

Shannons Sydney Classic Sydney Motorsport Park, Eastern Creek - August 18



It was another beautiful, sunny, late-winter's day in drought-stricken NSW as we progressively arrived and lined our cars up in our usual area B spot at the Shannons Sydney Classic. We had booked and paid for 25 places this year, due to members missing out on tickets last year, so we had the rare sight of Morris lined up opposite each other. The Fiats were next to us again this year, with a neat row of various Fiat models extending beyond our line-up.

After the initial discussions of all things Morris Minor, and the obligatory coffee, it was off to collect our event Medallions over at the pit lane garages. This gave us the opportunity to check out all the promotional displays and product advertisers, as well as the models, books and parts vendors down the row of garages.



While there, of course, inspecting all the CMC Concours d'Elegance cars lined up in pit lane was a must.

In addition to the magnificent cars vying for the Concours trophies, there was a huge number of cars displayed further along pit lane commemorating notable marque and club anniversaries. These included: Alvis and Armstrong Siddeley (both 100 years); MG Midget (90 years); Fiat Car Club of NSW (70 years); Morris (and Austin) Mini, Triumph Herald and Goggomobil Dart (all 60 years); and Datsun 240Z (50 years), amongst many others. These were all well documented in the CMC 'The Preserve' magazine we received on arrival.



We couldn't linger down in pit lane all morning because, to our delight, we had been given a morning slot of 11:15 for our 'hot' lap of the Eastern Creek raceway, euphemistically termed our 'Track Tour'. Try as we may each year, we never seem to be able to get a complete, unfragmented line of Morris for our drive around the track, this year getting an interloper in the middle of our line! Maybe next year...



Back at our area, we were entertained by the music band 'Pitch Black' who had set up adjacent to us. A very accomplished group, although not everyone's 'cup-of-tea' from some of the comments heard. It was difficult to get around and see all of the many hundreds of vehicles on display during the afternoon – so many fantastic cars, such little time! But time was made for



(Above) The Fiats were our close neighbours on the day while (left) the Armstrong Siddeley marque celebrated 100 years. This car was first registered on 1 November 1954 to Commander Ian Fleming.

a lap around the track in an old Sydney double-decker bus, in the process hindering the club cars which were out trying to do their 'hot' laps.

Another great day out, with 19 Club cars on display in our area. But there was one 'minor' disappointment – we had spare tickets (at Club cost) while some members had bought their tickets from the Picnic Club and so displayed their cars (and did their track lap) with them rather than with the Club they are a part of. All a bit weird...

Words and photos: Les Whale





Pit Row: 1980's Excalibur SS (above) and (below) an exquisite Alvis

Where were you in 1969? Datsun 240Z

