

## From the Central West

Those who live in or travel this region will realise we are getting desperate for rain with farmers ready to sow and graziers still hand feeding stock. However there has not been a drought when it comes to Club trophies for the MMCCNSW.

Several events have come and gone in our area and many thanks to all who came along and help make the days a great time together. Unfortunately I have not been able to put as much effort as usual into Club events and my own Minors owing to ongoing medical treatment, but this should change soon.

### PAST EVENTS

**Cars & Coffee in Dubbo:** This started again in February and I did attend; this is a great chance for a couple of hours on a Sunday morning to show your car and look at others.

**Gnoo Blas Classic Orange:** Once again a great event with us having 13 cars on display including a new one from Orange owned by Alicia McDonnell, a very big welcome from us all. The Saturday was topped off after great weather with us

winning "Best Club Display", and as the announcer said: "Your club is as much social as it is about the cars", which is pretty right - we all have a good time when we get together no matter where. Sorry not to see Graeme & Sue's van owing to a late tuning problem, but they still came along in their modern.

The Guest speakers were Simona de Silvestro of V8 racing, and past touring cars drivers, husband and wife Fred Gibson & Christine Cole. Now Christine came from our old abode, Engadine, where my wife Sue and her friends were from; after catching up, they realised it was 50 years since they last met.

This event attracts some terrific examples of various marques, and there were 380 cars displayed on this day.

**Did you know?** The Gnoo Blas circuit opened in January 1953 and hosted the first international race meeting in Australia and was the venue for the first Australian Touring Car Championship won by David McKay from Bill Pitt and Ron Hodgson, all In Jaguars.

**Winners are grinners... Best Club Display, Wellington Vintage Fair - for the 6th time :)**



**Wellington Vintage Fair:** Our Numbers had fallen a little but we still managed to have a good weekend with our normal BBQ Friday night and plans laid out for the next two days.

Saturday's Street Parade showed that the Minors are still very, very popular with the crowd, and a loudspeaker mentioned each car with detail as they passed. From here we had a 40km run to Red Earth Estate winery for a light lunch and a few tastings. Personally I enjoyed the lighter lunch, and the stop at Taronga Western Plains Zoo where we enjoyed coffee or ice cream. Thanks to Sue for arranging it.

Dinner Saturday night was at the "Lion of Waterloo" tavern circa 1841, the oldest still licensed hotel west of the Blue Mountains. The last duel in Australia was fought here in 1854.

Sunday saw us set up on a very hot showground but thanks to Martin we had the three Club gazebos which kept us in shade and enhanced our display. We had a new member in attendance in their tabletop Ute: welcome to Michael & Cheryn Johnson, and also to Don & Wendy Gorton making their first trip to the Wellington weekend. Topping that off, we signed up two new members on the day.

Towards the afternoon the prizes were announced and thanks to members we again took out "Best Club Display", a tribute to the condition members keep their cars in.

I have once again edited my e-mail list and hope I am reaching you all. If not, please send your current e-mail address to me at [jbubbo@gmail.com](mailto:jbubbo@gmail.com), as I send out information on events, Club matters, and tips.

### Local Cars

**Barbara Preston** had an unfortunate event when her hood was not properly locked by others and it came up whilst travelling, giving the frame a few twists in the wrong places.

**John Hepburn** had his new acquisition, a late model blue Traveller on display at Gnoo

Blas, and a nice looking standard vehicle it is too.

**Michael & Cheryn Johnson** are new members from Molong with a very interesting lime green table top Ute with a highly reworked Datsun engine. If you are travelling up this way, stop for coffee or gelato at their shop "My Sweetness" in Molong, where the Ute should be parked outside.

**John Ballard:** My ute is proceeding slowly, but is only one of four being rebuilt among the Central West membership, so look out for more at Club outings soon.

**My Car** finally had some attention to the quarter vent windows after complaints going to the rally; new bushes and screws fitted.

### Conditional Registration

I have joined the many Club members changing over to the CVS Scheme. Provided you comply with the Club's requirements, it is a cheaper option particularly if you have more than one car.

With the help of our Club registrar, Scott Barraclough, on procedure, I took my car for a "blue slip" then posted the papers off to the ACMC and once returned went to the Roads & Maritime office where I paid \$22 rego and \$29 green slip plus a one-off fee of \$45 for number plates. I also paid to put my personalised plates on hold for 12 months. The biggest surprise was when I contacted my insurer (NRMA) to update my details with rego, my premium went down from \$138 to \$85.

If you are thinking of this conditional registration, H or D plates, contact me or Scott Barraclough for details and requirements.

### Coming Events

**Cars & Coffee** is on again in Dubbo, 9am till midday, each and every 1st Sunday of the month at the Cenotaph, Victoria Park Dubbo.

Cheers, John Ballard