



Social Meetings sponsored by the Bankstown Sports Club

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Back Cover - Merchandise, Eurofest 2021 - Newcastle, East Hills Charity Car Show, Shannons Classic, FIAT CLUB Concorso, Sydney Classic Bike Show,

### 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 Richard Dalziel, Martin Gallard, Warren Smith & Mark Weinberger for their contributions to this edition of Fiat Focus.

**Cover Photo;** FIAT cars parked outside the Flying Swallow Café which was visited by the Fiat Club as part of the National Heritage Motoring Day. (Photo Mark Weinberger) 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:

Lindon Ried - 1971 Fiat 500

## ELAT Club of NSW Inc

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.

EVENT AND LOCATION	Pointscore
June 2021	
Oasis Run - Mountain High Pies, Wentworth Falls.	No
Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club, 7.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.	Yes
Coffee Break - The Lobby, Frazer Street, Lilyfield; 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. (see page 11)	Yes
FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Round 3 and come & try a motorkhana day! Contact the competition secretary for details	Yes
Eurofest 2021- Foreshore Park, Wharf Rd, Newcastle (details at the back of this magazine)	No
FIAT Club Coffee Break - Pie in the Sky, Cowan; 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. (see page 11)	Yes
July 2021	
Oasis Run - Christmas in July - Nepean Rowing Club (details next page)	No
FIAT Club Coffee Break - Benzin Café, Dural (Details page 11)	Yes
Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club	Yes
FIAT CLUB CHRISTMAS IN JULY, Enzo's Cucina - Camden (details page 10)	Yes
August 2021	
FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 4	Yes
Oasis Run - St. George area Hotel Lunch TBC	No
FIAT Club Coffee Break - Coffee Break (Kokoda cafe)	Yes
Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club	Yes
Shannons Sydney Classic - Sydney Motorsport Park	Yes
FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 5 - Day Night Motorkhana	Yes
FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 6	Yes
FIAT Club Coffee Break - Maggio's, Cammeray	Yes
September 2021	
Oasis Run - MOUNT ANNAN BOTANICAL GARDENS (details next page)	No
FIAT Club NSW Concorso	Yes
Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club	Yes
FIAT Nationals, Goulburn & Canberra, NSW	Yes
	June 2021      Oasis Run - Mountain High Pies, Wentworth Falls.      Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club, 7.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.      Coffee Break - The Lobby, Frazer Street, Lilyfield; 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. (see page 11)      FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Round 3 and come & try a motorkhana day! Contact the competition secretary for details      Eurofest 2021- Foreshore Park, Wharf Rd, Newcastle (details at the back of this magazine)      FIAT Club Coffee Break - Pie in the Sky, Cowan; 9.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. (see page 11)      July 2021      Oasis Run - Christmas in July - Nepean Rowing Club (details next page)      FIAT Club Coffee Break - Benzin Café, Dural (Details page 11)      Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club      FIAT CLUB CHRISTMAS IN JULY, Enzo's Cucina - Camden (details page 10)      August 2021      FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 4      Oasis Run - St. George area Hotel Lunch TBC      FIAT Club Coffee Break - Coffee Break (Kokoda cafe)      Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club      Shannons Sydney Classic - Sydney Motorsport Park      FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 5 - Day Night Motorkhana      FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 6      FIAT Club NSW Motorkh

#### INVITED EVENTS

Sunday June 20: East Hills Charity Car Show - for details see flyer at the back of this magazine.

Sunday October 24: Sydney Classic Bicycle Show. For details, go to Sydney Classic Bicycle Show – Neo Cycling 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.

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

### **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

### **June 1<sup>st</sup>** - 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. Great range of pies & tarts including Vegan & Gluten Free.

**July 6<sup>th</sup>** - CHRISTMAS IN JULY Nepean Rowing Club (Subject to any conditions)

WHERE: Nepean Rowing Club, 32 Bruce Neale Dr, Penrith

TIME: Regatta Room is Booked & Paid For From 12.00 noon to 2.30pm

**BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL:** I need names by Monday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 for Maze Catering who will organise with the Club to set up tables & chairs for those who are booked in.

PLEASE: NO WALK INS ON THE DAY OR LATE BOOKINGS (you will not have seating in the Regatta Room) BOOKINGS REQUIRED BY MONDAY 28<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2021"

August 3<sup>rd</sup> - St. George area Hotel Lunch. To be confirmed.

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

October 5<sup>th</sup> - T.B.A.

**November 9<sup>th</sup> -** REMEMBRANCE DAY RUN. Details Les Watton: ph: 9838 8063 m: 0418 973 866

**December 7**<sup>th</sup> - CHRISTMAS LUNCH. Waiting for confirmation.

DETAILS: Les Watton ph: 9838 8063 m: 0418 973 866.

### INVITATIONS

SEPTEMBER 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> 2021. CLARENDON CLASSIC, Machinery, Truck & Hobby Show Details, Steve Muscat m: 0418 453 203

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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

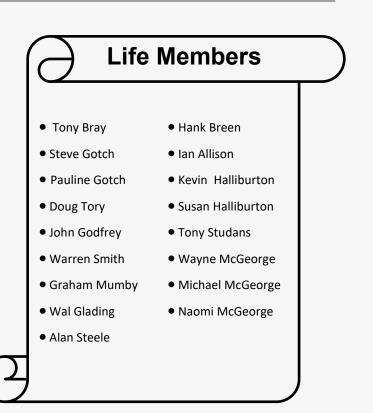
### **BANKING DETAILS:**

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.



June 2021



#### **Ansell Park Report**

On May 23rd we had a Working Bee to clean up more of the flood damage and I would like to sincerely thank the following people for their efforts on the day....

Justin Matthews Michael McGeorge Wayne McGeorge Kevin Halliburton Roger Malcolm Glenn Smith Graham Mumby Martin Gallard Steve Gorman And a father and his two sons from Southern Sporting Car Club, whose names I didn't catch.

A lot of work was achieved including pressure washing of the toilet block, Hay Shed, office container, chairs, tables, BBQ, tractor, etc. Two trips to the tip were made and the 3 drowned cars were pulled out and put in a location to be picked up by a truck. Our two ride-on mowers ran for a few hours tidying up the grounds as well. The lower lying areas of the land are still a bit soft underfoot, so the next motorkhana we hold there will just be our club and cars will have to park on the actual main field. That date will be June 20th, so cross those fingers that we don't get any significant rain before then!

#### /////

In May, we had a Coffee Break at a café in Bonnet Bay, which was much appreciated by members who live near there, and in fact we had 21 members and friends in attendance.

#### |||||

The CMC Shannons Sydney Classic at Sydney Motorsport

Park will be held on August 15th, and I believe at the time that I am writing this that there are only 6 spots left! So please contact Giovanni if you want one of the \$25 tickets.

### /////

Don't forget that our **Concorso d'Eleganza is to be held on September 12th** at Gough Whitlam Park, Undercliffe and that it is only one week before the FIAT NATIONALS. You could look at this as an advantage in that your car will already be detailed for the first event and not much extra effort will be required to make it beautiful again for the following week. That's the way I'm looking at it anyway! Could all holders of a Concorso perpetual trophy please bring them on the actual day? If you have one and can't come, please contact me so I can arrange a pick-up.

### /////

The Fiat Nationals Committee met on May 15th and will be having another one on June 5th to finalise details for the event to be held in Goulburn on September 17, 18 & 19. So after we get approval from Motorsport Australia, we will be inviting members of all clubs to send in their entries.

### /////

Lastly, it should be noted that again this year, the **Norton Street Festa has been cancelled due to Covid-19** considerations. It is usually held on the last weekend in October, but with an annual attendance of 200,000 people the event is just too big to safely hold it.

#### Warren Smith

#### 2021 President



### Secretary's Report

### Fiat Club NSW – Social Meeting Minutes – Bankstown Sports Club

### Tuesday May 11, 2021.

#### Welcome:

Warren Smith opened the meeting at 7.45 p.m. and welcomed members to the Bankstown Sports Club. Nine members were in attendance.

#### Apologies:

Richard Dalziel, Norm Mitchell, Cheryl Sandrin, Adrian Sandrin, Giovanni Ciampa.

#### Previous Minutes - Business Arising: Nil.

#### Secretary's Report/ Correspondence:

- Received the following electronic magazines; Il Topolino (South Africa), FIAT Lancia Mania Western Australia), Piston Slap Magazine, FIAT Reaction (ACT).
- Classic Car Magazines available for members to peruse and take home.

### Ansell Park Report:

Four members went to check AP recently. Cleaned amenities so that members can access AP.

Large trailer load of rubbish taken to the tip.

Reorganizing of AP to be considered – storage of equipment, responsibility for equipment, schedule of maintenance, burden of transporting equipment to AP.

Working bee Sunday May 23. Volunteers required.

Do we need to have club cars? Avoid problem of storage and maintenance. What do we do if we are offered a vehicle?

#### **Competition Report:**

Six-hour Relay. Team attained high number of laps but not enough bonus points.

#### Next Events:

Next motorkhana is on Sunday June 20 (TBC).

Round 2 of the FIAT Club's Motorkhana Championship at Ansell Park on Sunday 23 May has been cancelled. Working bee instead -Volunteers required to assist for the day.

#### Social Events:

- Should we be doing more drives or longer runs? Fewer of these have been organized over the past year, probably due to Covid restrictions.
- Committee to consider longer runs for members to use their HVS cars. Ansell Park could be a good destination.
- Over the past year, some runs arranged quite spontaneously. This omits a number of members from participating

### Past Events;

- Pizza & Pasta @ Putney, Sun Apr 25. Well attended
- Lunch at Cavallino's Sun 2 May.

#### Next Events:

Christmas in July at Enzo's (to be partly subsidized by club). Need to start taking bookings.

Sunday May 16 - NHMD Bonnet Bay Swallows. OTHER VENUES also listed in FIATFocus.

CMC Shannons Classic

Giovanni has supplied list of 9 members who have requested tickets for the Shannons / CMCV classic at SMP for August. We appear to have 5 Fiat 127s for Pit lane. 11 Tickets remain. Any updates?

Waiting to find out which area The Club will be located.

#### **Communications:**

Editor.

Looking for Fiat 127 articles for its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Thanks to Marty for his contributions last month.

Visited "The Depot" motor museum in Deniliquin. Write up pending.

#### Website.

Nothing to report.

#### President's Report / 2020 Nationals Update:

- Nationals Organising committee to meet next Saturday morning, May 15.
- Nationals to be held in Goulburn & Canberra over Sept 17-19
- Has anything changed for sup regs? Responses received from QLD. Martin & Mic to confirm.

Enquiries coming in regarding the event.

#### Fiat Fixations.

none.

#### CMC.

Tickets for Shannons Classic available to be picked up from the CMC at next meeting on May 25.

#### **General Business:**

Concorso date confirmed to be on Sunday September 12 at Gough Whitlam park, Undercliffe/Tempe).

**Meeting Closed / Next meeting –** Tuesday 8 June at BSC (TBC):

The Meeting closed at 9.18 pm.

# **FIAT Nationals News**

The 2021 Fiat Nationals are all systems go, with the committee recently meeting to reboot the event. The Supp Regs have been updated, and have been submitted to Motorsport Australia for approval. These will be available for download

### from www.fiatnationals.com.au once approved.

Not only will clubs be competing for bragging rights for the Fiat of Italy Cup, but the 2021 event will also now see clubs accumulate points across all three of the weekends event towards the outright "Club Challenge". Now more than ever your club needs your entry!

**The event dates of 17-19 September are confirmed**, don't forget to contact the Mercure Goulburn to lock in your accommodation for the event.

A huge thank you to all our incredible sponsors who have hung in there with us during this difficult period, we cant wait to get this event back on track and underway!

Best Regards,

Martin Gallard.



### **Competition Calendar**

DATE EVENT AND LOCATION Points											
DATE		Pointscore									
	June 2021										
Sun 6th	State Round Motorkhana - Nirimba	No									
Sun 13th	NSW Hillclimb Championship - Grafton	No									
Sun 20th	Sun 20th FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana - come and try day										
Sun 27th	Huntley Hillclimb - come and try day	No									
	July 2021										
Sun 18th	NSW Hillclimb Championship - Tamworth	No									
Sun 25th	State Round Motorkhana - Nirimba	No									
	August 2021										
Sun 1st	FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 4	Yes									
Sun 8th	NSW Hillclimb Championship - Ringwood	No									
Sat 21st	FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 5 - Day Night Motorkhana	Yes									
Sun 22nd	FIAT Club NSW Motorkhana Rd 6	Yes									
Sun 29th	State Round Motorkhana - SMP	No									
	September 2021										
Fri 17th - Sun 19th	FIAT Nationals, Goulburn, NSW	Yes									

### **Historic Registration News & FAQs**

I attended the CMC organised historic registrar's seminar recently, which was aimed at educating and updating new and existing registrars regarding their responsibilities to their fellow members and their club. Some highlights and frequently asked questions follow.

### The Schemes - HVS and CVS

The historic vehicle scheme (HVS) is essentially available for "as factory built" vehicles.

They can be fitted with Period Options, Accessories and Safety Upgrades" as per the RMS document with the same title. This document (which was published late last year) is currently in draft form and subject to review, as while it is a comprehensive list, a few items have been deemed to be unrealistic, or inconsistent with full registration requirements. The RMS are undertaking a review following approaches by organisations such as the CMC. Do not worry about having a CD or later entertainment or Bluetooth connectivity systems in your HVS vehicle – this condition is being reviewed.

The classic vehicle scheme (CVS) is for "modified" vehicles. The initial establishment requirements are slightly different, but it has the same benefits as HVS.

### Modifying your HVS vehicle

If you have a vehicle on HVS and you decide to make some modifications, remember to check the RMS document titled VSI No.6, as it lists the modifications which require engineering certification and those that are essentially bolt on, and do not need certification. If your modification requires engineering certification, your vehicle will need to move from HVS to CVS, which requires the establishment of a new registration. I understand an engineering certification can cost upwards of \$2000. Be especially diligent when selecting sizes and styles for wheels & tyres, as these are highly visible to the general public (other HVS users), when your vehicle is on the road or at a display.

### Who can drive an HVS or CVS vehicle?

Anyone with a current driver's licence or learner's permit. They do not need to be a member of the particular car club or any car club. However, the vehicle owner (called the operator) does need to be and remain, a financial member of an RMS recognised car club.

### Logbook entries for multiple drivers

Only the "first" driver on any given calendar day needs to make the entry in the 60 day logbook.

### Official date for establishing a vehicle is 30 years old

The "factory build or despatch date" is the earliest acceptable date you can use to establish your vehicle is 30 years old. If you can establish this from factory records, you can use it to your advantage, as some imported vehicles did not have compliance plates fitted for some time after they were built.

Richard Dalziel Historic Registrar May 2021

### Xmas in July Lunch Sunday 25th July 2021

(11:30am for a 12noon start - finish 4pm) Enzo's Cucina 3 Argyle Street, Camden NSW 2570

The Fiat Club of NSW would like to invite club members and family/friends to celebrate Xmas in July

thistmas in

### COST: Club members \$45 per adult / Non members \$55 per adult Kids (up to10yrs) \$17

### lunch includes:

Est. 1949

3 course banquet style menu Antipasto Platters / Garlic & Cheese Pizza / Garlic Prawns (platters on tables) Pasta - Linguine Boscaiola / Penne Melanzane (served alternate) Mains - Crumbed Beef Cheek / Barramundi (served alternate) Dessert - Club Cake (For any special dietary preferences please advise before the day )

note: all drinks (wine / beer / soft drinks, water, tea and coffee) to be purchased individually at the bar

Please RSVP by Friday 16th July 2021

PAYMENT: we ask members to pay the full amount via direct debit to FIAT Oub of NSW Inc, BSB 082-067 Acc No. 03-665-7020 no later than Friday 16th July This is necessary because the full amount is to be paid to the venue prior to the function.

PARKING/ACCESS: the venue has its own private outdoor carpark.

Giovanni Ciampa (m. 0410 336 987) social events coordinator FIAT Club of NSW Inc.

### **Coffee Breaks & Activities**



**FIAT Focus** 

### **lunch break** (write up) <sup>2nd May 2021</sup> Cavallino @ Terrey Hills

The Italian style lunch break at Cavallino has again been well attended with a great turn out of club members. It's very comforting to see the continued presence of female club members, wife's and partners. We hope this is a continuing trend for future club events.

LUB OF NSW Inc

Also of interest was seeing the dominance of new model Abarth's, in particular the 124 Spider parked together in the car park.

Members enjoyed the Sunday catch up and the chance to swap stories and sell old car parts no longer needed, found during garage clean ups...some doggy deals had been caught on camera on the street!

See you at the next event. Keep safe!

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



FIAT fanatico









www.fiatclub.com.au

### **coffee break** (write up) 16th May 2021 Flying Swallow @ Bonnet Bay

National Motoring Heritage Day ]

HAIR BY DERANI

The National Motoring Heritage Day is held every year on the 3rd weekend of May. The FIAT Club in support of this day held a coffee break drive to a coffee shop in Bonnet Bay called, Flying Swallow.

CLUB OF NSW Inc

Est. 1949

A great venue with ample off street parking and another great turn out by our club members. The highlight was seeing cars turn up which we haven't seen before in the club. At this event we were excited to see a 132 sedan drive into the carpark. These are rarer than hens teeth!

We'd like to thank the many members and their partners and kids for turning up and supporting the club at this event on a very cold morning.

To all our FIATfanatico's, keep safe. See you at the next event.

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



www.fiatclub.com.au

# FIAT'S 127: FUNCTIONAL FUN-CAR

From Modern Motor, June 1975.

AFFIANADOS of the FIAT marque will rejoice at the release of the baby 127 hatchback. Of course, under the quota system, there won't be enough to go around. There's a definite place in our market for such a car and our road test confirms the 127's credentials for the job. John Crawford reports...

RIGHT NOW the smallest Fiat available in Australia, the 127, is the car with the biggest potential of all



the models, yet it's the car with come here in low numbers and in a few months its cost will rise substantially. This is the marketing headache which Fiat Australia has faced by introducing the successful 127 hatchback down under. The car is very 'right' for current motoring conditions - it's economical, roomy, functional. fun to drive and reliable.

With the sales tax concessions which are operating at the moment, it's quite reasonably priced at \$3256. That's about \$300 dearer that its closest rival, the Honda Civic 3-door, but there's little that can be done about the differential price Fiat has to live with it, hoping the will 127 offer enough difference to help swing a few more sales over to the Italian product. The most important factor here is the fact that the Civic has been established



in Australia for quite a while and has built up an enviable reputation, and a healthy sales record.

However, Fiat is offering a quality product. It's a well-engineered car and well finished and as far as we

> concerned are it competes equally with the Civic. The Honda's styling is a little more appealing, but mechanically both cars are quite advanced and very economical. Fiat has a slight edge in terms of dealer setup. having been established longer. Also there are many parts of 127 which are the common to other Fiats,

car, but here in Australia, where we are undoubtedly more affluent overall, the 127 is a second car. In our motoring society this makes the 127 ideal for the job. It performs, handles and stops well, but it's no racer. Apart from that it's very, very practical.

The liftback offers increased appeal, giving 12.89cu ft. of space with the rear seat in its normal position, or more than 35cu ft. of space with the rear seat lowered. The loading lip is fairly low and the only criticism we can level at the liftback is the fact that one needs the key at all times to open the hatch.

This is an operation which demands a push-button catch which can be locked with a key. (continued next page)...

which must help the spares situation.

The Italian engineers have done extremely well to make available the amount of space the offers. lt's 127 no lounging limousine, but given the dimensions, there's room for four adults. although we don't recommend sixfooters cram into the back seat in pairs.

In Italy the 127 is a family



### FIAT'S 127: FUNCTIONAL FUN-CAR (continued)

Apart from that it's all pure function. the lid opens easily, lifts high, As far as controls go the Fiat has without a great deal of effort, and it's them all handy, in the style we've easy to close. The window is large become accustomed to. The wipers, and gives good visibility, but we'd like lights, flashers and trafficators are on to see the NSW and Victorian cars the column, and the rest are dashoffered with heated rear windows, mounted in the expected locations. because in our wet winters they will The pedals are offset slightly, and the inevitably fog up. experience with this car, by our position. which means it's impossible London editor Dvoretsky, tends to to get comfortable if you' re over 5 ft. confirm this. However it must be 5ins, tall. remembered that Fiat Australia is trying desperately to price the 127 down to a competitive level.

This brings to mind another criticism of the 127 the windscreen washers, Fiat has developed a column/stalk operated electricpump washer and we wish they'd fit it to all models, not just the high-priced cars. All the low and mid-range Fiats get a sponged rubber valve sunk into the dashboard, which must be pumped interminably in order

to get enough water onto tile screen to wash it successfully. And, it's not an easy Pump to operate, in fact it's damn difficult. The funny part is Fiat fit the optional electric-operated wiper/washer column stalk to all cars, and just doesn't hook it up!

Most of the space has been made available by shifting the spare wheel from the rear to the engine compartment. The wheel is mounted with the valve up. This makes checking the pressure of the spare quite easy. General underbonnet access is very good. with all necessary items within easy reach. The bonnet hinges forward and locks securely. Because the engine is mounted transverse there is a thermo-electric cooling fan. This operated efficiently on test and kept

the temperature constant.

European accelerator is in the usual Italian

The steering wheel is at a slightly strange angle too, but you tend to get used to it after a while. The

excellent. but the rear view mirror could be larger. The seats are reasonably comfortable, but we wish Australia could get the optional clothcovered variety which is available in Europe.

Access to the rear compartment is about average for the class, but nothing to get excited about. The rear seal is firm. and legroom is adequate. The rear three-quarter windows are not hinged and we believe this is a bad thing here in Australia. The one area that shows up very badly in the 127 is ventilation. It's quite inadequate,

📰 unless you roll the door windows down - then there's plenty of air, noise and buffeting.

On the subject of noise, the 127 is not exactly where the quietest car we've been in lately. As a matter of fact it's much noisier than the Honda Civic and we feel that Fiat Australia should investigate some local way to insulate the car better, if this is the condition they come from Italy. There is a lot of mechanical noise.

mostly transmission sourced. But there is engine noise, road noise and wind noise too. All in varying degrees, but all contributing to the impression that it's a noisy car.

We'd like to point out that there's very little suspension noise, in fact the car is very well damped in this department. The body is tight and very rigid. There is very little movement on rough, uneven surfaces and definitely no bumps 'n' thumps from below. The spring and damper rates are well chosen, because there's a lack of pitch, which is very commendable, and at the same time the suspension is taught enough to offer safe and predictable handling.

(continued next page)...



gearbox on two different cars which we tested was notchy and stiff to change, but the gate was easy and the synchromesh worked well. The lever is long and so is the travel because of this it's often possible to move the lever the full distance without engaging the gear.

the clutch pedal pressure was certainly light enough for lady drivers, but the brakes are very, very spongey - more about that later. The rack and pinion steering is superlight, very direct and gives excel lent feedback combined with efficient damping. In other words it's typically European and typically Fiat.

The driving position is okay, except for that problem in the leg department, but that's common to most Italian cars. All-round vision is

**FIAT Focus** 

# FIAT'S 127: FUNCTIONAL FUN-CAR (continued)

This is where the little car really shines. It's fun to chuck around in total safety. It responds as required and never puts a foot wrong. It's not as quick as the Civic manual, but it's nippy enough be able to cut a path through the downtown traffic.

The 127 is quite noisy at top revs of and prefers to be driven around using mid-range acceleration. The motor is the well-proven 903cc Fiat four which has been around for a long time and it's very flexible. This accounts for its excellent economy and good pottering performance. It doesn't like to be laboured, so third is an excellent gear around the city limits. The 127 generally feels lowgeared and when you're buzzing along in top gear you feel as if there should be a fifth speed. Of course it's the low gearing which gives good performance from the small capacity motor, without unduly affecting consumption. The nature of the engine encourages sporty driving and the engine will rev quite freely above 6500rpm, but the recommended red line of 6200 should be observed for reliability's sake.

The brakes are most impressive. There was no discernible fade after our heavy testing and the car stopped in a straight line every time. We don't particularly like the 'feel' of the pedal - it's very soft and spongey and gives you the impression the brakes will not pull the car up. They do, but you certainly have to get used to the way they work. There's no servo, and in an emergency we had to push quite hard, until we got used to the system.

The car pulled up easily from 100km/h each time (eight stops) without any lockup or drama. The disc front/drum rear system has a compensator valve fitted and the braking was perfectly balanced at all times.

The handbrake, mounted between the seats, was very effective and held the car quite easily on a 1-in-4

gradient. On a steeper hill we witnessed the car sliding slowly downhill, but with the rear wheels fully locked! We tried the test with the car facing uphill and the car remained completely stationary. This was very impressive.



Comparison photos show the amount of space available with the rear seat squab raised and lowered. It's a pity that FIAT does not offer a Renault/VW style rear shelf to hide the contents of the boot, but pricing considerations precluded its inclusion.

There are a couple of points worth noting about the fixtures and fittings. The heater is an efficient unit, but the slide controls are a long reach for the driver and the single-speed fan is unbearably noisy and doesn't seem particularly efficient. The headlights are quite useless above 100km/h. They are small rectangular units which are simply not powerful enough to match the 127's performance potential. Also, the window winders are a long stretch forward and incredibly low-geared, we seemed to be winding forever to get the windows up and down. The seatbelts on the test cars weren't very easy to use and we really miss those inertia reel belts when we find a car without them.

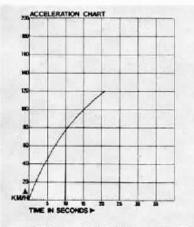
The turning circle, at 9.6metres, is much wider than the Honda civic (5metres) and makes for a little difficulty in tight spots, but the situation Is saved by the very light steering.

Our only real complaints with the 127 are the seats, which have the strangest design we've sampled for some time, the noise and the ventilation. However because Flat is very strong an continuing developmental research we're sure most of these problems will be attended to in due course. The ventilation problem could be solved in part by bringing to Australia the can with hinged threequarter windows. the noise problem could be cured by better insulation and transmission mountings (not hard to do) and thus there's only the seats, and possibly the gearshift. left to worry about.

All in all it's a very nice little car. It's relatively good value-for-money. The finish on all of the cars we've Sampled was very good. The trim was excellent well-chosen and wellfitted and the specifications are above average in most areas.

The 127 Is completely practical and economical and because of the differences in design approach it offers a real alternative to the other minicars on the Aussie market and matches them all, especially in handling and braking. Because those two items are important to safety we therefore rate the 127 as a top car, pity there won't be a few more allowed in under the current quota system.

(continued next page)...





BRAKES

DIMENSIONS

EQUIPMENT

Wheelbase: ..... Track, front: .....

Overall length: width: height: Ground clearance:

LEFT: The cockpit is well laid-out, with comprehensive controis, but the driving position is simply awful. It's typically Italian, and that means it's completely unsuitable for taller Australians. RIGHT: The rear seat is adequate and comfortable to sit on. The body styling allows generous hip and shoulder room for a car of this size. Note the moulded armrests.

222cm 128cm 129cm

359cm 153cm . 132cm

#### **ROAD TEST DATA & SPECIFICATIONS**

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### BODY AND SUSPENSION

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Battery: 12V 34A/H Alternator: 16A Headlamps: Twin rectangular

LEFT: Pedels are well spaced, but badly placed. The gear lever is within easy reach, but the shift is awkward at times. We feit the steering wheel was much to big. at times it was very difficult to reach the column stalks. ABOVE: Spare wheel stows with the engine and does not restrict availability of service items. On the other hand it allows unrestricted use of boot space.

6.8s 7.2s 11s

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CAPACITIES	OVERTAKI	G TIMES (Holdi	ing gears);
Fuel tank: 30 litres Engine sump: 4.4 litres Final drive and gearbox: 2.4 litres Water system: 5 litres	km/h 30-60 50-80 60-100 80-120	2nd 4s 5s	3ed 6.8 7.2 11s

PEF	RFOR	RMA	NCE	

FUEL CONSUMPTION: Average for test Best recorded City conditions Country conditions	litres/100km 8.8 7.8 8.8 8.0	(MPG) 32 36 32 35
ACCELERATION: 0-40km/h		2.9s 5.2s 7.9s 14.0s 16.1s 20.8s
SPEEDS IN GEARS: Int 2nd 3rd 4th	85	rpm 6500 6600 7000 6200

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4th

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### National Heritage Motoring Day - East Kurrajong



In addition to the FIAT Club run to the Flying Swallow Café at Bonnet Bay there were many other events being held at venues around the city and in the country for HVS registered vehicle to be driven to.

One event that a few members attended was the Hobby & Motor Show held at the East Kurrajong School of Arts on both Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 of May. The show attracted a range of Vintage as well as 1950s, '60s and '70s cars including large American vehicles, Australian cars, trucks and a number of tractors. Of particular interest was the restored and very rare 1936 FIAT 1500 of David Adam.

The 1500 is unusual in that the front and rear doors are hinged in a manner that leaves the entire cabin open for driver and passengers to enter (just like the FIAT 1100 of similar vintage). We hope to see David and his unique 1500 in the near future.

The Kurrajong event was well worth attending and certainly provides a good long run out of Sydney for a classic car.

Thanks to Richard Dalziel and Lorenzo Aventi for the photographs).



Photos; Right, top to bottom: FIAT 1500, with the bonnet open and below this, with both side doors open; a pair of Porsche tractors; Montage -kit car from the USA; American Motors Gremlin next to an FC model Holden; 1950s Peugeot wagon.

Top Centre - Hudson ute.

Left, top to bottom: Two Ford Zephyrs, one from the '60s and one from the '50s; A vintage Ford Model A; There was also a display of army vehicles at the grounds.





### **Jottings and Gossip**

Well, we are up for a busy few months ahead! The National Heritage Motoring day has just passed and we will be looking forward to at least four big events to keep us entertained and catch up with each other as well as show off our classic FIATs.

The Club will be holding its **Christmas in July lunch on Sunday 25 July** at Enzo's Cucina in Camden (see page 10 for details). As the annual end of year / Christmas function was cancelled last year due to Covid, it was thought that Christmas in July would go some way to making up for this. Please get your bookings in soon so that we can catch up with each other again.

The **CMC Shannons Classic** will be held on Sunday 15 August and the FIAT 127 will have its 50th anniversary commemorated on the day. This is a big event for motoring enthusiasts with over 1000 cars on display. Tickets are still available so contact the Social Event Co-ordinator, Giovanni, and secure your tickets to display your vehicle. Details on page 11.

September will be an eventful month with the two biggest events on the Club calendar being held with in one a week of each other. The

annual **FIAT Club Concorso de Eleganza** will be held at Gough Whitlam Park on **Sunday 12 September**. There is still plenty of time to get your car polished up for the day where Alfas, Lancias and many other Italian makes will be on show (see page 11).

The **2021 FIAT Nationals** will be organised by the FIAT Club of NSW and will be held in Goulburn and Canberra From **Friday 17 to Sunday 19 of September.** The organising committee has been busy finalising details of the event so check your emails, FIATFocus or the website, **www.fiatnationals.com.au**, for updates.

#### **Auction News.**

Shannons have continued with their online timed auctions and the last time this was mentioned here the April sale was about to commence. Two FIATs were sold from that auction. A **1969 FIAT 500 Abarth Tribute sold for \$29,000**. A silver **1968 FIAT 124 AC Coupe sold for \$22,850**.

Shannons next timed auction is due to start on June 8 with the following highlights; 1971 Ferrari Dino 246 GT (estimate \$600,000 to 650,000), 1967 Maserati Mexico, left hand drive (Estimate \$80,000 to \$90,000), replica 1967 Ferrari 250 LM (estimate (\$60,000 to \$100,000), 1969 Alfa Romeo 1750 Berlina (estimate \$28,000 to \$34,000), 1961 Lambretta Scooter (estimate \$6,000 to \$8,000).

### FIAT News; Fiat Reveals New Small Crossover And Wants You To Name It

#### From www.motor1.com By: Adrian Padeanu

Fiat phased out the Punto several years ago and while the supermini wasn't replaced in Europe, a new small hatchback was launched in 2017 in South America and marketed as the Argo, In 2018,

the Cronos subcompact sedan followed, and now, a crossover is joining the fray. Previously known as the Project 363, the B-segment model is being officially previewed in Brazil.

It's simply called the SuvFiat for the time being because the Stellantis brand is asking fans to choose the final name at https://suv.fiat.com.br/. You're limited to three options: Tuo, Domo, and Pulse. The name to get the most votes in the coming days will become a badge on the company's new B-segment crossover once it will go on sale in Brazil this September.



Interestingly, Fiat says the crossover rides on a new platform dubbed "MLA" rather than using the MP1 underpinnings of the Argo and Cronos. It's unclear how related these two architectures are, but the company says MLA (no, not Jaguar Land Rover's MLA) brings more performance, robustness, and comfort. It also boosts safety and ushers in mechanical components not shared with other existing products.

Our Motor1.com colleagues from Brazil are expecting the little crossover to feature a turbocharged 1.0-liter three-cylinder engine based on the Argo's 1.0 Firefly unit. It's said to have somewhere in the region of 125 horsepower and just under 200 Newton-meters (147 pound-feet) of torque, delivered through a six-speed automatic transmission. The lesser versions will make do with a naturally aspirated 1.3-liter engine producing 109 hp and 139 Nm (103 lb-ft) sent to the road via a CVT-type gearbox.

The styling takes cues from the Argo and Cronos, but with slightly more rugged accents suitable for the vehicle's crossover nature. We could



honestly do without the faux exhaust tips that are sadly becoming the norm in mainstream non-performance cars, but the rest of the exterior is a good effort from Fiat's design team.

Shown here is the flagship version with a contrasting black roof and twotone alloy wheels, not to mention full-LED headlights and a chrome bar running across the entire width of the front end. The interior hasn't been revealed and it will be interesting to see the efforts made by Fiat to separate the crossover from its hatchback and sedan cousins.

The official premiere is slated to take place in the coming months and we're expecting the crossover to remain a Latin American affair.





### FOR SALE

1982 124 Spider. 5 speed manual gear box, 84,500 miles, 2.0ltr Fuel Injected engine

The car is in very good condition and I have spent significant money to bring the mechanical condition of the car to excellent condition.

I privately imported the car in 2018 from the USA and the car remains a left hand drive and largely original. Since importing the Car I have driven the car less than 500 miles. Full list of repairs done by leading Fiat expert Chris Obert in Santa Cruz California before the car was imported. The body is very straight with no rush issues, the paint is excellent, with only very minor chips on the bonnet area. VIN ZFAASOOB1C5000040

I have replaced the following parts with OEM parts. New Parts -

Brand new premium Haartz Cloth roof New 75amp Alternator Replaced both front suspension a- arms New tie rods New springs and KYB shock absorbers all round New EBC brake pads, brake braided steel lines and brake rotors New petrol tank and sender unit Cold air intake unit Free flow stainless steel headers. Full stainless steel exhaust with twin tip exhaust New Clutch and all gearbox seals replaced New timing belt and all new front engine seals New distributor.

The car is in excellent condition. Asking \$27,000 (05/21)

Contact Justin Harrison at livetosurf@hotmail.co.nz













### FOR SALE 1970 Fiat 124 SPORTS BC,



Red in colour, 57,000 km. 5 speed gearbox with a 2L twin cam engine from a 131 Super Brava. Unregistered / VIN 124BC0124377

Modifications include; 2L twin cam engine with a microtech MT-4 fuel injection system, rack and pinion steering conversion from recirculating ball complete with engineers certificate, wooden Boss steering wheel and 15 inch black and chrome BSA VW003 "Velocity" mag wheels with 195/50R15 tyres on the front and 205/55R15 tyres on the back.

Good condition with a few rust spots that need repairing for rego a small dent on the passenger side front wheel arch. The interior is neat. The engine is in very good condition. She loves to run at high speed for extended periods of time. Perfect for a project build or a restoration. Been in the family for 30 years a very well loved car and a head turner. (05/21)

#### Sales Price \$33,500. Please call or text George on 0429 332 655 after 2:30pm weekdays







### 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. (04/21)

Contact Darlene on 0407 456 671



### Wanted

FIAT 125 Special, Series 2. Would prefer a complete, original example, however, all vehicles may be considered including cars that may require some work. (05/21)

Contact Anthony Suttor on 02 6366 0138.





### 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



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



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

youtube.fiatclub.com.au

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.

### <u>Facebook</u>



<u>Instagram</u>



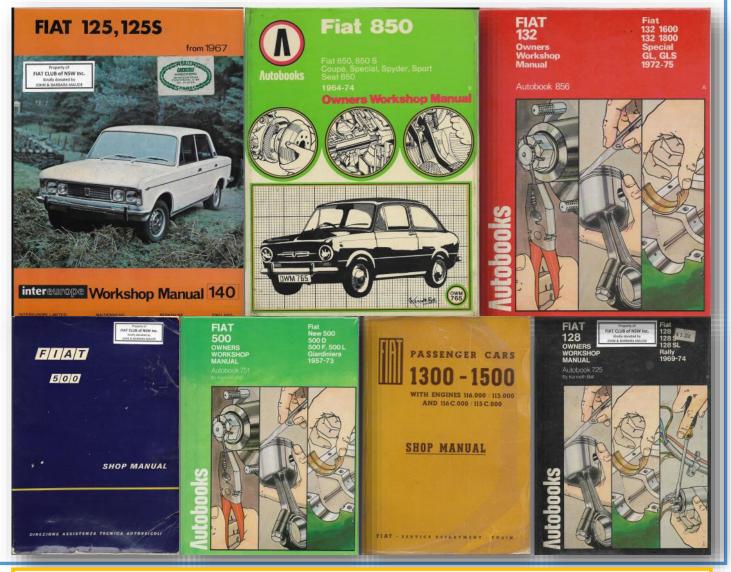
<u>You Tube</u>



### 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. A full list of books available from the FIAT Club library can be found at;

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





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Website: www.fiatorque.com.au/



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





### An Invitation

Dear Fellow Motoring Enthusiasts,

In association with Shannons Insurance and in support of Variety—The Children's Charity and John Hunter Children's Hospital, the *MG Car Club Hunter Region* would like to invite your European car club to join us for

### *Euro Motorfest 2021* Sunday 20th June Foreshore Park, Wharf Road, Newcastle East

To assist with organization, we request that all European clubs wishing to participate pre-register their interest. Please email me, Ian Ashton at <u>iashton7@bigpond.com</u> prior to the event with approximate numbers of vehicles attending, no later than 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

A \$10 vehicle display fee will be payable on entry with the event commencing at 8.30am and finishing at 1.30pm. Coffee, food and drinks will be available on site and a raffle will be held.

In the event of wet weather, we will be postponing the event to Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June at the same venue.

Visitors to Newcastle may choose to make a weekend visit to our great city by arriving in Newcastle on Saturday. There are plenty of accommodation options, sights to see as well as restaurants and clubs for your enjoyment and entertainment.

MG Car Club Hunter Region is looking forward to your participation in Euro Motorfest 2021, on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> June at Newcastle Foreshore Park.

### Ian Ashton

Public Relations Officer MGCC Hunter Region E: <u>iashton7@bigpond.com</u> M: 0429 592 823

MG Car Club Hunter Region Inc.

PO Box 503, WALLSEND NSW 2287

www.huntermg.com

# KELSO OVAL PANANIA EAST HILLS CHARITY CAR SHOW

SUNDAY JUNE 20

2021

The East Hills Charity Car Show is a community based event which attracts car lovers from all over NSW. Prizes are offered in a wide range of categories. A great family day out with the goal of the event to support a different charity each year.



This year the East hills Charity Car Show is extremely proud to be supporting the Crohn's & Colitis Australia

www.crohnsandcolitis.com.au FIAT Focus



www.easthillscarshow.com.au

Page 28



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 )

[ 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





**Concorso d'Eleganza** Sunday 12th September 2021 Gough Whitlam Park, Bayview Ave, Earlwood NSW 2206

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 Concorso d'Eleganza (cars of any standard welcome)

NOTE: Featured Models this year are: 501 (100th) / 128 (50th) / 130 (50th)

entry free for club members

cars to be on display by: **9:30am** judging commences: **10:00am** trophy presentation: **2:00pm** 

Club Plated cars please use event number: CE1211??

# 10am-4pm SUN 24 OCT 2021 LIDCOMBE OVAL, LIDCOMBE

the vintage, steel & custom made bicycle show f SydneyClassicBicycleShow

Organised by

SYDNEY

**classic** 

BICYCLE

SHOW

### also 2021 SYDNEY PENNYFARTHING CHAMPIONSHIP

VINTAGE CAR & MICRO CAR SCOOTER DISPLAY VINTAGE BIKE & CAR SWAP MEET | BICYCLE CONCOURSE PENNYFARTHING RACING TRACK RACING DANDY HORSE RACING | FOODSTALLS FREE KID'S JUMPING CASTLE

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