

## Denis Woodford's Resto



The new arrivals, Sept 2019

How often does the club's newest member get his story in *Minor Torque*? Well, not very often. John Ballard emailed some information to the editor; it sounded interesting, so a phone call to Denis Woodford resulted in this story.

Semi-retired since 2009, Denis has lived in Bathurst for three years, after spending most of his life in/near Blayney. He worked at Nixon Transport for 12 years, with a fleet of 53 trucks to look after (now there's only 2). "I had 5 welders working under me" said Denis. "We built the bodies of all the trucks to suit the abattoir's needs. I have no problem with all the mechanical side of motor vehicles."

Working on a Morris Minor is almost all taken in Denis' stride. His background as a farmer and welder by trade have helped with the work on his Morrie. "I like to do things myself" admitted Denis. "As a farmer, if you want something, you go and make it. So the welding is no problem, the mechanical side is fine, I've done some spray painting over the years - but the bogging up is driving me crazy!"

Denis chatted to John Ballard at Gnoo Blas in 2019 and in 2020 to Bob Gilliland and Les Whale, who both dropped in to see Denis after this year's event, who encouraged him to join the club, hence



The extent of the problem (above), and some of the progress photos of the restoration (right)

Denis' application to join the MMCCNSW.

A mate Of Denis' from Newbridge (the RFS ex Brigade Captain) owned the Morris for 20 years. He was 'gunna' do them up, having originally bought





them from a mate who he and his father were the BMC dealers in Blayney. "Can you sell them to me?" enquired Denis. "No, but I'll give them to you!" came the reply.

"I picked up the Morris in September 2019" said Denis. "The white one had been sitting around for 20 years, it didn't even have spark plugs. I cleaned all the crap out of it and turned it over with the crank handle several times over a few days; the compression was good."



Door rust: before and after



"The white car's gearbox is noisy in 1st and reverse, the blue car's box is nice and quiet, so I'll swap them over."

Luckily Denis has a background in welding. Two doors were rusted out at the bottom, the bulk of the front guards were rotten with rust - he fixed it all himself. "I thought I had the rust beaten but I kept finding small holes to fix."

So what's the time frame for finishing the Morris, Denis? "I dunno! It depends on



if this coronavirus finishes, so it could be sooner rather than later - I'm working on the car every day instead of two days a week previously."

And what is Denis thinking of a name for his new car? "Corona Lady' is a possibility, only because of the extra time I have had to work on the car!"

Going by the photos, there's not much that hasn't needed Denis' welding expertise. Is there a club award for restoration of the year? Or 'Best Coronavirus Resto'?

