

From The Central West

Well once again we have been spared the heavy rain that effected much of our country over the last month. As the ground dries up we will hear the constant sound of tractors sowing the winter crops. However, it does mean constant mowing for us on larger blocks.

Nothing to report out here as many of us are staying at home or busy with other things in our lives. For myself I have missed a monthly run to Cars and Coffee as we went away in the caravan, and I will miss the next having an 80th birthday and some cataract surgery. Hoping for quick recovery and back to driving.

This Easter was a real smorgasbord for car enthusiasts here as we saw four car clubs having their National Rallies here in Dubbo over the four day Easter holiday, those in attendance were the Morris Register, Toyota, Volkswagen Kombi and the one I did not get to visit was the XY Falcon 4-wheel-drive Club. For those that did not know, Ford bought out the Willys Car Company and found they had some chassis already built in four wheel drive so hey, they fitted the Falcon Ute body on them. I did see a few running around and they sit a lot higher than the standard Falcon Ute.

The Kombis were amazing and a large number were assembled for the day at the Cenotaph where we hold Cars & Coffee,



Morris Register at Dubbo: The number plate above reads 'Morris Minor', with an 8/40 and stunning MM below



with approx fifty on display. A light green dual cab was my favourite, looking like it just left the showroom floor.



John's favourite Kombi



I also went to the Toyota show, a smaller display this year, but I was impressed by a Toyota 700 which was driven here, have not seen one since my early days of gaining a driving license.

The next day, Sunday, saw us at the Morris Register's display where there were some very old Morris Bullnose cars, also 8/40 models and of course some Minors. There was a very good Minor Ute there in Araluen Blue, same as my Ute; it really was a very professional restoration which must have included a lot of new panels, including inner wheel arches. The only items which were not 'right' were the chrome trim around the windscreen, and it had the wrong B pillar repair ends, as the car and Ute ones are different. I could not find the owner anywhere, a shame as I would have liked to have a chat.

Can't help but think that this city, Dubbo, would be a great place to hold a Morris Minor National Rally, of course we did hold one here in the late 90s.

I am currently using my Minors for general running around as our modern is in the panel shop; I managed to hit a kangaroo just one kilometre from home - after living here 22 years also! Got the Morris car out ready to go and found I had a dead battery; a quick year-count back revealed the battery was only 18 years old, so a new one was acquired from R&J Batteries, who could not believe the age of it, telling me even though it was sealed the acid had evaporated.

Coming Events

Mudgee Weekend Sep 23,24,25

I am hoping we have a large number already booked for this event - but it's not too late to hop in as we have booked some cabins at the Caravan Park, and there are some motels close also. Please ring if you need help 0418638036.

Cheers for now

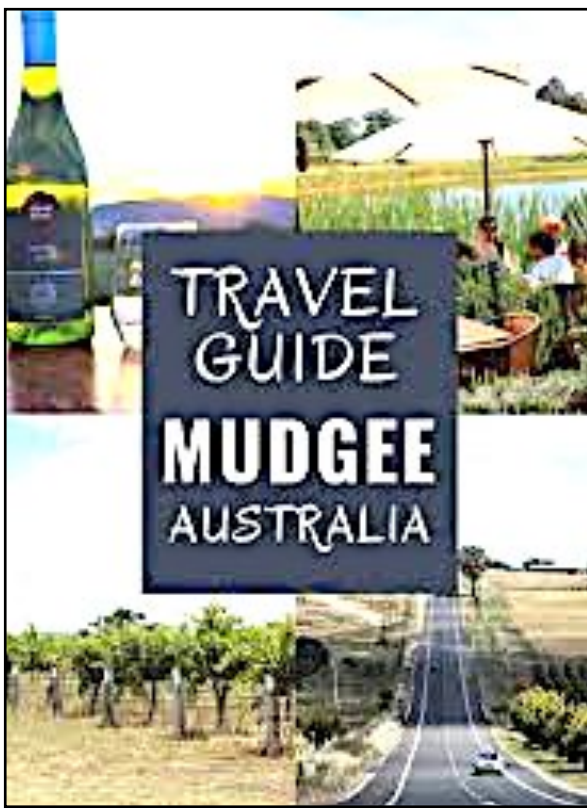
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PS The Buick Car Club held their Nationals in Dubbo on 21/22 May - and had lunch at Billy'O Retreat.



One of the earliest Toyotas to reach Australia