



FIAT Month

The official publication of the Fiat Car Club of Victoria Inc.

www.fiatclub.org.au

SEP 2026

Fiat V Alfa Bocce Challenge

Harry's Run



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SEP 2026



Club Meetings are held at 8pm
on the second Thursday of each
month at:

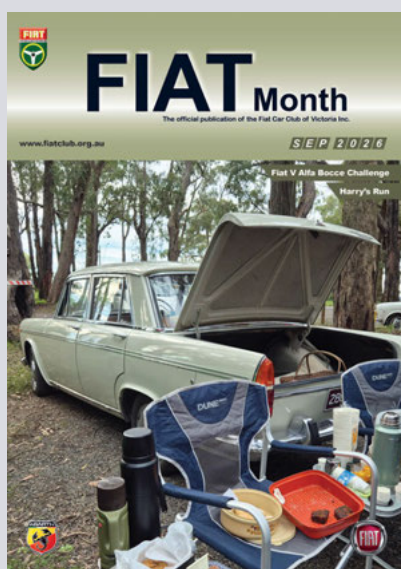
The Veneto Club
191 Bulleen Rd, Bulleen VIC 3105

FIATmonth Editorial Committee

Lyn Bartold – Editor
Joanne McLean – Layout/Design
Roger Beattie – Print Quality Control
and Advertising
Fiat Pronto – Roger Beattie

FIATmonth deadlines

5th of the month prior to publication.
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Front Cover:
The Lemm 2300 Sedan 1965 at Winter
Warmer Run

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Richard Unkles
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Lyn Bartold, Roger Beattie
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Lyn Bartold
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Pur Sang Motors, The Italian Job, BOI Performance, Monza Motors
- IBC** AutoRicambi Ad
- BC** Nullabor Crossing Poster



2026–2027

THE CLUB COMMITTEE

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CAMS Delegate

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AOMC Delegate

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Federation Delegate

Richard Unkles

Webmaster

Mark Weinberger

^Where no email has been indicated, the committee member can be emailed via secretary@fiatclub.org.au

LIFE MEMBERS



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Graeme Shephard*
Richard Carlson*
Barry Ellis*
Noel Tyzack
Peter Bartold*
Lyn Bartold

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Debra Judd
Phillip Buggee
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Shirley Clark

Stephen Mayer*
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Ian Payne
David Hughes
Keith Ellis
Alana Freame
Harry Baker*
David Judd

Sebastian Bongiorno
Joseph Sammut

*deceased

Life Member and Patron — Lyn Bartold

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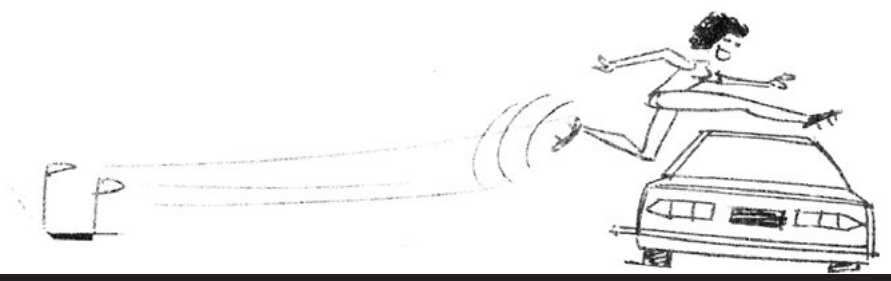
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Bob Durrant
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Stuart Granger
Bruce McCann
Danny Petterlin

Mark Rae*
Tony Romeo
Joseph Sammut

Gary Spencer
Shayne Williams

*deceased



From the Editor...

We have had a busy two months with a number of our yearly events as well our normal selection of ways to catch up with fellow Fiat enthusiasts.

In this FIATMonth you will read about the Winter Warmer Run, the Fiat and Alfa Clubs Bocce Challenge, Harry's Run to remember long time FCCV member, Harry Baker, and Maling Rd Auto Classico where we have cars on display and we assist in organising Costumi Classico for any participants who love dressing up in their classic outfits. Thanks to members who make the effort to keep us all informed.

It is great to see our members getting involved with events that we offer and this past two months, since are last FIATMonth, have been particularly busy. The Winter Warmer Run had a good turn up and Harry's Run was another well attended event enjoyed by all. We had a good FCCV presence at Maling Rd with an excellent display of Fiats. Costumi Classica, which Deb Judd and I started a few years ago at this event, mostly with just our club members, has now become part of the event. We had a great group of enthusiastic participants this year and it has become a part of the day with people from other clubs participating. See the article on Marling Road elsewhere in this FM.

Thanks to those members who have taken the time to contribute an article and photos to this FM. As you can see it has been a busy couple of months so plenty of opportunities to produce a report that can be shared with our FIAT audience. There are always photos on the clubs Facebook Page so we know what is going on but it is always good to be able to follow up and read about club members experiences in articles in FM. I appreciate the offers I get to write a report or an article about something Fiat related that interests you. Sending high res photos is also appreciated.

We were informed by the NSW Fiat Club of the passing of Ross Smith and his wife, Barbara, who died a few weeks before Ross. Peter and I knew Ross well from our car related visits to Sydney and

always enjoyed Ross' no nonsense attitude to the car club and all things Fiat.

We visited the Smiths at their home a number of times when in Sydney for Nationals etc and Peter always acknowledged Ross' knowledge and advice and he was a great source of parts and where to find them.

We send our best wishes to Barbara and Ross' family and friends and to the Fiat Club of NSW for the loss of an important part of their club's history.

A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to the editor, Peter.



Ross Smith

Ross Smith on the Cover
of Fiat Focus, August 2026

Rapporto del presidente



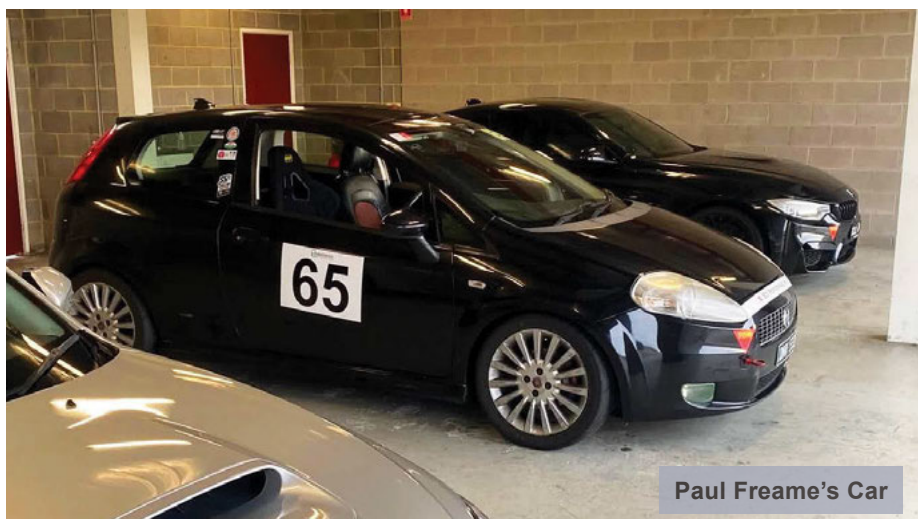
It has been an interesting couple of months since the last magazine. Plenty of our normal car events which you will read about throughout this edition but a couple of events occurred which have made me think more about the club's place in the community. Social licence is a concept we don't discuss very often within the car community but there is a lot that goes into providing and maintaining the social licence for clubs to exercise our hobbies and interests. Primarily the 'Club Permit Scheme' requires the ongoing goodwill of the population via our politicians to keep what has become a wonderful space to both own and use historic vehicles. Abiding by the rules and spirit of the scheme is only part of what helps keep it alive and viable. Our interactions with the community at large can also help keep a favourable view of motoring as a hobby. Look at the amount of positive press received every Christmas by all the toy

runs carried out by so many clubs, particularly motorcyclists which often are seen as problematic rather than contributing.

In our own club I feel we could lift our game a little in that area. We are vibrant and active but seem only occasionally to find a cause that we can help or support. I would like to call out Paul Freame for his active involvement in the 'In the Drivers Seat' initiative conducted by the Lions Club to get VIPs (vision impaired people) onto the track at Sandown for some hot laps. This is the sort of engagement that we should be able to take part in, car related and reaching across community lines. I believe there might be more chances to help with this event next year but I will ensure Paul keeps us in the loop.



Toy Run



Paul Freame's Car



A second 'in car' opportunity came my way when I took part in the Mission Australia 'Sleep in your Car' to support their homeless services. Somehow I got lucky and slept in my car on the designated night which turned out to be considerable warmer than those either side. Thank you to those who supported me via donations and words of either encouragement or bewilderment and I look forward to a Club Team being involved next year. Maybe we should look at an evening run to somewhere interesting and staying the night there in our cars, I am sure they

would accept a donation if we ran something like that another time too.

The other area we are working as a club to ensure closer ties with the community is through our school visits. We have a couple coming up shortly which are both re-invites (a good sign) and are great ways to get any number of sticky fingerprints on your cars windows. In reality we need to encourage the students, and parents, of today as we need enthusiasts to follow our lead in future to keep the club as vibrant, healthy and active as it has been over the past years.

Roger



School Days



School Display



CLUB CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER 2026

All events are still subject to venue specific restrictions. Members are strongly advised to read **Fiat Pronto** emails as they often contain new events not listed in **FIAT Month**, changes to advertised events and further details of the events.

SEPTEMBER

- Thurs 3** **FCCV Display at Italian Day at Carlo Acutis School in Wollert**
10am – 1.30pm
Contact Roger Beattie 0400 177 278. Meet Epping Plaza at 9am
- Sat 5** **Caffe di sabato. Veneto Club 9.00 am**
Contact Paul Pozzobon 0418 552
- Thurs 10** **General Meeting. Veneto Club 8.00 pm**
Contact Paul Pozzobon 0418 552 290
- Sun 20** **Fiat 124 Spring Run. See Pronto for details closer to the date**
Contact Joseph Sammut 0412 221 581

OCTOBER

- Sat 3** **Caffe di sabato. Veneto Club 9.00 am**
- Thurs 8** **General Meeting. Veneto Club 8.00 pm**
Contact Paul Pozzobon 0418 552 290
- Sat 17-Sun 18** **Melbourne Italian Festa at The Royal Exhibition Building, Carlton**
FCCV Display on Saturday or Sunday or both to be confirmed
Contact Joseph Sammut 0412 221 581
- Sun 18** **Bay to Birdwood SA. For pre 1993 vehicles**
Contact Roger Beattie 0400 177 278
- Thurs 29** **Fiat display at Bayswater West P.S. 4.30-6.00pm**
Contact Roger Beattie 0400 177 278

NOVEMBER

- Sun 1** **Rotary Club of Sorrento Point Nepean Motor Show at the Quarantine Station. Limited places, so check with Sandro Cesario 0420 277 701 then apply online. \$35 per car**
- Sat 7** **Caffe di sabato. Veneto Club 9.00 am**
- Thurs 12** **General Meeting. Veneto Club 8.00 pm**
Contact Paul Pozzobon 0418 552 290
- Sun 15** **BBQ and Fiat parts Garage Sale at Lyn Bartold's, Wonga Park.**
Contact Joseph Sammut 0412 221 581
- Sun 22** **Charity Car Show. Puckle St, Moonee Ponds**
Contact Paul Pozzobon 0418 552 290
- Sat 28 – Sun 29** **2026 Geelong Revival Festival of Motoring**
- Sat 28** **FCCV Run to Geelong and formal display**
Contact Joseph Sammut 0412 221 581
- Sun 29** **Alfa Spettacolo Concorso and Show'nShine. South Oakleigh College, Bakers Rd Oakleigh South**
Contact Roger Beattie 0400 177 278

General Meetings



Club Meetings are held at 8pm on the second Thursday of each month. Dinner in Bistro at 6.30pm

The Veneto Club
191 Bulleen Rd,
Bulleen VIC 3105

Future General Meetings 2026
Thursday 10th September,
Thursday 12th November and
Thursday 10th December

Note: These meetings will be held at the Veneto Club, Gondola Room unless there are changes to the COVID rules.

Notification of changes will be via Fiat Pronto, our Facebook site and on the club website – fiatclub.org.au

Find us on
www.fiatclub.org.au
Facebook
Fiat Car Club of Victoria

Contributions to FIATmonth are always welcome
Contact Editor
editor@fiatclub.org.au
If you are sending photos please send at high resolution and as separate files to the article

Fiat Car Club of Victoria
Is affiliated with
Motorsport Australia
MSCA

**Compiled by
Roger Langdon**

COMPETITION EVENTS ARE LISTED ON THE COMPETITION REPORT PAGE.



FIAT month — September 2026

Membership News

Tony Romeo Membership Secretary

This year the club will not be producing membership cards unless they are specifically requested by a member. The cost of the card will be \$5.

When driving your "club permit" car a membership card is not mandatory. Your booklet with the signed and stamped paperwork from VICRoads is!

This decision was taken by the committee due to the cost of producing and mailing out the cards. To produce and mail out a card it costs the club around \$5.

In addition to the cost, it is significant effort for a person to produce the envelopes and send the card out to the member. All members are automatically sent an email which includes their receipt when they renew their membership. The club will be working towards preparing an image of a membership card which members will be able to store on their phone.

WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS –

Brendan and Mikaela Morter Fiat Niki, Lancia Delta Intergrale, Lancia Stratos	Serafino Marinelli Fiat 124 Spider
Eric and Nicole Fisher	Gianluca Caldo Fiat Niki
Giovanni Misurelli Holden Clubsport	Paul Villani Fiat 500 Pop
Joe Carchedi Fiat 500	Samuel Bell Fiat X1/9
Steven Townsend	Daniel Price Fiat 600 Multipla
Ben Vieth Fiat 500 Abarth Tributo	

CLUB PERMIT SCHEME

Mario Di Censo, Club Permit Co-Ordinator

For any information or enquiries about the Club Permit scheme, including adding and renewing cars contact Mario. Enquiries: permit@fiatclub.org.au

Renewal: permitrenewals@fiatclub.org.au which is also the fastest way to renew now. See the new instructions in this magazine or online at fiatclub.org.au/renewals.

Club Membership must be current for a Club Permit to be valid. All memberships expire on June 30 and must be current to allow use of a Club Permit vehicle whenever the Permit is due.

ELECTRONIC PERMIT RENEWAL

The process for electronic renewal has been simplified making it the simplest renewal method available. You will need and should have an active "myVicRoads" account (sign up info below this).

Sign and photograph your Club Permit renewal form and email it to permitrenewals@fiatclub.org.au. It will be signed and returned within a few days and then you can send it to VicRoads with your payment via your "myVicRoads" account.

To set up a My Vic Roads account you can find the link on their homepage or follow this link.

<https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/online-services/sign-up-for-a-vicroads-online-account>

CLUB PERMIT SIGNATORIES

Name	Location	Phone
Phil Buggee	Dandenong	03 9794 6692
Mario di Censo	Heidelberg/Balwyn	0419 171 661
Bill Freame	Glen Waverley	0412 814 855
Frank Marinelli	Northcote	0411 511 679

Competition Report

By Keith Ellis, Competition Secretary



This time of year can be a quiet time for competition events. However on Sunday 5 July, Domenic Carosa (Fiat Abarth Assetto) Ian Maud (X1/9 Prototipo), Frank Spinosa (Abarth 124) were back at Phillip Island. Frank was down to 1:56's and Ian was nudging 2:00 in difficult conditions.

On Saturday 11 July, Marisa Gangemi, Tony Russell and Martin Drake were competing in the Vic Motorkhana Championships Round 5 at the Bendigo Saleyards.

Ian Maud was back flying the flag at Bryant Park Hillclimb on 26 July with a 4th in class.

The Victorian Hill Climb Championships were held at One Tree Hill near Ararat on the 8 – 9 August and again Ian Maud was running.

The Fiat Nationals for 2027 are being run by FCCV but already we have begun the planning for this major event. The date and planning is well under way. On the Friday 16 April 2027 we have the Sprint at Winton and on Saturday 17 April, the Motorkhana

is on the skidpan outside the track Turn 4 and the Sweeper. Only the Show and Shine venue and the Presentation Dinner are yet to be decided.

I am sure more will be said or written by others as the venues are confirmed.

Some of you will have read that the Australian Auto-Sport Alliance (AASA) owned and run by Benalla Auto Club (BAC) is in a sales process. Even Motorsport Australia has made a statement in support of the BAC.

There appears to be some dispute between the parties but this will not affect the Fiat Nationals as we have the circuit booked with Benalla Auto Club for the Friday and the skid pan for the Saturday Fiat of Italy Cup (FOIC) Motorkhana.

I repeat, this will not affect the running of the Fiat Nationals events that are running at Winton. We have permits already organised with Motorsport Australia for these events.

For those needing their speed fix, there are Sprint events being held in August at Winton (MSCA) and Broadford (AROCA).

In September, MSCA are at Phillip Island and AROCA are running the 10 hour relay event at Winton over the Saturday and Sunday in October.

On Friday 25 September FCCV will be running a Come and



Try Motorkhana at Avalon. The younger generation are especially invited.

This is a good practice day for the events that we use will be those that will be run at the Fiat Nationals next April in 2027.

For more details please see the Competition Calendar following this report.



Competition Events

SPRINT EVENTS SPRINT EVENTS SPRINT EVENTS		
Sun 20 Sept	MSCA Round 7	Phillip Island
Sat 10 – Sun 11 Oct	AROCA 10 Hour	Winton
MOTORKHANA/ KHANACROSS		
Sun 6th Sept	FFCC?TCCA K/Cross	Avalon (Bitumen)
Sat 19th Sept	VKC7 SEAC	Mt Gambier Saleyards Bitumen
Sun 20th Sept	VMC8 SEAC	Mt Gambier Saleyards Bitumen
Sun 27th Sept	GCC Multiclub K'cross	Bryant Park Bitumen
Sat 17th Oct	VMC9 DSCC	Deniliquin Dirt
Sun 18th Oct	VMC8 DSCC	Deniliquin Dirt
Sat 24 Oct Day/Night	NCCA G5 K'cross	Werribee Dirt
Sun 8th Nov	GCC Multiclub K'Cross	Bryant Park
Sat 14th Nov	VKC9 FFCC/TCCA	Werribee (Dirt)
Sun 6th Dec	GCC Multiclub K 'cross	Bryant Park
HILL CLIMB		
Sun 13th Sept	VSCC	Rob Roy
Sun 13th Sept	GCC Multiclub	Bryant Park
Sun 4th October	MGCC	Rob Roy
Sun 25th Oct	GCC Multiclub	Bryant Park
Sat 28th Nov	GCC Multiclub Twilight	Bryant Park

Competition Events

From the Editor Anyone who follows the FCCV Facebook site will be sure to have seen photos and comment from club member Marisa Gangemi. Marisa has been a very keen competitor at events all around Victoria and some interstate as well. Marisa is a member of the MSCA Sprinting Sisters group and we see lots of photos of her in her Abarth, following her passion.

I asked Marisa if she would write some words about her experiences and to provide us with some photos to encourage more club members to consider giving motorsport a try, be it in motorkhanas or on the race track. It is great to also see young FCCV member Erin Freame also involved in racing. I am sure if any young (or old !) members want some information on how to get involved there are people who can give advice. Believe it or not, back in the day, I did lots of sprints, hillclimbs and track races etc in whichever Race Car Peter was racing at the time – quite scary but lots of fun!!

MSCA WINTON SUPER SPRINT 16TH OF AUGUST.

*By Marisa Gangemi
Photos: Ian Smith*

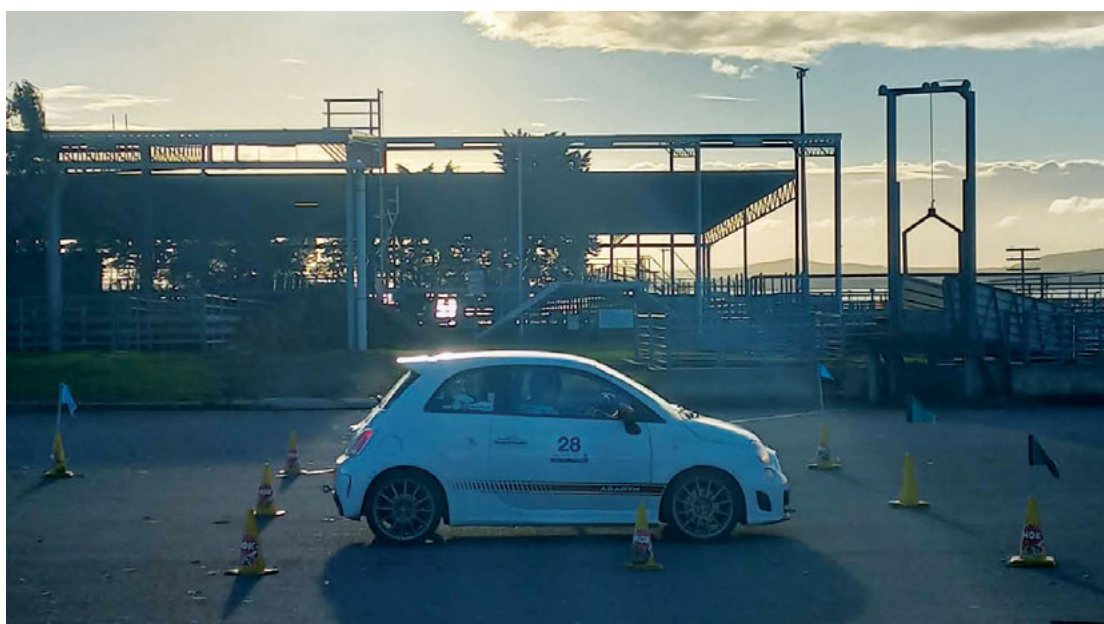
On Sunday the 16th of August I competed in the MSCA Winton Super Sprint in Regularity class. The weather was perfect and the track was buzzing, literally with the sound of the RX8 Cup. It was awesome having the addition of the RX8 cup as part of the event with races happening across the weekend. The day before the MSCA Sprint was the All-British Day which included some of the RX8 Cup racing in between and there were two race which

followed on the Sunday with our group. I had a great day on track finishing second in regularity overall. There are 3 rounds of MSCA events for the rest of the year. Sunday the 20th of September at Phillip Island, Sunday October 18th at Sandown and for the first time MSCA will be heading to One Raceway in NSW on the 1st and 2nd of November. Entries are open for all 3. I hope to see more FCCV members come join in the racing fun with me!



Marisa at Winton Super Sprint

More Competition Photos



HARRY'S RUN

Harry's Run is an annual event where we celebrate the life of club member Harry Baker who passed away many years ago but is still remembered by many club members. Harry's wife, Jenny Baker, is still active in the club and joins us on the Run each year.

JENNY'S CLUB MEMORIES

"I think we joined in 1970, Harry had a new bamboo coloured 125 Special and I had an old white 500 with a sunroof and 'suicide doors'. Later we got a 124 Sports Coupe and I had a white 850 sedan. Then we had a white Fiat Pinin Farina Spyder and our last Fiat was a Coupe with 5 speed gears. Very few arrived in Australia and it was Portofino Blue. Lots of great experiences with our cars and our friends in FCCV.

HARRY BAKER AWARD

Each year the Harry Baker Award is presented to a couple who have made a significant contribution to the club throughout the year, in all sorts of ways. These include attending meetings and events, helping to organise activities and being dedicated Fiat owners. This year's winners are Vicky and Kevin Lemm. The trophy will be presented at the September General Meeting.

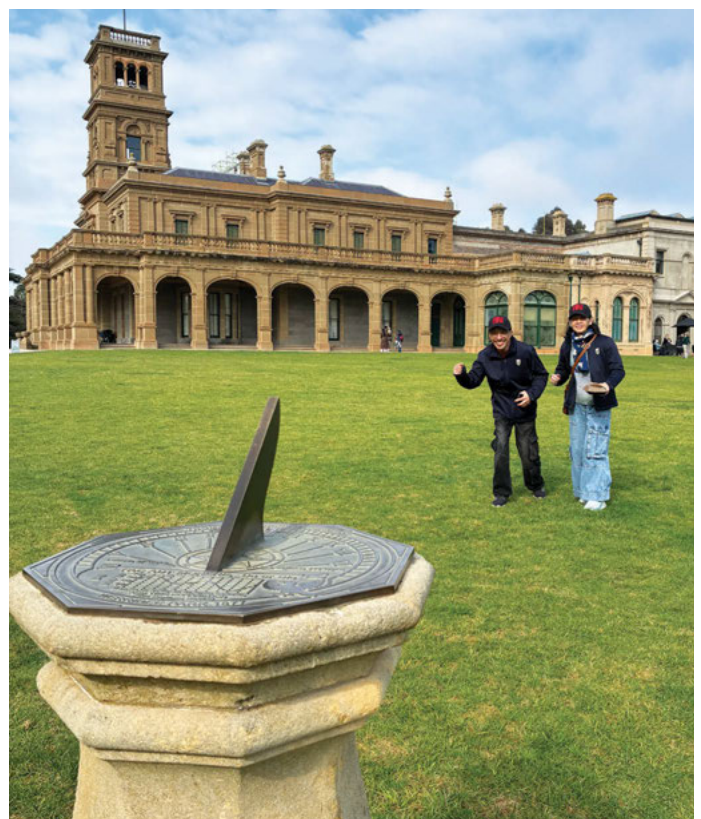
FROM IL PRESIDENTE

It's not every day that my first stop is the Melbourne Zoo Car Park but on a pleasant August morning we gathered in front of the gates and once briefed headed off in the direction of Werribee Mansion. Many travelled in convoy but some decided to take on the challenge of using the instructions provided, we all made it to the cafe on site in the ground floor of the mansion and enjoyed a cuppa and a look about. The mansion built in 1877 for the Chirnside family and still providing plenty of interest for anyone willing to wander and explore the 60 rooms of the Italianate Mansion. After a sensible break we climbed back into the awaiting Fiats and headed through the back blocks of the City of Wyndham.

Richard and Elsa did a good job of finding some interesting roads to explore an area many of us had never driven as the ubiquitous Geelong Rd dominates all the traffic heading down toward Geelong. Curling around the You Yangs and then surprisingly delivering us to the entrance of the



Barwon Prison. Once we had determined that we had no reason to call in we continued on the last few kilometres to the small town of Batesford about 10km west of Geelong.





Arriving at what turned out to be a very, very popular Batesford Hotel was something of an eye opener too. We had to park some streets away due to the large crowds, in fact it seemed that in a town with a reported area population of about 1100 it seemed most were at the pub ordering lunch. The benefit of the long queues and subsequent delays gave us plenty of time to sit around and chat.

A few members had decided to meet us at the pub and Roger and Lesley Langdon even brought there Aireys Inlet neighbours along too. Not only did they come along but Nigel and Melissa Carter managed to collect the last raffle prize and exclaimed that it was the first raffle he had won since 1970 ... that's a long dry spell.

The meals were delicious and well appreciated upon arrival but one cannot be too surprised that on a lovely sunny winters day a picturesque country pub a



short distance from a major population base draws a decent sized crowd.

Next year will be 20 years since we lost Harry but his love of a good run continues to live on in this annual highlight event. Richard and Elsa Unkles have been very dedicated to making it a success for many years and have achieved it yet again.



HARRY'S RUN CONT.





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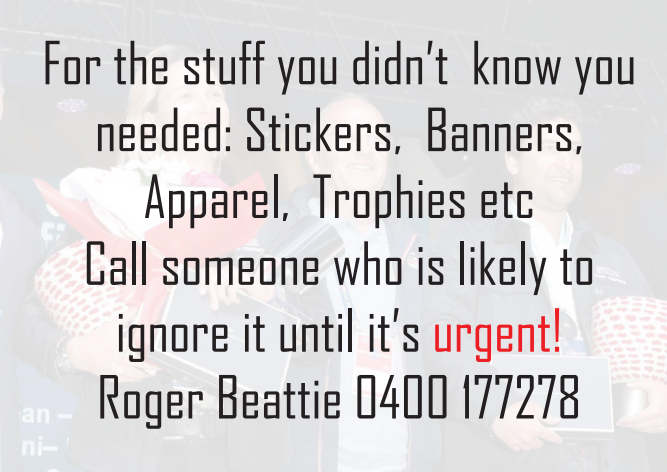


**FIATMONTH
 ADVERTISING RATES**

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1/8 PAGE	\$250 FOR 6 ISSUES

CONTACT ROGER BEATTIE 0400 177278



For the stuff you didn't know you
 needed: Stickers, Banners,
 Apparel, Trophies etc
 Call someone who is likely to
 ignore it until it's **urgent!**
 Roger Beattie 0400 177278

Ferragosto – Italian Car Meet

By Debra Judd
Photos: Joe Sammut

In Italy Ferragosto is celebrated on 15th August and marks a mid-summer peak of the holiday season. (from the Latin *Feriae Augusti*, meaning “festivals of the Emperor Augustus”). Marking this public holiday in Italy, Brunetti Classico Coburg held a Cars and Coffee morning.

Owners of Italian cars were invited to show their cars at Brunetti's, have a coffee, and mingle with each other. Over 20 Fiat club members turned up despite the weather.

Sandro: “Great show, bad weather but still plenty of Italian cars. Great to see the Italian cars coming out in bad weather.”

Mario: “Great turn out even though it was very cold and rainy”.

Deb: “Lovely to see new members, Nicole and Eric, with their white 595 at Ferragosto. The carpark and street were packed with cars. Pleased to see even Ferrari's out in the rain”.

Di: “I can't believe there is no cannoli!” (Turns out there was cannoli but it was ‘under wraps’. Luckily Di got some before leaving).



Nicole & Eric's 595



Some lucky to find a table inside the Cafe



Joe's 124 Spider and others

Jon: "A really great morning with a great selection of Italian marques. Although it was a chilly morning, there was a large crowd all enjoying the friendly banter and of course good coffee, breakfast and pastries available from the Brunetti Cafe. Congratulations to the Alfa Mix group for a fabulous morning".



CARS ATTENDING THE CAR MEET



TOPO at MOVE



Lunch at MOVE and buses

THANK YOU TO THE FIAT CAR CLUB

Dear members of the Fiat Car Club,

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank everyone for their friendship, encouragement and assistance I received over the nearly two years I have been a member.

My journey with the club began when I acquired a 1949 Fiat Jopolino 500 from an uncle of my daughter-in-law, Graeme Lyons. He had already carried out some body work on the car, then he retired and moved to Bendigo and had no room to precede with the restoration

When I took it on the Jopolino was in pieces and I quickly discovered just how difficult it could be to bring such an old Fiat back to life. I still remember attending my first Fiat Club Meeting and explaining the situation. I certainly did not expect that meeting to be the beginning of such a rewarding experience;

As luck would have it, I was able to acquire a head from Max, a fellow club member who lives not far from me. From that point on, the project seemed to be flowing on, one step at a time.

A very special thank you goes to Kevin Lemm, who has given me an enormous amount of help, advice, knowledge and encouragement. Throughout the restoration. I am also extremely grateful to Max, Basil, Bill Freame, Roger Beattie, Mario Di Censo and other club members who have offered parts, advice, assistance and encouragement along the way.

A special thank you also to my brother-in-law, Joe di Bella, for the expert mechanical help and Adam Farrugia for his help on the spray paint job.'

Restoring an old car can sometimes be a frustrating exercise, particularly when you are search for obscure parts and trying to work on something that hasn't been touched for decades and is supposed to go back together.

Being part of the Fiat club made all the difference, the willingness of members to share their knowledge and lend a hand has been fantastic. More than just me restore a Jopolino, the club has given me the opportunity to meet some wonderful people, make new friends and become part of a community that genuinely enjoys keeping these old Fiats alive.

Thank you all for bring this little Fiat Jopolino, 1949, back to life.

With sincere appreciation

*Phyllis and Andy Iero
(Ierdiacono)*





Getting on the Road with the Club Permit Scheme

By Kevin Lemm

Congratulations to Andy Iero on the recent completion of his Fiat 500C Topolino. What a great job he's done! Of course, the last chapter in Andy's restoration was getting it on the road. The process for "getting your plates" using the VicRoads Club Permit Scheme (CPS) is easily achieved and well documented on both the VicRoads and our own Club's website. What could possibly go wrong? Well usually nothing, but in Andy's case it became quite an administrative roadblock.



His little Fiat had been laid up for many years but was complete, even to the extent of having the original Victorian Number Plates attached and the corresponding "Rego Sticker" showing an expiry date of 21 September 1973 still affixed to the windscreen. The Vehicle Identification Plate matched the Chassis Number, and official FIAT records indicated that the car rolled out of the Lingotto factory in late 1949.

As far as the car's history went, it couldn't be much clearer; the car was an original Fiat 500C marketed in Australia by Fiat as their economy car. It had been delivered to Australia from new and spent all its life in Victoria.

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500c
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Devon Motors Ad

Armed with a fresh RWC and the appropriate VicRoads documentation, Andy's next step was scrutiny and approval by our Club Representative. This process involved checking the documentation, ensuring that the vehicle has no inappropriate modifications, then photographing the vehicle for the Club database. The final step involved black coffee and a lot of jovial Fiat talk.

That was really the last time Andy smiled for a few weeks. It seemed that VicRoads had no evidence that this vehicle ever existed in their database, or on any other national database they could access.

Their suggestion was that this unknown car would need to be certified by an engineer as suitable for driving on Victorian roads. Their second suggestion was that the car be accepted onto the Register of

Approved Vehicles as required by Road Vehicle Standards (RVS) legislation before a Permit could be issued.

Andy persisted with a formal request for a more detailed search, backed with documentation and photographic evidence, then several more visits to a VicRoads Customer Service Centre before he successfully walked away with his Plates. The final persuading evidence seemed to be the archive search provided by the Association of Motoring Clubs (AOMC) of their old VicRoads records.

They managed to find the original microfilm record of his vehicle revealing it was first registered on 21 September 1950, with Registration Number SZ-228. The recorded Engine Number also matched the number on the vehicle's build plate.

This information required some diligent digging of their records and whether VicRoads would have found it we'll never know. This is not criticism of VicRoads or their staff; they were helpful and tried to find a solution. But the system, as it exists, may not contain enough information to allow you a Permit if your vehicle's registration expired prior to when VicRoads computerized their records in the early 1980s. If your vehicle came from interstate with no Victorian registration history, you may also be in for some disappointment.

So, the lesson to be learnt from Andy's experience is not to assume you're going to walk away with your Plates just because you have a RWC and a sales receipt in your hand. Be prepared with as much history and evidence of the vehicle's previous existence as possible, particularly if it was previously registered in another State. If you have little evidence, then the price of having a search conducted by the AOMC may well turn out to be a bargain. We are fortunate that the AOMC has these old records for our use. If you're at the VicRoads counter and you don't get the answer



Work Begins


**Association of Motoring Clubs
Engine No Archive Search Report**

Vehicle Details

Engine No. 500B173156	HP 6	Make FIAT
Chassis No. 500C169339	Type of Vehicle COUPE	

Registration History

Reg No.	Date	Replaced by / Replaces / Comments	Date
SZ228	21/11/1950		

Stolen	Date	Serial No.

Archivist's comments for ASR- 1940 Record No. 1163
 From the SEARCH data set
 Note 1: Data extracted from original records has been transcribed as written
 Note 2: The original records may contain some typographical errors which have not been corrected

Printed: 07/08/2026
 Andrew Alkemade - on behalf of the AOMC

AOMC Search detail

(or the plates!) you need, be patient and work with the person at the counter to best resolve the issue. As the saying goes, "don't shoot the messenger!". If you're not sure of the process, then ask your Club for advice. There are plenty of members who have (mostly good) experience and will gladly help you.

In most cases the CPS process is easy and straightforward, but if it turns out not to be, be prepared. You may need persistence, you may need to become an amateur detective, but steady as she goes and in the long run, you'll be rewarded with some happy Club motoring.



Happy Andy

FIAT V ALFA BOCCE CHALLENGE

FROM THE ORGANISER PAUL POZZOBON

Our annual Bocce Night was another great success, with members from the Fiat Car Club and the Alfa Car club coming together for a fun and enjoyable evening. There was plenty of friendly competition, great camaraderie, and, of course, lots of laughs throughout the night

Unfortunately, the Fiat Club went down by just one point on the last ball in a very close contest! It was a fantastic night enjoyed by everyone and we look forward to doing it all again next year.

To finish off the evening, it was a nice ending to the night with a great meal and lots of chats between the participants, and was thoroughly enjoyed by all club members

A big thank you to everyone who came along and helped to make the evening such a success.



FROM THE PARTICIPANTS BY DEBRA JUDD

Photos: Roger Beattie & Trevor Prasad

Our annual Bocce Challenge with the ALFA Club has been another successful evening. We met again at Club Italia in St Albans for games of Bocce followed by dinner.

About 50 players descended on the five Bocce courts, the Fiat members keen to retain the trophy won in 2025. While I am sure there are a few who are very accomplished Bocce players, most of us are once-a-year novices having fun more than serious



The games begin



Pat & Judith



play. Some even managed a spot of juggling!

For some, accuracy in measure was tried and tested – improvising where needed.



Trevor & trusty walking pole

dinner for 60 hungry Fiat & Alfa members. I know why we keep returning to Club Italia – a feast of antipasto, bruschetta, pizza, pasta and salads awaited.

After dinner it was time for the trophy to be awarded to ... the ALFA Club. Coming down to the wire the event was won by the very last bowl of the evening. Alfa three wins to Fiat two wins over the five courts.

Puzzled, the very observant reader may ask *"But isn't that a wine bottle in Roger's hands?"* It is. Earlier Roger had carefully packed the trophy into his car so as to not forget it. Then managed to forget this preparation and take Judith's car!! Amends were made – Roger presented the real trophy at the ALFA Club meeting the following



Thanks to Paul Pozzobon for organising the event once again.

Congratulations ALFA. We are looking forward to next year's rematch.



Trophy Presentation



FIAT GRAND GATHERING

— A WEEKEND FOR FIAT GROUP ENTHUSIASTS —
Drive • Share • Enjoy



APRIL 16–18, 2027



NORTH EAST VICTORIA

fiatgrandgathering.com.au

THE WEEKEND AT A GLANCE

Three easy days of driving, displays and dinners



Friday

16 April 2027

- Welcome BBQ
- Social Drive
- Sprint **SPORTING**



Saturday

17 April 2027

- Choice of Drives
- Saturday Dinner
- Motorkhana **SPORTING**



Sunday

18 April 2027

- Car Display
- History Tour
- Presentation Dinner



Items marked **SPORTING** are optional competition events, there for those who'd like them. Everything else is simply about enjoying the cars, the roads and the company.

THE SETTING

An autumn weekend in North East Victoria

Based in Wangaratta on the Ovens River, the Grand Gathering sits in one of Australia's most rewarding driving regions. In April the vineyards and avenues turn gold and russet, the days are crisp and clear, and the roads through the High Country are at their very best.

It's wine country and food country, threaded with quiet back roads and historic towns, exactly the kind of place you want to point the car and simply enjoy the drive.



Autumn on the back roads of the High Country

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SCALE: 1:1 OBSESSION



ECCV MERCHANDISE

Our club has a wide range of merchandise which is updated often.
It is available for purchase at club meetings and events such as Autobella.
Sandro Cesario will be looking after merchandise and can be contacted on
0420 277 701 if you wish to purchase any items.

Current merchandise will be available at each General Meeting

SOME OF THE CURRENT RANGE OF MERCHANDISE:-



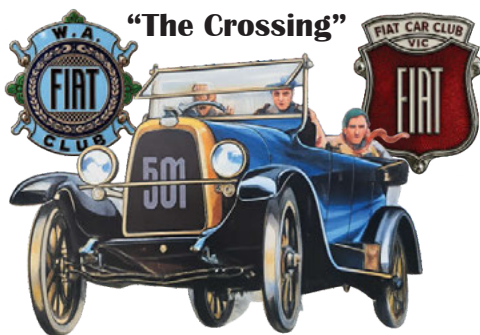




“The Crossing” News August 2026

Only a couple of months now before we head off to Perth. It is looking like 35 - 40 people will be crossing back to Melbourne (a few car issues pending) and by now they have organised their transport west and accommodation on the return trip. Those who haven't face nights sharing the 850T Camper with me. No-one needs that.

It would appear the 501 crowd have been arranging their own sleeping opportunities for many years.



PERTH - ADELAIDE - MELBOURNE, OCT - NOV 2026

We have uncovered historical logos from the Fiat Clubs of WA and Victoria to use in our logo. The 501 was lifted from an original ad and seems to convey the sense of adventure we are relying on from the participants.

We are hoping the WA and SA club members will follow along or come out to meet us for a day or two at either end of the Nullarbor. In the

same way it would be good to see a few of those who didn't come on the adventure to head out from Melbourne as we head home.

The finalised route from Adelaide to Melbourne has been designed to suit the older cars with limited daily ranges and highway suitability. After the BBQ in Adelaide we will head to Tailem Bend for the night (3 Nov) and the next day will find us in Sea Lake for the night. On the 5th of November we travel over some quieter roads to Ballarat where a decision will be to either stay another night or press on to Melbourne.

Saturday 7 November is our scheduled day for a Caffè di Sabato at the Veneto Club. I think it would be appropriate for all those who have completed the trip to gather there on the Saturday morning as a semi-official finish to the trip.

Any questions? Contact Roger Beattie 0400 177278
fiatcentral.victoria@gmail.com

On the merchandise front there will be opportunities to be a part of the adventure even if you can't make it along..If there are other items you would like to see produced let me know.

For those coming along on the trip there is a Polo shirt included in the entry fee. Please check the size chart and add the information to the entry form.

Pricelist:	Tee shirts, Mens or Womens	\$25
	Polo Shirts, Mens or Womens	\$35
	Windcheater	\$35

Any queries or questions contact Roger Beattie (FCCV Pres) 0400 177278



Size Chart



COTTON STRETCH
FABRIC



A. Chest Measurement:
Across the chest, below the armpit

PS55 - MENS COTTON STRETCH PIQUE SS POLO

EASY FIT	XS	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL
HALF CHEST	51	53.5	56	58.5	61	63.5	66	68.5	71
BODY LENGTH	69	71	73	75	77	79	81	83	85

PS56 - LADIES COTTON STRETCH PIQUE SS POLO

SLIM FIT	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
HALF CHEST	42.5	45	47.5	50	52.5	55	57.5	60	62.5
BODY LENGTH	60	62	64	66	68	70	71	72	73



Poyner Diff Fitting



The News Stand

Richard Unkles

David John is planning on his 503 tourer to be included in the tripping of the Nullabor Plain for The Crossing, despite being unable to attend himself. This car had the camshaft move to an error in assembly 15 years ago as mentioned earlier. Work is proceeding on the modest engine changes including Bill Freame changing the gudgeon retainers to a more modern method than the original tapered pins through the little ends and Gudgeons.

Rob Poynter has almost finished assembling his 4.6 differential. An interesting discovery was made when changing the aluminium housing. It would not fit into the steel collar inside the carden housing. After much use of Bearing Blue and many trial fits after more filing of the aluminium nose it now fits. Note the shiny high spot in the photo. Seems there is a measure of hand fitting required for some housings. Likely there was some hand fitting at the factory as well.

Whilst undertaking this procedure we also checked a New Old Stock 503 aluminium housing. This one will also need hand fitting when installed. This one was definitely made of a different alloy and sounds quite different from the usual dull thud with the standard 501 housings but this has a clear ring to it. The NOS 503 housing might have been made post production as a spare part as we have seen housings from 503 cars that appear to look the same as 501 housings. This 503 housing alloy has a duller look to the aluminium than usual.

Rob has also made a simple tool to make fitting the strong brake shoe springs easier. (A tough job due to the strength of the springs).

Sam Biondo has made a nice job of designing and making a new hood of his design for his 503 spider in preparation for The Crossing. He acquired the car

as a part restored project from NSW that has clearly never travelled a high mileage. Whilst otherwise complete there was no hood frame or bows.

In Norway Trond Thorbjornsen has undertaken a respray of his 501 spider. Trond sold this car some years ago to a colleague who hardly used it and eventually bought it back. It has the same yellow colour and retains its distinctive number plate.

In Cz Republic Jaroslav Exner is making the hood frame and bows for his Fiat 510 tourer. Getting the pivot points on hood frames exact is really tricky but it seems he has it sorted.



Trond's yellow 501



Jaroslav's 510 Work

po 2 505 507 519 TORQUE 521 tipo 1 501c FIAT



Swap Meet Dates

Shepparton:

Sunday 13th September

Bendigo:

Saturday & Sunday 14 – 15th November

The Crossing Vintage - Plans

This edition of Fiat Month will be the last real opportunity to use this medium to update the membership on the plans for the vintage network.

Ralph Richardson will be coming from Bundaberg with Barry Birt in a campervan with the 501S on a trailer. Ralph plans to attend the Bay to Birdwood event on the Sunday then race for Perth. Our understanding is that the Judds, Lemms and Roger Beattie are also planning to attend and then sprint west.

Sam Biondo has been to Queensland to buy a suitable camperbus to trailer his 503 spider to Perth. At present he is looking for a co driver. If you would like to discuss joining him ring Sam on 0438 578 698.

Rob Poynter is planning on trailering his 501 to Perth with

a Hi Lux ute and paying for accommodation both ways.

Your scribe plans to bring the 501 taxi, David John's 503 tourer, the 124 spider and a Mazda ute with trailer. The team includes Elsa, John Hebard and Howard Smith both from UK and Sveto Ristic locally. Sveto will be driving cars to Perth but flying back. Plan is to travel to Perth at nominally vintage pace with one vintage on the trailer and planning for an empty trailer on the return. Paying for fixed accommodation both ways. Anyone who wishes to discuss plans that might benefit from more information call Roger Beattie 0400 177 278 or Richard Unkles 0411 185 779.

Perth accommodation has been selected by several at Advent Park in Maida Vale. This has been chosen for several reasons being:

- 1) It a caravan park type place that can suit those with campervans and also trailers.
- 2) It is on the right side of Perth for entry and exit and close to the main highway in.
- 3) It is very close to Perth contact Rod Boyd. Rod owns several vintage Fiats and would assist with any maintenance issues.
- 4) Fixed accommodation offers several options, including a house for your scribe's team of five. Already booked.
- 5) It is reasonably close to Perth Airport.
- 6) You can call Advent Park on 0417 183 616 to discuss your requirements.

Tip Torque cont.

The Saga – David Stott

Two weeks after the VDC Spirit of the Twenties rally in April, Jenny and I returned to Mt Gambier with the trailer to pick up my Fiat. Once home I took it for a drive and it had lacked power and ran terribly, and I could not replicate the noise experienced on the rally.

Investigation showed one cylinder was way down on compression. I then checked the valves and found an inlet valve had no clearance on the tappet, and it was also wobbling in the Guide.

I had checked clearances before the rally so I cannot say what happened, there appears to be nothing amiss with the cam shaft or the cam followers. Seems the noise was an induction or compression leak past the valve or back through the carby which of course was worse when the engine was working hard in the intermediate gears, and probably some rattle from the loose valve and induction whistle.

Apart from the noise, the car performed well over the 800 km's to Mt Gambier but It was just as well I left it there, because it would not have been able to drive it much further and I would have ended up stranded between towns.

The car is now dismantled, and I have just got the block back from the machinist and it now has new valve seats, valve guides machined and inserts added, and the valves refaced.

On 501's the cylinders are very close together right where the head bolts go. In the past I replaced the bolts with studs to try to prevent any unnecessary movement in the threads. The machinist found a small crack next to one of the studs, but it is above the piston area and there has been no compression leakage beside the stud. So, it was decided to leave it alone, as the alternative was to start again with another block or sleeves requiring new pistons and rings.

Whilst off the road I have had front brakes relined and fitted new inner front wheel bearings and felt oil seals, attended to a few minor electrical issues, had new parking light lens made to replace one that copped a stone on the way back on the trailer. The radiator has had a reverse flush and a couple of small leaks attended to. New Exhaust manifold gaskets have been ordered, and tappets are away being case hardened.

(David's 501 is now back on the road)

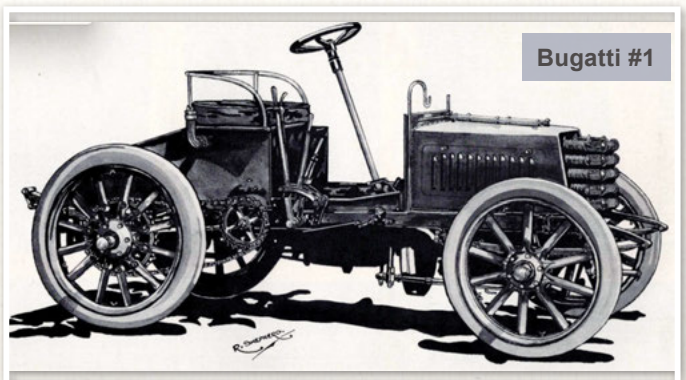
The First Bugatti

Material for this item comes from a magazine named The Vintagent, Vol 1, No. 1, June 1970. Regrettably it only lasted for six issues. It was published in Melbourne.

Ettore Bugatti is mostly thought of as the designer of cars with horseshoe radiators, but he was hard at work long before these distinctive shapes. His first effort in 1898 was modifying a Prinetti & Stucchi tricycle and for his second he built an unsuccessful rear engined car.

The one illustrated below he designed and built in 1900 – 1901 and followed what proved to be many aspects of design that reflected modern design,

including an inline 4 cylinder mono block engine with OHV and dimensions 90mm bore x 120mm stroke. It had a 4 speed gearbox. Ignition was by "electric ignition tubes" whatever they were. The design won the highest award of the Milano International Exhibition for a national design in 1901.





The group at Sylvan CFA

Winter Warmer Run

By Lyn Bartold
Photos: Roger Beattie

The Winter Warmer Run was again organised by our President, Roger Beattie and we had a good turn up of members and cars at the start meeting place at Jubilee Park, Ringwood.

The group set off for a leisurely drive up Mt Dandenong but things did not turn out as expected as you will read in Roger's article below. Although plans had to change, we had a very relaxed day with a pleasant picnic morning tea outside the Sylvan CFA.

It was a fine, not too cold day and a good opportunity to spend some time and explore in what is a beautiful part of the Dandenong Ranges. We had a variety of cars with Abarths being the popular car of the day.

Thanks to the members who Roger co-opted to provide some lovely home-

made food for our morning tea (much better than from a café!), we had time to display our cars catch up with other members, have a relaxed and enjoyable event. Thanks to everyone who contributed- it was certainly a very relaxed day with an excellent range of cars in attendance.



Enjoying the Winter Warmer Run

WINTER WARMER RUN CONT.

Winter Warmer extras from Roger Beattie

Thanks once again to those who attended this years Winter Warmer run. There were a few location difficulties but we managed to overcome them and have a pleasant, short run to start off our Sunday in the hills. Apparently the good folk of Ringwood have discovered Sunday morning swimming as the car park we have met in for the past few years was not as empty as it has been and we were thus confined to the back corner with a little overflow in the surrounding streets. Of course, the good grace of our members meant this was a small distraction and after a drivers briefing we were on our way.

The car park gods were not with us on the day and when we arrived, in a relatively long convoy, at the gates to the Sylvan Reservoir Picnic Area we found them shut as part of the Parks Victoria staff industrial action. A moments hesitation before we decided to retreat a kilometre or so up the road to the large forecourt of the Sylvan CFA which afforded us space to park our cars and distribute morning tea.

The sausage rolls were a hit and I can include my secret recipe at the bottom of the article for those interested. Particular thanks to those who brought extra morning tea supplies and I hope everyone found something interesting to do in the area when we broke off.

Judith and I went to the Tinsdale Gardens and thoroughly enjoyed a good stroll, despite her improving leg, through the beautifully maintained gardens which offer something in each season.

The Nicholas Gardens next door are impressive too and made our day into a great combination of cars, friendship, morning tea and nature. Who could ask for more?

Roger's Sausage Rolls:

Gently fry a finely chopped onion and finely grated carrot until browned. Set aside to cool.

Combine cooled veg into a mix of sausage mince and pork mince. Season with salt, pepper and kibbeh spice mix And a few drops of Maggi seasoning sauce (could use Worcestershire).

Spread across Puff pastry sheets, roll up and brush with Egg. Cut to serving size.

Preheat oven and Bake at 200 degrees for about 20mins, find friends to share them with!

Ed. Thanks Roger – we will all be trying this recipe after tasting the ones we had on the day.



Coming Events

General Meetings

September 10th 8pm Veneto Club

October 8th 8pm Veneto Club

November 12th 8pm Veneto Club

Join us for dinner in the Bistro from 6.30pm

Bookings essential

Contact Sandro Cesario 0420 277 701

Caffe di sabato

Sept 5th Veneto Club
9.00am

Oct 3rd Veneto Club
9.00am

Nov 7th Veneto Club
9.00am



20 September 2026

124 Register Run

All models welcome

Meet: Russell St Car Park Coburg

Behind Browns Corner Hotel at 9.30 for 10am departure for a scenic drive ending at

SEAWORKS maritime precinct Williamstown.

Plans for photo opportunity on the waterfront

Contact: Joe Sammut 0412 211 581

Motorkhana Come and Try Day and Grand Final Public Holiday Run



Grand Final Public Holiday Run

Meet at the Heavenly Queen Temple car park
20 Joseph St, Footscray at 9.15am for 9.30 depart.
Stop for coffee on the way to visit and experience
the Motorkhana at Avalon then on to Little River
Hotel for lunch.

Contact: Joe Sammut
0412 211581

Meet
Drive
Motorkhana
Lunch



Take your mind off the footy!

Pete's Garage Clearance Sale and BBQ

Sunday 4th October 11am

16 St John's Rd, Wonga Park

Silent Auction and Clearance of parts, tools etc from
Pete's multiple garages

In the interest of keeping the day controlled please register to attend
with a Committee member or email at fiatcentral.victoria@gmail.com

Contact President, Roger Beattie 0400 177 278
or Committee Members if you wish to attend

Melbourne Italian Festa

Exhibition Buildings

Fiat Display at front of building

17,18th October



Contact Joseph Sammut 0412 211 581

Other Events in October / November

There are a number of events on in late October that some FCCV members will be attending so check Fiat Pronto Messages for details.



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1926 - 2026 The Crossing Centenary

Perth to Melbourne

Depart Perth October 25 2026

October 23: FLCWA Dinner
October 24: FLCWA Run: Perth Area
October 25: Combined Italian Car Clubs Pasta Run
Depart for Merredin 245km Merredin O/night
October 26: Merredin to Kalgoorlie 333km
October 27: Kalgoorlie to Fraser Range Station 289km
October 28: Fraser Range Station to Cocklebiddy 335km
October 29: Cocklebiddy to Eucla 272km
October 30: Eucla to Nundroo 340km
October 31: Nundroo to Streaky Bay 260km
November 1: Streaky Bay to Port Augusta 390km
November 2: Port Augusta to Adelaide 309km
November 3: Arrival Ceremony and FLCCSA BBQ.
November 3: Depart post BBQ to Tailem Bend 98km
November 4: Tailem Bend to Sea Lake 257km
November 5: Sea Lake to Ballarat 274km
November 6: Ballarat to Melbourne 113km
November 7: Caffè di Sabato Welcome Home, Veneto Club

It's not too late to get involved!
To register your interest or any questions:
president@fiatclub.org.au 0400 177278

"THE CROSSING" 1926 - 2026 CENTENARY CELEBRATION

PERTH - ADELAIDE - MELBOURNE, OCT - NOV 2026

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT FORM

Name: Each attendee	Polo Shirt size	Entry per person \$96	Dinner Perth 23 Oct at own cost	A seat on the BUS PER-MEL \$760/head	Sub Total
1.					
2.					
				Total:	

Please return form or the information to fiatcentral.victoria@gmail.com
Amounts payable to: FIAT CAR CLUB of VIC BSB: 083277 Acc: 525012485