

FIATfocus

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



2023 Fiat Nationals Report

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The FIAT Club of New South Wales notifies members that its **Annual General Meeting** is to be held on **Sunday the 11th of February 2024 at Ansell Park.**

See page 7 for details.

FIATFocus acknowledgements;

FIAT Focus is the bi-monthly journal of the FIAT Club of NSW. It is issued by email in the first Week of each month (there will now be 6 issues produced each year).

Many thanks to Martin Gallard for his contributions to this edition of Fiat Focus.

Cover; Martin Gallard's Motorkhana Special at the 2023 FIAT Nationals in Victoria. (photo from the FIAT Nationals Facebook page)

FIATFocus Magazine is available from the FIAT Club of New South Wales website. If you wish to obtain any of the issues from 2019 to the present just go to the club's website at www.fiatclubnsw.com.au/magazine, 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.

CLUB COMMITTEE AND OFFICIALS

(Please note the new Committee and their new email domain addresses below)

- ◆ **PATRON - Mr Nat Zanardo OAM**
- ◆ **PRESIDENT** - David Filipetto; president@fiatclubnsw.com.au Ph. 0423 606 678
- ◆ **VICE PRESIDENT** - Domenic Squadrito; vicepresident@fiatclubnsw.com.au
- ◆ **TREASURER** - Susan Halliburton; treasurer@fiatclubnsw.com.au
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- ◆ **COMPETITION SECRETARY** - Michael McGeorge; competition@fiatclubnsw.com.au
- ◆ **SOCIAL EVENT CO-ORDINATOR** - Giovanni Ciampa; events@fiatclubnsw.com.au
- ◆ **ASSISTANT COMP SECRETARY** - Martin Gallard; assistcompetition@fiatclubnsw.com.au
- ◆ **WEB TECHNICAL** - Kevin Windsor
- ◆ **MERCHANDISING** - Kevin Halliburton; merchandise@fiatclubnsw.com.au
- ◆ **HISTORIC PLATE REGISTRAR** - Richard Dalziel; histrego@fiatclubnsw.com.au
Historic Plates form - postal address details are: 12 Page Ave, Wahroonga, NSW 2076
- ◆ **COMMITTEE PERSON 1** - Adrian Sandrin; committee1@fiatclubnsw.com.au
- ◆ **COMMITTEE PERSON 2** - Ian Sinden; committee2@fiatclubnsw.com.au
- ◆ **COMMITTEE PERSON 3** - Tony Studans; committee3@fiatclubnsw.com.au
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- ◆ **ANSELL PARK CO-ORDINATOR** - Michael McGeorge; Ansellpark@fiatclubnsw.com.au
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- ◆ **PUBLIC OFFICER** - Warren Smith; public_officer@fiatclubnsw.com.au

Life Members

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

Former Life Members

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| • Gladys Channon | • Adrian Phillips | • Peter Minett | • Tom Hay |
| • Margaret McIntyre | • Ted Ansell | • Colin Crampton | • Christopher Davis |
| • George Simmonds | • Nancy Simmonds | • John Braid | • Leonie Steele |
| • Pat Fletcher | • John Maude | • Eric McDonald | |

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	Point score
January 2024		
Sun 14th	Coffee Break - Armory Wharf Cafe (Sydney Olympic Park)	Yes
Sun 28th	FIAT Club Pizza Break - Patio @ Putney	Yes
February 2024		
Tues 5th	Oasis Run - Oasis Run - Flower Power Nursery Café	no
Sun 11th	FIAT Club of NSW Annual General Meeting—Ansell Park	Yes
Sun 25th	2024 Fiat Club NSW Motorkhana Championship Rd 1, President's Cup	Yes
Sun 25th	FIAT Club Dinner Break - Skinny Tony's Really Italian (Five Dock Park)	Yes
March 2024		
Tues 6th	Oasis Run - Peace Park, Wallarah Point	no
Sun 10th	FIAT Club Burger Break - Original Burger Co. (Brookvale)	Yes
Sun 17th	2024 Fiat Club NSW Motorkhana Championship Rd 2	Yes
Sun 24th	Chestnut Picking - Nutwood Farm (22 Danes Way, Mount Irvine NSW)	Yes
April 2024		
Tues 7th	Oasis Run - The Hills District Historical Society Museum	No
Sun 14th	FIAT Coffee Break - 4T7 Cafe (Ermington)	Yes
Sun 28th	FIAT Gelato Break - Messina Gelato, Marrickville	Yes
May 2024		
Sun 7th	Oasis Run - TBA	No
Sun 19th	National Motoring Heritage Day FIAT CLUB BBQ / Ansell Park (Windsor)	Yes
Sat 25th	2024 Fiat Club NSW Motorkhana Championship Rd 3 (day/night)	Yes
Sun 26th	2024 Fiat Club NSW Motorkhana Championship Rd 4	Yes
Sun 26th	FIAT Coffee Break - Maggio's Cafe (Cammeray)	Yes
June 2024		
Sun 9th	FIAT Club Lunch Break - Silverwater Hotel (Silverwater)	Yes
Sun 16th	2024 Fiat Club NSW Motorkhana Championship Rd 5	Yes
Sun 30th	FIAT Coffee Break - Pasticceria Massimo Papa (Fairy Meadow)	Yes
July 2024		
Sun 14th	FIAT Coffee Break - The Grid Cafe (Oran Park)	Yes
Sun 28th	XMAS IN JULY / Cavallino (Terrey Hills)	Yes
August 2024		
Sun 18th	2024 Fiat Club NSW Motorkhana Championship Rd 6	Yes
Sun 25th	Shannons Sydney Classic - Sydney Motorsport Park, Eastern Creek	Yes
August 2024		
Sun 3rd	2024 Fiat Club NSW Motorkhana Championship Rd 7	Yes

INVITED EVENTS

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

February 9-11, 2024 - Gnoo Blas Classic, Jack Brabham Park, Orange NSW

Bookings required to display your vehicle. Go to the Gnoo Blas Classic car Club website at

<https://www.123tix.com.au/events/40691/2024-gnoo-blas-classic>

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 details.

Upcoming Events

TUESDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2024

WHERE: Flower Power Nursery Café, Frankie's Food Factory, 277 Mona Vale Rd. between Aumuna Rd. & Cooyong Rd. Terry Hills. **TIME:** From 10.30am onwards for morning tea.

LUNCH BOOKING: 12.30 pm Terry Hills Tavern, 2 Aumuna Rd. Terry Hills. You may arrive earlier for pre lunch drinks. **NAMES REQUIRED:** by Wednesday 31st January 2024 so I can confirm booking numbers for catering at both venues.

TUESDAY 5TH MARCH 2024

WHERE: PEACE PARK, WALLARAH POINT, Wallarah Rd. cnr The Corso, Gorokan. Left side of Toukley Bridge heading east. Toukley Art Gallery, Tourist Information, Art Gallery & Coffee Shop . **TIME:** From 10.30am onwards.

LUNCH: 12.15pm. **WHERE:** Beachcomber Hotel, 200 Main Rd Toukley.

TUESDAY 2nd April 2024 *PRE PAID BOOKINGS REQUIRED*

WHERE: THE HILLS DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM. Balcombe Heights Estate, "Building 10" , 92 Seven Hills Rd. Baulkham Hills. No Right Hand Turn Off Seven Hills Rd. (opposite Jasper Rd,) **TIME:** 10.30am for morning tea & museum visit

COST: \$10.00 p.p. **BOOKINGS REQUIRED:** I need to collect \$10.00 p.p. cash in advance for morning tea catering by Monday 25th March 2024. Cash only & no IOU's as I do not want to be out of pocket \$\$\$, **LUNCH:** Local Club

TUESDAY 7th MAY 2024

WHERE: MERRYLANDS, **TIME:** From 10.30 am onwards. **B.Y.O.** Morning Tea Etc. & your walking shoes. After morning tea I will lead a walk around the Zoo & Park. Short walk also available, **LUNCH:** Local Club

TUESDAY 4th JUNE 2024. MUSEUM VISIT, BEXLEY NORTH. **LUNCH:** Local Club

DATE: TUESDAY 2nd JULY 2024.

MEET: WENTWORTH FALLS LAKE. **LUNCH:** MOUNTAIN HIGH PIES, WENTWORTH FALLS

DETAILS & BOOKINGS: Les Watton ph: 9838 8063 Email: mumspalace@hotmail.com

President's Report

And just like that, it's the New Year – Happy 2024 everyone. I do ponder the rapid passage of time these days and have a theory that time passes more quickly and in direct proportion to the number your age starts with. The higher the number the faster time passes.

2024 will be a big year for the Fiat Club of NSW as it marks our 75th Anniversary. (Is that a diamond jubilee)? The Committee has already commenced planning a gala event towards the end of the year, the **"75th Anniversary Ball"** – so watch this space as details of what will be a fantastic get together for members and friends to celebrate our Club's rich history.

Many other events are being planned in the coming months that will cater to the broad-church that our club membership comprises. 2024 will mark a special focus by the Committee on bringing our wider group of members together and will continue to provide many different social activities and opportunities, that will be equally attractive to drivers of both modern and historic Fiats.

The Committee is also looking to provide opportunities to our members who have a "need for speed" as well. The motorkhana / driver training series gets underway next month – where members and their kids over 12 can access a safe way to learn how to drive and control a car with entry level motorsport competition. As I've described in previous columns, it is an easy, safe yet addictive way to enjoy driving a car. This year the Club will also be stating back up the well-respected "Junior Driving Clinic", where instructors will run (licence approaching) teens through a guided program of car control and trials. Members (parents) this is not an opportunity to be missed if you have kids approaching driving age.

The Committee has had numerous requests for more track days as well. We know we have members with either modern spec Fiat or Abarths or older well-prepared Fiats, who want to safely test the performance of their cars away from the road. We will be organising a few track days at circuits in and around the Sydney basin this year – again with an element of driver training thrown in perhaps providing an opportunity to this part of our membership to enjoy their cars in the way they feel they were meant to be enjoyed. Details to follow next month.

2023 Year in Review. Last year passed quickly, with a vast array of social activities provided to Members to enjoy. It would be fair to say, that the Committee went through a process of 'reset'. A major area of focus was on governance generally – and more importantly, clearly separating the activity and management of the Fiat Club of NSW and Ansell Park Pty Ltd. One task was to clearly separate the financial holdings of both entities, with an internal review spanning back approximately 10 years. This has been done and is now being audited by an

external organisation with findings due inside the next month or so. Our early assessment based on this work, is that Ansell Park Pty Ltd has been 'trading' on its own merit during that time, financially 'self-sufficient' and not drawing down on Fiat Club financial holdings at all, and AP Pty Ltd still possesses a small surplus that secures its solvency into the time ahead. The program of motorkhana events scheduled for 2024 will be self-funding away from Club monies, and the work that lays ahead is to put in place a proper agency agreement between the Club and Board of AP Pty Ltd. So, achieving a clear separation of the two entities and financials has been a lot of work and has occupied the thinking of the Club Committee for most of last year.

The Constitution of Ansell Park Pty Ltd also lists the role of Fiat Club NSW President as an ipso facto director of AP Pty Ltd. The work that lays ahead for 2024 is to improve the governance of the AP Pty Ltd entity - reconstituting a Board of Directors, perhaps modernising their constitution, re-engaging with shareholders, future proofing the strategy of ownership and continuing to ensure that AP Pty Ltd stands separate to the Fiat Club. The Fiat Club Committee and membership does not have any involvement in this, and it will be work undertaken by the Board of AP Pty Ltd.

The Fiat Club AGM is again upon us in February and details elsewhere in the magazine will show that it will be held at Ansell Park with a free BBQ lunch provided for all members and their families that are attending. Please come along, if at a minimum to have lunch and mingle with other members and drive your Fiats out into the sticks a bit. This is a perennial call for members to take up the opportunity to put their hand up for a committee position. Yep, there is a small amount of work being a committee person, but it isn't over the top – maybe a few hours a month, but I do know our wonderful editor Lorenzo is looking to train someone up to take over from him, and he has set a high standard for a wonderful regular club magazine. So, if you're a clever tech savvy sort of person, maybe put your hand up for that? Being on the Committee for the 75th anniversary will be special. I'll stick my hand up again for president if the membership would like me to go around again – there is still lots of work to be done with the 2 entities that I've described above, and my aim is to finish that work.

I'd like to thank the members who (re-)joined the Club this year, we have bumper numbers, and we hope to see you at our events as they come up. A special thank you to the Committee for standing up and standing by each other this year as we tackled the difficult issues – the real benefit of these efforts will resound for many years to come.

Take care and bring on 2024.

Dave.

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

Dear Members,

The FIAT Club of New South Wales notifies members that its **Annual General Meeting is to be held on Sunday the 11th of February 2024 at Ansell Park**. All committee positions will be up for re-election and all members are encouraged to stand for one of the roles available which include the following positions;

Office Bearers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary
Specific Committee: Editor, Webmaster, Competition Secretary, Events Co-coordinator.

General Committee: Assistant Competition Secretary, Ansell Park Co-coordinator, CMC Delegate, Librarian, Historic Plates Registrar, A/ Historic Plates Registrar, Merchandise Officer, Committee person.

Please send expressions of interest for any of the committee positions to the Club secretary at **secretary@fiatclub.com.au**.

All members are invited and encouraged to attend.

All members who attend and vote on the day must be a 2023-24 financial member of the Fiat Club of New South Wales.

New Members

A warm welcome to the following enthusiasts:

Peter, Margaret, Liam & Olivia Bone & Olivia Dooley – 2011 Fiat 695 500s
Savannah Coen

Drew, Lisa, Calvin & Austin Carter

Daniel Baffsky – 1981 Fiat Spider 2000

Daniel Trovato – 1982 Fiat 131 Super Brava, 1984 Fiat 131 Super Brava

Antonio Di Bella

Kevin Johns – Abarth 695

1927 - Fiat's record run

Soon after the introduction of the motor car into Australia, enthusiasts and adventure seekers would attempt to travel between capital cities. The more common mode of travel would be by sea and rail, however, there were some motorists keen to show that the motor car could also travel between cities. Of course, early on, the roads were usually not well established and the journey would be quite arduous. Nonetheless, there were many who took up the challenge and sought set and break records for the time it took to travel.

As the road networks improved and the motor car became more established and reliable, more city to city record attempts were undertaken that captured the imagination of the public as these attempts would be reported in the newspapers. Importers and car dealers take advantage of the publicity and draw attention their products if their car managed to break one of the records.

Late in 1927, Mr Harold Drake Richmond tried a few times to break the Sydney to Melbourne record in his Fiat 509. Mr Drake Richmond came to Australia in the early twenties as an engineer in wireless technology. Motorsport was his hobby - he had been a racing mechanic at the Brooklands track in England. In Australia, he joined the Light Car Club of Australia and was a regular at the Club's sporting events.

His initial Sydney to Melbourne attempt in September was achieved in 16 hours, 9 minutes and claimed as a record for cars under 1000cc. This claim was disputed by the agents for the Amilcar who claimed that the 1100cc record was held by the Amilcar at 15 hours, 20 minutes. Mr Drake Richmond

and a passenger set off again in December, however, they damaged the vehicle in an accident at Yass and returned to Sydney for repairs. The following week another attempt was made and the pair arrived in Melbourne on Monday December 12, 1927, with a record run of 14 hours, 47 minutes. Not only had they broken the 1100cc record, they also claimed the 1500cc record as well.

Contemporary articles reporting on the runs appear below including the one that was disputed. You will find some additional details in these articles that you may find interesting.

**The Argus, Fri 16 Sep, 1927, pg 16
SYDNEY TO MELBOURNE.**

Fiat's Record Run.

At fourteen minutes past 9 o'clock last night about 50 people gathered outside the General Post office and raised a cheer when Mr. Drake Richmond, in his Fiat motor car, arrived from Sydney, having completed the first official run between Sydney and Melbourne in a car or under 1,000 c.c. capacity. Mr. Richmond left Sydney at five minutes past 5 o'clock yesterday morning and reached Melbourne 16 hours 9 minutes later. The express from Sydney reaches Melbourne in 18 hours 10 minutes. Mr. Richmond therefore beat the express time by 2 hours 1 minute. The record for a motor car of over 1,100 cc. capacity is 14 hours 52 minutes, made in 1925 by a sports model Amilcar. The motor car in which Mr. Richmond of created his record has



H. Darke Richmond's Fiat 509

a sports body attached to the stock 509 model. It is of 990 c.c. capacity, and 6.6-horse power, usually known as the "8-20, 509 Fiat." On a level road it is capable of a speed of 65 miles an hour. Mr. Richmond reached Albury at 10 minutes to 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, 41 minutes ahead of his scheduled time.

Although the start of the run was timed by the Royal Automobile Association (Australia) at Sydney, and the finish by the secretary of the Chamber of Automotive Industries (Mr. H W Harrison), the run was organised and arranged privately by Mr. Richmond, who regards motoring as a hobby. He came to Australia from England as an expert on beam wireless in connection with the erection of the new station at Ballan. He was formerly a mechanic at Brooklands with S. F. Edge, the racing motorist.

The weather during the run was good, as were the roads except between Euroa and Seymour, where the road was little better than a cart track.

The Herald, Fri 16 Sep 1927, Page 3

SYDNEY-MELBOURNE CAR RECORDS

Fiat's Good Attempt

Having covered the "gap" between Sydney and Melbourne in 16 hours 9 minutes, the small Fiat 501 which reached Melbourne at 9.14 p.m yesterday, completed one of the best small car feats recently attempted.

During the run considerable time was lost in refuelling, the car not fitting an auxiliary tank, and thus six five minute stops had to be made. At six level crossings further stops had to be made. And time lost while the gatekeepers, who kept on duty during regular record attempts, were found while 15 minutes were lost at Holbrook in an argument with a zealous constable.

We are advised by the managing director of Conn's Motors (Mr J. W. T Conn) that the official light car (under 1500 c.c. engine capacity) speed records for the Sydney-Melbourne both stand to the credit of Amilcars.

They are under 1000 c.c., Amilcar (902 c.c.) 15 hours 20-minutes, and under 1500 c.c., Amilcar (1040 c.c.) 14 hours 52 minutes.

The first record was made nearly four years ago and is still unbeaten. The second record is the last of a series established by Amilcar and two other makes of vehicle.

The Daily News (Perth) Tuesday 27 December 1927, page 8

SYDNEY-MELBOURNE RECORD

Broken by 509 Fiat

Besides breaking the record for cars classed under 1.100 c.c. by 1 hour. 17min, Mr Harold Drake Richmond in a model 509 Fiat also broke the record for cars classed under 1,500 c.c. by 5 minutes. His travelling time from Sydney to Melbourne was 14 hours 47 minutes, which is a fine performance for a small car like the 509 Fiat.

The official distance is 575 miles and Mr. Richmond covered, according to his speedometer, covered 597 miles.

The car, in question was a standard model and privately owned by Mr. Richmond, who is not in any way connected with the trade.

... continued next page.

The Brisbane Courier, Wed 4th Jan 1928. Pg 7

FIAT'S FEAT.

Sydney-Melbourne Record Broken.

WITH the arrival in Melbourne at 7.18, on Monday, December 12, 1927, of Mr. Drake Richmond and Mr. H. R. Wrigley, in a 509 Fiat, the Melbourne-Sydney under 1500 c.c. motor record was broken by four minutes. It was a most meritorious performance.

At 4.30 a.m. two members of the motor section of "The Guardian" clocked Mr. Richmond and his passenger out from the G.P.O. Sydney.

ESTABLISHES A RECORD

FIAT

509

8/20 H.P. 4-Cyl.

**BETWEEN SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE
IN THE UNDER 1000 C.C. CLASS.
BEATS SYDNEY EXPRESS TIME BY
3 HOURS 21 MINUTES.**

Leaving Sydney at 5.5 a.m. yesterday, Mr. Drake Richmond, driving a FIAT 509, arrived at Melbourne G.P.O. at 8.14 p.m. last night. He was officially timed out by the R.A.C.A. Sydney, and checked in at Melbourne by Secretary C.A.I. and Editor of "Australian Motorist."

A REMARKABLE RECORD.
FIAT 509 8/20 H.P. 4-cyl. is the smallest powered Car that has ever attempted the Record.

PRICES FROM . . £255

Anglo-Industries
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OPEN UNTIL 5 P.M. FRIDAYS. 10-11 RUSSELL STREET, MELBOURNE. PHONE CENT. 500.

It was an unpleasant morning. Rain was falling, and, judging by the heavy cloud-banks to the south, the record breakers must have experienced dirty weather.

Their car was an ordinary "baby" Fiat, with an Italian body. The only alteration from the standard stock model was an extra petrol tank.

The previous Sunday morning the same combination set out to attempt the same record, but at Yass, when they were three-quarters of an hour ahead of schedule, the car struck a deep V gutter and hurtled over a bank.

The front axle was smashed, and three tyres ripped off, but the driver and passenger escaped injuries.

The car was repaired at Yass, and, undeterred, Mr. Drake Richmond and his passenger came to Sydney to make another attempt.

The light car record from Sydney to Melbourne was 14 hours 52 minutes, held by the late S. G. Hyslop and S. Chapman, in an Amilcar.

The all-powers record is held by J.H. Beith in a Chrysler, 11 hours 14 minutes.

Alongside of these figures the time of 14 hours 48 minutes for a car of under 1500 c.c. are very creditable.

...

Mr Harold Drake Richmond competed in his Fiat for a number of years including starting in the 1929 Australian Grand Prix in a Bugatti. He continued to compete at the AGP up to 1927 where he managed two second and a third place finish on handicap.

Information sources;

Competition Communicator, November 1973 edition

The Argus, Fri 16 Sep, 1927, pg 16

The Herald, Fri 16 Sep 1927, Page 3

The Daily News (Perth) Tuesday 27 December 1927, page 8

The Brisbane Courier, Wed 4th Jan 1928. Pg 7

FIAT CLUB of NSW Inc.

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: Sunday 11th February 2024 at 12.00 noon.

Where: Ansell Park, 2 Percival St., Richmond

Purpose: To elect a new Committee for the 2024 Club Year. All positions are declared vacant.

Lunch: The club will be providing a FREE sausage sandwich lunch – including soft drinks.

Please come along to this meeting even if you do not intend to stand for any positions, as this can indicate the strength of the club. You must be a club member to stand for a position and to vote.



burger break (write up)

10th December 2023

Chubby Buns @ Ryde



Chubby Buns, provided a great location to drive and park our cars while enjoying some very taste burgers and fries.

The highlight was seeing one club member drive in with their ISO Grifo, a very rare car that not many would know about. Someone even commented that our cars all parked together, looked like they were in a car yard for sale! Time Warp moment.

(I couldn't help myself, so I photoshoped the below image)

A massive thanks to all who came.

The FIAT Club of NSW wishes all club members and their families a very Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

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



FIAT fanatico

www.fiatclubnsw.com.au



Christmas Lunch (write up)

26th November 2023
Panorama House @ Maddens Plains

The FIAT Club of NSW xmas lunch this year was held again at Panorama House. A great venue with beautiful vistas of the south coast. There was a fantastic group of club members with their family and friends attending the lunch which was enjoyed by all. Thanks for all your continued support, it made for a great event.

We wish all our club members a very Merry Xmas.

Stay safe over the holidays, as we will be excited to see you all in the new year, as 2024 will mark our clubs 75th Anniversary. It will be a year of celebrating!

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



FIAT fanatico

www.fiatclubnsw.com.au



pizza break (write up)

12th November 2023
Patio @ Putney



Patio @ Putney venue is always a great casual spot to catch up with club members. This event proved to be yet again the place to be on a late Sunday afternoon to enjoy traditional style pizza & pasta. The variety of classic and modern examples of our loved FIAT brand amazed on lookers. Many drawn to look, take photos and ask us about our cars. It made us appreciate more what we enjoy so much already.

A massive thanks to all who came!

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



FIAT fanatico

www.fiatclubnsw.com.au

Coffee Break!

come join like minded **FIAT** enthusiasts over breakfast and a coffee celebrating our clubs 75th Anniversary



When: Sunday 14th January 2024

Where: **Armory Wharf Cafe**
Blaxland Riverside Park,
Jamieson Street, off Holker Street
Newington NSW 2127

Time: 9:00am - 11:00am



Dinner Break!

come join like minded **FIAT** enthusiasts enjoy Italian style meal celebrating our clubs 75th Anniversary



When: Sunday 28th January 2024

Where: **Skinny Tony's**
20B Barnstaple Road,
Five Dock NSW 2046

Time: 5:00pm - 9:00pm



FIAT CLUB of NSW Inc.

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

When: Sunday 11th February 2024 at 12.00 noon.

Where: Ansell Park, 2 Percival St., Richmond

Purpose: To elect a new Committee for the 2024 Club Year. All positions are declared vacant.

Lunch: The club will be providing a FREE sausage sandwich lunch – including soft drinks.

Please come along to this meeting even if you do not intend to stand for any positions, as this can indicate the strength of the club. You must be a club member to stand for a position and to vote.

Pizza Break!

come join like minded **FIAT** enthusiasts enjoy pizza and pasta celebrating our clubs 75th Anniversary



When: Sunday 25th February 2024

Where: **Patio @ Putney**
83 Charles Street,
Putney NSW 2112

Time: 5:00pm - 8:00pm



Fiat Nationals, October 27-29, 2023.

After what felt like an eternity and several attempts to happen, the 2023 Fiat Nationals at Bendigo was been an absolutely huge weekend. It's a long drive to Bendigo, but an early arrival Thursday afternoon provided a good nights rest after a beer catching up with some friends from our fellow clubs in Victoria & SA.



Marty competing in the Supersprint
(photo Alan Summit)

Friday was an early start for the BOI Performance Supersprint as Broadford State Motorcycle Complex is about 70 minutes out of town. Once out there, I was extremely impressed with the facility. A great track, with lots of technical corners featuring a mixture of cambers. Certainly not a race track, but a perfect track for a sprint event like ours. I promised myself I was not going to go hard, as not only do I have extremely little experience at driving the red 126 at speed, but the new engine has limited hours on it so far. Although extremely twitchy, the car did not struggle with blasting around the track. Over the first three sessions I got my time down from a 1:26.7727 to a 1:22.2185, all in fourth gear using the torque of the 2 litre. Over the lunch break I agreed the following session would be my last, only I would try one major change on the car to see what happens. You know, for the science of it.

I ripped off the trusty formula ford tyres, and slapped on a set of soft 8 inch slicks I had borrowed from Glenn Smith. Equipped with a mountain of grip and at an agreed slightly increased rpm range, the car was a completely different beast to drive. I did not expect to be out there overtaking cars in a motorkhana special. It was all going spectacularly for a few laps till all hell broke loose with the car filling full of white smoke as I came down the main straight. A dipstick for the gearbox had blown out under pressure and absolutely showered the engine bay in gear oil. Not just the engine bay, the windscreen, my helmet, my camera, everything. If you can understand how much I hate the smell of gear oil then you can understand there is no worse scenario for me.

With the dipstick back in I was able to cruise back to the pits using the grass off track, where I did the best I could with one can of degreaser to clean up the back of the car. Car partially

cleaned, it was over for the day and I made my way back to the hotel via Supercheap Auto for a mountain of degreaser and cleaning up products. Car washed and gearbox topped up, it was time to refocus for the motorkhana, but hey, I did punch out 1:18.3124 for the effort, and a 1st in class!

Saturday was a short trip out to the Bendigo Livestock Exchange for the FCA Fiat of Italy Cup Motorkhana. A huge facility, but absolutely brutal on my hayfever with all the dust and animals around. I bolted the big slick back on. The car was now sitting fatter than ever. The car was extremely grippy and quick, but being so much wider than I am used to, I hit a flag in my first run obtaining a time penalty. I was just not used to the back of the car being that little bit wider. Not the start I was looking for but no point sulking about it, off to test 2. Another fast test, but now so slippery from the dust that as I blasted into the stop garage the car just locked up and slid all the way through. Another penalty! I've not had a garage or a flag for a decade, and now two in two tests. I doubled down and punched out some extremely fast times from there on, hoping my opposition would make some mistakes as well. They didn't, and man they were quick!

A quick break for lunch, and a return to the car for the last 4 tests. Moving to the test the fuel pump suddenly stopped working. All electricals were fine, so I smacked it and it started working again. A bit odd, as it did it a few times, but only once had it been turned off each time. As I lined up for test 7, I noticed the pump was dead again. I smacked the hell out of it and it came back to life. I gave it some time to show further issue, but as it was going ok so I went out for my run. Half way through, it died on me yet again. A third penalty!!!! A few larger than ever smacks it came back to life again, but the damage was now well and truly done. I re-ran the test, smashed out the last test and put it on the trailer. Not the way to finish the day I had hoped for, pretty gutted. Of all the things I thought would let me down, I did not predict it would be that. Putting the car back to together I deliberately chose to use the existing fuel pump as I did not want to introduce too many new things into the car for its first couple of events. The simple fact is with two penalties already, my race was run, so no point getting upset about it. Just a let down as I had a real shot at it this year. It is what it is.



Fiat Nationals 2023 ...*(continued)*

Tony Russel and Paul Freame were on fire in the battle for the front. A flag down for Paul in the last test sealed his fate, and Tony took the win in his awesome Panda. Paul 2nd in the 127 rail, and somehow despite my issues I was able to get 3rd outright and 2nd in class. Congratulations to Tony & Paul, they were pushing hard all day, and that's what it is all about. I was very fortunate



to have a quick blast in the Freame 127 rail after the event, and man I can tell you one thing, its extremely quick. Perhaps dare I say, too quick. Front wheel drive and four foot pedals to navigate, Paul & Bill do an incredible job keeping the car pointed in the correct direction.

this amongst so many great competitors. Congratulations and thank you to the organising committee for the 2023 Fiat Nationals, you put on an awesome weekend. For those that could not make it, you missed a good one.

Sunday was a far more chilled day with the Shannons Show 'n Shine. Located in the heart of Bendigo at the Dai Gum San gardens, a lovely place for everyone to get together and enjoy the day in great company. Perfect blue shy day, with lots of people checking out the wide variety of cars. It was great to snag a photo of the 126 with Tony Russel, Dave, Rob & Debra Judd, and Mario Di Censo, all previous custodians of the car.



At the Motorkhana *(photo Brian)*

Tony built the car back in the late 90s, so talking to him about its beginnings has been a great way for me to learn about its origins. An odd result for the S&S, 3rd in class. Given the presentation of my car, I must be missing something. The judges decision is final, it is what it is.

From here it was off to the club for the presentation dinner. Despite a very low number of competitors, Team NSW did a great job across all events and classes. Congratulations Phil East, Kevin Halliburton, Ian Jorgensen, Dean Ryan, Graham Bates, & Giancarlo Nasca for your swag of trophies across all the various events and classes. When it came down to the Fiat of Italy Cup, we were no chance against a superior FCCVIC. One trophy left, and I'm proud to say the Ironman award for the event outright came home with me. It didn't come easy, but it was a huge shock to have been awarded

Heaps of great pics can be found on the Nationals FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/FiatNationals>

What a weekend, can't wait for the next one already. Which does raise the big question, what does the 2024 Fiat Nationals look like?

Conversations have already started to take place, but I must use this opportunity to reinforce it is an event that is put together for you, the club members to enjoy. There is no better opportunity than now to let the committee know what you do and do

like about the event, and just as importantly, where you would like to see the event held. Is the event perfect as it is, is it too big, is it too small? Please, take a moment to shoot me some honest feedback about the event so I can help our mutual clubs put together another great event: assitcompetition@fiatclubnsw.com.au

(Photos taken from the Fiat Nationals Facebook page - ed).



Fiat Nationals 2023 - Results

BOI Performance Nationals Sprint - 2023

	Class SS2	Car	State	Fastest Lap Time
1	Giancarlo Nasca	X1/9	NSW	01:18.509
2	Ashley Stone	X1/9	Vic	01:19.349
3	Brian Garrett	X1/9	Vic	01:19.493
	Class SS3			
1	Anthony Cementon	124CC	Vic	01:25.620
	Class SS4			
1	Tony Tyzack	Punto Sport	Vic	01:18.969
	Class MS2			
1	Ian Maud	X1/9	Vic	01:10.389
2	Frank Caia	124 Spider	Vic	01:13.187
3	Keith Ellis	128 Sport L	Vic	01:15.853
4	Mark Whittaker	X1/9	Vic	01:16.604
5	Tony Russell	Panda	Vic	01:35.987
	Class MS3			
1	Phillip Buggee	124 Spider	Vic	01:13.015
	Class MS4			
1	John Black	X1/9	Vic	01:05.949
2	Frank Spinosa	500 Abarth	Vic	01:12.166
3	Lachlan Rae	X1/9	Vic	01:12.639
4	Paul Freame	Punto Sport	Vic	01:14.652
5	Rob Jorgensen	500 Abarth	Vic	01:17.531
6	Tony Romeo	500 Abarth	Vic	01:17.967
7	Ian Jorgensen	500 Abarth	Vic	01:17.979
8	Frank Campisi	500 Abarth	Vic	01:17.991
9	Marisa Gangemi	500 Abarth	Vic	01:28.183
10	Phil East	500 Abarth	NSW	01:31.377
	Class RS2			
1	Graham Bates	850 Sport	NSW	01:19.708
	Class RS3			
1	Martin Gallard	126 Special	NSW	01:18.312
	Class RS4			
1	Mario Di Censo	500 Abarth	Vic	01:12.923
	Non Fiat			
1	Les Bone	Clubman	Vic	01:03.914
2	Stuart Hocking	Toyota Yaris GR	Vic	01:06.841
3	Andrew Martyn	Mazda RX8	Vic	01:11.950
4	Thomas Cantwell	Datsun 2000 Sport	Vic	01:20.411
5	Paul Lechner	Renault Megane	Vic	01:20.809
6	Robert Sales	Mazda 1500 SS	Vic	01:29.026

Fiat Nationals 2023 - Results

FCA Fiat of Italy Cup Nationals Motorkhana - 2023

	Class A	Car	State	Total Time	Outright
1	Michael Williams	Fiat 124 Abarth	Vic	03:24.94	12th
2	Philip Jon Buggee	Fiat 124 Abarth	Vic	03:24.98	13th
3	Frank Caia	Fiat 124 Abarth	Vic	03:30.90	16th
	Class B				
1	Ian Maud	X1/9 Prototipo	Vic	03:10.79	6th
2	Lachlan Rae	X1/9 Dallara	Vic	03:18.72	9th
3	Dallas Benbow	X1/9	Vic	03:24.06	11th
4	Gary Spencer	X1/9	Vic	03:31.30	17th
5	Ashley Stone	X1/9	Vic	03:35.35	18th
6	Giancarlo Nasca	X1/9	NSW	03:44.61	22nd
	Class C				
1	Ruth Freame	Punto Sport	Vic	03:30.12	15th
2	Kevin Halliburton	Ritmo	NSW	04:04.57	27th
3	Tony Tyzack	Punto Sport	Vic	04:06.88	28th
4	Mark Freame	Punto Sport	Vic	04:07.53	29th
5	Elliot Tyzack	Punto Sport	Vic	04:11.83	30th
	Class D				
1	Phil East	500 Abarth	NSW	03:08.24	4th
2	Rob Jorgensen	500 Abarth	Vic	03:19.19	10th
3	Ian Jorgensen	500 Abarth	NSW	03:25.00	14th
4	Peter Bartold	500 Abarth	Vic	03:35.89	19th
5	Marisa Gangemi	500 Abarth	Vic	03:36.65	20th
6	Frank Spinosa	500 Abarth	Vic	03:39.70	21st
7	Tony Romeo	500 Abarth	Vic	03:48.79	23rd
8	Toni Romeo	500 Abarth	Vic	03:49.49	24th
9	Mario Di Censo	500 Abarth	Vic	03:54.40	25th
10	Keith Ellis	128 Sport L	Vic	04:01.21	26th
	Class E				
1	Tony Russell	Panda Special	Vic	02:46.64	1st
2	Martin Gallard	126 Special	NSW	03:07.86	3rd
	Class F				
1	Paul Freame	BPF001 Rail	Vic	02:48.75	2nd
2	Bill freame	BPF001 Rail	Vic	03:08.95	5th
3	Robert Judd	Judd Rail	Vic	03:17.21	7th
4	Debra Judd	Judd Rail	Vic	03:18.25	8th

**Fiat Of Italy Cup
Victoria - 83 points
New South Wales - 25 points**

**1st Outright - Tony Russel
1st Junior - Mark Freame
1st Novice - Phil East
Couples Award - Ruth & Paul Freame**

Fiat Nationals 2023 - Results

Shannons Insurance Nationals Show and Shine - 2023

	Class P1	Car	State	Score
1st	Basil King	500 Topolino	Vic	97
2nd	David Stott	Fiat 501C	Vic	90
	Class P2			
1st	Pat Giovannucci	Fiat Dino Spider	Vic	94.5
2nd	Roger Langdon	Fiat 124 CC	Vic	94
3rd	Laurie Hocking	Fiat 128 Sport L	Vic	86
4th	David Judd	Fiat 130 Coupe	Vic	84
5th	Frank Caia	Fiat 124 Abarth	Vic	79
6th	Roberto Brunno	Fiat 500 695	Vic	79
7th	Sam Dawson	Fiat 128 Sport L	Vic	73.5
8th	Joseph Sammut	Fiat 124CC	Vic	73
9th	Philip Jon Buggee	Fiat 124 Abarth	Vic	71
10th	Keith Ellis	Fiat 128 Sport L	Vic	52.5
	Class P3			
1st	Dean Ryan	Fiat X1/9	NSW	84
2nd	Terry Poole	Fiat 131 Superbrava S3	Vic	78
3rd	Tony Willis	Fiat 124 Spider	Vic	77
4th	Giancarlo Nasca	Fiat X1/9	NSW	68
5th	Lachlan Rae	Fiat X1/9 Dallara	Vic	68
6th	Paul Pozzobon	Fiat X1/9	Vic	66
7th	Ian Maud	Fiat X1/9 Prototipo	Vic	64
8th	Gary Spencer	Fiat X1/9	Vic	56
	no class P4			
	Class P5			
1st	Frank Newton	Abarth 595 Competizione	Vic	100
2nd	Michael Williams	Fiat 124 Abarth	Vic	96
3rd	Peter Bartold	Fiat 500 Abarth	Vic	91
4th	Frank Spinosa	Fiat 500 Abarth	Vic	89
5th	Tony Tyzack	Fiat Punto Sport	Vic	88
6th	Marisa Gangemi	Fiat 500 Abarth	Vic	86
7th	Phil East	Fiat 500 Abarth	NSW	74
	Class P6			
1st	Paul Freame	BPF001 Motorkhana Special	Vic	57
2nd	Graham Bates	850 Sport Coupe	NSW	56.5
3rd	Martin Gallard	Fiat 126 Motorkhana Special	NSW	56
4th	Robert Judd	Judd Motorkhana Special	Vic	51
5th	Robert Sales	Lancia Formula Junior	Vic	49
6th	Mark Freame	Fiat Punto Sport	Vic	49

Fiat Nationals 2023 - Results

FIAT Nationals 2023 - Ironman Results

	Competitor		Score Sprint	Score Motorkhana	Score Show & Shine	Total
1st	Martin Gallard	NSW	10	9	8	27
=2nd	Ian Maud	VIC	10	10	4	24
=2nd	Tony Tyzack	VIC	10	8	6	24
=4th	Frank Caia	VIC	9	8	6	23
=4th	Lachlan Rae	VIC	8	9	6	23
6th	Giancarlo Nasca	NSW	10	5	7	22
=7th	Philip Jon Buggee	VIC	10	9	2	21
=7th	Frank Spinosa	VIC	9	5	7	21
9th	Phil East	NSW	1	10	4	15
10th	Marisa Gangemi	VIC	2	6	5	13
11th	Keith Ellis	VIC	8	1	1	10

Competition - Club Motorkhana, November 5, 2023

Thankyou to all our helpers and entrants and to the Wollongong sporting car club. Our round 4 Motorkhana went well with everyone enjoying themselves. It was great to see some new faces for the come and try motorkhana for the day.

Thank you for supporting our event.

Until next time,

Mic Mac. Competition Secretary, Fiat Club of New South Wales.

Provisional Motorkhana Results, 5th November 2023 FIAT Car Club NSW R5

O/R	Class	#	Entrant	Club	Class	Diamond Slalom	Fluer-de-Lis	Mothballs	Offcentric	Tiger Moth	Trefoil	Total
1	2	22	John Walker	SSCC	C	32.00	26.75	34.82	39.91	32.38	29.57	195.43
2	1	16	Travis McGeorge (J)	FCNSW	D	36.28	31.29	38.37	37.22	34.62	30.56	208.34
3	2	9	Michael McGeorge	FCNSW	D	34.54	28.90	40.56	36.88	37.25	30.72	208.85
4	3	18	Naomi McGeorge	FCNSW	D	45.07	30.00	40.68	43.93	43.66	38.10 F	241.44
5	3	23	Warren Bell	WSCC	C	49.94	31.97	44.38	45.87	41.75	34.16	248.07
6	4	15	Luke Bailey (J)	FCNSW	C	41.29	32.88	45.06	50.31	46.69	33.25	249.48
7	5	14	Grahame Bailey	FCNSW	C	47.78	31.46	41.88	47.97	48.43	33.63	251.15
8	6	4	Chris Stevens	FCNSW	C	47.00 F	28.97	39.62	43.90	42.38	49.50 dns	251.37
9	1	20	Russell Matthews	FCNSW	F	47.80	37.88	48.44	49.84	47.31	40.12	271.39
10	7	8	Ben Brown	WSCC	C	49.41	38.38	50.54	46.85	48.25	39.53	272.96
11	8	5	Brad bassett	SSCC	C	46.18	36.13	45.38	59.75	50.35	36.47	274.26
12	4	12	Hayley McGeorge (J)	FCNSW	D	45.35	51.64 dns	46.35	53.09	50.03	38.84	285.3
13	9	6	David Hussey	WSCC	C	64.00 WD	37.78	46.37	60.46 F	52.00	40.10	300.71
14	2	3	Gavin Crank	SSCC	F	57.50	35.43	48.97	56.44	59.93	43.65	301.92
15	1	17	Cameron Brown	WSCC	C	53.25	39.19	45.94	60.15	64.76 WD	40.50	303.79
16	3	19	Sav Coen	FCNSW	F	53.90	37.44	51.32	64.63	53.32	44.32	304.93
17	10	21	Charlotte Hussey	WSCC	C	64.00 WD	40.10	52.06	59.72	53.22	40.43	309.53
18	11	24	Kevin Haliburton	FCNSW	C	64.00 WD	47.15F	49.37	55.60	59.72	35.16	311
19	12	10	Mitchell Brown	WSCC	C	52.50	45.19G	53.35 G	62.50 F	55.06	42.44	311.04
20	13	7	Tiarne Hibbert	WSCC	C	56.13	41.90	52.18	65.22	59.09	40.50	315.02
21	14	11	Shania Roberts	WSCC	C	53.25	40.40	51.9	66.97	62.97	44.50	319.99
22	15	26	Chantelle Bell	WSCC	C	64.00 WD	40.78	69.19 dns	44.44	77.66	37.16	333.23
23	4	1	James Hill	VCCNSW	F	64.00 WD	46.64	55.88	62.59	63.16	42.18	334.45
24	16	2	Oliver munro (J)	FCNSW	C	64.00 WD	51.64 dns	54.16	61.84	65.41	44.28	341.33
25	17	25	Simone Ireland	WSCC	C	63.44	51.64 dns	69.19 dns	70.25 F	69.47	36.16	360.15
26	18	13	Jo Bell	WSCC	C	64.00 dns	46.55	64.19	76.81	81.25	49.50 dns	382.3

2024 Fiat 500e first for Stellantis EV battery swap stations

John Mahoney carsales.com

European network capable of swapping out Fiat 500e battery pack in less than 5min; other brands set to follow

Stellantis is preparing to launch a network of battery swap stations in Europe that will be capable of swapping out and fitting a fully charged battery in less than five minutes.

The new tech developed by San Francisco-based Ample will go live in 2024 in Madrid, Spain, before being rolled out to other European locations.

Initially, the battery swap service will only be available to Free2Move car-share drivers using a specially modified fleet of 100 Fiat 500e EVs.

However, the system is designed to quickly ramp up to allow battery swaps across the Stellantis-owned brands, including Peugeot, Citroen, Jeep and Maserati.

The goal is to swap the EV battery in the same time it takes to fill a full tank of petrol in a combustion vehicle.

Until now, Chinese car-maker NIO has led the battery-swap revolution, with more than 2200 of its Power Swap Stations already in operation in China, with a further five set to be rolled out in Europe.

The beauty of the new Stellantis swap stations is that they are said to be capable of being constructed and fully operational in as little as three days.

“The combination of offering compelling electric vehicles that can also receive a full charge in less than five minutes will help remove the remaining impediments to electric vehicle adoption,” said Ample chief Khaled Hassounah.

“We look forward to working with Stellantis to deploy our joint solution across communities around the world.”

2024 Fiat Titano ute ready to fight Ford Ranger, Toyota HiLux

Fiat moves from Mitsubishi to Peugeot for 4x4 dual-cab donor, tapping into Chinese Changan deal

John Mahoney carsales.com

Fiat Professional has released the all-new 2024 Fiat Titano ute that will challenge the likes of the Toyota HiLux and Ford Ranger overseas.

There's no word yet on a possible Australian launch for the Fiat Titano, which replaces the previous Mitsubishi Triton-based Fiat Fullback that was produced for just three years (2016-2019).



Just as the new-generation Mitsubishi Triton prepares to launch Down Under – see our first drive review today – the Stellantis Group's Italian brand has switched to alliance partner Peugeot's Landtrek to create the Titano.

In fact, it's so closely related to the Peugeot Landtrek – which sells in South America and has been on Peugeot Australia's radar – that it's difficult to tell the two apart, aside from a new grille with prominent FIAT lettering and a fresh set of 18-inch alloy wheels.

The Landtrek was developed by Peugeot in partnership with Chinese car-maker Changan Automobile, so both Landtrek and Titano share the platform and most bodywork with the Changan Kaicene F70.

Like its brothers from a different mother, the Titano is available with both single-cab and dual-cab body styles.

Inside, the range-topping Titano adopts the same 10.0-inch infotainment system as found in the Peugeot. Indeed, the cabin is also virtually identical to the Landtrek, with the steering wheel logo the only real point of difference.

Powertrain options include a 110kW/350Nm 1.9-litre turbo-diesel that combines with a six-speed manual gearbox and gets the option of 4x2 and 4x4 drivelines.

There's also a 2.2-litre turbo-diesel that pumps out a more impressive 147kW/440Nm, plus a 2.4-litre turbo-petrol that churns out 154kW/320Nm.

Payload is competitive for the cheapest version at 1210kg.

In markets like Algeria, the Fiat Titano is priced from 3,489,00 DZD (\$A39,000).

Back in 2022, Peugeot Australia hinted the Peugeot Landtrek could be on the menu for our market as it is already built in right-hand drive for South Africa.

However, the company admitted that significant improvements would be needed to bring it up to Australian market expectations and achieve a five-star ANCAP crash safety rating, for example.

That said, top-spec models in South Africa include tech

such as lane departure warning and trailer sway control, and have up to six airbags fitted.

Other highlights include a 360-degree parking/off-road camera, 235mm of ground clearance, 600mm wading depth, hill descent control, 4x4 low-range transfer box and locking rear diff.

There's also the option of a six-seat cabin configuration.

Fiat 500e drive review. In the city, and even at the beach, small is beautiful!

BRYCE GATON bing.com/news

The diminutive Fiat 500e is an EV that strays into a niche that we rarely see filled these days, given Australian car importers insist on offering us an almost exclusive diet of medium to large electric SUV.

It was therefore a breath of fresh air to recently be offered a 4-day loan of the tiny electric hatch from Fiat. At 3.6 metres long, weighing only 1290 kg and 42kWh battery (37.5 usable) with 311 km of WLTP range: on paper it looks the ideal vehicle for one or two people to buzz around the city, or even take out of the city bounds for the occasional day trip.

As I am following up on Tim's earlier report on the 500e here at TheDriven – I will stick to a short write-up of my impressions during my 4 day stint.

... continued next page.

First-up, as a homage to the original Fiat 500 (built from 1957 – 1975), in looks it stacks up well. However, it dwarfs the original. That version was a mere 2.9 metres long and weighed barely 500 kg! Mind-you, the 500e would have to be a lot safer than the original: in 2021 the 500e scored a 4 star ANCAP safety rating.

Over the four days I had with it, I used it as my city commuter plus, to give it a good testing out, my partner took it for a drive outside the city limits for a day trip to Sorrento. (For non-Victorians reading this, Sorrento is around Port Phillip Bay, near the tip of the Mornington Peninsula).

For two people, the car felt roomy in the front and even at highway speeds did not feel like it was out of its comfort zone. At a round-trip length of 200 km, it should also have been well within its 311 km WLTP range, which proved to be the case – although the proper range after the trip would probably be more in the range of 270-ish km.

The Fiat is a fun car, but it isn't the most efficient with its electrons compared to some others. However, for trips like this there is now a network of DC chargers (and even more AC ones) so had we started with a full charge, top-up options were available in many places.

Size

For one to two people to zip around town or the occasional day trip – the Fiat 500e is a really good option. Boot space with the rear seats up may only be 185 litres, but a bit of 'packing Tetris' allowed



me to squeeze in a picnic basket, box of food, blanket, charging leads, etc for a picnic day out.

Even for a weekend away, the back seats fold down to provide a useful 550 litres of boot space. On the other hand – don't try to squeeze an adult into the back seat!

Even my 175 cm tall frame meant I bumped the roof when in the back plus it took a contortionist act to squeeze in and out through the door and around the front seat.

Fit and finish

Inside and out, the fact that the Fiat isn't totally a budget car showed. The interior had a quality look and feel and was well put together, plus the interior colour scheme was attractively different without being 'busy', garish or Spartan.

The dash was also a pleasant surprise. The drivers display contained all the information needed (speed, drive selection, range, charge level and power level used) whilst remaining a compact size.

Same for the centre display. Smaller than

most at 26.7 cm (10.5 inches), at first glance one thinks it will be hard to see or use. Instead, you ended up feeling the grand 39 cm ... and even 43 cm screens in cars like the Ford and Tesla EVs of this world were monuments to excess!

Another breathe of fresh air was the use of tactile buttons for all the major functions. Ventilation and air conditioning were directly under the centre screen, drive functions below that.

Lighting was controlled from the right hand side of the dash – all within easy reach without the need to spend time looking away from the road to scroll through menus or to hit the right spot on the touchscreen.

Driving

For a small car, it naturally does skip around a bit more than a large, heavy SUV. However that nimbleness is its advantage for around-town driving and if for one liked the feel of it for both city and occasional highway use. Yes, it does feel firm on its 45 profile tyres, but sadly that is the current fashion and low profile tyres result in a harsher ride.

Summing up

For those who want a small car instead of a bulky SUV (and whose vehicle budget isn't constrained) the Fiat 500e would be a worthy contender for your EV dollar. On the other hand – if you carry teenage to adult 3rd or 4th passengers or want to travel longer distances regularly – this isn't the car for you.



Repairer and Restorer of all Italian makes and models
Tel. (02) 9736 2612 Web: mastertouchautomotive.com.au
1-3 Chalder Street, Marrickville NSW 2204

For Sale

1970 Fiat 850 Sport Coupe,

This car is rust free having been in the hands of a long-standing Fiat enthusiast, in South Australia, for many years. The **odometer shows over 85,000 miles**, and the **car drives well**. The engine is in a very good state of tune and the **gearbox is very pleasant to use**, especially now with a **new clutch**.

Brakes have recently been thoroughly overhauled, with new master cylinder, front disc rotors and pads, so the car stops very well. **All electrical components function correctly**, as does the **cooling system**, which now sports a larger than standard radiator core, ensuring cool running at all times.

Paint and interior are 'tidy', rather than immaculate, with no exterior panel damage or scratches. The dash top is, as usual with these little cars, quite badly cracked, but the seats are all intact, as is the original carpet. All mechanical work on the car under my ownership has been completed to a high standard by Automoda, of Haberfield.

As much as I have a sentimental attachment to this car, which is identical to one I owned 50 years ago, I realise it's probably no longer suitable for someone of my age, living in congested inner Sydney. (10/23)

Contact Philip French; **MOB 0414 544 713**



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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

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

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@fiatclubnsw.com.au

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- Quarter page in FIAT Focus club magazine.
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Package 2 @ \$150 a year

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Package 3 @ \$200 a year

- Full page in FIAT Focus club magazine.
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Contact the editor to place your advertisement.

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