

National Motoring Heritage Day, Australian Motorlife Museum, Kembla Grange - May 15



Morris Minors on parade, Australian Motorlife Museum



It really wasn't any surprise when the NMHD at Berry Showground was cancelled a month out from the day. "Even if it stops raining today, the ground will still be too soft for cars" was the reason given, and considering the submerging of most of the eastern seaboard over the past six months, it was the right decision.

So, where to for one of our club's most popular (and the Wollongong/Illawarra Region's biggest) outings of the year? The Australian Motorlife Museum was the obvious alternative, especially as it is also one of the destinations for the National Motoring Heritage Day. Organisation for the venue change was given to Les Whale and David Bursill.

Phone calls were made, bookings done - but so had the Jaguar and Triumph clubs, so surely that would get preferential treatment (and placement) over mere mortal Morris Minors? Timing is everything, apparently, so it was both surprising and very satisfying that the early arrival of the MMCCNSW gave us *the* prominent position at the museum - front and centre of the main entrance.

The coffee van and BBQ were extremely popular; who doesn't need a coffee to get going on a cold morning?

Next to arrive were the Triumphs, with one passenger showing a particularly innovative way to keep the rain out of a convertible. The Leyland crew were next to turn up, with mostly P76s - and one solitary but beautifully-presented Marina.



Mark Schnebli's T shirt...
I want one!



John Bowmer checks out a possible upgrade to his Morris Minor MM...



A workshop to challenge John Ballard's?



Jim Bowen with a couple of old classics



Dozens of other historic and classic cars were there too, parked around the museum and up the hill, along with scores of vehicles from the general public.

The Jaguars? They arrived some time later and were directed around the back of the museum, where it was less than solid underfoot. Yes, there were some immaculate examples, mostly of the XK 120 and Mk II varieties.

Given our club's proximity to everything central, it was little wonder that there was a lot of interest shown in our Morris, 13 club cars in total.

Credit should be given to the staff/volunteers of the Motorlife Museum - what these ladies and gents do is remarkable.





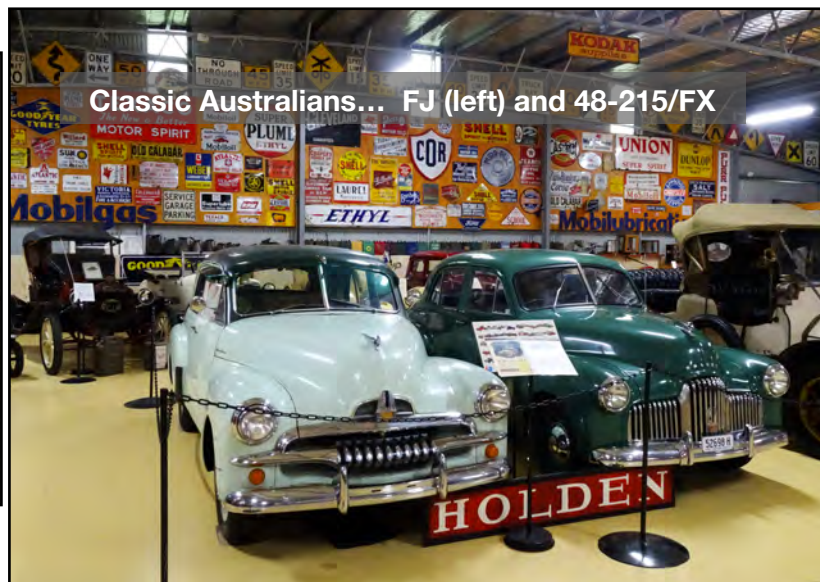
MMCCNSW members under cover from the showers, Australian Motorlife Museum



Quite a few P 76s, and one immaculate Marina - with a Rover engine of course



Traffic control was one essential job, as was the multitude of requests and problems that arose during what was a very busy day for them. Thank you!



Classic Australians... FJ (left) and 48-215/FX

We were hoping for a day without rain so our cars didn't get too dirty. 'Overcast with showers' would probably sum up the weather, but that didn't dampen the spirits of car owners or visitors.

Tours of the museum were offered and accepted. This place never gets boring, with something new or unexpected around every corner, no matter how often you see the place. It really is remarkable the age and variety of the vehicles on display, almost all of which are going concerns.

Congratulations, too, to the museum volunteers who contribute countless hours to restore, rebuild and recondition the vast array of vehicles - as well as being there for more countless hours to help and guide the public.



Above: "I've been everywhere, man..."

The weather didn't get any better in the afternoon (showers turned to rain) but we did have enough time to see all we wanted to see. All in all, a commendable turn up of cars from the Morris Minor Car Club and a thoroughly enjoyable day out. Thanks to Les and David for their combined efforts to get this outing off the (sodden) ground. Let's hope this rain stops sometime soon.

Owen Sinden

Photos: Les Whale, David Nunn, Owen Sinden



A minor in a Minor! It's a small world: the same girl who loved the 'little red car' at Berry in 2021 (see Minor Torque May-June 2021) was there again in 2022. Parents, you're doing it right :)

When our guide on the day described the hours and effort involved with each vehicle, it was both surprising and amazing; such dedication to Australia's motoring heritage.

The Australian Motorlife Museum is sponsored by NRMA - and what better examples of the road service crews over the years than an HD van and a classic Morris J van

The Motorlife Museum included all kinds. These two were there most of the day - and attracted quite considerable interest. They were, in fact, advertising their 50s style rock-and-roll dancing. Phone 0422 307 170 if interested



More from the National Motoring Heritage Day, Australian Motorlife Museum, Kembla Grange - May 15



Drizzle? No worries - this Triumph Spitfire had all eventualities covered



Beauty personified: Jaguar XK120



Immaculate EK Holden



Mini with a turbo? Not on H plates...



Time to ponder...





Hillmans: Imp, Gazelle and Hunter



OMG, a Porsche 356, predecessor to the 911 - WHAT A CLASSIC !!!



The unmistakable snout of an early 1970s Boss Mustang



One for the caravan brigade: immaculate 1962 XL Falcon towing equally-immaculate caravan - with all the 1960s extras!

