

From The Central West

The last two months have dried out a little so sowing winter crops has been a priority, but the disadvantage has been bogged tractors and combines, there's been some horrific photos in local papers.

This region has been quiet as I could not organise an outing owing to my 80th birthday celebrations that my family had arranged, coupled with some scheduled eye surgery in the Eye Hospital in Orange - it was canceled due to COVID and has just now been completed a month later. I am now under 'house arrest' and the shed has been locked for the next four weeks. After recovery I will be having the other (right) eye done. Each operation means no driving for two or more weeks!



Sue Ballard helps John from the eye hospital in Orange. No driving for 4 weeks!

National Rally Adelaide 2023: With other members, a trip to the Rally next year has been planned and Graeme, Sue and Les and have organised the following: Meet at Junee for one night, on to Echuca the next day, stay two nights, then Mildura again for two nights, then to Adelaide. All accommodation places have been booked

by some of us, so if you would like to be involved please contact the Club (Les Whale: secretary@morrisminornsw.org.au) for more details.

September Mudgee Weekend Fri 22,23,24 This event is coming up quick so please give it some consideration and book. Mudgee is full of places to visit: wineries, boutique shops, and many other interesting places. It is the Top Tourist Town in NSW for the second year in a row and the fastest growing town in NSW. Love to see you there and if you need help with accommodation please ring me 0418538036.

Members Cars

Denis Woodford Denis is getting a lot of use with his car and tells me he will be attending the All British Day in September (unfortunately I will not be able to join him this year). He also has used his car in a new TV mini series filmed at Carcoar, called *Ten Pound Pom*, the ten pound being the cost of passage for an immigrant to Australia in the early 50s.



Denis Woodford's Morrie in the picturesque town of Carcoar



John Ballard I have decided to go over my car during the next six months before the Rally next year as it was built in 2002. So first off was the rear, where I repainted the wheels - and whilst off checked the rear hubs. A slight leak was found on one side so I replaced seals, gaskets and O-rings, then found both my rear brake cylinders were seized. A new pair was purchased and fitted but I found that the rubber boots were stiff and actually held the handbrake slightly on, which led me to slackening all adjustment off for a while and cleaning all the old grease and dirt from the handbrake cables (which I had over greased).

I took it for a test run and the car was running on two cylinders; a compression check came up OK, points and distributor and fuel seemed right... So I took the head off and found a very black mark on the gasket between 1 and 2 cylinders, although not blown through was apparently not holding. A new gasket solved the problem but this was the second time in under 12 months.

This car has attended a lot events without problems since it's build in 2004, including five national rallies, so I have done some enquirers... I have found since the loss of the ACL Mono torque gaskets, it is hard to find a quality one that will hold the compression rates of tuned engines. After a bit of work questioning the Mini brigade and others, I have bought a good gasket from Sprite Parts, who tell me they are good up to and over 10.5 to 1 compression.

Cheers for now

John Ballard

Central West

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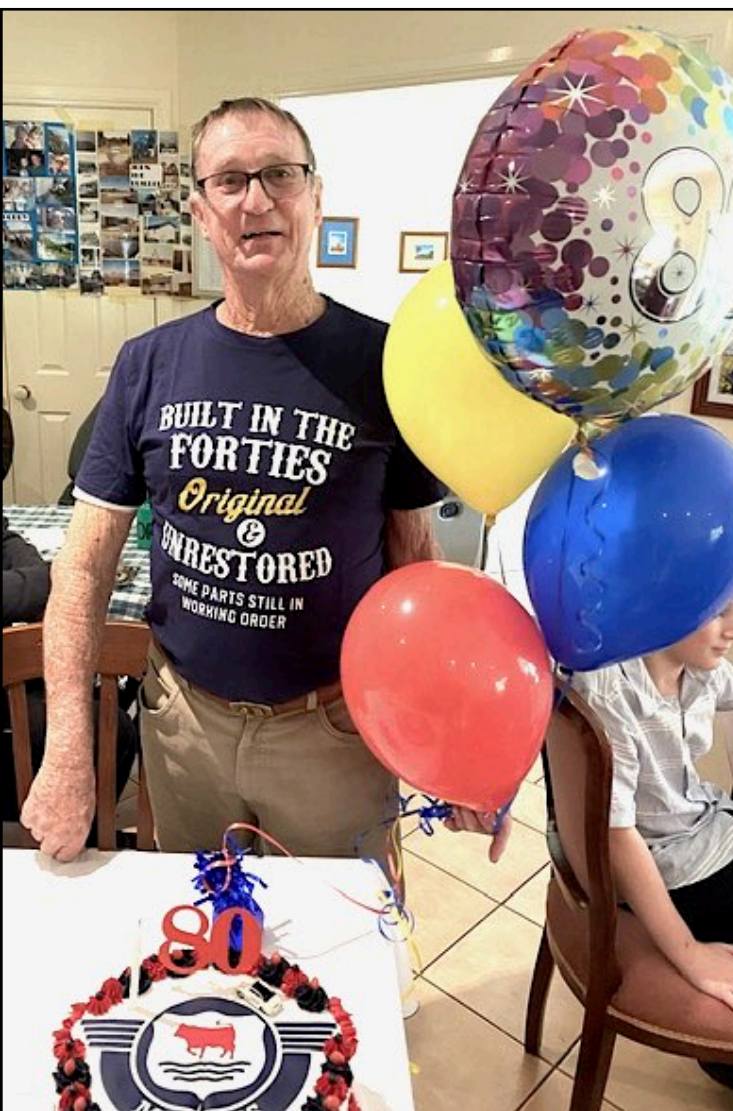
And now for something a little bit different... Another contribution from the Central West

Check out the cover shot and it's part of... John Ballard's 80th birthday celebrations! Sue Ballard took the trouble to send some photos of the big event and wrote a little story to go with them. Here is Sue's story:

We had a lovely celebration weekend, although very cold and grey. We managed to set up inside, 10 of our 15 grandchildren were able to attend with their parents and a couple of our friends. John gave a very appropriate speech, particularly the section addressed to the grandchildren.

"To my grandchildren, I would liken your life to a motor car in which you only have one tank of fuel. Do not idle for too long, if you are going the wrong way you can turn back, if you get there too quickly you have gone too fast so treat that tank of fuel wisely. Take care."

Regards
Sue Ballard



Some car this Simca!



John on the front row of the grid at Warwick Farm Racecourse (#19, right)



Ballard family photo

Morris Minor Tourer	1949
Morris Minor 1000	1960
Morris Minor Ute	1960
Ford Consul	1954
Simca Aronde	1960
Morris Mini	1962
Morris Cooper	1964
Morris Minor Ute	1958
Holden FC Ute	1957
Holder EK Wagon	1961
Holden EH Ute 149	1964
Holden HR Panelvan	1968
Holden HR Station Wagon 186S	
Austin A40 Farina	1960
Holden HQ V8	1972
Ford F100	1979
Morris Minor Van	1970
Datsun Homer Van	1975
Nissan E20 Van	1977
Holden One Tonner	1980
Nissan E20	1982
Nissan Diesel Ute	1985
Nissan Bluebird Station Wagon	1982
Toyota Tarago	1985
Holden Berlina Station Wagon	1989
Toyota Camry Ultima	1993
Toyota Camry Touring	2001
Toyota Hi Ace Van X 2	
Mazda 323 Panelvan	
Subaru Outback	
Nissan X Trail	
Ford Courier X 2	2012
Ford Territory	2017
Ford Everest	



Clockwise from top left:

This is a list of cars John has owned, he has certainly had a love affair with the motor car;
Three of our grandsons did the serviettes,
Brodie, Liam, & Jonah;

John and Sue with their four children Belinda,
Shannon, Darren, & Danielle;

We managed to get 26 people all seated in our
living area for lunch.