

Wellington Vintage Fair March 4, 5, 6

The parade was on this year! And our Morris Minors led the parade! Sorry to sound so excited but last year's parade was cancelled, and the year before was a bit of a schmozzle.

OK, I'm more composed now. Wellington is one of our club's big regular events, and in the top two for our Central West friends and guru John Ballard's unique and thorough organisation.

As with Gnool Blas three weeks earlier, the Sydney and Southern Tablelands regions convoyed over the mountains, with the usual pit stop at Lithgow, then onto the *Two Fat Ladies* for lunch at Lucknow, just before Orange.

The convoy was broken up as David Bursill in his modern was led off to find Rob Keen's place, who had kindly minded the club's BBQ trailer since Gnool Blas. We met up again at Wellington Caves - but not before a major unknown scare.

Denis and Julie Woodford's MM sprung an oil leak, but Denis only noticed when his foot slipped off the clutch pedal when he turned into the Caves camping area. The story is detailed in John Ballard's Central West report, but needless to say that Denis was extremely lucky that the leak only started a few kilometres earlier. Not so lucky was the oil over his new carpet, and the mess under the bonnet.

The usual Friday night BBQ was quieter than in 2021, but it was still good to see club members post-COVID out and enjoying each others' company.



BBQs, part of the
DNA of Morris Minor
owners

It is said that if something happens twice, then it's supposed to be a tradition. Well, the after dinner ports at Wellington are now a tradition - not outside with the mice like last year, this time it was inside. Same fun time, though.

First up on the Saturday was the famous Wellington street parade. All cars were corralled in Percy St, near the public school. Coffee was on the agenda, as was catching up with other classic car owners, even a Fiat X1/9 owner.



A Fiat X1/9 - in Wellington!



The leader of the pack

Now to the exciting bit again.... The Morris Minors led the parade, directly behind the police escort. Lots of horn tooting, arm waving, smiling, giving the audience what they wanted. The parade looped around to the main intersection, where we waited till the last vehicles went through, then we paraded again in the reverse direction.

Morning tea (and more coffee), then a drive to... Personally, I didn't believe it at first; a place called Billy-O. Huh? It was off the beaten track a bit but, hey, what an interesting set-up! *Billy-O Bush Retreat* for it's proper name said it all about the place; a father-and-son team, Mark and Noah, can accommodate up to 100 guests in tents, caravans, camper trailers and cabins, for weddings, Christmas, car clubs, etc. As usual, our Central West Co-ordinator had done an excellent job of finding this place and organised it for our lunch stop.

We were given a tour of the establishment by Mark, complete with it's more than interesting collection of knick-knacks. The door handles alone were strange to say the least.



Interesting door handles



Monster billy at BillyO

The bar was opened for us and a decent lunch laid on. Then... off to the Ballards' to explore John's shed and get fed a sumptuous afternoon tea. What generous people!



FB Holden



No comment...

The gents were invited to listen to John's ute, which had made terminal-sounding noises in the morning, enough for John to leave it behind and just take his sedan for the parade. That awful big-end noise was just a loose exhaust clamp rattling away; a few minutes with spanners had the ute purring nicely.



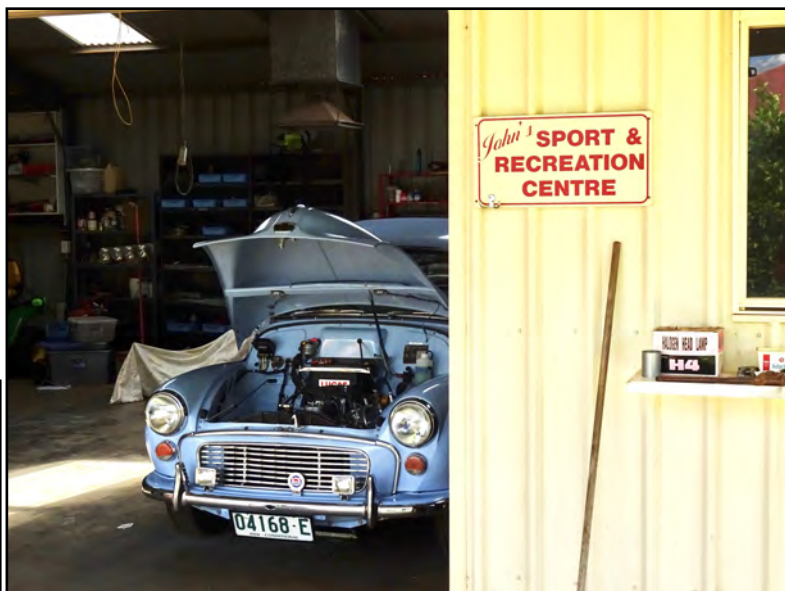
Where's that knocking noise?



Stuart Treuer to the rescue



The brains trust, solving John's problem



What category does the broom fit into, 'Sport' or 'Recreation'?



Graeme Gould and Julie Woodford at the Ballards

Not as dusty as last year, the Vintage Fair on the Sunday had a good array of vehicles, although the Mokes disappeared quite quickly. We tried to work out which part of the 'cars must remain until 3.00pm' rule did not apply to them.



Best Display, Wellington Vintage Fair



One for the caravan enthusiasts



The car show wasn't huge, but there was variety

The best part was the 'swap meet' (which basically meant swapping old stuff for cash I presume), with long lines of stalls selling everything from the world's second biggest spanners to number plates. Most importantly, you could get a good coffee, and the hot chips sold by a local school were worth twice the price; second best chips in the southern hemisphere.

Our club was (again) awarded best car club display, something not surprising after a quick walk around. We would have been really disappointed if the Mokes had won the judging - oh, but they weren't there.

Dinner at the Soldier's Memorial Club in Wellington capped a very enjoyable weekend. Out of Wellington via a scenic route, lunch at TFL, then home for two

intrepid travellers via Millthorpe (what a beautiful town), Blayney, Trunk Creek and Crookwell, with lots of thumbs up from the locals.

Congratulations and many thanks to our club's Central West Co-ordinator, John Ballard, and his chief executive officer Sue, for yet another jam-packed enjoyable weekend.

Owen Sinden

Photos: S Ballard, D Nunn, G Gould, O Sinden

