BABY TORQUE AUSTIN 7 CLUB NSW INC

Number 309



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Baby Torque

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month normally at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown.

This magazine is published seasonly. Contributions to Baby Torque should be sent to The Editor, Baby Torque, P.O. Box 6009, North Ryde NSW 2113

President's Report

It is hard to imagine that we are now into spring and towards the end of 3rd year with the coronavirus pandemic. The general community are pretty relaxed about covid and with the rules increasingly changed to allow more flexibility, life is gradually returning back to normal.

In mid-September, and with so much rain this year in the last few months, we were very lucky to be able to bring the president's weekend to fruition. Thank you to everyone who despite their busy lives, took the opportunity to join and for many give their baby Austins a fantastic run in the Hunter region. The weekend was planned so there were to be 3 days of activities visiting various places of interest including visits to two generous club members, Richard Holding and Mark Dunford at their B&B mansion at Leconfield for afternoon tea one day and Tony and Sue Paulls's lovely property for morning tea on the last day. Amy and I were also happy to put on a dinner at the lovely Cessnock Vintage Motor Inn. Friendly owners, Ellie and Anthony as well as all the friendly staff had allowed us to use the BBQ area and with homemade hot food, a fire pit and a big esky full of drinks. I think everyone had a great time eating, drinking and making a lot of noise till late that night.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the last two events of the year, 100th year celebration at Centennial Park in October and the club Christmas party in November. The AGM is coming up in December club meeting, and the club would welcome any members interested to participate in the running of the club.

As this report is in the last club magazine edition for the year, I wish everyone a great, safe Christmas and a healthy and happy 2023.

Keep safe and stay safe and happy motoring.

Paul Pui



Austin 7 Club NSW Facebook Kevin Lewis has created an Austin 7 Club NSW Facebook page and invited everyone in the club to be a member. This will allow people to check on what's happening in the club and add comments and photos if they wish to.

Events Report

Over the past few months, the Austin 7 Club NSW members have finally begun to travel again and start to enjoy the countryside travelling with members in their "Babies". At long last we were able to attend Shannon's Sydney Classic at Eastern Creek and enjoy the wine country during the President's Run based in Cessnock. In other sections of this magazine, you will see stories relating to the great time that was had by all during this trip. Yet to come is the Christmas Function to be held at Vanilla Cream Cafe.

On Sunday October 16 at Centennial Park our Club celebrated 100 years of Austin 7's. Irish, Kevin, Tara and Aaron Lewis supplied a lovely morning tea to celebrate the occasion and there was a sponge cake decorated with white fondant icing and on the centre of the cake was a computerised photo of a dark blue 1922 Austin 7 (Pram), this looked fantastic and also tasted fantastic.

I wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Healthy 2023.

Happy Austin 7 Touring, Maureen Boatwright.

Club Membership Renewals

Please be advised that Membership renewals are due on 1st January 2023 and if not paid by that date, you cannot drive your vehicle registered with HVS Plates until your 2023 membership has been paid.

Fees: Family Membership: \$55.00 Single Membership: \$50.00 Joining Fee \$30.00

Payment method: Direct Credit to LCU (details on page 2) OR cheques.
Cheque payments to be sent to the following address:
Mrs. Amy Pui, Membership Officer (Austin 7 Club NSW Inc)
P.O. Box 107, Northbridge NSW 2063

CLUB CAPS FOR SALE:

For those who wish to purchase more club caps, please contact Maureen Boatwright.

The cost remains the same at \$20 + postage.

Special thanks to Bankstown Sports Club for providing a meeting room free of charge to our club for our monthly meetings. Without the support of Bankstown Sports it would be difficult for the Austin 7 Club to hold meetings without passing on some costs. With their continual support our club is also able to enjoy the various facilities available to us.



UPCOMING EVENTS >>>

Nov 20, 2022	Club Christmas Party to be held at Vanilla Cream Cafe. Contact Maureen for details including cost and if you haven't supplied numbers attending, please do so a.s.a.p.
Dec 14, 2022	General Meeting followed by Annual General Meeting for 2022. These Meetings will be held at Bankstown Sports Club in Community Room Number 2
Jan 15. 2023	Breakfast Run – South. Meet at Heathcote Railway Station car park off Princes Highway at

8.30 am. Please contact Maureen and supply numbers attending.



Shannon's Sydney Classic

14th August 2022 – Sydney Motorsport Park

The Shannon's Sydney Classic has been a showcase for all manner of vehicles for many years and like so many events, suffered the restrictions imposed by COVID in recent times. I must admit that I was a little apprehensive about attending this time.

In the past, travelling from the Shire early Sunday morning in August to Eastern Creek, I would see numerous other classic vehicles on the road bearing the Shannon's sticker on the windscreen. Alas, this time I was the only one and I even wondered whether I had mixed up the days. It wasn't until I reached Brabham Drive at Eastern Creek that my fears were allayed and the classic vehicles were there in force. I joined the crawling 30 minute queue at 8.30am to the entry gate. The pressure was on to be at pit lane for the concours exhibition before 9.00am to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Austin 7. About twenty minutes later, a very kind Jaguar driver jumped the queue and cut in front of me. As we crawled along, his car overheated and I felt so sorry for him while overtaking and seeing the steam bursting from under his bonnet. I wonder whether or not he knows that the SS brand was born from Austin 7?

Once through the gates everything went as smoothly as usual. The entrant show bag contained the usual goodies, including the CMC magazine featuring a well penned article by Maureen Boatwright on the history of the Austin 7. Bob Byrnes and I had our cars entered in the concours to wave the flag for 100th anniversary of the Austin 7. Merv Boatwright, Paul Pui, Trevor Hails and Russel Linfoot were also there with their cars in the designated Austin 7 area and Anthony Harte was also there with his Meteor. On display were all manner of vehicles from Goggomobiles to Cadillacs and veteran Talbots to the latest modern cars and being 1700 in all. This year there were more vintage cars on the display than in recent times. There were bands playing and the double decker buses rolling around the track. I must admit that



I had never before seen a double decker bus on the road travelling as fast as they did on the straight. The pit garages were filled with interests from books, machinery, parts, signs, models and polish which was much more than recent classic events.

The best entertainment though, was provided by Merv Boatwright when he locked his keys in his RP saloon. At first there was despair until he realised that the driver's door wasn't fully closed, leaving a small opening. He then set off to find a coat hanger or such to reach in and retrieve the key. A short time later Merv returned with a broad smile, coat hanger in hand, only to find that Russell, claiming he was trying to assist, had pushed the door and locked it tight. Well meaning onlookers made several unwelcome suggestions to Merv including cutting open the sun roof with a Stanley knife, cutting a hole in the fire wall and smashing a window to retrieve the key. Sanity prevailed and with a screwdriver the door lock was removed and the key back in Merv's hand.

Throughout the day the announcer spoke of the significant anniversaries. Obviously, the 100th anniversary of the Austin 7 was promoted, but one that struck me was the 50th anniversary of the Holden HQ. I didn't realise that I was that old!

At 2.45 the Concours cars went out on the track for a lap (or two). Bob and I elected to go last so not to hold up the more modern cars. What a mistake that was! Maybe next year we will go first and at least be able to get into top gear.

After the lap, the Concours awards were announced for each category in decades. I won the best vintage car award (1920's) with the blue tourer which is fitting for our 100th anniversary.

Mark Wellington



President's Run

16th to 18th September 2022 - Cessnock



Day Zero - Thursday 15th September

The President's Run was such an anticipated event this time following a long gap due to COVID lock downs, bad weather, floods and bushfires and especially for those who missed the Warrnambool hub rally, it was a long awaited opportunity to meet up with old friends and get the babies out on the road again. This report starts with "day zero" simply because the event was planned to start at 9.30am on Friday but all of the Sydney/Wollongong based members were so anxious that they arrived in Cessnock on the Thursday. Most trailered their cars, but the intrepid team of Maureen and Mervyn Boatwright elected to drive their Austin from Sydney.

On arrival, everyone was so impressed with the location and facilities offered at our base at the Cessnock Vintage Motor Inn, that the rain was soon forgotten. The cars were quickly unloaded and by 6.00pm it was time to head to the local Bowling Club for a sumptuous dinner with a beverage or two and catch up with old friends.

Day One - Friday 16th September

On Friday morning we awoke to clear skies and perfect weather for our Hunter Valley weekend escape. Everyone chose to fold down their hoods to enjoy the sunshine. We were joined at the start by our Newcastle area members Vickie & Gary Tout, Maria & Graham Burgess and Richard Holding. Following a rally briefing from our President, seven Austin's and two moderns departed Cessnock for a planned 40 km morning round trip to Kurri Kurri. It was a good flat run, well suited to the babies and Kurri Kurri proved to be a very impressive destination indeed.

These days every town seems to have a big "something" and for Kurri Kurri we discovered it's the Big Kookaburra. The Big Kookaburra proudly sits in the main park opposite the magnificent Kurri Kurri Hotel, providing a great photo opportunity. A beer at the hotel would have been good, albeit a little too early in the day. Instead, we took a relaxing walk around the town. As is usual on weekend events, there was a strict time schedule and in what seemed like a very short time, we were encouraged to leave Kurri Kurri for the return trip to Cessnock.



It was supposed to be a 40km round trip. An unexpected road closure in the town created a little confusion which most of us resolved with an abrupt U-turn. Russel Linfoot (the club homing pigeon) chose to take a more scenic route via the Sydney freeway. Not sure how many km's he actually travelled but thankfully he did re-join the group later in the afternoon.

The run sheet noted three suggestions for lunch in Cessnock. Most took the first option, Grice's Bakery. Grice's Bakery should be renamed "Grice's Gourmet Restaurant". The lunch options were amazing and probably not on the Doctor's good health list. Thankfully after lunch we had an hour to snooze before the afternoon run around the wine country.

At 1.30pm we departed for part two of day one, a 53km return tour through the wine region. Again, a good flat scenic run with roads damaged by recent rain offering plenty of pot holes to dodge. We passed several wineries, a water dragon and even a tortoise in the middle of the road before arriving at the Hunter Valley Gardens for our first stop. Soon after, a blushing bride arrived in a horse drawn carriage for a wedding in the gardens, but all eyes were on the Austin 7's lined up in the car park for photos with the tourists.

Back on the road for a short time we arrived at the Hunter Valley Chocolate Factory. It was about then that I realised that this was going to be a 5kg weekend that would take a couple of weeks to work off. Needless to say, the Babies were a little weighed down on the return to Cessnock. Another short rest and then it was time to return to the Cessnock Bowling Club where we met up with Sue and Tony Paull, members from the local area, and an opportunity to order the dinner that we wished we had ordered the night before. The food was good and the company better as we reminisced the first day of our weekend.

Joanne & Mark Wellington

President's Run – Cessnock and surrounding Wine Country Day 2 – Saturday September 17, 2022



Everyone was up early, chatting and excited to start the run and many of the guys were checking under car bonnets to make sure everything was ready for a great day.

The sun was shining and promising a great day for travelling in our Austin 7's. Our first stop was for morning tea at Laguna when we visited the Trading Post Café. After a delicious morning tea Carolyn Thompson, Janine Cullen and I paid a visit to a pottery display in the local hall. We found out there were several displays of pottery on show in many towns in the area, all made by locals.

We then headed off to explore the beautiful town of Wollombi. This town full of history unfortunately had not escaped the recent floods and this was very evident when we explored some of the beautiful old buildings including the local old pub which almost disappeared during the recent rising flood waters.

Due to the recent floods, the roads have many, many pot holes but our "Babies" and of course their drivers coped magnificiently.

Early afternoon we headed to Leconfield House for afternoon tea. Our Club members Richard Holding and Mark Dunford own this magnificent Guest House which has the most amazing sweeping views of the local countryside. We consumed delicious homemade scones with jam and cream whilst drinking tea from beautiful bone china cups. These guys also own a beautiful red Austin 7 sports car.

We eventually made our way back to the Motel and helped Amy and Paul Pui set-up the tables etc for the President's evening of good food, drinks and great company. A special thank you to Paul and Amy for providing, preparing and cooking the food etc for our great evening.

Maureen Boatwright



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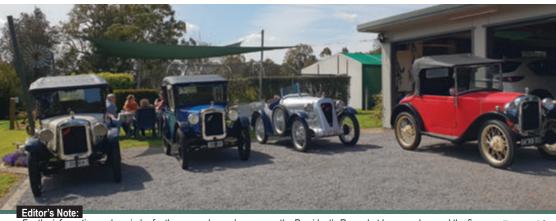
President's RunDay 3 Sunday 18/9/2022

It was another fun day involving a run to members Tony and Sue Paull at their home at Sedgefield for morning tea and lunch at Harrigan's Irish pub. Unfortunately, not everyone were able to stay, Mervyn and Maureen apologized for their decision not to stay for the day's run to avoid the heavy traffic on the freeway going back to Sydney, as they were driving their Austin, which is understandable. Gordon and Janine Critcher also had to return home and Russell loaded his Austin on the trailer for his quick getaway after the morning tea. The 51km run to Tony and Sue's house was fun and the scenery in the back country was beautiful. In the group for the day were Kevin Lewis, Mark and Joanne, Russell Linfoot Garry and Vicki, Graham and Maria, Paul and Amy and Helen and Carolyn rolling in with the Austins and modern cars. Sue went into a lot of effort putting on a beautiful spread for the morning tea and with lots of leftovers, she happily said no problem. anything not used she will take them for sale at the hospital and the proceeds to be donated to the hospital. Tony has quite a collection of "Working" projects at his home and I am sure it was quite enjoyable for the guys to walk through

his various sheds. Looking at the various cars he has restored, it is an amazing show of dedication and achievement!

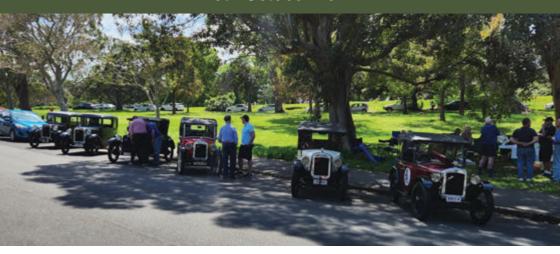
The next destination after the morning tea was to the Australian Infantry Museum, unfortunately the place was closed and after a short break everyone was happy to head to Harrigan's Irish pub for some drinks and lunch. Located in the middle of Pokolbin, the pub and accommodation are very popular as it is also very close to the Hunter Valley Gardens. With such serenity and open space in the whole Hunter region no wonder it is a popular holiday destination judging by the number of accommodations dotted all around the area. It also turns out to be quite suitable for the little Austins to "speed" along the country roads even though I did find some parts guite scary as the poor president was trying very hard to make it a PERFECT, no getting lost, on time runs for everyone. As it turned out, everything went smoothly according to plan and there were no breakdowns with any of the cars. It was a wonderful long weekend, thank you all to those who attended, and we hope that everyone had a great time.

Amy Pui



For the information and reminder for those members who were on the President's Run, what happened around the fire on the Saturday evening was very sociable and enjoying, but, "What happens on the run.....stays on the run."

Centennial Park Display Day 16th October 2022





Lady Luck smiled on members of the Austin Seven Club of NSW as we attended our Annual Display Day at Sydney's Centennial Park on the 16th October 2022.

We enjoyed perfect Spring weather as six Austin Sevens met at our traditional display area along with some thirty members and friends

By way of departure from our usual "B Y O camp chairs and picnic lunches" routine, Vice President Kevin Lewis proposed that the club add something extra to this year's event. With help from Kevin's wife Irish and family, members arriving at 10 o'clock were pleasantly surprised to find that Kevin and his family had set up a long trestle table laden with homemade muffins, scones with jam and cream, fruit bowls, plates and serviettes and a cake decorated to celebrate 100 years of the Austin Seven. A huge display of white roses also adorned one end of the table.

It was a most welcoming sight and set the mood for a very relaxed day.

Our Austins created much interest throughout the day from passers-by, some of whom stopped to reminisce whilst others wanted to be photographed standing beside, or sitting in them.

At one point a park ranger stopped by and politely asked us to reposition our cars parallel to the kerb as we had angle parked for a photo shoot. Apparently the front of the cars were too far out on the roadway and impeded cars travelling along he road.

Finally a vote was taken for Car of the Day which was won by Bob and Noelene Byrne's 1929 Chummy.

To end the day's celebration, Paul Pui was called upon to make a speech as a dedication to the 100 year anniversary of the Austin 7 and to cut the birthday cake. Once again, we were presented with an array of fresh fruit and cheese and cracker platers to finish off the day.

Thanks to all who attended and helped make this Display Day one more to remember.

Russell Linfoot.







Member ProfilePaul Pui - President of Austin 7 Club NSW



Where did you grow up?

I was born and grew up happily and relatively uneventfully in an oil town called Miri in East Malaysia. I completed my senior school Form 5 in Kuching (Capital of Sarawak) at St Thomas' Church of England School which was established in 1848 during the British colonial rule. The school principal at the time was an Australian from Melbourne and he assisted a school friend and I to enrol in Balwyn High School in Melbourne for matriculation in 1968.

Looking back the journey it was a challenge to transition from a primarily Chinese school background to a full English education, leaving the security and comfort of the home environment at 18 to a totally new education system and foreign culture in a new country. But being young and with the company of a school



friend, we took on anything life would throw at us as we did not know any difference.

What do you do after leaving school?

I went to do a university forestry course, but after doing a compulsory summer vacation training in the bush for a forestry research institute, the lonely physical work in a forest putting up with hay fever, flies, mosquitoes, and creepy crawlies proved to be not part of my desired life. Then at the beginning of the second-year course, I was told by a lecturer that I needed to identify at least 120 species of eucalyptus at year-end by looking at their leaves, seeds and flowers which all looked frighteningly similar. On top of that, I needed to remember all their Latin names. I finally woke up in cold sweat from my dream of becoming a forester. With my planned career gone up in smoke, the year became the probably the hardest time in my life. Totally lost as a young man as to what to do, I then switched to general science. I found chemistry to be the easiest of the lot, so I went on to finish an Honours degree and a doctorate degree in analytical chemistry.

I started with my career as a research scientist and progressed to be the chief chemist of the ICI Petrochemical complex at Botany Site after twenty years, before the site business was broken up. I continued to be in chemical consultant business for petrochemical, mining and LNG businesses and I am now semi-retired.

What is your first encounter with Austin 7?

I was familiar only with the name of Austin while growing up in Malaysia as our family had Austin 40 Devon, Austin Cambridge and Austin 1100 over time. That was it, as I was too busy doing growing up things, then education, career, marriage, family etc. My interest in vintage cars was always in the background after Amy and I bought our house, a deceased estate of George Green who had a collection of tools and vintage cars in the garage when we inspected the house. Almost after thirty years later when our children have grown up, Amy was interested in looking at some paintings in an auction house one day, and we found next to the art gallery, hundreds of mostly collectable cars and parts of all sorts would also be auctioned. We

wandered into the display showroom showing many nice collectables, but only a partially restored cute Austin 7 caught our attention and interest. It was the first time in our life that we saw an Austin 7.

The auction price guide looked acceptable and at that stage we were so excited by the charm of Austin 7 that we totally forgot about the paintings and returned to bid for the Austin 7 on the auction day. We knew nothing mechanically about cars, leave alone Austin 7. We failed at the auction after the price had gone well beyond our price guide budget. At the end of the auction Amy and I went to have a last look at our beloved Austin 7, we met two tyre kickers, Mark Wellington and Mervyn Boatwright, who were also looking at the car.

I was thankful when Meryn said that though the body looked good, the engine probably gear box, clutch, front and back suspension and lots more needed a complete rebuild. I expressed my interest in Austin 7 and left him my contact number. Months passed when life had gone back to the normal grind when I had forgotten about Austin 7, I got a call about an Austin 7 on the market from Mervyn who then helped me with inspection and I bought the 1929 cream colour Chummy. From then on, Amy and I discovered a wonderful new world of Austin 7 fraternity. We joined the Austin 7 NSW Club whose president, Mark Wellington, was the one of the tyre kickers I met earlier and as people say, the rest is history.

Would I Lie To You? _ _

Below, are a number of statements, of which, some are in fact true and some not. Can you identify which ones they are? You can email me your answers to kevirish@bigpond.com and I will include them in the next magazine. Circle your guesses and let's see who can get the highest number correct.

•	I drove my 1929 Austin 7 across the Nullarbor plain without hassle	T/F
•	I almost lost a rear wheel in my recent club run in Hunter Valley	T/F
•	I have met rally Austin 7 owners checking for turbo in my 1929 engine	T/F
•	I met and married my wife in Taiwan	T/F
•	I am the only professional in among family business siblings	T/F
•	I once worked in Sir John Eccles neurosensory laboratory in USA	T/F
•	I am a chartered chemist and a fellow member of RACI (FRACI)	T/F
•	I can speak 5 languages including 3 Chinese dialects	T/F
•	I love Shakespeare literature	T/F
•	I have driven my Austin 7 with the hood down twice	T/F

Would I Lie To You?Kevin Lewis Answers

Let's see if you were right or wrong:

- I received a trophy for being the 'Most Aggressive Driver' in a demolition derby.
 It was a charity event organised by Parramatta Rotaract Club which was held at the old Parramatta Speedway, Granville.
- I have shaken hands with Pope John Paul II.
 I was on Police Escort duty back in 1986 when the Pope visited and he shook all the Police escorts hand's.
- I have written a book entitled 'The Kid' about growing up.
 Not me, but there is another Kevin Lewis who is an author.
 Did anyone Google it?
- I received an Employee of the Year award in 2006.
 My boss at the time awarded me the trophy. I suppose the reason I won it was I was his only employee.
- I have a degree from a University.
 I have 2. An Associate Diploma and a Graduate Certificate.
- I was booked for speeding and lost my licence because of it. Whilst at high school, 12 days after I got my P's, I was booked for speeding.
- I was in a share of race horses, when 2 of them won at the same race meeting.
 My family had a number of race horses and both won on the same day at the Gosford Race track back in 1991.
- I have shaken hands with Prince Charles and Princess Diana.
 I was a VIP Motorcycle escort for Charles and Di and they shook our hands when departing Sydney.
- I once went on a boat in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

 Never, ever, would I go in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race.
- I played football which was broadcast on TV.
 Our school played in the Amoco Shield back in 1976 with Ray Warren calling it back then.



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All Spare Parts correspondence should be addressed to:

Mr Mervyn Boatwright P.O. Box 366, Casula Mall, NSW 2170

Tel: 0412 940 001

NOTE: When registration is due on your Historic Vehicle, you need to make an appointment for the inspection of your vehicle, fill out your 1259 Form and bring it with you at the time of Inspection.

Once the vehicle has passed the Inspection, the paperwork will be signed and stamped, photo copied for our Club records and the originals returned to you so you can register your vehicle.

Please phone Mervyn Boatwright on 0412 940 001 for Inspection.



The Committee of the Austin 7 Club NSW, we would like to wish all of our members, a very joyous Christmas and a happy and safe New Year.

Whatever your plans are over the holiday period, we hope that you enjoy this time with family and friends and we look forward to catching up with in the New Year.

Point Score Trophy

Don't forget the Austin 7 Club NSW *Point Score* program. Our aim is to see as many people as possible attending events and meetings (including monthly general meetings). Participation in an event or outing from the starting point to the finish will score you 2 points, while attending a general meeting will score you 1 point. These points are awarded whether you attend in your Austin 7 or modern car. The person with the highest points tally will receive a trophy at our Christmas Luncheon / Presentation Day. Come along and get involved.



DISCLAIMER: The Austin 7 Club NSW Inc (the Club), its Officers and the Committee cannot be held liable for any errors and/or omissions in items that are published in good faith in this Baby Torque magazine. It should be noted that the publication of an advertisement or expression of views in articles and reports in this magazine does not necessarily imply endorsement by the Club.

Austin 7 Club NSW Inc

"Dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of all types of Austin Sevens"

Our Club is a member of The Council of Motor Clubs, Inc.

The Austin 7 Club NSW Inc has been active since 1984 and aims to bring together people with the common interest of restoring, preserving and driving Austin Sevens. We are an informal family club that regularly takes our "Babies" to the road for some fun social touring. Spare parts are available to Club Members through the Club Spares Division and our technical people will give advice, where possible, in regards to the restoration of these cars.

RMS Regulations & Club Rules

Members are to observe all RMS Regulations and Club Rules as contained in our current Constitution and Members Mate booklet

If this Club is nominated as your Primary Club under the RMS Historic Conditional Registration Scheme (HCRS) then the following documents MUST be carried in your vehicle at all times.

- a copy of your RMS Certificate of Approved Operation of Vehicle
- a copy of this Clubs Certificate of Insurance (Public Liability)
- · a current or recent Baby Torque magazine
- a current yearly membership receipt

If bad weather conditions are looming:

please contact Maureen Boatwright (Home) 02 9822 8609 (Mobile) 0413 017 263 or Paul Pui (Home) 02 9958 1791 (Mobile) 0413 621 078 Saturday evenings or from 6.30am on the Sunday of the run.

Postal Address: P.O. Box 6009, North Ryde NSW 2113 Email: info@austin7clubnsw.org.au

Website: www.austin7clubnsw.org.au