

BABY TORQUE

AUSTIN 7 CLUB NSW INC

Number 305



Club members gathered for the Don Avery Run on April 18, 2021

From left to right: Elaine Taylor, Graham Burgess, Russell Lindfoot, Trevor Hails, Paul Pui, Kevin, Tara and Irish Lewis, Mervyn and Maureen Boatwright, Bob Byrne.

July - 2021 - Edition

Baby Torque

Committee Members	Executive		Name	Home Phone	Mobile Phone
	President		Paul Pui	(02) 9958 1791	0413 621 078
	Vice President		Kevin Lewis	(02) 9614 6030	0414 906 591
	Treasurer		Brad Sheringham		0401 254 286
	Secretary / Public Officer		Maureen Boatwright	(02) 9822 8609	0413 017 263
	Non-Executive		Name	Home Phone	Mobile Phone
	Spare Parts		Mervyn Boatwright	(02) 9822 8609	0412 940 001
	Membership		Amy Pui	(02) 9958 1791	0481 771 523
	Events Director		Maureen Boatwright	(02) 9822 8609	0413 017 263
	Editor		Amy Pui	(02) 9958 1791	0481 771 523
	Web Master		Kevin Lewis	(02)9614 6030	0414 906 591
	Club Examiner		Mervyn Boatwright	(02) 9822 8609	0412 940 001
	Chassis Register Officer		Mark Wellington	(02) 9545 1507	0409 121 576
	CMC Delegate		Robert Byrne		0414 351 246
	Committee Member		Russell Linfoot	(02) 9624 2801	0408 488 523
	As a courtesy, please do not contact Committee Members after 9:00pm				
Banking Details	Austin 7 Club NSW Inc			Austin 7 Club NSW Inc Spare Parts	
	Bank	Laboratories Credit Union		Bendigo Bank	
	BSB	802-841		633-000	
	Account	100008499		128875804	
Meetings	The Austin 7 Club NSW Inc holds its General Meeting at 8.00pm on the second Wednesday of each month normally at Bankstown Sports Club, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown.				
Deadline	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

I am pleased that in the current climate with the coronavirus, our club has done pretty well in keeping up with the usual club meetings and club runs through the year. We managed to put in four runs since February due to the hard work and tireless commitment from our event director, Maureen Boatwright. Needless to say, everyone always has a great time during the outings, and put in the effort to show support for the club during these uncertain times. The recent appearance of Delta variant in this country has proved to be much more aggressive and contagious, and at the time of writing this note, Sydney is in complete 2 weeks lockdown after the previous successful government strategy failed to contain the virus spread. Our club will continue to follow the government guideline to keep everyone safe during club activities.

I also like to welcome three new members to the club, Mr Colin Green, Mr Robert Carrozza and Mr Gordon Critcher. We look forward to seeing any new vehicles coming to club events.

Our next main event would be the President's weekend away scheduled for August 13 to 15. We plan to visit the beautiful Hunter Valley/Cessnock area and drive through Branxton, Broke, Laguna, Lovedale etc. The response so far for this run has been good and we are expecting over 20 people attending. If you have not booked and are still interested, please let me know (0413 621 078) ASAP, as I may still be to book you in at a discounted rate (2 nights \$200, 1 night \$120).

Keep safe, everyone.

Paul Pui

Dedicated Volunteers Wanted

The National Austin Seven Rally is held once every 5 years, and next year 2022 will be the 100 years celebration of Austin 7s. I hope many of us will be there, coronavirus permitting, to help to celebrate this major historical event in Warrnambool.

Many of us have enjoyed taking part in the national rallies in the past. There is an opportunity for NSW club to volunteer to host the 2027 national rally in NSW. There have been discussions in the club committee and in general meetings on the subject. The consensus is that the committee should invite our club members who are keen to champion this initiative.

If you or some of you are keen to take up this initiative, can you please let me (0413 621 078) know or let any of the club committee members know.

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.**

When you receive your new style Log Book please contact
Mervyn Boatwright and provide your Log Book Number.

Events Report

Since the distribution of the last magazine the Austin 7's have travelled north, south and west whilst the drivers and passengers enjoyed the sights of lush rich green countryside we had driven through. Everything had been going great until very recently when Covid suddenly struck again with an ugly fast moving strain and of course the lockdown came at the same time as school holidays. Hopefully, we should be able to go on our next run set down for July 18 as our Premier believes the virus should be under control by the end of next week. The Club Run for July has been carried over from a postponed Run due to heavy rain back in March.

In April we visited Windsor and surrounding areas, visited flood areas round Lower Portland where caravans were smashed badly and the remains were scattered in parks, in May we visited Sublime Point and enjoyed morning tea provided by the Club, then checked out the beautiful views over the coast, we travelled to Appin and enjoyed lunch purchased from the bakery. I must mention, on this day I was the lead driver in my modern and I was also the navigator and I don't like recalling this particular run as I managed to lose two A 7's supposedly following me on the Princes Highway, one got lost in Engadine and the other in Heathcote but after many mobile calls we got back together and made it to Sublime Point for morning tea.

June saw the Babies have a pleasant run through Glenhaven, Galston, Dural and Glenorie where we had breakfast in a cafe located in a Camellia garden nursery. Then we continued on through Pitt Town and surrounding areas. We were extremely lucky, the rain left us alone and we enjoyed another pleasant run before heading home in many different directions. Whilst organising the breakfast venue for this run I realised since Covid's arrival in NSW it is almost impossible to find a breakfast venue that is open on Sunday morning prior to 11.00 am.

Hope to see a good roll up of Austin 7's on our next run south. Please bring your lunch drink and a chair.

Happy Austin 7 Touring

Maureen Boatwright

Club Membership Renewals

Please be advised that Membership renewals are due on 1st January 2021 and if not paid by that date, you cannot drive your vehicle registered with HVS Plates until your 2020 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**

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



18 July 2021 **Mystery Run.** Meet at Liverpool Regional Museum Hume Highway, Casula at 9.30 am, heading south today, byo lunch or buy during run.

13-15 Aug 2021 **President's Run.** Weekend Away based in Cessnock Area. Contact Paul Pui on 0413 621 078 for bookings and further information.

19 Sept 2021 **Centennial Park Display Day.** Meet from 10.00 am in Parkes Drive just down from Oxford St. gate Entrance & up from Cannon Display.

17 Oct 2021 **All British Day, Kings School, North Parramatta.** Tickets \$10 per car. If attending contact Maureen a.s.a.p. as tickets must be ordered.

21 Nov 2021 **Christmas Luncheon/Presentation Day** – Vanilla Cream Cafe – Amaroo Park

8 Dec 2021 **Annual General Meeting**

9 - 14 April 2022 **Austin 7 National Rally** – Warrnambool – Expressions of interest now available. Rally Registration will be on Saturday April 9 and conclude with a Farewell Dinner on Thursday April 14. Those wishing to stay as a group in accommodation, please contact Maureen a.s.a.p



CAR FOR SALE:

Enquiry: Alan Ray
0417 263 288



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.

The Austin 7 Club NSW Spare Parts Section has purchased a trailer load of Austin 7 second-hand parts. A flyer will be emailed/posted to all members of this club in the near future. Please do not phone prior to receiving the flyer as parts have not been unloaded at this time.

Sunday the 21-2-21, a great set of numbers (says the accountant) and a great A7 day out!

I was lucky enough to hitch a ride with captain Kevin and the esteemed Sweet Violet. Kevin's day started early by preparing Sweet Violet. A few issues with the battery and starter early on but he drove over and picked me up for the 30 minute drive to meet the others at Bankstown.

After an exciting but uneventful drive to Bankstown, we caught up with Graham Burgess, Elaine Taylor, Paul and Amy Pui, Merv and Maureen Boatwright, Russell Linfoot and Mark Wellington; a total of 5 Austin 7's and 2 modern cars. It was very pleasing to see that the majority of people donned their new Austin 7 Club Cap.

After leaving our rendezvous, no one told us it was to be a le mans start!! Approaching our 3rd set of lights Sweet Violet decided to switch off. This inevitably meant Kevin and I had to switch on. Thinking quickly Kevin yelled to push Sweet Violet off the road...the lights changed to green and all of a sudden we were pushing her through the lights. Kevin yelled "lets clutch start her"... With that, Kevin started to run alongside of his Austin, with the driver's door open and then elegantly jumped behind the wheel as we pushed her through the intersection. I kept up the speed pushing on the passenger side and after what seemed like a 100 metre sprint, we were successfully able to clutch start her. I also elegantly jumped into the moving vehicle to complete our first le mans start! It took 5 minutes to regain our breath...but all was good and off we went, splitting the field of 5 cars at the lights.

Following the excellent directions provided by Maureen, we all made it to the first pit stop at the Georges River to stretch the legs and to pop a hood and to inspect an engine or two. We were able to solve many of the world issues, before we were on our way once again. We then drove to the old ferry wharf at Lugarno and then onto HV Evatt park, where I used to play rugby and have fond memories of breaking my leg there a few years ago...

Throughout our trip we had many complements and people admiring us...or the machines... We also encountered plenty of drivers anxious to get ahead of us.... They seemed in a hurry. One particular chap jumped ahead of Paul Pui in his modern but alas he thought he was in the clear only to find 4 Austin's in front of him heading up a hill at 30km/h...poor chap...hahaha



Sunday the 21-2-21, a great set of numbers (says the accountant) and a great A7 day out!

Our second pit stop was Oatley Park, a beautiful park looking out over the Georges River. We stopped to take in the view and pose for a selfie.

On to Oatley Bay Park where we had pre ordered our awesome dinner of various seafood and chips that Maureen had kindly picked up for everyone. A beautiful park, highly recommended.

After a great feed and conversation, we parted ways to make our journeys back home. Kevin and I successfully navigated King Georges Road in some fairly heavy Sunday evening traffic. We went roof down this time...the smiles we had all day started to wane, but nevertheless we had a fabulous run.

Brad Sherringham



**Sunday the 21-2-21, a great set of numbers
(says the accountant) and a great A7 day out!**



Sunday April 18th 2021

Don Avery Run

Hawksbury after the flood

Another great Austin Seven run was enjoyed by club members on Sunday 18th May when seven cars departed Ettamogah Pub for a day run to the Hawksbury region. Kevin and Irish Lewis could only join for the first hour of the trip due to family commitments so Boatwrights and Russell Linfoot took the lead in showing the way to devastating destruction caused by the one in one hundred year floods in the upper Hawksbury region. Overturned caravans and cars all covered in mud and silt was all that remained of the lovely caravan parks and resorts along the otherwise beautiful banks of the river. On crossing the river on the ferry, we were shown the water marks on mooring piles of the punt that were about thirty feet above the normal level. The ferry master advised that his punt was older than our cars having been built of riveted iron construction in 1894; So there!! Picture can never show the grief and loss suffered by the people whose homes and possessions were lost in the disastrous flood event only months before. Looking at the new Bondi Beaches that were formed by nice golden sand washed down the river gave thought as what could be done there in future with the new real estate. Lovely grassy shores were the former playground for the people of Sydney who spent their time boating and swimming in the river. Lunch was at Wisemans Ferry Bowling Club where Puis were first to get the shady spot under the trees at the venue. After a lovely lunch Bob Bryne left early to be home for wife Noelene.

Robert Byrne - Our CMC Delegate



Sunday April 18th 2021

Don Avery Run

The rest of the group including Trevor Hails and Graham's navigator Elaine Taylor relied on Russell to get us back to the Ettamogah Pup in the busy afternoon traffic. We are living in a new world of transport and leisure today with the proliferation of modern motor cycles that are out and about on weekends and gathering at popular spots on highways and back roads. Our planned morning tea stop was soon dropped when we saw the hundreds of motor bikes gathered and filling the venue with thirsty coffee drinkers. They might be all nice people but there's too many of them for one coffee shop where Austin Sevens like to stop. At least the bike people are not worried with little Austin Sevens because we never hold them up on the road. They can overtake us at high speed even around blind bends and over double line. 'Ah well' On a few corners descending the mountain I felt like I was driving a motor cycle as we scurried around the bends hoping no one was coming the other way. One occasion little Rita's brake faded and disappeared leaving this old man thinking "Oh dear".

All in all, a beautiful day was had by everybody and the weather was perfect in contrast to the previous days forecast.

Only one thing to do.....get ready for another run soon

Graham Burgess



Sunday April 18th 2021
Don Avery Run



Sunday April 18th 2021

Don Avery Run



Bankstown to Appin Run

16 May 2021

It was a chilly Autumn morning when we gathered at Ross Street near Bankstown Sports Club for our monthly run. Maureen came in the modern as Mervyn was happily camping away with his mates, Russell was well prepared with a cap with ear muffers, Paul Pui had a few layers on with a thin red jacket so that when he puts out his hand for signaling it is more visible, Graham Burgess and Elaine Taylor arrived on the dot from Newcastle. Now, where is Mark Wellington, he promised at least he would join us for morning tea as again he has family commitments! A few phone calls later, we were told he forgot about the run and was still having his breakfast at home! Well by that time we were half an hour behind schedule so we took off in high speed and high spirits.

Travelling south took us down to Alford's Road crossing Georges River and to Bangor Bypass which is about 21km. You have to be a genius to figure out that the name of a highway or road does not necessarily stay the same from one intersection to the next. Just taking the Bangor Bypass for example, as the Bypass travels towards Woronora Bridge it suddenly became River Road, which then after crossing the river became Linden Street which then became The Grand Parade and then Princess Highway. Passing through Sutherland towards A1 Princess Highway, along the way Graham and Russell managed to get themselves lost and headed for Engadine. A few phone calls later, they finally caught up with us and we happily gathered for a lovely morning tea provided by the club at Sublime Point Lookout. A beautiful lookout to Bulli with beautiful coastlines that fit the name perfectly.



Leaving the lookout, we travelled along M1 and B69 to Appin which is 44km away. After a short lunch of pies, we realized that the return trip was going to be just as challenging. This is because we did not have Mervyn or Mark in their Austin to lead us home, and Maureen kindly took out her thick book of directory and explained very clearly to us which way to go. Ah, the residents north of the Harbour Bridge, they just get lost when they come down south. And with no charger in the Austin, we just have to guess half the time. Anyway, Russell knew his way home and was soon out of sight, Graham soon resolved to following us as the light was too bright for him to read the map on his phone. Paul was determined not to take the M5 so with a rough idea, he hassled Amy to guide him back to Bankstown. The little Austin might look cute trotting away on the highway but in reality, the combination of petrol fumes, near failing brakes plus the nagging driver don't exactly qualify for a leisurely drive! In total 358 km was travelled and the little Austin of ours worked pretty hard! I promised myself I will not do another "blind run" like this simply because my husband who normally is a very good driver and navigator cannot think of anything else when he is concentrating driving the Austin. Thank you, Maureen, once again, for once again an exciting run.

Amy Pui

Bankstown to Appin Run

16 May 2021



AUSTIN SEVEN BREAKFAST RUN.

20/6/2021.

Why do we take our Austin Sevens for a drive on the shortest day of the year in Sydney's wild and windy wintery weather?

Because we love them and the opportunity they provide to meet fellow devotees who enjoy owning this endearing little car.

Eight cars (4 Austin 7's, four moderns) met at McDonalds Auburn to take part in June's mystery breakfast run. Some drivers had arrived early to enjoy a hot drink to ward off the cold weather ahead. Black clouds were gathering and rain was threatening.

Our route took us north through Silverwater and Carlingford towards Castle Hill, normally a busy drive although traffic was remarkably light on this early Sunday morning.

Traffic lights were in our favour most of the way except for those at the foot of a long downhill run on New Line Rd near Dural. Inevitably those lights turned red forcing our drivers to execute the well-rehearsed emergency stopping procedure, well known to Austin Seven owners.

Austin Seven owners also know that for every hill that goes downwards there is an equal and opposite hill going upwards.

With the lights changing to green our Austins had to negotiate the hill-climb from a standing start.

A generous overtaking lane allowed faster cars to overtake safely.

Cresting the hill at Dural brought us to the semi-rural areas of Sydney's northern fringe enabling us to maintain a comfortable pace along Old Northern Rd to our destination Café Sasanqua and Nursery in Cattai Ridge Rd. After browsing the nursery we entered the warm and welcoming café where a long table had been set up awaiting our arrival.

Choice of breakfast from a comprehensive menu was enjoyed by all, and a stroll through the Café Sasanqua and Nursery completed our visit.

Our breakfast run concluded with a scenic drive along Cattai Ridge Rd through the historic village of Pitt Town, then Oakville and Annangrove where huge residential developments are under way to cater for Sydney's expanding population.

Our Austin Sevens performed faultlessly ensuring another memorable day.

R. Linfoot.



AUSTIN SEVEN BREAKFAST RUN. 20/6/2021.



*AUSTIN SEVEN BREAKFAST RUN.
20/6/2021.*



Austin Seven goes to war

During 1930s the U.S. military was looking for a type of vehicle to carry soldiers in the field after realising the motor cycle and sidecar were not suitable for many aspects of transport especially on uneven terrain. Many experiments were held to arrive at a suitable vehicle for the purpose and called for interested manufacturers to submit designs.

Bantam motor company of United States of America were then making Austin Sevens under license to Herbert Austin and so started by taking the tried and true Austin Seven Bantam and fitting wider wheels and a flat platform body. It was rejected as being much too uncomfortable. The company revised the design and offered the army a design that was ideal and sought a contract to supply 75 vehicles for a price of \$175,000. The army liked the simple design but did not accept the Bantam Company's ability to supply the required future number of vehicles.

The army claimed ownership of the design and then involved Willys Overland and Ford in the production of more than four hundred thousand vehicles which eventually became known as JEEPS.

The name JEEP which was not officially recognised by the army became the most successful of all army transport vehicles because of its ability to operate in all different situations including snow and mud. Who would have thought the little old English designed Austin Seven would play such a huge role during the Second World War.

Some things change but many things remain the same. British Austin Seven enthusiasts are still at war with their unusual competitive edge by pitting their Austin Sevens against the elements in *Hill Climbs* and *Mud Runs* much to the chagrin of modern motoring buffs. Yes..... "Dads Army" old Poms are still at it, in the hills and marshes just out of town in the *old dart*. Austin Sevens are still at war of a different kind, still covered in mud and dirt but with men dressed in uniforms of hounds tooth coats with leather elbows, Deerstalker hats and cravats. Yes there are still some rugged old chaps around Eh?

Many more jeeps were built than Austin Sevens but those that remain became as collectable as Austin Sevens that originated from the brainchild of Herbert Austin.

Graham Burgess



WHY THE BANTAM (AUSTIN 7) WAS NOT POPULAR IN USA.



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.

From the editor:

Please be reminded that any contributions of articles or subjects of interest etc to be published in the magazines from members of the club are always greatly appreciated.



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.

Welcome New Members:

Mr Lal Etherington

Mr Colin Green

Mr Robert Carrozza

Mr Gordon Critcher

Postal Address: P.O. Box 6009, North Ryde NSW 2113

Email: info@austin7clubnsw.org.au

Website: www.austin7clubnsw.org.au