



# FIAT Month

The official publication of the Fiat Car Club of Victoria Inc.

[www.fiatclub.org.au](http://www.fiatclub.org.au)

**NOV 2023**

**Fiat Nationals**

**FCCV v AROCA Bocce Night**





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**NOV 2023**



Club Meetings are held at 8pm  
on the second Thursday of each  
month at:

The Veneto Club  
191 Bulleen Rd, Bulleen VIC 3105

#### FIATmonth Editorial Committee

Lyn Bartold – Editor  
Joanne McLean – Layout/Design  
Roger Beattie – Print Quality Control  
Peter Bartold – Advertising

#### FIATmonth deadlines

5th of the month prior to publication.  
Next issue: January 2024  
Deadline: 5th December 2023



#### Front cover:

Show and Shine at Fiat Nationals  
At Dai Gum San, Bendigo  
Joseph Sammut's 1975 124CC  
Basil King 1951 Fiat 500C ( "Topolino" )  
David Judd's 1974 130Coupe 3200  
Photo Peter Bartold

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- BC** Fiat Festa Poster



2023–2024

# THE CLUB COMMITTEE

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## NON-COMMITTEE POSITIONS 2023–24

### MSCA Delegate

Marisa Gangemi

### CAMS Delegate

Paul Freame

### Supper Organiser

Paul Pozzobon

### AOMC Delegate

Roger Beattie  
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### Property Officers

Mario Di Censo,  
Kevin Lemm

### Library

Bruce McCann

### Communications Officer

Peter Bartold  
0414 867 280

### Raffle Manager

Sandro Cesario  
0420 277 701

### Federation Delegate

Richard Unkles

### Webmaster

Mark Weinberger

<sup>A</sup>Where no email has been indicated, the committee member can be emailed via [secretary@fiatclub.org.au](mailto:secretary@fiatclub.org.au)

## LIFE MEMBERS



Perc Delmenico\*  
David Plummer\*  
Graeme Shephard\*  
Richard Carlson  
Barry Ellis\*  
Noel Tyzack  
Peter Bartold

Lyn Bartold  
William Freame  
Colin Templar  
Jon Carroll  
Robert Judd  
Debra Judd  
Phillip Buggee

Janet Fry  
Shirley Clark  
Stephen Mayer\*  
Richard Unkles  
Ian Payne  
David Hughes  
Keith Ellis

Alana Freame  
Harry Baker\*  
David Judd  
Sebastian Bongiorno  
Joseph Sammut

\*deceased

Life Member and Patron — Peter Bartold

## SERVICE AWARD MEMBERS

Sandro Cesario  
Jonathan Crellin  
Bob Durrant  
Frank Fazio

Paul Freame  
Stuart Granger  
Bruce McCann  
Danny Petterlin

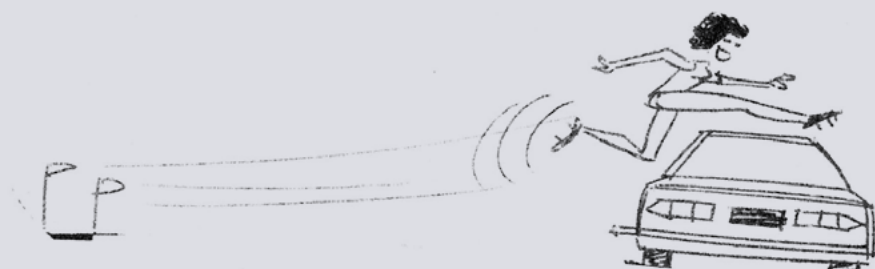
Mark Rae  
Tony Romeo  
Joseph Sammut

Gary Spencer  
Shayne Williams



FIAT month





## From the Editor...

Well from famine to feast!! ... from earlier in the year when we did not have many events to report on, here we are with a larger than usual FIATMonth and lots of articles, including the report on the Fiat Nationals. To take advantage of this we have increased our page numbers in this edition of the magazine by four pages so that we would not have to wait till January to share all the great things that have been happening.

This has meant that you have received this FIATMonth a few days later than usual so that we could include all of these reports. My thanks to our Layout Designer, Joanne McLean, who has accommodated us to allow this to happen. To do this she has spread her time spent preparing the magazine for print with a before and after Nationals timing to allow us to include this

section in the November FM. For me this has involved some late-night write ups of events and chasing up of photos whilst still in Bendigo and time once we returned home putting it together, but well worth the effort!

Congratulations to Rob Judd and his team for persevering with the plan to put the Nationals back on the agenda, after an absence of four years and hopefully this will continue into the future, even as a bi-annual competition rather than a yearly one. Hopefully other states will be prepared to take on the organisation of the event so that the tradition continues, even though it is a big commitment to make

Allora... even though there are many pages devoted to reports on each part of the Nationals, we have also had some other wonderful events in the past two months, both social and competition, all requiring a large amount of time for the organisation and logistics of running them. We thank and congratulate

those club members who have taken on those responsibilities and to provide so many opportunities to get out in our Fiats with like-minded enthusiasts. If you have any ideas for events that we could include in the Club Calendar, speak to any of the Committee as we welcome new ideas and enthusiastic organisers.

The list of Coming Events you will find in this magazine is also extensive, so plenty to look forward to in the next few months. Make sure you open your Fiat Prontos as they appear in your inbox and the clubs Facebook page as these will keep you up to date with what is on, between FIATMonths. This way we are able to add (and sometimes cancel, if necessary) events that have come up after FIATMonth is published.

Enjoy reading about what has happened in the past two months and what we have to look forward to in the next two.

## EDITOR'S PIC OF THE MONTH

Editor and friends enjoying the meal at the Annual Fiat v Alfa Bocce Night and feeling proud of our success in winning the Trophy with the score of Fiat winning on two courts, Alfa on one and a draw on the other court.

Well done Team Fiat.







# Rapporto del presidente



Having arrived in Italy a couple of days ago I am currently sitting in Gaeta, on the way to Naples after enjoying a walk along the beach and a morning coffee and pastry. I am sure you can sense my suffering! No doubt Sandro provided the entertainment at the club meeting in my absence.

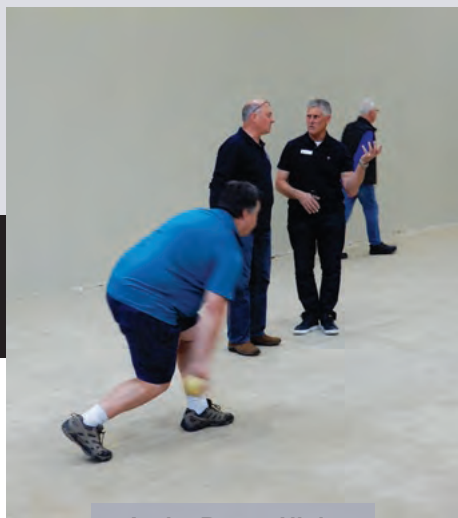
The AROCA 10hr is underway as I write this and as I am sure all reading this report can imagine it is demanding my attention over the sights and tastes of Rome, and the coastal route toward Naples. It appears that the crowd in Winton are doing well and maintaining their regularity as per the rules. While we have only one team in circulation this year it would seem there is growing enthusiasm for the event and a continuing supply of enthusiastic volunteer helpers.



Enjoying Gaeta







At the Bocce Night

Since the last magazine we have had all sorts of events highlighted by a member organised run around the Mt Macedon area, thanks to Anthony Willis, and reclaiming the Bocce trophy from the Alfa Club at a new venue for the challenge, Club Italia in Sunshine. The competitive spirit of some members was on show and should re-emerge for the upcoming Nationals which will be featured later in this magazine.

Thanks go to Lyn for managing this feat of Editorial gymnastics to allow the most up to date coverage to be included in the timeliest fashion and not held over for the next FIATmonth.

The other noteworthy event was the Electric Vehicle Show at Jeff's Shed. It was good to see the brand again on a stand in a car show generating a lot of interest and even sales. I thank Damon for inviting the club along and look forward to seeing the first 500e on a club event.



Enjoying the Macedon Run

I will be back in Melbourne for the November meeting with stories from this trip and look forward to hearing about what I have missed.

Until my return

*Roger*



The 500e at the Electric Vehicle Show



# CLUB CALENDAR

## NOVEMBER 2023 – JANUARY 2024

All events are still subject to venue specific restrictions. Members are strongly advised to read **Fiat Pronto** emails as they often contain new events not listed in **FIAT Month**, changes to advertised events and further details of the events.

Roger Langdon.

### NOVEMBER

- Sat 4** **Caffe di sabato. Veneto Club 9am**  
Contact Mario Di Censo 0419 171 661 or Paul Pozzobon 0418 552 290
- Thurs 9** **General Meeting. Veneto Club 8.00 pm**
- Sun 12** **FIAT display at Sandown Historics**  
Contact Sandro Cesario 0420 277 711
- Sun 12** **Alfa Spettacolo Show'n Shine. Wesley Glen Waverley Campus**  
Contact Joseph Sammut 0412 211 51
- Sun 19** **Maserati Display at Deaf Children Australia, St Kilda Rd**  
Contact Sandro Cesario 0420 277 701
- Sat 25** **FCCV Run and Display at Geelong Festival of Speed**  
Contact Joseph Sammut 0412 211 581
- Sun 26** **Fiat Cars Display at Melbourne Italian Festa. Royal Exhibition Buildings and Museum Plaza**  
Contact Joseph Sammut 0412 211 581

### DECEMBER

- Sat 2** **FIAT Festa at La Baracca, Veneto Club 9am.**  
**See Back Cover for information**  
Contact Mario Di Censo 0419 171 661 or Paul Pozzobon 0418 552 290
- Thurs 14** **General Meeting. Celebration Nuts and Bolts Trivia Night with pizza supper provided by FCCV**  
Contact Mario Di Censo 0419 171 661 or Paul Pozzobon 0418 552 290

### JANUARY 2024

- Jan 6th** **No Caffe di sabato in January**
- Thurs 11** **General Meeting. Veneto Club 8.00 pm**
- Sun 28** **X1/9 Raduno Open to all FCCV members.**  
Contact Peter Bartold 0414 865 280

Welcome to new advertiser **Coco Eurotech** - see to the advertisement on Page 39



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SPECIALISTS**



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European Vehicle Specialist



**FIAT** month — November 2023

### General Meetings



Club Meetings are held at 8pm on the second Thursday of each month. Dinner in Bistro at 6.30pm

The Veneto Club  
191 Bulleen Rd,  
Bulleen VIC 3105

Future General Meetings 2023  
Thursday 9th November,  
Thursday 14th December,  
Thursday 11th January 2024

Note: These meetings will be held at the Veneto Club, Gondola Room unless there are changes to the COVID rules.

Notification of changes will be via Fiat Pronto, our Facebook site and on the club website - fiatclub.org.au

Find us on  
[www.fiatclub.org.au](http://www.fiatclub.org.au)  
Facebook  
Fiat Car Club of Victoria

Contributions to FIATmonth are always welcome  
Contact Editor  
[editor@fiatclub.org.au](mailto:editor@fiatclub.org.au)  
If you are sending photos please send at high resolution and as separate files to the article

Fiat Car Club of Victoria  
Is affiliated with  
Motorsport Australia  
MSCA

**Compiled by  
Roger Langdon**



# Membership News

*Tony Romeo, Membership and Club Permit Secretary*

*With assistance from Robert Judd*

The FIAT Car Club of Victoria is implementing a new computer app to manage memberships and members' cars. While we convert to the new system there may be delays in processing membership payments and sending out your membership card.

If it has been more than a few weeks since you paid your membership and have not yet received your membership card please email [members@fiatclub.org.au](mailto:members@fiatclub.org.au) and we will check that your payment has been processed.

So I've prepared the member update for the magazine below.

## NEW MEMBER UPDATE *By Robert Judd*

We have had 7 new members since the last magazine.

### WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS –

**Andrew & Jane Logie-Smith:** a pair of Abarth 695's

**Sam Adigrati:** no car information provided

**Simon Lui:** Modern 500 Abarth

**Michael Williams:** Modern 124 Abarth

**Clara Montgelluzzi & Martina Marciano:** partner and daughter of Stefano Marciano

**George Cremasco:** returning member after many years with Fiat 124 Sedan and Lancia HPE

## MEMBERSHIP & CLUB PERMIT UPDATE

We have now entered the new club year so make sure you have renewed your membership for the 2023/24 year.

Our new database system is being introduced as renewals are processed. This will soon be fully transferred. In the transition both databases are being maintained to protect the data.

### ELECTRONIC PERMIT RENEWAL

The process for **renewing** permits completely electronically (also using your 'myVicRoads' account) is continuing to work well. Don't hesitate to use this system if you are comfortable with computers as it not only avoids the hassle of chasing down one of the signatories, but also avoids the need to visit VicRoads for payment.

To use the electronic process please send a scanned copy (or good readable photo) of your renewal form to our dedicated email address [permitrenewals@fiatclub.org.au](mailto:permitrenewals@fiatclub.org.au)

### CLUB PERMIT SIGNATORIES

Name	Location	Phone
Peter Bartold	Wonga Park	0414 867 280
Phil Buggee	Dandenong	03 9794 6692
Mario di Censo	Heidelberg/Balwyn	0419 171 661
Bill Freame	Glen Waverley	0412 814 855
Frank Marinelli	Brunswick	0411 511 679

# Competition Report

Marisa Gangemi

By: Marisa Gangemi

Photos by SD Pics, Joseph Sammut, Marisa Gangemi, Ian Maud, Ride by Photos, Priyanka Chadha and Simon Lui.

It's been another busy few months of competition with even more ramping up towards the end of the year. On Sunday September 3rd we had a few FCCV Members taking on Round 9 of the Group 5 Motorkhana at Geelong Motorsport Complex in Avalon. Tony Russel, Paul Freame, Bill Freame, Mark Freame and I all had a great time. Tony Russel absolutely had the Panda out for battle making the Mini drivers nervous, he ended up finishing 1st in Class F, well done Tony! I finished 1st in Ladies Class and unfortunately the Freame family had to leave after lunch but managed to get some good practice in for the Nationals.

On Saturday September 9th I competed in one of my most challenging Regularity days ever at the MSCA Sprint at Phillip Island. The night before on my drive up to the island I was driving in the dark when it was windy and raining heavy and hit a pothole with my front right wheel somewhere before Koo Wee Rup. My poor Abarth was suffering from vibrations in the steering making it challenging drive to my accommodation. I was driving with my race set of wheels on with my Nankang AR 1 semi slicks. I checked the tyre pressures in the morning, and they were all good, so a bit of relief that I didn't have a flat, but the vibration was still there. When I got to the track, I managed to last minute book a garage



Photo by: David Parr

because I had previously thought we were going to have good weather, I was wrong. I did my first session very slowly in the wet and by the second session the rain had eased off and I was able to pick up a bit of pace but not as fast as I normally would have given the situation. Surprisingly I was very consistent and got second place in regularity for the session. During lunchtime Robert Judd, Sam Mazzeo and my dad helped me swap the front right with the rear right wheel and this helped settle the vibrations a bit. I then was able to get second place in regularity again and finished the day in one piece and made it home ok. The wheel was buckled, and I have since had it repaired ready for my next race on October 22nd.

On September 15th I took part in Girls on Track with Motorsport Australia at Sandown. I assisted the team as a mentor to young girls and ladies who were interested in learning about careers in motorsport. I really wish something like this was around when I was younger. The program offers an exciting opportunity for the participants to meet women in the industry and learn career path skills not only for racing but the overall business of motorsport. The highlight of my involvement of the day was teaching the primary school girls how to change a wheel on a small race car. This was so important to me because I didn't learn to change a wheel until I was in my 30s. These girls have an awesome head start. Additionally on the Sunday I was asked by Motorsport Australia to be Buddy for the Women's Introduction to Motorsport Program at METEC in Bayswater. This event was purely for women who were looking at getting a start in grassroots motorsport. I was joined by Petrina Astbury from the MSCA and Clara Sperandio from AROCA as mentors for the day. Through the Abarth Club of Melbourne I managed to get two participants



A Nervous Marisa Gangemi at Phillip Island





Group Photo

entering the event, Jade Edwards and Mai Di Loreto who has family members in the FCCV. I also took this opportunity to advertise our Come and Try Motorkhana which resulted in a few entries to our event.

On Sunday September 17th Robert Jorgensen competed in the Gippsland Car Club multi-club Khanacross at Bryant Park. He competed in his Red Fiat 500 and finished in 21st Place. Thanks, Rob, for representing our club at this event. On Sunday September the 24th Ian Maud was out at Bryant Park competing in the Gippsland Car Club multi-club hill climb in his X19. Ian finished 3rd in his class, well done Ian!



Girls on Track



Ian Maud at Bryant Park – Ride by Photos



## ANNUAL COME AND TRY MOTORKHANA FRIDAY THE 29TH OF SEPTEMBER

It was a fantastic day with the weather gods being kinder to us this year. We had a total of 24 entries, 10 of those being come and try participants. We had 6 ladies and 3 juniors, we also had some visiting members for the Alfa Romeo Car Club of Victoria, Abarth Club of Melbourne and Ford Four Car Club joining us. Additionally, we had some ladies from the Women's Introduction to Motorsport event join in our motorkhana which is fantastic for the sport. We also took this opportunity to do one last practice of the Fiat Nationals motorkhana tests which I am confident our team FCCV is going to be strong for the Fiat of Italy Cup. I want to take this opportunity to thank the hard-working amazing group of volunteers

that helped us run the day: Bill Freame, Robert Judd, Paul Freame, Philip Buggee, Debra Buggee, Joseph Sammut, Debra Judd, Alana Freame, Ian Payne, Roger Beattie and everyone who assisted with set up and pack up.

On Sunday the 1st of October Ian Maud, Mario Di Censo, Frank Caia and Tony Romeo competed in the Races at RAAF Auto Club East Sale. Our club members did very well in a field of 70 competitors and were battling high winds and crazy weather. Ian Maud in his X19 got himself in an exciting battle with some Mustangs and finished in 31st position with his fastest time of 0:58.503. Mario Di Censo in his Abarth finished in 48th place with his fastest time of 1:01.656. Then we had two club members very close together with Tony Romeo in his Abarth finishing in 58th place with his fastest time of 1:03.089 and then Frank Caia in his 124 Spider finishing in 58th place with his fastest time of 1:03.613. Well done team FCCV!

On the same Sunday at very last minute, I entered the Western Districts Car Club Motorkhana. It was a small field of only 11 competitors and due to low capacity, we finished at lunchtime. But in saying that it was a fun event where we did head-to-head battles of long motorkhana tests side by side up the skidpan. We got two runs of each test swapping sides and our



Roger and Joseph assisting at  
Come and Try Motorkhana



Briefing



best time of the two was the one that counted. I got second place in class A.

I just want to take this opportunity to say how proud I am of our competitors this year. We have had FCCV competitors in a range of events in 2023 Sprints, Regularity, Hill Climb, Khanacross, Motorkhana etc. Also, quite a few of us have had mechanical issues, health issues, crazy weather at events and all sorts of other challenges but will still push through and show up. By the time this magazine is published we would have had the AROCA 10 Hour, the Mark Rae Club Challenge and Fiat Nationals. I will say with whatever results we end up we should all be proud of the efforts and tenacity of our racing competitors and volunteers in 2023! Well done team FCCV!



Boys at RAAF, Sale



1



2



3



4

## Come and Try Motorkhana Photos

1. Marisa with Jade Edwards and Sandra Bailey
2. Declan Lui
3. New Member, Michael Williams
4. Adam Allwood and Daniel Lui with Joe Sammut looking on
5. Wisdom of the Elders
6. Deb Judd ready to go



5



6

# Competition Report

cont.

## COMING EVENTS: NOVEMBER – DECEMBER

Please check the Motorsport Australia website to conform dates that are listed – it is possible they can change

SPRINT EVENTS		
Tue November 7th	FFCC Sprint	Sandown
Fri Nov 11th -Sun Nov 12th	VHRR Historic Sandown	Sandown
Sun November 26th	RACES East Sale Supersprint	RAAF Base East Sale
Fri Nov 24th- Sun Nov 26th	Geelong Revival	Geelong
Sat December 2nd	MSCA Come and Try Day	Phillip Island
Sun December 3rd	AROCA Sprint	Phillip Island
MOTORKHAHA/KHANACROSS		
Sun November 5th	BCC Khanacross/Motorkhana	Bagshot
Sat November 11th	Group 5 Motorkhana	Werribee (dirt)
Sat December 2nd	VKC Khanacross	Bendigo Saleyards
Sat December 9th	GCC Multiclub Khanacross	Bryant Park
HILLCLIMB		
Sun November 19th	31st Historic and Classic	Rob Roy
Sat December 2nd	GCC Multiclub Hillclimb	Bryant Park

## Nuts and Bolts Quiz

### DECEMBER GENERAL MEETING



Join us for our Annual Quiz on all things  
Fiat and Italian cars in general,  
run by Quizmaster, Sandro Cesario

Supper will be served

A great way to finish the year

**Booking essential - Eventbrite Code will be provided via Fiat Pronto**

CONTACT MARIO DI CENSO 0419 171 661

PAUL POZZOBON 0418 552 290





## MY FIRST MOTORKHANA SINCE 2009!!

*By Keith Ellis*

The weather was perfect, thank you Marisa. Whoever chose Grand Final Folly Day did well. Driving from Langwarrin on any ordinary Friday could have taken 2½ hours but the traffic was light both coming and going with the queue at the BP near Avalon the only holdup. The ground was easy to find using Waze on the phone and it even knew where the gate was located.

The facility at Geelong Motorsports Complex provided good parking and the bitumen surface for the events was first class. I was astounded by the level of professional organisation our Marisa expressed before the event. The emails and other correspondence before the event were far above what I remember when I was more involved in the club organisation.

Between Marisa Gangemi, Rob Judd, Bill Freame and Paul Freame the event was very ably run. Of course, there is always a member of the Freame clan somewhere, and Alana and Ruth were always somewhere nearby. Ian Payne and Joe Sammut also helped the day run super smoothly. Even our esteemed President was always hovering ready with his renowned wit.

The highlight of the day was seeing the youngest of our drivers Mark Freame, Declan Lui and Elliot Tyzack enjoying the day. I was lucky to be present when Elliot drove for the first time on his lonesome. The big smile when he realised that he had beaten Dad in that event by some 6 seconds was golden!

Not letting it get to his head, he knuckled down and drove well throughout the day. His dad, Tony, can be proud of his son he has clearly passed on his knowledge well.

There were a smattering of WD's from various drivers but as this was also a practice day for the Nationals event in late October, I have always said it is better to do it at practice as it sharpens the mind for the big event. Others worthy of mention are many but I did admire the gleaming red 500 of Robert Jorgensen.

Analysing the results, Crossed 4-Point that is a simple event with a twist had the most WD's. Whilst the simplest on paper, Tee Slalom and the more complex Bullseye had no WD's. I wonder if this reflects the keener focus as Bullseye was the last event of the day? Throughout the day it appeared that everyone was enjoying themselves. Smiles and good humour very evident even from those committing the WD's.

For me, my only disappointment was the lack of a decent handbrake. Only after I had left for home did I realise that the Fiesta of Darren had just what I needed – Darren seemed to be able to lock the wheels at will.

Our club has always had a great team spirit and it was just as healthy as ever. We have a highly experienced team on the organising committee. I would like to thank all the organisers that I have mentioned above for running such a smooth day. It was such a pleasure to be back after 14 years away from the action.

# HARRY'S RUN

By Lyn Bartold  
Photos by Peter Bartold



This year's Harry's Run was, once again, organised by Richard and Elsa Unkles and was to the Moorabbin Aircraft Museum at Moorabbin Airport. The Run is held each year to commemorate Life Member, Harry Baker, who passed away in 2006, and wife Jenny loved to participate in club events in one of his collection of Fiats. This year's Run started at the Veneto Club and took us to the Aircraft Museum which has an amazing display of plane and all things aeronautical.

The turn up of members and family was not as big as usual, probably due to the fact it was Father's Day, by those of us who attended had a great day. I was amazed at the displays, both inside and out at the Museum and our guided tour gave us plenty of information with lots of opportunities to climb in many of the planes.

After a couple of hours of exploration we headed to the Flight Deck Restaurant at Moorabbin Airport (a short stroll from the Museum) for a relaxed lunch as we watched planes of all types and eras taking off and landing, just outside the windows. Jenny was able to join us for lunch as we reminisced about Harry and club runs back in the day.







Each year we select a club member or couple who have been active in the club events throughout the year to receive the Harry and Jenny Baker Award, in memory of Harry. This year the recipient is Sandro Cesario, who was not about to attend the event because he was in Italy at the time so the trophy was presented to him at the October General Meeting. Congratulations to Sandro – a well-deserved award

Thanks to Richard and Elsa for a great day that was enjoyed by all who attended.





# Tour de Macedon Ranges

By Anthony Willis

Photos by Joseph Sammut, Roger Beattie

FCCV members arrived at the Calder BP on a stunningly sunny and cloudless Sunday morning in 16 assorted Fiats (including a couple of 'ring-ins'), along with a variety of other car clubs (a number of which we crossed paths later in the day) for a club run around the Macedon Ranges district.

With such glorious weather, it was tops down for the convertibles for the quick run up the Calder to the Macedon turn-off and into picturesque Macedon. Gear boxes were given a good work-out along the twisting and turning ribbon of road up and over Mount Macedon. Through beautiful surrounds we passed a local cycling club taking a breather on the side of the road, when Club President Roger Beattie joined the convoy en route.

We then circumnavigated majestic Hanging Rock before dropping into Newham General Store where members socialised in the sunshine over a much-needed coffee. Following the coffee stop, we took the scenic route through green rolling hills along near empty back roads (apart from an unfortunate Subaru that got caught up in a plethora of Fiats) into Kyneton.



On the Road



Gathering at the start





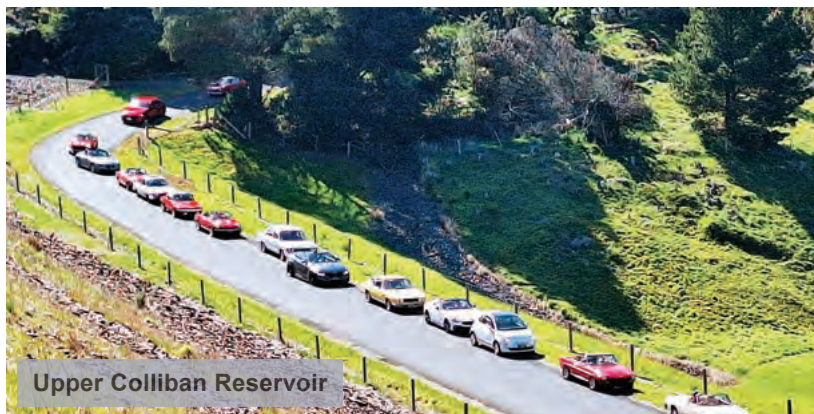
Newman General Store



Coffee Stop



Boys enjoying Newham



Upper Colliban Reservoir

The club was given permission to park on St Paul's Church grounds on historic Piper Street that adjoined our al fresco lunch stop of burgers at Major Tom's. High on the hill, the towering bluestone St Paul's Church (built 1856) made an impressive backdrop for what became an impromptu car display enjoyed by curious passers-by.

A short post-lunch drive for those wanting a little more touring took us along more stunning roads and scenery, culminating in a park-up photo shoot (thanks Roger) between the spectacular Upper Coliban and Lauriston Reservoirs before looping back into Kyneton and then home via the Calder.

I thoroughly enjoyed organising my first club run since joining FCCV and had a great time on the day. Many thanks to Roger Beattie, Sandro Cesario and Joseph

Sammut for their advice and support and I whole heartedly encourage other members to consider putting a run together. What better way to enjoy our cars than by taking in our beautiful countryside with fantastic people – La Dolce Vita!



In Kyneton



Enjoying lunch



A great trip had by all



# Fiat V Alfa Bocce Challenge

By Lyn Bartold

Photos by Peter Bartold, Trevor Prasad



Our Annual Fiat v Alfa Bocce night was had a new venue this year, Club Italia, in Sunshine and both clubs agreed that our organiser, Paul Possobon, made an excellent choice.

Five of the Bocce courts were sectioned off for our use, with an “expert” from the Club Italia to assist and give some coaching when required. With 25 Fiat Club members and 15 from the Alfa Club, we “lent” a few of our members and with a few members who had dual membership, we were able to even up the numbers on 4 courts.

There were also members from both clubs who formed the cheer squad, encouraging us from the glass area above the courts. They were some very skilled players (some of our members have been attending the friendly Bocce nights on Friday evenings at the Veneto Club) and there were the rest of us who only play the game once a year.

Even so, we had some great games with the score at the end of the interclub “battle” at 2 to FCCV, 1 to AROCA and 1 draw. So FCCV will hold the wonderful trophy until next year!!







The Bocce Night is certainly not just about the games, it is a great social event with a chance to spend time with like-minded Italian Car enthusiasts. Club Italia, excelled in the social part of the night with a fantastic room with one extra long table to seat us all. We were treated to an outstanding Italian feast with antipasto, pizza and pasta, with far more food that we could eat, so we all went home feeling very happy.

It was a fun night, enjoyed by all, so thank you Paul for organising the event and to all members from both clubs who joined us for our annual event.





# AROCA 10 HOUR RELAY

By Sandro Cesario  
Photos by Joseph Sammut



On the 14th and 15th of October 2023 Scuderia Abarth again competed in the AROCA 10 Hour Regularity Event. A Regularity Event is based on nominating a lap time that you can achieve consistently to gain bonus laps, as simple as that but if you actually go faster you lose that lap that you have completed.

**The On Track Team** consisted of the following member/drivers:

Mario <i>Fangio</i> Di Censo	Abarth
Jed <i>Comand</i> Verstappen	Abarth
Frank <i>Brocky</i> Spinosa	Abarth
Leonardo <i>Lauda</i> Cocco	Abarth
Tony <i>Prost</i> Romeo	Abarth

## **Team Manager and pit crew**

Sandro Horner Cesario  
Joe Williams Sammut  
Marisa *Lombardi* Gangemi  
Frank *Minardi* Campisi  
Sebastian Todt Bongiorno and he was also Sebastian Ramsey Bongiorno Team Cook  
Sergio Wolf Brovedani

We all arrived mid afternoon on Friday, unloaded the cars, placed the race numbers, stickers and completed scrutineering and all cars passed.



We headed back to our accommodation and we all ran in to choose our beds, just like kids and again I scored the top bunk and was concerned that I would get motion sickness again but all was good!

We had a great dinner with 120 arrostitichini, salad and Spaghetti olio aglio e acciughe, salami, cheese and snacks, cooked by myself and Sebastian Ramsey Bongiorno, we ate, drank and laughed our heads off.

Saturday dawned and all drivers headed to Winton for the driver briefing and a timed session to pick the starting order, and at 12pm the 4 hour session started.

Frank Spinosa started the event and ran with no issues, then Mario went out and also had a clean run, then Tony went out and after some 20 minutes came in with loss of power. Luckily, we had Leonardo from





Coco Eurotech who joined the team late as our other team member when The Fox, Peter Bartold couldn't attend. Cocco and located the issue - a split rubber turbo hose, now let's not forget we are in Winton so no Fat/Abarth spare parts shops around!

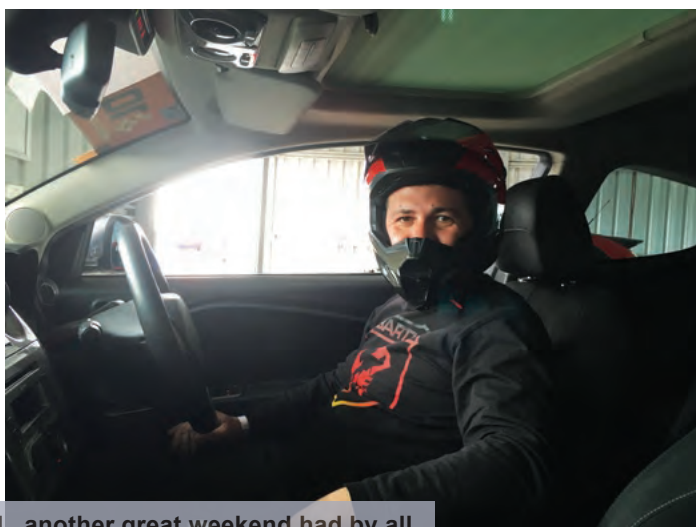
Then Jed goes went out in the Genuine Abarth ex-Bathurst spare race car and he didn't even get close to his chosen times, and when I called him in we also discovered a split rubber turbo hose!!

I then sent out Leonardo out in his Alfa Mito now sporting Abarth stickers and he completed some laps but was run of the road by another car and I called him in as he was participating in his road car and the risk was too high for him.

So, our team was now having some car issues so Leonardo got to work and removed the two damaged hoses late Saturday afternoon while others team members drove to Wangaratta to Repco/Supercheap Auto and they located some type of silicone pipes.

Both cars were fixed and ready for Sunday for the six hour session and all drivers went out and all ran faultlessly.

While this was all happening we were getting fed like kings from the cooking crew.



Team Scuderia Abarth finished 22nd, another great weekend had by all.





# Vale John Westcott

1935 – 2023

By Lyn and Peter Bartold, Peter Westcott

Photos by Joseph Sammut, Peter Bartold, Peter Westcott

It is with great sadness that we learnt that our dear friend, John Westcott had passed away. John was a long-time member of FCCV. He joined in the 1990's and owned a wide range of veteran, vintage and classic cars, Fiats and other marques. We have asked John's son, Peter Westcott, to tell us the story of John's amazing car journey.

*"I can remember there was always an "old bomb" of one sort or another in the garage. He liked interesting cars but I think his interest was less about driving them than finding "forgotten" cars and the process of rejuvenating them. He was always on the lookout for 'orphans' and has an uncanny knack of tracking them down. Sometimes, as with the Jowett Bradfords and the 2300 Familiare, he'd buy them to save them from being scrapped, and then find someone who wanted them. I don't think he made any money worth speaking about from his hobby, he pretty much had to sell one to buy the next."*





## *Some of the cars John owned*



Aston Martin



1900 Granluce

**FIATS** 850 Berlina x 2, 850 Sport x 2, Topolino x 2, 2300 Familiare, 4x x1/9s (including 1 Bertone), 1900 Granluce x 2 (one derelict and scrapped), Topolino Hot Rod and Nuovo 500N

**OTHER MARQUES** 1926 Austin 7, Jowett Javelin, Jowett Bradford (derelict vans x2), 1933 Singer Sports 9 "Le Mans", 1913 Talbot Roadster, 1937 Aston Martin 15/98 Sports. Bristol 400.

## *Cars he owned for many years*

Austin 7 he owned from 1967 – 2023. Some hung around, like the MG he had for 20 odd years, because he never had time to work on the restoration. Apart from the Austin 7 there was never really a keeper.

### **HIS FAVOURITES**

1938 W143 Mercedes 230 Cabriolet, the first car he had to have, but was sold to pay for the garage floor for the new house in 1964 (would be worth Euro 200,000 today). The Austin 7 was the hardest to let go. The car he was most proud of was the Aston Martin and finishing the Granluce before he became too ill to work on cars, he considered a great achievement. He didn't have any specific favourites and would "take them as they come" in his words.

He rarely kept track of where the cars went but I know the Austin 7 now resides in Eden, the Aston Martin went to Switzerland and the Mercedes is a now restoration project in Canterbury (Vic)

John's mechanical skill were pretty much self-taught – he learnt by doing the MG TF, which was probably the best in Australia at the time. His first motoring experience was as a seven year old in Perth where a neighbour who had lost his left arm in WW1 and

had difficulty driving his Austin 7, so John would accompany him on his weekly shopping trips and change gears for the digger!

Peter tells us that his dad regularly visited aged care home and give the oldies joy rides in the Singer, Austin 7 and the Talbot. Ironically most of them were younger than him!! “

Those of us who knew John will remember his passion for his cars, both Fiats and others, his quiet manner and sense of humour, and his amazing self-taught restoration ability. We always enjoyed his visits, most recently in his modern red 500, or, on occasions, in one of his restorations. We got to go for a ride in the 1900 Granluce on one visit and of course, loved the fact that he was also an X1/9 fan, having owned four, over the years. We also loved our lunch catch ups with John and Daphne, where things other than Fiats were the topic of conversation. We will miss you John and your amazing contribution to the restoration of some fabulous cars that may well have ended up rusting away in old sheds or in paddocks. Your contribution to our automotive history should be recognised and applauded.



Austin 7



Santa John in his 500 at the Festa



Singer

# Fiat Nationals – from the Event Director

*By Robert Judd*

After four years and a few false starts (firstly with the NSW Fiat Club hindered by Covid and then an aborted attempt by FCCV to run it early this year in Albury/Wodonga, we have finally been able to run the Fiat Nationals again.

Back in June 2021, I agreed to manage a team from FCCV to try to get the Nationals back on track. With enormous support from the NSW group, who had organised sponsorship from FCA and Shannons as well as a handful of smaller contributors, we set out to find a suitable location for the event.

Knowing that staging the Nationals after such a long break would hold more than the usual risks for attendance and costs, we decided that we needed to find a lower cost circuit and keep costs to a minimum. The search took in Bryant Park in Gippsland, Calder in Melbourne and the Driver Training circuit in Barnawartha near Wodonga.

We finally settled on a spectacular track in Broadford, which is a motorcycle track used also for car sprints, and perfect for our cars. This set the ball rolling and we then chose the Bendigo Saleyards for the Motorkhana and the Chinese Museum/Gardens (Dai Gum San) in Bendigo CBD for the Show and Shine.



The Organisers - Robert and Debra Judd and Marisa Gangemi

Having now returned from the event I am so pleased with our choices and the work that my team have done (along with a whole lot of volunteers who helped out with preparations and on-site activities over the weekend). Many of these people are mentioned in other articles in this magazine, so I am only going to mention the team here for special thanks. Thanks to; Marisa Gangemi, Event Secretary and liaison with MA and MSCA; Roger Beattie, general support, preparation of the trophies, stickers, printing and tee shirts among other things; Harvey Richards for everything to do with our fantastic Welcome BBQ on Friday night; Sandro Cesario for the Show and Shine at Dai

Gum San; Paul Pozzobon for the Presentation Dinner organisation at the Bendigo Trotting Track; Bill Freame for his support, advice and his involvement in the event administration; Deb Judd, who was a part time member of the subcommittee and stepped up for the raffle and silent auction, the goodies bag assembly, the on-site registration and general assistant to me. Special mention to one club member who wasn't on the subcommittee team and that's Ian Payne, who towed the club's trailer to each of the events full of our equipment so that we had everything needed and of course was involved in erecting/repacking tents and lots of other things over the 3 days.





Deb Buggee, James Woodburn and Ian Allison running a Motorkhana test



Sandro Cesario – the Shown n Shine

Of course, all of this helps to put together a good event, but it is the attendees that make it really happen. Unfortunately, we didn't get the mix of states attending we had hoped for or the numbers, but there were many from interstate that attended just to be part of the social aspects and this shows one of the strengths of this event.

Whilst a lot of focus is directed toward the results of competitions we need to remember one of the most important things that

this event brings – camaraderie between Fiat lovers from around Australia and ultimately that is what this event creates.

I'm biased of course, but I think this was one of the best Nationals to have taken place, mainly because it has resurrected the event and helped to bring many of us back together after some fairly tough four years around the country.

Normally after the event we already know which club has put up their

hand to run it next year. We will be working this out shortly via a Zoom delegates meeting and I'm looking forward to handing over the reins to a new group who will have the opportunity to grow this event back to where it has been in the past.

For Victorians, next year will be interstate, so I ask that you make the effort to support it, as you have in large numbers this year. Attendance from all states is what will make this event stronger.



Some of the trophies at the Presentation Dinner



## FROM THE EDITOR

*Even after all the hard work and sleepless nights involved with organising this event Rob and Deb managed to take time to compete in the Motorkhana.*

## EDITORS PIC

After all the hard work that went into this fabulous event, Rob and Deb still managed to compete in their Rail!! Well done team – we salute you !!



# Nationals BOI Performance - Sprint

By Peter Bartold

Photos also by Peter Bartold

Broadford is a great little track that was initially built as a motorbike facility but over the years has been modified for car use. It was also attractive to us as the Sprints venue because it was available on a Friday and the cost was reasonable. The weather was wonderful and drivers had plenty of track time, we had 124s, 500s, Puntos, X1/9s, and the much modified twin cam 126, and 6 non Fiats (to help cover costs we invited some other car clubs and ended up with six entries.

The fastest on the day was a clubman (not a Fiat) but John Black in his Dallara X1/9 wasn't far behind with Stuart Hocking in a new Yaris a second behind him.

The best entertainment of the day went to Frank Caia and Phil Bugge in their classic Abarth 124 spider replicas. After many laps chasing each other there was only a fraction of a second separating them.

With good weather and a track that tested the drivers, all competitors had a great time with not too many problems. Everyone agreed that the Broadford track was ideal of this type of competition and it was an easy drive from Melbourne and on to Bendigo.

We were extremely lucky to have Petrina and Bruce Astbury from MSCA acting as Clerk of Course and driving the MSCA Abarth 500 Course car, so all in keeping with the Fiat Nationals. We appreciate their assistance on the day. Peter Valentine also assisted with the running of the event and also the Motorkhana, so there was plenty of expertise.

Tony Studans and Sue Porter from echoes of the past photography were also present and took some great shots, many of which appeared in the "find whose car this is" game we played at the Presentation Night. The opening photo of this report is one of Tony and Sue's works of art.

The day was a great success and everyone left with a smile on their face, as they headed off to Bendigo for the rest of the fun of the Fiat Nationals.



Marisa ready to start the first lap  
Photo [www.echosofthepast.biz](http://www.echosofthepast.biz)



The MSCA Course Car





# CLASS WINNERS

Class	Name	State	Car	Class	Name	State	Car
S52	Giancarlo Nasca	NSW	X1/9	MS4	John Black	VIC	X1/9
S53	Anthony Cementon	VIC	124CC	RS2	Graham Bates	NSW	850 Sport
S54	Tony Tyzack	VIC	Punto sport	RS3	Martin Gallard	NSW	126 Special
MS2	Ian Maud	VIC	X1/9 Prototipo	RS4	Mario Di Censo	VIC	500 Abarth
MS3	Phil Buggee	VIC	124 Spider	Non Fiat	Les Bone	VIC	Clubman





# Fiat Nationals Motorkhana - Fiat of Italy Cup

By Lyn Bartold

Photos by Peter Bartold, Brian Shanahan

Bendigo Sale Yards (now called Bendigo Livestock Exchange) was the venue for the Fiat of Italy Cup at the Nationals, a great venue with excellent bitumen for the tests, plenty of parking and a canteen on site, what more could we ask for?

There were eight tests in the Motorkhana, four on each area and enough similarities in set up for a quick change from one test to the next. We had 30 competitors in a range of Fiats, divided into six classes so the event which started at 10am was finished by around 2pm, allowing for a stop for lunch.

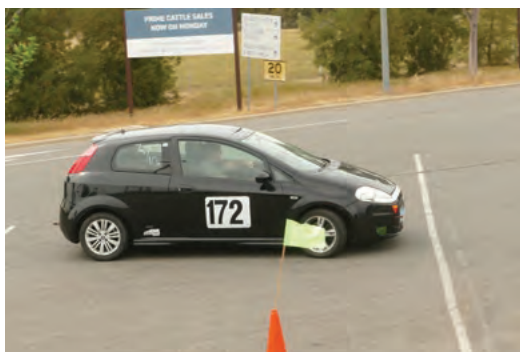
The day was fine but not too hot or windy, so perfect conditions for the event. The motorkhana has been the event that has run right through the years since the first Interstate event was held between Vic and NSW in 1964 at Wagga. Back in the day it was held on dirt and was reknown for kicking up so much dust you could not see where you were heading. It was the only competition event in the Nationals in those days! We have come a long way since then!!



Thanks to the officials who conducted each area. For me, it was the first time I had worked with the electronic timing and it was fantastic. Everything ran smoothly with no problems, no hitting the stop watch button too soon or late or losing concentration – no problems at all.







As is always the case, we had WD's and flags dislodged earning penalties but there were some excellent runs and well deserved placings. With everything run so efficiently, we were back at the hotel in plenty of time for a rest and a catch up with friends.

Congratulations to those who performed well in their class and showed how the events should be driven.

Class	Name	State	Car
A	Michael Williams	VIC	124 Abarth
B	Ian Maud	VIC	X1/9 Prototipo
C	Ruth Freame	VIC	Punto Sport
D	Phil East	NSW	500 Abarth
E	Tony Russell	VIC	Panda Special
F	Paul Freame	VIC	BPF001 Rail





# FIAT NATIONALS SHOW AND SHINE

By Lyn Bartold

Photos by Peter Bartold, Giancarlo Nasca, Roberto Bruno

Our third event of the Nationals was the Show and Shine which was held on the Sunday at the Dai Gum San area in Bendigo, a fabulous setting for the wonderful range of Fiats we had on display.

The area is a busy thoroughfare for locals and visitors, so there was a continuous stream of people wandering through and enjoying our display.

There was an excellent variety of cars, including some of the competition cars and it was a very pleasant sunny day making it a fabulous finish to the competition part of the Nationals. Many of the cars on display had also competed in the Motorkhana the previous day and the Sprint event on Friday so a quick clean and polish was required to get the cars presentable for the Show and Shine.

Well done to those who displayed their cars and were part of this fantastic event and we have used the spectacular setting for the Show and Shine as our cover shot for this month's FIATMonth. Thanks to Sandro Cesario, complete in high vis vest, for being the man on the ground, directing traffic and organising parking places.







## Costume Competition

As part of the Show and Shine display, we introduced a Vintage Fashion parade and judging, for the first time at the Nationals. Participants were asked to dress in the era of the car they had on display or in their favourite era.

We had 12 participants which was a great start to an event we hope will become a regular feature of future Fiat Nationals. It was great to see the effort that the participants put into finding appropriate costumes and parading amongst the cars on display. There were three categories of judging, Best Female and Best Male and Best Couple.

My thanks to those members who got costumes together on very short notice and were willing to parade in a public area to add another element to our busy program.



## WINNERS

**Female:** Diane Newton. **Male:** David Stott.

**Couple:** Leslie and Roger Langdon.



# FIAT NATIONALS SOCIAL EVENTS

By Debra Judd  
Photos by Peter Bartold

*As important as all the competition events are at the Nationals, the social events also play a big part in the long weekend that makes up the overall event. Thanks to Deb Judd for all the work she put into making the social events so memorable – well done Deb and Rob Editor*

## SOCIALLY SPEAKING

The Fiat Nationals event 2023 must have been one of the most social Nationals I have been to, (the first was in 1975). All have been good events with much socialising but this year nearly 100 members and friends (19 from New South Wales, two from South Australia and 76 from Victoria) came together over three days and were very keen to catch up, or meet new friends with a common interest. Without realising it I think just getting together after the 4-year hiatus seemed the main focus, even over the competition events.



The Goodies bag presented to all participants

After the day of Sprints at Broadford on Friday the rest of the weekend kicked off in Bendigo with event registration and welcome BBQ at the All Seasons Resort. The setting was the Resort BBQ area and it was abuzz with chatter all evening.

Harvey Richards did a magnificent job organising the evenings BBQ – from visiting the Resort weeks ahead of the event, to purchasing and transporting all the



The BBQ area was an ideal relaxed setting commented on by many who were there.





The Presentation of Trophies takes place at the end of the evening and there were many smiling faces of the happy competitors

food and drinks to Bendigo. He even brought along two extra BBQs just in case they were needed. With his team of assistants set up, preparation, cooking and serving over 60 people went very smoothly. Thanks to James Woodburn, Bruno Tonizzo and Paul Pozzobon for their hard work on the night

A big thank you to Frank Russo from Rainbow Meats for high quality Italian sausages and hamburgers. Everyone was very happy and enjoyed the chance to catch up. The All Seasons Resort provided crockery and cutlery, extra chairs and were, in general, very helpful.

Saturday was Motorkhana Day followed by a free evening where everyone could go their own way. Many were enjoying each other's company so much we organised a dinner in the All Seasons Bistro for the Saturday evening which ended up being 50 booked for dinner!!

Up bright and early Sunday for the Show 'N' Shine on Sunday – more beautiful weather. Although this is one of the competition events of the weekend it is another chance to meet and catch up with members and locals.

Sunday evening there were about 80 attending the Presentation Dinner - a jam-packed evening at the Bendigo Harness Racing Club. With the presentation of over 50 trophies for all three competition events; Costumi d'epoca prizes; a huge raffle; silent auction; stories told and many thank-you's to get through, it was a huge night.

Thank you to David Judd, our MC, who kept us on track for the night. The room was buzzing all evening

and for a while a little chaotic. Tony Studans and Sue Porter of [www.echoesofthepast.biz](http://www.echoesofthepast.biz) donated over 500 photos taken at the Sprints on Friday and the Motorkhana on Saturday. They arrived as 80 surprise packages handed to each person at the dinner, with the instruction to seek out the person in the photo. If there had been any ice breaking needed before this mingling game, it was certainly smashed by the photo giving!

Thanks go to Paul Pozzobon for taking charge of the bookings and communication with Bendigo Harness Racing Club.

I would like to thank the Fiat Club of NSW for amassing a huge number of raffle prizes over two years when the Fiat Nationals were not run, and providing them as prizes and Silent Auction items on the night. Thanks you also to Bruno and Fiona Tonizzo, Toni Romeo, Lyn Bartold for help with preparations for the events and to Ian Payne for towing the club trailer to Bendigo, Timing Officials, Deb Buggee, James Woodburn, Ian Allison (NSW), Alana Freame, Lyn Bartold, Ian Payne, Bruno Tonizzo and Mike Coles (SA) and Scrutineer, Phil Buggee.

Thanks to all our sponsors for the Raffle, Silent Auction and showbag items:

- Fiatorque
- FCA
- Penrite
- SAPE (Sydney Automotive Paints & Equip)
- Shannons
- Echoes of the Past
- Vittoria Coffee
- NGK

**and FCCV wins the Fiat of Italy Cup!**





## The News Stand

Richard Unkles

Apologies to those who were looking for Tipo Torque in the last Fiat Month but your scribe claims to have been an invalid when he should have been scribbling. All sorted thanks to the Box Hill Hospital and the GP.

David Stott, Rob Poynter and your scribe have all entered in next years' Spirit of the 20's Rally over 9 days in south east Victoria and NSW. Rob is planning to take one of his 501's, David reports that the Itala is now much easier to start with the overhauled magneto so he intends to take the Itala rather than the 501C and your scribe will take the taxi. We will be welcoming John Hebard from UK who has taken the opportunity to see some more of Oz and from a suitable vehicular carriage.

As this is quilled the attractions of Italy have caused the Lemms, Fazios and our President to abandon ship and check the attractions of Turin and places elsewhere.

Your scribe has finally started work on his 510S after some 40 years since acquisition. The wood-work is being undertaken partly by copy of the remains from the front door forward and partly by reference to the copies of the original Italian plans held in club storage since the 1970's.

The 505 project that the late Paul Stokes has turned up with Terry Harris who worked with Paul. Paul died suddenly in 1999 and had been working on his 505 tourer project in conjunction with one time VVFC Treasurer, Alan Collis. We have been told Alan Collis died last year. Paul had undertaken much of the serious work and preparation of the restoration including fitting one of the VVFC taller ratio crown wheels and pinions, most of the chassis, a newly cored radiator and engine re-conditioned but not assembled. New timber framing and new sheet metal work for the body. The delay was caused by Terry restoring another car that also came from Paul's estate. Retirement has finally brought the time to complete the Fiat.

Ray Fullard has been pushing ahead with the restoration of the Fiat 507 tourer that has been in the family since the 1930's. Photo shows the body after his spraying but before polishing. This car is worthy of a more detailed article in the near future.



Ray Fullard's blue 507



510S chassis and woodwork



Terry's part completed 505.





Broken lower hinge

## Here is a sorry story about Yolanda Mansfield's very original 1938 Topolino 500A.

"We had a little incident recently. We were towing the Fiat on an open trailer with the car facing forwards when a large semi-trailer passed us whilst coming from the opposite direction in a 100km zone on the Hamilton Hwy. The gust of wind it created caught the driver's side suicide door and flung it completely open....it broke the strap that normally prevents the door opening past 90 degrees and then also broke the lower

door hinge. Amazingly there was minimal damage to the door itself (unless it's distorted slightly but visually doesn't appear to be and still closes OK), nor was there any damage to the rear wheel arch fender or rear panels. I suspect the strap took a great deal of the momentum off the door's travel before it broke."

So they need a replacement RH lower door hinge for her car. Can anyone help?

## Federation News

The quarterly meeting of the Federation of Veteran, Vintage and Classic Cars Inc was held on 14th October. Main items of note were:

- The Federation lost some \$20,000 last year due to the Victorian Government taking over the Bendigo Showgrounds for those displaced by the Rochester floods so the Bendigo Swap was cancelled. Reason given for no compensation being paid by the govt was that no physical damage had occurred, though expenses had been.
- New buildings for table tennis are proposed for the showgrounds which may be adaptable for the Swap.
- Possible rerun in 2025 of the Shannons 2000 Rally to Canberra.
- Money left over from the Shannons 2000 was used to create the Robert Shannon Trust which provides funds for your restorers to continue their projects. Latest grant has gone to a 21 year old for the restoration of a 1947 Triumph 1800 roadster.
- Electric Vehicles – Vicroads are looking at a special RWC for these.
- Most clubs will be affected by the ATO's requirement that "Not for Profit" organisations will have to lodge tax returns if their income from anything other than subscriptions exceeds \$416. So the FCCV is definitely affected.

### VicRoads Statistics

The following may be of interest. Victoria has 6.670 million cars registered. Of these some 5.5% are over 30 years old. Of those registered, 1.55% are on the CPS. Not that

CPS is applicable in Victoria for vehicles over 25 years old and not 30 years as in the other states. So collector cars are not a big contributor to CO2 emissions, especially once the low distances travelled by cars on the CPS are taken into account.

### E Fuels

No doubt we will hear more of these with the passage of time. These fuels are carbon neutral (or close to) and so when used minimize CO2 emissions. In UK these are available in a few places at some 3 times the cost of normal petrol. The August edition of "The Automobile" has an article on this and refers to the use in a 1928 Sunbeam 16.9hp sedan. The owner reports minimal difference from standard petrol and the fuels can be missed with no problems. Here there are 3 organisations working on this, including Porsche which is using hydro power in Tasmania as part of the meeting of carbon free fuel requirements. Cost reduction is the main problem at present but do not be surprised if you are using these fuels in your classic in another 10 years. Certainly cheaper than converting the car to electric.

### Swap Meetings

The Ballarat Swap will again not be held in February. Our understanding is a lack of a suitable site that Council will agree with. However the following are proceeding:

- Bendigo Swap – Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th November 2023
- Berwick Swap – Saturday 3rd February 2024
- Yarra Glen Swap – Sunday 10th March 2024



# Barry Ellis Memorial EcoDrive in a 500E

By *Damen Earwaker*

The return of the EcoDrive in 2023 was an especially significant one, as it marked the running of this event, to the memory of one of its greatest supporters - Barry Ellis.

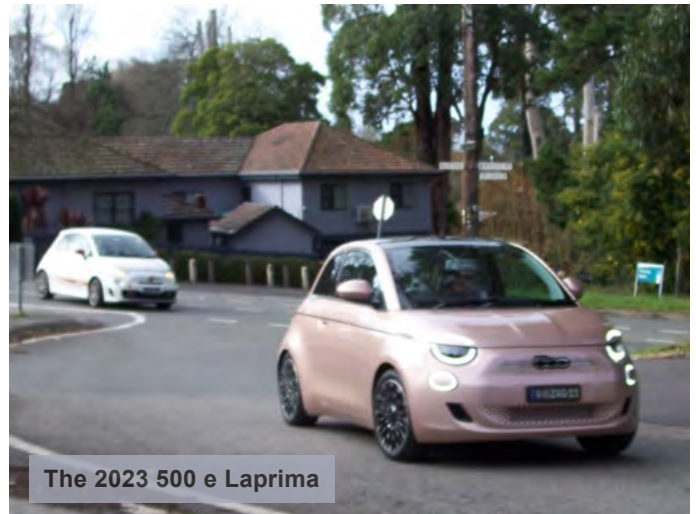
It is a fitting and entirely deserved tribute, as Barry had diligently honed his driving techniques over several decades, to extract the greatest possible distance, out of the least amount of fuel - with impressive performances in recent years, at the wheel of two Fiat Punto's – one of which was again in attendance on this year's run, in the hands of Tony Tyzack.

There was an excellent turnout this year with a strong dominance of Fiat models, spanning nearly 60 years of the brand's history. After over a decade of participating in this event in various vehicles this year I was fortunate to be able to return with another Electric Fiat – this time the latest 2023 500e Laprima.

Fiat 500 models usually perform well in this event by virtue of their compact size and weight – 500 twin air and Diesel models have taken out the honours in previous years as well as my own first generation 500e in the 2019 event. From a personal perspective-participating over the last decade, has provided an interesting benchmark of just how far Electric Vehicle technology has progressed during the running of this event.

In earlier years the EV entrants were unable to complete the entire course on one charge- now in the present day even a compact EV such as the 500e was able to complete the full route and flow with the internal combustion vehicles at posted speed limits, including travelling to the start and returning home on a single charge, with a comfortable reserve of over 100km remaining.

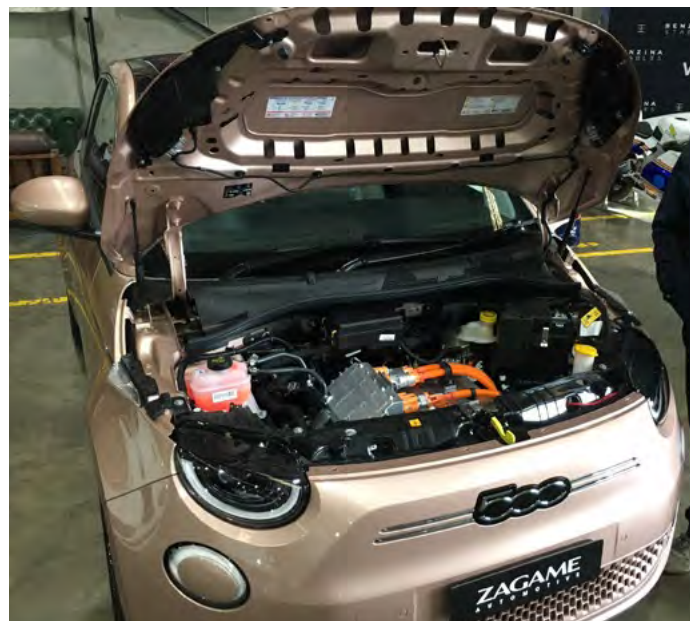
The weather was excellent and traffic minimal on a highly enjoyable route from Rowville via Pakenham to Lilydale of approximately 120km – the final figure is always dependent on the level of navigational accuracy achieved in traversing the route! It's a very enjoyable event where speed is of secondary importance to smooth and efficient driving techniques, over a wide range of terrain and conditions.



The 2023 500 e Laprima

Comparison between different fuel and vehicle types through analysis of cost per kilometre always throws up some interesting surprises- this year the Electric 500 was most efficient followed by Deb Buggee in her 500X Crossplus and a creditable performance from Roger Beattie and Peter Kerr in the Fiat Scudo van. Shayne Williams was unable to add to his impressive collection of wooden spoons this year, in pursuit of the highest recorded fuel cost over the course, with a Mercedes snatching the 'honours' for 2023.

EcoDrive is a thoroughly enjoyable day out with excellent roads, great company and a wonderful range of vehicles. Thanks again to Bill, Alana and Paul Freame for their organisational efforts and Phil Buggee / BOI Performance for his continued support of this most worthwhile club activity.





# Coming Events

## General Meetings

November 9th 8pm Veneto Club  
December 14th 8pm Veneto Club  
Nuts and Bolts Quiz  
January 11th 8pm Veneto Club

Join us for dinner in the Bistro from 6.30pm  
– Bookings essential

Contact Sandro Cesario 0420 277 701

## Caffe di sabato

Nov 4th Veneto Club  
9.00am

Dec 2nd Veneto Club  
9.00am

January No Caffe di sabato  
in January



## Sandown Historics Display

**Sat 11th Nov**

Contact Sandro Cesario  
0420 277 701

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November 12th**

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**ENTRY \$10 PER CAR**

Contact Joe Sammut for details  
0412 211 581



# Coming Events



## Maserati Day

**Nov Sun 19**

Deaf Children Aust St Kilda Rd  
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\$10 per car, Spectators free

Contact Sandro Cesario  
on 0420 277 701



**Sat 25th November • FCCV Display**

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Committee Member, Ralph Di Censo, is in charge of the merchandise and  
can be contacted on 0438 232 875 if you wish to purchase any items.

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**PAUL POZZOBON 0418 552 290**