

# C.I.A.O.



## WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023

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## President's Report

Busy, busy, busy! I can't remember where the last couple of months have gone. Having just passed through, according to my children, a significant 'senior' birthday, I, as many retirees wonder...."where did I ever find time to work?" Like many Seniors, the suggestion that I would be "at a loose end" hasn't materialised and I'm busier than ever!

Mind you, I am not unhappy, but I guess if there was a slight frustration, it was the determination and surety made of my New Year's pledge....set aside one day a week to work on the classic car, It's now August and I'm three days in on the Sprint. I've done a few sums and it (the Sprint) should be ready for Auto Itala in 2030. The solution? It's for sale. Exciting with it gone I'll focus on the 1750 Berlina.....wait a minute, I've still got the same problem, just a different classic.



In my absence, the CIAO Anniversary Luncheon at Murray's Beach was very successful. A big thank you once again to organisers Deb and Mike Johnson. Giro di Inverell is later this month and I, with a small contingent of CIAO members, will be enjoying the backroads to the high country, probably with heaters on!

Finally, the Tonale, the new Alfa compact SUV. I am curious about this new Alfa, but I'm really struggling to work out its place in the automotive world. It's a mild hybrid...a what? I'd be really happy if someone could help me to understand this.

Maybe a spot from a more tech-savvy member at the next Spanner and Torque would add some clarity.

Ciao for now,

Greg



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**YOUR NEXT APPOINTMENT** .....

## A word from the Editor

Welcome to the 2023 Winter edition of the CIAO Newsletter.

Can I firstly encourage you to read Coda (Page 26) where I have repeated what I wrote last issue, asking people to say what they want from their Newsletter. So far, I have had three verbal responses! I guess nil response means you are all happy (?).

There were some interesting Club Runs recently, starting-off with Louis and Janelle's very well organised **Lap of the Lake**. A large contingent of members represented the Club at this year's **Euro Motorfest**, the Italian presence made more impressive with the guys from the Italian Made Social Motoring Club. And speaking of well-organised, Deb and Michael Johnson maintained the very high standard they set last year for the **2023 Birthday Luncheon** at Murray's Beach.



Laurel Buckingham continues to find great destinations for our **Mid-week Coffee runs**, and John Leeks continues his series of **Meet the Member**. This edition's victim.....I mean subject, is new member Craig Phillips and Family.

Finally, the Organising Committee for **the 2023 Lago di Mac** (to be held on December 3) received great news last month. Lake Macquarie City Council will again be a sponsor of the event.

Thank you to Warren and Laurel Buckingham, John Leeks, Greg Crow, Amy Osborne, Carlo Rossi and Louis Ippolitto for their written and photographic contributions to this Newsletter. KM

Photo: (right) July's Monthly Meeting was well attended and a lively affair!



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## A Winter Run: Inverell, August 18-20.

**“CIAO GIRO DI INVERELL”** Friday 18th to Sunday 20th August 2023

Club President Greg Crow and member John Greco have organised a great three day drive to the Northern Tableland's town of Inverell, passing through some of the most scenic country in NSW. **If you are reading this you are invited** ie current and past members and friends. The itinerary is as follows:

### Friday 18/8/2023

- meet at 7.30am at the Pacific Highway 12 Mile Rest Area, north of Heatherbrae
- head up The Bucketts Way for breakfast, comfort stop and refuel in scenic **Gloucester** (right)
- continue into high country on scenic roads to Carson's Lookout for a short stretch of the legs
- next sees us travel to **Uralla** (pictured below) for lunch at the Alternate Root Café



- after lunch we're off and through Bundara to a catch-up point and from Bundara head to Inverell to our 4 star accommodation (the RSM Motel) with off-street parking
- gather for dinner. We walk next door for that.

### Saturday 19/8/2023

- gather in motel forecourt for short walk to café for breakfast.
- back to our cars and head out of town on a country drive to Myall Creek Homestead (below) for morning coffee and a talk about the property's history with free time to roam the house and yards
- continue by car to a memorial dedicated to the site of a little-known massacre



- next destination is The National Transport Museum Inverell (left), a huge indoor motor museum. Lunch will be on offer and plenty of time to check out the vast and most interesting vehicles and memorabilia.
- after the Museum, free time then walk to dinner at the Sapphire Chinese Restaurant



### Sunday 20/8/2023

- gather in motel forecourt for short walk to Freckles Café for breakfast
- pack up and move out. Bob's Shed Quirindi is the next stop (right). A collection and display of car memorabilia and historic artefacts, not all car related. You will be impressed with what you find here. There will be a BBQ lunch with assorted salads and sides plus dessert and bottomless coffee/tea/hot chocolate!
- after this visit we say CIAO to the weekend's adventures and friends and make our own way home at your own pace.



### Things to note...

- \* Most importantly the "CHANGE OF DATE" from the initial flyer issued at the April meeting.
- \* Motel rooms have been set aside for CIAO. We have booked for what we anticipate. If we have a large group we still have wriggle room. But don't leave it too late or you may have to find your own accommodation.
- \* Meals, cafés and restaurants have also been booked and will cater for extras.
- \* Motel room price may vary according to your needs eg single, queen, special access etc.

We need numbers for this event, preferably sooner rather than later, to secure bookings. Please advise CIAO Event Registrar Laurel Buckingham if you are interested.

Questions? Call the organisers:  
John Greco Ph: 0402481955 OR  
Greg Crow Ph: 0423324744



## Lago di Mac '23: Update.

After the huge success of the 2022 Lago di Mac, a committee made-up of enthusiastic C.I.A.O. members, are now busily preparing the 2023 event.

Carlo Rossi has written the following to keep members and friends up to date with current plans. Over to you Carlo.....

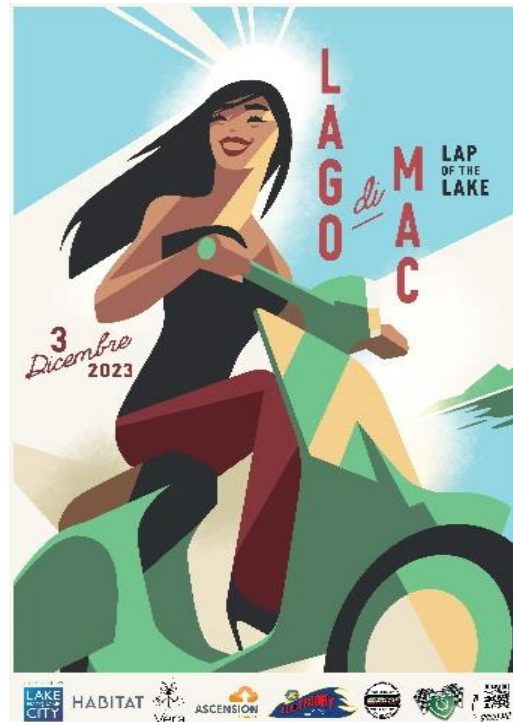
On the shores of lovely Lake Macquarie (Thomas Halton Park) we officially invite you and your club to join us for an All Italian Day Out! There will be displays of cars, bikes, numerous stalls with Italian food and delicacies and live entertainment for the whole family.

Held in conjunction with the Major sponsor LMCC (Lake Macquarie City Council) on Sunday December 3, this a great day out for the whole family. There are prizes and trophies for the cars and bikes. Judging will be done by Shannon's and C.I.A.O. (Combined Italian Auto Organisation) for Best of Brand and Best of Show.

There will be many other activities and curiosities: live music, Soccer star demonstrations, clowns, the lot.

So, bring the whole family and enjoy a piece of Italy on Lago di Mac (Lake Macquarie). Also, we have extensive cover (large marquees) should the weather not cooperate.

For further details and interest please email me on [Info@gdp.net.au](mailto:Info@gdp.net.au) Carlo Rossi (0412494094)





## ...every Aussie Girl needs one too!

All my life I have lived with that word **SHED**. As a child we had fowl sheds, feed sheds, egg sheds, cleaning sheds and tool sheds. When I married our first shed was a rather long garage beside the house in Picton, In Campbelltown we had 'sheds' (garages) under the house, up the backyard, under the window and a slab out the front which was a tarp shed.

Retirement at Bargo was different. Up went the shed first, followed by the house, followed by more sheds, a carport and then containers to accommodate a vast collection of collectables that had been adoringly cuddled over a period of thirty odd years.

Retired or not, every man **MUST** have a shed – women understand this. Somewhere to escape! Somewhere to wear old gear, which always includes an old hat, to just tinker, or sit and think. Somewhere to haul motors in and out of cars and do the odd spray job. It doesn't matter if it stinks of fumes, reeks of old oil, has gluggy dirt-coated greasy bits, ready to grab you when you walk by.

The Shed must have bits to hang from the roof, drape from the walls, corners to tuck away 'jewellery' or 'collectables' or even the odd paint tin, and they **MUST** have an assortment of tyres. Most seem to like their shed bigger than Texas and twice as oily.

Now, all wives understand this. They don't complain when the 'shed junkies' disappear all day. They just supply the odd cuppa for the endless old buffs who stagger in and out of the shed, looking, digesting, and talking vehicles. They take the endless phone calls re cars and bits when the old fella is out at swaps or meetings and she also shuffles the stack of accumulated car and motor magazines.

I have waited for years for **MY SHED**, and now at last I have it. It's pretty, it's clean, it's orderly, it's feminine, and boys are definitely a No No. It's **MINE**. I love it. Ladies, if you are still waiting, hang in there. Surely it is now time to think of a few devious ideas like cleaning out a prime corner of The Shed for your own use, or even take over the work bench and set up your paints, craft, pottery, sewing machine, and so on. Chuck out a few bits you look on as tip material and make your stand in that spot. See how quickly you get a good result! Good Luck.

**Joan Quarmby**

*From 'Australian Heritage Motoring News', March 1999, spotted by Laurel Buckingham*

### The Sheddies



## Birthday Lunch: Murray's Beach, July 23.

Murray's Beach was the destination for our 17<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations event. The Restaurant is situated in the picturesque tree studded shoreline just south of Swansea, Lake Macquarie.

We celebrated our 17<sup>th</sup> birthday with a total of 25 members. Again we almost filled the restaurant. Set high



amongst the tree canopy, it commands a

fantastic view across the Lake to Point Woolstencroft and Gwandalan.

The outlook for the weather was unpredictable, cool with showers and sunshine forecast. As we were seated inside, this was not a problem.

Once again, the food was a delight, staff excelled themselves, everything prepared to perfection, table

service and staff's willingness to help just added to the enjoyment for all.

At this point we all must thank Deb for the exceptional organisation skills and the little birthday cakes, with table name tag. Also having what each person ordered so, settling the



account we just too take the tag up add the extras and pay, no confusion, easy! that just added to the day and made it easier for everyone.

A big shout out to Warren and Laurel for their fine organising skills with the Clubman ship award, this was a huge task to take on, accumulating the points for each member for

each event or for organising an event, contributing to our newsletter. A big thank you. We also had some lucky door prizes donated by Phil and Bec, that added to the day's celebrations and fun.





The 2022/2023 co-award winners are Keith Mitchell and Gladys, well deserved, great job. A special thanks to John Leeks our happy snapper for taking photos of the event. An overwhelming response from members who attended our 16<sup>th</sup> birthday was, we do it Murrays for our 17<sup>th</sup>, So, for the club's 18<sup>th</sup> do we do it Murrays again next year? We will keep that in mind!

Once again thanks again to everyone who attended and especially to Deb for all her hard work, Warren and Laurel, Phil and Bec, John and the staff at Murrays who once again were very accommodating.



Michael and Deb.



## Club Drive No 1: Louis and Janelle's Lap of the Lake. May 7

I was asked by our editor, Keith Mitchell, to give a rundown on "Lap of the Lake" which was run on Sunday 7th May 2023. Well, here goes.....

After the weather bureau forecast a rainy morning, luckily their call was wrong again. It was a glorious morning with the lake surface glistening and no wind to speak of. Both Janelle and I got to Toronto Foreshore Park early and set up under the covered pergola.

With our favourite Italian (mainly Sicilian) songs on full volume, we decorated the area with Italian flags and our colourful bunting (left over from Lago di Mac). Janelle then set up our Italian inspired morning tea and we waited for the gang.



It must have looked impressive as we were continually 'horn-beeped' from passing cars and also some colourful language was heard carried on the breeze.

Members attending were Louis & Janelle: Alfa Romeo 159 (Rosso, of course!), Leigh & Lynn (our ring-in friends): 1966 Mustang Fastback (Grey), Keith Mitchell and Gladys (his dog): Alfa Romeo GT1600Junior (Maroon), Warren &

Laurel: Fiat 1900 (Grey/Maroon), Mort & Elaine: Alfa Romeo GTV (Maroon), Greg Crow: Moto Guzzi, Steve & Sue Wines: (usually push bikers but today Alfa Romeo 1982 Giulietta (Rosso), John & Una: Alfa Romeo Stelvio (Rosso).

Members chomped away on Janelle's home-made yummy fruit cake, lemon meringue tarts, veggie frittatas, and caponata on crostini. Yum yum and more yum! These delights were washed down with steaming hot cappuccinos, long blacks, short blacks and even a piccolo from across the road at Casa Nova. Conversations were about old times, upcoming events....and our aches and pains!

Time to head off to Lake Mac Museum of Art and Culture at Booragul. Luckily we secured parking where all our cars were lined up! What an impressive sight.

We wandered inside and our most informative guide showed us the finalists of the 2022 Archibald Exhibition. Funny how our Club members soon became art experts and by the end of the tour were seen judging the works! We saw the \$100K winner's entry, the Packers Pick, however the winner of The Ciao Choice award was James Powditch's portrait of Laura Tingle titled The Fourth Estate. Simply stunning!





Back at the cars, co-drivers (including Gladys) were handed a quiz sheet for special points of interest along the way. We set off in convoy passing through Speers Point, Warners Bay, Eleebana, Valentine and Belmont, all the time looking at the changing views of Lake Mac as we sped by. At Belmont, we turned right onto the Pacific Highway and headed south through Pelican, Swansea and then swung left and meandered through the historic village of Catherine Hill Bay. The untouched miner's cottages there still looked as if they had been built yesterday.

Back on the highway, we unleashed our classics up to 80kph and luckily all made it to our final destination, La Notte Uno (translation The One Night) restaurant. We arrived at the venue and lined our cars up on the grass verge adjoining the Pacific Highway. What a stunning sight with our polished-up cars looking the Italian part.

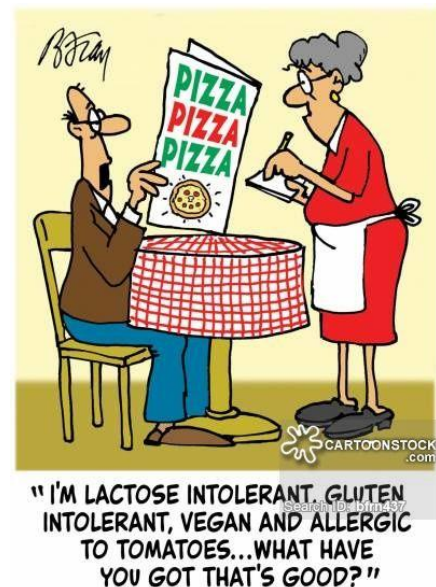


Once inside our host Tony brought us meals that you would regularly find in the south of Italy. Members ate, drank and were very merry until time overtook us and Tony hinted that we should be on our way.

Members were asked and all agreed it was a super day out!

Let's do it again soon.

Louis









## Club Drive No 2: Tilligerry Motorama, Sunday, May 21.

The Tilligerry Motorama is held every year and is organised by the Tilligerry Auto Club, all proceeds were shared between the John Hunter Paediatric Oncology Unit and Scone and District CWA.

There is always a strong turnout for this event, especially for American and Australian Musclecars. In contrast to last year's event, where there was a strong CIAO presence, this year there were few Italian cars there. Possibly this was because it was squashed between the popular Lap of the Lake and the Mid-week Coffee run to Belmont. Nevertheless the ever reliable Warren B was there with his beautiful 2300S Coupe, and slightly left field, the Ford F150 of Adam Collins



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### TILLIGERRY Motorama

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**SUNDAY, MAY 21 2023**  
RSL Grounds, Lemon Tree Passage Rd, Tanilba Bay

**ENTRANCE FEES** – Exhibitors: \$10 per vehicle. Public: \$2 per person.  
**GATES OPEN** 7am. **JUDGING & TROPHY PRESENTATION** 1pm.  
**RAFFLE DRAWS** 1.15pm. **NB** no exit until after Trophy Presentation.  
For more information please email: [events@tilligerryautoclubinc.com](mailto:events@tilligerryautoclubinc.com)

**ON THE DAY...**  
Music provided by 100.9 Port Stephens FM.  
Great food, coffee and beverages. Rights reserved.

**RAFFLE WITH FANTASTIC PRIZES...**  
Fuel cards (3 individual prizes) to the value of \$1,250, \$750 and \$500 to be won!

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TILLIGERRY Motorama, Club Lemon Tree, 100.9 FM, John Hunter Children's Hospital, TILLIGERRY Auto Club

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Spotted also was a very nice red Alfa Romeo Giulietta, adding a little Italian colour to the event. Thank you to Warren and Adam for representing the club and for John Leeks and Shane Godwin for providing moral support.

KM





## Club Drive No 3: Euro Motorfest, Newcastle, June 18.

This annual event is organised by the Hunter Region MGCC and attracts hundreds of European vehicles, many from Sydney, and is an event not to be missed.

The event this year was held on Sunday June 18 at Newcastle Foreshore Park. CIAO members started assembling from approximately 8:30am, some a little earlier and some a little latter. We even had members from the Italian Made Social Motoring Club join us.



Maseratis, it was a good display. We even scored a new member, Ian Wingfield in his beautiful red Lancia Montecarlo.



The following members helped make it a great day. Phil & Bec Hitchcock, Louis Ippolito, Brent Blackwell, Robert & Jann Booth, Greg & Sharon Crow, Keith Mitchell, John Leeks, Mort Shearer, Col & June Stewart, David & Judy Hynes and Steve Wines....plus Gladys and Blue.

**Euro Motorfest 2023**  
**Sunday 18th June**  
 From 8.30am to 1.30pm  
 Display Vehicle entry fee \$10.00  
**Newcastle Foreshore Park**  
 Wharf Road, Newcastle East

Food & Drinks available  
 For more info call Andrew Gowans 0425 204 762  
**All European Marques Welcome!**  
 Please register your club's attendance by emailing [public\\_relations@huntermg.com](mailto:public_relations@huntermg.com)  
 In the event of wet weather the alternative date is Sunday 25th June  
 See also <https://www.huntermg.com/event/euro-motorfest-2023/>

Presented by MGCC Hunter Region  
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HUNTER MGCC REGION

As usual there were hundreds of European cars parked on the grounds. Our club had a good display of Italian cars and when combined with the IMSMC and three





By 3pm it was all over, with just a few stragglers left behind.

Warren and Laurel.



We have a convoy! Members of Italian Made Social Motoring Club line up at Ourimbah Rest Stop to join CIAO in Newcastle.



## Mid-Week Coffee Run No 1: Belmont 16S Sailing Club. May 31

For our first Mid-week Coffee Run Laurel chose a perfect spot, the Belmont 16 Footer Sailing Club. I know just weeks previously we all drove past this club when on Louis' Lap of the Lake, but I hadn't registered the size of this building. When coming from the opposite direction, its size becomes very evident. What a perfect situation!



I arrived to find Warren and Laurel already in the carpark with Brett and nary an Italian vehicle in sight. At least the Renault is from a neighbouring country.



We four made our way to the dining room, admiring the view.....after admiring the cakes. Wow! Such a choice! June and Col arrived soon after so a quorum was achieved. Greg then turned up in his full leather ensemble...and yes, an Italian bike! Finally!



John Horvath arrived (senza Pantera) and we enjoyed our coffee, wonderful cakes and the picture-perfect view. It was hard to think it was Winter, but a pleasant change from the recent wet years.

Thanks again to Laurel for organising another great coffee run.  
KM





## Mid-Week Coffee Run No 2: Mawson Restaurant, Caves Beach. June 28

I think there were quite a few CIAO members nervously checking the BOM weather site in the days leading up to our Mid-week Coffee Run to Caves Beach. A few weeks previously I had driven there to check out Milo's, a café right on the beach. It was a picture-perfect, calm sunny Winter's day, typical of the 2023 Winter. The long-range forecast looked good, so I thought a perfect venue, especially as dogs would be able to join us.

However, as we drew closer to the 28<sup>th</sup>, the weather system that threatened to bring snow to Uluru was heading our way! So Plan B was actioned to the much warmer Mawson Restaurant, just up the road, where we had had our September '22 Coffee run.



The day arrived, the temperature predicted was a balmy 12 degrees, rain forecast for late morning. Back on the Central Coast Gladys was already strapped into the back of the Alfa when a heavy shower arrived so a decision was made (reluctantly) to leave the Alfa at home. On arrival at Mawsons, one's attention was drawn immediately to the sight of a beautiful red Lancia Monte Carlo, owned by new member Ian.

The restaurant was nice and warm and the young staff greeted us in their usual friendly manner. The roll-up was impressive considering the weather: Bec Hitchcock was first to arrive, followed by new member Ian Wingfield and myself. Other attendees were Craig Osbourne, June and Col Stewart, Greg Crow, Andrew Horvath, Warren and Laurel Buckingham, Una and John Greco, David and Judy Hynes with 2



*Breakfast? Lunch? Brunch!*



apologies. Possibly owing to the weather, there wasn't the usual array of Italian machinery parked in the vicinity of Mawsons. There was the aforementioned Lancia, plus the

Hitchcock's Fiat, Greg's Giulietta and the lovely Stelvio of John and Una.

The consensus was that, as usual, the food, coffee and atmosphere was first rate, demonstrated by the fact that the staff had to (politely) ask people to move on.



Luckily, the rain held off long enough for people to get home before the really bad weather arrived. Caves Beach is always a popular spot for CIAO Mid-week Coffee Runs, and the more predictably warmer weather of Spring may be a good time to try Milo's. KM



### Mid-Week Coffee Run No 3: Jules by the Lake. July 19

Weather-wise the day turned out better than expected. The forecast was overcast and cool with the chance of showers. Instead we got a reasonably nice day.



This was our first visit to Jules by the Lake, located at Rathmines, where we were well looked after by the staff. We had a good turnout of 11 members: June and Col Stewart, Bec Hitchcock, David and Judy Hynes, Cheryl Symonds, Lee MacKenzie,





Greg Crow, Keith Mitchell and Gladys and Warren and Laurel Buckingham. A big welcome back to Cheryl and Lee.



After breakfast for some, and coffee and cakes for others, we drove up to the foreshore near the Catalina Memorial for some group photos.

Another excellent day! Warren and Laurel



History buffs will recognise the reference to the Catalina Reserve. It was here in Rathmines where the Catalina planes were based. They are in the process of restoring one now. If you are interested in reading more, click on the following link.

[Rathmines Catalina Association - 'Our Girl' Catalina PBY-5A \(rathmines-catalina.com\)](http://rathmines-catalina.com)





## A Member's Profile: Craig Phillips and Family

.....interviewed by our intrepid reporter at large, John Leeks.

Early on Saturday, July 8 we headed out to Hebden (approximately 35kms past Singleton) to visit the farm of Craig Phillips, one of our newer members. Keith Mitchell, Shane Godwin and I headed off to meet Craig, his wife Helen and daughter Jonee at their Alpaca Farm ...oh, and to see their collection of Alfes. Son Wade was at work, who is now also a member of CIAO.



I must say that I, at least, was as interested in the alpacas as the Alfes (yes, I know, wash my mouth out!). I didn't know what to expect, but I had met Craig briefly at a CIAO Monthly Meeting and he seemed a very quiet sort of guy.



We got to his farm around 10am and boy! the area around his farm is very dry. Craig explained that they have had little rainfall in the last 6 months. Anyhow, apart from his wife and daughter we were greeted by their big German Shepherd rescue Archie, and a herd of around 100 alpacas and 25 chickens. I just find them all weirdly lovable creatures. Sort of like midget camels, to which they are related. They have big eyes and are gentle

too. There are two types on the farm Suri and Huacaya. All I know is the chubby ones are more like a tall sheep and the other type are skinnier. I bet the makers of those Alfes never thought they would end-up near an alpaca in Australia!



Craig told us that the fleece from his alpacas is of superfine quality and often used for the material in high-end Italian suits and fabrics. He told us it easily matches the best wool from sheep. The other bonus is that they are soft hooved and so

they don't damage the soil like sheep and cattle. Makes you wonder why alpacas haven't replaced them completely. And in case you wanted to know, they don't spit at you. Only llamas do that!



### Craig's Cars

There is no shortage of cars in the Phillips' household. We first came across the spares





car, the red 159. Next we were introduced to Helen's red 159 while Craig's black 159 was on loan to a friend. Wade was at work in his Mazda Ute, under cover was his beautiful 1998 GTV. There was also Jonee's Hyundai and the float for transporting the alpacas!

And that's only the cars he has at home!

Craig's first car was a 1968 Mazda 1500SS. At least it was designed by



the Italian designer Bertone. He reckons that it was a good car, and the Italian styling still looks good today (even though Jonee laughed at what us oldies think looks good). It was known around Scarborough (WA) as the blue smoke car because someone forgot to replace the valve guides. Craig's mother blew the car up by running it without oil.

You may be wondering when the Italian cars come into the equation. Well, his dad (pictured right) bought an Alfa GT Junior in 1980 and Craig learnt to drive in this car. (The Alfetta pictured Craig owned for 22 years) His love of Alfas came when he accompanied his father to a Hill Climb Competition at Roleystone. He was mightily impressed with how the Alfa went against what seemed like much more powerful V8 cars, so he bought a "smick" di peso leggero 1970 Alfa Giulia Super. Smick didn't refer to the engine however, so Craig replaced the original engine with a 1750 engine from a Berlina. He



reckons it went really well, but of course there were some downsides. (The previous owner had lost the grub screws out the door and window handles so they would regularly fall off. If the rear passenger needed to get out or wind the window down, Craig would grab one from the console and pass it over. When he started going out with his then girlfriend (now wife) a teacher,

he told us about how the hole in the rubber boot around the floor mounted peddles would allow a stream of water in. Unfortunately, Craig hadn't let Helen know and when a large puddle was hit a speed, the water had not only wet her dress, the back window was covered! A teacher going to school with mud all over her dress is not a good look, yet she still married him!



When we were talking to Craig it was becoming obvious that his father Glen, a life member of AROCA WA, inspired his love of Italian cars (he had many). The photo on the right is one of his dad's cars in special livery. This car had 250 horsepower and ran on Avgas and tarmac rallied ...often.



### **Most Terrible car owned by Craig**

It is customary when writing these articles to ask which was the worst car the interviewee has owned. Usually, the member we are highlighting has to think about it...BUT NOT in this case. Craig responded within a millisecond that the worst car was definitely a bright green Holden Torana SUNBIRD UC with the big bore 1900cc engine. It was so gutlessly unreliable. Eventually he had to put a Weber on and even then, it is still the most gutless car he remembers driving.

I didn't want to ask any more questions about this SUNBIRD as I was worried Craig might blow his phu phu valve thinking about that car. Even Helen, looked pained talking about it! We all laughed at their recollections. We especially laughed when he told us that he had a friend with Ford Falcon 351 cubic inch engine that gave much better fuel consumption.

### **Tell us about the incredible powered car**

Well, he told us the red 1970 Giulia Super with the 1750 motor was a great and powerful car. He says that the engine was strong and the amount of rust that fell off it meant that it was much lighter! So it went like the clappers...

### **Craig's favourite car**

As well as all the cars on the farm, Craig still has a number of cars scattered around the countryside, including his favourite, the 1969 white Giulia Super, which is in Sydney at the moment.



Craig does much of the work himself which means that he is a busy person after his work at the Mangoola Coal Mine and work to do on the farm. Recently he replaced the power steering hoses on his 159. I asked him if he has any projects on the go. Well, with Craig it's a question of all the geographic locations where his projects are!!! He has cars in Perth and in Sydney. This is mostly due to his work on mining sites taking him all around Australia. But the project that brings a rosy glow to his cheeks is the chance to take control of his father's Lancia Zagato. We did say that his father has big interest in Italian cars.

### **His favourite Italian car**

I am so happy to report that Craig's favourite Italian car is a Lamborghini Miura ...Oh yes siree, I agree with him. However, Keith didn't agree, as it doesn't have 4 doors!!!! Craig said



it was just an iconic car that still looks as modern today as it did in 1966...Craig never said a truer word... even though his daughter, Jonee, laughed at the old looking car...bloody hell!

### **What does Craig like about being a CIAO member?**

He likes the easy-going nature of the club and the fact that CIAO covers all makes of Italian cars and bikes and not just Alfas. He looks forward to participating in the Club runs and talking with like-minded members with a range of Italian cars. In fact, he intends to go on the upcoming Inverell trip.

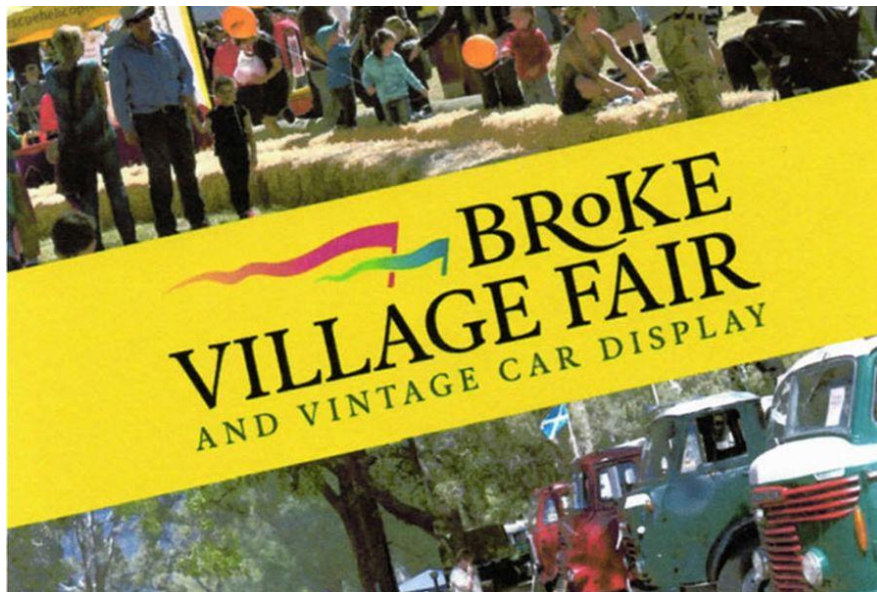
If the hospitality shown to us by Craig, Helen and Jonee is anything to go by, it will be fantastic to have him and his family as fellow members. We had a great time (right) eating freshly made scones (with fresh cream and jam) talking about our motoring adventures and dreams. When you think about it, cars and bikes can really bring together people from diverse backgrounds and have a great time as we did at the Phillips' farm.



Footnote: for those who want to know a little more about alpacas, one fleece will make 4-5 balls of yarn...which is the equivalent of 6 beanies! Below is pictured some of Helen's home spun and hand made products! Amazing!



For the diary.....



9AM to 3PM, Sunday September 10, 2023





## Classifieds



November 1983 built GTV with approx. 267,000km from new and under 20,000 since rebuilt some 7 years ago. This wonderful example of a GTV is quite special as it was purchased late 2014 from (Il Presidente) Greg's brother at a car show at Tomago. It has all receipts and original manuals and handbooks and all services from new and lived most of its life in a garage in Armidale. It is one of the first models with the hot dip gal process and consequently has NEVER had rust. Fully restored by Murray and his daughter, the only upgrades I have made is to the motor which appears as original but has been brought up to Autodelta specification for a Group 1 Touring Car. This includes Autodelta camshafts 10.92mm lift and increased duration, 9.7:1 compression and carburettors reworked and sized utilizing the 40mm originals as per Autodelta spec (not 45mm which are Group 2). I think this is how they all should be and uses less fuel on highway, believe it or not. This brings the car up to a much more lively 160hp @6250 rpm and still keeping it virtually identical in nature to original idle and smoothness . Also, with great appreciation to Warren, we rebuilt the tailshaft with new rubbers the lot ...smooth. Comes with spares, including a spare engine, original wheels and it has new gearbox mounts and new master and slave cylinders.

Regretful sale at \$25,000. Ring Carlo Rossi on 0412 494 094

## Coda

### Readers' Suggestions.

I hope you have enjoyed reading our Winter edition of the CIAO Newsletter. Hopefully there was enough content therein for you to enjoy and reflect on the activities of what is a busy and active club. And perhaps occasionally, to make you smile.

To help make the Newsletter's content more in line with our members' interests, I am asking again for suggestions for material which isn't included in the Newsletter which perhaps should be. For example I haven't included reprinting online articles about Stellantis, new Alfa models, the rebirth of Lancia, the pros and cons of electrical vehicles etc you can find in other Club Newsletters and Magazines. As each article would possibly only interest a small number of people, who have probably already read them themselves anyway, it would possibly also make the Newsletter too long.

If you have things you would like considered to be included in the Newsletter, please mention these to me at our meetings or gatherings or send suggestions to [keithrmitchell@yahoo.com](mailto:keithrmitchell@yahoo.com) If there are things you don't like reading about, by all means mention this as well. Obviously not all suggestions can be actioned, but some new ideas may come from this, and that is a positive.

If you wish to present your ideas anonymously, you can post them to me at 125 Berrys Head Road, Narara.

Regards,

Keith Mitchell

