

MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2022

David Nunn's 124 Spider
Finch Restorations Visit



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7:30PM

President's Report

By Paul Manning

Welcome to the October 2022 edition of our club magazine.

Certainly not the Spring I was expecting with the persistent cool, wet and windy days. Not so good for top down driving but hopefully November will improve for a busy month of club events.

A little busier this month starting with the breakfast run to Café Aqua in Mt Barker. It was a lovely mild & sunny morning at Burnside. Considering school holidays & the start of daylight saving, we had a great turnout of 16 members, family & friends. I was pleasantly surprised when Garren rocked up in a beautiful, recently purchased, red Abarth 124 Spider. Also glad to see Mark & Peter Wilksch back again in their delightful blue 1978 Fiat X 1/9. It was a great, brisk run up through the hills with minimal traffic and nearly all the cars stayed together for the complete run. It's always welcoming and a good feed at Café Aqua followed by the usual friendly chit chat and banter.

The following Sunday it was time for the Annual PT Memorial run, back this year to Dave & Alison's lovely residence in Clayton Bay. Another great gathering with 17 members & family meeting at Bracegirdles in Blackwood for a feed and/or chat before heading on down via Meadows & Ashbourne. A nice "cruisy" drive down Bull Creek Rd except for a large pot-hole collected by some. Luckily no damage reported. We were greeted by Alison, Brian, Norma and Dave who was well into cooking up the BBQ. After some chatting & drinking it was time to feast on the plentiful supply of food including an array of delicious desserts. To round out the afternoon Dave & Alison once again hosted the ever-popular Trivia time. Lots of fun & laughter rewarded with prizes, chockies & mints. Another great club event honouring our late president, Peter Taylor and absent friends. Many thanks to Dave & Alison

The monthly coffee run was to the Lobethal Bakery at Woodside. Numbers were down a bit to 7 members due to some regulars still away enjoying some holiday time. Good to see Ian and David in their classics taking advantage of some fine weather.

The MSCASA Super Sprint Round 5 was held on Sunday 23rd October at Mallala, with club member Mike Coles competing in his Alfa Romeo Sprint- Fastest lap 1:39:6154

This year's AGM will be held on the first Tuesday, November 1st. This is the time to elect your club representatives for 2023. Please come along and have your say.

The day after the November breakfast run, club members will be heading off to Victoria for a week long holiday break culminating in the 3 day FIAT 123 Rally event in Bendigo. So sad I won't be there. I hope they all have a great time and bring back some wonderful memories & pics.

Midweek Coffee Run

When: **Thursday 17th November at 11:00am**

Where: **Meadows Bakery & Tea Rooms, 50 Mawson Rd, Meadows.**

Held on the third Thursday of each month, this is an event specially created for those members who have the spare time for a coffee, some brunch, and a yam about all things Fiat with fellow members and enthusiasts.

Other November events include Auto Italia Adelaide on Sunday 20th November at St Francis of Assisi School, Newton, 10.30am-3.30pm (entrants to arrive 9.00 am-10.30am) Registrations open & this year, free. We are meeting in the carpark next to Panini brothers, Newton Rd 8.30-9am for a quick cuppa before heading off as a group to the venue (2 minutes away).

Membership & logbook renewal day, Sunday 27th November, 11am to 1:30pm - Combined Car Club rooms at the Glandore Community Centre, 25 Naldera, Street, Glandore. Sausage sizzle provided.

A reminder the Xmas dinner is being held on Saturday 10th December at the Largs Pier Hotel. Thanks to those who notified Geoff they will be attending.

Bye for now

Paul



Editor's Note

By Dave Collier

This month I have received a couple of great articles to share with you. Thank you Terry for organising and sharing such an enlightening visit to Finch Restorations facility where they carry out world class restorations of classic vehicles, and another fantastic article from David Nunn on his 29 year 'love affair' with his classic 1970 124 Spider.

If you would like to share the story of one of your vehicles, outings, hobbies, or adventures – please send your article with a few photos to me and I will publish it in this magazine.

As always - this magazine is only as good as the content, so, send your articles and photos to me via email at: editor@fiatlancia.asn.au.

Cheers,

Dave C

AUTO ITALIA – ADELAIDE 2022

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2022

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI SCHOOL
NEWTON ROAD, NEWTON

AUTO ITALIA – ADELAIDE IS SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST GATHERING OF ITALIAN CARS, BIKES AND SCOOTERS SINCE 2012

We would like to get as many club cars as possible together for this year's Auto Italia Adelaide event. Entry is free this year so there is no excuse ☺

Visit the website for more details: www.autoitaliaadelaide.com



Cover Photo – Fiat convertibles lined up ready for a start at the October Breakfast Run

Fiat Lancia Car Club of SA tour of Finch Restorations on 15th September by Terry Beaston

Earlier this year I contacted Finch Restorations at Mt. Barker and inquired about a guided tour of the facility at Mt Barker. I had talked to one of the representatives at their stall at the McLaren Vale Vintage and Classic day a few years ago and they mentioned that they were happy to have car club visits to the site.

Finch Restorations was established in Mt Gambier in 1965 by Ray Finch and moved to Mt. Barker in the late 1980's.

After a discussion with the FLCCSA Committee, it was decided that it would be good to do this on an afternoon following the monthly Coffee Run. We met for coffee as usual at 11am at the Lobethal Bakery before proceeding to the workshops about five minutes away at 12:30. There were about 20 members from our club in attendance.

Peter Roberts, CEO and Principal Engineer, met us at the entrance and gave us an introduction to the scope of work carried out by Finch, which included a range of options for car restoration. Each car is evaluated on arrival and the extent of work to be carried out discussed. The top level being a full body off restoration with the sourcing of any replacement parts accessed on a world wide basis. Peter explained one customer just wanted the car for display, as it did not have to be roadworthy. Only body work was required. He showed us an example of a top of the line restoration of a 1920's Morris Cowley that was ready for delivery back to the customer.

Peter explained that the restorations to that level actually create a car that can be in better condition than when it left the factory. For example, Ford had an allowance for up to 7 flaws in the cars body to be acceptable to sale.

Peter gave us a personal tour which involved giving us a story behind many of the cars under restoration in the workshops. They included several Corvette, Jaguar, Rolls Royce, SS Jaguars, along with a variety of other makes. He mentioned that about half of the customers are from interstate and overseas. They are currently restoring an SS Jaguar for a customer in Florida, which gives an indication of the quality and respect for the work carried out by Finch.

Peter talked at length about a particular car undergoing one of the most extensive restorations they have undertaken and costing around \$300k to restore. The car is known as the "Chicken Coupe" and was one of the rare 1973 'RPO83' Ford XA Falcon GT's. It was stored by its owner for several years in a shed with chicken wire used to keep the chickens off it. The owner refused to sell the car despite several high offers and was not sold until he passed away. It sold for \$300K in very poor condition. In fully restored condition, this car is expected to be valued at over one million dollars. If you google "Ford Chicken Coupe" there is a wealth of information regarding the now famous vehicle.

Peter guided us through the main building and to five other sites nearby in which various aspects of restoration are carried out, including a state of the art design studio, a fabrication shop for upholstery, a shop for metal and wood frame restoration and paint shop. There is also a mechanical repair facility available.

It was a fabulous afternoon, and the tour took over two hours to take in the amazing scope of work being undertaken at Finch Restorations.

For those that were unable to attend, I recommend that you visit the Finch Restorations website for a wealth of information on this unique world class Automobile restoration business, we have right here in South Australia.

