

Gnoo Blas Classic Car Show, Orange - Feb 10-13

I should admit at the outset that Gnoo Blas has become my favourite car show. With the demise of All British Day since 2019, with COVID and wet weather, for my money Gnoo Blas is the best bang-for-buck car show going. Try it, you'll like it.

OK, enough of the advertising. What a marvellous weekend, again, in Orange. At an altitude of 860m, summer in Orange is Goldilocks time, not too hot, with pleasant long sunny days. As is the case with all the club's trips to the Central West, the meeting place for those from the Sydney region was Glenbrook for breakfast, then onto Lithgow for a car-fuel and human-fuel stop.

Our lunch stop was at 'Two Fat Ladies'... That's actually a strangely-named women's clothing shop at Lucknow, 10 minutes before Orange, which is next door to the cafe where we have lunch, but we can never remember the name of the cafe, so 'Two Fat Ladies' is where we stop.

Saturday is Gnoo Blas show day, so an early rise for the best car display this side of the black stump. English illustrator Fred Barnard coined the phrase "a picture is worth a thousand words", so enjoy the tens of thousands of words I have put together ;)

Wendy and Don, with daughter Lucy, hosted us for Sunday morning breakfast (thank you!!!), a delicious fry-up of bacon and eggs, then they led the way to the delightful olde worlde town of Millthorpe.

After a stroll around town (it has a very good wine shop), lunch was had in the still-being-build beer garden.

A serious oil leak was found and all evidence pointed to a light blue Morris Minor ute. John Ballard, in his Central West report, tells us that 9 litres of oil was leaked/consumed just on the way home; he and Sue made it home to Dubbo without seizing the engine, but at some cost in oil.

Sunday afternoon was free time, so a few sought the view from the top of Mt Canobolas (via Lake Canobolas, excellent directions, Lucy); at around 1400m in

altitude, hundreds of metres above the highest parts of the Blue Mountains, it is little wonder that Mt Canobolas is often covered with snow in winter.

As so to Monday morning, we checked out of the Town Square Motel and headed to the Village Bakehouse in

Orange. A word of warning: going on these trips is not a great way to lose weight - but it is still certainly worth it. Great company, great food, and did I mention a great car show?

Thank you to John and Sue Ballard, and Don and Wendy Gorton, for welcoming the MMCCNSW to the Central West and Orange.

Cheers,
Owen Sinden





Graeme's van (right) proved popular with the public, and with the judges too.
John Ballard (below), the brains behind the weekend.



Circa 1938 Morris 8 Tourer (left) was in great nick, while Denis Woodford (below) points the way to the promised land of Morris Minor nirvana



The Austin A30 (left), a little cutie, was produced to compete against the Morris Minor. At 55" wide, it was just 1" narrower than what was to be the width of the original MM, before Alec Issigonis put an extra 4" into the Minor's width to make it 60" wide.



David Nunn's black Series II looked splendid in the sunlight



1958 Austin Lancer Series I



"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder": 1960 Pontiac Parisienne (left), and, um, that...



Late 1940s Renault 4CV. On the 4CV's launch, it was nicknamed "La motte de beurre" (the lump of butter)



The Isuzus won best presentation



Thunderbirds are Go!



Winners are grinners: Graeme and Sue Gould win 1st prize, Panel Van section

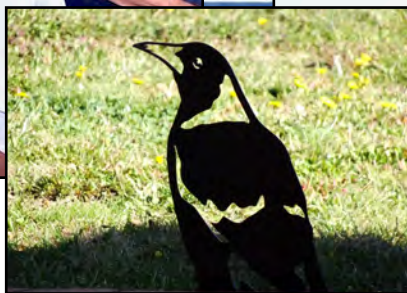


Google 'cool' and this is what you'll see...





Breakfast at the Gorton's, with some of their feathery (and not-so-feathery) friends...



A line-up of Morris in the Gorton's quiet Orange suburban street :)



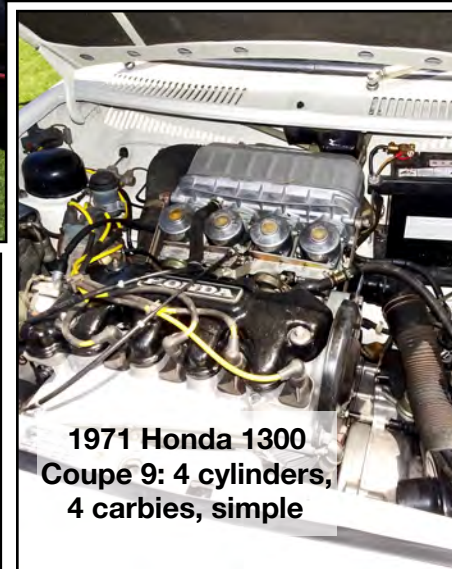
Hansel and Gretel should have taken a leaf out of John Ballard's book: leave a trail of oil, not breadcrumbs!

Tear along the dotted line...



John Bowmer found Millthorpe was not without its automotive delights: Citroen 2CV and 1937 Dodge





Spotted at Tuena, between Bathurst and Crookwell, the young man driving this Series II used it as his daily driver, between Nowra and Bathurst/Orange; impressive!

