April 2021

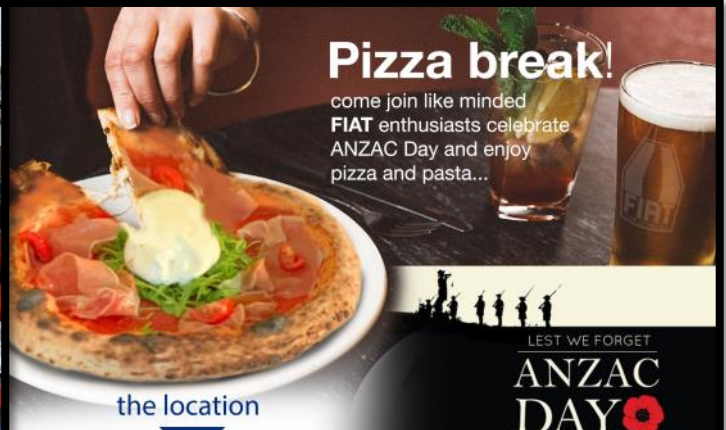
Queanbeyan Park, 1 Lowe St, Queanbeyan, NSW 2620

The FIAT Club of NSW would like to invite all members to bring their FIAT's (of all models road or race) to this years Auto Italia (cars of any standard welcome)

For tickets please go to the website:

www.autoitaliacanberra.com

Club Plated cars please use event number: CE124011



Pizza break!

come join like minded **FIAT** enthusiasts celebrate ANZAC Day and enjoy pizza and pasta...

the location



When: Sunday 25th April 2021

Where: **Patio @ Putney**

83 Charles Street,
Putney NSW 2112

Time: 5:00pm - 8:00pm



HSV code: CE124052

Lunch break.....northside!

come join like minded **FIAT** enthusiasts over lunch (\$25 p/p) and you will enjoy the following:
- pizza/pasta and a beer



this month's location

When: Sunday 9th May 2021

Where: **Cavallino**

Cnr McCarrs Creek Rd & Yulong Ave,
Terrey Hills NSW 2084
[plenty of on-site free parking]

Time: 12:00 noon - 2pm



this month's location

When: Sunday 30th May 2021

Where: **The Grid Cafe**

5 Peter Brock Drive,
Oran Park NSW 2570

Time: 8:30am - 10:30am



HSV code: CE125090



HSV code: CE125003



Fiat's Abarth Competitions Centre

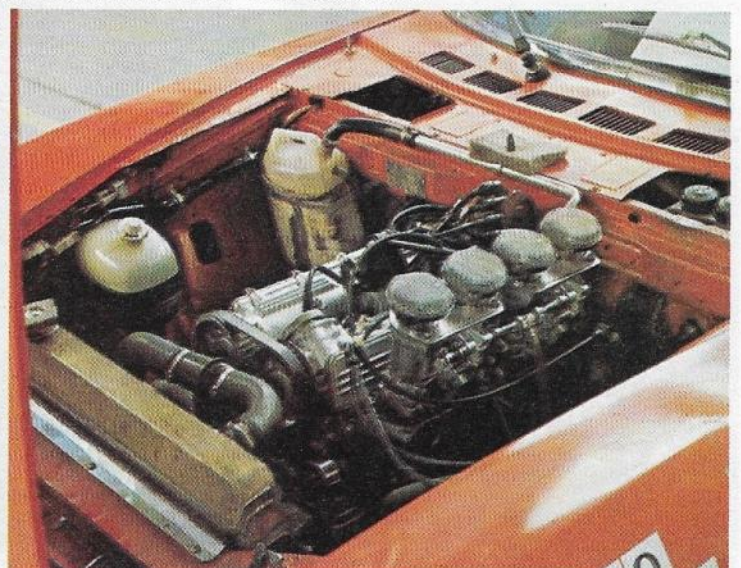
Abarth is the largest manufacturer of speed equipment that I have visited. The writer's previous visit was in the mid-sixties, when the company's sports/racing machines and little two-seater road cars were flourishing alongside a phenomenal output of those big-bore exhaust systems. In 1971 Carlo Abarth, who established the Company in 1949 to privately race Cisitalias and manufacture exhaust systems, sold out the factories to Fiat.

General Manager of the Abarth organisation

these days is a former member of the Mille Miglia organising team, Sig. Renzo Avideno. President of the reconstituted Company is former Ferrari and Fiat engineer, Aurelio Lampredi, who played such a major part in the conception of Ferrari's larger V12 motors before he joined Fiat in 1955. Working on the more normal Abarth goods intended for retail sale are approximately 250 people (roughly the same as FAVO when that was established), while another 60 personnel are devoted solely

NO COMPETITION CAR shortage is evident in the lavishly-stocked Abarth car-assembly area! Below and top right: The 124 Spydres take about 250 man-hours to build into works trim, which includes i.r.s. and the downdraught carburettors for the 16-valve development of the Fiat twin cam engine. Right: The 131 saloon is to replace the 124 Spydres next year. Alongside one of the white, wide Campagnolo-wheeled, 131 prototypes we show the new model's front and rear suspension, the latter showing that the live axle was dropped for sophisticated struts.

ABARTH has always been a surprising enterprise to visit. Casual thought on the multitude of Fiat "go-faster" equipment produced by the Turin-based company would lessen the first-time visitor's shock, for the truth is that



to the task of acting as Fiat's factory competitions department.

Also included in the competitions brief is the study of suitable new Fiat models for competitions; the results of such study could be seen when we called. The 124 Spyder model has reached the end of its competition career—though that's the last thought that would cross your mind when looking at our pictures, depicting a multitude of spare bodyshells and complete cars—and the successor is to be the boxey 131 saloon.

In order to homologate the 131 in the best possible trim, Abarth will produce their own production version. Like the 124 Spyder that it replaces, this special 131 will have an Abarth-manufactured five-speed gearbox, independent strut rear suspension, ventilated four-wheel disc braking, and a large number of lightweight panels, possibly even extending to Perspex sideglass. The aim is to have the car ready for homologation, and International action, within the European Rally Championship, by March 1st next year. In rallying guise the engine, like the Lancia Beta Coupé's, a development of the Fiat twin cam unit, should boast 220 horsepower. This will be extracted from a Kugelfischer fuel injected 2-litre, 16-valve engine.

In the recent past Abarth's name has always been primarily associated in our minds with racing. Remember the dinky, wheel-lifting rear-engine Topolinos with 1-litre engines, as well as Chris Craft's 2-litre Sports Car title in 1973? The advent of full Fiat control brought a new rallying spirit to the sprawling collection of aircraft-style hangars that comprise Abarth. In 1968 and '69 Abarth had been involved in some technical support work for Fiat owners using their vehicles in rallying, but by 1970's Alpine Rally, a team of Fiat-Abarth 125 Twin Cams was entered. In the following year 147-b.h.p. Group 1 Fiat 125s were campaigned, but it was the introduction of the lightweight Abarth 124 Spyder that gave them the chance to be a little more ambitious in their programmes. The result



has been to grasp the European Rally Championship titles for Raffaele Pinto and Maurizio Verini (1972 and '75 respectively); two outright wins on the TAP Portugal Rally (scored by Markku Alen and Pinto) and second place in the World Rally Championship (to their stablemates at Lancia) both this year and last.

The background politics to the feud between Lancia and Fiat would make Machiavelli proud of his present-day countrymen. Part of their differences, aside from a proud tradition of independence, comes from their reasons for competing. Lancia have a sporting image to maintain, rather like BMW and Alfa, but Avideno comments that Fiat's commitment is to "proving the car's strength."

Sig. Avideno continues: "Racing is for those with cars homologated to win outright. We do not have these sort of cars, so we rally. I tell you what I think about the rally regulations: I say rallying should be for the big manufacturers of cars, not the smaller GT-

makers. Porsche and Stratos are too sophisticated, and there are those who make these sort of cars only for competitions. I think rallying must be kept for normal cars that you can find anywhere. Also rallying was only on bad roads, now we have it on smooth asphalt too. It's no good, it's not natural. For us, it is best on the rough, where the car can be tested to the limits."

At this point Lampredi interjected that, "For me, I am sure that only Formula One and rallying are getting the bigger crowds in motor sport: the rest are going down, and this is why we cannot get the money for things like sport prototypes".

For the immediate future this year's objective is to thoroughly develop the 131, hopefully so that it is capable of taking the major honours the following year. "But, of course", says Avideno, "we would next like to see a Fiat win the Monte Carlo Rally . . . and maybe the World Championship!"—J.W.



Jottings & Gossip

Congratulations to Giovanni and Liz Ciampa on the birth of their son, Luca Joseph CIAMPA, born 19th March 2021. Giovanni advised that "My wife and I are at home now settling into our new roles as parents. My wife Liz is doing great .. Luca is also doing well and taking his role seriously as a demanding newborn...crying when wanting attention, crying when needing to be fed or crying to have his nappy changed. Yes...a lot of crying in our house now.

We have truly been blessed and look forward to introducing him to the club when he is a little older.

Thanks again for all the well wishes.

Auto Italia is on next weekend (Sunday April 11). Please note that to enter your vehicle you will need to register on line at; <https://www.autoitaliacanberra.com/exhibit-2021.html>

The National Heritage

Motoring Day will be held on Sunday 16 of May (barring any restrictions!). The CMC have listed the following venues that will be open on the day for you to visit;

* East Kurrajong School of Arts, Stanley Park, East Kurrajong - Hobby & Motor Show.

* Berry Showground, Alexandra Street, Berry.

* Museum of Fire, 1 Museum Drive, Penrith.

* Australian Motorlife Museum, Kembla Grange.

More details on the above events are included on the next page.

For updates, got to the CMC website at <https://www.councilofmotorclubs.org.au/about/14events/3eents>

Ansell Park was well inundated in the recent flooding of the Nepean and Hawkesbury rivers. At the moment we have not been able to gain access to the site and assess the damage.

Most of the work done at the recent Working bee will have come to nought, however, we would still like to thank those members who contributed to the work done on the day. No doubt, there will be a need for many more working bees at Ansell Park over the next few months and any help from members would be most appreciated.

On Sunday 30 March, a number of club members competed in a round of the



O'Donnell in the Thoroughbred Trophy class with David's 127 Sport. Nik Prieston and Dylan Braithwaite will be in Nik's conquering 131 Abarth Rallye along with Victorian Philip-Jon Buggee with Jeremy Browne in Phil's 131 competing in the Classis category. All teams are regular Targa competitors and we wish the all the best for the event. Targa Tasmania championship, as well as the progress of the FIAT competitors can be followed at [Targa Tasmania – Event Overview – Targa](#)

NSW Motorkhana Championship

at Quakers Hill. The state championship provides an opportunity to compete for our members as the club's own motorkhana events have had to be cancelled due to Covid and poor weather including our last motorkhana the was washed out on March 14.



Naomi, Michael and Travis McGeorge at

The club members who competed were Michael, Naomi and Travis McGeorge, martin Gallard and Glenn Smith. Travis, as a junior, was making his first appearance in a state round.

For those who would like more competitive events, there will be a round of the **NSW Hill Climb Championship on Sunday April 11** at the Huntley Hill, Dapto. Michael McGeorge, Martin Gallard and Graham Bates will be there and they would be pleased to see anyone who is not going to Auto Italia come and cheer them on, or, even enter the competition. **Check out Marty's excellent report on rounds 1 & 2 of the championship** in the 'Competition' section of FIAT Focus! **Congratulations to Marty and Michael for taking out 1st and 2nd** in class for the **2020 NSW Hill Climb championship.**

Targa Tasmania 2021 is on this month (from April 19—24) and again we will see some club members competing in their FIATs.

David Currow is back again with Kate

Auction News; Shannons current timed auction has a few items that members may be interested in, if only to see what price may be fetched for a classic FIAT.

A silver 124 AC Coupe with a 132 engine is offered with an estimated price of \$12,000 - 16,000. Also, a 500 "Abarth Tribute" is for sale with an estimate of \$30,000 - \$38,000. Both cars are said to be located in Sydney.

Also of interest may be a model kit of the 1907 FIAT 130hp Grand Prix car. It looks like the kit has been assembled, however, looking at the detail in the photographs, it is quite something.

If you would like to peruse through the catalogue form Shannons, go to **2021 Shannons Autumn Timed Online Auction - 06/04/2021 - Shannons**



The National Heritage Motoring Day Events / Venues

HOBBY & MOTOR SHOW

15th & 16th MAY 9am-3pm

East Kurrajong School of Arts
Stanley Park, East Kurrajong



Classic & Vintage Vehicles, Tractors,
Antique Tools & Machinery, Local Artists, Crafts,
Family & Local History, Handmade Jewellery,
Military Miniatures & WW1 display, NRMA display,
Plants, Railway Memorabilia, Rocker Cover Races,
Stamps & Coins, Vintage Toys & Games, Woodworking.

HOME MADE REFRESHMENTS & BBQ

Show'n'Shine **ENTRY Adults \$5**
Trophies 2pm Sun. Kids under 15 Free

Contact 0245 765031 or 0412 931 971

www.eastkurrajonghall.com



NATIONAL MOTORING HERITAGE DAY

Sunday 16th May 2021

Berry Showground, Berry, NSW

7.00am-2.00pm

Theme - Aussie Assembled Vehicles

A Tribute to Australia's Motoring Heritage

Displays of Vintage, Historic & Classic Vehicles & Bikes

- all Ages & Marques Welcome



Entry

Vehicle \$5.00

Spectators \$2.00

Children Under 12 Free

Judging

9.00am - 12noon

Enquiries & Registration

Email - davidamullinger@gmail.com

Mobile 0417 671 107

Car Clubs and Private Entries

must be received by 8th May

Hosted by Shoalhaven Historic Vehicle Club Inc.

Supported by Council of Motor Clubs NSW

Shops, Restaurants, Accommodation, & Wineries - Make it a weekend in Berry



NATIONAL MOTOR HERITAGE DAY

SUNDAY 16 MAY 2021 9AM-3PM

"OUR HERITAGE, FOR THE FUTURE"



Join the Museum of Fire for the last Sunday of our month-long Heritage Festival to celebrate National Motor Heritage Day!
(See our website for all of our other Heritage Festival Events)

As a not-for-profit registered charity the Museum was hit very hard by the COVID closure but we're back up and running and ready to welcome you and your family to the Museum!

The Museum of Fire is open daily 9:30am - 4:30pm*



What are we doing for the day?

We invite all Council of Motor Club members to celebrate the day and support the Museum by visiting on Sunday 16 May 2021.

Entry into this event is FREE! (Museum entry not included)

Bring your heritage vehicle and owners of heritage vehicles present on the day will receive FREE individual entry to the Museum!*

With such extensive grounds the Museum is the perfect place for a family picnic!

Pending COVID restrictions a sausage sizzle will be held (cost=gold coin donation)

Bring your banners, flyers and proudly promote your club!

*Standard admission prices apply to all other visitors.

FREE entry to Museum only for owners of heritage vehicles present on day.



Australian Motorlife Museum

NATIONAL MOTORING HERITAGE DAY - Sunday May 16th
Sunday 16th May 2021 is the 15th National Historic Motoring Heritage Day.

This is a special day for all old car and 'bike fans celebrated annually on the 3rd Sunday of May it is an initiative of the Australian Historic Motoring Federation supported by heritage and historic motoring clubs throughout Australia.

The day gives owners of all types of vintage, veteran and classic vehicles an opportunity to get out for a drive and meet other like-minded enthusiasts. Some go for long drives, some prefer a short local trip, some attend club gatherings in large numbers, others choose to go their own way.

There are many suitable advertised destinations and this year the Australian Motorlife Museum at Kembla Grange NSW welcomes drivers and riders of all types of historic vehicles to our wonderful facility.

There will be ample parking for all in and around the park surrounding the Museum, a sausage sizzle and refreshments available, and offer a special discounted admission to the Museum on the day.

The Museum is situated just off the M1 south of Wollongong an hour and a half drive from Sydney and open from 9.30 am.

For directions and contact details and more on the story of the Museum and its contents see links on this page.

See you there!

Location: Australian Motorlife Museum - Integral Energy Recreation Park, 94 Darkes Rd, Kembla Grange 2526

Italian renaissance: Iconic brands headed for new glory days

By Stephen Ottley
(From Torquecafe)



Lancia Delta S4 is one of the brand's many iconic models from its former glory days.

Top Gear famous dubbed Lancia the greatest car company in history – but the Italian brand has been a shadow of its former self for decades.

Once it produced iconic models like the Stratos, 037 and Integrale, these days Lancia is limited to the Ypsilon city car (basically a rebodied Fiat Punto). But that looks set to change under the new Stellantis merger.

The coming together for French giant PSA Group and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles could result in renewed investment in both Lancia and Alfa Romeo, as part of a premium focus for Stellantis. Just last week the company ditched plans to



Sole survivor: The Lancia Ypsilon is the brand's only current model

relaunch Peugeot in the USA, instead putting more effort behind Alfa Romeo's US hopes.

Alfa Romeo had enjoyed significant investment under FCA, **with the all-new Giulia and Stelvio** launched in recent years, but slow sales led to scaling back of the brand's ambitious plans – **with the GTV and 8C sports cars axed.**

Now Stellantis chairman John Elkann has revealed that both Lancia and Alfa Romeo will enjoy more investment, in partnership with PSA's luxury Citroen spin-off, DS. The three brands are reportedly set to share a new



The Lancia Delta Futurista takes old Integrale's and makes them a modern hot hatch – can Stellantis revive the brand's good old days?

generation of platforms and engines due to launch by 2024.

Speaking to Italian TV network Rai, Elkann said: "We've seen it clearly with some brands like Alfa Romeo and Lancia, on which we could not invest or give resources as much as we wanted in recent years.

"In this new group there will be much greater opportunities than

in the past for these two brands, which are based in Turin."

Exactly what this new investment means remains unclear, although it's a safe bet the focus will be on SUVs given the market demand. However, given Lancia's history with rallying and performance cars we can only hope we get a revived Stratos or Delta Integrale hero model to help make the brand something special again.

Classic Car Market Booms Down Under

Elizabeth Puckett

© Provided by Motorious on MSN.com

Things are looking great for the collector car market in Australia!

Sources out of Australia have recently shared that the country's classic car market is experiencing a boom, in parallel with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Auction houses are experiencing record early 2021 sells, page views, and unique visitors to their websites. This is a trend we're seeing with a stronghold in the USA, so we're glad to see that it's happening all over the world.

"We are used to seeing strong demand for classic Australian cars, but we've never seen anything like this," said Grays CEO Chris Corbin.

"Clearance rates have never been higher and we don't foresee demand or prices falling in the near future."



Online auction house Grays recently sold a 1978 Ford XC Cobra for nearly \$200K recently, as well as a period-correct 1963 Holden EJ Taxi selling for a healthy price. This seems to indicate a renewed interest in classics and Australian muscle.
(continued next page)

FIAT NEWS

The report indicates that the buyer demand in the market-place is causing supply to dwindle, which is a trend that saw a huge uptick in Australia at the onset of COVID-19, which is a similar story in the United States.



Another interesting case came from Shannons Summer Timed online auction, as we reported a few days ago, a rusty barn find 1958 Porsche 356A sold through there at an astonishing \$230,000. The 1958 Porsche 356A sold for over \$110,000

more than the estimate high price for the Porsche.

"The recovery can be attributed to satisfying pent up demand created during the early lockdown periods, an increased trend towards local touring in many countries and the impact of



governments' financial stimulus on consumer demand and confidence."

Source: 9News



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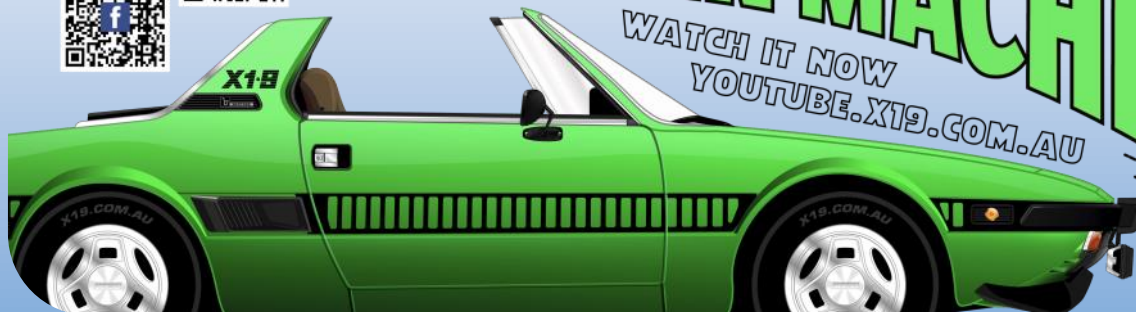


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For Sale:

FIAT PUNTO 2007, Silver, 5 door hatchback, Sunroof, Rego No. BCL 49U, Rego to July 2021, logbook
1.4l Manual, petrol, 99000 kms.

We bought this car from its first owner with the scratch, dent and scuff to the RHS back, and is now surplus to our needs. Would suit an enthusiast or young driver looking for a first car. \$2500 ONO.

Contact Darlene on 0407 456 671



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Please direct all correspondence to:

THE FIAT CLUB OF NSW Inc.

PO Box 3034 Bangor NSW 2234 Australia

BANKING DETAILS:

Bank - National Australia Bank (NAB)

BSB 082-067

Account 03 665 7020

Account Name - FIAT Club of NSW Inc.

SOCIAL MEETINGS

Held at 7:30pm on the second Tuesday of the month at the Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade Bankstown, NSW, 2200.

Historic Vehicle Registration Scheme

Postal address and contact details for the FCNSW - Historic Plates Registrar;

Richard Dalziel

12 Page Ave Wahroonga NSW 2076

P: 02 9489 3553

M: 0412 709 228

E: histrego@fiatclub.com.au

Advertising rates for ClassiFIATs;

Club Members-free.

Non Members \$10 for 30 words and photo, Items wanted—free. ClassiFIATs are run for three editions. Contact the Editor or any member of the committee to place an ad.

EGROUP: Available to members wishing to receive emailed information from the Club and other Members;

members@fiatclub.com.au

FIAT Club NSW Library

The FIAT Club of New South Wales LIBRARY has a range of FIAT and general interest themed motoring books, magazines and workshop manuals available to members to borrow. A list of publications is included on the Club's website at

<https://www.fiatclub.com.au/copy-of-club-regulations>.

Contact the Club Librarian at Secretary@fiatclub.com.au for details.

Advertising with the FIAT Club

Package 1 @ \$100 a year

- Quarter page in FIAT Focus club magazine.
- Small logo on the FIAT Club website.
- Post about your business on the FIAT Club NSW Facebook group 4 times a calendar year.
- You can also reply to comment suggesting to use your business if relevant .

Package 2 @ \$150 a year

- Half-page in FIAT Focus club magazine.
- Medium logo on the FIAT Club website.
- Post about your business on the FIAT Club NSW Facebook group 8 times a calendar year.
- You can also reply to comment suggesting to use your business if relevant.

Package 3 @ \$200 a year

- Full page in FIAT Focus club magazine.
- Large logo on the FIAT Club website.
- Post about your business on the FIAT Club NSW Facebook group 12 times a calendar year.
- You can also reply to comment suggesting to use your business if relevant.

Contact the editor to place your advertisement.

FIAT Club of New South Wales Social Media

The FIAT Club of New South Wales social media sites can now be accessed by scanning the QR code shown below instead of typing the address.



The screenshot shows the website's navigation menu with links for Home, Magazine, The club, Memberships, Events, Car registration, Motorsport, and Contact us. Below the menu, it states "All Fiat Club events suspended" and "Latest wright up" with social media icons. The main content area features the text "FIAT Club of New South Wales Website: www.fiatclub.com.au". A collage of images includes car interiors, exterior views of various models, and a group of people at an outdoor event. At the bottom, there are logos for sponsors: "LIFTORQUE", "BankstownSports", "X1/9 AUSTRALIA", and "MASTERTOUCH AUTOMOTIVE".

Facebook



Instagram



You Tube



FIAT Club of New South Wales
Facebook:
facebook.FiatClub.com.au

You Tube Channel

Take a look at our new Youtube channel. Please subscribe to see more historical footage and events.

youtube.fiatclub.com.au

FIAT Workshop Manuals available from the FIAT Club Library.

The Fiat Club has a range of books, including workshop manuals, available for free loan to club members. Contact the editor (editor@fiatclub.com.au) or the secretary (secretary@fiatclub.com.au) for details.



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FIAT focus



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FIAT CLUB OF NSW Inc.

If undeliverable return to FIAT Club of NSW Inc. P.O. Box 3034 Bangor NSW 2234 - Australia



An evening visit to Superior Burger last Sunday (March 28) saw a number of members attend to enjoy some burgers and good company.

Event organiser, Giovanni Ciampa, wasn't able to be there due to the birth of his son, however, there was a reasonable number of members in attendance.

CLUB MECHANDISE



OUT OF STOCK



Polo Shirts \$30.00
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All Available in sizes.
S M L XL 2XL 3XL



Cloth badge \$ 3.00
Key rings \$ 7.00



Sticker \$ 2.00



AUTO ITALIA



Auto Italia

Sunday 11th April 2021

Queanbeyan Park, 1 Lowe St, Queanbeyan, NSW 2620

The FIAT Club of NSW would like to invite
all members to bring their FIAT's
(of all models road or race)
to this years Auto Italia
(cars of any standard welcome)

For tickets please go to the website:

www.autoitaliacanberra.com

Club Plated cars please use event number: CE124011



1° Fiat 500 World Wide Meeting

Dear Club,

in these difficult moments which, among other things, force our 500s to inactivity, and which will make us cancel (for the second time) the International Meeting of Garlenda, we thought that we must react and, rather than do nothing, ... **do a lot!**

We invite you to participate to the **1° Fiat 500 World Meeting Mondiale on 2/3/4 July**. July 4th, as you know, is also the **64th anniversary of the Fiat 500**. **On this occasion we thought of instituting the "World Day of the Classic Fiat 500"**.

The common element of the Meeting is the **welcome bag**, which will contain the **paper number plate, sticker, t-shirt and a customized Fiat 500 model made by Brumm**.

In Italy the registration fee for the Meeting is 20 euros and numerous meetings will be held throughout the nation (we have local 180 trustees!). Obviously, it is not yet known what can be done during these meetings, compatibly with the Covid 19 rules that will be in force those days: **simple drive through, small meeting in a field or a real meeting?** However, it will be a good opportunity to ... take a ride in a Fiat 500!

During the days 2/3/4 July we will organize streaming broadcasts, shows, talk shows and live calls with the whole world.

It would be very nice to have your Club participate. We will provide the welcome bag at the cost of 20 euros each. As you can easily verify, Fiat 500 Club Italia will not earn anything from this sale, on the contrary it has decided to contribute to the expense, to guarantee an attractive price.

As soon as possible we will send you pictures of the objects of the welcome bags. If you decide to participate, you will have to send us your orders **before June 15th**, earlier if possible. The shipping cost is not included. Please confirm your involvement as soon as possible. Obviously you can send us your specific requests later on.

We are really looking forward to having you in the team: you and your members will be able to say: "I was there!"

Best Regards

Alessandro Scarpa
Director of the World Wide Meeting

Alessandro Vinotti
Director of the Meeting of Garlenda





CMC Shannons Sydney Classic

Sunday 15th August 2021

Sydney Motorsport Park, Ferrers Rd, Eastern Creek NSW 2766

Club Plated cars please use event number: CE128051

The FIAT Club of NSW would like to invite
all members to bring their FIAT's
(of all models road or race)
to this years CMC Shannons Sydney Classic
(cars of any standard welcome)

limited tickets available per club
[only 15 spots + 5 pit lane spots allocated to FIAT Club of NSW]
cost per ticket **\$25**

please RSVP and pay for your ticket as soon as possible
contact: Giovanni Ciampa (events@fiatclub.com.au)

cars to be on display by: **10:00am**