



FIAT Month

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

www.fiatclub.org.au

JAN 2026

Club Fiesta

Autoclassico Maling Rd



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J/A/N 2/0/2/6



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

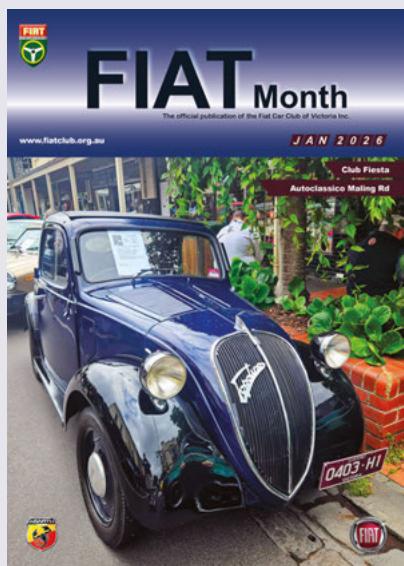
The Veneto Club
191 Bulleen Rd, Bulleen VIC 3105

FIATmonth Editorial Committee

Lyn Bartold – Editor
Joanne McLean – Layout/Design
Roger Beattie – Print Quality Control and Advertising
Fiat Pronto – Roger Beattie

FIATmonth deadlines

5th of the month prior to publication.
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Deadline: 5th February 2025



Front cover:
Yolanda Mansfield's 500A Topolino at AutoClassico, Maling Rd

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- IBC** AutoRicambi Ad
- BC** Autofesta Yarra Glen



2025-2026

THE CLUB COMMITTEE

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Sandro Cesario, M: 0420 277 701

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CAMS Delegate

Paul Freame

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Paul Pozzobon

AOMC Delegate

Roger Beattie
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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*	Lyn Bartold	Janet Fry*	Alana Freame
David Plummer*	William Freame	Shirley Clark	Harry Baker*
Graeme Shephard*	Colin Templer	Stephen Mayer*	David Judd
Richard Carlson*	Jon Carroll	Richard Unkles	Sebastian Bongiorno
Barry Ellis*	Robert Judd	Ian Payne	Joseph Sammut
Noel Tyzack	Debra Judd	David Hughes	
Peter Bartold*	Phillip Buggee	Keith Ellis	

**deceased*

Life Member and Patron — Lyn Bartold

SERVICE AWARD MEMBERS

Sandro Cesario	Paul Freame	Mark Rae*	Gary Spencer
Jonathan Crellin	Stuart Granger	Tony Romeo	Shayne Williams
Bob Durrant	Bruce McCann	Joseph Sammut	
Frank Fazio	Danny Petterlin		<i>*deceased</i>



From the Editor...

Another FCCV year has come to a close and, as usual, there have been plenty of events to keep us busy, as they will see in this issue of FM. My thanks to members who have kept us informed of what has happened in the two months prior to each FM with excellent reports and lots of photos taken at the events.

I am very happy that we have had great photos to accompany these articles, as this has been my mission over the past years to make sure that we get high res pics that can be used. Unfortunately the use of our mobiles does not always help as those photos are often very lower res (even though they look great to us) so I appreciate that our keen photographers have taken this on board and most of the photos I receive are great – keep up the good work!!

For me the Costumi Classico that was held as part of Auto Classico at Maling Rd. was a stand out event. Deb Judd and I had been invited to work with the

organisers to run the event and they were very enthusiastic about it all. When the event was postponed in August due to bad weather, we Costumi fans were disappointed and worried that they may not want to continue with it but they were very happy for us to help to run it and it turned out to be a great part of the day. The event was held in the off-road courtyard which was set up with a red-carpet parade strip for our contestants to “strut their stuff” and lots of viewing space, so there was a very appreciative audience and 35 competitors. Deb and I were very pleased with the number of our FCCV members who got involved (25 were club members) and the effort they had put into finding some great costumes.

Deb and I were busy taking entries, determining what era the outfits were from and whether they were original vintage or reproduction. The Auto Classico team had invited Simone Lansell to be the announcer to introduce the entrants and I interviewed each individual, couple or even the family

group who had entered and asked them about the era and the history of their outfit. There was an excellent, enthusiastic audience and the event was very well received and we are hopeful that it will be included in Auto Classica next year. You can read Deb’s report of the event in this FM.

My thanks to our members who enthusiastically supported this event - our long-time inclusion of Costumi d’Epoca in our annual Autobella event has certainly prepared our members for what to do and where to find costumes. It was great to see some FCCV members who have not been part of our Costumi events in the past to be part of this one. Our major dress-up event, and where it all started, Costumi d’Epoca will be held at Autobella, which will be held in May (date to be announced soon), so put the date in your diary and start searching for a costume to wear on the day. It is amazing what you can find in Op-Shops that could be original or reproduction and I am always willing to lend items from my collection for the day.

EDITOR'S PICS FROM COSTUMI CLASSICO AT MALING RD 2025





Rapporto del presidente



Tis the season to be jolly, and with all the events I have been attending lately it seems there is no reason not to be. We have had a successful Festa thanks to the efforts of the many of the members and particular efforts by a few of the committee personnel and the Costumi Classico at Maling Rd was a triumph overseen by a few also.

A lot of work goes into making a day that runs smoothly at what seems such a casual rate. Still, no time to sit about and relax as we have plenty of new things coming up and many of them require more work, more volunteers and more organisation.

Early in the New Year there is the Sandown Revival which some may visit but is being held in what is traditionally the club break, February sees us back at Yarra Glen for another big day out showcasing Italian cars to the owners of all those other European and British marques. I am assured the grounds will be in tip top shape this year so no excuses for not getting your cars out there.

March brings the Rob Roy Revival which is featuring Italian marques this year and many will be taking part in the Hillclimb section of the event leaving the rest of us to attend in display and enjoy mode on the Sunday. Keep your eyes peeled for any updates via a Pronto email.



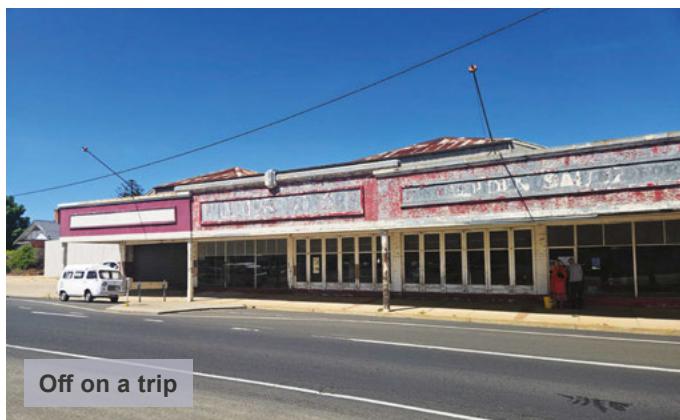
Maling Rd postponed event



Fiat related 85th

The Fiat Nationals next year are being based once again in Goulburn and spread throughout the region. This time the weekend aligns with the major Italian Car display of Auto Italia in Canberra and the Nationals display portion will be incorporated into the Auto Italia event. We have had a trip to Canberra for Auto Italia for a number of years but here is an opportunity to get along and be involved in other parts of club life.

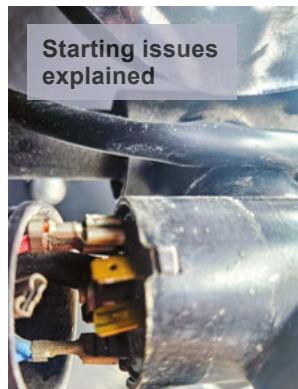
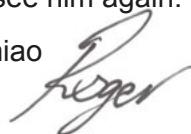
The sprint at Pheasant Nest (Marulan) and the hotly contested Fiat of Italy Cup motorkhana at Wakefield Park (One Raceway, Goulburn) will provide a backdrop of competition while other more social events will be available to those so inclined.



As you can see there is a bumper year brewing and the only way to get something out of it is to be involved. Please feel free to contact me with questions about any of the upcoming events or with suggestions, complaints or concerns. The only way our club can improve is by listening and responding to the members.

Some of you have noticed the book review in the December Auto Italia magazine and commented. Yes, I send them occasional reviews and bits but only when I think the book is deserving of praise. Peter Grimsdale's telling of the story of Italian motoring certainly meets that requirement. Some of you met Peter when he came to the Lancia movie viewing last year while on a short visit from the UK. We may see him again.

Ciao for niao



Anthony Cafiso – Guest Speaker at November Meeting

Hearty thanks must go to Anthony Cafiso for his entertaining talk about his motorsport journey thus far presented at the November club night. His light touch and winning manner made his account interesting and lively.



Thanks also to Bill Freame for arranging with Anthony an opportunity that suited everyone. We are aiming to have more guest speakers and perhaps

some presentations from further afield next year.

The opportunities seem to never slow down as he has now, since visiting us, been upgraded to the Penrite Historic classic ex-Davison Reynard Formula Ford. All the best for the future Anthony.





CLUB CALENDAR

JANUARY – MARCH 2026

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.

JANUARY

Sat 3 **No Caffe di sabato in January.**

Thurs 8 **General Meeting. Veneto Club 8.00 pm**
Contact Mario Di Censo 0419 171 661 or Paul Pozzobon 0418 552 290

Sat 17th – Sun18 **Sandown Revival**
Contact Sandro Cesario 0420 277 701

FEBRUARY

Sat 7 **Caffe di sabato. Veneto Club 9 am**
Contact Mario Di Censo 0419 171 661 or Paul Pozzobon 0418 552 290

Thurs 12 **General Meeting. Veneto Club 8.00pm**

Sun 15 **Autofesta Italia and FCCV Display at the AOMC British and European Car Show at Yarra Glen Racecourse**
Contact Sandro Cesario 0420 277 701

MARCH

Mon 2 – Thurs 5 **Targa Classica**

Sat 7 **Caffe di sabato. Veneto Club 9 am**
Contact Mario Di Censo 0419 171 661 or Paul Pozzobon 0418 552 290

Thurs 5 – Sun 8 **Melbourne F1 GP Festival – possible FCCV Display**
Contact Sandro Cesario 0420 277 701

Sun 8 **Melbourne F1 Race**

Thurs 12 **General Meeting. Veneto Club 8.00 pm**

Fri 13 – Sun 15 **Penrite Classic (formerly Phillip Island Classic Festival of Motorsport)**
Contact Sandro Cesario 0420 277 701 or Joseph Sammut 0412 221 581

Sun 15 **Pete's X1/9 Raduno, in memory of Peter Bartold.**
All club members welcome (not just X1/9's)
Contact Gary Spencer 0425 878 835

Sun 29 **Rob Roy Revival featuring Italian cars.**
Contact Roger Beattie 0400 708 284

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 2026
Thursday 8th January,
Thursday 12th February,
Thursday 12th March

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 – flatclub.org.au

Find us on
www.flatclub.org.au
Facebook
Fiat Car Club of Victoria

Contributions to FIATmonth are always welcome
Contact Editor
editor@flatclub.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

After a well earned rest, I am back from holidays and processing Fiat memberships. If you have any issues or queries regarding your membership, such as updating details, checking your financial status, requesting membership card, etc please email member@fiatclub.org.au or send me an SMS on 0401 144391

The Fiat Car Club of Victoria has 518 members made up of the following:

Membership Type

Life	17	Family Members (wives and children)	85
Single	313	Social	22
Family	66	Country	15

WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS –

Peter Lowenstern – FIAT 500 Abarth 695

Alan Crosthwaite – FIAT 128 Sedan

Simon and Colleen Freezer – FIAT 124 Spider

Adrien and Patricia Scott – FIAT 500 Abarth 595 Competizione

Joseph Montemurro – FIAT 500 F

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

Renewal: 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.

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. 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.

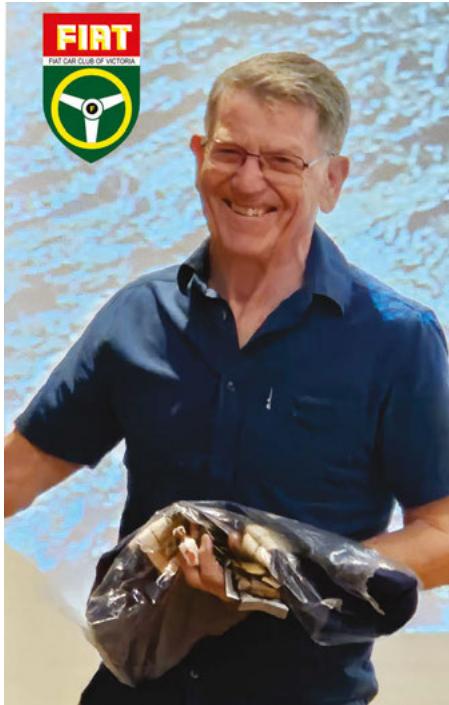
<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/online-services/sign-up-for-a-vicroads-online-account>

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



Over the past year the Fiat Car Club of Vic has had quite a successful competition year. Highlights include bringing home the Fiat of Italy Cup from the Nationals held in Queensland.

This was in no small part due to the efforts of Freame Team and the adopted members of Rob Jorgensen and Ian Maud. Three generations of the Freame family attended and competed.

In past years we have had enough competitors to ensure we were well represented in all classes but having a team of very competitive players saw the team rise to the top.

Generally, our representation at competition events is down compared to years of yore but there are signs that we may buck the trends of society and bring more youthful competitors back to events. Marisa Gangemi and Paul Freame have been instrumental in bringing some youthful faces along with some youths to events.

Having been out of the limelight for many years I find their knowledge and experience very supportive. In many ways I find my position for the work that they both do to be that of a figure head as they have established themselves with the MSCA and other car clubs.



Brian Garrett's new wet set up



Due recognition for Marisa, with trophy

Their enthusiasm is infectious and deserves our full support.

Throughout 2025 Marisa has regularly competed in the Regularity class at MSCA events. To this end Marisa won that class for 2025.

If you keep up with the posts in the club's Facebook page, you will have noticed that our regular competitors at motorkhanas and khanacross are Marisa, Paul, Ruth, Erin and Mark Freame along with Tony Russell and cohorts.

Other regular competitors at MSCA events include Brian Garrett and Ian Maud. Ian is also a member of the Gippsland Car Club and regularly competes in their events.

In December Paul Freame received our Motorsport Award for 2025 in recognition of his efforts encouraging not only the younger participants but also the older members like myself to compete.

Elsewhere in this Fiatmonth you will find the Competition Calendar for January to June 2026. The full MSCA 2026 calendar was printed in the November 2025, Fiatmonth.

Group 5 Motorkhana and Khanacross events are also listed in the calendar. This is not a complete calendar as there are many other events available such as Gippsland Car Club, Huntingdale Auto Club and Gippsland Car Club. I will add more events to our club Competition Calendar as calendars are finalised by other parties. There is certainly something for everyone.

On Monday 9 March 2026 we will have our first Come & Try Motorkhana for 2026. This will also be useful as practice for the 2026 Fiat Nationals.

In April, specifically from Friday 10 April to Sunday 12 April 2026 we will have the Fiat Nationals, hosted



Ruth Freame competing

by FCCNSW. The Sprint is at Pheasant Wood Circuit just south of Marulan which is just 30 kms north of Goulburn in NSW. This circuit is ideal for our smaller engined cars with relatively short straights and lotsa corners.

The motorkhana is on Saturday, 11 April at One Raceway formerly Wakefield Park 11 kms south of Goulburn. This will be using the new skidpan at the circuit so definitely a bitumen motorkhana that will better suit the modern cars.

For the first time our hosts Fiat Car Club of NSW are able to co-

ordinate the Show and Shine this year with Auto Italia at Canberra on Sunday 12 April. In the past a large number of members have made the pilgrimage to Canberra for this event and had the privilege to be invited to many workshops in and around Canberra. Definitely a weekend to be added to your calendar.

I look forward to a very busy 2026 with lots of choices to keep all appetites sated.

Happy New Year to you all.



Ian Maud on a wet track at Phillip Island

COMPETITION EVENTS

MARCH – JUNE 2026

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

SPRINT EVENTS		
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
MOTORKHAHA/KHANACROSS		
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)
HILL CLIMB		
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 TIMETABLES 2026



2026

VMC VKC

Calendar

as of 2/12/2025

		VMC	VKC	Club	Venue	Surface
Feb	4	VMC/G5	VKC	Presentations	Sofias Camberwell	
Feb	14 Day/Night	VMC 1/G5		FFCC/TCCA	Werribee	Dirt
Feb	28	VMC2		WMS	Westmere	Dirt
March	1		VKC 1	WMS	Westmere	Dirt
April	12	VMC3		WDCC/GMSC	Avalon	Bitumen
April	26		VKC2	WDCC/GMSC	Avalon	Bitumen
tBA		VMC4		DSCC	Deniliquin	Dirt
TBA			VKC3	DSCC	Deniliquin	Dirt
May	31		VKC4	GCC	Byrant Park	Bitumen
June	27		VKC5	WMS	Westmere	Dirt
June	28	VMC5		WMS	Westmere	Dirt
July	11	VMC6		BCC	Bendigo Saleyards	Bitumen
July	25		VKC6	FFCC	Colac	Bitumen
July	26	VMC7		FFCC	Colac	Bitumen
August	9		VKC7	BCC	Bagshot	Dirt
August	23	VMC8		BCC	Bagshot	Dirt
September	19		VKC8	SEAC	Mt Gambier Saleyards	Bitumen
September	20	VMC9		SEAC	Mt Gambier Saleyards	Bitumen
November	14 D/N		VKC9	FFCC/TCCA	Werribee	Dirt
TBA		AMC			Victoria	



2026

VMC VKC G5

Calendar

as of 11/12/2025

		VMC	VKC	G5	Club	Venue	Surface
January	31	come &	try	Practice	FFCC/TCCA	Werribee	Dirt
February	4	VMC/G5	VKC		Presentations	Sofias Camberwell	
February	14 Day/Night	VMC 1		G5 m/k	FFCC/TCCA	Werribee	Dirt
February	28	VMC2			WMS	Westmere	Dirt
March	1		VKC 1		WMS	Westmere	Dirt
March	15			G5 m/k	HSCC	Werribee	Dirt
April	12	VMC3			WDCC/GMSC	Avalon	Bitumen
April	18 D/N			G5 k/c	VMCI	Werribee	Dirt
April	26		VKC2		WDCC/GMSC	Avalon	Bitumen
May	3			G5 m/k	WDCC/GMSC	Avalon	Bitumen
tBA		VMC4			DSCC	Deniliquin	Dirt
TBA			VKC3		DSCC	Deniliquin	Dirt
May	31		VKC4		GCC	Byrant Park	Bitumen
June	21			G5 m/k	FFCC/TCCA	Avalon	Bitumen
June	27		VKC5		WMS	Westmere	Dirt
June	28	VMC5			WMS	Westmere	Dirt
July	5			G5 k/c	WDCC/GMSC	Avalon	Bitumen
July	11	VMC6			BCC	Bendigo Saleyards	Bitumen
July	25		VKC6		FFCC	Colac	Bitumen
July	26	VMC7			FFCC	Colac	Bitumen
August	2			G5 m/k	HSCC	Avalon	Bitumen
August	9		VKC7		BCC	Bagshot	Dirt
August	23	VMC8			BCC	Bagshot	Dirt
September	6			G5 m/k	FFCC/TCCA	Avalon	Bitumen
September	19		VKC8		SEAC	Mt Gambier Saleyards	Bitumen
September	20	VMC9			SEAC	Mt Gambier Saleyards	Bitumen
October	5			G5	F of non speed	Werribee	Dirt
October	24			G5 m/k	NCCA	Werribee	Dirt
November	14		VKC9	G5 m/k	FFCC/TCCA	Werribee	TBA
TBA		AMC				Victoria	

Fiat Club Festa 2025

Photos by Roger Beattie, Joseph Sammut



Intro: Lyn Bartold

Once again, our Annual Christmas Festa was a great event, even though we had some rain. We had an excellent turn up of members, many of whom we do not see regularly so a great chance to catch up. Of course, the display of cars was, as always, amazing with members defying the forecast and bringing out their treasures.

Situated at the back of the Veneto Club land, on the edge of the river and the bush, it has the feeling of remoteness. One comment that came from many of your members was "when are they going to improve the track' that is the access road at the side of the soccer field". This was the feeling of most of those attending this year, and is mentioned every time we have an event there.

It was great to see such a range of Fiats and some other Italian makes, especially considering the

weather forecast. A big thank you to those who worked hard to set up the area and to arrange the display.

A huge shout out to the members who worked hard in the kitchen area to provide us with a great BBQ lunch and other sweet delights. I am sure everyone who attended had a great day.

The Festa and our final Meeting / Nuts and Bolts Quiz, of the year are a wonderful way to wrap up the year and to look back on the events we have held and the great times we have together as a group. We look forward to the new year which is already filling with great events and I encourage you all to keep up to date with the calendar, in your FIATMonth and by reading your Fiat Prontos.

As we said at the Festa ... enjoy Christmas and the holiday break and we look forward to seeing you in 2026 for another great year.



From the Organisers: Mario Di Censo

The Fiat Car Club Festa to celebrate the end of the 2025 year is held at the Veneto Club's La Barraca. We had around 130 people and even though the weather wasn't fantastic at one stage, the event still had a great atmosphere amongst all the members. There was a plentiful and great selection of cars, and most people managed to get around to have a look at them all.

As for the food, well as always, the variety and quality was superb. I doubt that anyone went home hungry. I believe everyone had an enjoyable day and, again, it was a great success!

I would love to see more members come next year and enjoy the Club Festa. I look forward to seeing everyone again next year.

I would like to thank all those who helped on the day which made the Festa run smoothly.



Fiat Club Festa 2025 continued.



GEELONG REVIVAL FESTIVAL OF MOTORING

By Joseph Sammut

From the Editor.

For many years Geelong Revival Festival of Motoring has been a popular event for our club. Not only is there an enormous display of cars but there is a Sprint Event, a Vintage Fashion Parade and Competition, lots of stalls and food available and a beautiful setting along the sea front.

This year it had to compete with a very busy November, with events on most weekends, including Maling Rd Auto Classico, which had to be rescheduled due to bad weather in August. Added to this the weather forecast for the day was not great so, we only had two club members in attendance in their Fiats, on the Saturday which was the day on our calendar to attend.

Club members Joe Sammut and Terry Poole met at the event and Joe tells us the story for the day.

Report by Joe Sammut

As usual it was an awesome day at Geelong Revival Festival of Motoring. Because of a bad weather forecast numbers were down (despite the bad forecast, it was not too bad a day with rain on and off).

I received a phone call from club member, Terry Poole asking me where to park and we decided near the carousel would be best. When Terry arrived we made our way to the Sprints which were awesome, especially in the wet.

As always there were plenty of stalls to see and to chat with the stall holders. The best part was hanging out with mates and to make new ones, meeting people that I hadn't seen for a while.

We parked near the carousel, a good place to see all the action. We left at 2.00 pm after a good day.

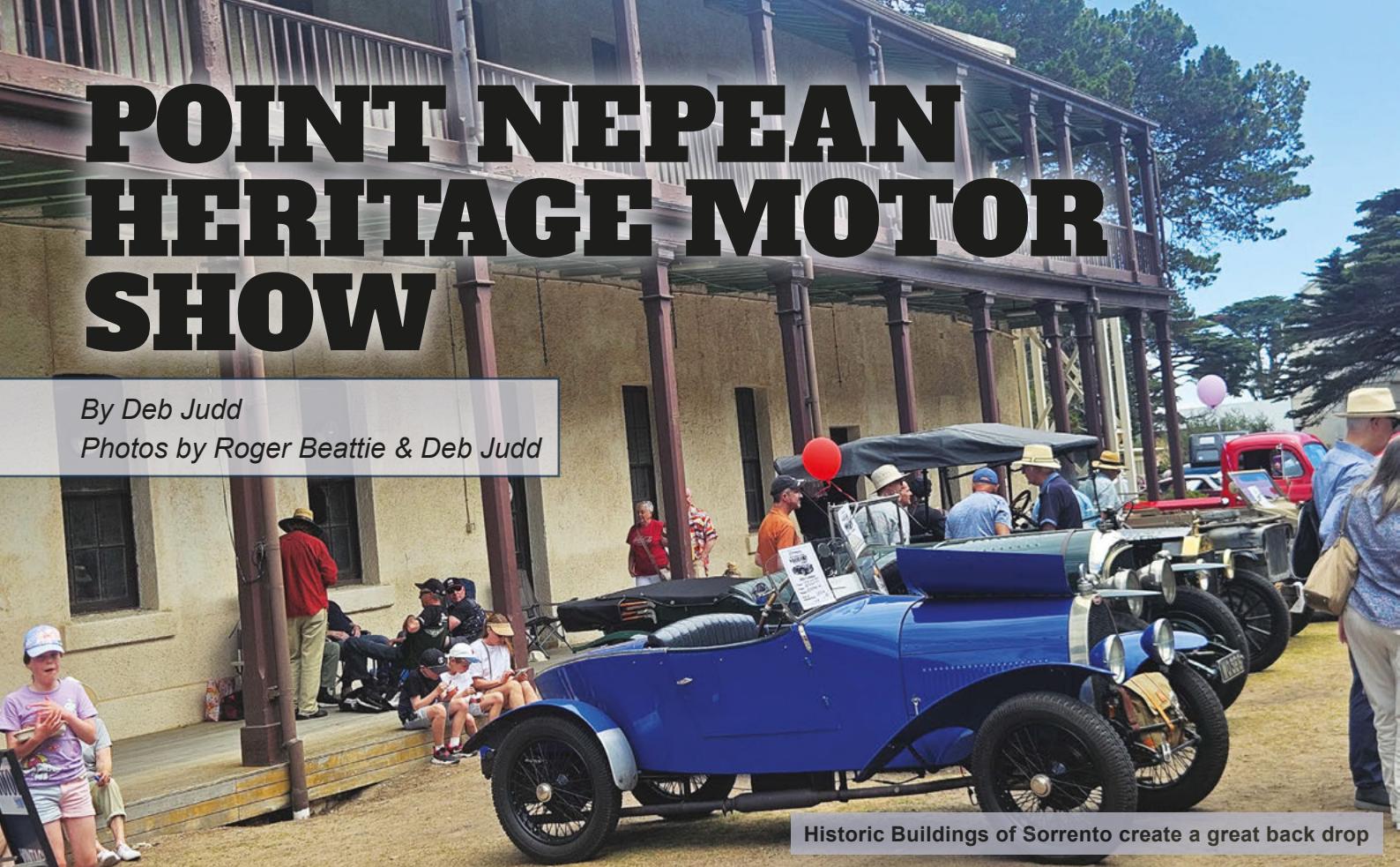
Thanks to Terry for a good day together and especially for bringing his white Spider. I am restoring a white Spider at the moment so it was good to see what the finished car will be like in my garage with my other Fiats.



POINT NEPEAN HERITAGE MOTOR SHOW

By Deb Judd

Photos by Roger Beattie & Deb Judd



Historic Buildings of Sorrento create a great back drop

There had been some miserable weather for car displays prior but the 2nd November was perfect! Sunny, with a slight breeze, 26-27° and beautifully set in the historic Point Nepean Quarantine Station. Add to that 300 to 400 heritage vehicles, live music, plenty of food and good company. What a lovely way to spend a Sunday.

The event is run by the Rotary Club of Sorrento as a community event and is in its 4th year. Funds raised at the event go to charity, notably this year to Southern Peninsula Community Support which provides support for vulnerable individuals and families who are experiencing disadvantage within that community.

A major area of work done by this group is support for the homeless and I was a little surprised to hear that the region has the highest proportion of homeless in the state. (If you are interested in the work done here is a link: <https://www.spcsic.org/>. There is also a related article in The Age 9/12/25).

About 14 members ventured to Point Nepean for the display. Mostly in Fiats but with an Alfa, Morgan and Merc coupe thrown in. We even found a few extras – Jill & David Wright with their Holden Club hats on, were displaying their 1960s Holden Ute.

Congratulations to Mark Lissek who won the Category C Heritage 1950-1969 Trophy with Fiat 1500 OSCA.



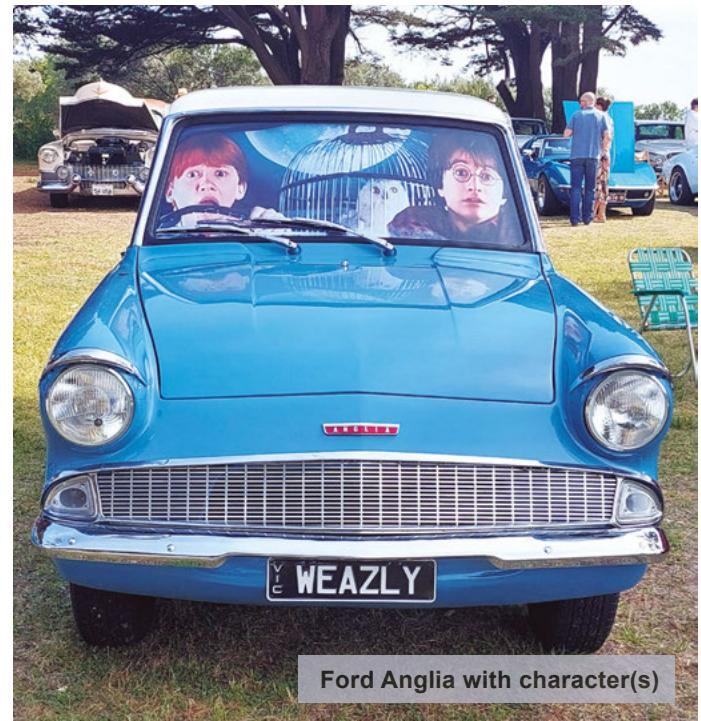
FIATS on display



More FIATS on display



Historic Buildings



For something different I asked our members to pick their favourite non-Fiat of the day. Jaguars seemed to be a popular choice – etypes in particular. A Ford Anglia caught my attention and I just had to send photos of it to my daughters.



SPETTACOLO 2025

By Roger Beattie



Abarth and Promotion



Lovely 1100

On a November day that threatened to be a typical Spring day a large crowd of Alfa Romeos arrived at Wesley, Mt Waverley for this years Spettacolo. The wet day last year seemed to have inspired people to attend this year and I heard that it may have been a record attendance.

We acquitted ourselves rather well with about twelve cars on display from a range of eras. Paul Pozzobon won the award for the best Fiat on the day and I believe Augustin Banko and Pat Giovannucci also picked up awards in the Alfa categories.

The Spettacolo is always a reminder of the years when Fiat was not selling cars in Australia as the Alfias from the 80s and 90s were there in abundance.

After a morning spent roaming around, catching up with old friends and enjoying the display the weather threatened and then turned so that by the midday award presentations (again in the rain) participants were leaving the field and planning their display at Yarra Glen in a few months.



Paul awarded trophy in rain



Rows of Fiats



More Fiats

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A BLAST FROM THE PAST: BOB FONTI

By Roger Beattie and Carlo Taranto

Photos by Carlo Taranto, Roger Beattie and Targa Tasmania

Over the past few months I have been having a running conversation with club member Carlo Taranto who contacted me from overseas while enjoying time in Lipari, one of the Aeolian islands, the largest in fact at 37 square kilometres (about a third of Philip Island), that stretch north from Sicily to the seemingly constantly erupting Stromboli. There to visit relatives he found the time to tell me about Bartolo (Bob) Fonti and his exploits in the Fiat Car Club of Victoria during his time here in the 1960s.



Many of you will know the 600 Abarth campaigned in the past by Jack Waldron at many, many Targa events and before him by Dick Carlson, that car was imported by Wal Gillespie during this era while Bob was working with him and it might be the car that the Abarth replaced, a highly modified 600, that Bob drove to success in 1964 and 65. He seems to have

had particular success in what I think of as the stutterers cup. That is not the real name but as the forerunner to the AOMC the A.O.O.M.C.C.O.V. is quite the mouthful.



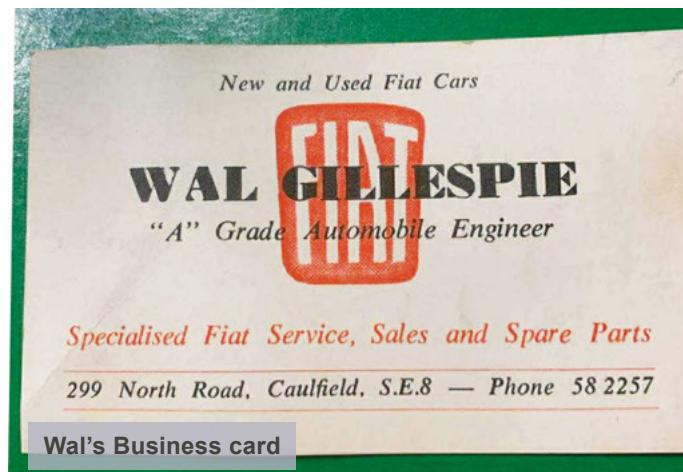
I am not offering a prize for the first correct entry defining the acronym although had I thought of it earlier you may have seen it in the December Nuts and Bolts quiz, The Association of One Make Car Clubs of Victoria conducted annual Sprint meetings and Bob won trophies in 1964/5 in the under 750cc class. He was obviously quite a feature at the presentations as someone even suggested he should keep the perpetual trophy. I found the page in an archival "Fiat Forecaster" (FIATmonth ancestor) from May 1964 featuring the day which also makes me admire the artwork done for the specific event on the page.

This from Carlo:

Bartolo (Bob) Fonti was born in Lipari, Italy, on 3rd January 1939. Bob is my late father-in-law's cousin. My wife Anna and I have visited Lipari several times, as recently as August 2025. Lipari is the largest of the seven Aeolian islands situated above the north east corner of Sicily. Bob studied automotive mechanics and achieved his mechanical Diploma in Lipari at the age of 19.

His brother (Nini) was living with their aunt in Australia. Nini drove trucks in Melbourne delivering tyres to Fiat dealers. One of those dealers told Nini that he was looking for an Italian mechanic. How timely!

Bob arrived in Melbourne on a Friday and started an Australian (Night School) Apprenticeship on the Monday under Wal Gillespie while working for Wal during the day.



This blossomed into a strong relationship both professionally and personally. Bob says that Wal was a knowledgeable and admired mentor and that Wal and his wife shared many dinners together; especially after Bob rescued her from cooking pasta in cold water! Wal often asked Bob "what are you cooking for dinner tonight Bob?" Bob said he was treated like a son.

In the early 60s Bob found himself with an opportunity to get into racing, and here is where Bob's love of Fiats began. Wal gave Bob the experience, the Fiat club gave Bob the opportunity to drive using his own car. Bob was always searching for an edge; he told me that in one of his races (even though it wasn't technically legal) he removed the windscreen washer reservoir and the spare tyre to lighten his car; Bob laughed and said "it saved two seconds on my lap time."

Some random additional points:

- Bob won several races and even the Perpetual trophy two years in a row



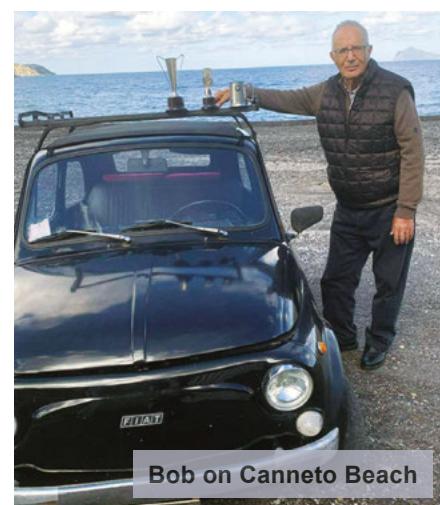
1960's Track Day

- Bob raced a Fiat 600 at Calder race. Because of Wal's association with Repco at that time, Repco supplied Bob with parts for his 600 which were Abarth spec'd. Bob drove the 600 he raced every day from his home in East Malvern to Wal's workshop in Caulfield...a true sleeper! He raced in a handicap race which included Bob Jane in an FJ.
- One of Bob's projects on his return was retrieving an engine from a crashed Maserati and installing it into a boat...Bob says it flew!
- Bob returned to Lipari in 1969 and had a mechanical workshop until the early 2020's.
- In the early 70's back in Lipari Bob bought and modified his black Fiat in the pic; changed the cylinders and conrods from the 495cc to those from the 590. He upgraded the valves in the head to those from the Panda which required head work to accommodate them. Engine size ended up 700cc and power went up from 11hp to 25hp.

As you can read Bob never lost the love of small Fiats and 'souping them up' even when he lived on an island less than 10km across the longest point. Of course that is exactly the sort of place the Nuova 500 was designed for and for Bob his 60 years of working on them has not diminished his enthusiasm.



FCCV Sprints
Award 1964



Bob on Canneto Beach

Thanks Carlo and Anna for spending the time gathering the details to make this a story that spans both the years and the globe.

MALING ROAD AUTOCCLASSICO

By Robert Judd
Photos by Roger Beattie

The 2025 Maling Rd, Autoclassico had a couple of changes from previous. A new parking area was used for the "French Quarter" and the addition of the Ladies Lounge in Theatre Place to promote more female interest in the cars and motorsport. The Ladies Lounge became the focal point of the Costumi Classico and it attracted a lot of interest.

After the postponement of the event in August due to weather conditions, the Fiat display reset with just two car changes for the November rerun.

In November you would expect the weather to be quite warm, however the day started with early rain, which frightened a few cars away, including some in the Fiat display.

By 8:30 our cars were all in place and the rain had ceased, so although it never got warm, the day was clear and really well attended by the public. Thanks to all our members who brought their cars along for our different display locations.



We had Russell Stuckey and Roberto Bruno with their 500's in front of Theatre Place, as well as Yolanda Mansfield with her Topolino. (Yolanda's Topolino is our Jan FM front cover feature). Adjacent to that we had our (large)

cars, Eva Elletson and James Woodburn in their 124 Spiders, Roger Langdon and Joe Sammut in their 124 CC's, Keith Ellis in his 128 SL Coupe and Jonathan Crellin in his Abarth 595.

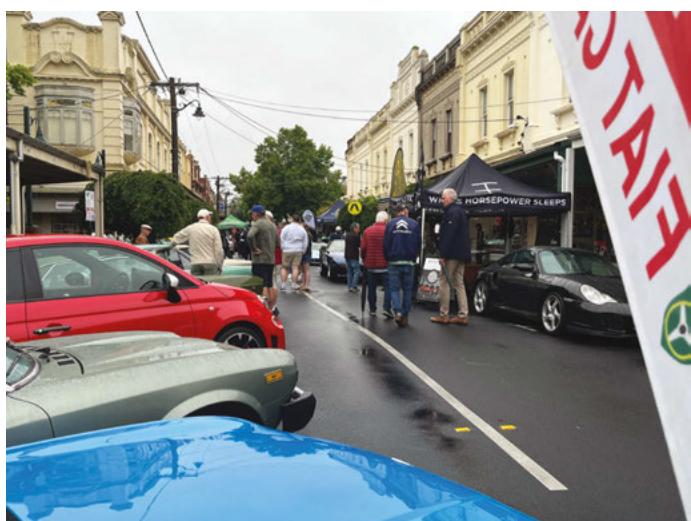


On the opposite side of the road, we had a couple of exotic Fiats with Luigi Giacomantino's Dino Coupe and Mark Lissek's Fiat OSCA 1500, bookending our (reduced) small car display of Roger Beattie's 850 Camper and Harvey Richards' 850 Sedan. Technically not in our display, but part of our crew was David Judd with his Maserati Khamsin parked opposite Theatre Place.

Once again, a good display from our club with a variety of cars and colours. Congratulations to Mark Lissek who took out the Autoclassico European Excellence Award Trophy.

Thanks also to all our members who came along to view or participate. There were several who came just to support the Costumi and this will be reported elsewhere in the magazine.

We await details about next year, but expect a new time of year and a return of Costumi.



COSTUMI CLASSICO AT AUTOCLASSICO

By Deb Judd

Photos by Roger Beattie and Joe Sammut

After having to postpone the Maling Road Autoclassico event in August due to extremely poor weather forecast, the event went ahead on a lovely Sunday in November. The day started cool and a little showery but by the time the event officially opened at 10am it had cleared.

As part of Autoclassico the inaugural Costumi Classico, a Vintage fashion parade, was featured. FCCV was approached to present the parade along the lines of our Costumi d'Epoca event at Autobella.

What a success! Thanks to the 20 members who supported us on the day by coming to the event in costume – only eight of these people had cars on display so this was a wonderful turnout. 11 people from other clubs also entered.

Thanks to judge, Dr Simone Lansell, former model, vintage fashion lover, classic car enthusiast and owner. We greatly appreciated Simone's expertise and presentation of the key points of each decade of fashion during the parade. And thanks to Oaktree Business Solutions, Kirsty and Kate, for artwork, the wonderful red carpet and access to the Ladies Lounge. (The Ladies Lounge was another first for the day and was enjoyed by many – serving champagne and little snacks throughout and providing a place to have a chat and relax.)

The large crowd certainly enjoyed the parade of fashion. Again,



Deb & Lyn taking Registrations

as with our Autobella, this has proved to be a popular activity for both spectator and those with an interest in bygone fashions.

The day began with Deb & Lyn taking registrations from those entering in Costume. The organisation of this event had to be quite tight because we did not know how many or who to expect and we were under considerable time constraints fitting into the whole event schedule.

After a bit of a last minute rush and assembly & instructions to participants the Parade began at 12.30pm. Simone gave a summary of each decades fashion highlights and Lyn handled the introductions of each participant with her usual grace, asking questions and adding comment. The red carpet was a lovely addition providing

a colourful and defined 'catwalk'. It was fantastic to see the Luu's make it a family affair – joining the parade as a group in their 1970s gear! We hope to see them again at coming events.

More of our members are rummaging through their wardrobes to find outfits worn by their mums, dads, grandfathers ... Deb Buggee wore a beautiful green dress and jacket made for her mother in the 1960s and Phyllis wore her mothers' beautiful coat.

I had my mother's driving gloves and Ursula, who won the Vintage Special Mention Trophy wore her mother's 1960s two-piece suit. Congratulations to Ursula and to Karen (winner Best Vintage Ladies Trophy) and to Joshua (Best Vintage Gents Trophy) –



Luu Family – Richie, Jenny, Duke, & Cami



David Judd Winner Best Car and Couture Trophy

each dressed in genuine vintage clothes. The Trophy winners were all from other clubs showing genuine interest and efforts for the first Costumi Classico.

Members may remember an FCCV event from a few years ago – attending the stage show of Garage Girls at La Mama theatre in Carlton. This play is based on the life of Alice Anderson, who AutoClassico has already received some very positive Costumi Classico feedback. The crowd and participants enjoyed themselves and we agree it was a very successful part of AutoClassico. We wait to see if

they want to go ahead opened the first all female mechanics garage in Kew in the 1920s. Boroondara City Council are partnering with the Alice Anderson Statue Project.

In the Ladies Lounge, during the morning the Alice Anderson Memorial Statue Project was launched and the 'Garage Girls', including our own Judith Odgers, paraded to help promote the Project.

The final task for the Costumi Classico and FCCV was to award the AUTOCLASSICO Best Car and Couture Trophy (Celebrating the perfect pairing of fashion and

fine motoring). I must say Simone, our judge, had a difficult task selecting this winner. Thank you Simone.

After applying our criteria of car & costume must match in era there were a handful of qualifiers. David Judd with his 1970s Maserati Khamsin was the winner. (I am also very grateful that the decision on this award was independent as I was the one handing David his trophy).



Deb Buggee



Phyllis 'in a twirl' for the crowd



Rob Poynter looking a very dapper 1920s gent

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The News Stand

Richard Unkles

The Bendigo Swap Meet has come and gone with only a few Fiat parts to be found. Bendigo has never been a place to find post WWII parts but always something for Tipo 501. Paul Jones found a 501 switchbox with a good ammeter for only \$10 from a vendor who did not know its real value, plus another 19" well based wheel. He still needs to find more to transition from Beaded Edge. These preferred wheels are getting much harder to find now. Your scribe found 2 off MP4 magnetos that could be restored or used for spares cheap at \$30. A few tools including 2 Fiat ones were also found plus some close to period correct mirrors for another project.

Sam Biondo has sorted his magneto problem and returned the club's loan unit. Now thinking of bringing his 503 roadster on The Crossing next year.

In the Czech Republic Jaroslav Exner has been busy seeking original wheels for his 510 and found two very good ones in New Zealand. His veteran Fiat 15TER truck now has the rear covering finished which looks particularly good. He will be in New Zealand in March to compete in the 2026 Vero International Rally in a loan car. Your scribe and Elsa will be there and Jaroslav and his daughter Kristina will visit Melbourne on their return journey.

You can be lucky. Kevin and son Ben Wilby sorted fitting a windscreen to their Itala Tipo 51 Sports from parts mostly from a 1924 Dodge. However the correct version is a Vee windscreen for the sport Tipo. Not really knowing where to start your scribe dropped in with the frame from his Fiat 510S restoration. The photo below shows the body scuttle shape is virtually identical even though the Fiat was built in Italy and the Itala by Floods in Melbourne. Even better news is that there are spares already cast in New Zealand for the two bottom pieces from the frame being loaned for copying over there some years ago.



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TORQUE

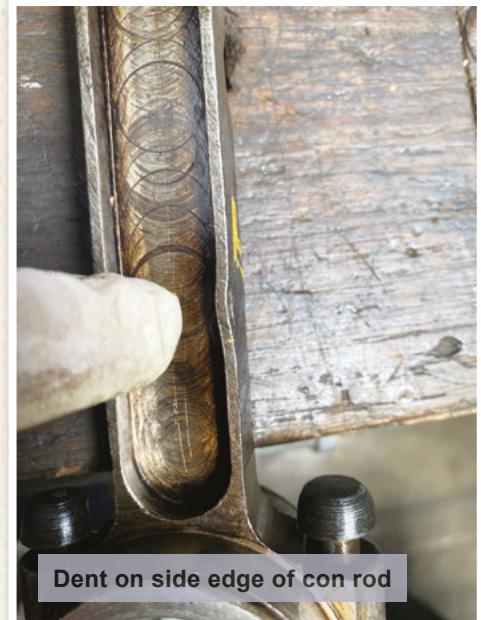
521 tipo 1 501c

David John has been readying his 503 tourer for sale as he has turned in his Drivers Licence. However Murphy's Law has suddenly applied itself. After running sweetly for more than a decade it started making a strange metallic noise related to the engine speed. Certainly not a bearing noise, and the nearest guess to the problem was the possibility that a piston had separated its skirt and it was bouncing around the con rod. However the real culprit was much harder to predict. When dismantling the #1 con rod was found to have two dents in it and #1 piston was scored.

The other pistons were not marked but their con rods showed very faint evidence of being nudged by the cams of the camshaft.

The problem was found to be the incorrect insertion of the locking bolt that locates the camshaft by the centre bearing. Or more correctly the wrong positioning of the centre camshaft bearing in its location on the crankcase meaning it was in the wrong orientation by 90°. This meant that the rounded end of the location fixing bolt was not in the correct round hole but was in one of the wide slots which has allowed the camshaft to drift fore and aft from its correct location.

Lots of events coming up in the 2026 that will be of special interest to Tipo enthusiast. Hope to see lots of you at these events and showing off the remarkable range of fabulous vintage cars we have in our club.



A Visit to Goulburn

By Vicki Lemm
Photo by Kevin Lemm

It was lovely to recently catch up with our good friends Jim and Jenny from the UK. They were in Sydney for a family wedding and on this occasion weren't coming to Melbourne. We decided to meet in Goulburn for a few days. Kevin seemed enthusiastic about this idea as Jim had brought a rocker cover for a Fiat 108CS Balilla engine for another of Kevin's projects. But that's another story.

Goulburn provided an opportunity to call in on FCCV members Bruce and Cathy Booby who were exceptionally welcoming. Bruce has been having issues with the differential of their lovely Fiat 503, a car that has been with the family since 1966, and the Club has helped with information and some parts. Their car interests reach beyond Fiat to other brands as well. It was easy to spend time in Bruce's neatly set-out workshop admiring their Dodge and Chevrolet collection. Jim, an owner of many classic Fiats including a 501 and a 503, seemed to gravitate back to their 503. An interest in Fiats seems to be a hereditary thing, and we garage hopped to their son Bradley's garage to check out his Fiat 131 street machine that is undergoing some serious modifications.

With the Nationals coming up early next year it was a great opportunity to look at what Goulburn has to offer. Over the next days we drove out to Bungonia National Park where there are some easy and more challenging walking paths, and we ate at some of the historic pubs in the town and the recently re-opened Goulburn Brewery. The War Memorial, set high above the town, is worth a visit, as is the beautifully restored St Peter and St Paul's Cathedral. The award-winning Goulburn Historic Waterworks, set on the town's riverbank with its working steam machinery and beautifully maintained gardens are certainly not to be missed.

Our visit didn't let us down and we certainly look forward to returning for the Fiat Nationals in April 2026.



The 503 under repair



Typical of Bruce's preparation



One of their Dodges



The 131 coming along

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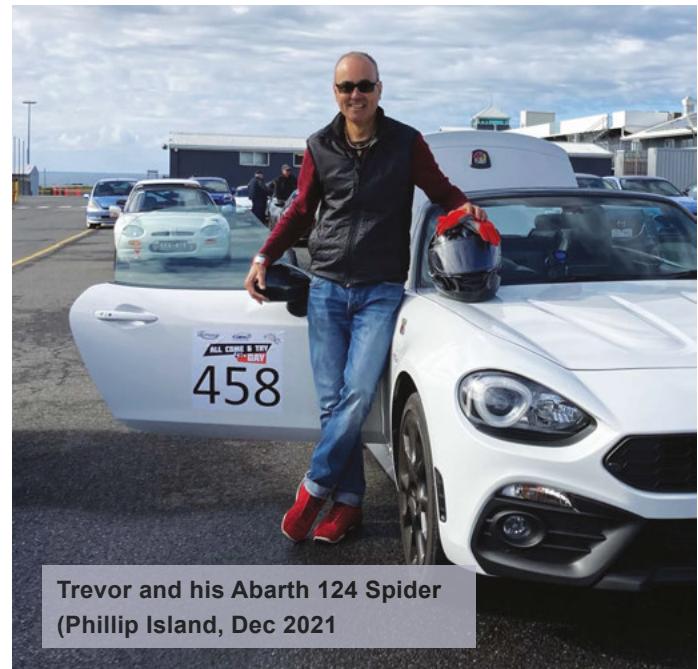
BALANCE IN MOTION

By Trevor Prasad

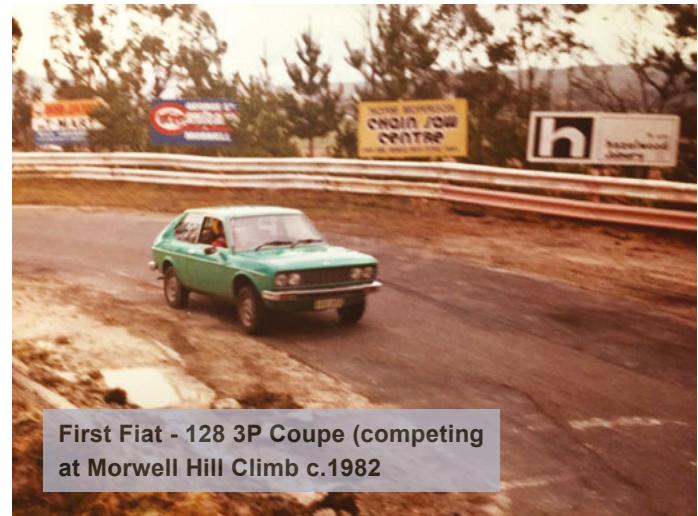
Having purchased my first Fiat in 1982, my formative years with the FCCV were between 1982 and 1986. A most beautiful 1977 Fiat 128 3P in a gorgeous light green called Marina Green. I fell in love with Marina and all things Italian, with her smooth lines, sloping hatch that tapered nicely to her elegant rear. The retro-tartan seats added style as you sat gazing out over her strikingly beautiful long nose.

My earliest car club experiences were competing in motorkhana's. I refer to such experiences in my book **Balance in Motion: Living in Natural Harmony with Parkinson's**. Below is an extract from chapter 14:

As the new kid on the block, I diligently unscrewed the button on my handbrake as instructed. With a group walk to orient ourselves of the first days Motorkhana 'test', the more experienced hands provided tips on how to achieve a fast time. It was 1982, at a time when our car club had access to a paddock outside the small farming town of Athlone in East Gippsland. With a front wheel drive car, often the fastest way around a flag (or cone) is to take a tight line and momentarily tweak the handbrake to slide the rear out, and in doing so, point the car in the right direction as you line up for the next flag. For many other flag markers, you are often best to loop the flags and maintain your momentum and speed. With a burst of noise we head for the home garage being careful not to hit the hay-bales.



Trevor and his Abarth 124 Spider
(Phillip Island, Dec 2021)



First Fiat - 128 3P Coupe (competing
at Morwell Hill Climb c.1982)



Other cars of interest

Motorkhana's are not only a professional sport globally, but at a car club level provides a great environment for new drivers and kids from 13 years and onwards to gain invaluable experience and finesse for car control. On a competition day, there might be six or more different tests (layouts) to be memorised. Going around just one flag the wrong way will incur a WD (wrong direction) with the stop watch immediately stopped and with no time recorded for the run. Knocking over a flag/cone will incur a time penalty. I soon developed a reputation for accuracy and had many events with no WDs.

By 1985, Australia had adopted unleaded petrol, requiring all new vehicles to comply with new exhaust emission standards by incorporating catalytic converters. Accordingly, I seized an opportunity to buy a new Fiat 100's Regatta that had just become available.

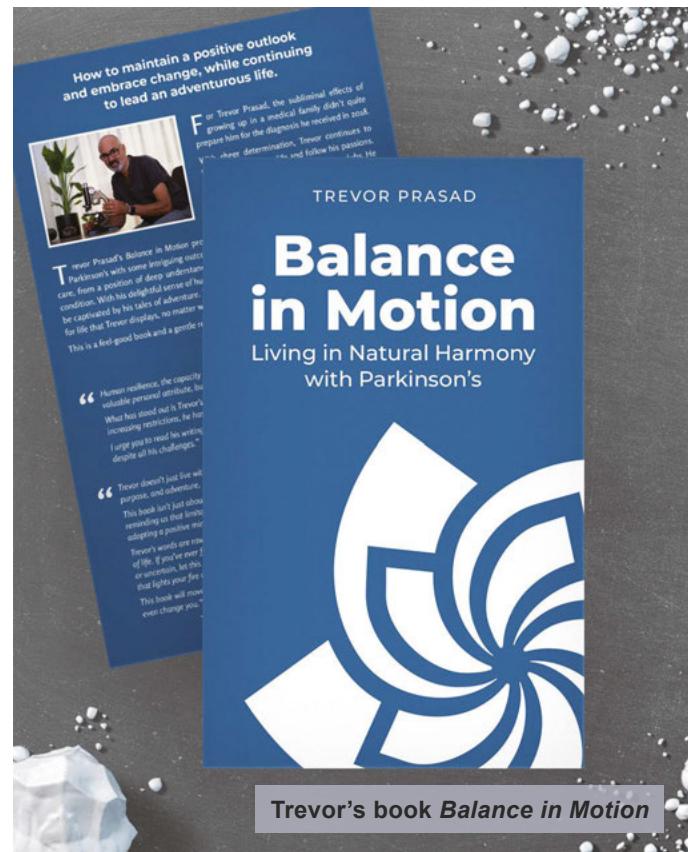
Following a period of being provided with company cars, I nonetheless had a number of fun cars along the way including an Alfa GTV 2.0 (1987), ZR Celica, Mazda RX-8 and a Renault Megane RS265 (Red Bull special).

In April 2019 I reconnected with the FCCV as I set my sights on purchasing a modern day classic, an Abarth 124 Spider (which I subsequently owned and enjoyed for 5+ years attending many club events).

My recently released book *Balance in Motion* is very much about "Tales of adventurers interspersed with neurological insights". A key theme throughout the book is the importance of community (hence my references to car clubs) and getting on with life no matter what life circumstances may present.

The synopsis of the book reads:

For Trevor Prasad, the subliminal effects of growing up in a medical family didn't quite prepare him for the diagnosis he received in 2018. With sheer determination, Trevor continues to lead an



Trevor's book *Balance in Motion*

adventurous life and follow his passions. He can often be seen at Melbourne jazz clubs. He plays Pickle Ball twice a week and is an active member of an Italian car club. [FCCV].

Trevor Prasad's ***Balance in Motion*** provides valuable neurological insights into living with Parkinson's with some intriguing outcomes. His writing is delivered with such openness and care, from a position of deep understanding and empathy for those living with a neurological condition. With his delightful sense of humour and wonderfully balanced outlook on life, you will be captivated by his tales of adventure, you can't help but get drawn into the positivity and zest for life that Trevor displays, no matter what the challenges daily life may present. This is a feel-good book and a gentle read.

From the Editor

For those who have known Trevor for some years, we are in awe of his positive attitude to life and his determination to continue to enjoy the things he has always enjoyed.

Trevor's book ***Balance in Motion*** is an excellent read. It gives us an understanding of the challenges living with Parkinson's and what can be achieved when you have the determination that Trevor displays in everything he does.

Balance in Motion: Living in Natural Harmony with Parkinson's is available through:

1. Local bookshops (Australia/NZ, Europe and North America) - referencing the ISBN: 978-1-7641837-5-8
2. Online via Amazon for both Kindle app/e-reader and paperback versions.
3. Authors copies are available for direct purchase from Trevor, as and when you bump into each other

FINAL MEETING FOR 2025, ANNOUNCEMENT OF AWARD WINNERS AND THE NUTS AND BOLTS QUIZ

By Lyn Bartold

Once again, our final club meeting of the year included the announcement of Awards for 2025 and the presentation of trophies to well deserving club members. The nominees are selected by the President and approved at the Committee.

These awards are presented at the end of the year to members who have contributed their support and enthusiasm to the club in many different ways throughout the year.

THE AWARDS FOR 2025

Congratulations to our award winners

Bella Fiat	David Stott	Clubman Award	John, Nikki, Jac and Alex Black
Motorsport Award	Paul Freame	President's Award	Sam and Marina Privitelli

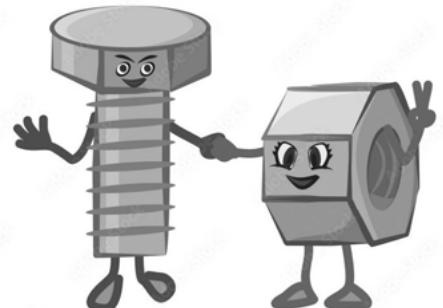
Congratulations to our winners and to all members who have been active and enthusiastic participants in the life of our club throughout 2025. Il Presidente selects the winners and presents this to the Committee who then approve the nominations.

We look forward to another action packed FCCV year for 2026





THE NUTS AND BOLTS QUIZ



Nuts and Bolts Quiz is held each year at the December meeting at the Veneto Club. The room was set up with large round tables to accommodate the crowd and a supper was served to keep us happy as we struggled with some challenging questions.

Our Quiz Master, Sandro Cesario, was ready to test us with questions compiled by Il Presidente. There were some interesting questions, all multiple choice, and, the answers disputed by some of the crowd (as usual!) All club members who attended enjoyed the fun atmosphere and supper.

Coming Events

General Meetings

February 12th 8pm Veneto Club

March 12th 8pm Veneto Club

April 9th 8pm Veneto Club

Join us for dinner in the Bistro from 6.30pm

Bookings essential

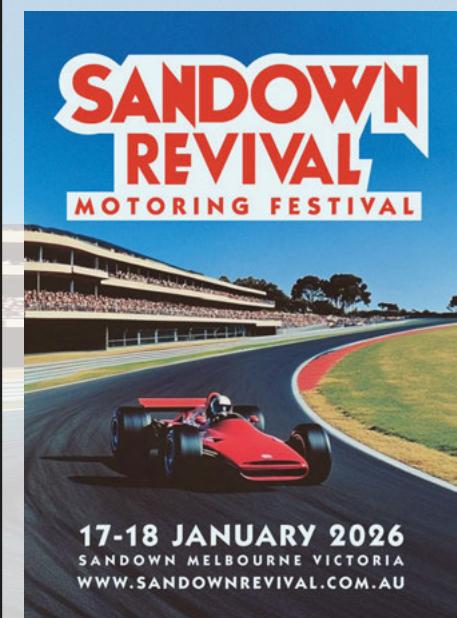
Contact Sandro Cesario 0420 277 701

Caffe di sabato

Feb 7th Veneto Club
9.00am

Mar 7th Veneto Club
9.00am

Apr 4th No caffe di sabato
held in January



Australian Grand Prix

Possible FCCV Display
(to be confirmed)

Contact Sandro Cesario



Pete's X1/9 Raduno

In memory of Life Member Peter Bartold

Sunday March 15 – Organised by Gary Spencer

We all looked forward to Pete's X1/9 Radunos in the past and hence
I have resurrected this event in Pete's honour.

Meeting time 9.00am, in the Eastern suburbs to provide easy access to X1/9 inspiring roads
(ie lots of bends) and will cover around 100kms for 2 hours driving followed by lunch.

There will be a photo session, either on route or at the finish. The route has been designed
for classic and modern Fiats with a route to suit vintage cars also available.

Whilst it is an X1/9 inspired event all members are welcome. Arrivederci, Gary.



Rob Roy Revival

28th & 29th March

Contact Roger Beattie
0400 708 284

Honorary Patron John Bowe AM



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FCCV 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.

Sandro Cesario will be looking after merchandise and can be contacted on 0420 277 701 if you wish to purchase any items.

Current merchandise will be available at each General Meeting

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FIAT 124 Spider owned by Don Yates
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Display cars from 9.00 am

Spectators from 10.00 am

Event details 0473 832 277

For site plan and more info:

www.aomc.asn.au/britishandeuropean

fb.com/infoaomc



Sunday 15th February 2026

Yarra Glen Racecourse Armstrong Grove, Yarra Glen

**ENTRY- ARMSTRONG GROVE, YARRA GLEN
GATES OPEN 10.00AM**

**ADMISSION: DISPLAY CARS (INCLUDES ALL OCCUPANTS \$10.00)
TROPHY PRESENTATION AT 1.30PM**