

Baby Torque

April 2026



Breakfast at Gidgegannup en route to Toodyay.

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	0147 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	0147 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

Hard to believe it's the end of March already, the first quarter of 2026 has gone so quickly. As someone famous said 'Get going, it's later than you think'. Very applicable to the writer!

In March we had a great run to Toodyay for the VAA Swap meet. Many thanks to Alex for organizing. As a bonus at Toodyay there were Farmers markets, so something for everyone.

Needless to say, the Sevens powered up the hills also enjoying the run home down the hill. For those of us in the Northern Suburbs it was a fantastic 125 mile run in the country.

It was very sad to hear of Warren Martin's passing. Warren got involved with Sevens later in life and really enjoyed the club and cars. Most of us will remember with fond memories Warren's dry sense of humour and his ukulele playing on the Harvey Run.

Also passing recently was Ilona Booth in Victoria, wife of Bob. They drove their Seven Ute to WA in 2003. During this visit they attended the Harvey Run and went to Shark Bay to see the Dolphins. They also visited us in the mid 1990's This was only one of many long-distance trips they did in a Seven - Cape York and end to end of New Zealand are ones I know of. Others who knew them better will know of more.

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

Hugh Fryer

President



Warren Martin, Harvey 2013

Meeting of the Austin Seven Club of Western Australia (Inc.)
Sunday, 1 March 2026
34 Honey Road. Forrestfield

1 **Opened at 10.00 am**

Members welcomed by President Hugh Fryer

2 **Attendance:** Chris Daniels, David and Ronda McPherson, Brian Haines, Rodney Kneuss, Jim Reid, David and Jennifer Chalk, David Harvey, Clive Ball, Doug Galbraith, Gordon and Alexandra McManus, Hugh Fryer and Glenda Pinch, Neil and Barb Cavanagh

Apologies: Kaye Reid, Gloria Haines, Di Galbraith, Marion Gathercole

3 **Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting**

Motion: that the Minutes of meeting held on 1 February 2026 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Gordon McManus **Seconded:** David Harvey **CARRIED**

4 **Business Arising from Minutes**—There was a request for members' contact details to be forwarded to all club members. We were reminded that when surveyed, members were not in favour of contact details being released 'en-masse'. It was resolved that anyone wanting contact details of club members should contact the Secretary who will then gain permission from that club member/s before providing said information to the enquirer. This is to comply with privacy laws and also respect members' privacy.

5 **Correspondence In**

General: Notice of Toodyay Swap Meet 15 March 2026. Notice All Australian Car Day 12 April 2026

Correspondence Out

A condolence card was sent to Warren Warren's family on his sad passing. *Baby Torque* to members and affiliated clubs.

Ongoing correspondence between committee members

6 **Reports**

6.1 **Treasurer's Report**—Clive Ball

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

Moved: Clive Ball **Seconded:** Brian Haines **CARRIED**

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

Paid—Victoria A7 membership \$60. For payment—printing \$40, postage UK magazine \$27

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

6.2 **Spare Parts Report**—Gordon McManus

A couple of issues were raised regarding parts. Would all members please include the Invoice Number when paying their account. Sales this month were mainly to repair a problem that occurred to a member's vehicle at Perkolilli.

6.3 **Librarian's Report**—Alexandra McManus

The Books of the Month 1) *The illustrated history of road transport*. Edited by Wise et.al. This book is organised by year (e.g., 1915-1930) and by event (e.g., history of wars and the great depression). It begins with vehicles built in 1770 and moves in ~15 yr. sections. The photographs are extraordinary.

There are also sections at the end of the book about specific parts e.g., wheels, radiators, engines. A really informative and interesting book.

2) *Bugatti: A racing history* by D Venables. Ettore Bugatti rode his first vehicle, a motorised tricycle, aged 13 or 14 yrs, made by Prinetti & Stucchi. In 1899, aged 18 years, he won the Verona-Brescia Mantova-Brescia race in a similar machine. This book is a fantastic photographic history of the time. Wonderful read

6.4 **Editor's Report—Marion Gathercole**

No report as Editor was absent.

6.5 **Events Co-Ordinator—Alexandra McManus**

Our February event Midland Railway Workshop was really enjoyable. Doug Baker and his colleagues did a wonderful job building a true replica of the first steam driven vehicle built in SA. Our morning tea spot at the Woodbridge Riverside Park is recommended as is the little café on site. The next run will be on 15 March to Toodyay. Details are in *Baby Torque*.

7 **General Business**

Gordon McManus gave us an update of Rod Withnell's health battles. Unfortunately, Rod is now bed ridden but still in good spirits. His biggest issue is boredom and not being able to get out of bed at all. He is at Aegis Aged Care, 44 Whatley Crescent, Mt Lawley. He would love visitors to stop him going stir crazy.

Hugh Fryer brought photos of an American Bantam that he had seen race in NZ a number of years ago. "A lot of body on a small frame". He then regaled us with his experience of driving on a corrugated gravel road for 8 hours finishing on a very steep downhill drive. Frightening even for the bravest driver with overheating, loose gravel, tight corners, slow drivers, sunburn and rain just some of the things they had to contend with. Of the 68 cars which started the run, only one broke down. Just another example of an exciting A7 run.

It was noted that one MC car owner had tried to diagnose his car via AI. Not as effective as going out and working on it in the shed. David Harvey gave us an update of his journey to fix his A7 and Brian Haines talked about the problems he had fixing David Chalks back axle (*Baby Torque* March 2026 p10). Clive Ball talked about trying to put radius rods into his A7 and how most people take the springs out to solve this problem.

Gordon said he had standard and sports cams for members to compare.

TOOL OF THE MONTH



Gordon McManus received the award this month. He put Jim Reid's clutch pin in from the bottom instead of the top. The upshot was that the clutch would not work. Then he could not get the pin out so had to make a tool to remove it. It was also mentioned that it is entertaining to drive behind Gordon in the rain at the Collie Motorplex racetrack. He shows you the left of the car, then the right side, then the front. Hysterical but great fun. A well-deserved recipient of the TOTM this month.

Morning Tea Roster: Jennifer Chalk

Raffle: Thank you to those who have brought prizes for the raffle – especially Rodney Kneuss. Much appreciated

Meeting closed: 10.35 am
Next Meeting: 12 April 2026

Toodyay Run - 15 March 2026

We met bright and early for breakfast at the Gidgegannup Bakery and Café about 40 km North-East of the Perth CBD. It is a lovely little town with fantastic bush trails, horse riding, wildflowers and some magnificent scenery. If you have a day to spare, I suggest this is a wonderful area to visit with family and friends.



Lovely brekkie and amazing scenery at Gidgegannup

We were on the road by 8.30 am for an easy 30 km trip to Toodyay for the Annual Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association Swap Meet. It was a glorious day for driving our little cars, and a few moderns. Those who attended were Jim and Kaye Reid (Ruby), Gordon and Alexandra McManus (Pearly), David and Ronda McPherson (Ruby), Hugh Fryer and Glenda Pinch (silver car). Chris Daniels in his sports car did not continue to Toodyay. David and Heather Harvey, Jennifer and David Chalk and Brian Haines with grandson Sam enjoyed the day driving their moderns.

We arrived in Toodyay a little before 10.30 am and encountered the only issue for the day which was finding a carpark.

We eventually all found a spot and either checked out the swap meet or re-acquainted with the wonderful eclectic mix of boutiques, quirky shops and food outlets. Disappointingly we were a week early for the Christmas Shop.



Historic Toodyay

After a lovely day together we all meandered home at our own pace. A brilliant day with fabulous company. What more could you want?

Alexandra

Thank you again Alexandra for organizing another great day out.

CLUB RUN

A beautiful day to drive to Gidgegannup for breakfast before heading off to Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association Swap Meet at Toodyay on Sunday, 15 March 2026.



Chris Daniels enjoying a beautiful morning, a coffee and having his car back on the road.



Vice President
Alexandra McManus
and President
Hugh Fryer



Hugh Fryer, Heather and David Harvey, Glenda Pinch, Jim and Kaye Reid, Jennifer Chalk.

Thank you Brian Haines and grandson Sam, also David Chalk for the photos,

ONE THOUSAND MILE TRIAL OF APRIL 1900



On the 120th Anniversary of the Thousand Mile Trial April 2020, National Motor Museum Research and Enquiries Officer Patrick Collins told the story of this historical event and its association with Beaulieu and the Montagu family.

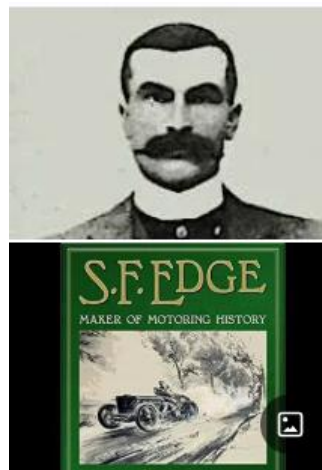
“At the beginning of the 20th century motoring was finally just starting to catch on in Britain. A small number of British manufacturers were becoming established forming the nucleus of what would soon become a major industry. Yet throughout the country people remained sceptical about the impact of the motor car whilst many more had yet to actually see one of the machines for themselves. Against this background a group of leading motorists proposed an event that would test the current crop of motor cars whilst allowing a large slice of the population to see what all the fuss was about. The Thousand Mile Trial April 1900 marks the 120th anniversary of the start of this important event.”

The trial started in London on 23 April 1900 and the route included Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester, Carlisle, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Leeds and Nottingham, returning to London on 12 May.

Entries were divided into two classes: manufacturers and private owners. Manufacturers entries included cars from Wolseley, Lanchester, De Dion Bouton, Daimler, Gladiator and the Motor Manufacturing Co (MMC) as well as quadricycles and tricycles from Ariel. The list of drivers was effectively a “Who’s Who” of the leading motorists of the time including such well-known names as C S Rolls, Claude Johnson, S F Edge, Mark Mayhew, J D Siddeley, Montague Grahame-White and Henry Hewetson.’

www.nationalmotormuseum.org.uk

Selwyn Francis Edge (1868-1940) an Australian businessman and racing car driver.



OUT AND ABOUT

Welcome to new member FABIAN WESOLOWSKI (who bought *Bitsy*).
Some more young blood for the club!



More young blood
for the club?

President Hugh's
grandson Lachie
already enjoying the
thrill of being in an
Austin 7.

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

1937 Austin 7 Ruby Saloon “Austintachous”

Great body, mechanicals converted to 12 volt system.
Good upholstery. Austin Seven WA club registration.
The Austin has regularly been on club runs over the years
and on several interstate runs.



Contact Robyn on Mobile 0418 959 595

FROM THE LIBRARY

“Gumdrop finds a friend” by Val Biro

Gumdrop is an Austin Clifton Heavy Twelve-Four, made in 1926.
He is 13 ft 6 inches long and weighs one ton and 112 pounds.

The Austin Twelve is a motor car introduced by Austin in 1921. It was the second of Herbert Austin's post World War I models and was in many ways a scaled-down version of his Austin Twenty, introduced in 1919. The slower-than-expected sales of the Twenty brought about this divergence from his intended one-model policy. The Twelve was announced at the beginning of November 1921 after Austin's company had been in receivership for six months. The number twelve refers to its fiscal horse power (12.8) rather than its brake horsepower (bhp) which was initially 20 bhp (1660 cc engine), and later 27 bhp (1861 cc engine). The long-stroke engines encouraged by the tax regime, 72 × 102 mm later 72 × 114.5 mm, had much greater low-speed torque than the bhp rating suggests.



Wikipedia

A BLAST FROM THE PAST
 Newspaper cutting from our Austin 7 library
 (Best viewed on internet so that print can be enlarged.)

28 OBSERVER Wednesday, July 5, 2000

HAVE YOU GOT A STORY TO TELL? ☎ (01293) 962929

TAKE A BUTCHERS AT A VINTAGE VAN FROM DOWN UNDER

Report and pictures by GARRY MERRIN

A VINTAGE Austin 7 van decked out in the livery of the old butchers shop in Handcross is a popular attraction - in Australia.

Yet the 1928 van has never even been to England and butcher Pat Manthorpe has never seen the van.

The vintage vehicle is the pride and joy of Colin Maxfield and his wife Mary, who live in Perth.

Colin, a retired mechanic who emigrated to Australia

from West Sussex over 30 years ago, is the brother of Pat's wife Janet.

A vintage vehicle enthusiast Colin, 68, spent three years and around 12,000 dollars lovingly restoring the van from scrap pieces.

Some parts even came from Handcross, after Colin, on a trip home, found some parts he could use in the old village garage once run by Archer Quide.

Colin recalled: "I used to be working on the car in the shed every night until 11pm.

"Now it takes me all my time just to maintain my collection of vehicles."

When the van was finished Colin wanted to paint it in a traditional livery and thought of his brother-in-law's shop 12,000 miles away.

So the van became the Manthorpe butcher's van complete with original shop phone number on each door.

The Austin was soon a popular attraction at vintage vehicle shows.

Colin explained: "I think there is only one other Austin 7 van in Western Australia, although I have never seen it, so we do get a lot of attention."

In an amazing coincidence Colin has met up with a fellow vintage motorcycle enthusiast who once ran the Handcross butcher's shop.

Richard and Margaret Matthews, who live near Perth, managed the shop for 18 months before moving to Australia.



The Maxfields with their pride and joy Austin 7 van which took Colin three years to restore

On a return visit to England they decided to call in at the shop and met Pat and Janet who on hearing where they lived told them about Colin and his van.

Back in Perth Richard spotted the distinc-

tive van at a vintage show and introduced himself to Colin.

The two are now friends with a shared interest in old motorcycles.

Meanwhile Pat and Janet are looking forward to being able to visit Perth and see for themselves the van which has made their shop famous on the opposite side of the world.



Pat and Janet Manthorpe at their Handcross butchers



BRACKET TO TRYOUT
JUST CHANGING
GET YOUR MOTOR RUNNING AT THE

ALL AUSTRALIAN CAR DAY

SUNDAY 12 APRIL
9AM-2PM

ALL MAKES & MODELS WELCOME TO DISPLAY! **DISPLAY CARS ENTRY FOR A**

WAROONA SHOWGROUNDS (SOUTH WEST HWY)

+PLUS
 CLASSIC / VINTAGE / VETERAN CARS • TRUCKS & MOTORBIKES • VINTAGE ENGINES TRACTORS & TOOLS • FOOD TRUCKS & KIDS ENTERTAINMENT & LOTS MORE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

FREE LOCAL BUS TOURS!



Northam Motor Sport Festival

SUNDAY
 9am-8pm • Northam CBD

- Flyin' 50 • Round the House • Races • Shammy's Show 'n' Shine • Another Fine Mess
- Harley Davidson Street Riders • VWs & Bunnings Activities • Face Painting
- Carnival Rides & Soumy Caster • Local Shops & Cafes open • Food Trucks • Markets
- Northam Boulevard Arcade Alley • Road Closures in Place

9am-4pm • Mount Ommanney
 • Mount Ommanney Hill Climb • Food & Coffee Trucks
 Road Closures in Place

MONDAY

26 & 27 APRIL 2026
 26 - Northam CBD
 27 - Mount Ommanney

Email | events@northam.wa.gov.au
 Facebook | [@northammotorsportfestival](https://www.facebook.com/northammotorsportfestival)




Gingin British Car Day

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

market stalls
 food, music &
 British Cars

Sunday May 17 2026
 Granville Park Weld St Gingin 10am-3pm



49th HISTORIC WINTON
30th and 31st May 2026

www.historicwinton.org
 Winton Motor Raceway, Benalla, Victoria






Spares Shed 5 April 2026

Members who need spare parts old and new can ring Gordon direct on

Mobile: 0417 988 190

April Birthdays

Neil Cavanagh
Paul Egerton-Green
Marion Gathercole
Gloria Haines
Jill Merker
Dot Ryle
Bryan Scrivenor
Denise Sweetman



There is no old age. There is, as there always was, just you.



Happy Saturday, Sunday,
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday
and Thursday as well.

Baby Torque May 2026

Closing date: 24 April 2026

Please send items to gatherm@tpg.com.au

TREASURE HUNT RUN—19 April 2026

MEET Gracies Café 45 Berkshire Road, Forrestfield
WHEN 9.30 am
WHY Morning tea and treasure hunt

Back by popular demand for the April run is a treasure hunt. This year I promise to make the riddles a little easier to understand so that I am not left on the side of the road madly jumping up and down and waving to try to get the attention of the occupants of our little cars. I know I am short, but I still can't believe no one saw me

There are a few events around Perth on this weekend that we need to avoid so I have chosen a meeting place that will ensure we don't get caught up road closures and detours.

We will meet for morning tea at 9.30 am at Gracies Café, 45 Berkshire Road, Forrestfield. Instructions will be distributed for the Treasure Hunt at around 10 am.

Gordon and I will be having breakfast at the cafe around 8.30 am if anyone would like to join us. The French brioche toast is beautiful, as is the Eggs Benedict.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

Alexandra



BRITISH CAR DAY Gingin—17 May 2026

See notice page 12
More details of run in
May edition of *Baby
Torque*.

14





Club Run—To Smirk Cottage, Medina
March 2014

