

From The Central West

Well, owing to some wet weather over December, harvest is still happening and a lot of good grain has been downgraded; great if you have horses or chooks but not so good for our farmers, luckily the volume has helped a lot.

We have not been spared from the Omicron variant and it is hard to go to the shops and not get a few alerts. This has made a lot of people stay home in an unofficial lockdown, fortunately the tide is turning and our numbers are decreasing rapidly.

Members Cars

John Ballard Well my car was treated to new head gasket and somehow with the wrong hi tension leads and a faulty timing light, I did manage to get the timing out and the run to an Australia Day event was pretty sad, particularly coming home - thankfully close to home. A quick check over and a 12 volt light, the points revealed a 30 degree retard. (That would do it!!!). All good now.

My big project of installing a 1098cc motor and a 'ribcage' gearbox presented many problems going along, particularly fitting the MG Midget 6.5 inch diaphragm clutch. Finally got to the start time and it wound over well with good oil pressure - but just would not fire. So another check: fuel OK; spark OK; timing "oops"! 180 degrees out - moved the distributor and it started before I let the starter go.

The other problem was the gearbox, which came without a gear-stick, which are different to the standard smooth-case box. This led me to the MMOC in the UK who put me on to a couple of places and I got a gear-stick and an oil dipstick for a 1098 easily. I am looking forward to driving this Ute with 1098cc+20 and a Sprite head 12G202, it should produce a bit of power.

Gary Martin Here's a couple of pictures of the engine bay of the convertible (right), progressing somewhat slowly but moving forward. Almost ready to crank it into life!



John Ballard's new engine and gearbox go in

Denis Woodford Denis has fitted a taller diff to his car, a 4.55 from a 1000 model presuming his diff was a 5.37, but it turned out to be a little taller and with the help of Brian Condon they think it was a 4.875 from man Austin A30 .

A run to Gnoo Blas should give some indication how the car it running now.



Gary Martin's engine ready to run



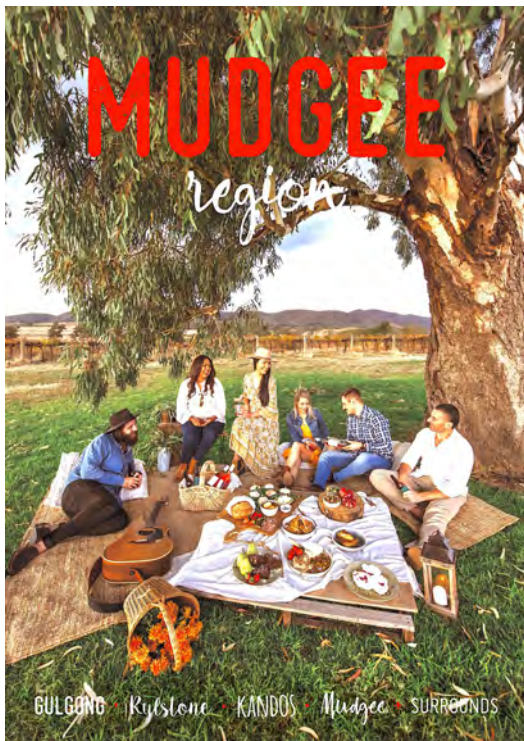


Events

Cars & Coffee I attended Cars & Coffee in December it was moved to the old Drive In so they could check vaccination compliance. Still, there were 168 cars on display and a lot of lookers. It would be great if mine was not the only Minor next time...

I also went to a local Australia Day event at the Ploughman's Rest Hotel, about 30 cars were there, which included some hot rods. I was impressed by a WWII American bike and sidecar in totally unrestored condition.

Wellington Vintage Fair Fri 4, Sat 5 Sun 6 March. Yes, to date it is on, including the street parade. I think we have a good weekend organised and welcome all



members. It's not too late to get on board.

Mudgee Weekend This postponed event is now on this year, September 23 24 and 25, Friday to Sunday morning. The reason for mentioning it early is that originally we were allocated ten cabins and already 8 are booked, so if you are interested give the park a call and book. Mudgee Holiday Park 63721090 and mention MMCCNSW. I know Mudgee is booked out at a lot of venues already. Need help? Give me a ring.

Part Sources Mirabelle Classic Cars for new old stock gearbox parts, online store. mirabelleclassiccars.co.uk/gearbox and... I did some research looking for a dipstick for my new 1098 engine and by chance a UK member put me onto a Morris Minor dismantler.

It was no problem to order the unit so I also ordered a gear stick, both these parts are different from the 948cc common Minor. Richard Plant for all second hand parts rgplant@minorpartsoxford.co.uk Cheers for now,

John Ballard

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