

From The Central West

So I can tell you all, winter is not my favourite time of the year, with some early morning temperatures as low as -5 degrees and days reaching low maximums like 12 to 14 degrees. Still, we have been having weekly light showers, perfect for those who had sown earlier last month, a good crop is on its way.

There has not been much organised at the moment for Morris Minors but Sue and I have managed a couple of weeks away in the caravan. With the great SA National Rally still in the minds of those who attended, and the camaraderie, I am looking forward to some spring outings, particularly the Mudgee Weekend in October.

Events

Coming up quick is our **Mudgee Weekend** on 13, 14 and 15 October, and many have already booked. If you are even thinking of going it is well time that you booked - we are staying at the Mudgee Holiday Park, Lions Road Mudgee, phone 63721090. Hope to see many there; if you need more info please contact me.

Dubbo Inaugural Motorfest September 2. This is a new annual event for our area and the organisers tell me they are expecting up to 1200 vehicles. There will be trade stalls, swap meet and various categories, but I noticed no 'Best British' category - I now have that included. Tickets or entry on line: 123TIX.com.au

Dubbo Cars & Coffee. I returned to this event after missing the last two monthly ones and again numbers were high with 165 cars on view. Only one other Minor, a car which had been sitting for years in a local commercial place that I visited regularly and

never knew it was there. It was in good condition for an unrestored 1958 car.

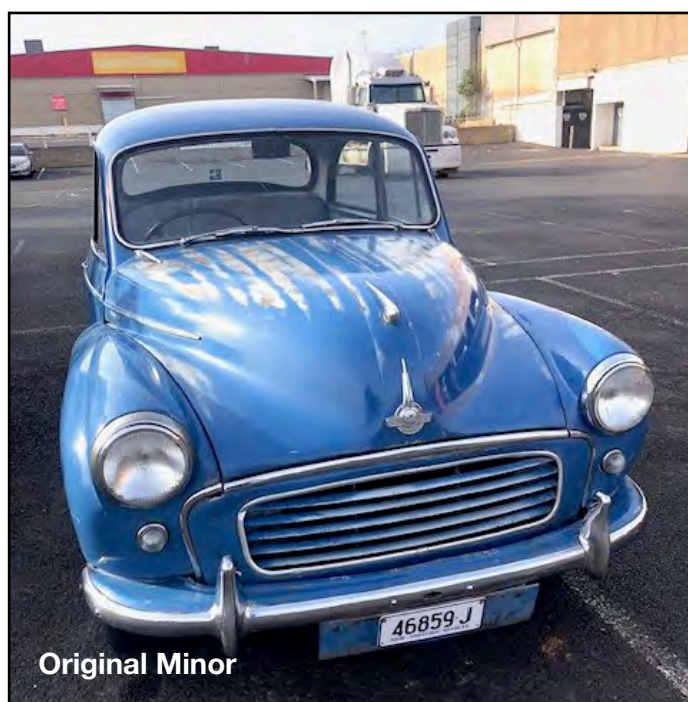
I also met the owner of an Austin A55 in extremely good rebuilt condition. It was imported from the UK restored and he explained that he worked on these cars all of his working life. I could not help noticing that he was from India, so perhaps the cars he meant were Hindustans.

Having a look around I ran into another Club member, Les Whale with Wendy, who were here for their grandchild's birthday.

Member Cars

I have heard from Don Gorton, who has lost a side mirror somewhere around Cobar on his way home from the Rally and is trying to find a matching replacement. He thinks he also needs wheel bearings replaced and the clutch looked at.

Myself, the car is running very well now and the rebuilt 12G295 head seems to have improved the power noticeably. While the engine was out I re-painted the front



Original Minor



Austin A55

panel, grill, and bumper surround, which has improved the appearance from the front.

I needed to get a pink slip for the Ute so a check and a short run showed all was well, but on the way in the next day, it was blowing steam from the exhaust. I got it passed, took it home and even though a compression test showed all cylinders equal, I removed the head to discover a blown head gasket. The reason I think was just poor quality as the head and block had both been decked.

I would like to encourage those in regional areas to get in very early in re-registering cars on Conditional registration. I thought a month was early enough this year that I would be posting my application to our registrar for the needed stamp; it was handled by John as soon as he received it, even giving me a phone call. By the time I had it back here I already had my pink slip and forwarded all paperwork to CMC via express post. As I write my Ute has been unregistered for three days now.

Happy motoring

John Ballard

(H) 6882 7753

(M) 0418638036

dubbo@morrisminornsw.org.au



Foxtail on an aerial. If you had one it is a sure sign you are over 70

VL Walkinshaw Commodore (they were described as “ a look only a mother could love”)

[A V8 Holden that was once dubbed “The Plastic Pig” and sat unloved in showrooms for months in the late 1980s could fetch \$400,000 at auction. If it does, it would be further proof that classic cars - derided by some as an asset bubble - are still climbing in value.

The 1988 VL Commodore Group A SS; its brutalist appearance and high price point (\$47,000) put a brake on sales, and second-hand values fell below \$20,000 in the early 1990s recession. Ed]

