

# *Baby Torque*

March 2024



Line up of cars outside Pan Pacific Hotel to greet UK visitors,  
and Rohan the hotel car valet.

*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*

### **Visit from our A7 Alumni**

Last Sunday we had the pleasure of meeting some Austineers from the UK. Marion (our Editor) had organised a run past some of Perth's iconic landmarks followed by a lunch with 'all things Australian'. Unfortunately, the weather beat us with a forecast of 42 degrees, much too hot for both us and our little cars to be out driving.



Plans quickly changed. We arranged to meet Nick, Sue, Peter, Sue and Margaret at their inner city hotel for a coffee and chat. The concierge kindly allowed us to park six of our little cars on the concourse right by the main entrance of the hotel. Not only were we in the shade, we arrived at check-out time so received much attention from departing guests.

Our UK guests were given a quick tour of the city (too hot to go far) followed by morning tea inside the foyer of the lovely old hotel. The staff could not have been more helpful and we ended up having a wonderful morning. Our visitors regaled us with stories of their sojourns around the world and we gave them some advice on the many places they could visit while in Perth. Sometimes it is those impromptu plans that work out so well.

### **Over a 100 and still going strong**

On the way home from our meeting with the delightful 'UK 5', I was thinking about the places we have visited in our little cars since joining the A7WA Club. We attended our first run in 2010 and have rarely missed one since amounting to more than 130 runs over this time period.

Most have been around Perth and surrounds however each year we go away for at least one weekend plus we have attended several interstate runs over a week or so. Amazing when you sit for a moment and ponder the incredible places that are on our own doorstep. I wonder how many of these I would have seen if we hadn't joined the club. We are always out and about but it is usually driving from point A to B. In our little cars we get to meander along so really appreciate our surrounds. Also the run sheets often include information about places we are passing or provide a short history lesson. We have even had runs that included treasure hunts and cryptic clues.

I would like to take a moment to sincerely thank the many people who have organised these runs. They have ranged from a simple breakfast get together through to highly organised National events. Each in their own way have brought us pleasure. Even those that haven't quite worked out as planned, have still ended in a laugh. So thank you, thank you and thank you again and I look forward to many more outings and laughs.

*Alexandra McManus*

President

**PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING IS 10 MARCH—  
due to long weekend on 3 March.**

# General Meeting of the Austin Seven Club of Western Australia (Inc)

Sunday, 4 February 2024  
34 Honey Road, Forrestfield

## 1. Opened at 10.00 am

Members welcomed by President Alexandra McManus

2. **Attendance:** Neil and Barbara Cavanagh, Charlie Mitchell, Brian Haines, David Harvey, Clive Ball, Marion Gathercole, Rodney Kneuss, Katy and Ang Fiora, Gordon and Alexandra McManus, Dot and Barry Ryle, Jim and Kaye Reid

**Apologies:** David and Jennifer Chalk, Gloria Haines, Heather Harvey, Sheila Ball

## 3. Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting

**Motion:** That the minutes of the meeting on 1 December 2023 be accepted as a true and correct record .

**Moved:** Jim Reid      **Seconded:** David Harvey      **CARRIED**

## 4. Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil

## 5. Correspondence In: Magazines:

6. December: A7OC, QLD Register, Light Shaft, Pre-war  
January: Norfolk Natter, Focus BA7C

February: Devon Seven, Fred Singleton, WA Austin, Meshing Point  
*Baby Torque* replies for December and January from affiliated clubs as well as Christmas Greetings

Yellow Pages enquiries from Peter Shenton re sale of 1927 Austin Chummy  
CMC - re change of date for the Classic Car Show to 15 September 2024  
Replies for Meet and Greet

**Single Run:** Marion Gathercole 28 January 2024 AUS007

## Correspondence Out:

*Baby Torque* to members and affiliated clubs  
Get Well cards to Dot Ryle and Warren Martin  
Thank you card to Deb Roe  
CMC notice to Gordon McManus  
NED deposit NED311199

## 6. Reports

### 6.1 Treasurer's Report – Clive Ball

**Motion:** That the Treasurer's interim report be accepted as tabled

**Moved:** Kaye Reid      **Seconded:** Katy Fiora      **CARRIED**

Motion: That the following accounts be passed for payment:  
Sea View \$85.00 x 2, Postage \$120.00, UK Magazine \$26.00, Kaye Reid  
(Cards and Postage) \$10.00

**Moved:** Clive Ball      **Seconded:** Ang Fiora      **CARRIED.**

- 6 The 26th Annual Harvey Run was another successful club event. Well done and thank you again to Hugh Fryer, Lyn and Paul Egerton-Green.

- 4 The next run is 19 November to the Kingsway Court Retirement Village, Madeley

## 6.2 Spare Parts Report – Gordon McManus

## 6.3 Librarian’s Report – Alexandra McManus

Books Recommended for reading were *Austin Seven Special* and photo album of past club events.

Para Quad book sale had some brilliant books on cars. It is a great place to visit.

Members are encouraged to take time at next meeting to visit the club library.

## 6.4 Editor’s Report - Marion Gathercole

Kingsway sent us a copy of their newsletter with a feature story of our visit.

Reminder to Charlie Mitchell and others for restoration stories or helpful hints. Thank you for the items that do come in. Keep them coming.

## 6.5 Events Report

The January run to Gracies Café for breakfast was well attended and members had a great time. It was an opportunity for Charlie and Linda Mitchell to take their beautifully restored orange coloured Ulster on its maiden run..

Thank you to the members for volunteering to organise a monthly run. March Clive Ball, May, Ang and Katy Fiora, December Alexandra and Gordon.

We still have July (Stanley Edge Run), August, September and November vacant, so please have a think about organising a run.

## 6.6 General Business

The date for the next meeting will be the 10 March due to the long weekend.

## 6.7 Tool of the Month: Angelo Fiora

Morning Tea Roster for March - Barbara Cavanagh

Raffle prizes for the raffle required

**Meeting Closed 10.40 am**

**Date of next General Meeting: 10 March 2024**

Outings in an Austin Seven from 2010 to 2024 with President Alexandra



President Alexandra McManus and Gordon with grandchildren who love Austin 7’s, Christmas windup with Barb Cavanagh and Brian Haines, with Robyn Coleman and Faith Withnell in Toowoomba, Queensland.

## FEBRUARY—UK VISITORS MEET AND GREET

Pan Pacific, Hotel, Perth

Great excitement to have some very special Austin 7 members from UK visit us in Perth. Nick Turley, Chairman of Post War Austin 7's and organising Chairman of the centenary celebrations which saw 1400 cars converge on Morton-on-Marsh, Peter Rowlands who contacted us to tell us of their upcoming visit, Sue Turley, Sue Rowlands and Margaret Matthews. They arrived in Perth to the prospect of a 43 degree day for our much anticipated Meet and Greet and a hot week for the remainder of their visit.

Phew!!! This weather was almost too hot for the locals and their little old cars, let alone the international travellers. However, not to be beaten by the weather the plans were adapted to meeting at the hotel, assessing the weather for the possibility of having a ride in the little cars, and of course having a good old chinwag about all sort of things, including Austin 7s.

Six Austin 7's lined up under the *porte cochere* in front of the Pan Pacific Hotel where the concierge and car valet made sure they were well displayed and out of the way of the guests coming and going. Each of the cars was a different year, different style and colour. Very impressive. (See cover photo.)

"*These are the Uber cars*" explained the car valet to a departing guest who had a double take at the sight of the six cars lined up!

The cars attracted considerable attention and they all put on their best photographic poses. Cars on display were those of Gordon and Alexandra McManus, David and Jennifer Chalk, Brian Haines, Jim and Kaye Reid, Charlie Mitchell, and son, Marion Gathercole.



Kaye Reid and Margaret Matthews wondering which Uber to take!



Also in attendance was ex-President David Harvey and Hugh Fryer our Austin 7 race car/Perkolilli/Harvey Run specialist. Clive Ball did not bring *Samantha* as he thought it would be too hot for her to make it back up into the hills; after all, she is a lot older than when she conquered Macha Picchu, elevation 2,430 m above sea level, on her seven year trip around the world.

Introductions, explanations and conversations took place in the

relative cool of the *porte cochere* before deciding to go for a quick spin around the



eastern part of the city and along the Swan River into the city proper area. Down the steep Hill Street hill, up Plain Street, past the WAACA, Gloucester Park, Matagarup Bridge (Matagarup is a traditional custodians name meaning “place where the river is only leg deep, allowing it to be crossed”), Optus Oval, East Perth cemetery, down Plain Street, along Riverside Drive, through Elizabeth Quay area, and at St Georges Terrace some cars turned right and some left.

Those who turned right returned to the hotel, those who turned left drove to Parliament House where they had a view down St Georges Terrace in the hope of seeing the other cars. When these cars returned to the hotel one car was still missing. Brian Haines and Clive Ball had taken off again with visitor Margaret Matthews on board and took her along St Georges Terrace up to Kings Park. They returned in time in time for a coffee and more chatting.



The concierge very helpfully organised some coffees and seating accommodation for us. In the cool confines it was a great places to gather.

Connections from the past were made with a photo and greeting from Paddy Malone who visited and donated a trophy which is still presented annually at the Harvey Run, regards from Roger Bugg who fondly remembers his visit to Perth, and Paul Egerton-Green who sent his welcome and apologies from Harvey.

The temperature did hit 43 degrees later in the day, and at 7.30 pm it was still 38.8 degrees. A warm welcome for our UK visitors!

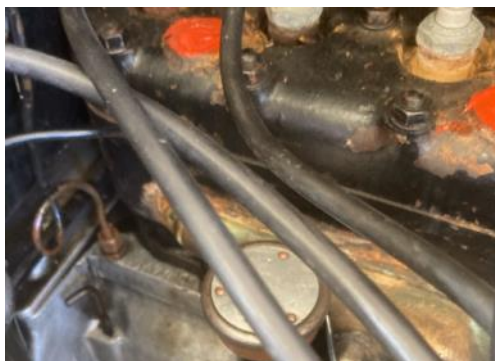
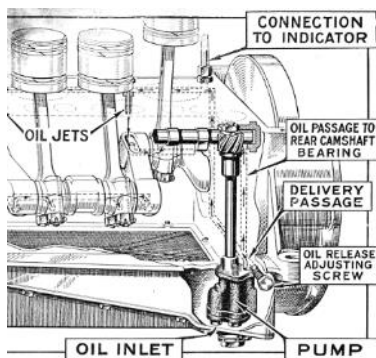
Nick Turley Chairman of Austin Seven Clubs' Association which organised the Austin Seven Centenary Rally 1922-2022 presented the Austin Seven Club of WA with a limited edition commemorative badge which we were delighted to receive and it will be highly valued.

Thank you Nick and Sue, Peter and Sue, and Margaret for giving us an opportunity to show off our cars and Perth and to spend such a lovely time with you all.

Thank you to members who braved the heat and made this a very special international Austin 7 day.

## 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 3 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. The third core plug cap on the carburetor side looks OK. I removed the threaded stem from an Austin 7 hub remover tool 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 of 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. I then drained the old black oil, which will be recycled via Swanbourne garage, and refilled the sump with new oil. There were some traces of water in the old oil, so it is a good thing to change oil if it is contaminated with water.

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

*Peter Davidson*

Austin Seven reliability prevails well into old age!! (continued page 10)



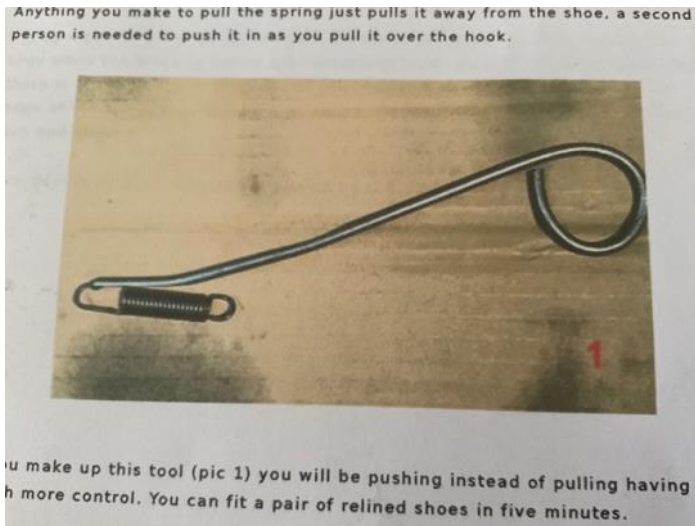
## Alternative “Tool of the Month”

I made this very usable tool to assist me in removing my old brake shoes and replacing with new on my Chummy referring to the very informative article in the Bristol Austin 7 Club newsletter written by my club associate Ian Moorcraft.

For the full article type in on your computer/pad - *Bristol Austin 7 Club* and scroll down to *Technical*. Scroll down again to *Brake shoes - change without removing hubs - pre-girling* .

This excellent article shows how to make your own tool and how it is used . For any club member who hasn't the facilities and/or would like to borrow the tool I made please let me know.

*Brian Haines.*



## Email to Editor

Hi Marion

Just an email to give a big thanks to your members for such a super welcome yesterday here in Perth.

It was so kind of so many of you to turn out your cars to make a real Austin Seven event.

You all created a great memory for us - Nick & Sue, Peter & Sue and Margaret.

Please find attached a few photos that I took.

Thank you all again.

*Nick Turley*

The Pre War Austin Club - Chairman



Sue Rowlands, Sue Turley, Brian Haines, Clive Ball, Peter Rowlands,  
Nick Turley, Hugh Fryer

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*Continued from page 8 -*

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

1930 Austin Seven, 93 years old, 'Holden Roadster' body manufactured in Adelaide.

21 February 2022—1,620 miles Purchased

22 April 2013—8,690 miles on speedometer Engine rebuild sleeve and standard bore/  
pistons

May 2022—Rear Axle thrust bearing failure (repaired by Brian Haines)

20 February 2024—4,462 miles Repair corroded core plug caps

Two years of everyday use of the Austin Seven - 5,772 miles

# Austin Works Railway

## LETTER TO EDITOR

“Hi from England, just seen your mag **Baby torque February 2024** ery ice, just love the red Seven in the front. Anyway am the author of the **Austin Railway Blog**, am sorting the next part with pics ad after that the third script. As a Conservation Architect and Architecture Historian old buildings have an interest, (the oldest I am working on go back to 1145). And I have an Australian 1926 Austin H12, shipped it home in 2003, in bits and rebuilt it, attached a pic doing a Hill Climb. And attached the old research maps that also came with the Railway Script. Could you correct the text, the Blog was re-researched and written by myself, and represents many weeks delving in to history’s etc.

Best wishes *Tony Mealing*

Anthony Mealing Dip Arch RIBA  
AABC”

*Kop Hill Hill Climb 1926 Australian  
Austin H12*



Railway Maps

1882

1990



## AUSTRALIAN-BODIED AUSTIN SEVENS

In the aftermath of World War I the Australian Government imposed a tariff on imported vehicles, with tax concessions applying to rolling chassis, as a stimulus to develop a sovereign motor vehicle industry. The chassis concession acted as a financial incentive for local coach-builders to import factory built rolling chassis, and fit uniquely Australian designed and built bodies, leading to the establishment of an Australian motor vehicle bodybuilding industry in the early 1920s.



1929 Australian-bodied Austin 7 Meteor  
(Coach-builder A. Robinson & Co. Castlereagh St, Sydney)

The largest and best known of these Australian coach-builders was [Holden's Motor Body Builders](#). Holden built Australian-bodied Austin Seven tourer and roadster models from the mid-1920s.

However, several smaller coach-builders built limited numbers of Australian-bodied Austin Seven sports models between 1924 and 1934. Some examples of these Australian-bodied sports models are; the Standard Sports, built by Flood Motor Body Works, St Kilda Road, Melbourne; the Wasp built by William Green, Parramatta Road, Petersham, Sydney; the Moth built by Geo Sykes, Gordon Road, Chatswood, Sydney; the Comet built by [Bill Conoulty](#), Sydney; and the Meteor. The Meteor was built by several coach-builders (Flood Motor Body Works, St Kilda Road, Melbourne; Jack Lonzar, Kent Town Adelaide; and A Robinson & Co., 181 Castlereagh St, Sydney), with individual variations to the common design

*Austin 7. (2024, February 18). In Wikipedia. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austin\\_7](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austin_7)*

# Perth's 'king' of the used car dealers

In an industry which was the crucible of the "gimmick salesman," Ben Mainstone was one-in-a-million.

A Perth boy, he went into the used car business in 1953 "on a whim". But he had a canny knack for promotion and a flair for the unusual.

At a time when, he recalls, nobody else in the used car business was doing anything, Ben Mainstone turned Perth upside down.

He sold cars for 2/6 (25c), 3/11 (39c) and 18/6 (\$1.85). He even listed cars as free -- but the battery cost 12/6 (\$1.25)!

His business went like wildfire. People turned up in their hundreds to his sales, waiting patiently for hours to have their name drawn from a hat for the privilege of snapping up the bargains.

At his yard in Canning Highway, Como, traffic police were needed to control the crowds.

His speciality was 1920s cars -- and in the 1950s he was still trading cars up to 30 years old. The love affair has lasted, as he is still a member of the W.A. Veteran and Vintage Car Club.



Another Mainstone promotion: This 1928 Austin tourer was free -- but the battery cost 12/6!

19

*From "Four-wheeled pioneers How the motor car won the West"*  
*Published by West Australian Newspapers Limited*  
*219 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000*

# WD-40—who knew?

"Water Displacement #40"

The product began from a search for a rust preventative solvent and degreaser to protect missile parts. WD-40 was created in 1953, by three technicians at the San Diego Rocket Chemical Company. Its name comes from the project that was to find a 'Water Displacement' Compound.

They were finally successful for a formulation, with their 40th attempt, thus WD-40. The 'Convair Company' bought it in bulk to protect their atlas missile parts.

Ken East (one of the original founders) says there is nothing in WD-40 that would hurt you.

Just a few of WD-40 uses:

1. Protects silver from tarnishing.
2. Removes road tar and grime from cars.
3. Keeps the flies off of Cows, Horses, and other Farm Critters.
4. Loosens stubborn zippers.
5. Untangles jewellery chains.
6. Removes stains from stainless steel sinks.
7. Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill.
8. Keeps glass shower doors free of water spots.
9. Keeps scissors working smoothly.
10. Lubricates noisy door hinges on both home and vehicles doors.
11. Removes those nasty bug guts that will eat away the finish on your car if not removed quickly!
12. Restores and cleans padded leather dashboards in vehicles, as well as vinyl bumpers.
13. If you spray it inside a wet distributor cap, it will displace the moisture, allowing the engine to start.
14. Keeps rust from forming on saws and saw blades, and other tools.

My discovery, - Ants don't like it!

PS

As for that basic, main ingredient - Well, it's FISH OIL.  
Now this is definitely worth SHARING!!

Shared by

*Gordon McManus*





Pondering this question following the General Meeting  
Barbara Cavanagh, Kaye Reid, Katy Fiora, Dot Ryle



## CAN YOU HELP?

President/Librarian Alexandra displayed a photo album of past Austin 7 runs and would appreciate anyone being able to provide information that is missing regarding the history or owners of the cars shown.

This special history of the club is enhanced when names are added.  
Any input will be appreciated.



### Memorabilia





## Spares Shed 10 MARCH 2024

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



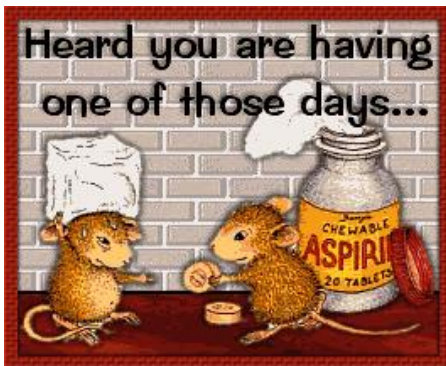
### March Birthdays

Robyn Coleman

Di Galbraith

Jim Reid

Wouldn't it be nice if, when I made a "to-do-list", I could remember where I put it.



..... or many of them!

Best wishes as you battle health and heat issues.

*Baby Torque April 2024*

Closing date: 28 March 2024

Please send items to [gatherm@outlook.com.au](mailto:gatherm@outlook.com.au)

*(Please note changed email address)*

## MARCH RUN

Meet 9 am for 9.30 am start  
Nelson Crescent, East Perth

Morning tea Maylands Golf Club.

Lunch Garvey Park, Ascot

Toilets at both places, also food/drinks (or byo).



Garvey Park is located at the river end of Fautleroy Avenue in Ascot. The remnant vegetation in the park is of high conservation value.

Garvey Park was previously connected to Ron Courtney Island prior to 1969 when a channel was cut to alleviate forces of erosion due to river flow.

There is a boardwalk across the wetlands to provide the experience of an urban bushland walk and lots of local wildlife.

The park is also home to Ascot Kayak Club and the Ascot Riverside Kiosk which offers takeaway or alfresco dining.

It's about classic & rare cars, motorcycles & the people who love them!

Not just

classiccarsandcoffee.com.au

CLASSIC CARS & COFFEE

EVENT TIMES 8.30AM - 10.30AM

MARCH 3

CLASSIC CARS JDM

University of Western Australia, Carparks 4, 5 & 10, Hackett Drive, Crawley

Carparks 21, 22 & 24 Special JDM area



\$10 Entry per car

\$5 Motorbikes & Spectators FREE

supporting The Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia



# WHAT'S ON WHEN IN 2024

## 2024

March	10	General Meeting	
	17	Club Run	Clive Ball
April	7	General Meeting	
	21	Club Run	Lois and Tom Newsome
May	5	General Meeting and Spares Shed	
	19	Club Run	Katy and Ang Fiora
June	2	General Meeting and Spares Shed	
	16	Club Run	Ladies' Run
July	7	General Meeting and Spares Shed	
	21	Club Run	
August	4	General Meeting and Spares Shed	
	18	Club Run	Stanley Edge Run
September	1	Father's Day	
	8	General Meeting and Spares Shed	
	15	Club Run	
	15	Classic Car Show	
October	6	General Meeting and Spares Shed	
		Harvey Run	Hugh Fryer, Lyn and Paul Egerton-Green
November		General Meeting, Annual General Meeting and Spares Shed	
		Club Run	
December		General Meeting and Christmas Windup	
			Alexandra and Gordon McManus



**PUT YOUR HAND UP  
TO ORGANISE A 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@inet.net.au](mailto:jedda@inet.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>





Outside Pan Pacific Hotel, Perth  
Sunday, 18 February 2024

Brian Haines, Clive Ball, Charlie Mitchell, Hugh Fryer, Margaret Matthews, Alexandra McManus, Gordon McManus, Mitchell Jnr, Kaye Reid, Jim Reid, Marion Gathercole, David Harvey, Peter Rowlands, Sue Rowlands, Nick Turley.



Sue Turley



Brian Haines 1926 English body Chummy  
Marion Gathercole, 1929 Australian Holden body Chummy  
From 1924-34, rolling chassis were sent to Australia where local coach  
builders added their own bodies. *Flickr.com*



“G Day” from the Lincs Group! Paddy Malone holding message.