



# FIAT Month

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

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

**MAR 2025**

# ZAGAME

A U T O M O T I V E

*presents*

# autobella

*Costume D'epoca*

*italian automobile festival*



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**MAR 2025**



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  
 Roger Beattie – Advertising  
 Fiat Pronto – Roger Beattie

**FIATmonth deadlines**

5th of the month prior to publication.  
 Next issue: May 2025  
 Deadline: 5th April 2025



Front cover:  
 GOTOWO

# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2** Club Committee Reps and Contact Details,  
Life Members
- 3** From the Editor...  
Lyn Bartold
- 4-5** Rapporto del presidente  
Roger Beattie
- 6** Club Calendar March – May  
Roger Langdon
- 7** Membership Page  
Tony Romeo
- 7** Club Permit Scheme  
Mario Di Censo
- 8-9** Competition Report  
Keith Ellis
- 10-11** Competition Events  
Marisa Gangemi
- 12** Online Renewal of Club Permit  
Roger Beattie
- 13** Adverts
- 14-15** Cruden Farm  
David Stott
- 16-17** 2024 Club Awards  
Lyn Bartold
- 18-21** Autofesta Yarra Glen
- 22-24** Costumi d'epoca  
Debra Judd & Lyn Bartold
- 25** Adverts
- 26-27** Tipo Torque  
Richard Unkles
- 28-29** Day of thrills at Brooklands  
... plus a Mouse Race  
Kevin Lemm
- 30-31** My Fiats Hometown  
David Stott
- 32-33** Photo Competition  
Lyn Bartold
- 34** Adverts
- 35-36** Coming Events
- IBC** AutoRicambi Ad
- BC** Autobella Info







2024-2025

# THE CLUB COMMITTEE

**President**

Roger Beattie, M: 0400 177 278  
president@fiatclub.org.au

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**Secretary**

Ian Payne, M: 0407 838 532  
secretary@fiatclub.org.au^

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members@fiatclub.org.au

**Club Permit Co-ordinator**

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Assisting the Editor

**Competition Secretary**

Keith Ellis, M: 0484 221 208  
secretary@fiatclub.org.au  
Bill Freame was standing in temporarily –  
Keith Ellis now permanent  
Competition Secretary

**Social Co-ordinators**

Mario Di Censo; Paul Pozzobon  
M: 0419 171 661; M: 0418 552 290

**Vintage & Veteran**

Richard Unkles, M: 0411 185 779  
vandv@fiatclub.org.au

**Calendar**

Roger Langdon, M: 0402 409 758

**Display and Run Co-ordinator**

Joseph Sammut, M: 0412 211 581

**Merchandise**

Sandro Cesario, M: 0420 277 701

**General Committee**

Geremy Tassone

## NON-COMMITTEE POSITIONS 2024-25

**MSCA Delegate**

Marisa Gangemi

**CAMS Delegate**

Paul Freame

**Supper Organiser**

Paul Pozzobon

**AOMC Delegate**

Roger Beattie  
0400 177 278

**Property Officers**

Mario Di Censo,  
Kevin Lemm

**Library**

Bruce McCann

**Communications Officer**

Vacant

**Raffle Manager**

Sandro Cesario  
0420 277 701

**Federation Delegate**

Richard Unkles

**Webmaster**

Mark Weinberger

*^Where no email has been indicated, the committee member can be emailed via 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 Templer  
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 — Lyn 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

\*deceased





Well with Christmas and New Year and the busy holiday season done and dusted for another year, we move on the what looks like a very busy 2025. My thanks to club members who have contributed both stories and photos to keep all our members up to date with what has happened in the previous months and what we have to look forward to in the coming months. You will read about some very well attended events, such as Autofesta Italia held by AOMC at Yarra Glen Racecourse, the event where we held last years Autobella. This venue has the capacity to accommodate many cars and we were again allocated a large area for our display. Read our report of this event in this FIATMonth and congratulations to members who got behind it and brought out their wonderful cars and for those Fiat Club members and those from other clubs who came dressed and ready for the Costume d'epoca. Of course, I am biased about this event but for me it was great to have members of other clubs entering and taking our competition to a new level – well done everyone

Our own major event of the year, Autobella will be held at the end of March, in a new venue at Wesley College's Glen Waverley campus, and another chance to show off in costumes of the era of your car or your favourite era. We are expecting a big crowd and the event will be reported on in the May FM.

## From the Editor...

Once again. I thank members who have contributed articles to this FIATMonth, some new contributors and many of our regulars. I am thrilled at the great photos we have as entries in our Photo Competition – wonderful to have Simeon and David Reidie with photos from Mille Sicilia and some local ones. When looking at these, I remembered that on one our trips to Italy we visited Brescia

for the start of Milla Miglia and we met up with David in Brescia where he was preparing for the event. He was entered in his Balilla and he took Peter for a drive around the Piazza in the car – I am sure for Peter, this was one of the most memorable experiences on the trip!!

## EDITOR'S PICS OF THE MONTH

### AUGUSTIN BANKO'S FIAT BALILLA AT FEBRUARY CAFE DI SABATO

*Photo by Joseph Sammut*

And speaking of Balillas.....There has been much speculation amongst Fiat Club members as to what was being discussed between Augustin, Richard Unkles and the 2 police officers – were they asking to see the Club Permit Log Book, was Augustin being asked where was his seat belt, was this car road worthy etc etc etc..... none of the above!!

The female officer just stood and looked without asking anything and the male officer was interested in the car's story and eventually Augustin was waved off with smiles and good wishes. Apparently the officers dropped in for a toilet stop and after a chat they waved the Ballila and Augustin on their way.





# Rapporto del presidente



It has been quite a change over the past couple of months to be more involved in organising events rather than attending them. There was definitely a flurry of activity at the close of 2024 which left me a little overwhelmed but it also gave me plenty to write about.



Over the opening weeks of this year I have been involved in all sorts of tasks. From arranging a variety of spare parts for various people around the globe to being involved with the organisation of the Yarra Glen 'AutoFesta Italia' and researching for next years epic cross country trip it has barely allowed my time to get my work done. I am happy to find myself so immersed in many projects as it enables a lot of contact with members, not just of our club but of various clubs across the state, country and world.

Such lofty pursuits are not keeping me from attending to our club requirements though so you will find an updated set of instruction elsewhere in the magazine for club permit renewals. Vicroads have recently changed their preferred method of renewal making the online renewal a lot simpler and more reliable. Using the suggested email [permitrenewals@fiatclub.org.au](mailto:permitrenewals@fiatclub.org.au) will ensure the fastest turnaround for renewals.

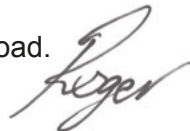
On 30 March Autobella will be on at Wesleys Glen Waverley campus. No doubt this years event will be another great day out and with the help of our regular sponsors we will enjoy a wonderful display. Only two weekends later is the 40th Anniversary edition of AutoItalia in Canberra. I have already heard from a few people who are planning to head up for the weekend and no doubt a number more will join in before the



11th-13th April rolls around. It is always an interesting weekend with a Saturday joint event and dinner with the ACT Fiat Club before the main event on Sunday. If you haven't been up it's a good opportunity to get away for a decent drive with friends. Contact me if you are interested.

It is also very gratifying to see the number of new members joining the club. There are new introduction cards available so grab a few and offer them to Fiat owners you encounter in your daily travels. We live on the friendliness of our members and the organisation of the committee. Both are always appreciated.

Remember we all share the road.



St Gabriels event on Sunday .... a Bambino 500 and the 850 Coupe that I drove on the day (Thanks Mario).





# CLUB CALENDAR

## MARCH - MAY 2025

At the time of printing all information regarding listed events is correct. 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.

### MARCH

- Sat 1** **Caffe di sabato. Veneto Club 9 am**  
Contact Mario Di Cenzo 0419 171 661 or Paul Pozzobon 0418 552 290
- Sat 8 – Sun 9** **VHRR Philip Island Classic Festival of Motorsport**  
Contact Sandro Cesario 0420 277 701
- Mon 10 – Thurs 13** **Targa Classica**
- Thurs 13** **General Meeting. Veneto Club 8.00 pm**
- Thurs 13 – Sun 16** **Melbourne F1 GP Festival FCCV Display**  
Contact Sandro Cesario 0420 277 701
- Sun 16** **Melbourne F1 GP Race**
- Sun 23** **Williamstown Italian Social Club Italian Fest. 10.00am.**  
**Details to follow**  
Contact Joseph Sammut 0412 221 581
- Sun 23** **67th Kalorama Rally for vehicles prior to 1990**  
Contact David Stott 0414 442 518
- Sun 30** **FCCV Autobella at Wesley College Glen Waverley**  
Contact Sebastian Bongiorno 0419 536 876 or Sandro Cesario 0420 277 701

### APRIL

- Sat 5** **Caffe di sabato. Veneto Club 9am**
- Thurs 10** **General Meeting. Veneto Club 8.00 pm**
- Fri 11 – Sun 13** **Run to Autoitalia Canberra**  
Contact Roger Beattie 0400 177 278
- Sun 20** **Run to Newport Railway Museum. To be confirmed**  
Contact Joseph Sammut 0412 221 581

### MAY

- Sat 3** **Caffe di sabato. Veneto Club 9 am**  
Contact Mario Di Cenzo 0419 171 661 or Paul Pozzobon 0418 552 290
- Thurs 8** **General Meeting. Veneto Club 8.00 pm.**
- Sun 18** **National Motoring Heritage Day: Run to Trentham**  
Start point to be advised: Contact Roger Beattie 0400 177 278
- Sat 24 – Sun 25** **Winton Historics**  
Contact Sandro Cesario 0420 277 701

**COMPETITION EVENTS ARE LISTED ON THE COMPETITION REPORT PAGE.**

### 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 2025  
Thursday 13th March,  
Thursday 10th April, Thursday 8th May

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 Secretary

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.

## NEW MEMBER UPDATE

By Tony Romeo

### WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS –

<b>Michael Goldsmith</b>	Fiat 124, Mazda 3, Renault Floride
<b>Bruce B</b>	Fiat 503B
<b>Hugh Harrison</b>	Assortment of Italian cars
<b>Michael Peterson</b>	Yamaha 1200c

## CLUB PERMIT SCHEME

Mario Di Censo, Club Permit Co-Ordinator

For any information or enquiries about the Club Permit scheme, including adding and renewing cars contact Mario.

Enquiries: [permit@fiatclub.org.au](mailto:permit@fiatclub.org.au)

Renewal: [permitrenewals@fiatclub.org.au](mailto:permitrenewals@fiatclub.org.au) which is also the fastest way to renew now. See the new instructions in this magazine or online at [fiatclub.org.au/renewals](http://fiatclub.org.au/renewals).

Club Membership must be current for a Club Permit to be valid. All memberships expire on June 30 and must be current to allow use of a Club Permit vehicle whenever the Permit is due.

### ELECTRONIC PERMIT RENEWAL

The process for electronic renewal has been simplified making it the simplest renewal method available. You will need and should have an active "myVicRoads" account (sign up info below this).

Sign and photograph your Club Permit renewal form and email it to [permitrenewals@fiatclub.org.au](mailto:permitrenewals@fiatclub.org.au). It will be signed and returned within a few days and then you can send it to VicRoads with your payment via your "myVicRoads" account.

To set up a My Vic Roads account you can find the link on their homepage or follow this link.

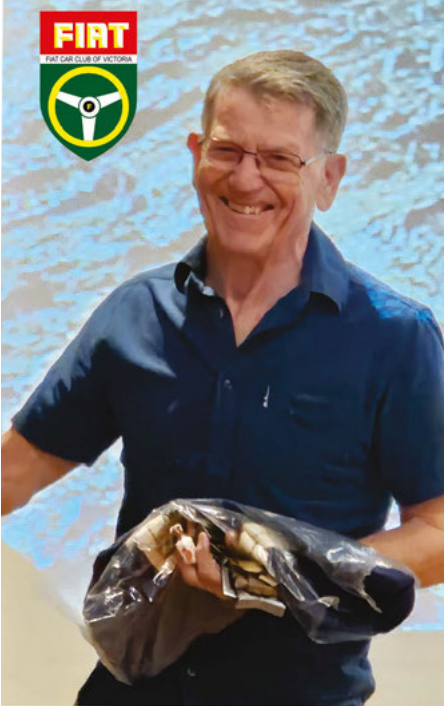
<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/online-services/sign-up-for-a-vicroads-online-account>

### CLUB PERMIT SIGNATORIES

Name	Location	Phone
Phil Buggee	Dandenong	03 9794 6692
Mario di Censo	Heidelberg/Balwyn	0419 171 661
Bill Freame	Glen Waverley	0412 814 855
Frank Marinelli	Northcote	0411 511 679

# Competition Report

By Keith Ellis, Competition Secretary 2024-25



I hope you are all well rested and ready for another year of competition with our family of Fiat derivatives. Not a lot has happened so far this year but some of the regulars have been at it.

Marissa Gangemi has been everywhere and recently at Phillip Island. It might be rough in patches for a Moto-GP bike but our cars running at less than warp-speed find it very smooth.

Ian Maud dusted off the cobwebs from the 124AC Targa car to run at Rob Roy I do not know of any others.

The calendar has many opportunities to satisfy your “needs for speed” some of which will have been run by the time you read this.

On the long weekend in March several members will have run at Phillip Island in the Classic Festival of Motorsport. This is quickly followed by Targa Classica that starts in Wodonga and runs in North East Victoria and finishing at the Australian GP at Albert Park on the Thursday.

Opportunities to run in sprints in March may still be open with the MSCA at Sandown on Saturday 22 March.

There is khanacross at Pakenham on this same Saturday and Round 3 of the Victorian Hillclimb Championships at Mt Leura Camperdown on the same weekend.

The following weekend 29-30 March there is Vic Championships for Motorkhana and Khanacross at Avalon.

Plenty of opportunities to keep everyone satisfied.

## 2025 Nationals Dates Confirmed

Thursday afternoon 24 July 2025 participants doing the Sprints at Morgan Park can arrive and set up their cars, trailers etc ready for Friday morning.

**Friday 25 July** from 8:00 AM Sprints at Morgan Park Raceway.

**Saturday 26 July** Show and Shine at the Royal Hotel, 1 Wholey Drive Harrisville. Country style lunch at this iconic venue celebrating 150 years in early July 2025.

**Sunday 27 July** Motorkhana at Queensland Raceway.

## Accommodation

**Thursday 24 July** is at the Coachmans Inn at 91 Wood St Morgan Park. Dinner on Thursday is not organised.

**Friday 25 to Sunday 27 July** Quest Springfield Central 4 Wellness Way Springfield. Dinner on Friday will be organised by FCCQ, details to follow. Saturday night dinner will also be organised by FCCQ. Sunday Presentation Dinner venue TBA. More info to follow as this becomes available.





# COMPETITION EVENTS: MARCH – JUNE 2025

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

<b>SPRINT EVENTS</b>		
Sat 8 – Sun 9 March	Phillip Island Classic Festival of Motorsport	Phillip Island
Mon 10 – Thurs 13 Mar	Targa Classica	Starts: Wodonga Ends at AGP
Saturday 22 March	MSCA Sprints Round 2	Sandown
Sunday 23 March	Porsche Club Vic 5 Hr Regularity	Sandown
Sunday 30 March	MSCA/AROCA South Aust.	Tailem Bend
Sat 26 April - Sun 27 April	MSCA Sprints Round 3	Tailem Bend
Saturday 10 May	AROCA Sprint	Sandown
Sunday 15 June	GCC Races East Sale Sprint	East Sale
Sunday 29 June	MSCA Sprints Round 4	Sandown
<b>MOTORKHAHA/KHANACROSS</b>		
Sunday 23 March	VKC2 VMCi	Pakenham (Dirt)
Saturday 29 March	VMC3 WDCC	Avalon (Bitumen)
Sunday 30 March	VKC3 WDCC	Avalon (Bitumen)
Sun 6 April	GCC Multi-club Khanacross	Bryant Park (Bitumen)
Sunday 27 April	VKC4 GCC	Bryant Park (Bitumen)
Sunday 4 May	GCC Multi-club Khanacross	Bryant Park (Bitumen)
Saturday 31 May	VMC4 DSCC	Deniliquin (Dirt)
Saturday 1 June	VKC5 DSCC	Deniliquin (Dirt)
Sunday 22 June *TBC*	Vic Khanacross Champs Round	Bryant Park
Saturday 28 June	VMC5 WMS	Colac (Bitumen)
Sunday 29 June	VKC6 WMS	Colac (Bitumen)
<b>HILL CLIMB</b>		
Sat 22 – Sun 23 March	VHCC Round 3 Mt Leura	Camperdown
Sat 29 – Sun 30 March	Rob Roy Revival	Rob Roy
Sunday 27 April	VHCC Round 4 Bryant Park	Bryant Park
Sunday 4 May	VHRR Historic	Rob Roy
Sunday 1 June	GCC Multi-club Hillclimb	Bryant Park
Sunday 8 June	Rob Roy Interclub Challenge	Rob Roy
Sunday 29 June	VHCC Round 5 (MCV)	Rob Roy

# Competition Events 2024

By Marisa Gangemi

## FROM THE EDITOR

I, and I am sure, many other club members, have been enjoying the Facebook posts that Club Member and former Club Captain, Marisa Gangemi, has been placing on the club Facebook site. Marisa is an enthusiastic competitor and as you will see from the following report, a very successful one. In her previous role as Competition Secretary, Marisa led by example, attending and competing in as many events as she could and encouraging club members to Come and Try and to understand the pleasure she gets for competing.

I am sure there are many members who have been impressed by the enthusiasm that Marisa always displays and have attended competition events.

I am sure we will continue to read about Marisa's Motor Sport Adventures for many years to come.

## ANNUAL VICTORIAN MOTORKHANA AND KHANACROSS AWARDS FOR 2024

### MARISA GANGEMI

The presentation of these awards took place at Sophias in Camberwell in January. The Fiat Car Club did very well with a number of our members taking home some trophies;

### Results

#### TONY RUSSELL

Winner in Class H at VMC Rd 5 at Bendigo Saleyards

#### MARK FREAME

2nd Class J for Victorian Motorkhana Championship  
2nd Class J in Victorian Khanacross Championship

#### MARISA GANGEMI

1st Class B Victorian Motorkhana Championships  
2nd Class L Victorian Motorkhana Championship  
2nd Class L Victoria Khanacross Championships  
1st Place Class L in Group 5 Festival of Non Speed Motorkhana 2023 ( held in 2024)  
1st Place Class L VMC Rd 2 Avalon

As Marisa says " it would be great to get more club members involved in the championship this year as I know we have some great Motorkhana and Khanacross competitors in the club.

It would be awesome if FCCV won the Club Championship Award one year.

Well done to all those involved in this area of motorsport.





Marisa's Trophies

Marisa's Trophies

## 2025 START TO THE COMPETITION SEASON – MARISA AT MSCA EVENT AT PHILLIP ISLAND GRAND PRIX CIRCUIT.

I had an awesome start to the 2025 Season with MSCA at Phillip Island. What made the day extra special was sharing the track time and garage with another Come and Try alumni, Selin Lanzafame. We had an epic day on track, my favourite session was when we were in battles with other drivers and kept overtaking each other.

I love being in our regularity group – even though we are competing against one another, we respect each other on the track and have a good camaraderie. I struggled to do a PB and picked the wrong regularity time but still had a fantastic day.

Thanks to everyone for sending supportive messages.



Marisa in action



# FCCV Online Renewal of a club permit

Follow the steps below to renew your club permit.

First, make sure you have a myVICROADS account. If not you can do so at [vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://vicroads.vic.gov.au)

You'll receive your club permit renewal notice in the mail about 6 weeks before it expires. The renewal period is based on your current permit period of either 45 or 90 days.

## Step 1: Getting the club's endorsement

Sign your renewal notice and then have your renewal notice endorsed by an authorised signatory of the club to confirm that you're a current member.

If you can't have your renewal notice endorsed in person sign it (IMAGE 1) and email a photo/scan to [permitrenewals@fiatclub.org.au](mailto:permitrenewals@fiatclub.org.au) the form will be returned signed as in IMAGE 2. You can now renew.

It really is that simple..

## Step 2: Renew and pay

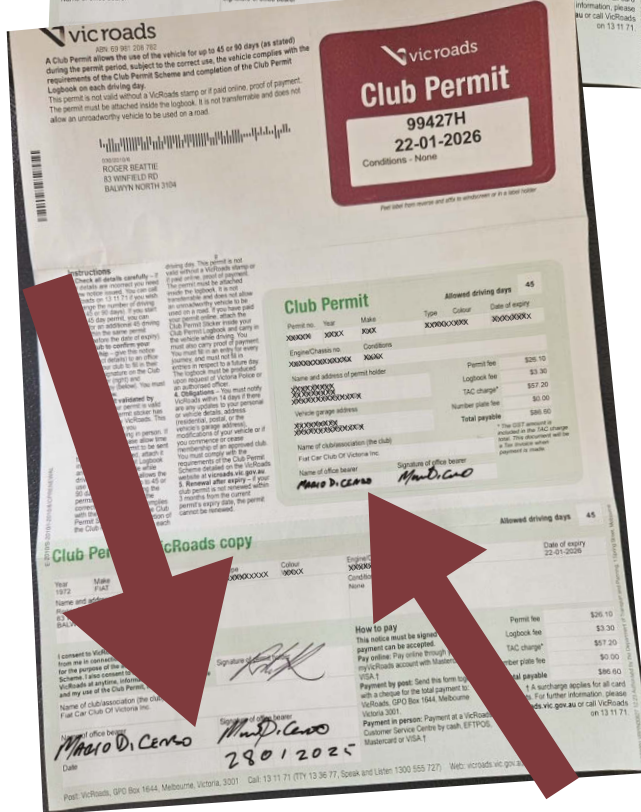
Go to your myVicRoads account. When you login you'll see your club permit vehicle listed.

You'll need to upload your signed and endorsed renewal notice

Then make your payment.

## Processing time

It takes about 3 to 5 business days to process the renewal if you do it online. We'll email you with a receipt when your renewal has been processed. Keep or print the receipt as proof of payment and to confirm that your permit is valid. If your existing permit has expired, you can't drive the vehicle until you receive your renewal receipt email. If your renewal is rejected for any reason, we'll process a refund for you automatically.



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FULL PAGE \$2,500 FOR 6 ISSUES  
1/2 PAGE \$1,500 FOR 6 ISSUES  
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# CRUDEN FARM FESTIVAL OF MOTORING

By David Stott

Photos by David Stott, Keith Ellis

This annual event is held on the grounds of Dame Elizabeth Murdoch's Langwarrin property. It has well groomed gardens and plenty of areas to park cars, and importantly this year, lots of shady trees to sit under. The forecast was for temperatures in the high 30's and consequently the number of cars and visiting public was down this year.

I drove my Fiat 501, and after a drive through Kangaroo Ground to Warrandyte and Ringwood, in the cool morning air, a fast run at 70km/h down Eastlink and Peninsula link followed. Along the way a Jaguar SS from the late 30's followed me a good part of the journey and although I expected him to pass, he stayed behind my all the way, happy to follow at my speed. On arrival I found the Fiat had used a bit of water, more than usual in fact, and I suspect the water pump did too good a job and at high revs, pushed water out the overflow.



There was no congestion to enter the show area, and all the Vintage and Veteran cars had a prime spot next to the house garden, and near a large shady tree.

This year is the 75th anniversary of the Austin 7 Car Club, and they made a special effort and had a very





large display of Austins 7's. Display cars were mostly grouped by make, or by car club, and the Peninsula and Dandenong club's had a large groups.

The usual trade stalls, Stuckey Tyres, Models, and some general stalls were present, and a live band provided entertainment.

At about 1pm, presentations started, and prizes were awarded to a car from each era, pre-1930, then each decade, 30's, 40's, 50's up to the '60's.

On the return trip, it was now mid-afternoon and very hot, (glad I left the roof up) and I decided I would take it slower on the way home, so settled on about 60-62km/h, and made a couple of stops along the way at the Eastlink service centre, and again at Warrandyte to check and top up the water. Despite the heat the engine did not overheat although it still lost some water.

My Fiat has its original honeycomb radiator, which is now 100 years old, the water passages are very fine and cannot be physical cleaned, and it is easy for any dirt from the engine to accumulate in the top of the radiator which can restrict the flow of water. The water pump can pump water up faster than it can percolate back through the core, and it escapes out of the overflow.

Our usual treatment on 501 radiators, is to run a cleaning agent through it such as Bi Carb Soda or Oxalic acid then reverse flush the core.

So, during the following week I gave the radiator a dose of BiCarb Soda, ran it for a bit, let it soak for a day, then drained and flushed a few times. Plenty of sediment came out and the surfaces in the top of the radiator were cleaner, however I could still see dirt on the top of the tubes.

Next, I removed the radiator tipped it upside down and put plenty of water through it over a bucket to monitor what came out. Further dirt and sediment came out, and the radiator is now as clean as I can get it. The car is now back together and at high engine revs the water level is staying fairly constant, so hopefully the problem is solved until the next time.



McIntyre High Wheeler



Keith Ellis and Sam Dawson's 128 SL's at Crudent Farm

# 2024 CLUB AWARDS

By Lyn Bartold

Each year the Committee selects a number of club members who have made a significant contribution to the club over the past year. The winners of each category are announced at the December Club Meeting and the winners are presented with a trophy. These awards are generally presented to non-Committee members who have made a contribution to the life of our club and have shown enthusiasm and willingness of offer help when needed.

This is usually done "under the radar" and often other club members are not aware of their contribution. Recipients are nominated by members of the Committee and the President makes the decision on who should receive the awards.

It is always a surprise to the recipients when the awards are announced and presented at the final

General meeting of the year but there are always nods and smiles of acknowledgement by all at the December meeting when the winners are announced and the trophies presented.

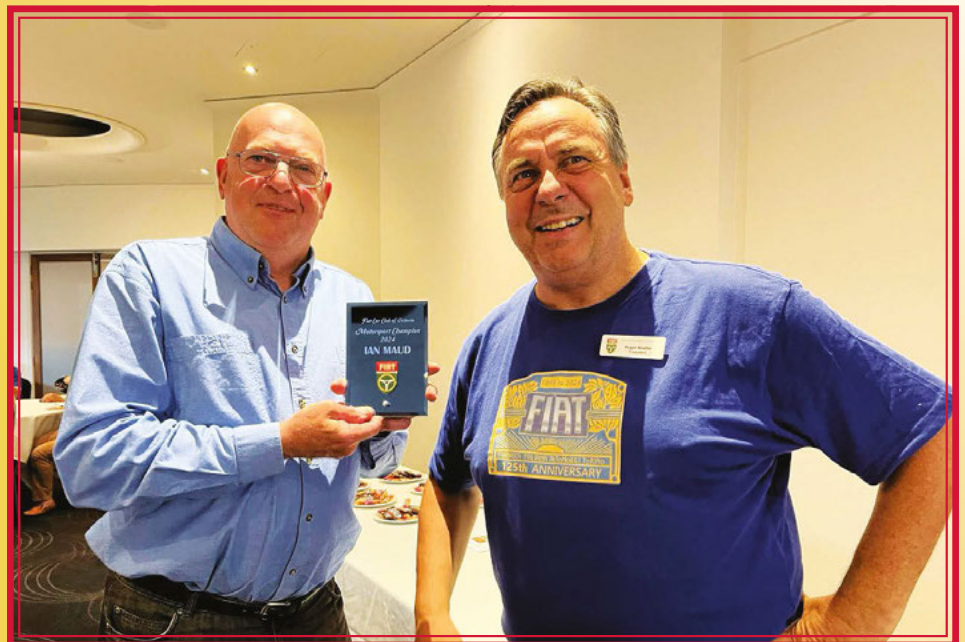
We are very fortunate that we have many club members who not only turn up to many events but who are always ready to step in if some assistance is required and often this is not always seen or passed onto the President or to Committee members. It would be good if when you see some act that is worthy of mention that you pass that on, either to a member or the Committee for the final meeting of the year presentation. All of this year's recipients have been members for some years and who continue to offer their assistance when they feel they can help.

## THE WINNERS FOR 2024 ARE ...

### Motorsport Award

**IAN MAUD**

WHO WAS BUSY AT AN EVENT MOST WEEKENDS.



*Congratulations to all our 2024 winners,  
your cheerful presence at events is appreciated by us all*



# Bella Fiat

## SAM MAZZEO

WHO ALWAYS BRINGS ONE OF HIS LARGE COLLECTION OF FIATS, WHICH ARE ALWAYS WELL PRESENTED.



# Clubman

## FRANK AND DIANE NEWTON

... ALWAYS READY TO HELP, CHEERFUL AND RELIABLE- WHAT MORE CAN ANY CLUB WANT.

# President's Award

## COSIMO (MAX) GIOLA

WHO HAS SUPPORTED A NUMBER OF MEMBERS, IN THE BACKGROUND, BUT WHICH DID NOT GO UNNOTICED.







presents



# AUTOFESTA ITALIA CARS, BIKES, MELBOURNE

In association with the  
**BRITISH & EUROPEAN**  
MOTORING SHOW 2025 OPEN TO ALL VEHICLES MANUFACTURED  
IN THE UK & EUROPE

## All Italian Car and Bike clubs welcomed

### FROM THE EDITOR

The AOMC display held at Yarra Glen Racecourse, our Italian Car Display, organised by our club, attracted lots of Fiats, Abarths, Alfas, Lamborghinis and Ferraris.

It was a great day enjoyed by all and has become an important event on our calendar. We also ran our Costume d'epoca again and had a good turn up of members and a few others who were willing to dress up and be judged.

### AOMC Trophy Winners

Congratulations to David Judd who was awarded the trophy for Best Post War European Vehicle and Augustin Banko for Best Pre War European Vehicle.

Well done to Anthony Cementon, Joe Sammut, and all those who took photos and placed them on Facebook to show members who did not attend, what they missed.

I have invited a number of club members to send me their thoughts about the day and, of course, we have plenty of photos Well done to everyone who brought



their cars along, took photos and have contributed to this article – here are their thoughts.....

My special photo from the event is of my Abarth set for racing as Peter would have had it set up.





# Club Members thoughts on the day

SANDRO CESARIO

Another AOMC Yarra Glen has come and gone, this time it was Autofesta Italia. Sunday came after some typical Melbourne weather, rain, sun wind and cold , however the show must go on, after months of planning and spending money I must say that the Fiat Car Club again has staged a good show.

I would like to thank all the members who came along and displayed their cars and assisted us on the day, the show could not have happened if not for the members. We had a great range of Fiats on display along with support from the other Italian Clubs, Alfa Romeo, Maserati, Lancia, Ferrari and the lone De Tomaso.

Well done to Lyn with Costume D'Epoca and great to see other clubs have joined this great spectacle.





# Autofesta Italia cont.

## IAN PAYNE

Arriving early as I was rostered on to help with the food, I was surprised at how many cars were already in attendance!

I looked around for the cooking area but it was way down at the end of the complex hidden behind the conveniences, it seems our original spot amongst the cars was scuttled as the Racing Club had recently seeded that area and it was now no-go until the grass grew!

The rainy weather had so far been kind to us with only the occasional light drizzle falling and fortunately the BBQ's had been set up under an existing marquee so cooking could be done in relative comfort. But we were still out of sight from the patrons as was the other coffee vendor, hopefully once the Ferrari Club filled up opposite us, the hungry hordes would soon be queuing up for sausages and hamburgers! But no, the Ferrari club had a separate run on and only three cars turned up which was not enough to draw the crowds down to us. We quickly commandeered a

sandwich board and converted it a rudimentary sign advertising 'more food and coffee this way.' Sandro would also get on the PA and spruik our location to all and sundry.

I am not sure how much food was sold but the queue ebbed and flowed all day so it appeared reasonably successful and I'm sure when next year's event comes around, we will be in a better spot.



## ROBERT JUDD

Following on from the success of the Fiat 125th Anniversary display at Yarra Glen as part of the AOMC British & European Day last year, we were invited back to host a whole Italian event this year and so Autofesta Italia was born and celebrated at the AOMC British & European Day on Sunday February 16th.

Roger worked tirelessly with the AOMC to structure the event, inviting all the Italian car brands and some motorcycle groups along. Unlike Autobella, which is happening on March 30th, this event is a more relaxed

affair with no formal judging and a target of bringing the Italian culture into the British and European show.

Having said that, there were some novelty class trophies handed out, including Awesome Abarth won by Frank Newton in the 595 Competizione, Bella Berlina won by Laurie Hocking in the 130 Sedan, Cutest Coupe won by Kevin Lemm in the 2300S, Exquisite Exotic won by Robert Judd in the Fiat Dino Coupé, Fantastic Fiat won by Mark Lissek in the 1500s OSCA, Lovely Lancia won by Mike Cary in the Lancia Beta Coupé and Sexiest Spider won by Ian Maud in the 124 Spider. There were also a couple





of other trophies awarded to members of other clubs.

Our club was well represented with 49+ Fiats/Abarths of many varieties in attendance ranging from the 1930s Fiat Balilla through to modern 500 and 124 Abarths. Alfa, Lancia and Maserati were also well represented and we had a small number of Ferraris in attendance too, even though they had another club event on that day. Also, David Stott brought along his 1921 Itala to help round out the Italian car brands.

We were also successful with two of our members winning AOMC B & E trophies. These were Augustine Banko with the afore mentioned Fiat 508S Balilla winning Best Pre-war European and David Judd with the Maserati 3500 GTI winning Best Post-war European. Well done to Augustine and David.

We were allowed to have our own catering this year (food and coffee) and of course this was Italian flavoured (sorry about the pun). A last minute withdrawal of our pizza man left us only with our own BBQ, but as usual Sandro and his crew cooked up a storm with Italian sausages and burgers. Hopefully we can expand this more next year and improve the location and visibility to encourage more participation of the general attendees.

Unlike the heat of last year, the weather was mild and there was a brief shower in the morning. We suspect that the attendance may have been down slightly due to the threatening weather but the weather didn't cause any grief with most of the convertible owners having their roofs off for the display.

Whilst the Fiat Club did the full organising of the event again this year, Roger has proposed that the other Italian car clubs join in with the organisation and this is expected to be the case for next year. We will still take the lead I'm sure, but I'm expecting more involvement from the other clubs and some further improvements from our side which will continue to make this a special Italian display within the British & European Day.

Thanks to Roger, Sandro and crew who transported the gear there and ran the BBQ etc. and to Lyn and Deb who organised the Costume d'Epoca with a couple of special guest judges assisting on the day.

## ROGER BEATTIE

After the success of the Yarra Glen event last year there was a decision made to try and build it up as a joint Italian motoring club event into the future. By becoming less FIAT focussed but encompassing the wider group will enable space for growth and participation on a much wider scale. Sharing the venue with another six to seven hundred cars and enthusiasts also helps bring the joys of Italian motoring to the fore with clubs that have really only experienced the Italian design work so often evident in British and other European marques.

The success of a day like Autofesta is a function of a few simple things, the volunteers to help organise an event, some members to arrive, volunteers to help them get parked and out, reasonable weather, volunteers to cook and judge, clean up afterwards and transport everything back to its storage areas. As you can see from that the vast majority of the day is down to the volunteers and I am sure they will tell you how much they enjoy doing it. Thanks once again to them all and maybe next event a few more shall join their ranks.







# AUTOFESTA ITALIA

CARS, BIKES, MELBOURNE

*Swing by at 11.00  
Join In or  
just enjoy*



*By Debra Judd*

*Photos by Joe Sammut & Debra Judd*

Costume d'Epoca is our 'fashions of the era' event where participants are invited to dress in a past era costume. It may be in clothes which match the era of your car or in any era that you love. The aim of Costumi d'Epoca has always been to add another dimension and interest to the car display. It is meant to be a bit of fun and we love to see as many involved as possible. We do not aspire to being expert judges (because we are definitely not). Our annual event is held at the Fiat Club Autobella (- and will be part of Autobella again on 30th March).

However, following from last year's involvement our club has just organised AutoFesta Italia, again, at the AOMC British & European Car Show. This provided an excellent opportunity to hold a second Costume d'Epoca event where we invited everyone attending the Car Show to join in the fun and dress up.

With 21 participants and two guest judges as well as Lyn and I, this must be one of the biggest turnouts ever. While mostly FCCV members we were very pleased to have a few from other clubs join us. Hopefully this will grow next year – and with a warmer weather forecast I am sure it will!

The thought put into, and quality, of outfits was again excellent. Outfits ranged from genuine vintage pieces from specialty vendors or Op shops to those which have belonged to their owners since new. There were reproduction pieces and those which were styled after a particular era. Some were chosen to match the age of their owners car, others as favourite

eras, and for others their outfits were reminiscent of their times in own lives.



There were two television characters represented on the day! Thank you Frank for the RIDDLER (1960s BATMAN) and Katherine who channelled Tom Bakers' DR WHO of the 1970s. Just to show how much fun & creative dressing up can be!







After the parade and "photoshoot" the judges deliberated and trophies were presented. Lyn and I would like thank our guest judges – Braidy and Leo. Both Braidy and Leo come with some experience. Braidy is involved in the Florence Thomson Tour which encourages participants to dress according to the era of their vehicle. (Braidy made her own reproduction Chanel suit using an original pattern – involving 96 steps!! Amazing and beautiful!)

Leo has a keen interest in history and has judged before. Their input and comments were invaluable.

Congratulations to our winners and all those who participated.

CATEGORY:	WINNER:	DRESS:
Overall Best Vintage	Judith Odgers	1960s 2-piece suit as worn to a wedding
Overall Best Reproduction	Jaxxon Roberts-Ryan	1960s shift dress, jacket and hat
Pre 1960 Men's Vintage	David Judd	1950s double breasted suit & trench coat
Post 1960 Mens Vintage	Gary Spencer	1970s 2-piece suit & patterned shirt with wide tie
Post 1960 Ladies Vintage	Vicki Lemm	1980s skirt & jacket complete with shoulder pads
Best Couple	Duke and Jenny Luu	1970s couple
Special Mention	Bruce Webster	1950s special mention for fantastic blue suede shoes and Rock'n'Roll performance



Trophy Winners & Guest Judges Costumi d'Epoca



# FIAT CLUB FESTA cont.



A very big thank you to Roger Beattie for all his work, not only with the organising of AutoFesta Italia, but for preparing Costumi d'Epoca trophies, printing flyers, providing the microphone for us to use, and keeping us on-track. We could not have done it so well without you Roger.

We look forward to a bigger Costumi d'Epoca next year.





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**FIAT**  
FIAT CAR CLUB OF VICTORIA INC.

## ECCV MERCHANDISE

Our club has a wide range of merchandise which is updated often. It is available for purchase at club meetings and events such as Autobella. Fiona Tonizzo will be looking after merchandise and can be contacted on 0417 508 299 if you wish to purchase any items.

Current merchandise will be available at each General Meeting

**SOME OF THE CURRENT RANGE OF MERCHANDISE:-**

**FIAT**  
FIAT CAR CLUB OF VICTORIA INC.





## The News Stand

Richard Unkles

First thank you to Bruce Lindsay in Tasmania for his article on Fiat pricing in the mid 20's.

David Stott has recently found his 501 has a tendency to run hotter. A mild dose of Sodium Bicarbonate (Baking Soda – thanks Jenny) shifted enough from the radiator and all seems normal again for summer motoring. David is planning to bring his Itala to the British and European Car Show now that he has found the secret to starting it. Certainly a healthy magneto is one essential but the other is to just stick with the

starter motor for about 16 seconds and suddenly it bursts into life. That had remained a secret for many decades, in particular it seems the previous owner of nearly 5 decades never discovered this, judging by the starting instructions he left.

We extend a warm welcome to Bruce Booby in Goulburn who has a Fiat 503 tourer. The late Syd Norman was his father in law which made for a simple acquisition. Bruce advertised for a crown wheel and pinion at the Bendigo Swap last November and we are in process

of assisting. Unfortunately there are no 4.6:1 units left that the club had made in India but this will put him back on the road.

Seems we have another Fiat 509 restoration finally underway on the Bellarine Peninsula. Keith Pigdon has acquired the car from the estate of a cousin and is working on a recommissioning more than a restoration. This car has lived in the area for all its 99 year life. Maybe a photo next issue of TT.

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### Differentially Speaking – 501 and 503

The unavailability of original pinion thrust bearings for the 501/503 cars spurred Ian Trethowick in Adelaide to review the system devised some 43 years ago by Robert Lovell.

Those at Forster Tuncurry would have admired his green 501 roadster with the magnificent brass

radiator still running well with the tapered roller bearing conversion.

At the time several conversion kits were made but Stephen Mayer's was not successful. Ian Trethowick in Adelaide has very carefully assessed the system and installed it on his 503. We await road

performance feedback.

In the meantime four more sets have been discovered with the original machinist who will make them available at a very fair price. So we have a total of six available if required. Looking forward to road going trials of Ian's 503.

---

### Fiat 52B chassis sold at Donningtons Auction

This chassis turned up at an auction a bit out of Melbourne maybe five years back, and was recently sold again unchanged. Your scribe stumbled on it in an unexpected place where several Donnington cars are stored.

It is destined to go overseas. Amongst the cars stored there is

a part restored Mercedes Benz 600 Grosser. Advice provided is that it's value is in breaking it up as the project is too expensive to complete.

Apparently it is part of an estate of a chap who died with significant debts so a maximizing of the value is dominant over restoration.





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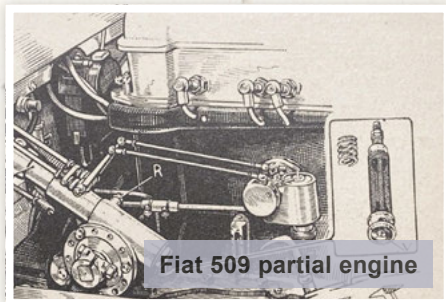
# TORQUE

# 521 tipo 1 501c

FIAT

## What were the Fiat Designers thinking of?

The Fiat Tipo 509 must have been designed with one eye to the future and one looking back. These are a 990cc OHC long stroke engine. But if you are thinking of a simple efficient cross flow situation think again. The fuel inlet is via a single carburettor mounted down on the side of the engine block.



Fiat 509 partial engine

Thence once inside the fuel gallery splits left and right and then around another right angle bend to go vertically. It then enters the head through 2 special holes in the base of the head to enter 2 chambers that give access to the inlet valve area.

Up in the head area someone else must have been in charge as the head is not just OHV but OHC.



Fiat 509 revised with 2 inlet holes

Jim Dalton in UK was on top of a useful variation, by setting up a jig to bore the side of the head and feed the head direct via twin SU carburettors. It can only handle a 25mm (1") hole so early carbys have to be used, such as fitted to the Morris 8 circa 1936 to pre Morris Minor. If you try to use the next size up of 1 1/8" you run into the water jacket. The conversion has allowed access to remove some sharp edges in the feed galleries to the combustion chambers and some shortening of the valve guides to improve gas flow. Replacement standard size valves are from the 36HP Volkswagen.

So this change should increase the latent hidden power of the OHC engine, coupled with an improved cam profile with a 5 degree increase on the inlet valves to allow for the slower burn rate of modern fuels. More details later this year when the car is back on the road. Note that with a change in the almost ridiculous diff ratio of 6.0:1 for the 509S light weight sports version the car will be a more suitable car to take on the Centenary Rally to Perth next year.

So is this level of change of the Fiat designers work a sacrilege? To some this would be true, being completely unoriginal. But balanced against this is that the engine will develop more power and use less fuel, and less use of fossil fuels is to be encouraged. Any correspondence will be cheerfully published.

## Federation of Veteran Vintage and Classic Vehicle Clubs

The meeting on 8th February at Rowsley was attended by your scribe as the rep of the FCCV. The following items may be of interest.

- A) 18th May is National Motoring Day this year. So get your classic out even if you do not have an event to go to. The Federation is providing a Picnic Day at Murrabit if helpful. Details from <https://www.federation.asn.au/calendar-of-events>.
- B) After 2026 the Federation is seeking a new Partner/s to run the Bendigo Swap. A very useful source of income for a club that is seeking an income stream.
- C) Unregistered cars on nature strips can be booked by Councils as per a recent example.
- D) ATO has revised the sign in date for clubs and charities with an ABN to 31/3/25. So far relatively few have signed in.
- E) Federation has queried VicRoads on just when does the TAC liability shift to Club's Public Liability Insurance cover. No answer yet after 6 weeks.
- F) FIVA representation in Australia – see below as a separate topic.



# “DAY OF THRILLS AT BROOKLANDS” ... plus a Mouse Race!

By Kevin Lemm

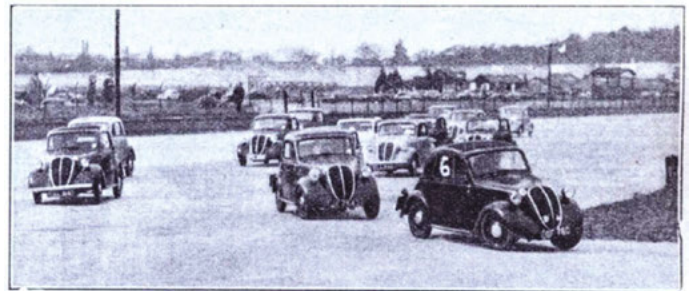
Research assistance from Jim Dalton (UK) and the VSCC Library (UK)

The 2025 Australian F1 Grand Prix is fast approaching. With the latest changes to cars, teams and drivers it's sure to be an exciting event and both the Albert Park track, and Melbourne will be the focus for the millions of motorsport enthusiasts worldwide. I remember that the FIAT 500 was used for the Celebrity Challenge some years back featuring well-known Australian sporting stars, and a quick Google search showed that the year was actually 2008. How the time flies!

But matching famous people up to compete in identical vehicles is not a new idea and has always been well received by motorsport spectators. I recalled reading of the original FIAT 500 Topolino being involved in a similar match at the famous Brooklands racetrack. Brooklands operated from 1907 until 1939 and was renowned for its steeply banked track, its record breaking speeds, and famous drivers competing in the best racing vehicles from manufacturers around the world.

Some research revealed only sketchy details that, yes, the Easter 1938 meeting did list a "Mouse Race". It was time to call for help. A quick chat with my FIAT friend, Jim Dalton, in the UK had the expected response; yes, Jim had a few ideas and would report back. And within days he did. Jim requested information from the Library of the Vintage Sports-Car Club UK and they were very helpful supplying information about the 18 March, 1938 Easter Monday meeting including the driver list and the race result along with reports published in both the Motor Sport Magazine and The Autocar Magazine.

Eighteen cars were programmed to start the event but one failed to start. Well-known drivers included Peter Clark; a leading motor car driver of those times, Arthur Baron and Andrew Leitch; both known for their abilities behind the wheel of a Bugatti, Michel Noël "Mavro" Mavrogordato; who raced Scott motorcycles



COMIC RELIEF: Like a pack of Sealyhams the baby Fiats buzz into the first bend on their two-lap race. Their race was won at over 40 m.p.h.

and a 4 1/2-litre blower Bentley and known for his everyday transport, a 1914 GP Opel, Hugh Curling Hunter; owner of a single-seater Alta and a Frazer Nash-BMW 328 but best known for his racing efforts in the 2.9-litre twin super-charged Alfa Romeo, Leslie Seyd; who raced a MG K3 and supercharged Austin Seven "Ulsters, Gerald Bertram Crothers Sumner; who raced a variety of cars from a small GN to a V12 Delage, plus ten others.

According to the Autocar report, the crowd of 20,000 "overjoyed enthusiasts of Brooklands had looked forward to this for weeks. Pieces of cheese on strings had been prepared as bait, and there was even talk of releasing a cat behind the machines at the start." The report describes "scandalous over-revving, bumping and boring" as the competitors charged toward the first corner. The accompanying picture is the best quality I could find but shows the motorcyclist "Mavro", using all of his nerve and 2-wheeled skills, holding a tight line into the first corner in his blue car #6. I had to search what a Sealyham was in the caption, but think Jack Russell Terrier!

The 2-lap race of about 4.5 miles distance was won by Mr Stephen Edward Bentley Schweich (Steve) Mond in car #11 at an average speed of 42.45 m.p.h. with second place going to Mr C B Phillips driving car #15. This car was entered by Dr R A "Bobby"



Beaver, better known for wrestling a 30-98 Vauxhall around a racetrack, and why he relinquished his drive in favour of Phillips is unknown, although obviously a shrewd and correct decision. Arthur Baron came in third in his little grey Mouse #7. Other places were not reported other than a comment by Motor Sport Magazine that it was curious that speed-kings stayed in the background! Also, that "the speed is notable, no one blew up and the cars finished fairly compactly".

But how did it happen that a little 2-seat Italian car with a 569cc 13hp engine would be even allowed to set its skinny tyres on the great Brooklands track, or that they could gather enough of them so far from their natural environment to even conduct a race? Why not a more likely available British candidate like the Austin 7? The answer probably is that most race drivers of the period recognised the technical attributes of the Topolino's light weight design, independent front suspension, synchromesh 4-speed gearbox and hydraulic 4-wheel brakes. The resultant

performance, nimble handling and good braking compared favourably to the aging A7. Hugh Hunter, who drove car #17 in the race, personally owned one, as did the famous Maserati driver Prince Bira of Siam. Bira raced in the main events at the Easter meeting, but not in the Mouse Race. Other famous drivers that had Topolinos within their personal stable included Earl Howe, successful Le Man and Grand Prix driver and Richard "Dick" Seaman, official Grand Prix driver for Mercedes-Benz. It's more than likely that the general public appreciated the features and styling of the car as well, and if not for the massive 33.3% duty that Great Britain imposed on imported vehicles at that time, the modest number of Fiat 500s sold would likely have been greater.

Interesting times, and a reminder that absolute speed is not needed to have fun in motor sport. It's having a go that matters!

Thank you to Jim Dalton and the VSCC Library UK for helping with the research.



Prince Bira and his personal Topolino



# MY FIAT'S HOME TOWN

By David Stott

As some of you may already know, my 501 was bought new by my grandfather in 1926 from the Fiat agent in Maitland NSW and spent its life in and around Newcastle and Coal Point on Lake Macquarie until I brought it to Melbourne in 1975. This article is about the Fiat revisiting its old sites.

My Fiat and the 509 referred to below restored by Bill Hale from Speers Point and now owned by Jason and Meg Scott in Bendigo, were both purchased from the Fiat dealer in Maitland NSW, "William Butler and Sons". William Butler was my Great Grandfather and sold Massey-Harris farm equipment among other things and including Fiat cars. The building he operated from was in Lorn, West Maitland just over the Belmore bridge, and right next to the Hunter River. This building still exists named Beacon Motors but now is unused.

We trailed the Fiat up to Forster-Tuncurry for Fiat 125 years rally in November 2024 and on the way up we parked the Fiat outside the building from where my Fiat was originally sold. Unfortunately, nobody was around to mark the occasion.

On the return journey after the rally, we took the opportunity to visit my Grandfather's house in Newcastle and also the family holiday home at Coal Point where the Fiat was stored for many years, and where I first came to know the car.

When I was a kid, we only visited the holiday home once a year driving up from Melbourne at Christmas. Back in early 1960's it took a full 2 days to get to Newcastle as this was when north bound traffic had to navigate through the regular streets of western Sydney via the main streets of Liverpool, Parramatta and Hornsby.







Pacific Highway, main  
Sydney/Newcastle Rd 1964

Before the F3 freeway existed, the Pacific Highway was a single road winding its way from Hornsby around all the hills of Kuring-Gai chase and along the Hawksbury river, it was a very slow journey and many a time there was an accident or truck breakdown causing traffic to be stopped for hours. Sydney to Newcastle by road then was not something many people even considered, as it was the best part of a day's drive compared to one and a half hours now. This accounted for Newcastle being somewhat an outpost from Sydney with often a long wait for things like car parts to be delivered.

As cars got faster and roads improved the trip from Melbourne got down to one and half days, then when I was younger and when I didn't get more than the main days at Christmas/New Year off, I could do it in 13 hours door to door.

Anyway I digress! When we arrived at Lake Macquarie for holidays, my uncle would pump up the tyres on the Fiat, put some fuel and a battery in it, and start it up. It would be moved out of the single garage so that the "good cars" could be stored in it.

He would drive up and down the road giving us kids a ride, then the Fiat would be parked under a tree, and I would then play in it during the holiday. I have family movies of the Fiat driving around with me in the back.

This happened every year up until 1970 and after the magneto was removed and loaned to Bill Hale in Speers Point for his 509 referred to above, the 501 was not moved again until I brought it to Melbourne in 1975. Probably the ignition timing was too hard to reset!

In November, on the way back from Forster-Tuncurry we went to Coal Point, and I took the Fiat off the trailer and drove up and down the street for the first time in 55 years to re-enact the family videos. The old house is long gone and the house my Uncle built in the '70's has been extensively renovated in an area now know as Millionaires Row. The owners were not home so we stayed out on the street.

I am currently trying to insert the new video into the old family movies video I have up on Youtube.

You can find the video by searching "Fiat 501 Memories"

or at this Youtube address.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f-4TFgJBXul>



Original Dealership, Maitland



Gosford traffic



# Photo Competition

By Lyn Bartold

Thanks to the members who have contributed photos to our competition. There are always some great events on that are reported on in each FIATMonth and always some great photos that go with them.

Very often it is your Editor who chases up photos and selects them to be part of our competition but I am very happy that for this FM the photos you see are all contributed by the photographers.

My thanks to these members who have provided some excellent pics that you see here. They are all equal winners so enjoy them and the stories that go with some of them.



Augustin Banko's Fiat 508 Balilla Roadster

## Augustin Banko's Fiat 508 Balilla Roadster

Photographer Joe Sammut - a great photo taken by Joe of Augustin's beautiful car that was at a recent Caffe di sabato.



1935 Fiat 508S Balilla

## 1935 Fiat 508S Balilla

Owner and Driver David Reidie. Navigator Simeon van de Meert, Event Targa Florio Sicilia, Italy Oct 2024, 18th Place out of 212 Contestants

Targa Florio Classica											
Classifica Generale											
General Classification											
Pos.	Nome/Soprano	Nome	Veicolo/Struttura	Anno/Clas.	Clas.	Tempo	Car. Pts.	Tot. Punt.	Clas. Generale	Clas. Pts.	Clas. Pts.
1	188 DI PIETRA FRANCESCO	ITA	FIAT 508 C	1935	ST	D	RC2	463,88			
2	189 MOCERI GIOVANNI	ITA	LANCIA APRILIA	1937	TOP	D	RC2	513,75	50,07		
3	190 DOMENICO VALENTA	ITA	Classic Team Fiat	1,24			RC2	513,30	67,62		
4	191 ACCIARDO ANGELO	ITA	FIAT 508 C	1935	ST	D	RC2				
5	192 BOCCHINI FILIPPO	ITA	Francisella Motor	1,28			RC2				
6	193 ZANARDI MASSIMO	ITA	FIAT 508 C	1937	A	D	RC2	548,00	84,32		
7	194 CONESANI DOMENICO	ITA	Classic Team Fiat	1,27			RC2	567,18	103,50		
8	195 CRUQUOLA ROBERTO	ITA	FIAT 508 C	1937	TOP	D	RC2				
9	196 MENTASTI ANNALISA	ITA	FIAT 108 C	1,37			RC2	608,58	144,90		
10	197 CRUQUOLA ENZO	ITA	Classic Team Fiat	1,38			RC2				
11	198 MESSINA FRANCESCO	ITA	LANCIA APRILIA	1937	TOP	D	RC2	752,83	302,15		
12	199 GALIANI ANNA	ITA	Classic Team Fiat	1,37			RC2				
13	200 DIANA ALBERTO	ITA	FIAT 508 C	1935	TOP	D	RC2	791,08	317,40		
14	201 CARROTTA ALBERTO	ITA	Porsche Classic Fiat	1,38			RC2	798,71	325,05		
15	202 BANGIOTTA ANTONINO	ITA	FIAT 108 C	1937	ST	D	RC2				
16	203 CUCUMANO SALVATORE	ITA	Classic Team Fiat	1,37			RC2	817,40	353,72		
17	204 GIBBI STEFANO	CHE	FIAT 508 S COPPIA DORO	1934	A	D	RC2				
18	205 ROVER SUSANNA	CHE	FIAT 508 S COPPIA DORO	1,24			RC2	832,96	369,28		
19	206 BRACCALOSSO CARLO	ITA	LANCIA AURELIA B20 07	1952	A	E	RC3				
20	207 MARCONI MARCO	ITA	Bentley Classic	1,53			RC3	842,71	376,83		
21	208 BISI MASSIMO	ITA	PORSCHE 356 S 40	1963	TOP	F	RC3	962,52	378,84		
22	209 CATIPELLI CALISTO	ITA	Regatta Italiana Porsche 356	1,54			RC3				
23	210 VIGNOPI A ROSSANO	ITA	PORSCHE 356 COUPE	1954	A	E	RC3	1.017,94	504,28		
24	211 GIORDIO SILVIA	ITA	Regatta Italiana Porsche 356	1,54			RC3	1.017,94	504,28		
25	212 GALATTO SALVATORE MASSIMO	ITA	FIAT TORQUEE	1954	ST	D	RC3				
26	213 VENEZIANO GIOVANNI	ITA	Mercedes Classic Team	1,54			RC3				
27	214 PASQUANANTE SANDRO	ITA	FIAT 508 C	1937	ST	D	RC3	1.039,83	576,15		
28	215 NICOLORA ALESSANDRO	ITA	Francisella Motor	1,37			RC3				
29	216 DALABRA TORIA	ITA	FIAT 508 C	1935	ST	D	RC3	1.181,04	717,30		
30	217 FALSURIA MAURIZIO	ITA	Regatta Italiana Porsche 356	1,53			RC3				
31	218 BETTINELLI MASSIMO	ITA	FIAT 508 C	1934	D	RC2		1.251,46	767,76		
32	219 PEDI EMANUELE	ITA	Bentley Classic A.D.	1,24			RC3				
33	220 REGIO DAVID	AUS	FIAT 508 S COPPIA DORO	1935	D	RC2		1.382,40	918,72		
34	221 VAN DER MEENT SIMONE	AUS	FIAT TORQUEE	1,25			RC3	1.405,85	942,17		
35	222 BATTISTELLA ALBERTO	ITA	PORSCHE 356 SPEEDSTER PRE A	1955	E	RC3					
36	223 PIGNON GIULIA	ITA		1,25			RC3				
37	224 BONZOM ENZO	ITA	MERCEDES 300 SL	1955	TOP	E	RC3	1.656,40	1.191,72		
38	225 CRACCO CARLO	ITA		1,57			RC3				
39	226 LUSSEER CARLO	CHE	FIAT DINO 2400 SPIDER	1971	G	RC4		2.792,43	2.328,75		
40	227 LUSSEER HEIDE	CHE		1,71			RC4				
41	228 CALZANZA GIUSEPPE	ITA	PORSCHE 356 PRE A COUPE	1951	E	RC3		2.966,55	2.496,87		
42	229 CARONNI DANIELA MARIA	ITA	Regatta Italiana Porsche 356	1,53			RC3				
43	230 VERZERA STELLANO	ITA	PORSCHE 356A	1957	E	RC3		3.026,56	2.563,38		
44	231 VERZERA MARIA LUISA	ITA	Classic Team Fiat	1,37			RC3				
45	232 MARRA ANGELO	ITA	ALFA ROMEO 1600 1600 SP V6	1,57			RC3	3.576,18	3.106,80		
46	233 MARK-ROBERT DOMINIQUE	CHE	Scuderia Sportiva Fiat	1,37			RC3				
47	234 RISO ORAZIO	ITA	MERCEDES SL 200	1967	G	RC3		3.690,70	3.227,02		
48	235 ZANONELLI ANASTASIA	ITA	Tripp Novecent Italia A.S.D.	1,47			>RC3				





Driver David Reidie and Navigator Simeon van der Meert competed in the 2024 Targa Florio which was held in Sicilia and they finished 18th in an original field of 212 cars which was an excellent result.

Peter and I were most excited to meet up with David in Brescia on one of our trips and Peter even got to ride around the square with David in the Balilla where he was preparing for the start of Milla Millia.

Fiat Club Members visited David's showroom where he keeps his collection of cars, bikes and memorabilia in the Castlemaine area on the Fiat 123 event 2022. It was a fabulous experience for us all, seeing the amazing collection of cars and bikes and photos of his journeys and events he has driven in. The Otto Vu was one of the cars on display which featured on our Front Cover of FIATMonth and it is certainly a magnificent car – such a delight to have it in our photo competition.



Peter with David in the Balilla in Brescia



1954 Otto Vu



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# Coming Events

## General Meetings

March 13th 8pm Veneto Club  
April 11th 8pm Veneto Club  
May 8th 8pm Veneto Club

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

Contact Sandro Cesario 0420 277 701

## Caffe di sabato

Mar 1st Veneto Club  
9.00am  
Apr 5th Veneto Club  
9.00am  
May 3rd Veneto Club  
9.00am



## Australian Formula 1 Grand Prix

### FCCV Display

Contact Sandro for details 0420 277 701

All spaces in FCCV display are full but drop by to say hello  
if you are at the event

## Williamstown Italian Festa Sunday 23 March 10.am

Contact Joe Sammut for details 0412 211 581  
or check Fiat Pronto

### Williamstown Italian

### Festa 2025

HOBSONS



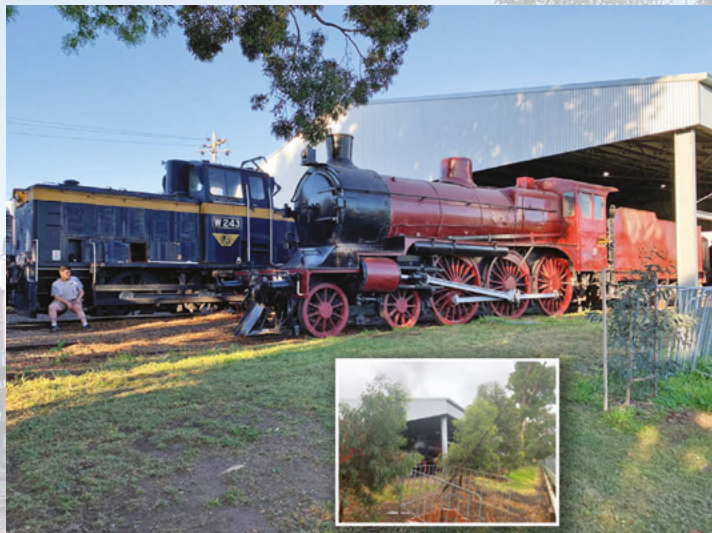


# Coming Events



## AutoItalia Canberra Club Drive to Canberra April 11-13

Contact Roger Beattie  
0400 177 278  
or check Fiat Pronto



## Newport Railway Museum

Contact Joe Sammut for  
details 0412 211 581 or  
check Fiat Pronto



Contact Joe Sammut for details 0412 211 581 or check Fiat Pronto  
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FIAT 124 Spider owned by Don Yates  
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# autobella

italian automobile festival

**Sunday March 30th 2025**

**Wesley College**

**620 High Street Rd**

**Glen Waverley**

**Entry from 9:00am High Street Rd**

**Bookings on Eventbrite or pay at the gate. Entry \$15**



## **Bella Concorso for Graeme Shephard Trophy**

- Show & Shine Judging
- Judging of other Italian Marques
- Merchandise
- Trade Displays
- Italian Food

## **Timetable**

### **9.00am Gates Open**

- 11.00am Judging commences
- 12.00pm Costumi d'epoca parade
- 1.00pm Costumi d'epoca and Diorama Judging
- 2.00pm Announcement of results  
Presentation of Trophies and Certificates of Appreciation to sponsors
- 3.00pm Event completed



**DIORAMA** Dress up your site This years theme is "A day in the life ....." Think about life around the town piazza. Prizes awarded



## **Costume d'epoca@autobella**

Another chance to strut your stuff. Dress in your favourite era and display your style. Suit your car or go rogue! Many prizes on offer.