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## ***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 (i.e. 6 issues produced each year).

***Many thanks to Gavin Tory, Martin Gallard and Giovanni Ciampa for their contributions to this edition of Fiat Focus.***

***Cover; The Fiat Club of New South Wales is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year with special events including track days and a 75th anniversary dinner as well as a host of new merchandise for members.***

*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](http://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 Filippetto; [president@fiatclubnsw.com.au](mailto:president@fiatclubnsw.com.au) Ph. 0423 606 678
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- ◆ **SECRETARY** - Kevin Windsor; [secretary@fiatclubnsw.com.au](mailto:secretary@fiatclubnsw.com.au)
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- ◆ **MERCHANDISING** - Kevin Halliburton; [merchandise@fiatclubnsw.com.au](mailto:merchandise@fiatclubnsw.com.au)
- ◆ **HISTORIC PLATE REGISTRAR** - Richard Dalziel; [histrego@fiatclubnsw.com.au](mailto:histrego@fiatclubnsw.com.au)  
Historic Plates form - postal address details are: 12 Page Ave, Wahroonga, NSW 2076
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- ◆ **CMC DELEGATE** Domenic Squadrito; [committee2@fiatclubnsw.com.au](mailto:committee2@fiatclubnsw.com.au)
- ◆ **ANSELL PARK CO-ORDINATOR** - Michael McGeorge; [Ansellpark@fiatclubnsw.com.au](mailto:Ansellpark@fiatclubnsw.com.au)
- ◆ **FIAT CLUB LIBRARIAN** - Lorenzo Aventi; [editor@fiatclubnsw.com.au](mailto:editor@fiatclubnsw.com.au)
- ◆ **PUBLIC OFFICER** - Adrian Sandrin; [public\\_officer@fiatclubnsw.com.au](mailto: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  |                     |





thanking our members, past, present and future!

## 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
<b>March 2024</b>		
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
<b>April 2024</b>		
Tues 2nd	Oasis Run - The Hills District Historical Society Museum	no
Sun 7th	Auto Italia - Queanbeyan	Yes
Sun 14th	FIAT Coffee Break - 4T7 Cafe (Ermington)	Yes
Sat 20th	FIAT Club Track Day - Luddenham Raceway	Yes
Sun 28th	FIAT Gelato Break - Messina Gelato, Marrickville	Yes
<b>May 2024</b>		
Tues 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
<b>June 2024</b>		
Tues 4th	Oasis Run - Museum Visit Bexley North	no
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
<b>July 2024</b>		
Tues 2nd	Oasis Run - Wentworth Fallas Lake	no
Sun 14th	FIAT Coffee Break - The Grid Cafe (Oran Park)	Yes
Sun 28th	XMAS IN JULY / Cavallino (Terrey Hills)	Yes
<b>August 2024</b>		
Sat 24th	FIAT of Italy Cup Motorkhana - Ansell Park	Yes
Sun 25th	Shannons Sydney Classic - Sydney Motorsport Park, Eastern Creek	Yes
<b>November 2024</b>		
Sun 3rd	2024 Fiat Club NSW Motorkhana Championship Rd 7	Yes
Fri 8th - Mon 11th	FIAT 125 - Forster Tuncurry, Celebrating 125 years of the FIAT Brand	Yes
Sun 24th	FIAT Club of NSW 75th Anniversary Lunch	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 details.

### Upcoming Events

#### **TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Turn at lights 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 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Cash only & no IOU's as I do not want to be out of pocket \$\$\$ , **LUNCH:** Local Club.

#### **TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2024.** MUSEUM VISIT, BEXLEY NORTH. **LUNCH:** Local Club

#### **DATE: TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> JULY 2024.**

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

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



***Auto Italia, 7 April 2024 at Queanbeyan Park***  
***For details, go to - [www.autoitaliacanberra.com](http://www.autoitaliacanberra.com)***

# President's Report

## Happy Birthday Fiat Club NSW...!

2024 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Fiat Club NSW coming into being. That is a huge milestone, and one which the Committee has big plans across the board to mark the event in very memorable ways throughout the year.

Whether you have a modern Fiat or an historic one – or something in between, we will provide members and their families many opportunities to participate in some very special Club events this year.

There will be the usual array of social events like gelato and pizza runs and the like however please keep these special 'Anniversary' ones in the front of your collective minds.

I am going to start with arguably our biggest event for the year, first – the **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon** on 24<sup>th</sup> November. See the advert elsewhere in the magazine, but this will be the hallmark event for the year, and one not to be missed. The venue is **Le Montage at Lilyfield**, an absolutely spectacular restaurant with ample parking for our beloved Fiats. But wait, there's more!

- The Club is heavily subsidizing the cost of the tickets, where the actual cost of luncheon is \$150 per adult / \$79 per child (U12), but the Committee has decided that the Club will discount the cost to members to only \$50/adult and \$40/ children by the Club subsidizing the difference with the venue. This is a decision to provide real and tangible value back to the Membership.
- You will need to be a financial Club member to attend the luncheon, and the discount offer is made to all current financial members of the Fiat Club NSW and as the membership applies on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2024.
- The offer is limited to the first 100 members who make a booking and is secured by the payment of \$50/ adult and \$40/Child attending the event, and payable no later than 30 June 2024. However, interest has already been high, and many members have already secured their spots by paying these deposits already.

This will be a massive event and I encourage all members to jump in as quickly as possible and secure their spots by the payment of their deposits.

The Club is also organising the 60<sup>th</sup> running of the **Fiat of Italy Cup** in August. This motorkhana competition has a rich and proud history akin to a 'state of origin' competition with other Fiat Clubs in other states (SA, QLD, and VIC). Yes, it is a motorkhana event, and we have quite a good number of motorkhanas schedule in the coming months at Ansell Park for interested members to get some practice in, but the Committee is looking to broaden the appeal of the event with a 'show & shine' and Club BBQ to be held on the day as well. It also coincides with the CMC Display Day at Sydney Motorsport Park on the Sunday of that weekend, and we have already secured a premium display site for many members' cars. So, this will be another special weekend overall and one for Members who may not be familiar with the nuance of motorkhanas to come out and watch, show off their road cars and will be a wonderful social event weekend.

Next month we have our inaugural club speed event / SuperSprint at Luddenham Raceway. This is a safe way to test the limits of your car. You don't need a race car or high-performance car (though it could be argued that most Fiats are high performance anyway...!) It is designed to enable drivers to safely explore their normal car in a safe and confined environment. The Club will have some experienced Race Car drivers available to give some pointers to people if this is their first time at such an event, but all people will come away with improved car handling skills by participating.

All for now, yours in Fiats

Dave

## New Members

**A warm welcome to the following enthusiasts:**

Daniel Pardey – 1968 Fiat 850 Sport red

Oliver Keith Munro – Junior





# 75th Anniversary Lunch

Sunday 24th November 2024

Le Montage

38 Frazer St, Lilyfield NSW 2040

(start time: 12:00pm / finish time: 4:00pm)

The FIAT Club of NSW would like to invite all club members to celebrate its 75th Anniversary together at Le Montage while enjoying a spectacular 3 course lunch with all drinks included ( beer / wine / soft drinks / tea & coffee )

the afternoon will provide many surprises, gifts and give aways, like 3x free memberships for 2025, all while reflecting on our clubs beginnings, reminiscing its transformation over the decades and revealing future ambitions...lets celebrate!

ticket pricing: (adults) **\$150**pp  
(kids) **\$79**pp (2-12yrs)

**special offer** - the club will subsidize the cost of a ticket by \$100, leaving members to pay the difference of **\$50**  
this discount only applies to the first '100 members'  
to secure your subsidy, please pay your balance as a deposit by 30th June 2024

account name: FIAT Club of NSW    BSB: 082-067    Acc. 03 665 7020

# Fiat Club NSW Incorporated Annual General Meeting – Ansell Park – 11 February 2024 .

## Welcome:

Richard Dalziel opened the meeting and welcomed members at 11:45 am on behalf of David Filipetto, who joined via Zoom.

## Apologies:

Martin Gallard, Rebecca Gallard, Michael McGeorge, Naomi McGeorge, Roger Malcolm, Justin Matthews, Nick Ludlum, Robert McDonald.

**Previous Minutes:** Accepted and seconded by members.

## President's Report:

David Filipetto spoke via Zoom (copy of report included).

## Treasurer's Report:

A copy of the financial statement was provided to members.

**General Business:** Nil.

## Presentation of Trophies:

Did not proceed, due to the Secretary availability.

**Election new Committee.** Richard Dalziel declared all committee positions vacant and asked Dean Ryan to chair the election as Returning Officer.

## The following office bearers were elected;

**President** - David Filipetto

**Vice President** - Domenic Squadrito

**Secretary** - vacant

**Treasurer** - Susan Halliburton

**Membership Registrar** - Cheryl Sandrin

**The following committee members were elected;**

**Competition Secretary** - Michael McGeorge

**Editor** - vacant

**Webmaster** - Adrian Sandrin

**Social Event Coordinator** - Giovanni Ciampa

**General Committee person 1** - Adrian Sandrin

**The following Sub-committee members were elected;**

**Assistant Competition Secretary** - Martin Gallard

**Merchandising** - Kevin Halliburton

**Historic Plate Registrar** - Richard Dalziel

**Assistant Historic Plate Registrar** –

Maurizio Puglisi

**CMC Delegate** - Domenic Squadrito

**Ansell Park Coordinator** - Michael McGeorge

**Librarian** - Lorenzo Aventi

The following positions will be reviewed and appointed by the new committee.

**Public Officer** - To be Appointed at Committee Meeting in February.

**Honorary Auditor** To be Appointed at Committee Meeting in February.

**Club Patron, TBA** – Assumed Mr. Nat Zanardo - OAM

The election of the new committee was completed at 12:30 pm. Richard Dalziel congratulated the new committee and closed the meeting.





# President's Report - Fiat Club NSW, AGM 2024

Looking back 12 months to this point last year, the Committee of 2023 had some unique challenges. Without a doubt, the most pressing issue was the effective management and separation of the two entities – the Fiat Club of NSW Inc and Ansell Park Pty Ltd.

Ansell Park Pty Ltd was a company established some 46 years ago by some members back then who financed the purchase of about 18 acres out near Richmond Air Base. It was flood prone land, but suited the purpose for which it was purchased – and that was to provide the (then) motorsport-mad Club Membership with a patch of ground for their motorkhana's and picnics.

Corporate law over the past decade or so has become quite prescriptive of Directors' responsibilities constituting the Boards of Companies. It would be fair to say, that the management of Ansell Park has not kept pace with such corporate developments in this time. As directors faded away, it was left to the Fiat Club Committee of the day to shoulder the burden of running and managing Ansell Park.

Ansell Park is almost an embarrassment of riches – a large parcel of land within striking distance of Sydney metro areas, where many motorsport enthusiasts, not just from our Club but many others, have enjoyed generations of sporting participation.

But over the last decade, the management of Ansell Park became somewhat muddled with that of the Club's, and this relationship needed to be set right.

The biggest tasks for the 2023 Committee were:

- To understand and unravel the matters and operations of both entities.
- Separate the management and financial recording of both.
- Have the financial records thoroughly audited so that the holding so both entities could be properly represented.

This has been done and both the Fiat Club of NSW and Ansell Park Pty Ltd are in good shape possessing their own healthy bank balances. The Ansell Park monies were largely established through the rental of the grounds over the past 10 to 12 years. Ansell Park Pty Ltd must continue to stand on its own two feet, essentially meaning that it is to remain solvent in its own right (through continued leasing and rentals). As has been the

case during that same time, Club money has not been used to subsidise Ansell Park in any way.

Formal agreements will now be established between the Fiat Club of NSW and Ansell Park Pty Ltd to ensure this continues. I'd like to commend and thank the Committee of 2023 for working diligently to provide this clarity of separation of both entities, and Club Members can take confidence that this will continue in 2024 with both entities now operating totally independently of each other.

2024 marks a significant year for Ansell Park Pty Ltd. The work to be undertaken is to:

- Re-establish a small board of independent directors.
- Establish good governance and financial management.
- Modernise the constitution.
- Consult with Shareholders.

This work will be undertaken at "arm's length" to the running of the Club. To that end, I would like to categorically say that the Fiat Club of NSW is a very well run and administered Club that provides excellent value to all Members and their vast array of Fiat interests.

The large number of events and opportunities provided to Members to participate in during 2023 were enormous. From pizza and gelato runs, club meetings, concorso's / displays, other sporting, and social events – there was something for everyone, including our historic registration group.

2024 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Fiat Club of NSW. Many events for the year are already in the planning stage, especially a large gala luncheon event in November.

This year also marks the 60th Anniversary of the Fiat of Italy Cup, an interstate (state of origin) motorkhana event with a proud and rich history. It will truly be an exciting year ahead.

I'd like to sincerely thank the Committee of 2023 for their tireless and selfless work over the past 12 months. Not many members can truly appreciate the work done behind the scenes by these volunteers, who commit so much time and effort to make each members club experience unique and special. Yours in Fiats.

*Dave Filippetto, 2023 President Fiat Club NSW.*

# Competition

## Fiat Club of NSW Motorkhana Championship – Round 1.

February 25<sup>th</sup> saw perfect weather for a return to Ansell Park for Round 1 of the Fiat Club of NSW Motorkhana Championship. 26 drivers including 7 juniors took on 8 tests, with a great mix of friends from Wollongong Sporting Car Club and Southern Sporting Car Club coming along to support our event.

A huge thank you to our volunteers that help run the day, we could not do it without you!

Round 2 will be held March 17<sup>th</sup> back out at Ansell Park, and it would be great to see more FCNSW members out there joining us for some fun. Get your cars ready and get those entries in!



### Provisional Motorkhana Results, 25th Feb 2024 - FIAT Car Club NSW R1

O/R	Class	#	Entrant	Club	Class	Crossed 4-Point Adj Time	Diamond Slalom Adj Time	Accordion Adj Time	Offcentric Adj Time	Crazy Square Adj Time	Bowler Adj Time	Star Adj Time	Cloverleaf Adj Time	Total
1	1	9	Michael McGeorge	FCNSW	D	23.81	<b>28.31</b>	<b>37.91</b>	33.03	<b>22.44</b>	<b>24.75</b>	<b>28.00</b>	29.41	<b>227.66</b>
2	1	22	John Walker	SSCC	C	25.68	30.94	39.56	<b>32.94</b>	25.47	25.91	29.50	<b>29.22</b>	<b>239.22</b>
3	2	16	Travis McGeorge	FCNSW	D	<b>23.31</b>	28.75	45.72	34.22	22.57	24.87	30.44	31.75	<b>241.63</b>
4	1	13	Jean-Luc Stevens	MX5	B	24.19	30.31	40.71	36.69	24.88	26.00	30.50	30.06	<b>243.34</b>
5	3	27	Martin Gallard	FCNSW	D	24.84	29.09	48.85	33.34	25.03	24.85	30.85	29.44	<b>246.29</b>
6	1	4	Chris Stevens	FCNSW	B	24.53	29.97	39.07	37.19	24.03	27.37	34.72 G	31.84	<b>248.72</b>
7	2	15	Luke Bailey (J)	FCNSW	C	27.06	31.37	41.25	34.75	26.28	26.03	31.34	31.59	<b>249.67</b>
8	3	14	Grahame Bailey	FCNSW	C	26.09	31.88	44.59	34.84	26.41	27.22	31.72	31.03	<b>253.78</b>
9	4	26	Greg Jones	SSCC	C	26.09	31.43	41.68	35.21	25.00	27.34	35.75 F	32.40	<b>254.90</b>
10	5	5	Brad Bassett	SSCC	C	26.84	32.35	42.38	37.43	26.78	27.00	33.47	30.96	<b>257.21</b>
11	6	31	Warren Degnan	SSCC	C	26.41	32.22	42.72	37.28	26.78	27.54	32.75	32.22	<b>257.92</b>
12	7	25	Bruce Daniel	SSCC	C	27.16	33.00	43.78	36.12	28.22	27.94	34.25	33.16	<b>263.63</b>
13	8	17	Cameron Brown	WSSCC	C	31.00 G	31.88	41.71	37.28	25.85	27.90	34.22	35.53	<b>265.37</b>
14	9	10	Mitchell Brown (J)	WSSCC	C	33.38	34.03	42.75	37.16	26.56	27.90	31.87	34.69	<b>268.34</b>
15	10	6	David Hussey	WSSCC	C	27.37	32.25	42.35	33.90	26.81	34.91 wd	36.97	33.37	<b>267.93</b>
16	11	8	Ben Brown	WSSCC	C	26.06	31.31	44.22	40.89	26.88	34.46 G	33.81	32.00	<b>269.63</b>
17	12	23	Allan Ross	SSCC	C	28.53	35.91	45.34	39.21	26.31	28.12	33.16	34.28	<b>270.86</b>
18	1	3	Gavin Crank	SSCC	F	31.22	34.85	48.85	37.81	26.35	29.91	33.50	33.72	<b>276.21</b>
19	13	30	Samantha Curry	SSCC	C	28.16	34.00	53.85 wd	40.78	27.31	29.29	33.82	34.87	<b>282.08</b>
20	14	29	Jacob Beliaiev (J)	WSSCC	C	27.81	39.56 F	49.75 F	40.00	27.13	28.06	41.97 wd	36.90	<b>291.18</b>
21	15	28	Liam Crowley (J)	WSSCC	C	26.41	40.91 wd	49.78	43.28	27.28	34.85 G	31.53	42.90	<b>296.94</b>
22	4	12	Hayley McGeorge (J)	FCNSW	D	28.97	35.97	45.06	45.91	33.22 dns	36.28 G	41.97 wd	34.94	<b>302.32</b>
23	16	11	Jack Malcolm (J)	FCNSW	C	26.68	34.47	53.85 dns	47.82 G	33.81 G	29.66	40.25	43.00	<b>309.54</b>
24	17	2	Oliver Munro (J)	FCNSW	C	35.60	38.69	51.91	44.53	30.44	31.06	37.25	43.19	<b>312.67</b>
25	18	21	Charlotte Hussey	WSSCC	C	36.22 dns	40.91 dns	53.85 dns	51.59	26.00	34.82 F	35.53	40.53 wd	<b>319.45</b>

**Penalties:** F = Flag Down, G = Garage Penalty, WD = Wrong Direction, M = Mechanical, DNS = Did Not Start, DNF = Did Not Finish. WD times were calculated using "Double Fastest" method or slowest time plus 5 sec whichever is faster. DNS, DNF slowest time plus 10 seconds.

#### Classes ;

- A - SWB Rear Wheel Drive;
- B - LWB Rear Wheel Drive;
- C - Front Wheel , D.Specials, F.Four Wheel Drive,
- J - Junior Competitor



## FCNSW MOTORKHANA CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday 17 March

Round

# 2

Round 2 of the Fiat Club of NSW Motorkhana Championship will be held on Sunday 17 March at Ansell Park. Keep an eye on Facebook in the coming week for details.

## NSW Hillclimb Championship – Rounds 1 & 2

March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> saw the Bathurst Light Car Club host rounds 1 & 2 of the NSW Hillclimb Championship at Mount Panorama. Mic & I (the usuals) were joined by club members and event new comers Russell Matthews in his 500, Drew & Austin Carter in an RS Impreza, and Travis McGeorge alongside Mic in the 127.

More than just a hillclimb weekend, the Bathurst event is an excellent social opportunity as our families come with us and we all set up camp for the entire weekend. A majority of entrants all camp over the weekend, and it's great to have so many fun interactions with everyone far beyond just the motorsport.

Round 1 on Saturday has competitors tackle "The Esses", where timing starts from the top of Conrod Straight outside the clubhouse, up through the Esses to finish at McPhillamy Park. Grey clouds quickly turned to drizzle after run 1, pretty much ensuring runs 2 & 3 were all in undesirable conditions. Luckily the sun eventually burst through for a dry final and fourth run, albeit the track was still slightly damp in some spots.

With no mechanical issues to worry about, Russell, Drew & Austin were able to spend the day focussed on valuable seat time. Russell was able to bring the 500 home in a time of 39.22, 3<sup>rd</sup> in class. Drew was able to bring the Impreza home 2<sup>nd</sup> in class with a time of 37.84, with Austin close behind. 3<sup>rd</sup> in class, with a time of 39.61.

Both 127's suffered a mixed day of dramas, with the McFiat Orange beast temporarily sidelined with a leaking clutch cylinder, and the Grey Goose battling a sever understeer issue which at first appeared to be excessive toe in. With the clutch cylinder fixed and toe in dialled out closer to zero, both cars finished out the day but needed work before taking to the track Sunday. The battle of the 127's was a close one, Marty 1<sup>st</sup> in class with a time of 37.13, Mic in 2<sup>nd</sup> with a time of 38.72, and Travis right behind to not only get 3<sup>rd</sup> in class with a time of 39.64, but also 3<sup>rd</sup> fastest Junior outright for the day.

As a point of reference, fastest time of the day was Dean Tighe in his Empire Wraith with an incredible 24.06.

Round 2 on Sunday has competitors tackle "Mountain straight" where timing start on the first bump on Mountain Straight, again all the way up to finish at McPhillamy Park. Although occasionally windy, it was perfect conditions for the entire day.

Again the 500 & RS Impreza ran without issue, Russell, Drew & Austin getting all sessions in and thoroughly enjoying a first weekend on track at Mt Panorma. Russell was able to bring the 500 home in a time of 68.04, again 3<sup>rd</sup> in class. Austin dug deep and beat Dad to bring the Impreza home 2<sup>nd</sup> in class with a time of 65.37, with Drew extremely close behind in 3<sup>rd</sup> in class with a time of 65.66. Who doesn't love an epic father/son battle!

The McFiat Orange Beast ran strong, but an early morning drama with a dead alternator gave the guys a heart attack. Luckily Mic had the parts needed, and the repair was done without missing any sessions. The Grey Goose was now in bad shape, with what turned out to be a jammed diff being the cause of the understeer. With no independent wheel spin in the front wheels, steering the car up the hill was an absolutely awful experience I would not want to put anyone through.

Somehow amongst the dramas the battle of the 127's was again a close one, Marty 1<sup>st</sup> in class with a time of 66.90, Travis getting one over dad in 2<sup>nd</sup> with a time of 68.05, and Mic right behind 3<sup>rd</sup> in class with a time of 68.76. Yet another epic father/son battle!

Again, as a point of reference the fastest time of the day was Dean Tighe in his Empire Wraith with an incredible 40.71.

A huge thanks to our families and helpers, an awesome weekend had by all.

Best Regards,

**Martin Gallard**







# Fiat of Italy Cup Motorkhana

1964

2024



60

Years

To celebrate 60 years of the Fiat of Italy Cup, the Fiat Club of NSW invites all states to join us at Ansell Park for a special running of the FoIC Motorkhana. The event will be followed by a relaxed evening and award presentation.

As part of the weekend there will also be a drive out to the CMC Shannons Sydney Classic display day on the Sunday morning, where we will be displaying the Fiat of Italy Cup amongst some of the cars from various states.

Please mark your diaries for August 24-25, and stay tuned for more details to come shortly!



## WANTED

### Editor for the Fiat Club of NSW magazine, FIATFocus.

An editor is required to continue producing the club's magazine which is a vital source of information for its members, especially as this year is the 75th anniversary of the FIAT Club of NSW. All assistance and support will be provided to help you fulfill this rewarding role.

Please note, until a new editor is found, FIATFocus magazine will temporarily be out of production.

The time has finally come as this will be the last magazine I will produce as editor, however, the committee has been hard at work organising so many activities that there is lots to report on in this issue!

This year is the **75th anniversary of the Fiat Club of New South Wales** and the committee has heaps of events planned for members to enjoy which include the usual coffee, gelato and burger breaks, some chestnut picking later this month and the introduction of track days for you test your driving skills (*check out the club calendar and adverts in this magazine for all the details*). The year will finish up with the Club's **75th Anniversary Lunch** to be held on Sunday 24 November at La Montage in Lilyfield.

Martin Gallard has been working hard behind the scenes organising this year's **Fiat of Italy Cup**, the motorkhana challenge between the various Fiat clubs in Australia that **started 60 years ago in 1964 at Wagga Wagga**. The event will include the challenge for the Cup at Ansell Park, a Show'n'Shine and an evening BBQ (see the previous page for details).

**Some other major events coming up soon** include Auto Italia (Sunday 7 April), The National Heritage Motoring Day (Sunday 19 May) and, of course, the annual Shannons Sydney Classic (Sunday 25 August) which will have some added significance for the club this year as it is tied in with the Fiat of Italy Cup Challenge.

Another major event to be held this year will be the **Fiat 125 celebration**, commemorating 125 years of the Fiat brand (see the Fiat 125 newsletter elsewhere in the magazine). Roger Beatie, President of the Fiat Car Club of Victoria, is following up on the success of the Fiat 123 event held a couple of years ago.

This year's event, to be run from the 8th to 11th of November will be held in the Forster-Tuncurry region of NSW. This is a great opportunity for

members to participate in a fine event that is on our doorstep. For details, check out the newsletter in this magazine.

The **funeral for Doug Tory, a life member of the Fiat club, was held on in February** and many of the club's members who knew Doug joined family and friends to both mourn his passing and to celebrate his life. Prior to Doug's illness, he had been a regular at club social meetings and events in his pristine dark green 124 AC Coupe, and later the immaculate silver 124 AC.

Doug's son, Gavin Tory, also a long time member, has written a **fitting tribute to his father** which is included elsewhere in the magazine. For those who had not met Doug, you will find this the tribute most interesting, and for those who did know him, they will fondly remember him.

**Last month in FIAT News**, articles reporting Australian car sales figures for 2023 were included which did not break down sales by brand. I have since found out that **the Fiat Brand sold 2062 vehicles in 2023** which would be a mixture 500, Abarth passenger cars and Fiat commercial vehicles.

As mentioned at the start of this article **This will be my last magazine as editor of FIATFocus magazine**. I would like to thank the club members for their support and feedback, for the articles, photographs and information they have provided over the past 10 years for use in the magazine.

I would also like to thank those members on the committee who have helped with providing details of events and in editing the final product to enable the magazine to be sent to everyone.

Please consider applying for the role of editor in this 75th anniversary year of the Club's existence. You will receive much support and assistance. I will not be far way to lend a hand and the committee will help you out wherever they can.

*Lorenzo Aventi*





# coffee break (write up)

14th January 2024

Armory Wharf Cafe @ Newington



Our first social event for 2024, celebrating our clubs 75th Anniversary. Saw us return to a great venue in Newington, the Armory Wharf Cafe. This place provides an awesome al fresco environment by the lake with ample parking for our cars.

The heat and humidity that Sydney has been experiencing this summer didn't deter our club members turning up.



The highlight for me was meeting a new club member, Kevin, who drove his newly purchased Abarth 695 Competizione in white. A great looking car, which we hope to see more of at further club events and learn more about Kevin as well.



We are excited to see more of our club members at future events celebrating this milestone year together!



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







# dinner break (write up)

28th January 2024

Skinny Tony's @ Five Dock



This Dinner Break at Skinny Tony's was a new venue for the FIAT Club of NSW suggested by one of our members.

The bistro area provided a great family friendly, relaxed atmosphere for us all to gather, enjoy a good meal and still in eye sight of our cars across the lawn bowls greens in the car park.



The highlight was seeing one of our members, Kerry, drive up in their new car...an Aston Martin DBX V8. Not many on the road, so a great treat to see up close! We welcome all our members toys at these events.

It's also nice to see club members bring their partners and other family members to share in the experience at these events



We hope this continues at future events celebrating this milestone year together!

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







# pizza break (write up)

25th February 2024

Patio @ Putney



Another great turn out to our popular pizza break venue - Patio @ Putney. The wood fired authentic Italian Pizza and Pasta always goes down well and enjoyed by all.

Great to see more and more members partners come along and join in these social gatherings.

The highlight was seeing one of our club members, very rare Lancia Delta Integrale Final Edition drive up and parked amongst our FIAT models.

Our cars of various ages definately draw attention from on lookers, all wanting to stop and admire our cars.

We thank all who attended and look forward to seeing many more members at future events to celebrate our 75th Anniversary.

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





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Burger Break!

come join like minded **FIAT** enthusiasts enjoy a burger celebrating our clubs 75th Anniversary



**When:** Sunday 10th March 2024

**Where:** Chubb's Brookvale  
79 Winbourne Road,  
Brookvale NSW 2100

**Time:** 7pm - till late



## Coffee Break!

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



**When:** Sunday 14th April 2024

**Where:** Cafe 4TY7  
47 Boronia Street,  
Ermington NSW 2115

**Time:** 8:00am - 10:00am



## Chestnut Picking

Sunday 24th March 2024

Nutwood Farm  
22 Danes Way, Mount Irvine, NSW 2786

(travel time: 1hr 34mins / distance 89.8kms)

The FIAT Club of NSW would like to invite you to a family friendly drive day, **chestnut picking** to celebrate its 75th Anniversary together

itinerary: **8:30am** / meet up point: Greenway Cafe carpark (799 Richmond Rd, Colebee NSW 2761)

**9:00am** / convoy drives off from meet up point driving along Richmond Rd to join the Bells Line of Rd through Bilpin up to Mt Irvine

**10:45am** / arrive at destination (Nutwood Farm, Mt Irvine)

everyone will be free to enjoy chestnut picking (**bring cash** as eftpos may not work) also, please **bring your own packed lunch** to enjoy the green open grounds of the farm before driving safely home at your own pace



## Track Day

Saturday 20th April 2024

821-849 Luddenham Road,  
Luddenham, NSW 2745

8:00am check in / 9:00am start / 4:00pm finish

The FIAT Club of NSW would like to invite you to a **Private Track Day** to celebrate its 75th Anniversary together (all cars welcomed)

cost: \$275pp (deposit of \$100 required to secure your spot)

please make payments to: FIAT CLUB OF NSW  
BSB: 082-067  
Acc. 03 665 7020

please also provide your RSVP: [events@fiatclubnsw.com.au](mailto:events@fiatclubnsw.com.au)

- note: if you wish to bring a second driver their cost will be \$50pp
- passengers / spectators are welcomed at a cost of \$20pp
- helmet hire is available at the track \$20pp



# Vale Doug Tory

Doug began his journey in Oatley, in Sydney's south on 16 December 1938 but like many, his automotive journey began as a teenager. By then at the family home in Riverwood. A neighbour had a rusting 1930s Triumph, which he allowed Doug and younger brother Gordon tinker with and eventually get running. Doug took the wheel of course, roaring off down the street with a bunch of teenagers in the back. On swinging on the wheel to turn around, the Triumph shed its rusted rear bodywork, leaving young Doug sitting on a bare chassis with some bewildered back seat passengers still sitting in the body on the footpath. Clearly good preparation for future Fiat ownership.

The same neighbour, who had an automotive and engineering bent later had a Fiat 1400, which inspired Doug's brother Gordon and father Harry to purchase Fiats in the early 1960s. Gordon's 850

powered 600, Abarth kitted 850 and 1500 Mark II all saw action in the Fiat Club of NSW in speed events in the mid '60s, but pride of the family fleet was Harry's brand new 2300 sedan. The two boys were always keen to help Harry out by giving the 2300 regular Italian tune-ups,

Despite all these Fiat influences, Doug wasn't yet a convert. But he was a car nut, serving his automotive apprenticeship at Hastings Deering Ford in Crown Street (now City Ford) Doug claimed to hold the record at the time for the run up to the top of the building (in a Police Ford Customline in for service). He was a bit of a Ford fan, having had three A models, increasingly modified, including by fitting a flathead V8s. Austin 7s and Morrisies also fitted in, including one which met an end against a guard rail, whilst avoiding a head on collision, sending the rigid steering column and wheel



crashing into the roof. Doug narrowly avoided decapitation by laying down across the seats. The photos of this vehicle post-incident are a scary reminder of the times when vehicle safety standards were unheard of.

Doug had married lifelong partner Dot in the late '50s and by this stage and had two children, Brenda and myself, but cars were still front and centre and seemed to turn over every

3 months. Zephyrs then a Dodge, a Rover 90, two Humber Super Snipes and a 302 V8 XY Fairmont amongst them.

Then came the first Fiat, a 125 which many of Doug's friends questioned and scratched their

heads until they had a ride in it. Alford's Point Bridge had opened around this time and was very lightly trafficked. One match up was between the 125 and a friend's BMW 2002, which Doug rounded up allegedly nudging 90 MPH in third gear swapping up a gear for effect as he went past

on the run down onto the bridge.

There was another lull from Fiats with more Holden and Ford V8s, Mercedes, BMWs, Jags and various other vehicles that continued to come and go every few months before another 125 was trailered onto the scene. Influenced by Dad's earlier 125, this was my first car, a rusty wreck that we rebuilt together ahead me gaining my Learner's permit in 1979. This also marked the Tory family becoming reinvolved with the Fiat Club of NSW, Doug and I joining with the encouragement of Steve Gotch, then at Ardita Spares. We were very regular customers.

While the early dalliances were sporadic, over the next 45 years conservatively Doug's Italian love affair would have stretched to over 50 Fiats, amongst at least 150 cars in total, some say they have counted over 200. The original Wheeler Dealer?





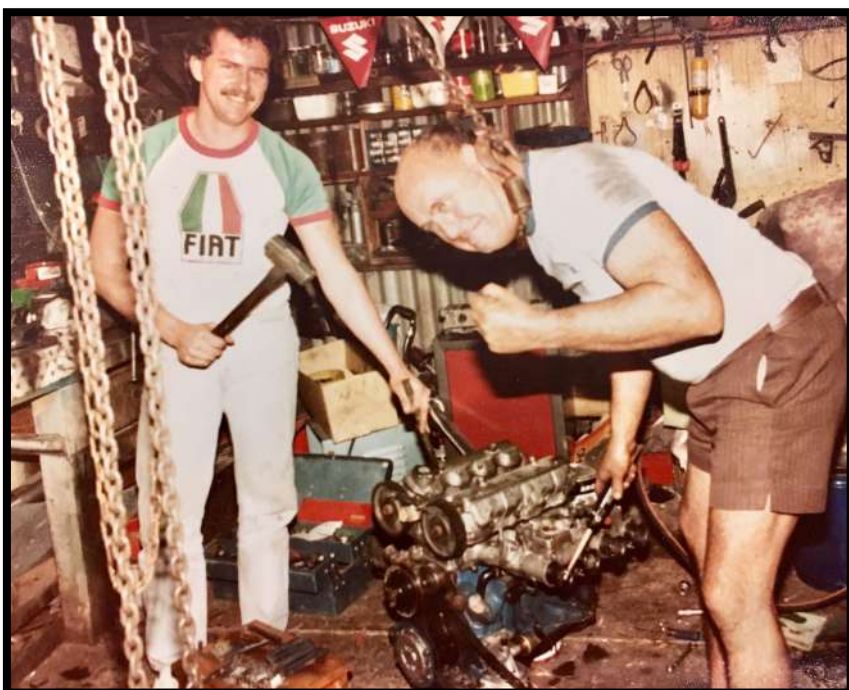
## Vale Doug Tory ... (continued)

Not only that, but the enthusiasm also spread throughout relatives and friends, even my mates, all of whom caught the Fiat bug from Doug. Some concourse events had us shuffling 5 or 6 cars to put on display from the immediate family, and there were probably a couple more back home in the yard awaiting some mechanical or body work.

The highlight of this era was the fun of competition. Initially this was in our road cars, both Doug and I had 124 Sport CCs at the time, and we were using the multi-concourse winning Arancio Scuro 124 Sport in super sprint events, which we eventually thought was a bit risky as we got braver and had a few oh-sh\_t



an unplanned overnight engine change Doug got out on the track for his stint only to have the dreaded steering damper breakage, which saw him careering towards a solid concrete marshalling point with two wide eyed flag marshals about to jump ship. Doug nonchalantly pulled on the handbrake and sailed past them sideways, before 50-something Doug sprinted 500-metres in full fireproof racing gear across the infield to hand over the sash to the next team car. This is one of many times when Doug used up a life, and I do mean many!



It was fitting reflection of his friendship and willingness to help that Doug was made just the 14<sup>th</sup> life member of the 75 year old Fiat Club of NSW, a recognition

experiences. This led to the purchase of a very tired he was very proud to receive.

'barn find' 124 AC which we stripped down and went racing. Eventually this led into racing in NSW Sports Sedans events and the Italian Challenge in the backyard-built Fiat 124 Sport with some good success, occasional wins and the fun of making much larger and more expensive cars look silly on tight tracks. These were all family events, with wife Dot always present, managing catering and my wife Sue also part of the cheer squad, often along with Doug's daughter and her kids all decked out in Fiat Club colours.

One event that sticks in my mind was an Oran Park 6 relay hour race in 1987, after





## Vale Doug Tory ... (continued)

Doug's other passion was trucks in his specialisation as a diesel mechanic and occasional relief driver. He loved driving trucks and was the master of the Road Ranger gearbox. One trick when testing vehicles at work was changing up three gears in reverse, to impress the regular drivers. I did many truck trips to

Canberra as a kid with Doug where on leaving the last set of traffic lights in Sydney he never used the clutch on a gear change for the rest of the trip. Transport company owner and friend Tony Pedemont declared Doug the best 'Gear Jammer' he has ever known over a lifetime in the industry.

So, it was truly fitting that Doug was inducted into the Road Transport Hall of fame back in 2022, after 50 + years in and around the transport business, driving and fixing anything and everything to a high standard.

The first thing Doug did with any vehicle he got his hands on was to make it louder. He often quipped that driving trucks had blown his hair off, as he had to stick his head out to hear them working on song.

Doug had several apprentices, including at least one unofficial one in your's truly. We all learned lots from a master mechanic. This skill was a blessing and a curse. I was always amazed how many people turned up at home with unsolvable car problems for dad to diagnose. **Fix It Again Tory** was always helping, always for free.

Doug's life was rich with experiences and thoroughly enjoyed up until the last few years where Parkinsons Disease got the better of him after nearly 20 years fighting it.

On a positive note, the takeaway from the sentiments of so many who knew him has been that it's been a privilege to know Doug. He loved a laugh or sharing a (suitably embellished) story and he always generously gave of his time and experience.



Doug's journey ended on 13 February 2024, however, his Fiat legacy continues on in the Tory family, who cherish his silver 124 Sport CC, and also grandson Nathan Brown, who grew up with 'Pa's' Fiat obsession and is now the proud owner of a

beautiful and very authentic 131 Abarth replica. Another close friend also still has the 124 AC race car, and we are determined to see it back on the track one day. There are numerous vehicles in the club that have passed through Doug's hands and are the better for it.

On behalf of the broader Tory family, I would like to sincerely thank club members for their kind thoughts. The club was a big part of Doug and Dot's life and the sentiments have meant a lot to us all.

*Gavin Tory*





# 1985 FIAT Uno advertisement from New Zealand Car magazine!

The Fiat Uno was one of Fiat's great successes with the Uno Turbo being a hot hatch that many that is still sought after by Fiat and other car enthusiasts. Australia never received the Uno, though there was some hope that the Turbo version might make its way here. Across the Tasman, Fiat still had a presence, even if sales volumes were low compared to other, larger vehicle markets. They did, however, sell the Uno Turbo and Fiat were keen to promote this little gem to the New Zealand public, as the ad below from New Zealand Car Magazine shows (Dec-85/Jan-86 edition).

Note this quote from the advertisement, "Uno is already New Zealand's number one selling fully built up European car". I wonder how many they did sell there after all?

From the same magazine I have included below the price list of Fiat models available in New Zealand at the time. I have added the AUD equivalent price based on the average AUD/NZD exchange rate from the month of December 1985.

## When you're hot...you're hot.



NEW SHIPMENTS HAVE ARRIVED!

**COME DRIVE A LEGEND**

From one of Europe's greatest marques... the future of the automobile. Right now your Fiat Dealer is extending a no obligation offer to drive one of these remarkable cars. So come and drive the future of the car.

When you're the first major breakthrough in automotive production in years... you're hot.

When you've led the sales race in Europe two years in a row... you're very hot.

When you outshine, outperform, outdrive everything in your class... you're very very hot.

When you've been voted "European Car of the Year", against all classes of vehicle regardless of cost... you're very very hot.

Introducing for the first time in New Zealand the remarkable new Fiat Uno Fire Engine. Utilizing the equally remarkable, built by robot, F.I.R.E. (Fully Integrated Robot Engine) engine.

Like all Fiat power units it has real precision and performance, in an astonishing car.

Uno is already New Zealand's number one selling fully built up European car. So if you want one of these you'll have to be quick, because mama mia, it's a real hot.




**NORTH ISLAND**  
 Marton Motors Ltd, Water Street, Whangarei. (09) 484-912 • Franklin's Fiat Lancia Centre, 175 Waiau Road, Glenfield. (09) 444-6680 • Gull Mazda Ltd, Cnr Northcote St & Burns Avenue, Takapuna. (09) 491-140 • Courts Cars Ltd, 146-170 Great North Road, Grey Lynn. (09) 764-099 • Continental Car Services, 42 Great South Road, Newmarket. (09) 204-500 • CEHCO, 4097 Great North Road, Glen Eden. (09) 818-6050 • Eastern Fiat Ltd, 136 Ridge Road, Howick. (09) 778-608 • Somers European Cars Ltd, 551 Great South Road, Orakau. (09) 276-3095 • Coomes Fiat Ltd, Car Edinburgh & Tobin Streets, Pukekohe. (09) 778-008 • MacDonald Mazda Ltd, 82 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton. (07) 773-436 • Penn Motors Ltd, 67-71 Thames Street, Morrinsville. (03) 7055 • Geysler Motor Sales Ltd, Cnr Venton & Froude Streets, Rotorua. (7) 84-164 • Stanton Motors Ltd, Cnr 11th & Devonport Roads, Tauranga. (7) 87-199 • Smith Auto Services, 67 Kings Street, Whakatane. (7) 84-210 • Coo Motors Ltd, 68-82 Carline Street, Napier. (7) 53-142 • Fairway Motors Ltd, 927 North Karama Road, Hastings. (7) 85-472 • Cumbehan Motors Ltd, 67-71 Havelock Street, Tapanui. (7) 84-130 • Central City Cars (N.Z.) Ltd, 158 Courtenay Street, New Plymouth. (67) 81-080 • R. J. Burkill Ltd, Princess Street, New Plymouth. (62) 86-169 • Maxwell's Garage Ltd, 1-9 Queen Street, Masterton. (06) 84-484 • Regent Motors Ltd, 276 Victoria Avenue, Wanganui. (64) 55-464 • K. S. Grant Motors Ltd, 377 Rangitikei Street, Palmerston North. (62) 82-195 • Wilson Motors Ltd, Milne Street, Hunterville. (652) 28-538 • Hulton & Burroughs Ltd, 337 Queens & Oxford Streets, Levin. (609) 89-339 • Jack Motors Ltd, Cnr Rima & Ihakara Streets, Paraparaumu. (50) 85-029 • Archibalds Garage Ltd, 425-429 High Street, Lower Hutt. (4) 663-794 • Continental Car Services, 31 Kent Terrace, Wellington. (04) 842-552

**SOUTH ISLAND**  
 Waddo Motor World, 22-29 Scott Street, Blenheim. (057) 82-192 • Ewester Motors Ltd, Achilles Avenue, Nelson. (054) 81-119 • Manchester Fiat Ltd, 47 Manchester Street, Christchurch. (03) 799-470 • Graham McVicar Ltd, 55 Riccarton Road, Christchurch. (03) 487-106 • Ashburton Car Market Ltd, 283-299 Havelock Street, Ashburton. (053) 4444 • Hamilton Motors Ltd, 21 & 84th Street, Timaru. (056) 89-073 • Gordon's Service Station Ltd, Railway Esplanade, Gore. (020) 86397 • Mollers Dunedin, 704 Great King Street, Dunedin. (04) 740-851 • Graham Motors Ltd, 33-45 Yarrow Street, Invercargill. (021) 86-199

TRM 3085

<b>FIAT</b>	Cyl/cc	KW	NZD	AUD est.
Panda CL*	4/999	33	\$ 18,375	\$14,202.35
Panda S*	4/999	33	\$ 19,400	\$14,994.59
Uno Sting*	4/903	33	\$ 18,100	\$13,989.80
Uno Fire*	4/999	33	\$ 19,650	\$15,187.82
Uno Fire S*	4/999	33	\$19,995	\$15,454.48
Uno 60*	4/1116	40	\$ 19,735	\$15,253.52
Uno 60S*	4/1116	40	\$ 20,395	\$15,763.64
Uno 70SL*	4/1301	52	\$ 23,750	\$18,356.78
Uno Turbo*	4/1301	77	\$ 31,750	\$24,540.11
Regata Weekend wagon*	4/1585	75	\$ 33,000	\$25,506.26
Croma CHT*	4/1995	66	\$ 42,945	\$33,192.92
Croma IE*	4/1995	88	\$ 48,175	\$37,235.28
Croma Turbo*	4/1995	114	\$ 54,500	\$42,123.98





# FIAT 125 YEARS



**Forster-Tuncurry NSW**

**November 8-11, 2024**

Enjoy a national social gathering of  
FIAT enthusiasts celebrating the  
125th anniversary of the brand.

FIAT vehicles of any age and condition welcomed.

Drives, dinners and displays in a wonderful  
beachside location situated a few hours  
north of Sydney, a great drive to get there  
and plenty to enjoy in the area.

Register for updates:  
[fiatcentral.victoria@gmail.com](mailto:fiatcentral.victoria@gmail.com)





Accommodation: A full range available close to the Hub

Special rates will be published shortly  
for all tastes and budgets.

Register your interest to get on the update list.  
Roger Beattie (President, FCCV)  
email: [fiatcentral.victoria@gmail.com](mailto:fiatcentral.victoria@gmail.com)  
phone: +61 400 177278

Those who attended the **FIAT 123** event  
had a great time. Join them this for this one.  
And hear more of the plans for 2026

### The event will be based at Tuncurry Memorial Hall

Proposed program

Fri 8th: Welcome and Registration  
Evening social gathering

Sat 9th: Coffee and meet at the Event Hub  
Assemble for drive and lunch  
Afternoon free time/beach?  
Evening display under lights

Sun 10th: Coffee and meet at the Event Hub  
Assemble for drive and lunch  
Event dinner and awards

Mon 11th: Coffee and meet at the Event Hub  
Remembrance Day Service  
Event closing ceremony at the Hub





## GENEVA MOTOR

### SHOW: Fiat City Car and Pick-Up concepts unveiled

John Mahoney carsales.com

All-new family of small EVs to include Mega Panda hatch and Strada ute replacement

Fiat has pulled the drapes off five radical concepts that preview a new range of low-cost EVs, including a city car that gives us our closest look yet at the incoming 2024 Fiat Panda EV due mid-year.

The remaining members of the range will be launched over the next four years.

Instead of sharing the Fiat 500e's bespoke architecture, all five concepts are underpinned by the Stellantis group's 'Smart Car' platform that is derived from the PSA Group's old CMA platform.

Already used under the Citroen e-C3, the platform has been re-engineered to cut costs while being highly versatile, meaning all five models could be offered with combustion and hybrid powertrains as well as battery-electric propulsion.

Out of the five, the City Car concept is set to be most influential.

Drawing plenty of cues from the original Panda 4x4 (1983-1992), the show car's boxy styling pays homage to the original that was penned by legendary Italian stylist Giorgetto Giugiaro.

Other less obvious influences in the car dubbed the Mega Panda include an oval-shaped roof inspired by Fiat's Lingotto roof-top test track, with the oval shape repeated on the dash, displays and head restraints.

The City Car is expected to have a bigger footprint than the series-production Panda that will be revealed in July, and could even go on to inspire a Panda-based SUV.

Inside, Fiat says it has selected recycled materials for the plastics and used sustainable bamboo

throughout to lower its environmental impact.



Fiat SUV concept

The Fiat Pick-Up concept, meanwhile, is the best indication yet on how the brand plans to replace its Strada ute, which remains the best-selling car in Brazil.



Fiat Pick-Up Concept

Like the future Panda, designers have applied blocky retro styling to the small lifestyle-oriented dual-cab.



Fiat Fastback concept

What could be relevant for our market is Fiat's declaration that it wants to replicate the success of the Strada in Latin America globally, including Europe – a less-than-subtle hint the next-gen ute will be rolled out to new markets that could



Fiat Camper concept

potentially include Australia, but only if a suitable business case is found.

As well as its cubist looks, the ute has an interesting low waistline, full-width panoramic roof and thin rails used for the sports bar that frame a short bed.

Said to blend the comfort of an SUV with the functionality of a light commercial vehicle, Fiat said the Pick-Up would put the "fun into functionality".

The remaining concepts include the Fiat Fastback, which looks closely related to the Pick-Up and has been designed to replace the Fiat Fastback and Tipo sold in Latin America.

Next up is the SUV concept that's touted as the 'giga-Panda', taking aim at low-cost European compact SUVs like the Dacia Duster.

Finally, the Camper blends an SUV, people-mover and a van into one adventure-loving concept.

Commenting on the five new concepts, Fiat chief executive Olivier Francois said: "Fiat is a global brand with 1.3 million cars sold last year and solid leadership in many parts of the world.

"We are in a global game and our next step will be to transition from local products to a global offer that can benefit all of our customers everywhere in the world.

"We are excited to share this glimpse into our future – a very near future actually, since the first car will be presented in four months during the brand's 125th anniversary celebration.

"That car will then be followed by one new model every year."

When the Panda arrives in Europe in July, the entry-level petrol version is expected to be priced at around €17,500 (\$A29,000) while the EV should start from less than €20,000 (\$A33,100) and offer a range of between 200-320km.

*(The full article with more photos may be found by typing **GENEVA MOTOR SHOW: Fiat City Car and Pick-Up concepts unveiled** - carsales.com.au )*

## Fiat Pandina Introduces New Tech To Keep Panda Fresh Until 2027

By Jacob Olivia [carbuzz.com](http://carbuzz.com)

It will be sold alongside the all-electric, new-generation model to be unveiled this year.

- Special Pandina series receives several updates for tech & safety
- Third-generation Panda will be produced until 2027
- Next-generation electric Panda arriving this year

Fiat has announced the continuation of the current-generation Panda as a special series model called Pandina, a tribute to the nickname Italians bestow upon the city car.

Based on the Cross version, the updated Panda comes with off-road bits, additional emblems, and yellow accents to go with the Pandina monicker. There are panda face graphics on the wheel caps. Beyond those, the Pandina looks nearly identical to the limited edition Panda 4x40 that came back last year.

Fiat offers a new Positano Yellow color and contrasting roof options besides the current color options (Gelato White, Cinema Black, Passione Red, and Italia Blue).

### The Safest & Most Techie Panda Ever

With integrated advanced driver-assist systems, Fiat claims that the Pandina is the safest Panda ever. The over-a-decade-old hatchback now comes with advanced emergency braking system, lane keeping assist, drowsy driver detection, and traffic sign detection system. Fiat has also added rear parking sensors, cruise control that starts at 18.6 mph, an

automatic high beam, and six airbags.

The Pandina also gets a new 7.0-inch fully digital cluster with three different graphics and a revamped steering wheel. The brand-new 7.0-inch touchscreen infotainment comes with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

There isn't any update under the hood, so the Pandina is powered by the 69-horsepower 1.0-liter mild hybrid that sends power to the front wheels via a six-speed manual gearbox.



### Production Until 2027

Given the Panda's popularity in Italy and the rest of Europe, Fiat has announced that the nameplate will be produced in Pomigliano d'Arco "at least until 2027" - the same year five Fiat concepts will be fully shown. The company also said that production will be increased by 20% to mean customer demand.

This timeline means that the internal combustion engine-equipped Panda will be sold alongside the next-generation, all-electric model, to be unveiled in July 2024. Despite the nameplate not reaching the US, there's a huge chance that the electric Panda will be sold to Americans, given that the 500e is being sold stateside.

The Fiat Pandina will be sold in Europe starting in the summer.

## The Fiat 500 Offshore Is an Adorable, Limited-Edition Car-Boat Hybrid

By Elena Gorgan, [www.autoevolution.com](http://www.autoevolution.com)

Why choose between two perfectly fine things in order to live the proverbial dolce vita? You don't have to if you can afford it, so you get to have an iconic, absolutely adorable Fiat 500 and take it out to water as well.

This is neither a typo nor an invitation to drive your cute Fiat 500 into the water at the next opportunity. It's the latest in terms of personalized luxury seafaring, thanks to an initiative from a local startup and Fiat brass. It's called the Fiat 500 Offshore, and it's perhaps the cutest thing you'll see this week.

The Fiat 500 Offshore is technically a car-boat hybrid in the sense that it uses a Fiat 500 body on top of a trimaran V-shaped hull that makes it seaworthy. In reality, though, it's all-boat, as even the most distinctive features on the Fiat are replicated with marine-grade materials and adapted to the new functionality. This is no hack job where someone took a car and plopped it onto a hull, mind you. The Fiat 500 Offshore was unveiled in the summer of 2023 in its home country, Italy. Success was immediate, as was to be expected, given the promise to deliver an Italian classic in a new form that would perfectly epitomize the spirit of la dolce vita. It helped that the Fiat 500 was already an icon and a cutie and that the modifications to it didn't take any of said cuteness.

The idea for this strange hybrid-like boat belongs to Antonio Pietro Maria Galasso, a young entrepreneur from Santa Maria la Carità, a municipality in the Metropolitan City of Naples.

*Continued next page ...*



He reached out to the Fiat Licensing Office and the Fiat Style Center to secure permission to take the 500 sailing, and he got it, with two conditions: faithfulness to the original and limited production. The result is the Fiat 500 Offshore, a dayboat that will only be made in a limited edition – of 500 units, not surprisingly. It's 4.74 meters (15.5 feet) long and 1.7 meters (5.5 feet) wide, with a displacement of 550 kg (1,212 lbs), and features the Fiat welded onto a trimaran hull, with an outboard at the back. Also there is a small swim platform that makes the watercraft ideal for day-long outings, with swims and tanning sessions making up for most of the time.

The roof has been removed, and the rear bench has been replaced with two lounges that can recline all the way down, so they're perfect for tanning. The interior looks like something you'd find in a road-going Fiat, but it's all marine-grade, so it's designed for the environment it's going to live in.

Described as "more than a boat, no less than a car," the Fiat 500 Offshore comes equipped with everything you need for a good time on the water and can be further specced to make the experience better.

The leather seats and chaise-lounges sit on a stainless steel basis, and

there's teak decking, a fully functional cockpit that replicates the one in the car, a bilge pump, front and rear LED lights and fog lights, an audio system, and a marine-grade windshield. The watercraft even has rounded headlights and rearview mirrors, which is a very realistic touch.

Optionally, the boat can be specced



with marine speakers and multimedia player, a handshower, or an upgraded dashboard.

With a capacity of five passengers, including the captain, the Fiat 500 Offshore "combines luxury, efficiency, style and comfort," in the words of the company making it. The ride definitely looks comfortable and fancy, and there's something very Italian in the overall style of the watercraft: small, quirky and cute, but not in an unappealing way. Power comes from a Mercury outboard delivering 40 hp and a maximum speed of 21 knots (24

mph/39 kph), which is pretty impressive for a watercraft of this kind. That, too, can be upgraded by opting for a more powerful engine, up to 115 hp, which would take the boat to speeds of up to 35 knots (40 mph/65 kph). However, the fuel tank is just 70 liters (18.5 gallons), so no matter how fast it's going, it's not going to get very far.

The Fiat 500 Offshore was offered as a rental off the Amalfi Coast in Positano, Italy, shortly after its introduction, with fares ranging between €150 (approximately \$163 at the current exchange rate) for a 45-minute ride to €400+ (\$434) for a 1.5-hour experience. The price is for the entire watercraft but just three people because there's a skipper onboard who serves as captain.

The 500 Offshore also made its way to the U.S., debuting in Miami late last month. Of the 500 units of the watercraft, 33 will be the Fiat 500 Offshore Miami Edition, equipped with an 80-hp Mercury engine, which classes it as a power cruiser. A Miami Edition in standard spec starts at \$125,000 to buy.

Regardless of spec, all units of the Fiat 500 Offshore, aka the "500 of the sea," will be offered in the most delicious pastels, either pearl or metallic, as suits any road-going Fiat 500.



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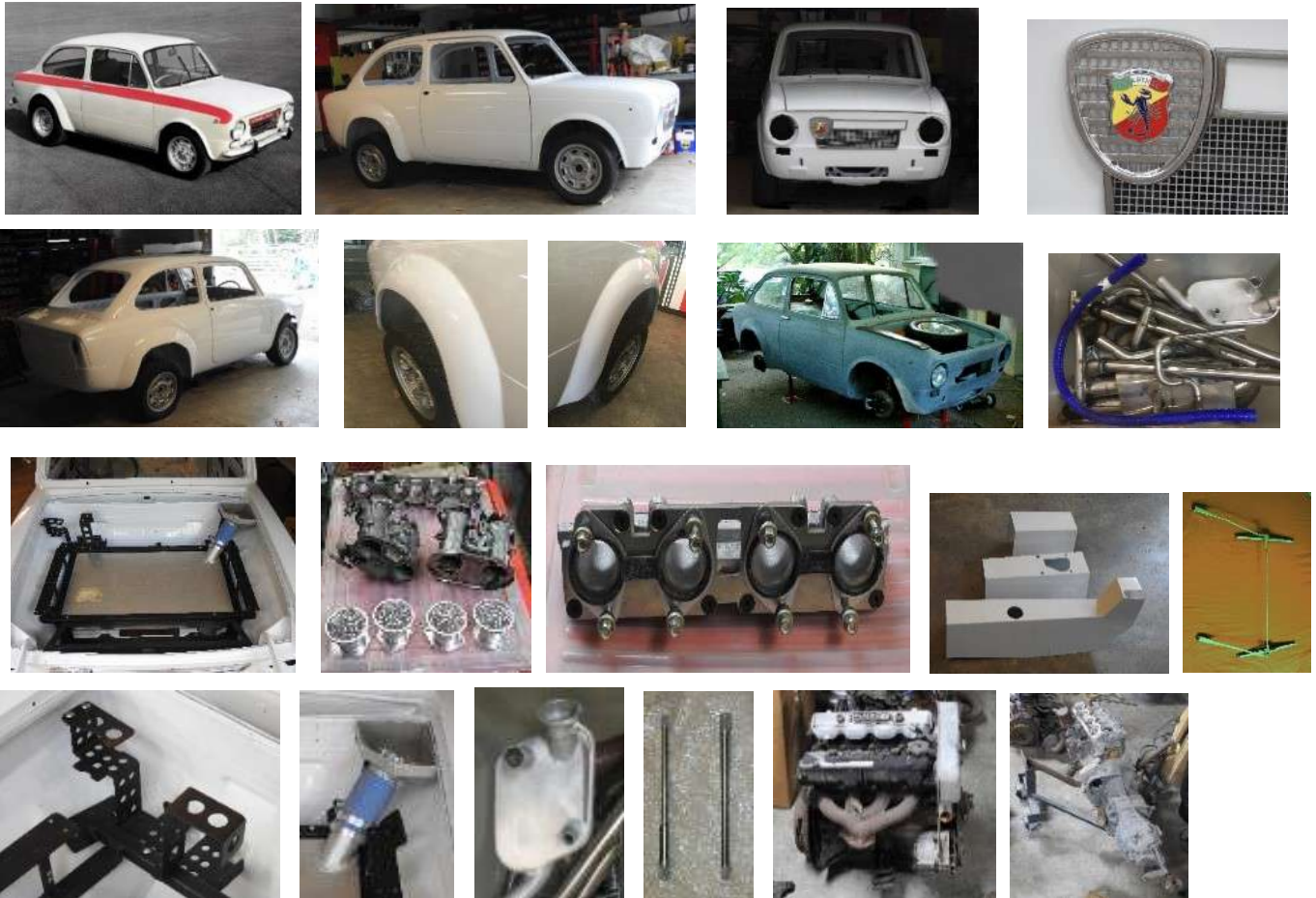
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