

From The Central West

A month of on-and-off rain has really made a difference in the countryside it has been transformed from a desert to a green paradise. Even today as I sit here compiling my report, we have had over 50mm of good soaking rain - perfect for sub soil moisture. Farm dams are full, pastures are growing (as is optimism), and the days and evenings are full of the sweet sound of lawn mowers and tractors everywhere.

It took a day to find our mower but eventually, there it was behind all the Morrie parts in the back corner of the shed, so I cleaned it up, checked it over and told Sue it was ready to go.

The last few weeks have been flat out with the Gnoo Blas Classic and Wellington Vintage Fair, and in between I had a two-day visit to Newcastle hospital for an angiography... all is good.

I have just received a new updated membership list (thanks Ann); each Region on it's own page and the Central West has twenty two members with another two pending, but we only see two or three at events?

Gnoo Blas Classic What a great event and weekend this turned out to be! We managed eleven cars on the day and interest was full on. 600 quality cars were on display, making this one of the biggest NSW shows. Special guests were Gary Rodgers, John Crennan and of course Kevin Bartlett, who started his racing career here in a Minor 1000. He managed time to talk to us and get in a group photo.

The weekend kicked off with a Friday dinner organised by Don Gorton for those who travelled up to Orange. Brian & Debbie and Sue & myself stayed at our daughters' houses (Nashdale & Cudal), catching up with our daughters and grandchildren.

Saturday we set up our cars extremely well and our display presented a great representation of models, enough to give us the Club Trophy for the day. This was a really good outcome as we only had

eleven cars, but representative of the marque as we had all models plus utes vans, saloons and even a traveller. The bonus was a front page photo on Monday morning in the local paper of the Johnson's green tabletop.

Some members went to the dinner on Saturday night where the speakers were great I am told. Sunday we had organised our own run thanks to Brian Condon, which saw us at Lake Canobolas for morning tea, then on to (pre booked) Heifer Station Winery (the one with the Morris ute) where we enjoyed a wine tour by the owner who explained the different wine grapes and the effect of the drought and bushfire smoke on them. Then we went to the outdoor area where we enjoyed a large lunch/grazing plate with many delicacies; an enjoyable afternoon.

A few of us met up for coffee Monday morning, others headed home on Sunday afternoon. All in all it was a great weekend. It is extremely good for all to catch up with members from all regions and committee members over these country events. This weekend is highly recommended.

Wellington Vintage Fair Once again we organised a meet-and-greet BBQ at the Caves Caravan Park and it was thanks to Stuart that we had the Club's BBQ in hand.

Not so good on Saturday was the street parade, where the length of the parade was longer than the route taken, hence the lead cars were stopped for a long time causing old cars and old drivers to boil and stall. A quick thought by one of our members and we all did a U turn in the back street, coming back down the main street passed the blocked T intersection.

From the parade we made our run to Dubbo to the Royal Flying Doctor Experience, which had only recently opened. We did the tour, watched some films, tried the radios, visited the plane and more. I was particularly interested in the medical box that outback properties have with all medication and first aid items numbered for instructions to use as I had

seen them in my working life in use. A very enlightening experience for all. This was followed by a lunch of choice at the on-site 'OutbackTrek' restaurant.

Saturday night saw us at Cow & Calf Hotel, Wellington, where we were given the function room for our dinner. We also answered the two quizzes on Morris Minors and Observation that were given out earlier; Brian Condon won both - but not without some very stiff competition and a lot of laughter.

Sunday - we set up early for the show and a decision by our President to run the cars in a line (but at 45 degrees to the way the public saw them) proved to be excellent, with a constant stream of admirers coming throughout the day, including two prospective new members.

We had twelve cars on display but more could easily have been accommodated. Many thanks to Stuart and others for the Club's gazebos.

We also had the pleasure of hosting Club members Terry and Fay Cullen over the weekend. Colin & Rhonda from Kempsey had their camper trailer and stayed with us for a few days between Gnoo Blas and Wellington.

To those who came to the above events a huge 'thank you' from the Central West community.

Coming Events We have a few local events coming up but I would like some notice if anyone is interested in going.

- 1 Inaugural Pride of Ownership Show, Cowra - Sunday 19 April, 10am-4pm. I am going to this one so call me if interested.
- 2 Annual Rylstone Swap Meet at the Showground, Sunday 17 May from 6am.
3. Cars & Coffee, Cenotaph, Dubbo - 1st Sunday of the month from 9am.
4. Cars & Coffee, Mudgee Railway Station 3rd Sunday of the month from 8.30 am.

Members' Cars

Tom Deveigne had some sticking clutch problems with his car's Toyota gearbox with pendant pedals; not sure if it was

mechanism or internal, should be up on his hoist by now.

Maree Adams I met her mechanic who had rebuilt the brakes on the car but found it very hard to stop. We eventually found softer linings solved the problem.

John Hepburn has purchased a new front panel and has Graeme Gould's gravel tray and is now enthusiastic about painting them 'Trafalgar Blue' when he has the correct paint match.

John Ballard Whit Sue driving Les Whale's car, I followed her home from Gnoo Blas (about 150kms) when about 10kms from home my car started stopping, feeling like a fuel problem. The engine finally cut out as I turned off the highway into my sub-division; I tried to coast but unfortunately I stopped just 200 meters from the gate and Sue and I pushed it home.

A subsequent check revealed a coil failure, the second of this type (a gold anodised one). Research told me that even though it said 'Lucas', like many items these days they are Chinese built. Two new sports coils have now been purchased.

My ute programme is moving along and I have just finished the wiring, a tedious job even for a retired electrician. I have added hazard lights, daytime running lights, indicators, spot lights, under bonnet lights and lights under the tonneau cover.

Finally, I do send out regular emails to all Central West members, so if you are not receiving any, the Club does not have your correct email address.

Cheers

John Ballard, Central West

