

Baby Torque

May 2026



Replica Neil Baird's Chummy ready to go at Beverley Horse Racing Track

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

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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

How lucky are we, that in this most recent fuel crisis, the Sevens are every economical car! Even so when filling up the 4-gallon tank recently it was almost \$40. What fuel consumption do you get from your Austin Seven?

Many years ago, on a Busselton run from memory, we did a fuel economy run over a measured distance from Henderson to just before Busselton, a distance of about 120miles (193km). This must have been in the early 2000's and I cannot find a record of the results. Can anyone else remember or have a record?

On the Harvey run, Bryan Scrivenor and I have our own informal fuel consumption competition. Much to my annoyance, Bryan consistently wins by using less fuel than me at around 11 litres (2.4 gallons). Total distance from Pinjarra along the back roads to Harvey, Myalup Pines Cottages back to Pinjarra is around 100 miles (161km). This works out to 42 mpg (6.7 litres per 100km) is that what most people get? All are welcome to check my maths and the conversion to metric.

Great driving weather now the temperature has cooled down.

Our thoughts are with those members with heath issues at present, wishing you a speedy recovery.

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

Hugh Fryer

President



Driver view waiting in the dummy grid at Beverley Horse Racing Track, Sunday 19 April 2026

Meeting of the Austin Seven Club of Western Australia (Inc.)
Sunday, 12 April 2026
34 Honey Road. Forrestfield

1 **Opened at 10.00 am**

Members welcomed by President Hugh Fryer

2 **Attendance:** Hugh Fryer, Glenda Pinch, David and Heather Harvey, David and Ronda McPherson, Ross Wainwright, Rodney Kneuss, Charlie Mitchell, Marion Gathercole, David Chalk, Clive Ball, Alexandra and Gordon McManus, Chris Daniels, Kaye Reid, Brian Haines Neil and Barbara Cavanagh and visitor Neil Pitman

Apologies: Jennifer Chalk, Gloria Haines, Jim Reid, Kay Kneuss

3 **Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting**

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

Moved: Gordon McManus **Seconded:** Alexandra McManus **CARRIED**

4 **Business Arising from Minutes—Nil**

5 **Correspondence In**

Magazines In: Light Shaft January/February/March, A7C Bristol, Austinette and AMVC newsletters, PWA7C Yorkshire Group, Focus Cornwall, A7 Register QLD, Devon Sevens

General: Updated membership list, *Baby Torque* replies, NED458723

Correspondence Out

Baby Torque to members and affiliated clubs.

Gingin British car day cancellation, Shannon's Classic Car Show postponement, form to Steve Coleman re C4C membership, form to Theo Tichelaar rejoining the Club.

Emails between committee members

NED Submission for April

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:** David Chalk **CARRIED**

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

Sea View printing \$40, Postage \$12.65 and \$170.00, Gordon McManus \$20.00

Moved: Clive Ball **Seconded:** Charlie Mitchell **CARRIED**

6.2 **Spare Parts Report—Gordon McManus**

Spare parts movement slow at the moment. A few jobs in the shed—David Harvey's car, another big Seven job (will not touch that model of car again). A tip, if you park your car up for a lengthy period of time do not leave any fuel in the tank.

A large order of parts is expected to arrive soon that will finish some jobs.

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

Nothing to report this month but just to let members know the wide range of books available to borrow, so take some time to investigate our library it is there for your use

6.4 Editor's Report—Marion Gathercole

The number of *Baby Torques* being posted is now 17. A reminder that stamps will be going up again and that postage and delivery times are becoming an issue.

Great to see new faces at the meeting and the potential for new and interesting stories. Please send them to me. Thanks

6.5 Events Co-Ordinator—Alexandra McManus

Last month's run to Toodyay Swap Meet via Gidgegannup was a successful event.

April's run is a Treasure Hunt after meeting at Gracie's Café for breakfast or just a coffee

Gingin British Car Day has been cancelled for 2026. As a result it is suggested that after our May General Meeting we have a sausage sizzle and a Mother's Day raffle,.

7 General Business

- Best wishes to Barry Ryle who is recovering after a slight accident and time in hospital,
- Hugh showed us a clutch plate he has been using over the last 12 years.
- In lieu of the Gingin British Car Day which has been cancelled, it was agreed by members that we have a sausage sizzle and Mother's Day raffle following the May meeting on 3 May 2026. Numbers required for catering purposes. Details in *Baby Torque*.
- Our visitor Neil Pitman gave us a talk on his involvement with Austins over the years. He is now working on an A7 Hereford ute and 1939 Vauxhall. He had some very interesting stories. He is now working on an A7 Hereford ute and 1939 Vauxhall. He had some very interesting stories.

TOOL OF THE MONTH

Peter Davidson nominated himself.

After carefully checking his car, Peter set out on his way to the last meeting. Along the way he pulled over when he smelled burning. He discovered the radiator was bone dry. It appears that when checking his car before heading to the meeting, he did not tighten the tap on his radiator and water leaked out. Hence he did not make it to the meeting. Congratulations to Peter for this month's prestigious award.



Morning Tea Roster: Sausage Sizzle (please advise if you attending)

Raffle: Do not forget our Mother's Day Raffle

Meeting closed: 10.49 am

Next Meeting: 3 May 2026



MERCHANDISE

The A7 monogrammed hand towels at \$13 available at meeting or contact Alexandra McManus.

Treasure Hunt Run—19 April 2026

The weather was sunny and clear with almost cloudless skies for Sunday's run which was a chance to become absolutely familiar with Forrestfield, postcode 6058. The run was organised with the same enthusiasm and research we are used to from Alexandra.

I am not sure how many laps of Forrestfield she did putting this together but I think the Volvo is probably due for another oil change at the end of it.

Alexandra had three main objectives in mind

1. Everyone gets to enjoy their cars
2. Everyone has fun (*even if their head hurts by the end of the run*)
3. Everyone learns a bit more about Forrestfield.

In attendance were Bryan and Karin Scrivenor, David and Ronda McPherson, Jim and Kaye Reid, Tom and Torri Emmans, Brian Haines and Clive Ball who teamed up as well as David Harvey and me. Alexandra elected to not participate as she, of course, knew all the answers. Some of the group arrived early at Gracie's Café to enjoy breakfast then Alexandra gathered everyone to explain the task in front of them. We were issued with a map, a set of Rebus puzzles, a set of blank traffic signs and a set of blank business signs.

Clive Ball and Brian Haines obviously did not listen to any of the directions given as they had their rebus puzzles completed before they even got to their car. Rebus example is M1Y L111F1E answer – Four ones in my life. There were 12 of these.

The next sheet was a set of blank road signs we had to fill in.

Example

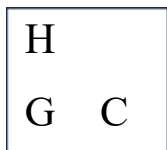


Answer - Bumps

Clive and Brian were driving along past the police station looking for signs and cursing every bump they went over but never recognising the sign warning of speed bumps. There were also 12 of these to complete.

The next sheet was blank signs for landmarks and businesses around the town

Example



Answer – Hartfield golf Club

Tom and Tori were on the look out for a golf club but after parking next to the sign for 5 minutes gave up and kept driving.

I teamed up with David Harvey as his car is currently undergoing major repairs to the engine and we were undoubtedly the most useless of all teams.

As we traversed Forrestfield looking for the signs so we could fill in our sheets, we kept crossing paths with the other cars with cheery waves and many miles clocked up weaving in and out of all the streets and side roads. I have lived in the area all my life and did not know a lot of these streets existed.

When we arrived back at Gracie's, everyone was laughing so I am sure all three objectives were met.

We were not told what the pass mark was but I am glad there were no dunce hats handed out as I am sure my team would have been front and centre for one.

Alexandra presented prizes to everyone for attending, a few more laughs, a group photo and it was time to go. Everyone left with an indelibly ingrained knowledge of the roads, businesses and road signs of the Forrestfield metropolis.

So, the challenge now is on to see if anyone game to introduce a fleet of Austin Sevens to their postcode!!!

Gordon McManus



Alexandra McManus handing out the Treasure Hunt sheets to David Harvey, Gordon McManus, Brian Haines, Clive Ball (and others not pictured)

Proud owners
Clive Ball, Tori Emmans, Jim Reid, Gordon McManus, David McPherson

Thank you to Kaye Reid for photos.



HOW DID YOU COME TO BE INVOLVED WITH AUSTIN 7s?

Chris Daniels
Father-in-law Doug Hawke
Sons Sean and Oliver
at Perkolilli 2026



DOUG HAWKE
CHRIS DANIELS HAS BEEN PART OF THE AUTOMOTIVE
INDUSTRY FOR MOST OF HIS WORKING LIFE.
I MET CHRIS WHEN MY YOUNGEST DAUGHTER
LEANNE BOUGHT HIM TO LINDSEY AS HER
BOYFRIEND.
THIS BECAME A LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP - MARRIAGE
& TWO BOYS.
HIS INTRODUCTION TO OLD CARS CAME WHEN
WE WERE DISCUSSING LAME PERKOLILLI AND THE
REVIVAL OF THE LONG REDUNDANT RACE TRACK.
I WAS TRYING TO EXPLAIN THAT THE OLD
TRACK WAS PART OF MY LIFE FROM A EARLY
AGE. IN THE LATE 1950'S MY FATHER WOULD
TAKE US OUT TO PERKO ON A SUNDAY TO WATCH
THE MOTORBIKES THAT WERE STILL RACING.
MOVE AHEAD TO LATE 1970'S EARLY 80'S WHEN
OUR FAMILY WOULD TRAVEL TO PERKO ON
WEEKENDS, FLYING KITES, TOWER AROUND ON
OLD CAR BONNETS, DIGGING AROUND THE OLD
FOOTINGS & REMAINS OF THE OLD BUILDINGS (UNSTAND)
CHRIS WAS VERY INTERESTED SO I INVITED THE FAMILY
TO THE 2022 RED DUST REVIVAL. THE REST IS HISTORY.
HIS COMMENT "I WANT ONE OF THOSE FOR THE
NEXT PERKO". HE BOUGHT THE AUSTIN 7 (MAINLY IN
BITS) AND SPENT THE NEXT 3 YEARS REBUILDING IT.
2026
SEPTEMBER THE AUSTIN MADE ITS DEBUT AT PERKO
CUT SHORT BY A LOOSE FLY WHEEL.
THE LITTLE SEVEN HAS BECOME
CHRIS'S PRIDE & JOY. I HOPE FOR A LONG
TIME TO COME AS I BELIEVE IT HAS
BEEN A LIFE CHANGING FOR CHRIS.

Baird Chummy Replica goes to Beverley Horse Racing Track

On Sunday, 19 April 2026 the 'Speedsters' section of the Veteran & Classic Car Club held a Members Only, 'Come and try day' at the disused Beverley Horse Racing track.

Beverley Shire is keen to get more use out of the abandoned track after the horse racing stopped many years ago. Currently they hold 'Tractor Pulls' and Lawnmower racing there. The area has been cropped with canola and after harvest a track was graded by the Shire, but was still really bumpy!

There were 14 cars entered, all pre-1940. Most were built for fun, stripped down standard cars. Only one Austin Seven, my Chummy, which is a replica of Neil Baird's car which he ran at Perkolilli in 1931. Richard Baird, Neil's son, also Bryan, encouraged me to build it in time for Red Dust Revival 2019 at Perkolilli. The next smallest car was an Austin Eight convertible; most were big American cars.

The day started with a welcome and drivers' briefing. Single car event, two laps with no timing - just fun. It is a credit to Neil Pitman, who was guest speaker at our April meeting, to make the event happen. Also big thanks to the starter and flag marshals.

Austin Seven Club members there were Chris and Leanne, Ross and Marlene Wainwright and friends, also Dennis Heppell from Tammin along with Hugh Fryer and Glenda Pinch.

At lunchtime there was an opportunity to take passengers which gave Chris, Dennis and Glenda an opportunity to experience the dust and bumps.

In the afternoon it became very dusty and the bigger race cars were spinning and running off the track. Time to leave and go to my granddaughter's 2nd birthday party.

It was a very successful day and I am sure there will be more events there. Hopefully we will see more Austin Sevens entered.

Hugh Fryer



Chummy with bigger friends at Beverley Horse Racing Track

King Farouk of Egypt – Austins first and last!

On my way overland to Australia in *Samantha*, my 1929 Austin 7, I arrived in Beirut, Lebanon at the end of 1965. Beirut was a beautiful and prosperous city in those days, called by many the “Paris of the Middle East” and not the sad place it has since become.

I collected my mail from the main post office (no Internet then!) and as I sat in the car reading it, a young woman came over and told me her partner had a car like mine. She invited me to lunch with them. I followed her car and sure enough, there was a red and black 1930 Chummy sitting in the driveway. The owner, Dr Fred Zebouni, told me the car had originally belonged to King Farouk of Egypt, and he'd bought it when the contents of the palace were being auctioned after Farouk was deposed and abdicated in 1952.

The following afternoon we held a two-car Austin 7 run round Beirut and brought the traffic to a standstill!



As Farouk was born in 1920, I guessed the car was one of his toys, and recently found this photo on the Net of the boy Farouk and three of his sisters in the car:



Over the years, Farouk amassed a huge collection of cars, including a Mercedes given him by Adolf Hitler.

Fast forward to 2015 when my wife Sheila and I visited the Moray Motor Museum in her birthplace, Elgin, Scotland. On display was Farouk's last car, an Austin A90.



The description reads:

AUSTIN A90 CONVERTIBLE This wonderful example was the property of King Farouk, the penultimate king of Egypt, succeeding his father Fuad I in 1936. Farouk was only 36 when overthrown in the 1952 coup d'etat, and then forced to abdicate and exiled to Switzerland. He was poisoned in an Italian cafe by Egyptian Mafia. However Nasser, his successor, denied any Egyptian involvement, and it was never proven.

This Austin A90 was first delivered in April 1950 with optional extras such as electric hood, side windows and a valve radio. On his exile Farouk took the car with him to Switzerland where it later fell into the hands of an A90 enthusiast. A well-known car in Austin Atlantic circles, this nicely restored example, now owned by the Moray Motor Museum, is finished in Ice Blue metallic paint with a Royal Blue interior. It has original parts and service manuals and even the original Egyptian number plate. A fascinating history."

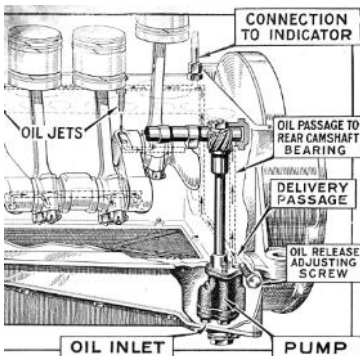
As a footnote, I also read on the Internet that Dr Fred Zebouni moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1992 and died there in 2014 at the grand old age of 100.

Oliver Ball

Caveat - Core Plug Calamities can create Oil Pressure Gauge Reading Problems

The rear cylinder head top core plug started leaking a year ago, so I bogged it, the leak stopped, and I ordered three core plugs from UK on-line, which arrived.

Then this morning, the radiator water check revealed lots of water missing – the forward core plug also was perforated, water running aft on the head and overflowing everywhere, particularly noticed above the oil level dipstick. I dug out the old two core plug caps and replaced with the new. All OK. I removed the threaded stem from an Austin 7 hub remover and used that in combination with a large hammer to seat the caps with one pelt (a Scottish word for hit). I used a silicon hardening agent to help the seal. All good so far! The below left diagram shows the pump suction from the lowest point in the sump, distribution oil to the camshaft bearing, gallery and the oil indicator'



I found on starting ZERO oil pressure, although the engine sounded as sweet as ever. Switched off and checked dipstick- oil level OK. Removed the 'connection to indicator' leaving the spigot visible to check the oil outflow from the pump and restarted the motor. To my surprise water was gurgling and ebbing slightly from the oil delivery spigot – then it struck me, like it would for a promising Tool of the Month candidate; the water leaking from the core plugs would have trickled down the oil dipstick aperture, and found its way (water is heavier than oil) to the lowest point in the crankcase being the submerged suction inlet for the mechanically driven vane oil pump. (see picture above right, the new caps in red and the oil dipstick next to the oil indicator connection above).

With some excitement, I started the motor again and to my delight, black oil was gushing from the spigot, so I immediately switched off, reconnected the oil indicator and restarted the motor – max 6 psi on the scale! I was somewhat relieved with this successful repair and diagnosis of the water entry into the crankcase.

Hopefully you will find this informative and entertaining reading, kind regards

Peter Davidson, 1930 Austin Seven, with a 'Holden Roadster' body





Spares Shed 3 May 2026

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

Mobile: 0417 988 190

May Birthdays

Hugh Fryer
Kaye Reid
Andrew Wells



We are always the same age inside. Gertrude Stein



Baby Torque June 2026

Closing date: 29 May 2026

Please send items to gatherm@tpg.com.au

SAUSAGE SIZZLE - 3 MAY 2026

Everyone is invited to stay for a sausage sizzle after the General Meeting on Sunday 3 May 2026

at 34 Honey Road, Forrestfield.

Join us to celebrate the women in our lives.

**RSVP to Alexandra Mobile: 0147 986 171
by 1 May 2026**

so that the correct number of sausages are available.



CLUB RUN—24 May 2026

Starting point:

Yahava KoffeeWorks

4752 West Swan Rd, West Swan
(coffee roasted on the premises)

Time:

9.30 for 10.45 am departure –
refreshments available

Destination:

Eight Slice Italian Kitchen

1397 Wanneroo Rd, Wanneroo.



RSVP: Essential by Sunday 17 May 2026 to book restaurant
Bryan Scrivenor Mobile: 0407 442 180

2026 British Car Day – Event Cancellation

“It is with genuine regret that we advise the 2026 British Car Day will not proceed.



Main Roads on 8 April 2026 are scheduled to commence the replacement of the Weld Street Bridge Gingin, which will significantly affect access to display areas. These works will impact key routes normally used by both display vehicles and spectators attending the event.

Although the appointed contractor has been very supportive in exploring possible solutions, the restricted access and limited available space present real challenges in ensuring the safe movement and management of display and spectator vehicles within and around the event precinct. After careful consideration, it has become clear that the logistics required to deliver the event safely and smoothly this year are simply not practical. *British Car Day Organising Committee*”

WHAT'S ON WHEN IN 2026

2026

May	3	General Meeting and Spares Shed Sausage Sizzle after meeting	RSVP
	10	Mothers Day	
	17	British Car Day, Gingin	CANCELLED
	24	Club Run	Bryan and Karin Scrivenor
June	7	General Meeting and Spares shed	
	21	Club Run	Clive Ball
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	



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>



British Car Day 2016

Breakfast barbecue

Tito Teraci, Paul Egerton-Green
and cut away Austin 7 motor

Doug Baker, Mike Smith, Barry
Ryle



Host and Hostesses Rod Witnell, Faith's sister, Faith Withnell
with Gordon McManus, Jeanette Bannister, Katy and Angelo Fiora.