

From The Central West

As we head into our third month of staying at home, it is encouraging that we see so many houses with immaculate gardens and lawns. I believe a lot of painting has also been done as paint sales have increased. Hopefully, a lot of work has also been done on Morris Minor restorations and maintenance; I know several in my area have been very busy on their cars and projects.



Events: Of course all events had to be cancelled but I have a lot in mind for our region and Club once we are allowed to meet again. I could not imagine Shannons Eastern Creek with all cars placed nicely at 1.5 meters apart and participants washing their hands continuously all day.

Members Cars: As said, a lot has been happening out west, so starting with ...

Tom Deveigne, Dubbo Tom's car had a problem at Wellington with a sticking clutch, so after finding it was not the pedal, out came the gearbox with the help of family members and a good hoist. The result was a worn and loose spigot bush, so after the flywheel was removed a local engineer shop pressed and fitted a new sintered brass one and gave the flywheel a light skim. Whilst the gearbox was out, Tom sensibly replaced

the thrust race. As the car was on a hoist, they replaced the steering rack with a reco one bought some months earlier. Now all he needs is somewhere to go!

Denis Woodford, Bathurst Denis has been working on the body of his Series II and lots of parts have been ordered. Being a retired welder, he has a good start for the rust repairs. I had conversation with him about his 803cc engine, which led to an arrangement for a 948cc engine to restore as a replacement; another Club member from Kempsey offered to drop it in - and that's what Club membership is all about. In fact, several members replied to help with a motor. See Denis' report this issue.

Robert Keen, Orange This car had a fuel leak which has been repaired after finding it was around the sender unit, not uncommon. The gasket needed some liquid sealant as well when fitting; unfortunately a speedo repair job damaged the fuel gauge.



Gary Martin, Grattai Gary started on a new project, a 1954 ute, which will be fitted with a Corolla engine, which have been trial fitted to the chassis to fabricate engine mounts. The convertible is waiting in the corner, needing a passenger dash panel - anyone? Also, help is needed identifying his brake disc so he can get callipers. Contact Gary at martelec.services@bigpond



Gary's ute chassis

John Hepburn, Orange John's car has just come up for H registration and a pink slip was not a problem. However, owing to the current slow speed of the postage it has taken some time to get his papers stamped by the primary Club and back, so it can be sent to ACMC and back. So, the message here is to start early.

Matthew Wilson, Orange This is another ute under restoration at the moment. It is interesting given the fact there were less utes/vans built, that three are under restoration by Central West members, mine included. Mathew has the body off the chassis and is well under way with the job ahead.



John Ballard's ute dash

John Ballard, Dubbo My Ute is very close to registration and I have fitted a heater, radio, parcel shelf, plus carpets and trim. Doors are ready but left off for easy access.



And another ute restoration, this one belonging to Matthew Wilson

Sue and I have fitted the back window and tomorrow we tackle the front windscreen.

A major effort has been the wipers, as I have changed from 'clap hands' to parallel type, and fitted a Mini two speed wiper. In doing so I have managed to sort out the wiring and change the pin on the gearwheel to give the correct sweep. A lot of work but I had some help with documents and drawings from other Club members. I will try to get this together for our magazine as a technical tip. I have also been working on my current car doing maintenance and some paint repairs.

Stay Safe
John Ballard
Central West

PS I received the sad news last week that Robert Keen lost his wife, Rae, just after Gnoo Blas. Sincere condolences from the Central West Members.