

From The Central West

Last weekend saw widespread rain across our area, not drought-breaking but a start and, as per normal spring rain, it was much heavier in some areas than others. Keeping gardens and lawns alive with levels 4 and 5 water restrictions is very hard; personally we are using all our system's grey water from the house and carrying it in buckets twice a day. It is hard work and it is taking a lot of time away from my restoration project.

How fast the time moves along when you are a little older. It seems to me I have just completed my report for the Magazine and along comes another.

Having been away in the van for a month I have not had a lot to do with cars, however I did visit a couple of car museums and spoke at length to a 1951 Minor owner. During this conversation I noticed his hub caps were painted, not chrome, as was the grill. He spoke to me about the shortage of nickel in the early 1950s was the reason - "Because of the Korean War" he said. As I had heard of this reason before, I did some research.



There was definitely a shortage of nickel in the '50s, caused by a number of things that increased the nickel price by five times. The Cold War and the Korean War were factors but also the fact that the USA was buying nickel for its new 50 cent coins,



and the world's biggest mining company at Sudbury, Canada, went on a four-month strike. Interesting.

Whilst away we looked at many painted silos which are fantastic. We also went to 'Utes in the Paddock' at Condobolin, which is a group of utes painted by various artists, but I was looking for a particular one painted by Club member Robert Keen (the Vegemite Ute).

Events

Classic Cars & Coffee I missed the October event whilst travelling in the caravan, but I will be at the next one on 1st December, which is the 1st Sunday of the month. I hope there is more than one Morris Minor.

Gnoo Blas Classic The date for this is February 15 and 16 and I am proposing a run to Heifer Station as seen in the last magazine for lunch; this would be in lieu of the normal Sunday run. I am going to check it out next week when I am in Orange. As soon as entry forms are out I will advise all.

Wellington Vintage Fair This will go ahead next year and we are making arrangements now for 2020; it will be February 29 to March 2 and will involve a short run on the Saturday to a venue for lunch, then dinner at Hermitage Hill Restaurant Saturday night. The fair and display are on Sunday of course. At the moment I am contacting the organising Rotary Club to get more details.

Members' Cars

Gary Martin Gary is our newest member and is restoring a 1951 'chop top' fitted with Datsun engine with extractors and auto gearbox. He has been fortunate enough to pick up a second-hand hoist at a very reasonable cost, making underneath work much easier. Other work completed is wiring; fitting of taillights and number plate lights, all modified to LEDs. Gary is after a left hand SMM glove box lid (LH dash panel) and centre panel. Anyone with spares?



John Hepburn John's traveller is undergoing some restoration at the moment, including a new grille panel to name just one part. He was also chasing a set of

Major wider wheels which he should now have.

Robert Keen A new wiper motor has been acquired and fitted. Les Whale dropped off a better ratio diff centre last week on one of his many trips west to see his grandchildren. Stuart Jones from Lithgow has sent me a photo of his newly painted and restored Minor 1000; hoping to see it in the flesh next year.

John Ballard After a month away I am getting stuck right in, hoping to take the ute to some events early in the new year. The tub has been fully lined with removable metal panels on the inside and all outside hooks removed and whilst waiting for its return from my 'volunteer' panel maker, I have fitted the head lights and bumper bar; it looks good with all the new chrome. Seats are also begging to be put together and wiring has started.

That's just what's happening with four cars but we do have 19 members here in the Central West.

Club Plates are available to qualifying Club Members. Both CVS and HVS are a great saving on registration costs; they do come with conditions so if you need help or advice, please contact me

Cheers,
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Stuart Jones' restored 1000