

# C.I.A.O.



## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024

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## President's Report

I am honoured to participate in the first President's Report while taking office in this position. Although I am relatively new to the club, I respectfully appreciate the opportunity in being nominated for this position and I am looking forward to working very closely with you all. While I continue to find my feet as President in the CIAO club, many of you will see that I am progressive and heavily focused on sustainability, process, community involvement, innovation and growth and in general having a good time in the company of like-minded and passionate people that have common interests and a passion for the club.

My experience in life and business is you can only move forward and grow if you know and respect where you have come from; the history of the club is extremely important to me. These are all the reasons that have attracted me to CIAO. We have a tonne of ideas at the club to further enhance our profile and I am keen to help be the vehicle in bringing as many of them to fruition in 2025.



The 2024 Lago di Mac weekend went extremely well. The weather was great and a perfect start to a hot summer weekend. The attendance of vehicles and general public was fantastic, the entertainment was terrific, and the vendors did a great job. The park was displayed perfectly with a grand entrance of Italian vehicles on the tarmac, along with the transition to the beautiful grass and lake area that displayed more vehicles to the left and over to the right, the Italian coloured race car, sponsored and provided by Westlake's Motor Group, the 1964 three-wheeler Lambro Lambretta and the beautiful backdrop of the ginormous grand white marquee and the many white stalls.

The tremendous motor vehicles displayed were Ferraris, Lamborghinis, Alfa Romeos, Fiats, Lancias, Ducatis, Vespa, Moto Guzzi, Lambretta and many more. They represented all eras, from modern to earlier years, dating back to the 50s or even as early as the 20s if we take Greg Crow's cardboard Fiat display: CIAO's kid's own photo booth into consideration. Loved it Greg, that was a huge effort you put into that, not only was the real-life design perfect, but even the vintage colouring you had painted was tremendous!



In addition an array of Italian cuisine from Cannoli, Sfogliatelle, Gelato, to Pasta, Pizza, Arancini, Aperol Sprits and Italian Beers and much much more. The entertainment was a great hit particularly with George Vumbaca and his partner Liz who did a tremendous job in bringing some classic Italian songs to the festival where it got a lot of people up, singing and dancing.

A real true spirit of bringing both Italian vehicle enthusiasts and an Italian festival flare together. As Carlo has been stating, there is no other event that brings both of these together here in NSW as well as what CIAO does and needless to say it is getting bigger and better every year as we further develop and add to it. This is something we ought to be proud of and 'heavily promote'.

A huge thank you to you all that participated in helping out on the day, the festival would not have been possible without you. Special thanks to Carlo Rossi for really taking ownership in ensuring the layout, the media attention, the lead up preparations, the organisation of vendors and just wanting to make sure everything went perfectly and according to plan. A tremendous effort from Carlo, you were relentless and respectfully persistent and resilient in such trying times in your personal life. A real credit to you.

Last but not least, none of this would be possible without the support and passion of our club members and ongoing memberships and mostly our sponsors, who without, wouldn't have made the day possible. We will be working a lot closer with our sponsors and sponsorship programme as we further develop well in advance in 2025.



No doubt there is a tonne of feedback as a result of the Lago di Mac we can capture to continue to improve and grow as we workshop this in the New Year, starting with organising a marquee next time at the entry for those directing traffic in and out of the car park as an example!

### **Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo**

Have a great and safe Christmas and Happy New Year to you all

Il presidente – George Grasso

## **Vice-President's Report**

In my last Vice-President's Report, it was all about our upcoming Committee elections in September. The elections are now over, with following positions being filled.

Our new committee for 2024/25 voted in at our AGM on September 11 are as follows:

President:	George Grasso	Email: <a href="mailto:georgeg@uaa.com.au">georgeg@uaa.com.au</a>
Vice President:	Warren Buckingham	Email: <a href="mailto:cie2345@bigpond.com">cie2345@bigpond.com</a>
Treasurer:	Deb Johnson	Email: <a href="mailto:floristwarnersbay@gmail.com">floristwarnersbay@gmail.com</a>
Secretary:	Keith Mitchell.	Email: <a href="mailto:keithrmitchell@yahoo.com">keithrmitchell@yahoo.com</a> Phone 0420246835
Membership:	Warren Buckingham	
Events Co-ordinator:	Laurel Buckingham	Email: <a href="mailto:cie2345@bigpond.com">cie2345@bigpond.com</a>
Newsletter Editor:	Keith Mitchell.	

I'm sure you will join me in wishing them all the best for the next 12 months.

The other big item was Lago di Mac which was held on the November 23/24. This event has also been and gone by now and what a great event it was. Many thanks to Carlo Rossi for once again arranging it and keeping it on track, also the many volunteers who worked tirelessly through the long hot days. A special thanks to our President George Grasso, for finding sponsors for the day as well. Without money the show can't go on.



I would like to welcome all the new club members who have recently joined CIAO. I hope to see you at many of our events throughout the year. The next one will be our annual January picnic, held on January 12 at the Lion's Park, Eleebana..

A big thankyou to our editor Keith for putting together another great publication. I would also like to thank our President and Committee members who work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep the club running.

Warren Buckingham (0428 938 338)



## A word from the Editor

Welcome to the 2024 Spring edition of the CIAO Newsletter. In this edition you can read the interview by John Leeks of our new President George Grasso. A relative newcomer to CIAO, read of his past exploits, his vehicles past and present and his family. George has already shown energy and enthusiasm to continue the promotion of the club.

Clearly, the biggest event of the year for CIAO was **Lago di Mac**. Retiring President, **Carlo Rossi**, ably backed by Warren Buckingham, lead an enthusiastic team to create the biggest Italian Festival in the Hunter Region.

There are a few photos from this event in this newsletter, but owing to the fact that is such a big event, there will be a special **Lago di Mac Newsletter** coming out in the New Year.

A new addition is **Member News**, where we look at what is happening to various Club Members, and Life Members Michael and Deb Johnson walk down Memory Lane and run into a bunch of Toranas!!!!

I am thankful to those who continue to contribute to this newsletter, and to those who have written for the first time, Thank you George Grasso, Carlo Rossi, Warren and Laurel Buckingham, Michael and Deb Johnson, John Leeks, Greg Crow, Steve Vines, Mark Brown and Robert Booth for their written and photographic contributions to this Newsletter.

Keith Mitchell (Editor)

### CIAO LIFE MEMBERS

Michael and Deb Johnson  
Colin and Sheryn Goldie  
Trevor Edwards (Deceased)  
Kay Young (Deceased)  
Warren & Laurel Buckingham



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## Member News

**VALE – Sheryl Jean Symons : 24/09/1954 | 17/11/2024**

Sheryl was a long time member of CIAO, joining in December 2014, Member No 124. She had the knack of making people feel they were her best friend; it would not matter if she was meeting you for the first time or the hundredth time. Sheryl would always give you a big hug and be pleased to see you. She was always happy, smiling and a joy to be around.

When Sheryl first joined the club, she had a Fiat 500 but that soon gave way to Alfas. She also enjoyed riding her Ducati motor bike, it was bigger than her and I often wondered how she managed to ride it.

Sheryl fitted a lot into her 70 years, with many jobs and interests. Some which included being a draughtswoman, bus driver with Hunter Valley Buses, announcer on Radio Lake Macquarie FM and with the Rural Fire Brigade. Sheryl enjoyed going to the Wangi Workers Club for the raffles with her partner Lee McKenzie and family.

**Sheryl had a real zest for life and will be sadly missed by all that knew her.**

CIAO

Warren Buckingham (Vice President)

### Committee Movements

At the September 11 2024 Annual General Meeting there were three significant acknowledgments for club members who have contributed greatly to CIAO

Firstly, people were very disappointed yet understanding when **Carlo Rossi** announced he was not going to renominate as President. However, Carlo said he would remain leading the organisation of Lago di Mac and to assist George Grasso in the new role of President. Carlo's efforts in rejuvenating CIAO were acknowledged by those present at the meeting.

Secondly **Warren and Laurel Buckingham** were nominated and unanimously accepted as Life Members for their dedicated work for the Club..

And finally, after 14 years of dedicated service as Club Treasurer **Phil Hitchcock** decided not to renominate for this position. The membership thanked Phil (and Becc) for his (their) 14 years service in the role.

CIAO

Keith Mitchell (Editor)

### HINTON MOBILE MECHANIC

**New member Robert Sbrana, a qualified local mechanic with over 40 years experience, offers his services, with special attention given to CIAO members. No job too small, servicing and repairs. He also offers break down service; he comes to you!**

**Phone 0403 379 767**



## Meet the (new) President

CIAO recently welcomed its new president, Mr George Grasso, and this article will hopefully give our members a little more insight into the person, his vehicles and his aims for CIAO. Actually, George is a very family oriented man as should become obvious to our readers. However, let me say that from the outset the Italian hospitality was clear and present, with a great selection of very tasty Italian style meats that George himself made. George's wife, Mirella, his sons Luca and Jian (who many of us met at the November meeting) and his lovely daughter Sienna. The undeniable thing with the Grasso household is how fantastically clean (and white) it was. It's a credit to the family. One thing for sure, if they need any future furniture they just head straight to the white furniture section ...that makes it easy.



George has had a long and varied history with vehicles and especially quirky vehicles...and not just Italian cars. As a smash repairer early in his career, he came across a lot of cars that we only usually dream about. The Grasso family forebears were an Italian migrant family in the 1950's

who settled in Victoria and it seemed that Holdens played a big part in their early automotive history, with one highlight being his grandfather buying the first brand new HB Torana for George's mum when she turned 18 (see photo of George on the bonnet of said Torana with his grandparents in the background). This car eventually found its way to a very young George and he told us that he rebuilt it twice. His Dad had an FB Holden with mauve wings. George lovingly recalls working under the car with his father greasing ball joints, changing oils, servicing drum breaks, adjusting points etc etc.

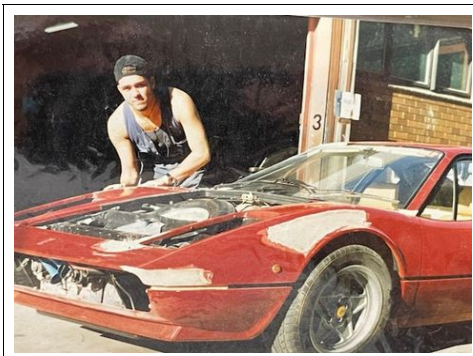
### George's early cars.

Talking to George, you get the impression that he really loved his early cars. ALL OF THEM! His first car was the forementioned HB Torana. The cars that seem to have captivated his youthful days were a 1962 Karman Ghia,



with an upgraded motor from 1200cc to 1600cc and a blue 1979 2 litre Alfetta sedan. George talks about this car in a wistful and dream-like manner. In fact, George says that his next car was a supposedly good handling car ...a Mazda MX-5 which had a reputation for this. Yet George says that the Karman Ghia and especially the Alfetta easily out-handled the Mazda, especially on long drives on Victoria's Great Ocean Road where he used to go surfing. And he should know because I am sure George

gave each car a good work-out. Just look at the MX5 and you can tell that George must have been 'a wild boy' and a half! This was the celebration of the 1999 North Melbourne Kangaroo's Grand Final win. He used contact paper to design the artwork and then peeled it off again about a month later. His other cars were a VW Type3 Fastback and a HG Holden Kingswood (no one is perfect!). He slipped in that he also had a brand new 2003 Holden Monaro CV8R.





## Current Collection.

When I asked him what he did with each of his cars, he said that at one stage he kept them all in his front yard, but then, when he got married, he sold most of them. If we zoom to his current car collections, you can say he has the most amazingly eclectic collection. Well, just follow the list of vehicles and tell me if you think that claim is exaggerated!

We were welcomed by the first vehicle, which was a 1962 DKW 75cc 2-stroke Auto Union Scooter French designed made Manuhrin – German engineered. The history of this scooter was to go into direct competition with Vespa. Manuhrin listened to their customers (mainly women) who would complain that they

would break their heels kick-starting their Vespas and they didn't like changing gears. Therefore Manuhrin created his scooter with a pull-start and automatic transmission.

However, Vespa continued to dominate the market. Believe me when I tell you that if it is not in concours condition, then it is mighty close. I am not a scooter type of person but you would have to be mean-spirited to not admire this vehicle! It is a beautiful combination of light green and tan leather seats. Truly beautiful!



We then went to what George calls his workshop, which was, as expected, very neat and then on to his real "toyshop". Now this is why the word 'eclectic' was invented! The first thing that catches your eye is a two stroke 1964 Lambretta 450, a three-wheeled sort of ute. It is only 175cc and it is supposed to be able to carry more than 20 bags of concrete. It is an immaculately turned-out vehicle in a great light grey colour. Be assured that a dirty bag of concrete will never end up in the

back tray. See it here and note the engine under the front seats. Just fantastic!

In case you thought that George just lives in the past ...well, no siree, as he next showed us his 1753cc V2 2018 Harley Davidson Breakout with a Stage 2.. It looks fantastic and a real savage beast . You would suspect that the scooters are nervous every time George starts this beast up as the scooters are no doubt worried that they could be sucked up in the intake as it looks truly that powerful.



The icing on George's automotive cake is a Fiat 500X. It is much more powerful and better handling than the usual Fiat 500. Remember I told you that George is a real family man ...take a look at the number plate ...MN00CH which was his late father-in-law's nickname. His name was Carmine, but when he was a boy he was named Caminooch, which means 'Little Carmine', then shortened to Minooch it stuck with him forever, and he loved the Cinquecento and

cherry trees.

Now on the way to the Lake Macquarie foreshore (his backyard), we see George's speedboat that he can easily slip into the water. In my opinion, George's middle names are 'Eclectic' and 'Not by Halves' and that goes for on the water too. George has recently bought an authentic Venetian Gondola. **Yes you read it right, a gondola!** He plans to row it around the lake. Can you imagine being one of his neighbours after a heavy drinking and partying night, waking up the next morning and





seeing a 11plus metre (37plus foot) Venetian gondola being rowed around in front of your bleary eyes! Have another drink! (The photo on the next page is the actual gondola!)



I asked George what his favourite car was, and he answered pretty quickly, that it was his 1979 Alfetta and he tells us that it went everywhere in great style. I asked him what his dream car would be and he put forward a Alfa Romeo Giulia Quadrifoglio ....a BMW M3 killer! Somehow I think we will be seeing this car very very soon.

### George's future Presidency

because he had attended the Lago di Mac event and thought the club seemed like it was a forward-thinking one. After he attended meetings he decided it was an easy-going club with passionate members. I asked why he accepted the president's position and he told me that he thought he could offer the group a person who takes responsibility and who doesn't do things by halves. He wants to respect the history of the club but to also take advantage of sponsorships, optimum use of social media and a generally more commercial approach eg potential tiered sponsorships such as from Ducati Central Coast and other local businesses.. He wants to try and incorporate a younger more youthful membership to give CIAO a sustainable future.



I am glad to have gotten an invitation to go to the Grasso household to allow me to better acquaint you with our new president, his family and his collection. He did tell me that he doesn't do things by halves ...and you better believe it .....and if you get an invitation to go to his family's house...take it!

CIAO

John Leeks

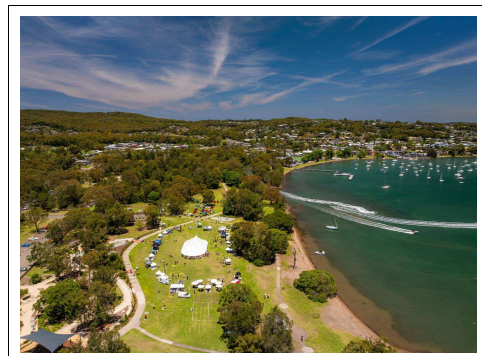
### *A few of the many Ferraris at Lago di Mac*



## Special Event: Lago di Mac: November 23-24

Where does one start ????? This was by far the best, most inclusive event that Newcastle has ever seen. There was something there for everyone, whether your passion was exotic cars, micro cars, motor cycles, scooters or food. And lets face it, who doesn't love authentic Italian food!

Or could it just be the sense of community and being together in such a fabulous setting as Lake Macquarie. You could have been forgiven thinking you were at a Concourse de Elegance on Lake Como.



Saturday was an experiment with the swap meet. Mixed emotions there, it's a great idea that needs development as I really feel that this will potentially take on its very own identity and hence I think the 'Lap of the Lake' will ride on the back of this (or drive).

The party afterwards was limited in numbers but for those attending, they were impressed with the spectacular setting as the sun went down and we had pizza and pastas and of course, the Peronis were being sunk faster than they could arrive. The

Bar was a huge success, over 100 pizzas sold and 14 cases of Peronis, just on Saturday night! I really hope the other clubs pick up the baton and get on the swap meet as it is the only one of its type in NSW. I personally had a very profitable day.

Sunday, true to its word, the sun shone brightly. Thank god for the massive marquee that always has the most impressive look of a serious event, seating over 350 people with tables and benches. And it was full most of the day.



A special thanks to the Italian Made Club, the Ferrari Sydney Club with a lot of help from Max Belmonte, AROCA Sydney, a great turn out from the Leichardt Vespa Club, with over 40 of them riding up (a huge effort! )and of course, CIAO. Without this club it would not be possible to host this event.

**The sponsors are so important and they really deserve our support: Electrodry, Belle Property, Koulis Smash Repairs, Transwest Insurance, UAA Insurance, Frazers Motorcycles, Shannon's Insurance, Di Lorenzo Tiles and Westlake Motors.**

3500 people attended the event and next year it should hit 5000. A special thanks to the Lake Macquarie Mayor Adam Schultz who gave out the trophies and for giving the event a real sense of importance.

It is hard to believe that what started as a COVID avoidance run has become the largest Italian event outside of Sydney. Ciao has achieved a goal that almost every car club would be jealous of. I really hope it goes on and grows as I think I left it in very capable hands and I wait in anticipation for 2025.

Yours proudly

Carlo and Wendy Rossi

**Keep an eye out in your email in-box for a special CIAO LAGO di MAC edition of the Newsletter in January 2025, which will have more member reports, photos and sponsor details.**



## Club Drive No 1: Sustainability Exhibition, Speers Point: September 21

On the 21st of September, Carlo Rossi, George Grasso and myself maned a stall kindly supplied to us by Lake Macquarie Council at their annual ECO Fest for the purpose of promoting Lago do Mac: Lap of the Lake.



The stall was a great success helped greatly by George's Lambro 450 which he kindly brought along. We had many kids (and some big 'kids') stopping to have a look, climbing in the back and the front to have photos, or just to sit behind the wheel of this unique little utility.

We gave out over 300 flyers and had many people say that they had been before to our Italian Festival and that they were keen to come again. There were quite a few with Italian heritage which left me in a bit of a pickle when

I was manning the stall by myself as the assumption was that I must speak Italian. Considering I was manning a stall for Italian festival it was a reasonable assumption.



Carlo was a powerhouse as he is in everything he does, gaining an extra donation from the council to read a story, appropriately enough 'Pinocchio' to a very select audience of kids.

All in all a very successful day as demonstrated by the amount of people we had turn up on the day of our own festival.

CIAO

Mark Brown

***The Italian Made Club made an impact at Lago di Mac! Thank you guys!***





## Club Drive No 2: Fast and Loud: September 20

The 2024 Fast and Loud Festival, hosted by the Lake Macquarie City Council, features a street parade, Offshore Superboat and Powerboat races, aerial displays by Redbull pilot Matt Hall and Classic Car displays.

There were five live sites around the Lake over the weekend, offering the best vantage points to watch the Powerboat and Superboat races and aerial display as well as featuring live music, roving entertainment, and food and market stalls.



The show included vintage, classic, custom, muscle, hot rods and motor bikes. I had never realised the extent of the festival. Held over two days, CIAO was represented on the Sunday by myself and Warren Buckingham, and, with a red Ferrari Testarossa, the only Italian cars sighted.



Apart from the Italian cars, two very different cars took my attention. Firstly, a red Porsche 930 Turbo 'Slantnose', one of the rarest and most sought-after of the 911 Series, first made available via the Sonderwunsch programme as an option. It is known in German as the Flachbau, literally translated as Slantnose or Flatnose as it is known in English.

The other was a 1955 Buick Riviera Hardtop, a true representative of mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century American luxury and style.

Just as interesting as the cars were some of the participant's stories. I've included just one below:

“One particular husband and wife couple, who had five cars, said they were going to sell this particular



Mercedes as they were no longer allowed to enter it in any club competitions as they always won!”

It was an interesting day and would benefit from a greater Italian presence.

CIAO

Steve Wines





## Club Drive No 3: FIAT 125 Year Anniversary: November 8-11

The Fiat 125 Rally, celebrated 125 years of FIAT. The company was formed on July 1, 1899 in Turin's Palazzo Bricherasio.

Roger Beattie, president of The Fiat Club of Victoria, organised the first event, celebrating Fiat, called the Fiat 123 Rally held in Bendigo in 2022. About 90 people attended and we all had a great time. It was decided to hold similar events every two years in different states.

This year it was arranged to hold the rally in Tuncurry, NSW. This time there were 160 people who attended, with 80 cars ranging from a 1928 Fiat 501 to a 2022 Fiat 500.

The event spreads across 3 days, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Really Friday should also be included too, as you were required to register on the Friday and pick up your goodies bag, which included your name badge.

Like any well oiled event, there was also merchandise to purchase. This was to help offset the cost of running the event. Laurel and I bought Fiat Tee Shirts. You can never have enough!

We had booked into the Reflections Caravan Park in Tuncurry along with many likeminded souls. This was a good spot because it was a 10 minute walk from the Tuncurry Bowling Club, where we joined 13 other participants for dinner.



Saturday was a clear sunny day and we all gathered at 'Event Central' for coffee and instructions for the day's run to Villa D'Esta, a local winery for a BBQ lunch. As there was a large variation in the speed of the cars, there was a short run and a long run. We chose the long run in the 2300S coupe which did the run effortlessly.

At the winery it was wall-to-wall Fiats and it was a good chance to have a closer look at them all. After lunch and with many photos taken and new friends made, it was time to head back to our accommodation for a rest before heading to John Wright Park at 6pm to gather under lights and display our cars. Most people left their cars there in the park and dispersed to the various eating establishments around the town.







Sunday was another clear and sunny morning. Once again we all met at Event Central before heading out for the day's run. Today we had several possible runs, but we decided to head straight to the Frothy Coffee Boatshed on Smith's Lake. Good coffee and cake, and a magic view of the lake. We stayed a bit longer than we should have and were a bit late getting to the Recky (Pacific Palms Recreation Club) for lunch. Parking was at a premium, the car park was full of Fiats.

That evening, we met up again at the Tuncurry Bowling Club for dinner as a group to tell stories of the weekend.

Monday was Remembrance Day, and although some had left early to head home, a small group joined the Remembrance Day ceremony before we headed home after another great weekend.

There were five CIAO Club members who attended  
 George & Mirella Grasso – Fiat 500X  
 Tony & Deanna Cassaniti – Fiat 2300 Familiare (Station Wagon)  
 Tom & Narelle Heard – Fiat 2300S Coupe  
 Robert Sbrana – Fiat OSCA  
 Warren & Laurel Buckingham – Fiat 2300S Coupe  
 (NB Cheeky advertising of Lago di Mac! KM)



The next event is to be held in Perth WA in 2026, I am not sure I will be going to this event,

CIAO

Warren and Laurel Buckingham





## Mid-Week Coffee Run No 1: Paterson Country Cafe: September 18



We had a beautiful Spring Day; bright, sunny, no breeze and our venue at Paterson was the Country Café. The café is situated at the intersection of Duke St and King St in Paterson and is a very hospitable venue for car & motor bike clubs that are touring from Maitland through to Dungog thence down to Clarence Town: all for a taste of the good life.

There were 14 people at our long table, which was placed on the viewing deck with views of the Paterson River and the surrounding valley, along with a resident Brown

Snake!

Did I say a brown snake?

Yes, however it was a good 3 metres below in the grass and our group just carried on chatting about other important car matters. The food & service was good and time got away from us; which underscores the benefits of these group runs/meetings.



There was some discussion (at our end of the table) that maybe we, as a Club, go back to having Club runs on a weekend to some interesting venues around the Hunter Valley (*and Central Coast: KM*). You know, we all meet at an identifiable landmark, say 10am, and when all have arrived, we set off to an interesting venue, have lunch etc. and return home in the afternoon. I'll bring this up at one of our future meetings for discussion.

Ciao.

Robert Booth.

## Mid-Week Coffee Run No 2: Mylo's, Caves Beach, October 30



It was a beautiful sunny morning that greeted us for our October Mid-week Coffee run to Milo's at Caves Beach. This was our second time coming here, it is one of my favourite venues for coffee runs. There are plenty of covered tables if the sun is too hot, and the view to the beach is uninterrupted.

Gladys and I arrived early to ensure we got the best undercover table and were quickly joined by Steve Mellor in his red Alfa

Romeo 2000GTV. We learnt this Alfa was bought new by his now 91 year old father, and it is now shared with Steve's two siblings. The car lives down near Lake Jindabyne, so hopefully we will see the car at Auto Italian in Canberra in April. It was good fortune that Steve was in the area coinciding with the Coffee Run.







Next to arrive were Wendy and Carlo Rossi, with son Sebastian in their 'silver duo': a Jaguar XKE and BMW 535. They were wondering who belonged to the Abarthe 500 which had mysteriously arrived. Warren and Laurel Buckingham and John Leeks arrived to make up our

party...or so we thought. The mystery of the Abarthe was solved when Dave Royston found us and introduced himself. Pleasingly he joined the club and came along to the November meeting. He will be a great addition to the club.

For many, myself included, it was the first sighting of John Leeks' Fiat 130 Coupe! What an amazing looking car. A number of cheeky Clubmembers had joked that this car didn't exist, but it was great to see it one the road.



It was a great chance to meet new members, as well as old, and I think Milo's will be a fairly regular destination for CIAO. KM

## For the diary.....





## Classifieds



For sale is this 1953 FIAT Nuova Millecento 1100-103 Sedan (Australian assembled) Owned by Glen Phillips (2006-2023), previously owned by Charlie Gugliotta, Ken Taylor....both Italian car enthusiasts.

Milage is an indicated 54,000 miles and the car underwent an engine overhaul in 2004, brakes, clutch, waterpump, wheel bearings and new tyres in 2007.



The car was originally grey but was repainted in sage green at least 30 years ago. Some rust repairs were carried out before a major repaint in 2010, The interior is in good condition and is largely original.



The car is on the Western Australian equivalent of Historic Registration and has done very few miles since 2007. The car was located in Albany by Charlie Gugliotta around 1994 where it was part of the Ken Taylor collection. Before then it was possibly in Perth



Please contact **Craig Phillips** initially on **0429970207** for more information and photos. The car belongs to his father, and it is in Perth. Asking price is \$15,000.





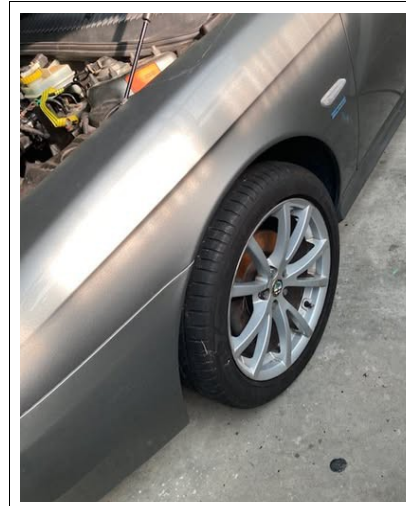
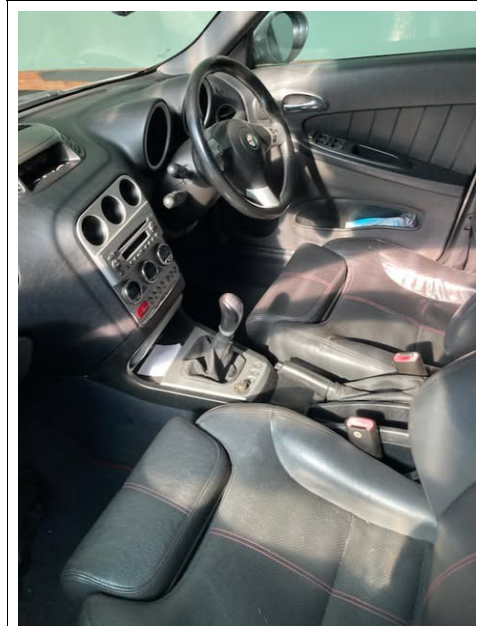
**For sale** is my 2009 Alfa Romeo 159 Sportswagon. Diesel, 6 speed automatic, 2 previous owners, 97000 km. It has full logbook service history, along with all manuals and 2 key fobs. Having to sell to fund a classic car purchase. Looking for \$9,500. **Phone Craig on 0429970207**





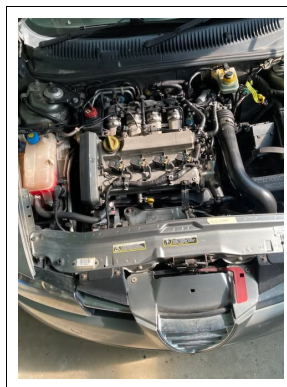
**MAKE AN OFFER:** For sale is my 2004 Alfa Romeo 156ti JTS, 5 Speed Manual gearbox,

140,000kms, I am the second owner. The car has lowered Eibach suspension, had a new clutch and master cylinder fitted approximately 40,000kms ago, new front suspension, new thermostat, new timing belts at 110,000kms (8 years ago) and four new oxygen sensor. The car has full leather interior in very good condition, a reconditioned air conditioning compressor and new front Pioneer speakers. The car is unregistered with a suspected 'dead' Catalytic Converter and the Pirelli 225x45x15 have about 50% wear.



Car is also advertised elsewhere.

**Phone Greg on 0411 405 024**





## Checklist for organising a CIAO Event

With more and more people organising CIAO events, the following list of 'dos and don'ts' is based on a document previously devised by Laurel Buckingham to assist in this.

There are three types of events:      permanent calendar items, eg Auto Italia, Euro Motofest, Lago di Mac  
   Mid-week Coffee Runs  
   Weekend drives

### Mid-week Coffee runs:

- select a venue for the event, usually Wednesday and check with the Event Coordinator for a suitable date.
- check with the proposed venue that they are open on Wednesdays, and if so, make a tentative booking for around 12 people
- confirm numbers closer to the actual day
- the editor of the Newsletter appreciates a written report, preferably more than 3 sentences and remember. It earns 5 points towards the end of year trophy, presented at the Birthday Lunch.

### Weekend runs:

- select a destination and discuss with the Event Coordinator a suitable date
- if there is a drive (convoy), where is the meeting place and time, and is there ample parking and toilets
- what is the departure time and estimated arrival time at the final destination for those who are going straight there
- event destination:
  - if a **picnic area**, is there a BBQ, and if so, is it electric or gas and does it need money to operate.
  - are there chairs and tables, or do we need to bring our own and are there toilets
  - if a **restaurant or café**, it is best to make for an initial booking for 12, and confirm a more exact number closer to the day
- what is the state of the roads ie sealed, dirt and road conditions to take note of.
- the editor of the Newsletter appreciates a written report, preferably more than 3 sentences and remember. It earns 5 points towards the end of year trophy, presented at the Birthday Lunch.

## Suggestions for writing a report for the Newsletter

If you are writing a report of a CIAO event, some of the following suggestions I found in Amatori Alfa (the AROCA magazine, who borrowed it from their Victorian counterparts) may help. They have been modified somewhat to suit our events and you don't need to answer all questions. They are suggestions only and don't worry too much about spelling, punctuation or continuity. You have to make the Editor earn his huge salary.....

- Event name and description (eg Club run, Mid-week coffee run)
- Place, destination (if applicable), date, time and duration of the event
- Weather details
- Food: menu, cuisine eg Italian, seafood, coffee and cake
- Most interesting car/cars in your opinion (why, model, colour, type, year, features)
- Did anything interesting, funny, noteworthy happen during the event?
- What did you like about the day/event?
- Tell us about your car and the day (the drive there, did you get lost, run late, get booked, company etc)
- Photos: of people (if seated at tables, better with plates of food, rather than the mess of finished meals and drinks)
  - : plates of food only if interesting
  - : menu, the view, the building and external signs
  - : of the cars (very important!)

KM

Remember: organising an event give you 5 points towards the Perpetual Trophy, a report (of more than 3 lines) also gives you 5 points.

## TORANA FEST MAITLAND Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Something a bit different!

Deb and I talked about attending this event a few weeks prior, but with all the rain leading up to the Torana Fest, we thought it may be postponed/cancelled. However according to information on 2NURFM it was going on regardless of weather.



For people that don't know where we live, our backyard backs on to a reserve, about 200 metres or so we have a section of Morpeth Road, The Saturday before the display was just a constant flow of Toranas: 4 doors, 2 doors SLR's, XU1's heading to the historic village of Morpeth for a look around and taking in the sites of Maitland, which was a cruise organized as part of the weekend by the Hunter Valley Torana Club.

Sunday morning was sunny and windy, with scattered cloud scooting across the blue sky. We arrived at Maitland Park around 10AM and as we were expecting, finding a park was difficult. However, if you were prepared to walk for a couple of minutes there were plenty around.

The Hunter Valley Torana Club must be congratulated, with around 450 vehicles on display, the logistics in organizing the park was very well laid out as well as having the sponsorship in place. There were some very special cars, some very original, some restored, some actual barn finds and left as found (just made safe to drive), race cars, lookalike race cars, cars that both Deb and I scratched our heads and said why (the reply was because I can) and in some cases they were advertising their business.



This was one of our favorites, completely original and I think only 2 owners. I think the colour was called Aquarius, 6-cylinder 3 speed auto SL. I had one similar as a demo at one stage. There were quite a few unmolested Toranas on display including a proper barn find LJ Torana complete with the surface rust just treated so it didn't spread, that was a 2850 6-cylinder column auto.

In my early days I was a car salesman and was a caretaker of some very nice cars, such as an SLR 5000 4 door, an SLR 5000 A9X hatchback finished in my favorite colour yellow, an LJ GTR, plus more from the General!

Apart from the General I also worked for Chrysler and also had some very nice demos. Some memorable ones were a 6-cylinder White Knight Charger. I also managed a caryard for the while the manager was on holidays for a few weeks. From memory, this came with a V8 White Knight Charger both finished in the dark red.

Whilst working for Cessnock Motors, I met Allan Grice on a couple of occasions, this was as the LH Toranas were taking over from the XU1. This car was built by David Mclean from Maitland Performance Centre, and is now owned by David, I used to take my Alfas to David for specialist tuning. I caught up with David and yarned about the days at Cessnock Motors.

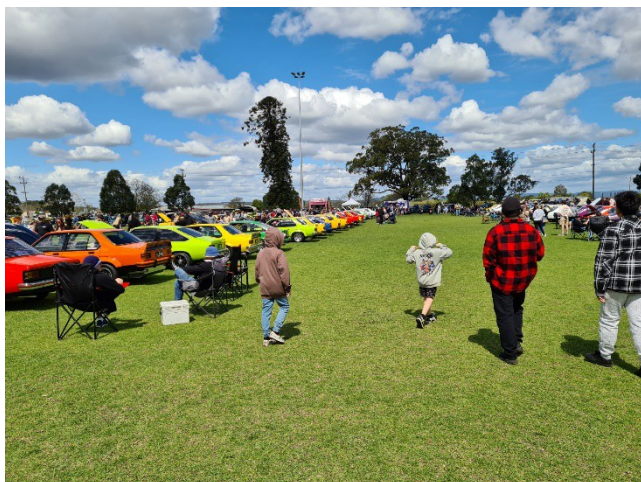




This was a very interesting and enjoyable day and a nostalgic trip down memory lane for both of us, walking amongst the cars saying I drove one of those, and one of those and also one of those.

CIAO

Michael and Deb Johnson.



*Buon Natale e auguri per un felice 2025*