

Baby Torque

June 2026



Cosy car parking for some at Yahava KoffeeWorks, West Swan.

Baby Torque is published by
The Austin Seven Club of Western Australia (Inc)
34 Honey Road, Forrestfield, WA, 6058

Club meetings and Spares Shed
First Sunday in the month—General Meeting at 10.00 am
34 Honey Road, Forrestfield

OFFICE BEARERS 2026

PRESIDENT	Hugh Fryer hmfryer4@bigpond.com	0419 964 543
VICE PRESIDENT	Alexandra McManus A.McManus@curtin.edu.au	0417 986 171
SECRETARY	Kaye Reid jedda@iinet.net.au	0422 895 068
TREASURER	Clive Ball sheilaclive2@gmail.com>	9252 1490
EDITOR	Marion Gathercole gatherm@tpg.com.au	0421 954 550
DEPUTY EDITOR	Jim Reid	0422 895 068
POSTAGE OFFICER	Brian Haines	9206 1579
SPARES	Gordon McManus gmacko@bigpond.com	0417 988 190
ASSISTANT SPARES	Brian Haines Neil Cavanagh	9206 1579 0417 942 481
EVENTS	Alexandra McManus A.McManus@curtin.edu.au	0417 986 171
CONCESSION REGISTRAR	Gordon McManus	0417 988 190
CMC DELEGATE	Gordon McManus	0417 988 190
LIBRARIAN	Alexandra McManus	0417 986 171



Austin Seven Club of WA (Inc) Concessional Licence Register

Notify Registrar Gordon McManus of any changes of ownership, change of plate and disposal of any vehicle.

Disclaimer

Responsibility for errors lie with the Contributor and the Editor. Articles do not necessarily reflect the views of the Austin Seven Club of WA (Inc) committee.

President's Report

What a great day we had today, just got home from Bryan and Karin Scrivenor's run through the Northern Suburbs. Many thanks Bryan and Karin for a great run.

We met at Yahava KoffeeWorks in West Swan which had brilliant coffee. No wonder the carpark and drive-thru were packed full at 9:30 am on a Sunday Morning! Great to see Kaye Reid and Barry Ryle looking so well after their recent medical adventures. We much appreciate you both attending.



I hope everyone will forgive me for coming in Glenda's MGA, but it was its turn for a run.

We are taking a Seven to Albany on the long weekend for VSCCWA 'Round the Houses' continuing the tradition started by Aub Melrose in 1938. This year is the 90th anniversary of the 1st Albany event in 1936. Anyone attending, especially country members, are more than welcome to come and see me, Orange Austin Seven #38, one of two entered.

Looking forward to Clive and Shelia Ball's run next month, see details elsewhere in the magazine. Clive and I had a mutual friend, Gordon Routledge, who passed away a few years ago. Gordon, an Englishman who emigrated to New Zealand where I met him, was instrumental in finding *Samantha* for Clive.

Not Seven related but the following may be of interest. Two Studebakers are recreating a 1926 trip from Adelaide to Darwin and back. You can follow them on Facebook **Overland to Darwin & Back 1926-2026**.

Look forward to seeing you out and about in a Seven.

Hugh Fryer

President



President Hugh presenting Rodney Kneuss with Tool of the Month and Spot the Obvious Error award May 2026.

**Meeting of the Austin Seven Club of Western Australia (Inc.)
Sunday, 3 May 2026
34 Honey Road. Forrestfield**

1 Opened at 10.10 am

Members welcomed by President Hugh Fryer

2 Attendance: Doug and Di Galbraith, Neil and Barb Cavanagh, Hugh Fryer and Glenda Pinch, Jim and Kaye Reid, Clive Ball, David Harvey, Brian Haines, Rodney Kneuss, David and Jennifer Chalk, Marion Gathercole, Ross Wainwright, Lionel Davis, Alex McManus, Amy McManus, Chris Daniels, Tori Shier Emmans

3 Apologies: Gordon McManus, Tom Emmans, Heather Harvey, Sheila Ball, Gloria Haines, Kay Kneuss,

3 Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting

Motion: that the Minutes of meeting held on 3 May 2026 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Alexandra McManus **Seconded:** Di Galbraith **CARRIED**

4 Business Arising from Minutes—Nil

5 Correspondence In

Magazines In: Light Shaft April; BA7C Bristol April; PWA7C Yorkshire Group; Focus Cornwall April; A7 Register Qld April; Devon Sevens May; A7OC March; Norfolk Nater March; Dorset March

General: : NED 462444. Council of Motoring Membership, *Baby Torque* replies Doug Baker

Correspondence Out

Baby Torque to members and affiliated clubs.

Get well card to Barry Ryle.

Emails between committee members: NED Submission for May

6 Reports

6.1 Treasurer's Report—Clive Ball

Motion: that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as tabled

Moved: Clive Ball **Seconded:** David Harvey **CARRIED**

Motion: That the following accounts to be passed for payment:

Sea View Printing \$40 ; Postage \$30.91; Spares \$1,223.76; CMC \$50.00; Alexandra McManus \$386.78 various sundry costs.

Moved: Clive Ball **Seconded:** David Chalk **CARRIED**

6.2 Spare Parts Report—Gordon McManus

Gordon absent as he is the support driver for the Annual Big Yellow Pipeline bike ride to raise funds for The Nest Program supporting young women (16-19 yrs) and their infants at risk of homelessness. His son Chris is riding in the event from Kalgoorlie to Parkerville (600kms) - a fantastic cause. The major sponsor, Big Yellow Mining, will donate \$1 million to the program this year. Amazing effort.

6.3 Librarian's Report—Alexandra McManus

We had several books donated to the club from Robyn Coleman and Ted Stokes from Lesmurdie. These include several handbooks and spare parts lists plus a handbook for the Big Seven and the definitive A7 Manual by Doug Woodrow. Many thanks to Robyn and Ted.

4

6.4 Editor's Report—Marion Gathercole

Rodney Kneuss found this month's "obvious error" which was Alexandra's phone number wrongly listed in the magazine (should be 0417 986 171). He was presented with a signed edition of *Baby Torque* as his reward.

Each month I manage to fill the magazine thanks to the input of stories and photos from members. Thank you.

It is time to think about a succession plan for a member taking over the job of producing our magazine.

6.5 Events Co-Ordinator—Alexandra McManus

Everyone had a great time on our last run learning about the suburbs with postcodes of 6057 and 6058. Many laughs plus great coffee at Gracie's Cafe. Maybe someone could do the same in their area so everyone can see what is in your neighbourhood.

Bryan Scrivenor is doing the run in May -details in *Baby Torque*. Please contact Bryan if you are attending the lunch at the end of the run.

The June run is being organised by Clive Ball to celebrate 60 years ago since his arrival in Australia in *Samantha*. All run details will be in the next edition of *Baby Torque*.

7 General Business

Hugh Fryer went on a run to the Beverley Race Club where cars were running on the track 4 horsepower instead of 4 legs power. He also competed in the 'Round the Houses' in Northam together with Angelo and Katy Fiora and Geert de Klerk. Another fun day out.

Stay off ladders: Les Searles is in hospital with a fractured collarbone following a fall from a ladder. This has been a running theme of late for members, including Barry Ryle and Rodney Kneuss. Please be careful or, better still, no climbing ladders.

Car updates:

- Lionel Davis has purchased RN 1932 Box Saloon from past member Keith Donetta.
- Chris Daniels bought his A7 a few years ago and, with help from Hugh, Neil and Gordon the car went well at Perkolilli 2025. Chris and family continue to enjoy the highs and lows of owning an A7 – definitely more highs.
- Tori and her car Elsie were in the Anzac Day parade at Mundijong.
- David Harvey is having problems with the wiper stripping off. He thought he found brass, was excited, but then disappointed when it was not.
- Doug Galbraith's '33 Box Tourer has had a remake.

Tool of the Month: Rodney Kneuss takes this month's award. He was up a ladder trimming a tree when he fell, hit the ground, the ladder hit a brick wall and the brick wall fell on him. His son said he was too old to be doing that and his wife just shook her head and laughed. Only a few bruises and dented dignity. The worse part was that it took him three days to rebuild the wall of 40 bricks – do not give up your day job Rodney. (see photo page 16)

Morning Tea Roster: Di and Doug Galbraith

Raffle: Donations gratefully accepted (pay it forward)

Meeting closed 10.45 am

Bryan Scrivenor's Run 24 May 2026

Samantha was rarin' to go, with tyres, petrol, oil and radiator checked and battery charged the day before. It was a fine, cold morning as I descended from the hills to the flats and made my way to the Yahava KoffeeWorks, off West Swan Road. An all - pervading aroma of coffee greeted me in the car park, but where was everybody? My apprehension of getting "The Spanner" for turning up on the wrong day soon disappeared when Brian Haines and grandson Sam arrived in the Chummy. Others began to turn up; we made our way indoors and regaled ourselves with coffee and other delicacies from the big selection available. What an amazing place: all varieties of coffee beans, from all over the world, with free tastings of various brews. The crowds testified to its popularity!



Setting off, there were eight Austin 7s – Bryan and Karin Scrivenor, Brian Haines and Sam, Clive Ball, Marion Gathercole, Gordon and Sandy McManus Richard and Jodie Skelcher, David and Ronda McPherson, Jim and Kaye Reid, with Hugh Fryer and Glenda Pinch in Glenda's MG. In moderns came Barry and Dot Ryle (good to see Barry on his pins again after his mishap!), David and Jennifer Chalk, Rodney and Kay Kneuss. Sam did a sterling job navigating for me, and Rodney kept Brian on course.

On relatively quiet roads we wended our way through the suburbs, past various churches and temples and the Perth Film Studio, finally following Wanneroo Road to our destination, the Eight Slice Italian Kitchen. There was room in the car park for all the Sevens to line up for a photo. Rodney and Kay left us here; and Brian fetched Gloria to join us. We lingered and chatted over the superb and reasonably priced food.

Fine weather, good company and conversation, nice food and wines – a perfect day! Thank you Bryan for organizing such an interesting run.

Clive Ball



Coffee time inside Yahava.



The outlook.

Bryan provided run sheets with large print.



One car is missing from the destination line-up as Brian Haines, who lives nearby, dashed off to pick up Gloria. Gordon McManus advises that this photo, minus his car, appeared on a Facebook group called *Interesting Cars of Perth*. The omission was a case of bad timing by the photographer.

Vineyards, market gardens, suburbia, new and old housing estates, churches and temples for a variety of religions, industrial complexes, a movie studio, countryside, and impressive road development were all part of the passing parade as we drove our Austin 7s from Swan Valley to Carramar. Quite an eye opener for those of us who do not venture into this territory very often, or if ever. A great run. Thank you Bryan and Karin.

We set off just before dawn,
to Northam is where we will go,
To race around the streets
and watch others put on a show.

The Balloons were up early,
to get a bird's eye view,
There was Ang, Gert and Barry,
and of course there was Hugh!

The cars took turns,
lined up in their groups,
Different makes and models,
going along the street loops.

All was going well,
then some kids did a road hijack,
And it took a while to disperse
them,
and get the cars back on the
track.

The racing continued,
till a few engines blew and spilt
much oil,
So, the cars were back in the pits,
while they resolved this turmoil.

Eventually when the track was
clean,
the racing resumed,
With the roar of the engines
and that sweet smell of the
fumes!

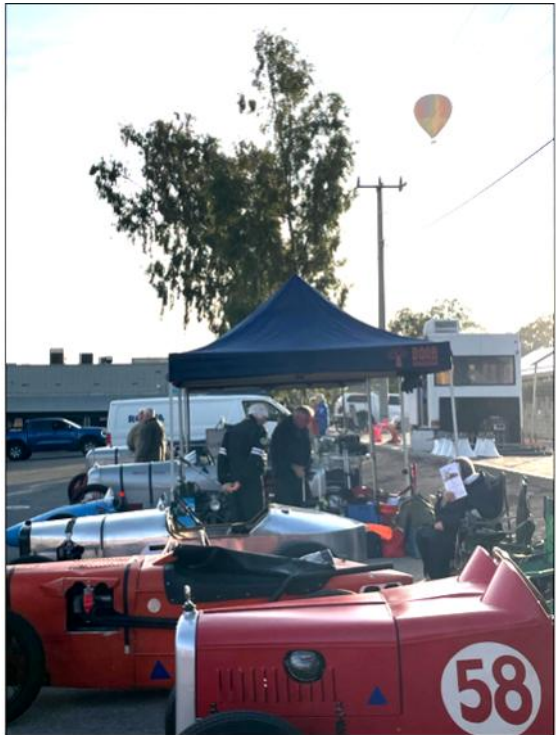
Some good circuits were done,
and individual times were recorded,
They were racing against their own times,
so, no trophy was awarded.

The Austins were intact,
parked side by side.
As everyone prepared to leave,
they all seemed happy with their ride.

There were cars of all makes
and some seemed not to be so old.
But apparently they are,
if it's more than 20 years since they were sold!

So, the Austins from last century
belonging to Angelo and Hugh,
Didn't really have a chance
against the Lotus that was blue!

NORTHAM AROUND THE HOUSES 25/26 APRIL 2026



As things were being packed up,
the banter was easy-going,
Everyone seemed eager
to return for the next showing.

Smiles all around
meant the day had been fun,
The trailers were loaded
and talk was of the next run.

Katy (poem) and Ang Fiora

ROUND THE HOUSES



The Northam Motor Sport Festival Sunday 26 to Monday 27 April 2026, transformed the Northam's streets into a live racing circuit for one of WA's most unique regional events.

The iconic 'Round the Houses' racing is where classic cars compete in regularity time trials along a purpose-built street circuit. With Northam and Albany among the only places in Australia to still host this style of street racing, it offers a rare chance to experience motorsport as a living part of WA's past.

BLAST FROM THE PAST LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From: hmfryer4@bigpond.com

Sent: Wednesday, 24 July 2024 3:40 PM

To: Marion Gathercole

Subject: For Baby Torque from Albany in early June, sorry late.

Attachments: Hugh, Silver car, Albany, VSCC 'Round the Houses'.JPG; Drving on Blossoms beach, Bremer Bay..jpg

Hi Marion

Early June, Glenda and I went to Albany for VSCC 'Round the Houses' then onto Bremer Bay.

In the 25 years of competing at Albany this year was the wettest Sunday ever, see photo! All our events were wet, just the intensity of the rain that varied. On the track it was great fun, getting wheelspin and a bit sideways at each white line crossed, especially at the left hander leading onto the back straight. Rainex worked well on windscreen, mirrors and helmet visor.

Monday was cold but a lovely day for a drive to the Whaling Station for lunch.

While parked at a lookout we were approached by a larger than life very enthusiastic gentleman, wearing nothing but an overcoat! (he explained later, he had just been for a swim and was cold). As often happens to Seven drivers, he asked if he could take some photos of the car. The photos he took were much more detailed than usual, later explaining he was going to make a 3D digital model of the car and use it in a children's show on Netflix.

When we were in Bremer Bay we had a quick drive on Blossoms Beach, where in previous years we have entered beach sprints. tNot sure if The Silver car enjoyed being a 'Trailer Queen' for the trip but the driver and passenger enjoyed the comfort of a modern in the wintery conditions.

Regards Hugh



GET TO KNOW YOUR MEMBERS

Doug Galbraith

My first connection to the Club goes back to 1988 to a chance meeting with Ted Stokes, an original founding member of the Club. This was way back when Clive was Baby Torque editor and Ray Hillbrick used to post the copy in white lolly bags.

Living in Kalgoorlie at the time, I joined and became a country member. Ted had suggested that as I had an Austin Seven to restore being a Club member would allow access to parts.

My interest in A7's went way back many years to 1962 when I bought my first Chummy, a 1927, complete with self oiling rear brakes, fully floating king pins which ensured involuntary camber adjustment when cornering. It also consumed oil and petrol in almost equal amounts. The following year, the day I turned 17, I obtained my driver licence in

this same car. 60 plus years ago road worthiness in Kalgoorlie was not a big issue. After the driving test I said to the policeman "well how did I go?" His reply was "if you can drive this piece of shit you can drive anything".

So there I was in 1963 driving around in a 1927 Chummy but it didn't take long to work out it was no 'Chick Magnet'. Even my own mother and sister wouldn't be seen in it. So the Chummy had to be replaced with something more suitable to impress the ladies. So I bought a 1953 Morris Minor.

Affection for Sevens still lingered but any still in reasonable condition were being hoarded. Eventually in 1969 I managed to acquire a really rusted Chummy believed to be a 1929 and was able to make patterns for panels and running boards etc.

A move to Perth in 1994 meant that now we were 'real Club members'. The Chummy had remained untouched owing to work commitments.

Finally, a semi-retirement in 1998 allowed serious progress. Still not finished yet but 90% plus, with panel, paint and trim done.

Along the way we have had cars of vintage that have come and gone but have kept our Sevens. These being a '28 Chummy, '33 Box Tourer and '37 Ruby....and the project.

Di and I have thoroughly enjoyed our time with the club and the many wonderful friendships we have made. Sadly though too many are no longer with us.

And yes, for the record, I did pull a stunner with the Morris Minor and 61 years later we are still together.

MILK DELIVERY

THE
AUSTIN
WAY



SAVES TIME
MONEY AND
LABOUR



SCRAP THIS



Ref: A7
Friends UK

The "AUSTIN SEVEN" DELIVERY CAR.

HIS is an interesting and very practical example of Austin ingenuity, combining as it does in a most efficient manner, a business vehicle of unquestioned utility, and alternatively, a touring or pleasure car.

That both purposes are served without detriment to either makes a strong appeal to that business acumen which in these strenuous days must take advantage of every means to cheapen costs and expedite work.

"Austin Seven" delivery vans are in very general use for the cheap and rapid transport of goods. They have long since passed the experimental stage, and are now accepted as "good and faithful servants" in the delivery department of many business houses, both wholesale and retail.

The cheap, clean and expeditious delivery of milk is of interest and importance not only to the farmer or the dairyman, but to the general public as well, and in introducing this sturdy, dependable and convenient little milk delivery car, the Austin Company believe they have satisfied a real need.

It has been thoroughly tested, and an examination of the arrangement for distributing and accommodating the load will show that the ease of loading, unloading and handling the churns and pails or boxes of bottles is quite a pleasing feature.



THEN there is the question of feeding, grooming and stabling, without which no horse or pony can work satisfactorily. A comparison between the time occupied in attention to a car and that expended upon a horse and cart, especially in wet wintry weather, is greatly in favour of the car—and in the milk trade, time is money.

The distance which a good horse will cover in a regular day's work is well short of 30 miles. The van will cover 5 times that distance if required; but as a milk round extends usually only 6 or 7 miles, it is clear that the time saved may be used for extending the radius of calls, and the business increased, without extra cost for labour or increase in the hours of actual delivery.



One churn removed and seat for passenger provided.

CAPTURE A CAPTION
What would your caption/s be?



Send your caption/s to the Editor, gatherm@tpg.com.au by 24 June 2026.



100 years of coming to your rescue.
This year, 2026, RAC Roadside Assistance is celebrating 100 years of service to
Western Australians.



Spares Shed 7 June 2026

Members who need spare parts old and new can ring Gordon direct on
Mobile: 0417 988 190



June Birthdays

Lois Newsome
Rod Withnell

The key to successful ageing is to pay as little attention to it as possible.

Our thoughts and best wishes go out to all who are dealing with issues concerning health and well being.

We need you all “back on the road”, sparking on all cylinders.



Baby Torque July 2026

Closing date: 26 June 2026

Please send items to gatherm@tpg.com.au

Clive's 60th Anniversary Run – 21 June 2026.

Clive is celebrating his arrival in WA with *Samantha*, June 1966, with a pleasant run of about 50km/30miles into the hills, and lunch at a nice little winery.



Meet Nelson Crescent (near WACA),
East Perth

Time 9.00 am 9.30 departure.

Morning tea at the Swan Cafe, Garvey Park, or bring your own.

Destination: Malmalling Winery, Parkerville.

RSVP by Wednesday 10 June 2026
Essential for restaurant booking.

Contact Clive on 9252 1490 or 0473 520 255 or
sheilalive2@gmail.com



Ladies' Run—19 July 2026

Gentlemen,
this is your opportunity to spoil
you good lady, more than usual,
and enjoy a a great day out with
Austin 7s.

Check the wardrobe for vintage
wear.

Details in July *Baby Torque*.

WHAT'S ON WHEN IN 2026

2026

June	7	General Meeting and Spares shed
	21	Club Run Clive Ball
		60th Anniversary of Clive and Samantha's arrival in Australia
July	5	General Meeting and Spares Shed
	19	Club Run -Ladies Day David Chalk
August	2	General Meeting and Spares Shed
	23	Club Run—Stanley Edge
September	6	Fathers Day
	13	General Meeting and Spares Shed
	20	Club Run
October	4	General Meeting and Spares Shed
	17/18	Harvey Run Hugh Fryer, Lyn and Paul Egerton-Green
November	1	AGM, General Meeting and Spares Shed
	15	Club Run
December	6	General Meeting
		Christmas Windup

2027

January	3	No General Meeting or Spares Shed
	17	Meet and Greet
February	7	General Meeting and Spares Shed
	21	Club Run
March	7	General Meeting and Spares Shed
	21	Club Run

Concessional Licence Code 404—Department of Transport WA

Single Event/Impromptu Runs notification

Email the Secretary with details of intended run date, description of run and licence vehicle.

Secretary's email: jedda@iinet.net.au

All Code 404 users—Impromptu Runs

Section 8 of the Concessional License Code 404 Information Booklet describes the conditions of restricted use for a vehicle licenced under the *Veteran/Vintage/Post Vintage/Invitation Class*.

<http://www.transport.gov.wa.au>



Hugh Fryer on the wet track at *Round the Houses Albany* in 2024 before going for a spin on Blossoms Beach.

