



AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2025

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President's Report

Well, I am pleased to say that Summer this year certainly felt it extended well into the latter part of Autumn, resulting in the typical tumultuous weather. We have experienced a lot of rain post Easter, thus impacting some of us not wanting to get our vehicles wet or unable to do so due to road closures. As an example, our member Rob Sbrana had mentioned to me of his wonderful experience away of being isolated on Hinton Island ha ha ha! Admittedly, when he initially stated it to me, I gullibly was scrounging through my brain for a few seconds as to where this island was geographically, until the penny droppedD'oh!

Nevertheless, we persisted and still enjoyed some great outings such as Gnoo Blas in Orange, Auto Italia in Queanbeyan, and, closer to home, numerous Mid-Week Coffee Runs in the Hunter Region and the Central Coast.

The biggest news we are pleased to announce this season is the introduction of four (4) new technology initiatives to CIAO.

1. Website – Ciao's first ever website www.ciaoauto.com.au
2. Email accounts – specific to the CIAO office bearers
3. Cloud filing system - specific for CIAO & Lago Di Mac
4. Social Media - enhancements and broadening our reach across various social media platforms.

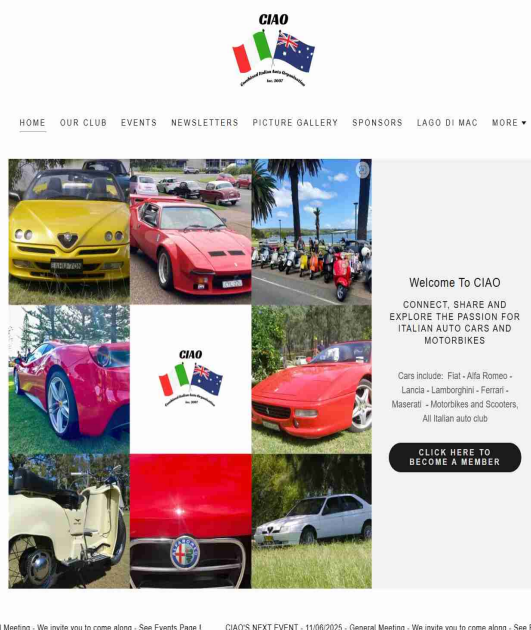
This has provided multiple means of communication streams of our Italian Auto club and up and coming events, along with a terrific display of the many magnificent photographs of our members and vehicles.

The CIAO Website has the following pages:

- Home Welcoming Page,
- Our Club purpose and values, Constitution and further below our Membership Form
- Events - up and coming events page where you can see the next events scheduled
- Newsletters – our most current newsletter along with other previous newsletters
- Picture Gallery – a wonderful display of our clubs photos
- Our Sponsors promoting their business and thanking them for their support,
- Lago Di Mac – all information relating to Lago Di Mac and current flyer
- And under the More option we have

o Classifieds page allowing members to have their for sale items posted to the interested public, please send your sale items to Anthony at webmaster@ciaoauto.com.au . one photo, name and email address.

o Contact Us page – all the contact details of our office bearers can be found in Member News below



VENT - 11/06/2025 - General Meeting - We invite you to come along - See Events Page I

CIAO'S NEXT EVENT - 11/06/2025 - General Meeting - We invite you to come along - See Events Page I

CIAO'S NEXT E

Join Our Community



The Italian word "ciao" is an informal greeting used for both "hello" and "goodbye"

CIAO - Celebrating Italian Automotive Passion Since 2006
Founded in 2006, CIAO is a vibrant community dedicated to enthusiasts of all Italian marques—cars, motorbikes, scooters, tractors, and even postbikes. Whether you own a classic beauty or dream of restoring one, CIAO welcomes you into a passionate, socially oriented club that thrives on connection, camaraderie, and a shared love for Italy's legendary engineering.

More than a club, CIAO is a support network for those restoring older vehicles, providing guidance, encouragement, and a space to celebrate the craftsmanship of Italian design. From lively meet-ups and road convoys to hands-on workshops, we keep the spirit of Italian motoring alive.

Join CIAO and be part of a tradition that honors the past, embraces the present, and fuels the future of Italian automotive excellence.

The new CIAO specific email accounts help bring CIAO to a new and modern professional arena when communicating to all stakeholders, internally and externally. This prefixed email accounts are specific to the office bearers of CIAO ...i.e. president@ciaoauto.co.au, vicepresident@ciaoauto.com.au etc

These email accounts are allocated to the individual. However, if/when a role is reallocated at the Annual General Meeting, the account is also reallocated to the new appointee, without the need for it to be recreated. It remains consistent and pertinent to the role and responsibility of the office bearer of CIAO, along with standardizing CIAO Email signatures.

Cloud based file system. It became apparent to me when entering into this position that various people within the club had a multitude of files scattered across various self-owned electronic storage devices and paperwork.

We have now introduced a CIAO cloud-based storage system only accessible to the CIAO office bearers where all relevant and current files are stored, this will drive consistency, one source of truth, accessibility and creating a much more secure and safer platform. Example :

My files > CIAO

Name ↑	Modified	File size	Sharing
ASIC Register	20 days ago	356 KB	Private
ATO	22 days ago	666 KB	Private
CIAO Constitution	25 days ago	411 KB	Private
CIAO Email Accounts	22 days ago	401 KB	Private
CIAO Logo	25 days ago	1.31 MB	Private
Document Templates	25 days ago	0.98 MB	Private
Events	25 days ago	335 KB	Private
Insurance	25 days ago	117 KB	Private
Lago Di Mac	22 days ago	329 MB	Private
Meetings	22 days ago	6.45 MB	Private
Membership & Historic Car Registrar	22 days ago	408 KB	Private
Newsletters	22 days ago	67.0 MB	Private
Public Officer - Corro In & Out	22 days ago		Private
Sponsorships	22 days ago	1.26 MB	Private
Treasurer Finance	22 days ago	5.77 MB	Private
Website & Social Media	22 days ago	30.0 KB	Private

Special thanks to **Anthony Johnson** (Michael and Deb's son). Anthony took up the task in helping our club develop the website and worked with me on all the initiatives mentioned above. He has worked tirelessly over the past 2 months and has willingly dedicated a lot of his time to this success. We thank Anthony immensely for volunteering his continuous effort and passion in updating our new online platform as this would not have been possible without him. Anthony has been a true joy to work with.

Social Media

Special thanks to Cassie Johnson (yes that's correct, Michael and Deb's daughter) who is helping us manage our social media platforms. Cassie has enhanced our Social Media platform and

also introduced Instagram to CIAO and Lago Di Mac along with our current platform Facebook. We are in the process of developing a LinkedIn page specifically to raise our corporate profile and to work closer with our corporate sponsors.

Feel free to scan the QR codes below



CIAO Logo amendment

You will also note that we have made two permanent changes to our CIAO logo,

1. We have removed the dots between each letter so to bring CIAO to the modern era of appearance and simplifying our brand recognition creating a much cleaner view. When looking at a multitude of brands and logos across the globe, it was evident that many companies with acronym names do not have full stops/dots in-between the lettering. For example : QANTAS, FIAT, BCF, IKEA, NASA, etc. It was time for us to do the same, let alone also acknowledging that CIAO is an actual word, not just an acronym of our motor club .

2. Implemented Flag Poles on the flags. Needless to say the Italian flag in particular has created much controversy as the colours are the wrong way around at first glance. The flagpoles now immediately signify the direction in which the flag(s) sway and why the Italian flag colours face the opposite direction. This has enhanced the optics of our logo dramatically. More work on introducing some vibrant colours on the logo will be forthcoming. Stay Tuned

Next on the agenda of priority is ramping up our Lago Di Mac preparations where it is all hands-on deck. We have submitted our Lake Macquarie City Council (LMCC) grant Event Submission Round 1 on April 24 and we are awaiting a response. Just to note the submission is 14 pages long and onerous in detail. I certainly take my hat off to the previous committee members that have completed this over the past several years. Luckily, I had Carlo Rossi's previous ones that guided me along the way with only a few changes required. Thanks Carlo.

We are preparing the engagement of our prospective sponsors through our newly developed formal CIAO sponsorship programme, and are finalising and engaging our selected vendors via our Lago Di Mac Committee. Our advertising campaign will be expected to be completed during the month of July where we can promote and advertise our new CIAO and Lago Di Mac sponsors for the 2025 -2026 financial year.

All volunteers welcomed, please review the website for up and coming Lago Di Mac Committee meetings where you are welcome to attend and constructively participate in your 5th year anniversary of:the

Lago Di Mac - Italian Festival.

Molte mani fanno il lavoro piu facile

Many hands make light work

Ciao

George Grasso

President – Ciao Auto E: President@ciaoauto.com.au | M: 0408 263 856 | W: ciaoauto.com.au

Vice-President's Report

Time flies, even if you're having fun (or not!). It's still a way off, but time to start thinking about the AGM in September. Perhaps you could join the Committee and help the club move forward in new and exciting directions.

The Wednesday Coffee Runs have proved to be very popular, with more members joining us for a coffee, cake and a chat every month. Of course, the biggest event so far this year was the Auto Italia with a few stories covering it in this Newsletter.

Membership has grown this year with many new members joining CIAO. I would like to welcome the following:

Richard Peters	2004 Maserati Coupe Red
Veronica Peters	2003 Maserati Spyder Yellow
Andrew Rankin	998 Alfa 916 GTV Blue
Kylie Rankin	
Alex Cameron	1982 Alfasud Red
Liz Cameron	
Lola Cameron	
Glen Linehan	2015 Alfa Romeo 4C White
Julie Linehan	1966 Lancia Fulvia Blue
Peter Benke	Alfa 105 2000
David Royston	2016 Fiat Abarth 595 Red/2015 Fiat Doblo
White/1960 Velocette	Venom Bike Black
Barbara Royston	



Warren Buckingham

Vice President – vicepresident@ciaoauto.com.au Phone: 0428 938 338

A word from the Editor

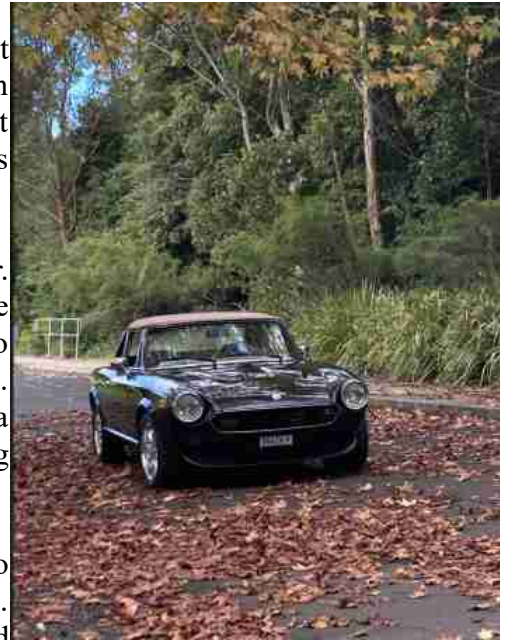
If your thinking this Newsletter is late, you are partly correct. Actually it was the the Summer 'Lago' Newsletter that was early which has given this impression. I had intended to do a second Summer Newsletter, but it would have been a pretty poor specimen, so you will notice a few events from the end of Summer found their way here.

So, welcome to an extended Autumn '25 edition of the CIAO Newsletter. Clearly, Auto Italia has been the biggest event this time. However, the official introduction to members of the club of the new website has to have been one of the most significant event for CIAO in ages. Webmaster Anthony Johnson and President George Grasso have spent a great amount of time setting it up, and although there is some fine-tuning to be done, it gives an impressive and profession face to the club.

As mentioned by Vice President in his article, our regular drive to Canberra for Auto Italia was the highlight of the last three months. However, there were a few new events, including Coasting the Coast and Gnoo Blas (well this was new for some). Both events warrant a second visit next year.

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, Warren and Laurel Buckingham, Anthony Johnson, Craig Phillips and Craig Osborne for their written and photographic contributions to this Newsletter.

Keith Mitchell (Editor)



Members' News

Committee Emails:

With the exciting unvaling of the CIAO Website, dragging CIAO kicking and screaming into the 21st Century, our skilled Webmaster has also given Committee office bearers a dedicated email address, so if there is a change in personnel, the new person takes over the email and all record of previous dealings are still available. The new contact details are as follows:

President:	George Grasso	Email: president@ciaoclub.com.au Phone 0408263856
Vice President:	Warren Buckingham	Email: vicepresident@ciaoauto.com.au Phone 0428 938 338
Treasurer:	Deb Johnson	Email: treasurer@ciaoclub.com.au
Secretary:	Keith Mitchell.	Email: secretary@ciaoclub.com.au Phone 0420246835
Membership:	Warren Buckingham	Email: vicepresident@ciaoauto.com.au Phone 0428 938 338
Events Co-ordinator:	Laurel Buckingham	Email: vicepresident@ciaoauto.com.au Phone 0428 938 338
Newsletter Editor:	Keith Mitchell	Email: secretary@ciaoclub.com.au Phone 0420246835
Media Liason & Social Media:	Cassie Johnson	medialiason@ciaoauto.com.au
Public Officer::	Michael Johnson	Email: publicofficer@ciaoauto.com.au

Physical mail correspondence and all general enquiries: PO Box 115, Morpeth, NSW, 2321

CIAO LIFE MEMBERS

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

CiaoAuto.com.au: CIAO's new face to the World

CiaoAuto.com.au is the official website of CIAO (Combined Italian Auto Organisation), a vibrant community in Australia dedicated to enthusiasts of Italian vehicles: ranging from classic cars and motorbikes to scooters and even pushbikes. Founded in 2007, CIAO fosters a passion-driven network where members connect, share, and explore all things Italian engineering.

Key Features of the Website:

- Our Club:** Learn about CIAO's mission, history, and the community spirit that drives the club.
- Events:** Stay updated on upcoming gatherings, including the next major event, the Tilligerry Motorama Show and Shine on May 31, 2025.
- Newsletters:** Access the latest club updates and automotive news.
- Picture Gallery:** Browse through a collection of images showcasing past events and member vehicles.
- Sponsors:** Discover businesses that support the club and its activities.
- Classified's Page:** Where you can find hard to get parts for Italian vehicles and more
- Contact Page:** Where you will find all contacts and membership enquiry form etc

Whether you're a proud owner of an Italian vehicle or simply an admirer. CIAO welcomes all who share a love for Italian automotive excellence. The club offers a supportive environment for vehicle restoration, provides opportunities to participate in social events, and celebrates the rich heritage of Italian engineering. For more information or to become a member, visit:

www.ciaoauto.com.au

Ciao

Anthony Johnson



Visit us!
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Special Event: Auto Italia: April 11-13



Another year, another drive to Queanbeyan for the Auto Italia. We wondered what adventures awaited us on this trip.

Laurel and I left on time at 9:30am Friday 11th April, all went well until we had gone over the Hawkesbury River Bridge and heading up the hill from the bridge. Laurel pointed out the water temperature was rising rapidly. I looked down at the dash and saw the alternator light was on as well. This could only mean one thing the fan belt had broken. Before I could pull over into a breakdown parking spot on the side of the M1 the head over temperature light came on meaning I had a massive loss of water. Things were starting to look bad.



We found a safe spot and pulled over and lifted the bonnet. Sure enough, the fan belt had broken. Luckily, I had a spare belt in the boot and fitted it without too many hassles. By now the engine had cooled

down a little and I carefully removed the radiator cap and found there was no water. I carry 5 litres of water with me which proved fortunate as the 5 litres of water just brought the water level up to the correct level in the radiator. I started the engine with fingers crossed that I hadn't blown the head gasket. All appeared ok, so we continued our journey. The whole process took 40 minutes.



We had arranged to have a coffee break with Phil & Becc Hitchcock, who originally were about 30 minutes ahead of us. We rang them to say we would be running late and not to wait for us. As it turned out, as we pulled into Trappers Bakery at Goulburn, there were the Hitchcocks.. So we did end up having a break with them after all.

We left Goulburn at about 3:00pm heading towards our accommodation in Queanbeyan, the Olympia Motel and arrived at 4:00pm. Not our normal accommodation but as it turned out it was better in many ways. Instant hot water for one and closer to a variety of shops.

That night we had dinner at the Queanbeyan Hotel with other members who had also come down on Friday.

Saturday morning arrived bright and sunny. We went for a walk into Queanbeyan for morning tea at the CIAO Café. Then a look through various shops before heading back to the motel. About this time several others had arrived, and we walked back to town and had lunch at The Mill House Café which had been recommended to us by Greg Crow. It lived up to his recommendations.





Saturday afternoon at 2:30pm we joined the ACT Fiat Club at the Airport Motel Queanbeyan for a country drive, first stop Googong Dam about a 30 minute drive south of Queanbeyan. We then drove on to the first of several garage stops to see what toys other people have. At the second garage we were greeted by at least two kilometres of concrete drive wide enough for two cars to pass. This was so the owner's Ferraris would not have to touch dirt. The owner was an excellent host with wood-fired pizzas for dinner. Then back to motel for a well-deserved rest.

Sunday morning, up early to wash our car, for the day ahead. We left as group for the Queanbeyan Park and Auto Italia at 8:30am. As we were pulling into the park, I had a phone call from a friend telling me his car would not start. I said I would park the car in the display and then walk to his motel and see if I could help. After many hours searching for the fault, it turned out to be the ignition coil.

I was back in time to see the awards for the day handed out. The standout to me was the Fiat 2300s Coupe of David Heyworth who took out the best Fiat coupe.. That evening we had dinner at the Queanbeyan Hotel again.

Monday morning, the leftovers from the weekend had breakfast at the CIAO Café (a bit of a tradition) before heading home. I did stop at Super Cheap before leaving Queanbeyan to buy a spare fan belt, but thankfully I didn't need it.



CIAO

Warren Buckingham



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Saturday, April 12: Drive and Pizza night with the ACT Fiat Club: Keith Mitchell



Every year Warren and Laurel Buckingham organise a Saturday afternoon Drive and Dinner in conjunction with the ACT Fiat Club. This year they excelled themselves with a beautifully organised event which included a long drive through the countryside east (I think) of Queanbeyan, stopping at various interesting spots along the way before finishing at John Cadona's property in Googong for freshly made Pizza.

The afternoon started at the Parkway Motel where a number of CIAO members were staying. We drove in convoy to the Capital Airport Motel, where waiting for us would have been at least 20 cars: Fiats, Alfas, Lancias and a lone Ferrari. Most interesting to me was the Fiat Campervan.



After maps were handed out and we were given instructions, we headed out to Googong Dam where the cars were lined-up for some great photos. At this stage, the brakes of Craig Phillips' Alfa Giulia Super had gone from 'vaguely spongy' to almost non-existent. Luckily I was able to lend him my 'manual' handbrake (ie half a house brick) for when parking on a slope. It was an impressive turnout of cars which attracted a great deal of attention, both when driving and when stationary.



From there we drove to the home of Phil Lapthorne to see his garage set-up, which included a beautiful black 1940s Mercedes Benz amongst various Italian cars. Again, there were great photo opportunities as well as many new

friendships being formed.



With the sun getting closer to the horizon, it was a short drive to the home of John Cadona, where we were greeted by an impressive arrangement of beautiful Ferraris. By this time our number had grown, but luckily there was plenty of room to fit so many cars. The Pizza oven was already firing and soon pizzas with a variety of toppings, including vegetarian, began appearing. It was a great afternoon, very well organised and so much fun to be part of. Thanks must go to the ACT Fiat Club for inviting CIAO to be a part of this event, and for subsidising our meal. As well as to James Barlow and Geoff Hall who organised the route and our various hosts. Finally, thanks to Warren and Laurel for organising CIAO to be part of this event. For me, it was the highlight of the weekend.



Auto Italia 2025: A Celebration of Italian Automotive Passion in Queanbeyan: Craig Osborne



The event held on April 13, 2025, saw Queanbeyan Park transformed into a vibrant showcase of Italian automotive excellence. Auto Italia 2025 was celebrating its 40th anniversary, attracting enthusiasts from across the nation, all eager to experience the rich tapestry of Italian motoring history.

This year somehow the lead up felt different. True, I was looking forward to catching up with CIAO club friends, many of whom I haven't spoken to since our move to Canberra in August 2024 but over the past months my passion and enthusiasm had waned. I felt disconnected, slightly nervous and not sure what to expect... I was also planning to sell my car as financial pressures of having a number of full rego vehicles weighed heavily in the back of my mind. Nonetheless, off I went in my ever reliable 147 JTDm to meet the other club members at their motel to travel in 'convoy' the 2 minutes to the park.





To make sure I keep this brief (as no doubt the story of the cars will appear elsewhere), we arrived at the park alive with the sights and sounds of Italy. Gleaming Ferraris, elegant Maseratis, classic Fiats and Lancias and of course stunning Alfas lined the green lawns, each vehicle telling its own story of design, performance and custodianship. The aroma of Italian cuisine wafted through the air, thanks to vendors offering authentic delicacies that complemented the automotive displays perfectly.

Auto Italia is more than just a car show; it's a cultural event that brings together people who share a passion for Italian heritage. The event featured not only vehicles but also Italian music, food, and merchandise, creating an immersive experience that celebrated

all things Italian.

Attending Auto Italia 2025 rekindled my own love for Italian cars. The day was spent looking over the feast of automotive heaven but more so, the rekindled friendships, the light heated debate and banter over whether Greg Crow should make an offer on a beautiful and original white Berlina in lieu of his 'baby poop brown project'; Craig Phillip's ability and good humour to drive his Giulia Super without brakes. Becc Hitchcock's love for a very yellow Fiat 2dr 'Rally Esque' 131 and grey 2600 with white wall tyres whilst husband Phil took us through his bag of Italian delicacies (which he didn't share lol), and me, locking my keys



in my car early in the afternoon, making it somewhat awkward to show any interested parties inside my car, left a far greater and deeper impact.

The day certainly rekindled my love and passion for all things Italian, but more powerfully, I left Queanbeyan with newfound positivity that was not about the cars at all. They are merely a conduit to something much bigger: the shared friendships, laughter, adventures, and misadventure, stories and shared experiences are for me the defining experiences. So, thank you to all who made Auto Italia a great event but also to my CIAO friends who made MY day. The community spirit reminded me why I fell in love with these vehicles in the first

place. It was a day that celebrated not just machines, but the culture and passion that drive them.

I also left with a renewed appreciation for Italian automotive artistry and the vibrant community that surrounds it.

Whilst I didn't sell my 147 at the event, I did manage to sell it about a week or so later. Is another Alfa on the cards you may ask? I am sure one will probably turn up to share my garage at some point so that I may continue to be part of a friendly community with shared interests and passion for the somewhat intangible.

Bring on Lago Di Mac!

CIAO

Craig Osborne



Club Drive No 1: Gnoolas Classic, February 7 - 9



This year the Gnoolas Classic is celebrating the 65th Year of Touring Car Racing in Australia. The motor racing circuit started in Orange on 1953 and is an important part of motorsport history. It was built as a community project in 1953 by Orange City and Canobolas Shire Councils, Jack Brabham won the New South Wales Grand Prix in a Type 23 Cooper Bristol in 1953. The last race was run in 1961.



The Gnoolas Classic starts on the Friday with a street parade, visit to a local winery and finally, a free BBQ meet and greet. On the Saturday, there is a display day with over 900 vehicles including motor bikes and commercials. In the evening, there is a dinner with special guests from 6pm, however it was booked out early. This year's dinner included Colin Bond.



On the Sunday, there was a drive to Lake Canobolas and a morning tea. Finally a pre-ordered lunch was the final event at the local sports club. Attendance to any for the events was easily booked via web link.

My son Wade and I decided to take the 1969 Alfa Romeo Giulia Super for a run for the display day on Saturday. Over 30 Fiat's and Alfa's were displayed together, very much in the spirit of CIAO. The day was bright and sunny. Warren and Laurel Buckingham brought their lovely 2300 wagon down for the weekend and enjoyed the dinner that night.



This would be a great event for CIAO next year to attend The Gnoolas Classic 2026. Lets make it a date.

CIAO

Craig Phillips

Club Drive No 2: Classic Boat Festival, February 16

On February 13, il Presidente George Grasso forwarded an invitation to CIAO by the Lake Macquarie Classic Boat Association to display cars at the Classic Boat Festival on the Rathmines' Foreshore. The invitation gave short notice, but as I was planning on going to the Toronto Markets that very same day, it seemed a good opportunity to drop by and provide a show of support to another local group.

Arriving on the foreshore there were a number of cars already there on show, including a very nice Alfa Giulia. Not long after we arrived, Warren and Laurel Buckingham turned up in their immaculate FIAT 1900.



On our fairly desperate search for the phantom Coffee Van (which, despite numerous promises it would arrive, didn't!), we came across George's very impressive Venetian Gondola. The photo below does not really give a true idea of its size. Maybe we will see it in the water at next Lago di Mac?

As well as the boats there on display, there was a nautical equivalent to a carboot sale. By this time we had given up on the Coffee Van arriving

so we took a leasurely, if anxious stroll to Jules by the Lake, a familiar destination for our Mid Week Coffee runs.

Thank you Laurel and George for organising this event. Maybe next time we will get a few more cars there, as with good weather, it is a very pleasant event, even without the Coffee Van.



CIAO

Keith Mitchell



Club Drive No 3: Lunch and Concert at The Entrance: February 23

It was a nice warm day for a drive to the Central Coast for lunch and to hear the Wallarah Community Concert Band at The Entrance Leagues Club in Bateau Bay.

It has been many, many years since I have attended a concert featuring a Concert Band. Back in the day, my son was a trumpet player with the Marching Kangaroos and I was offered the position of roadie. Maybe I just got that gig as I was the only one with a furniture truck to move the band instruments.



We met at the Twin Servos at Warnervale and drove in convoy to the Leagues Club via a rather circuitous route. Although the dining area was reduced in size owing to renovations, there was a good variety of meals and we arrived in plenty of time to enjoy our meal and take the short walk to the Auditorium. The Roast of the Day was the popular choice. Present for lunch were Keith Mitchell (on bassoon), Col & Sheryn Goldie, Louis & Janelle Ippolito, Mark Brown, Tony Cassaniti, Warren Buckingham and .Bill Clifton

When attending a concert band performance, patrons are entertained for around 90 - 120 minutes and don't realise that this performance has to be practised over several months entailing hours and hours of playing. A Concert Band is made up of Woodwind (Flutes, Clarinets, Oboes and Bassoon, Alto, Tenor and Baritone Saxophone Brass (Trumpets, French Horn, Euphonium, Trombone and Tuba), Percussion and Piano. There were about 35 musicians on stage with ages ranging from 12 years old to over 70. Two of the younger musicians also played solos,



There were about 35 musicians on stage with ages ranging from 12 years old to over 70. Two of the younger musicians also played solos,

The Wallarah Community Concert Band is very lucky to have our own Keith Mitchell who would have put many extra hours to not only play the Bassoon in the ensemble, as well as accompany soloists on the Piano, two young musicians playing Jazz solos. All in all it was a most enjoyable afternoon and I am most looking forward to their next performance

CIAO

Louis Ipoletto

Club Drive No 4: Coasting the Coast: May 4



Coasting the Coast is an annual run for cars, trucks, bikes and buses 25 years and older. It runs from Berowra on the northern outskirts of Sydney to Swansea, with a stopover at Heatherbrae Pies in Ourimbah. Following the Old Pacific Highway through Mooney Mooney, Somersby, Gosford, Ourimbah and then onto Swansea, still on the Old Pacific Highway. Supposedly there were over 200 vehicles involved. There seemed to be more.

Fellow Coasties Rocky Caputo and Monty in their Fiat 124 Spider, David and Kylie Androwartha in their X1/9, Gladys, a friend and myself met at the Ourimbah Intechange carpark for the drive to Berowra so that we could start with the convoy. Unfortunately my Alfa was getting a few things done in Sydney so I was slumming it in the Porsche!



Originally the plan was to drive to the starting spot, the truck stop at Cowan via the Motorway. Unfortunately, a truck deposited 15 kilometres worth of sharp metal fragments on the previous Friday. Despite the Roads Authority and organisers saying the debris had been cleared, there were still stories on Facebook (one from a friend) of getting punctures

on the Saturday afternoon, we decided it safer to drive on the Pacific Highway.

It is such a great road to drive, and I enjoyed the corners as well as seeing the two Fiats in the rear-vision mirror. My travel companion even managed to get a few photos from the side mirrors. The problem with not going on the Motorway was that it threw out our timing, and as we got closer to Cowan, we encountered the trucks and buses already started. It was quite a sight!

The plan was for the cars to leave half an hour after the commercial vehicles, but next we found the cars had started straight after the trucks. So when we arrived at the truck stop, a lot of the vehicles had left. That was a pity, as we didn't have the opportunity to walk and look at the cars. So, after a quick toilet break, we started on the road back. Sort of deja-vu in reverse! We were in a group of cars including an AP6 Valiant Ute, an XP Falcon and a FB Holden. Behind us was a cute little Mazda MX5.



We arrived at Heatherbrae Pies to find CIAO members Warren Buckingham in his Fiat 1900, Col and Sheryn Goldie in their Alfa Romeo 164 and Phil and Becc Hitchcock in their Fiat Freemont. Here we had coffee and cakes, the pieshop managing to serve the very large number of orders surprisingly efficiently. After a bit of a chat and a quick look at the cars, people started to head off. None of us Coasties continued the drive to Swansea, we

had already driven the most interesting part of the route.



I can recommend this event and encourage more people to do it next year. Definitely a fun drive!

CIAO

Keith Mitchell

Club Run No 4: Bambino's Cafe, Kulnura: May 31

The last day of Autumn proved to be a perfect day for a drive to Bambino's Cafe in Kulnura. Situated on a large orange orchard, which produces orange juice onsite, the cafe is a popular destination especially for classic car owners and bikes of all ages. This Saturday was specifically for classic cars, of which there was quite a variety,

Rocky Caputo, Gladys and I drove up in my Alfa, as unfortunately his 124 Spider was a late withdrawal. We arrived to find Dave Royston and Louis and Janelle Ippolito already here, with June and Col Stewart arriving just as we did. Not far behind was the Freemont of Becc and Phil Hitchcock. All so punctual!



Not so lucky were Warren and Laurel Buckingham, who came from the opposite direction (via Wollombi), and found themselves stuck in traffic for almost 50 minutes owing to roadworks, the result of the wet weather we have been experiencing..

The cafe has an extensive menu, offering various

cakes and meals, as well as coffee and milkshakes. There are plenty of tables, not only in the area immediately in the vicinity of the cafe, but also amongst the orange trees. It is really a novel situation.



It was great to welcome first-timers Andrew and Kylie Rankin, in their beautiful blue Alfa Spider, which attracted a great deal of attention and admiring glances. They joined at Lago and this was their first event with CIAO. We look forward to them coming again. We also met a member of AROCA with his Alfa 33, and Warren was quick to rustle through THE briefcase to give him a membership form. Being a 'Coastie', CIAO would suit him.

Thanks to Laurel for organising this event, I think it deserves another visit sometime.

Keith Mitchell





Mid-Week Coffee Run No 1: Harvey's Cafe, March 24

There was a great turnout to Harvey's Cafe in Bennett's Green. Again, June Stewart organised a wonderful venue for our Mid Week Coffee Run. Gladys and I arrived a little late, having missed the turnoff and there was already an impressive collection of Italian machinery. Especially exciting was seeing Andrew Howarth's di Tomaso Pantera back on the road.



Present were June and Col Stewart, Warren and Laurel Buckingham, Michael Johnson, Andrew Howarth, Mark Brown, Col and Sheryn Goldie, Bill Clifton, Brent Blackwell, Greg Crow, Gladys and myself.



The Cafe is situated in a Light Industrial and Commercial Estate, which would explain the wonderful freshness of its cakes and meals. It also provided an excellent spot to get one of the best line-ups of CIAO members' cars. Not always an easy thing to do!



There was much interest in Andrew's Pantera, both from Club members and from passersby. He regaled us with the challenges faced getting the car on the road, and even to get it to the cafe on the day. However, it looked amazing and the sound was something else! What a car!



In the cafe people were enjoying the fresh cakes and meals on offer, conversations were variously on cars, bikes, the proposed drive to Canberra for Auto Italia. Especially on cars!

Thank you June for organising another great destination for our ever-popular Coffee Runs.

CIAO

Keith Mitchell

Mid-Week Coffee Run No 2: BenEan Delicatessan and Cafe

In what was hopefully not a pretaste of weather for the rest of Autumn, the morning of our Med-Week Coffee Run to the Ben Ean Winery in Pokolbin was looking rather bleak weather-wise. This resulted in a smaller number of older Italian cars than usually found on one of these runs. Gladys and I decided to take the trusty old Pajero instead of one of our older cars in case the weather turned stormy rather than just damp.



For me, not being a local, an interesting thing about this destination is I hadn't realised Pokolbin covered such a large area, the Ben Ean Winery seemed to be a long way from other destinations still regarded as Pokolbin. It seems Google was a little unsure also: as we arrived we saw a number of CIAO members heading in the opposite direction. Lucky they realised Google was wrong and arrived just a little after me.

Present were il Presidente George Grasso (absconding from work to join the retirees?), Warren and Laurel Buckingham, and granddaughter, Charlotte, Greg Crow, Brent Blackwell, Col and June Stewart, Col and Sheryn Goldie, Dave and Barbara Royston. Not only was there a large selection of cakes and desserts, there was also a well stocked array of cheeses and meats and various nicknacks, such as tea towels, cups etc for sale.



The Winery also had a nice outdoor area, dam and gardens, but owing to the weather they weren't so appealing. However it is certainly a worthwhile destination, especially on a nice warm sunny day.



CIAO

Keith Mitchell





For the Diary....

HUNTER REGION
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The MG Car Club Hunter Region presents ...



**EURO
MOTORFEST
2025**



**ALL EUROPEAN
MARQUES WELCOME!**
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Sunday 22nd June

Newcastle Foreshore Park

Wharf Road, Newcastle East - Gates open 8:30am

*In the event of wet weather the backup date is 29th June

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Lap of the Lake

**29th & 30TH OF
NOVEMBER
2025**

Thomas H. Halton Park,
Lake Macquarie



SHARE THE PASSION



**STEVE KOULIS
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More info: [!\[\]\(291e070cef6c4d5e78fefe4696ef53be_img.jpg\)](#) Lago di Mac - Lap of Lake Macquarie

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

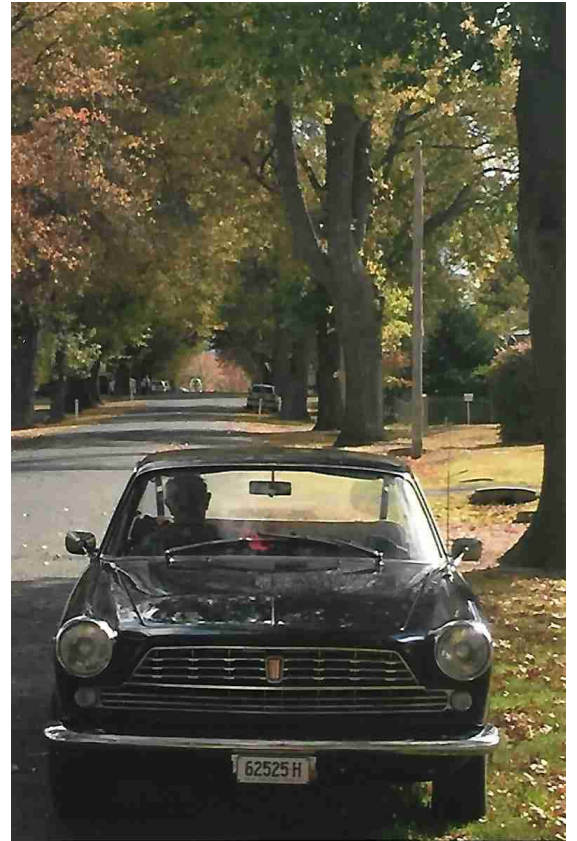
If you are writing a report of a CIAO event, some of the following suggestions I found in Amatori Alfa (the AROCA magazine, who borrowed it from their Victorian counterparts) may help. They have been modified somewhat to suit our events and you don't need to answer all questions. They are suggestions 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.

CODA



*Club members' cars in
Autumn*

