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March 2022

FIAT focus

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



Social Meetings sponsored by the Bankstown Sports Club

Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Fiat Club of New South Wales Inc.

STOP PRESS

Members,

Ansell Park has gone under again in these latest floods, therefore it will not be possible to hold our AGM there. Please be advised that it will now be held on Tuesday 12th April at Bankstown Sports Club at 7.30pm.

Thanks, Warren.

Dear Members,

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Fiat Club of New South Wales will now be held **on Tuesday 12th April at Bankstown Sports Club at 7.30pm.**

Remember that the success of any club is based on its members participation. The Club and Committee are always looking for new people, new committee members, new ideas and an understanding of what you, the general membership, want from the Club.

All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

All committee positions will be declared vacant and nominations for all positions are sought.

Nominations should be sent to the Secretary (secretary@fiatclub.com.au) 7 days prior to the event, or can be made on the day of the meeting if there are no formal nominations received prior. Nominations must be accepted by the nominee and be seconded by a member.

All members who attend and vote on the day must be a 2021 financial member of the Fiat Club of New South Wales (Note that your current 2021 membership has been extended to June 30, 2022).

Positions available for nomination are listed below

PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT	SECRETARY
TREASURER	COMPETITION SECRETARY	ASSISTANT COMPETITION SECRETARY
EDITOR	WEBMASTER	MERCHANDISING
EVENTS COORDINATOR	HISTORIC PLATES REGISTRAR	MEMBERSHIP REGISTRAR
	ASSISTANT HISTORIC PLATES REGISTRAR	

Fiat Club of NSW Inc.

Annual General Meeting 2022

Nomination Form for 2022—2023 Office Bearers and Committee

I, (print full name):

of (print address):

wish to nominate for a committee position with the Fiat Club of NSW Inc. as circled below.

Office Bearers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary

Specific Committee: Editor, Webmaster, Competition Secretary, Events Co-ordinator

General Committee: A/Competition Secretary, Ansell Park Co-ordinator, CMC Delegate, Librarian,

Historic Plates Registrar, A/Historic Plates Registrar, Merchandise Officer,

Ordinary Member

Appointments: Patron, Auditor and Public Officer

Signed by the Nominee:

Proposed by: Seconded by:

Please forward your signed nomination form to the club Secretary (secretary@fiatclub.com.au)

Nominations should be received 7 days prior to the advertised AGM meeting date.

The secretary can arrange for your nomination to be seconded by a club / committee member.

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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 Week of each month .

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

Cover Photo; Giovanni Ciampa's Abarth 500 at Benzin Café for the Club Coffee break last weekend. (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 the club's website at 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.

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.

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.

DATE	EVENT AND LOCATION	Pointscore
March 2022		
Tues 1st	Oasis Run - Glenalvon House Campbelltown	No
Sun 6th	FIAT Club Coffee Break - Cavalinos at Terry Hills	Yes
Tues 8th	Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club TBC	Yes
Sat 19th	FIAT Club Motorkhana Championship Rd 1 - CANCELLED	
Sun 20th	FIAT Club Motorkhana Championship Rd 2 CANCELLED	
Sun 27th	FIAT Club Coffee Break - Pasticceria Massimo Papa, Fairy Meadow TBC	Yes
April 2022		
Sun 3rd	Auto Italia	Yes
Tues 5th	Oasis Run - Glenalvon House Campbelltown	No
Sun 10th	FIAT Club Coffee Break - The Grid, Oran Park Town	Yes
Tues 12th	Fiat Club of New South Wales Annual General Meeting & Social Meeting,	Yes
Sat 23rd	Vintage Sports Car Club/ Alvis Car Club Gymkhana - Ansell Park	No
Sun 24th	FIAT Club Coffee Break - Maggios, Cammeray	Yes
May 2022		
Sun 8th	FIAT Club Coffee Break - Benzin Café, Dural	Yes
Tues 10th	Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club	Yes
Fri 13th - Sun 15th	Bathurst 12 Hour Race	No
Sun 15th	National Heritage Motoring Day	Yes
Sun 22nd	FIAT Club Motorkhana Championship Rd 3	Yes
Sun 29th	FIAT Club Coffee Break - Patio @ Putney	Yes
June 2022		
Sun 12th	FIAT Club Coffee Break - Cavallinos, Terry Hills	Yes
Tues 14th	Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club	Yes
Sun 19th	FIAT Club Motorkhana Championship Rd 4	Yes
Sun 26th	FIAT Club Coffee Break - TBA	Yes
Sun 26th	Huntley Hillclimb - Come & Try day	No
July 2022		
Sun 10th	FIAT Club Coffee Break - Break By The Bay, Carrs Park	Yes
Tues 12th	Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club	Yes
Sun 24th	Christmas in July - ENZO's Cucina, Camden	Yes
Sun 31st	Rain outdate for FIAT Club Motorkhana	Yes
August 2022		
Sun 7th	FIAT Club Coffee Break - Art of Gelato, Carramar	Yes
Tues 9th	Social Meeting, Bankstown Sports Club	Yes
Sun 14th	Shannons Sydney Classic - Sydney Motorsport Park	Yes
Sun 21st	FIAT Club Coffee Break - The Lobby, Rozelle	Yes
Sat 27th	FIAT Club Motorkhana Championship Rd 5 - day / night event	Yes
Sun 28th	FIAT Club Motorkhana Championship Rd 6	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 THESE EVENTS MAY BE SUBJECT TO ANY RESTRICTIONS OR RULES THAT ARE IN PLACE AT THE TIME

Upcoming Events

April 5th 2022. *CONFIRMED*

MEET: City Of Canada Bay Museum, 1 Bent St. Cnr. Wellbank St. Concord. **TIME:** 10.00 am.

NO MORNING TEA AVAILABLE **ADMISSION:** FREE. Generous donations will be gratefully received.

LUNCH: Powell's Creek Reserve, Victoria Ave. Concord West. Some seating available

B.Y.O: Everything Picnic Lunch. **DETAILS:** Les Watton.

BOOKINGS: Not required but I would like an idea of how many are coming.

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

May 3rd 2022. *TO BE CONFIRMED*

LUNCH: Lynwood Country Golf Club, 4 Pitt Town Bottoms Rd. Pitt Town. , Details: Murray Irwin - MOB: 0449 896 008

JUNE 7th 2022 *TO BE CONFIRMED*

WHERE: National Studebaker Museum of Australia. **LUNCH:** The Oaks Hotel, 36 John St The Oaks. **DETAILS:** Les Watton

JULY 5th 2022 *CONFIRMED*

MEET: Wiley Park 10.30am. **LUNCH:** "The Peakhurst" Hotel. **DETAILS:** Les

AUGUST 2nd 2022 *TO BE CONFIRMED* Northern Beaches. DETAILS: Les

SEPTEMBER 6th 2022 Mount Annan Botanical Gardens. DETAILS: Brian Jubb ph: 9602 9591

OCTOBER 4th 2022 *TO BE CONFIRMED* South Coast?

NOVEMBER 8th 2022 Remembrance Day Run. Seven Hills R.S.L. Club. MEET: At Club before 11.00am

DECEMBER 6th 2022 *TO BE CONFIRMED*

Christmas Lunch Les Watton ph: 9838 8063 m: 0418 973 866 Email: mumspalace@hotmail.com

INVITED EVENTS

First Sunday of each month; Cars 'n' Coffees at St Ives Showground - 8am to 11 am.

East Hills Charity Car Show - New Date, Sunday 3rd April, 2022.

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



Annual General Meeting

As stated last month, the AGM will be held on **19th March** at Ansell Park.

You have all received a Nomination Form, which, if you intend to stand for any position you need to fill in with your name and sign, then return to the Secretary at least 7 days before the AGM (12th March).

The plan is to start the AGM around 11.30am, so please try to arrive before then. This means our catering team will know how many to cater for at the **FREE LUNCH** afterwards.

There will be a Motorkhana starting at 3.00pm, so you may like to stay for that, either as a competitor or a spectator.

Social Meetings

We received some good news about our grant application with Bankstown Sports Club. They have agreed to again sponsor our Social Meetings, so March 8th will be our first face-to-face meeting in quite a long time. Please think about coming along for a chat, especially if there is anything you would like to raise as an issue. The meeting room is well away from other club patrons and the seating will comply with social distancing. If you have any lockdown stories to tell, especially amusing ones, we would love to hear them!

A big thank you is due to our Treasurer for doing all the dealings with BSC. Well done Susan!

It was good to see that we were able to hold a club breakfast on February 20th, Benzin Café at Dural being the venue. The numbers there looked good in the piccies on Facebook. I would have attended, but I was driving home from Gulgong that day. Hopefully it is the start of a return to normal.

As I have already said, I have decided not to stand again for President (or any major Committee position). It has been a privilege to have held this position for the last 8 years, but I feel it is time to step back. Having served on Committee for a total of 31 years, I'm sure you will agree with me!

So, I'd like to give a big thank you to all the other Committee members, who are the ones who have really done the hard yards, and I wish the new Committee all the very best for the future.

Please give your support to your new President as well as the rest of the new 2022 Committee.

Warren Smith - 2021 President

STOP PRESS

Members,

Ansell Park has gone under again in these latest floods, therefore it will not be possible to hold our AGM there.

Please be advised that it will now be held on Tuesday 12th April at Bankstown Sports Club at 7.30pm.

The motorkhana will also need to be cancelled.

Thanks, Warren.

New Members

A warm welcome to the following enthusiasts:

Sondo Kim - 1971 FIAT 500

Heidi Tesoriero - 1964 FIAT 500F

Kara, Andrew, Aiden & Callum Taylor - 1970 FIAT 500F

Competition

Hello all,

Well it's been a while but I thought I would drop a line about this thing called motorsport which we used to do many moons ago. Yes, Motorsport I hear you say, well let me tell you.

But seriously yes, last weekend saw the first round of Huntley hill climb for 2022 and it turned out to be a great day.

This was my chance to convince my wife Naomi to try a hill climb in our newly acquired stock standard "super swift" (as I have named it) as a replacement car for my trips to work and back. So the day before I fitted a fire extinguisher to the floor of the car, just in case Naomi decided on the day to run. So we started the morning, just Travis and I, driving out to the base of the hill to the marshalling area, where everyone was unloading cars and setting up. After a quick look around, I saw that it was not going to be a full house of entrants. Then the phone calls began to convince Naomi to come and play. And with a 'yes' it was on. Travis and I went into car preparation mode. Travis was on wheel pressure duty whilst I checked the wheel nuts for tightness. The boot was emptied and the floor cleared of loose items. I Made a blue triangle sticker from some painters tape on the bonnet to mark where the battery was. Some black tape on the head light glass and spot lights lens. Couple of numbers were placed on the side of the car and hey presto a thoroughbred was born. Our little Suzuki swift was now a race car.

Photo - Travis McGeorge



With Naomi turning up in a long sleeve shirt and long pants made from cotton and with helmet in hand, she had transformed herself into a race car driver fit for the super swift. And they day began.

With a nervous start, the first run was not counted as car took off while still red so the timer did not start. Oh sorry that was me oops (and yes got a talking to from the stewards) and Naomi put down a time of 42.63. It took me a second run to post a time of 38.66. With a couple more runs, Naomi started to find her rhythm and I quickly found this out with an announcement over the Pav- **"Attention in the pits, attention in the pits! Michael McGeorge you are now on notice, your wife is now 1.6 sec behind you."**

It was time to pick up my act, so after the 8 runs for the day Naomi had laid down a solid 38.93 and myself coming close to my 127s best time but not quite getting it, a 36.55. However, the best run of the day was Graham Bates in his fiat 850, putting down a PB 33.27 and congratulations to him for a great run.

There were a lot of other road going cars just out for some fun and it was a great day for all.

So looking into the future, we have the Bathurst state round hill climbs coming up in early March where the two 127s will be at it again.

Unfortunately, due to the Hawkesbury river flooding again, **the motorkhanas scheduled for Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 of March have had to be cancelled.**

Cheers,

Mic McGeorge.



Inside Graham Bates 850 race car



Photo - Travis McGeorge

Competition

NSW Hill Climb Championship Preview

March 5-6 sees rounds 1 & 2 of the 2022 NSW Hill Climb Championship heading back to Bathurst, and what better location to kick it off!

For the first time a much tighter set of class specifications have been distributed to competitors upon entering the championship, resulting in a huge amount of work needing to be done to both 127's to get them up to 3D Sports Sedan spec for the first rounds. Just some small things like a complete overhaul of the fuel tank and its location, and updates to roll cage design. You know, little changes. With only a few days till we hit the track our cars are looking good to make the grade, but there is nothing worse than rushing at the last minute to do new things at the potential expense of overlooking some of the usual things you would spend your time checking.

Our 2021 campaign was pretty much rolled by covid related event cancellations, so we have our fingers crossed that this year will give us a better run of events to really make it a championship fight. Its always close between our cars, and to have such a close battle over an entire year only makes it better!

Hopefully this crazy weather takes a breath for a few hours over the weekend to give us something to write about for the next magazine.

Round 3 will be at Huntley Hill Climb Dapto Sunday April 10th, so make sure you put this in your calendar and come down to cheer us on!

Best Regards, Martin Gallard.



DATE	Competition Calendar	Point score
March 2022		
Sat 5th - Sun 6th	NSW Hillclimb Championship - Rd 1 & 2, Bathurst	No
Sat 19th	FIAT Club Motorkhana Championship Rd 1 - CANCELLED	
Sun 20th	FIAT Club Motorkhana Championship Rd 2 CANCELLED	
Sun 27th	NSW Motorkhana Championship - Awaba	No
April 2022		
Sat 9th	NSW Motorkhana Championship - Armidale	No
Sun 10th	Huntley Hillclimb - State Round	No
Sat 16th	Supersprint - SMP, GP Circuit (SSCC)	No
May 2022		
Sun 1st	NSW Motorkhana Championship - Nimimba	No
Sun 15th	Supersprint - Pheasant Wood (SSCC)	No
Sun 15th	NSW Hillclimb Championship - Kempsey	No
Sun 15th	NSW Motorkhana Championship - Nimimba	No
Sun 22nd	FIAT Club Motorkhana Championship Rd 3	Yes

Competition Calendar Continued...

DATE	EVENT AND LOCATION	Point score
June 2022		
Sun 5th	NSW Motorkhana Championship - Nirimba	No
Sun 12th	Supersprint - Wakefield Park (SSCC)	No
Sun 12th	NSW Hillclimb Championship - Grafton	No
Sun 19th	FIAT Club Motorkhana Championship Rd 4	Yes
Sun 26th	Huntley Hillclimb - Come & Try day	No
July 2022		
Sun 10th	NSW Hillclimb Championship - Tamworth	No
Sun 24th	NSW Motorkhana Championship - Nirimba	No
Sun 31st	Rain outdate for Club Motorkhana	Yes
August 2022		
Sun 7th	NSW Hillclimb Championship - Ringwood	No
Sun 14th	Supersprint - Wakefield Park (SSCC)	No
Sat 27th	FIAT Club Motorkhana Championship Rd 5 - day / night event	Yes
Sun 28th	FIAT Club Motorkhana Championship Rd 6	Yes
September 2022		
Sun 4th	NSW Hillclimb Championship - Gunnedah	No
Sun 11th	NSW Motorkhana Championship - Sydney Motorsport Park	No
Sun 18th	Huntley Hillclimb	No
October 2022		
Sat 1st - Sun 2nd	AROCA 6 Hour Regularity Race - Winton	No
Mon 3rd	NSW Hillclimb Championship - Canberra (SDMA)	No
Sun 16th	FIAT Club Motorkhana Championship Rd 7	Yes
November 2022		
Sat 5th	Skidpan - SMP (SSCC)	No
Sun 13th	Huntley Hillclimb	No
Sun 13th	Supersprint - SMP, Druitt Circuit (SSCC)	No



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Website: www.fiatorque.com.au/



coffee break (write up)

20th February 2022
Benzin Cafe @ Dural



Would you believe it?...COVID restrictions last weekend were lifted and the FIAT Club held a coffee break at Benzin Cafe in Dural to celebrate our new freedoms!



It was impressive to see a massive turn out of club members with a great variety of FIAT models. Clearly, we had all been itching to get out and about again.



This sentiment seemed to run true with other car clubs and motoring enthusiasts too, as the venue was humming with all sorts of cars, trucks and bikes.



We hope to continue to see many more members and their cars at the next events as confidence continues to build with public health in social gatherings.



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



FIAT fanatico

www.fiatclub.com.au

Lunch break.....northside!

come join like minded FIAT enthusiasts over lunch



this month's location

When: Sunday 6th March 2022

Where: Cavallino

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

Time: 12:00 noon - 2pm



Pie break!

come join like minded FIAT enthusiasts enjoy a pie ...



the location

When: Sunday 27th March 2022

Where: Pie in the Sky

1296 Pacific Hwy,
Cowan NSW 2081

Time: 9:00am - 11:00am

PIE
in the
SKY



HSV code: CE126072

X1/9

AUSTRALIA



Please visit our website
www.x19.com.au
TO REGISTER YOUR
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 register@x19.com.au

2022



3 APRIL

AUTO ITALIA



**QUEANBEYAN PARK
CAMPBELL STREET**

Abarth 595 Competizione 2022 Review

Price Guide (EGC) - \$34,250 - \$39,250

(by Phillip Lord. Carsales.com)

Very little has changed since its launch in 2013, so has this stirring Italian retro hot hatch improved with age – or lost relevance?

The Abarth 595 Competizione is a hot hatch based on the Fiat 500 and will soon notch up 10 years since its launch in Australia. Obviously, this spiced-up Italian micro car does not represent the latest development in hot hatchery. But what the Abarth does represent is perhaps the last stand for an energetic, extroverted, fast and fun retro combustion-engined car. We may as well enjoy it while it lasts, as we probably won't see the likes of the Abarth 595 Competizione again.

Dollar details

Since its update in September last year, the 2022 Abarth 595 Competizione hatch and convertible have become the only models remaining in the Abarth 595 line up – and with the demise of the 124 Spider, they are also now the only Abarth models for sale in Australia.

The front-drive 595 Competizione continues with the 132kW/250Nm 1.4-litre four-cylinder turbo-petrol engine and five-speed manual as standard, with an optional (\$2000) five-speed Dualogic auto.

There are 10 exterior colour options, of which Gara White is free while the rest will set you back between \$650 and \$1600 extra.

A \$1600 gloss black roof option is also available for hatchback models with yellow, red, white or green body colours. A \$2450 'Competizione' body kit is on the options list too, but can only be had with either Scorpione Black or Rally Blue colour options.

The standard equipment list includes a bunch of brand-name go-fast gear, such as front Brembo brake callipers, Monza bi-modal sports exhaust and adaptive suspension with KONI Frequency Selective Damping.

The 595 also has leather sports seats, leather and carbon-fibre steering wheel,

7.0-inch touch-screen with digital radio, Apple CarPlay/Android Auto, a 7.0-inch instrument cluster and sports pedals.

The most recent update also introduced dusk and rain sensors, a fresh splash screen and a redesigned sport button, now designated by Abarth's scorpion motif.

For hatch models, a Premium Pack brings



Xenon headlights, a sunroof and aluminium antenna roof cap, while a Sport Pack adds 17-inch matte black wheels, Sabelt GT black leather seats and an Alcantara dash.

While the 2022 Abarth 595 Competizione hatch starts at \$34,250 plus on-road costs, the test car was fully tricked-up with the matte Rally Blue paint (\$1600), body kit (\$2450), Premium Pack (\$2500), Sport Pack (\$2500) and yellow-painted brake callipers (\$350), bringing the as-tested price to \$43,650 plus ORCs.

You won't find cruise control in any 595, and as we'll see, there's not much in the way of advanced driver assist safety features either.

It's hard to pick cars with which the 595 directly competes, especially when ticked with all the options like our test car.

Bang and bounce

The safety basics of the 2022 Abarth 595 Competizione are covered off with seven airbags, ABS and electronic stability and traction control.

There are also rear parking sensors, LED daytime running lights and a tyre pressure monitoring system.

If you're after the likes of autonomous emergency braking (AEB), blind spot monitoring or lane departure warning though, forget it.

The 2022 Abarth 595 Competizione does not have an ANCAP rating, but the car

upon which it's based – the Fiat 500 – does. The latest, most relevant crash test was the 2017 Euro NCAP test of the Fiat 500, which handed it a poor three-star rating.

Make of that what you will, but you can be sure that given the lack of important safety tech such as AEB, the Abarth simply does not have the makings of an ANCAP five-star safety winner in 2022.

The 2022 Abarth 595 Competizione has a very eager powertrain that manages to be tame or a terror whenever you need it to be.

There is some turbo lag, but only when you provoke it. This is a car that begs you to drive it, not lug it around at low revs.

Keep it in the mid-range – which is easy to do – and the 595 just punches along swiftly; it offers a flexible slab of torque and it's eager, raucous and rev-happy when you boot it. And with a 0-100km/h time of 6.7sec, it's fairly quick...

Even though it seems old-school with only five forward gears, the 595 manual transmission has a nicely-spaced gear set and slick shift.

Fuel consumption on test, with mostly around-town driving and lots of enjoying the engine's upper rev reaches, averaged 9.7L/100km. The claimed combined figure of 6.0L/100km seems quite achievable, if you're willing to contain the horses.

Grace and space

Getting into the 2022 Abarth 595 Competizione for the first time in ages, I was reminded of how spacious it feels for such a small car.

The front seats are very firm but offer plenty of support. Tall occupants will likely find the lack of seat height adjustment and headroom an issue, particularly with the sunroof-equipped model.

The rear seats in this four-seater hatch are suitable for adults, but really only for a short trip for coffee and cannoli, not a long highway drive. Legroom is tight back there for the grownups.

The boot is small, although its 185-litre capacity will carry the essentials for a weekend away. There is no spare wheel, just an inflation kit. (continued next page)...

The infotainment system works without lagging or any confounding menus, although there's no wireless charging pad to be found.

The dashtop-mounted boost gauge might've looked trick 10 years ago, but now it just looks tacky.

The steering wheel looks the part with its Alcantara and carbon-fibre treatment, but in this little car such a large-diameter tiller feels out of place. So does the large-diameter turning circle. It's supposedly 11.45m, but feels even wider than that, with plenty of three-or-more-point turns on narrower streets.

Whether it's the big steering wheel or the steering rack ratio – or both – the steering doesn't feel all that quick at first blush. Up the speed though, and point the 595 at some corners, and all is forgiven.

This little thing comes alive and is hugely entertaining, and the grip from the Michelin Pilot Sport 3 tyres is very good, in the wet or dry.

But the 595 isn't the car in which to stray off onto dirt roads, or even on patchy tarmac, for that matter.

While pressing the scorpion button for Standard mode makes it more absorbent than Sport mode (which firms up the dampers to rock-hard, firms steering, improves throttle response and opens up the bi-modal exhaust), the 595 is not happy over big bumps.

Over a short wave of undulations, with its tied-down suspension and short wheelbase, it ends up bobbing up and down as it faithfully follows every rise and depression in the road. Even speed humps have to be taken carefully – not because the front spoiler is too low, but just that the 595 tends to crash over them with next to no compliance.

Perhaps all of that will become irrelevant out on a track day, but as a hot hatch for typical Aussie roads... well, the 595 is a lot less supple than it could be.

The wash-up

There is no doubt that the 2022 Abarth 595 Competizione is sorely lacking features that you should rightly expect in any new car, and it's in a hot hatch market where presumably part of the appeal is having the latest, fashionable machine on the block.

On paper, the 595 no longer makes a lot of sense against much newer, more powerful and safer hot hatches.

The 595 Competizione lacks a broader appeal then, but for those who love it, they will accept its failings and revel in the little pocket of exuberance and enthusiasm that it is.

How much does the 2022 Abarth 595 Competizione cost?

Price: \$34,250 (plus on-road costs)

Engine: 1.4-litre four-cylinder turbo-petrol

Output: 132kW/250Nm

Transmission: Five-speed manual

Fuel: 6.0L/100km (ADR Combined)

CO2: 139g/km (ADR Combined)



Safety rating: Not tested.

A Polish Town Gave a 1974 Fiat to Tom Hanks. Now He's Regifting It for Charity

It's a heartwarming story, especially when you hear how he got it in the first place.

BY CALEB JACOBS, [thedrive.com/news](https://www.thedrive.com/news)

apparently, some people in Poland love Tom Hanks very much. Maybe not as much as Germany loves David Hasselhoff, but then again, did anyone from Hamburg ever gift the Baywatch star a handsomely restored Fiat? The answer is no, because that's what the Polish town of Bielsko-Biala did for Hanks in 2017. It was his birthday, after all.

It was a 1974 Fiat 126p, to be precise. That exact same car is now up for auction on Bring a Trailer to raise money for the Elizabeth Dole Foundation and its Hidden Heroes Campaign. The latter is chaired by Hanks and

takes "a comprehensive approach in its advocacy, working with leaders in the public, private, non-profit, and faith communities to recognize military caregivers' service and promote their well-being."

The two-time Oscar winner was overjoyed when he received the car after a small group of Polish people collectively purchased it for him five years back. It was all part of a running joke, which was neatly described by our editor-in-chief Kyle Cheromcha at the time:

"...for two weeks in 2016, for no apparent reason other than his joy at seeing such a small vehicle, Hanks documented a trip to Budapest, Hungary by posting multiple photos of himself posing next to random street-parked Fiat 126s with variations on the caption: 'I'm so excited about my new car!'"

That was enough to catch the attention of Bielsko-Biala resident and Hanks fan Monika Jaskolska. See, Poland was under communist rule when the 126 was built, and a version called the Polski Fiat 126p was manufactured under license from Fiat in Bielsko-Biala. The car became a massive point of pride for the community and when Jaskolska saw Hanks posing with so many of them in Europe, she rounded up a crew to fund the project.

Hanks was overjoyed and even donated money to the hospital where Jaskolska worked. "It's a beautiful car," Hanks explained, according to Dziennik Zachodni. "I do not know how many miles it will take on the California roads, but I'm comforted to be able to fix it with a screwdriver and a ladies' trouser belt."

Now he's donating it to fund the Hidden Heroes Campaign. The current bid is at \$55,555, which is probably more than anyone's ever paid for a Fiat 126p. With just 23 horsepower and 29 pound-feet of torque, it's no speed machine, but that was never the point.



Jottings and Gossip

After two years of on again - off again club activities, **we now appear to be able to get together and attend events arranged by the Club.** A couple of weeks ago a number of members got together at the Benzin Café (see report on page 11) and a few members competed at the hill climb at Huntley.

This weekend, there is further competition in the NSW Hill Climb Championship at Bathurst (see competition report) and there will be a club lunch at Cavallinos restaurant at Terry Hills (details on page 5). Early in April, Auto Italia is on again with a few members looking forward to this event to be held on April 6 in Queanbeyan.

I just cannot help picking up **old Australian car magazines** when they are at the right price. I recently bought a few dozen Motor manuals from 1947 to 1953 and sifted through many articles including the announcement of the locally produced Hartnet motor car, work commenced on the Nuffield (Morris cars) plant in Waterloo Sydney as well as a disregard for Japanese car importation into Australia.

Of particular interest in these publications are **the number of articles and advertisements for FIAT cars in Australia at the time. The FIAT was a popular and respected make at the time** in a car starved market, the 500 being particularly popular. FIAT trucks were also on the market and the press were happy to provide reports on the latest machinery available to order.

The **FIAT 500 Club of New South Wales**, the club that eventually became the **FIAT Club of New South Wales** (our beloved club), had articles regularly posted in Motor Manual reporting on their various social and sporting activities. From the January 1950 issue of the magazine, the following announcement was made;

FIAT "500" CLUB FORMED IN N.S.W.

The inaugural meeting of the Fiat 500 Club, of New South Wales was held in Sydney recently, when 65 owners of the

baby Fiat car, including 26 ladies, enthusiastically joined this unique club, excluding as it does all other cars other than the 6.7 h.p. model Fiat or Topolino.

After the election of office bearers, a twenty-five mile run was made through French's Forrest. A carnival picnic was held on 18th December at Castle Hill, with driving competitions.

Geo. C. Simmonds, Hon. Secretary, C/o. Box 4666, G.P.O., Sydney.

Auction News.

Last month a couple of highlights from the Shannons online auction were included in Jottings & Gossip. The auction has now concluded and some of the results (including a latecomer or two) are as follows;

1968 Innocenti Labro 500L 3-wheeled truck - sold \$28,000
C1950 Moto Guzzi Ercole 500cc trike - passed in
1968 FIAT 500F Sedan - sold \$23,500
1968 FIAT 500F 650cc modified Sedan - sold \$32,000
1981 Lancia Beta Targa Coupe - sold \$20,000



In addition to the vehicles above, there were many more Italian motorcycles for sale. For results at the auction, go to

[Australia's Leading Classic Car & Bike Auction House | Shannons](#)

STOP PRESS

Members,

Ansell Park has gone under again in these latest floods, therefore it will not be possible to hold our AGM there.

Please be advised that it will now be held on Tuesday 12th April at Bankstown Sports Club at 7.30pm.

The motorkhana will also need to be cancelled.

Thanks, Warren.

WANTED

PARTS WANTED to suit 1959 Fiat 1100 103D.

Any DOORS, especially Right Front or Right Rear. Also boot lid.

I would also be interested in any other parts to suit the 1100 that members may wish to sell. (02/22)

Contact Con Catena - 0410 459 954



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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. A status bar indicates 'All Fiat Club events suspended' and 'Latest wright up'. The main content area features the text: 'FIAT Club of New South Wales Website: www.fiatclub.com.au'. Below this is a collage of images including car interiors, exterior views of various models, and a group of people at an outdoor event. At the bottom, there are logos for sponsors: 'LIFORQUE', 'BankstownSports', 'X1/9 AUSTRALIA', and 'MASTERTOUCH AUTOMOTIVE'. Small text at the bottom left reads '© 2020 Fiat Club of New South Wales Inc.' and at the bottom right 'Updated 08/04/2020'.

Facebook



Instagram



You Tube



FIAT Club of New South Wales

Facebook:

facebook.FiatClub.com.au

You Tube Channel

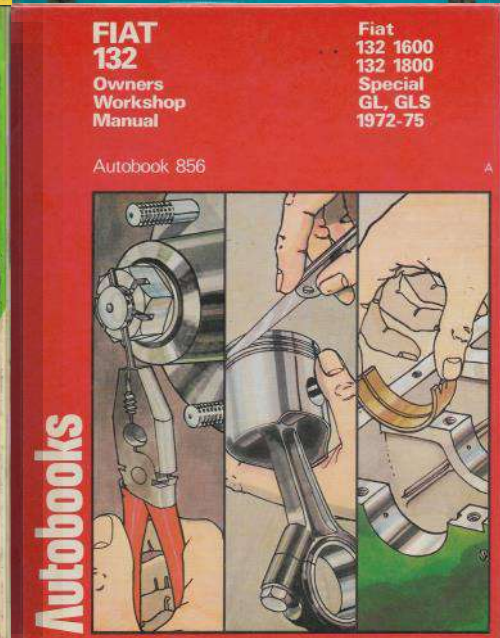
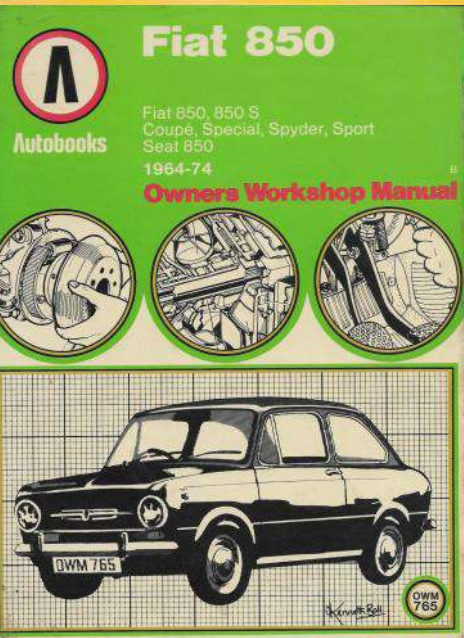
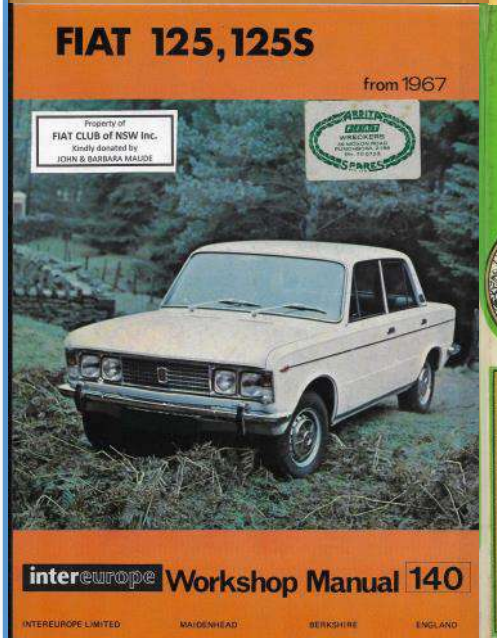
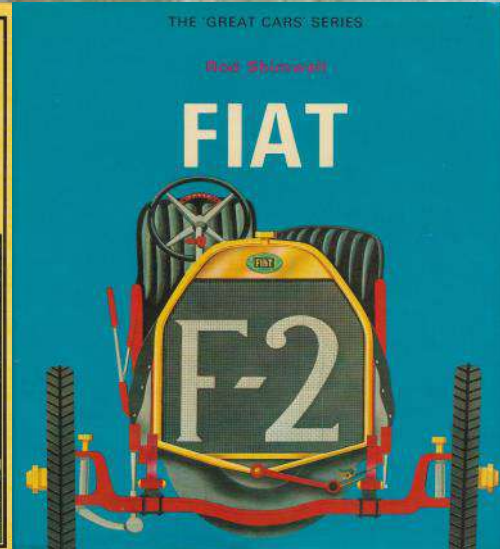
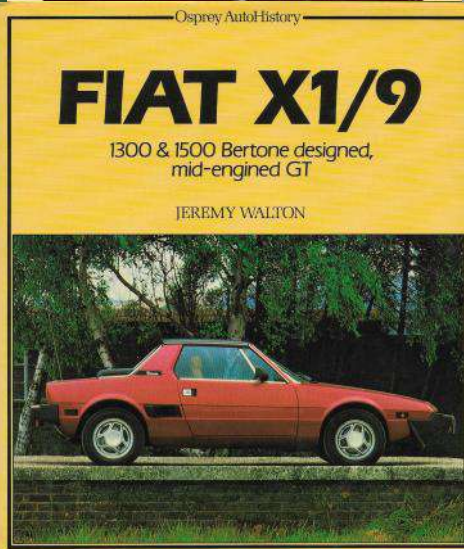
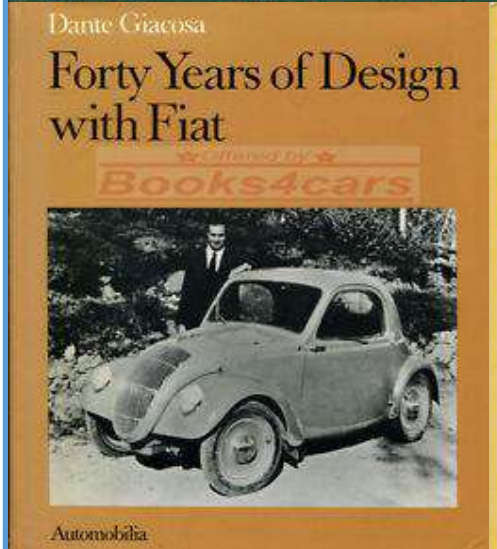
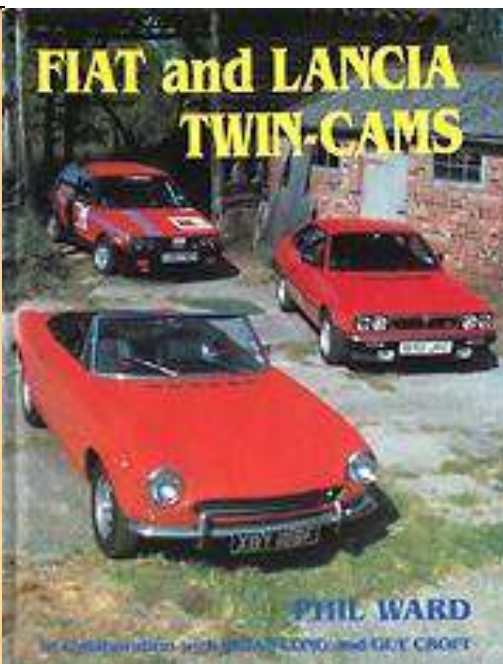
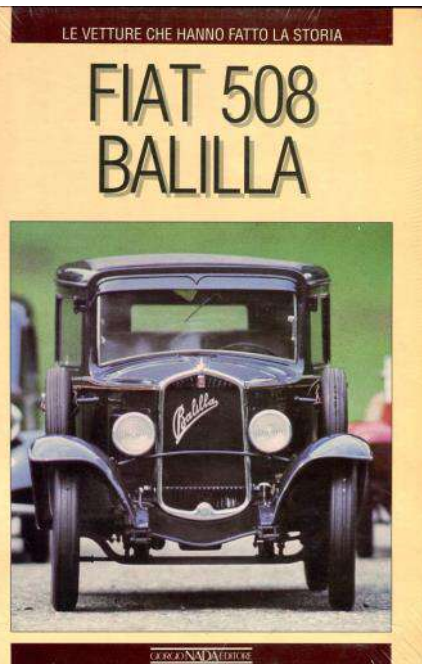
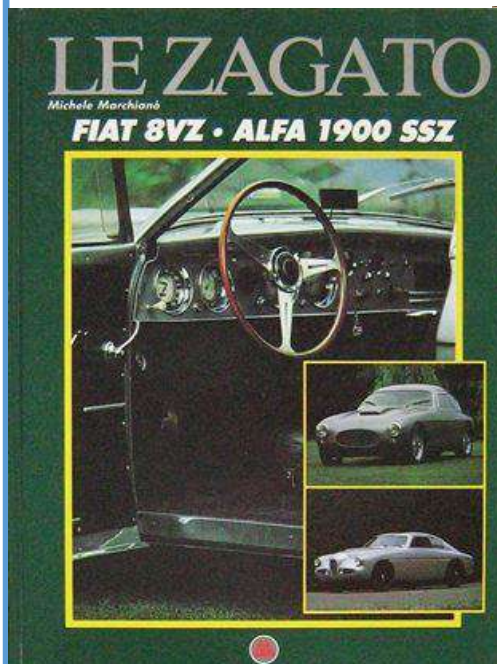
Take a look at our new Youtube channel. Please subscribe to see more historical footage and events.

youtube.fiatclub.com.au

FIAT books available from the FIAT Club Library.

The Fiat Club has a range of books, including histories, memoirs and 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>.



The Back End - Larger Than Life Cinquecento!



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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 2022 **Sunday 19th 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 iashton7@bigpond.com prior to the event with approximate numbers of vehicles attending, no later than 12th June 2022.

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 26th 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 2022, on Sunday 19th June at Newcastle Foreshore Park.

Ian Ashton

Public Relations Officer

MGCC Hunter Region

E: iashton7@bigpond.com

M: 0429 592 823