

BABY TORQUE

AUSTIN 7 CLUB NSW INC

◆ *Number 310* ◆



March | 2023 | Edition

Baby Torque

Committee Members

Executive	Name	Home Phone	Mobile Phone
President	Paul Pui	(02) 9958 1791	0413 621 078
Vice President	John Moyes	(02) 4837 3023	
Treasurer	Kevin Lewis	(02) 9614 6030	0414 906 591
Secretary / Public Officer	Maureen Boatwright		0413 017 263
Non-Executive	Name	Home Phone	Mobile Phone
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Membership	Amy Pui	(02) 9958 1791	0481 771 523
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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

We really welcome 2023, the Year of The Rabbit, as the coronavirus has finally been accepted as endemic in our community and life is gradually returning to kind of normal. No more masks, no more compulsory PCR tests, no more lock downs and no more shortage of toilet paper in supermarkets!

Recognising the milder form of Omicron virus is still lurking in the community and infected people have generally reported as a mild flu, we should still exercise care as many of our members are elderly. The State or Federal Government no longer publishes the infection and fatality rates, despite some people can get very sick and the elderly with medical conditions seem to bear the brunt of the fatality.

Three years of coronavirus pandemic has really changed the way we live and we do things. This is typified by on-line shopping, on-line meetings, on-line medical consultations and hybrid working arrangements. We have noted that our members attending club meetings are notably down, which are also noted by many other car clubs. Our Club Facebook members on the other hand have increased significantly to more than 250. In order to encourage members participation, our Event Director will organise log-book runs and more weekend away this year, so we are hoping more of our members can join in the fun runs.

The 2022 Austin 7 club committee members have been returned in the 2023 general election, except for John Moyes who has taken the Vice Presidency and Kevin Lewis, the Treasurer position. Regrettably, because of family commitments, Brad Sherringham has resigned as a Treasurer after 7 years on the job. Brad has done a fantastic job introducing new way of financial reporting and overcoming the club financial audit requirements. His willingness to assist the new treasurer until the continuity is established is gratefully acknowledged by the committee. On behalf of the club, I would like to thank Brad for all the work he has done and the contributions he has made to the club over the last 7 years.

Stay in contact. Keep up to date of club news on our club website. If you do not have internet access, you are welcome to ring any of the committee members to find out what is on.

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.

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

Events Report

Since the last edition of Baby Torque, club members attended the Club Christmas Party held at Vanilla Cream Cafe, a breakfast run to Stanwell Park and a Twilight Run starting with a tour of Auburn Botanic Gardens and finished off with a fish and chips meal at a very nice cafe at Padstow. On Sunday March 19, club members are meeting McDonalds Auburn to depart 9.00am for a north run. In April we will travel from Ettamogah Pub at Kellyville for an interesting run.

Club Event - 2 days away in the Bathurst Region. At this time the run will start on the Saturday morning and conclude Sunday afternoon but, if some members are interested in starting the run on the Friday then that can be arranged. Motel booking will need to be made very soon so please contact me for further details and supply numbers attending so things can swing into action.

If you have any suggestions as to where you would like a Club Run to be held, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Happy Austin 7 Touring and hope to see the number of Austin 7's on the road increasing in numbers.

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 >>

- 2024 -

Austin 7 Club NSW 40th Anniversary

In 2024 the Austin 7 Club NSW will hold its 40th Anniversary. It is hard to believe that almost ten years have passed since the great run our club members experienced when we based ourselves in Gloucester to celebrate our Club's 30th Anniversary. Let's make the 40th Anniversary even bigger and better. The event will start on **Sunday March 17** and conclude on **Thursday evening March 21** and we will depart for home **Friday morning March 22, 2024**. Expressions of Interest will be available soon.

APR 16, 2023 Don Avery Memorial Shield Run. Meet at Ettamogah Pub, Windsor Rd. Kellyville Ridge at 9.30 am. BYO lunch or purchase on way.

JUN 18, 2023 Meet at Liverpool Regional Museum, Crn. Hume H/Way & Congressional Dr. Casula. Run to Picton/Camden Areas. BYO lunch or buy during the run.

Twilight Run

Sunday February 20, 2023

After a heavy storm the day before on Saturday where tens of thousands of households were left with no power, it was a sunny Sunday where a few eager Austin 7 members gathered for another fun afternoon run ahead. Amy was looking forward to the scrumptious fish and chips dinner at Aces Ocean Seafood at the end of the run as the previous visit to the same venue proved to be totally worth it! Carolyn and Helen turned up 1.5 hours earlier after their morning church visit finished, Paul Pui decided to leave the Austin at home as his crowded garage with 3 moderns and 2 Austins and trailers proved too time consuming to organize, surely no body is going to complain! Russell was there early too with his Roadster, he has shown great support for the club and we really appreciate that. Mervyn and Maureen arrived in their Black Sedan and Mark and Joanne in their blue Tourer.

A short drive took us to the Auburn Botanic Garden and straight away our entourage form a line at the ice cream truck at the front





gate. Established in 1977 and with 9.7 acres of various features like the Japanese garden, bridges and ponds. A relaxed atmosphere for easy strolls.

A half and hour drive down the A6 took us to the Aces Ocean Seafood at Padstow at 4 p.m. Amy promptly sent Paul off to get some beer and ordered some long-awaited fish and chips. To her great delight, the food was delicious which is also reflected in the reviews. Sometimes I wonder, the Austin drives can be a bit treacherous because of uncertainties like the unpredictable breaks

or the wobbly wheels, but on the road, they all look so much like easy riders, especially those with their hoods down and relaxed passengers. It never ceases to amaze me that these beautiful little cars can be of so much fun! Most importantly, I always feel a sense of achievement after each outing because simply it's always a great day out, with lots of things to see, people to talk to and lovely food to have.

Amy Pui



Russell Linfoot, Joanne and Mark, Paul Pui.

A Visit to Ireland and the Irish Austin Seven Club



Over the Christmas and New Year period, my family and I paid a visit to my wife's family in Ireland. Prior to going, I thought I might do a search on Google, to see if there was an Austin 7 Club operating on the island. After a quick search, I found that there was and made contact with a Mr William Cuddy who is the Honorary Secretary of the club. I had made prior arrangements for my family to spend 3 nights in Cork City and luckily enough, William was living just outside of Cork.

After our 3 ½ hour drive and before going to the hotel, we stopped off at William's home and was introduced to his wife Valerie. We were greeted with a fabulous Irish welcome with a cuppa tea and some scones, cake and some lovely salmon and a bit of a chat.

Some time later, William took all of us to his garages to view, what I thought was one Austin 7, but low and behold, he had not only one, 1926 Austin 7 Chummy, but something what I would class, as a menagerie of automobiles. We all stood there in amazement, with William providing a commentary of each of his cars.

They ranged from; a **1947 Willys Jeep Model CJ2A** which he rebuilt in 2000, a **1980 Series 3 Land Rover 80"** which he restored in 2016 and which was originally owned by Charles Haughey who was a Prime Minister of Ireland, a **1952 Ferguson 20 TED Tractor** which he has owned for over 50 years and rebuilt it in 2019 (he uses this to mow a local village park, a **1921 Model T Delivery van** which was completely restored in 2002 (he even travelled in it



to Sweden and the UK on holidays), a **1927 Model TT one ton truck**, a **1926 Model T Ford touring car** which has travelled to the UK several times and a trip to Sweden, a **1925 Model T Fordor** which was restored in 2010 and has been used for family weddings, baptisms and other special occasions, a **1915 Model T Ford Touring car** restored in 2011 and which has travelled to Belgium, and finally a **1914 Model T Ford Touring car** built on the assembly line in Manchester in January 1914 and shipped to Ireland in September 1914 and which had surpassed 1,000,000 miles back in 1942. This Model T was used to convey a former Irish President to his wedding and even the IRA had borrowed it during the Irish Troubles in 1923 and returned it after 3 weeks with cash to pay for the “self drive hire”. As you may have guessed, William is a bit of a Model T Ford collector, which he is involved in, but on a run a few years ago, he saw this little car which didn't have any mechanical problems, so he thought he might add an Austin 7 to his collection, which he did.



All in all, we spent a wonderful afternoon looking over the fine workmanship which William had carried out on his cars. We left with William asking me back the next day to go for a “jaunt around the town” in one of his cars with the top down, but alas, the weather turned, and we weren't able to enjoy the local surroundings of Cork. This has been put down as a must do on my next trip over to the Emerald Island. Many thanks to William and Valerie for their welcoming hospitality.

Kevin Lewis



THE AUSTIN 7 CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

at

THE VANILLA CREAM CAFE 2022



As far as John and myself were concerned managing to arrive at this year's Christmas Party on the right day, at the right time, and at the right venue meant the get together just had to be called a success. Merv represented the club admirably by arriving in the Austin 7 Ruby accompanied by his grand daughter Jackie and was followed by "The Casula Taxi Service and Driver Training Car" containing Maureen, grand daughter Jess, and a neighbourhood friend of Jackie and Jess. It was a smaller gathering than in previous years, but still great to catch up with fellow members in a very relaxing venue.

We had not seen Bob and Judith Riches for a while, and although Bob is no longer driving we were impressed with photos of his mobility scooter and even more impressed with the unfailing attitude of his engineering mind which is already working out how he could adapt it so Judith would be able to accompany him as a pillion passenger. Good luck Judith!

With climate and covid having again impacted on the years activities there were no awards or presentations made, so we all put our hopes into winning the amazing collection of goodies in the raffle which Maureen had put together. It was actually won by Jess and Jackie's friend – we do like to look after our visitors!

It was a pleasant and enjoyable conclusion to another difficult year, and we headed home full of positive attitudes and keen to work on activities for the coming year.

Austin 7 Club Run Report

15th January 2023



On Sunday morning January 15th a group of us met at Heathcote railway station carpark for a breakfast run to kick off the 2023 club run season. Despite perfect weather conditions a couple of members pulled out at the last minute making us a small group with 3 Austin 7's and 1 modern. Perhaps it was just too early in the morning and too early in the year to bring everyone out of hibernation.

Undeterred we headed south via the Old Princes Highway, passing a group from the Holden Club (ok, they passed us). The run was good until we caught up to a large group of push bike riders in a narrow section, with a number of motor bikes coming the other way (we did manage to overtake the push bikes though). We then turned onto Lawrence Hargrave Drive at Helensburgh which was very pleasant indeed with the top down, undulating downhill run with tree canopy to Stanwell Tops. From then it was a cautious descent down Bald Hill to our breakfast destination, Stanwell Palms General Café, Stanwell Beach.

All up a sumptuous breakfast. The freshly squeezed orange juice was a perfect entre to poached eggs and smoky bacon on sourdough.

The outdoor table placement was just right for us to observe the passers-by, stopping to admire our babies.

After a short rest it was time to move on further south for a brisk walk across the sea cliff bridge. Just what the doctor ordered to burn off some of those breakfast calories. Returning to the carpark we were greeted by several international tourists lining up for a photograph with the Austins.

Next it was a race back up Bald Hill to the look out. As we arrived the attention of the crowd quickly changed from the ice cream van to the Austin 7's with more photo opportunities. We certainly waved the club flag on the day! Merv Boatwright took the opportunity slip in front of the que and despite having not long downed a huge breakfast, managed to devour a double cone choc top ice cream in seconds.

The final destination was the Glenbernie Orchard at Darkes Forest, a place full of surprises. Apart from the obvious apples, peaches and nectarines on sale, there was cider tasting (alcoholic and non alcoholic) and a bush walking track to Maddens Falls. We departed the orchard for a relaxing 15 minute undulating run on the open road before returning home to the Sydney traffic.

Mark Wellington



Would I Lie To You?

Paul Pui Answers

Let's see if you were right or wrong:

T

I drove my 1929 Austin 7 across the Nullarbor plain without hassle

In 2017, I drove my cream colour 1929 chummy with Amy following in a 4WD and a trailer across the Nullarbor. Graham Burgess in his red Austin 7 with Elaine Taylor following and Russell Linfoot also made the journey. A most wonderful experience!

T

I almost lost a rear wheel in my recent club run in Hunter Valley

The wheel nuts in one of my rear wheels were all loose. Lesson learnt that the nuts will work themselves loose with distances travelled!

T

I have met rally Austin 7 owners checking for turbo in my 1929 engine

Both in South Australia Barossa Valley and Queensland Toowoomba national rallies, I had people checking on my standard engine why my car could go so fast, especially uphill.

F

I met and married my wife in Taiwan

Amy is Taiwanese, but we met in university as students in Melbourne.

T

I am the only professional in among family business siblings

Black sheep in the family! I am a scientist and everyone else in my family is in business.

T

I once worked in Sir John Eccles neurosensory laboratory in USA

I worked in the Noble laurate laboratory in 1976/77 at the University of Buffalo.

T

I am a chartered chemist and a fellow member of RACI (FRACI)

I have been a FRACI member twenty five years ago.

T

I can speak 5 languages including 3 Chinese dialects

I have had plenty of opportunity to pick up different languages growing up in Malaysia in a multiethnic community.

F

I love Shakespeare literature

I was the only student in the school history over a 150 years history who wanted to drop literature for Form 5 (Year 10) external examination. I did not enjoy literature at all in my younger days.

F

I have driven my Austin 7 with the hood down twice.

I have never done that before.



An Overview of Crossing The Nullarbor Plain

by Graham Burgess and Paul Pui in their Austin 7's
25 to 29 October 2017

One of our Austin 7 Club members and unstoppable adventurer, Graham Burgess, made known of his ambition to drive his Austin 7 across the Nullarbor Plain from Ceduna SA to Norseman WA, a distance of some 1200 kms, along with his fellow adventurer, Elaine Taylor.

With my own Austin 7 under restoration at the time, I (the author) saw this crossing as an opportunity to observe the car's performance and was kindly welcomed by Graham to tag along.

Meanwhile, club President, Paul Pui with his wife Amy, could not resist the temptation to join in driving their Austin 7, which had attended many club events over many years.

I had arranged to rendez-vous with Graham and Elaine at a caravan park in Dubbo on Saturday 21 October 2017, to start the journey driving to Ceduna, with Graham trailering his Austin 7 "Rita", whilst I travelled in my modern car towing a small caravan. We were to meet Paul and Amy in Ceduna three days later to begin the Nullarbor drive.

Back at the Dubbo caravan park, Graham and Elaine had not arrived as expected, when I received a call from a shaken Graham to say that a huge kangaroo had collided with their tow-car in the early morning darkness near Maitland, writing off the car and rendering it undriveable.

Somehow during the next ten hours, Graham and Elaine had purchased a replacement car, attached "Rita's" trailer to it, transferred all of their luggage and continued to Dubbo in time to depart for Wilcannia the next morning.

22 October – We had a trouble free run along the Mitchell Hwy to Nyngan and turning towards Wilcannia we met large numbers of feral goats, cats and emus. Further on, the highway resembled a kangaroo battlefield, the result of overnight strikes by heavy transports unable to avoid animals which were transfixed by headlights of oncoming vehicles. As dusk approached, we made camp 70 kms west of Wilcannia.

23 October - We broke camp at 7:45am continuing west along the Barrier Highway towards Broken Hill.



More road kill requiring us to be extra vigilant as we navigated around the mounds of carcasses, lest we block the trajectories of huge transports overtaking from the rear as they maintain their schedules. West of Broken Hill, there was less wildlife about, also fewer petrol stations. We gained thirty minutes crossing the border into South Australia stopping at Kimba where we free-camped for the night.

24 October - An early start today as Graham and Paul plan to reach Ceduna today (312kms) in good time to check in to the caravan park, unload the two Austin 7's from their respective trailers and conduct final checks of battery, water, oil, fuel and tyres.

25 October - Ceduna to Nundroo (191kms) a 9am start from our Ceduna park was heralded by much fanfare and photography by local residents at the sight of two Austin 7's leaving for the great unknown. Who could predict what lies in wait for these eighty nine year old tiny cars as they cross this lonely stretch of Outback Australia. These little cars whose design brief, 100 years earlier, would have been to provide basic economical transportation in a local environment supported by hundreds of dealers with access to plentiful spare parts. Driving conditions today saw an early morning temperature of 15* as drivers rugged

up to beat the cold southerly wind. Special thanks to the drivers of oncoming trucks for slowing down and moving to the shoulder, no doubt alerted to the Austins presence via bush telegraph etc. All cars arrived safely and without incident at Nundroo Roadhouse, three hours from Ceduna.

26 October - Nundroo Roadhouse to Nullarbor Roadhouse and Eucla (338kms). As both cars were performing well it was decided to continue beyond the scheduled stop at Nullarbor Roadhouse to Eucla, thereby making up for the day lost travelling to Dubbo. We would also gain an extra 1 ½ hours as we crossed the WA border to Eucla. Temperature was 30* at Nullarbor Roadhouse, with a cool change dropping to 24* approaching Eucla, helping both drivers and cars. We camped at the Eucla caravan park, excellent amenities but very dusty grounds and most sites were uneven. There was no water on site and the price was \$25/night.

27 October - Overnight at Eucla. A violent wind storm rocking my caravan and blowing dust into the van from the barren ground. Graham and Elaine's tent was blown down after midnight so sought shelter in their car to catch whatever sleep they could before morning. Eucla to Caiguna today (334 kms). These diminutive cars just keep going and going. They are dwarfed by the huge forty six wheeled road trains which give the Austin 7's a courteous wide berth. Much concentration is required by our convoy of five cars/trailers/caravan to ensure that enough space is made available for the overtaking trucks to "slot in" if required. Lunching at Caiguna roadhouse, a local commented that the two Austins would be unable to ascend Madura Pass. WRONG!!

28 October - Caiguna to Fraser Range Station – this journey of 275kms marked the final leg of a remarkable trouble free run across the Nullarbor Plain. This accomplishment is testament to the outstanding design and engineering built in to the amazing Austin 7.

Congratulations to all who made this event come to fruition.

Russell Linfoot



For Sale by Member

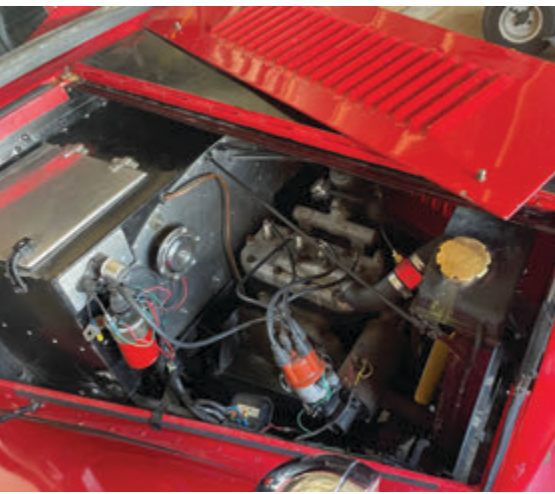


1929 Austin 7 Sports

Driven 300 km
Manual transmission
Exterior color: Red
Interior color: Black
Fuel type: Gasoline
Engine size: 0.5 L

\$19,000 - PRICE NEGOTIABLE
LOCATED HUNTER VALLEY
Richard Holding | 0412 489 988





Seller's Description

1929 Austin 7 Sports three speed convertible.

Features include:

- NSW historic registration (would need to reapply for this) Excellent red duco
- Removable canvas roof
- Regularly maintained and driven
- Runs well
- Upholstery, floor carpets, dashboard all in excellent condition
- No oil or water leaks
- All electrics / indicators / brake lights working
- Wooden framework (no damage to the wood) under sports shell
- 1929 Austin7 chassis
- Engine Number: M84184
- All chrome has been rechromed in the last 12 months including head lights, indicators



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.



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