

Baby Torque

January 2026



Jim and Kaye Reid's Ruby A7 and Gordon and Alexandra McManus' Ruby with "passenger" in Christmas spirit.

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

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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

Happy New Year to everyone. It is a great honour to be President of our fantastic club and I hope to continue the good work done by those before me.



When joining the 10-year-old club in 1996, there was a warmth and friendliness, and this remains the same today. The advantage of a small club is that it is inclusive and friendly. The disadvantage is that there is a smaller pool of volunteers to run it. I would like to thank everyone that has been involved in running the club, especially those long-standing members on the Committee.

A quick personal history. My first Austin Seven was a Ruby Saloon in 1977 New Zealand. This was my daily driver to work and general vehicle for hijinks that 16-year olds get up too.



I started with zero mechanical ability yet with much guidance from older members I restored an Austin Seven, the 'Green' car, a 1929 Sports. I started the restoration in 1978 and finished in 1980 entering in my first Hill Climb in April and registering it in May of that year.

I still have the car and it is my son Will's favourite to drive at Tuning Days. It is great to see so many of the next generation enjoying our hobby. At the recent Red Dust Revival event at Perkolilli, Kalgoorlie there were six Austin Seven drivers under 30 years old.

We have a great year of driving our Austins to look forward to.—something for everyone -

Car Shows (thanks Rod for Gingin), Swap meets, Monthly runs, Meet and Greet - (thanks Jim and Kaye) and overnight run to Harvey (thanks Paul and Lyn). Also, monthly meetings and Spares (thanks so much to Alex and Gordon for their wonderful hospitality and vast mechanical knowledge). All these events are brought to us in our monthly magazine superbly crafted by Marion, posted by Brian. Finances are expertly kept by our evergreen Clive,. Thank you all.

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

Hugh Fryer

President

**Minutes of GENERAL MEETING
of the Austin Seven Club of Western Australia (Inc)
Sunday, 7 December 2025
51 Clotilde Street, Mt Lawley**

1. Opened at 12.30 pm

Members welcomed by President Alexandra McManus,

2. Attendance: As per attendance book.

Apologies: As per attendance book.

3 General Business

Due to lack of required nominations for office bearers at the AGM held 2 November 2025, there were only two items of business conducted at this meeting being: election of additional office bearer, and a motion to combine the Vice President and Events Coordinator roles

4. MOTION: That the role of Events Coordinator be added to the Vice President's duties.

MOVED Alexandra McManus SECONDED Gordon McManus

CARRIED

5. Election of Officers

The following office bearers were elected unopposed:

President Hugh Fryer

Vice President Alexandra McManus (now includes Events Coordinator duties)

Secretary Kaye Reid (together with Assistant Secretary Jim Reid)

Meeting closed 1.00 pm

Date of Next Meeting 1 February 2026

Meet and Greet 18 January 2026 (see *Baby Torque* for details)

VALE



Clarrie Minciullo

Member of Austin 7 Club of WA 2003

Condolences to Deanna and family

Clarrie passed away on 1 December 2025.

A quiet, lovely gentleman who delighted all who saw him and his "friends" on Austin 7 outings.



My Car and Me by Gordon McManus

The years are catching up to me
I was born in 55
And although I am getting slow and
rickety
I am not nearly as old as the car I drive

In 1937 she sat there on the showroom
floor
Shining bumpers
A Holden body
And a dicky seat for the mother in law

My skin has gone all rough and wrinkly
and looking just a bit sad
But my car's paintwork still shines like
new and doesn't look half bad
Her engine got a bit smokey so she got
some new rings and stuff
But me, I run a few short yards and am
completely out of puff



Her gears are still smooth and silky and she has just got a new clutch
But me, I am old and clanky and haven't got the energy to do that very much
We just drove 1000 miles round Tassie and she never missed a beat
But me, I am lucky if I can make it to the end of the flamin' street.

I love to jump in and just go for a quick drive
The waves I get and thumbs up from other drivers makes me feel alive
We leap off from the lights and keep up with cars nearly 90 years more new
But when we hit 50 mph they always disappear from view

My grandkids got in on the act when it came to giving her a name
She became *Pearly Girl* after a story about a mythical creature who roamed
the Nullabor Plain
It kind of suits her because of her shiny, glossy looks
And who knows perhaps one day she will also be written about in books.

I've got a horrible feeling she is going to be left behind but she is still my
favourite toy
When I graduate to another life she'll be someone else's pride and joy
I hope they look after her because I have only one dread
And that is she doesn't end up covered in dust at the back of some lazy
mongrel's shed.

CHRISTMAS AT CLOTILDE STREET, MT LAWLEY

Once again the weather was ideal (if a little breezy), the back yard a picture and the food and presentation—a gourmet's delight.



Jill and Ian Merker generously made their home and garden available for another delightful Austin 7 occasion.. To the many hands who helped Jill in a variety of ways on the day a special thank you from the hostess.

*I want to acknowledge the people who helped out in the kitchen on the day of our lunch. Members bogged in and did a great job of serving, clearing and cleaning. That was a huge task and it was done so willingly. Our sincere appreciation to all you wonderful people. Thank you also to Alex for presenting us with a delightful hamper full of goodies.
Jill and Ian Merker*

Every one who attended would also like to thank Jill for her organisation, shopping, and presentation skills. Ian gets a mention for his steak artistry and camera clicking.

Hostess Jill Merker, Vice
President Alexandra McManus,
Host Ian Merker





Rodney Kneuss,
Clive Ball, Sheila
Ball, David
McPherson, Ronda
McPherson,
Alexandra
McManus, Kaye
Reid, Jim Reid



Kay Kneuss, Noelle
Gray, Gordon
McManus, Chris
Daniels, Leanne
Daniels



Dot Ryle, Tom
Newsome, Jennifer
Chalk, David Chalk,
Lois Newsome,
Barry Ryle



Brian Haines, Peter Illidge, Bryan Scrivenor, Karin Scrivenor, Doug Galbraith, Di Galbraith

Two cars were dressed up and turned a lot of heads as they drove to the venue.



Gordon and Alexandra McManus took so long to make the journey their passenger wasted away! (See story page 9).

Kaye and Jim Reid had their reindeer looking fit and well on their training run for escorting Father Christmas on Christmas Eve.



Prior to enjoying the day's festivities there was a quick meeting to elect a new President (Hugh Fryer), Vice President (Alexandra McManus) and Secretary (Kaye Reid). It was also moved that events are now part of the VPs role. These vacancies on the committee had not been filled at the November AGM. It is great to know that the club will continue. Thank you to Hugh, Alexandra and Kaye for filling the vacancies.

Let the festivities begin.

Delicious prawn cocktails with mango were savoured before the ham (thank you Barry Ryle), steak (by Masterchef Ian Merker) and salads were brought out (Jill Merker).

After a suitable time we were treated to delicious dessert, lucky number draw and the usual treat of spending time together.

President Hugh Fryer, Secretary Kaye Reid, Hostess Jill Merker



‘Another exciting acquisition for *Pearlie*.’

by Alex McManus

Last year Gordon came home and urged me to go into the garage and see his latest purchase for *Pearlie* (one of our Austin 7s).

As I walked out to the shed (with some trepidation) I was confronted with a skeleton sitting in the dickie seat. Gordon said ‘Meet Helen.’ I was aghast. I know my mother (Helen) would have laughed if she was still with us but I just couldn’t cope riding around with a skeleton in the back named after her. Quick as a flash her name was changed to Milly (short for mother-in-law).



Milly often rides with us when we take out *Pearlie*. I must say she is a real hit.

Of course, it was not enough that she remain static so, for the Christmas run, Gordon devised a pulley system so that I could operate an arm from inside the car. A definite hit when those passing us and waving, got a wave from Milly in return.

I am waiting with baited breath for the next iteration. Perhaps a series of different outfits befitting the 1930s or a string on her jaw that triggers a recorded message?

You just never know the workings of this particular A7 owner’s mind. Watch this space!

BRUM



This popular live-action children’s series, which ran from 1991 to 2002, featured a yellow, radio-controlled Austin Seven “Chummy” convertible as its main character.

In every episode, Brum escapes from the fictional Heritage Motor Museum (now the British Motor Museum) in Warwickshire and ventures into the “Big Town” (Birmingham) where the car has adventures.

A young salesman at Battery World was very excited to see a 1929 Austin 7 Chummy pull up in the car park. It brought back a flood of happy memories of when he used to watch and be enchanted with the Brum tv series.

The 100th anniversary of the Citroën 5CV, *Bubsie's*, Australian circumnavigation



In 1925, two young men, Nevill Westwood and Greg Davies, had an ambition to drive their Citroën 5CV, named “Bubsie”, around Australia. Quite an achievement for that time when one considers there was no supporting infrastructure we enjoy and take for granted today.

The 100th anniversary of this achievement was commemorated on 30 December 2025 with a replica “Bubsie” and approximately 30 historic cars driving from Burswood to Forrest Chase.



Bubsie

Doug Baker,

Matilda Tom and Lois Newsome

At Forrest Chase there was an official welcome from the Mayor of Perth and various dignitaries.

The cars in attendance attracted an enormous interest with the public, all of whom were quite engaged in the displayed cars.

I displayed my A7 Chummy and Tom and Lois Newsome their Citroën 5CV “Matilda”. Certainly a day to remember.

Doug Baker

30/12/2025

May you only have green lights.

10

OUT AND ABOUT

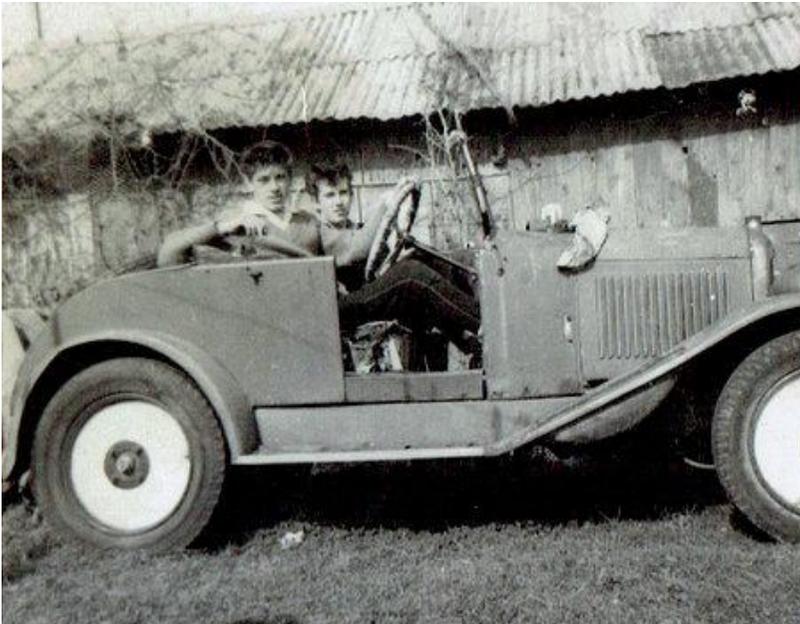
Tom and Louise Newsome proudly displayed their Citroën 5CV “*Matilda*” in Forrest Place celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Citroën 5CV, *Bubsie*’s, Australian circumnavigation

This car also traversed Australia in 2005. During the journey Tom and Lois were involved in a life threatening accident between Sydney and Canberra due to a Merc ramming the back of *Matilda* causing them to be hospitalised for six weeks.

After extensive repairs they returned home. *Matilda* still displays the scars of that harrowing memorable experience.



Tom Newsome and *Matilda*.



Where have the years gone?
Doug Baker at age 16 in his 5CV.



The Austin Handbook and Diary for 1931
An Indispensable Companion for all Austin
Owners
Price 2/- net

The New Motor Law page 19

Speed Limit Abolished

The new law abolishes the long-obsolete speed limit of 20 miles per hour and imposes no nominal speed limit for private cars, although it should be noted that the offence of driving “at a speed dangerous to the public” still stands.

There is to be a speed limit of 20 miles per hour for any car drawing a trailer — a point which should be noted by motor-caravanners—and there is a new speed limit of 30 mph for cars with accommodation for more than seven passengers (ie, motor coaches, etc).

Dangerous Driving

The abolition of the speed limit has its anticipated counterpart in tightening up of the law against dangerous driving and substantially heavier penalties are now provide for offences in this category.

Conviction for such offences henceforth carries penalties up to 50 or four months’ imprisonment (or both) for a subsequent offence, while in cases that are made the subject of indictment and sent for trial to a higher court the offender may be fined without limit or sent to prison for six months (or both). In addition, conviction under this part of the law may involve disqualification for holding a driving licence.

The law against driving while drunk has been extended to embrace driving while under the influence of drugs.

Other Points in Brief

The use of a car without the owner’s consent is made the subject of heavy penalties, including imprisonment; this should end the scandal of unauthorized “joy riding”.

Racing or the making of “speed trials” on public highways is prohibited with heavy penalties.

A motor cyclist must not carry more than one pillion rider.



NO Spares Shed January 2026

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



January Birthdays

David Harvey
Barry Ryle
Julia Shugg

Lost? I am not lost, I know exactly where I am. I am right here!



A new year, and a new beginning.
Best wishes to all those who are in need
of support as we start 2026.
See you back on the road again soon!

Baby Torque February 2026

Closing date: 23 January 2026

Please send items to gatherm@tpg.com.au



Welcome in 2026 at our annual Meet and Greet



18 January 2025 from 8.15 am

Breakfast with hosts Kaye and Jim Reid
16 Carbine Street, Ascot

\$10 per head

Deposit to club bank account please with
name for reference. **A7 Club of WA**
BSB 066 163 Account # 10056232

RSVP by 14 January 2026

to

Kaye Reid: jedda@iinet.net.au or Mobile 0422 895 068

February Run
Sunday, 15 February 2026



MERCHANDISE

The monogrammed hand towels are now available and have been a roaring success. At \$13 each they are a real bargain.

Purchase at the next *meeting*
or via email to President Alexandra.

WHAT'S ON WHEN IN 2026

2026

January 2026

- 4 No General Meeting or Spares Shed
- 11 RSVP Meet and Greet Mobile 0422 895 068
- 18 Meet and Greet Kaye and Jim Reid
8.15 am at 16 Carbine Street, Ascot

- February 1 General Meeting and Spares Shed
- 15 Club Run

- March 1 General Meeting and Spares Shed (Labour Day weekend)
- 15 Club Run

- April 5 Easter Sunday
- 12 General Meeting and Spares Shed
- 19 Club Run

- May 3 General Meeting and Spares Shed
- 17 Club Run

- June 7 General Meeting and Spares shed
- 21 Club Run

- July 5 General Meeting and Spares Shed
- 19 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>

Australian Road Signs

