

Baby Torque

March 2026



Two “real” cars, Clive Ball’s *Samantha* and Chris and Leanne Daniels’ #66, and a modern.

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

I'm writing this the week before our much-anticipated visit to the Machinery Preservation Clubrooms and the 1st public display of the Steam powered Shearer Car that Doug Baker has been building with his mate Bruce Weir-Smith. This is a massive undertaking that has been done to an extremely high standard and it is a credit to both involved. Just to build a steam engine from scratch and getting it to run is a massive achievement let alone a whole vehicle. Makes restoring an Austin Seven, like us mere mortals do, seem very straightforward.



With regard to sloping Ruby tourer door tops and body style, it is interesting that in the 2025B Association Magazine Tony Johns from Melbourne has submitted two photos of Australian bodied Ruby tourers. Both these have different door shapes. In this past, very warm month, Glenda and I have been out in the silver car several times. On a couple of early morning runs it was jacket and beanie on in the cold morning easterly wind that the car really enjoys.

Coming home from the February meeting it was quite hot, over 35°C,. This is an across town trip for us and usually takes just under an hour. I decided to take a short cut, distance wise anyway, ending up in standstill traffic around Scarbrough Beach Road/Innaloo shopping area. Passenger mumbling with suggestions we take her MGTC with a roof next time. Driver got sunburnt legs, but the car never missed a beat. Car radiator temperature rose to around 200°F when stopped yet soon cooled back down when moving again. It is running a 2-blade fan so not pushing much air. An absolute credit to the original design how well the Sevens, even well-worn high milage ones, cope with these hot conditions. Bring on Autumn and much more favourable motoring weather.

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

Hugh Fryer

President

Two Perkolilli entrants discussing cars.



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

1 Opened at 10.00 am

Members welcomed by President Hugh Fryer

- 2 Attendance:** Jim and Kaye Reid, Brian Haines, David and Ronda MacPherson, Hugh Fryer and Glenda Pinch, Rodney Kneuss, David and Jennifer Chalk, Doug Galbraith, Gordon and Alexandra McManus, Marion Gathercole, David Harvey.

Apologies: Gloria Haines, Kay Kneuss, Di Galbraith, Heather Harvey, Clive and Sheila Ball.

3 Confirmation of Minutes of previous meeting

Motion: that the Minutes of meeting held on 7 December 2025 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

Moved: David Chalk **Seconded:** Alexandra McManus **CARRIED**

4 Business Arising from Minutes—NIL

4 Correspondence In

Magazines and emails for the months of December, January, February Bristol A7, Devon 7's, Light Shaft, Focus, Norfolk Natter. PWA7C, Dorset A7

NED submission, Association of Commerce annual INFO statement.

Correspondence Out

Baby Torque to members and affiliated clubs.

Ongoing correspondence between committee members

Condolence card to Deanna Minciullo on Clarrie's passing

6 Reports

6.1 Treasurer's Report—Kaye Reid in Clive Ball's absence

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

Moved: Kaye Reid **Seconded:** Jim Reid **CARRIED**

Motion: That the following accounts to be passed for payment: Printing \$40.00

Moved: Kaye Reid **Seconded:** Alexandra McManus **CARRIED**

6.2 Spare Parts Report—Gordon McManus

Thanks to Clive Ball and Hugh Fryer for spares donated to the club. Sales this month have been slow, except for Chris Daniels. Update from Victoria spares - pricing had its swings and roundabouts. Overall value on inventory up about 10%

6.3 Librarian's Report—Alexandra McManus

Book of the Month *Flying 50's* an excellent read. Publication list available for members to see what is available to borrow from the library.

Graham Baldocks's book from UK has arrived. Those who requested a copy please contact Alexandra McManus for collection and payment.

6.4 Editor's Report—Marion Gathercole

Thank you to those who have sent in stories and photos. Please continue to send in your stories as members love to see what fellow members have to say.

6.5 Events Co-Ordinator—Alexandra McManus

Women from VVCC have a morning tea at Dawsons garden centre, please contact Alexandra if interested.

Runs

22 February - Machinery Preservation Society run details in magazine, 15 March - Toodyay Swap meet run. All details of future events in the magazine

Any queries, or if you wish to organise a run, please contact Alexandra McManus

7 General Business

- Our incoming President Hugh Fryer thanked Alexandra and Gordon McManus for all their efforts for the club during the past year.
- David Chalk suggested sending out members contact details list. Discussion followed. Club members to be asked to comment. For now, details to stay with the Committee.

- **TOOL OF THE MONTH** goes to Leanne Daniels for all the problems blamed on her to do with the Daniels' car at Perkolilli.

Gordon was telling the boys and Chris (their Dad) off for thrashing the car as he said it must have been making a racket (the fly wheel came out and destroyed everything). Quick as a flash they all blamed it on Leanne (Mum) as she had driven the car for 15 minutes in the morning.

A week or so later, Chris and Oliver drove to the Spares Shed in Forrestfield as they were having more trouble. The wire to the condenser has come loose. Quick as a flash, Leanne was blamed for not checking it. It has now become a running joke. Luckily Leanne has broad shoulders. She has to with three boys in the household. The Tool was graciously accepted by Chris.



Morning Tea Roster: Hugh Fryer and Glenda Pinch

Raffle: Prize donations required please. Meeting closed 10.32 am

Meeting closed: 10.32 am

Next Meeting 1 March 2026

VALE

It is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I report the passing of Warren Martin. He was a long-time member of the club with a cheeky sense of humour but always a true gentleman.

Gone to join the love of his life, Julie. We will miss him so much.



HISTORIC MIDLAND RAILWAY WORKSHOPS
and WOODBRIDGE RIVERSIDE PARK RUN
22 February 2026

Six Austin 7's and four moderns met on at Midland Sunday, 22 February 2026 which was a day of celebration for the opening of the new Midland Station and the completion of the METRONET railway project of 23 new stations, 72 kms of new rail track, and the removal of 15 level crossings.

On display outside the Midland Railway Workshops which for 90 years played a major role in the development of the State of Western Australia was a completed build of a replica of the Shearer Steam Wagon undertaken by Doug Baker and his enthusiastic helpers. An amazing achievement. The wagon will move on to take up residence in south Australia.



Shearer Steam Wagon

Since 2021 the Machinery Preservation Club of WA Inc has been based in the old Powerhouse/Boiler room complex of the Midland Railway Workshops. and they provided a fascinating display of stationary engines, tools, and relics from the years of manufacturing and repairing railway engines, rolling stock and railways, including bridges. Workshop personnel designed, created maintained, tested and supported much of what was required to keep WA moving. A very proud Doug Baker delighted in telling interested onlookers stories of the build. Gordon McManus met many of his old work colleagues and did not manage to move very far afield to see what was on display

As the Austins were leaving the workshops cameras were clicking at a great rate. It was interesting to see the number of people taking advantage of the opportunity to witness new and old history.

A short run to the delightful Woodbridge Reserve by the upper Swan River was a relaxing spot after the busy surrounds at the workshops and station for the official opening. A great turnout for all the events for the day. This was a very popular destination and parking at our arrival time was at a premium. The Austin 7 runs always manage to introduce us to new and interesting places. Coffees and refreshments were ordered before the group settled for some good old fashioned Austin 7 camaraderie under the shade of the beautiful trees.



Another beautiful Austin 7 day out. Thank you to Alexandra for organizing, and Doug for a final look (in WA) of his amazing project.



President Hugh Fryer, Vice President Alexandra McManus, Treasurer Clive Ball
Ronda McPherson, Marion Gathercole, Jennifer Chalk





THE CREATOR'S COMMENTS

I have heard from some ladies the pain they endured during childbirth is over as soon as the baby is born. While not at the same level of that wonderful moment, I have to comment now the Shearer Car is completed as far as I can go, the pain experienced over the years has gone.

Yesterday, 22 February 2026, the Car went on show at the Machinery Preservation

Workshop where it was viewed by dozens of visitors. The Car will now be transported back to Mannum in South Australia, where it will be displayed at the Port Dock Visitor Center/Museum. It could be argued it has gone home. The original car was actually built in 1898 in Mannum by David Shearer, who had a very comprehensive factory also making renowned farm machinery. If you wish to know the complete history I recommend you ask Professor Google as there are a number of web pages offering a lot more information, truly an enlightening and remarkable read.

Enhancing yesterday's exhibition were several vintage cars with their paintwork shining in the sun. The Midland Historical Society had a collage of interesting vintage photos, with the Hand Tool Preservation Club showing their collection of tools of days past (some of which I still use)!

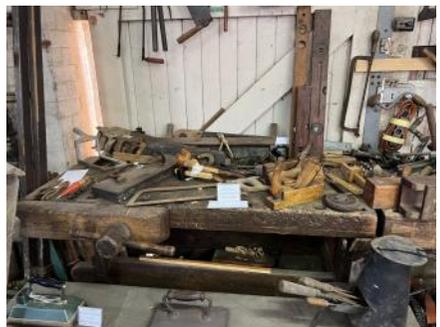
In the Power House the beautifully restored original engines were all rotating, offering the visitor an intimate understanding of how they formerly operated. These machines supplied power in various forms to the entire WAGR site when it was operating in its heyday. Additionally, there was a small display of incredibly well restored single cylinder engines running. These engines, in the main, were used way back in time to power various pieces of farm machinery, long before electricity as we know it today.

What is next for me? I am not sure, but I do have a number of Model Engineering engines stuck in a time warp I would like to complete. I will need to find the Flux Capacitor and Charge it up.

May you only have green lights, *Doug Baker*



The bank of drawers holds cards for all the tools
8 turned out in the railway workshops.



Hand tools

A BLAST FROM THE PAST

Newspaper cuttings available from our Austin 7 Library



Old Austin takes to air

THE hoisting of an Austin 7 Chummy onto the decks of the British aircraft carrier *Illustrious* surprised onlookers last weekend.

Hundreds were portside for a last glimpse before the visiting Royal Navy taskforce sailed for Manila on Monday.

The winching was organised by the ship's weatherman Paul Newman, an Austin buff who arranged to meet other enthusiasts while on duty in the Asia-Pacific with the Ocean Wave '97 taskforce.

The Austin 7 Club of WA took him under their wing and to repay their hospitality he invited the entire club aboard.

The highlight was when Colin Maxfield's pride and joy was winched aboard for a photo session with a Harrier.

Mr Maxfield, who won the honour in a draw, looked a little worried as the harness had makeshift modifications done to fit the 1928 Austin.

It was fingers crossed when she was winched high above the berth, club members making their way up to the flight deck inside the ship waiting for a tell-tale splash.

Fortunately it didn't come and owner and car were reunited on the flight deck for a photo session.



A CAUTIONARY TALE

I was asked recently to repair a 1929 Austin 7 screw-in type rear axle after the owner had lost drive due to a failure of one of the axle shafts.

On dismantling the axle not only had the shaft fatigued near the inner part of the keyway but a stub which holds the differential side thrust bearings had broken off on one side allowing the gear end of the axle shaft and differential casing to “float around”. Several teeth of the pinion had also suffered with the bits found in the bottom of the banjo casing. A good pinion was substituted as were the two axle shafts and differential casing.

Fortunately the crown wheel was alright and the pinion contact bluing was very good for unmatched parts. On assembly, the axle shaft on the damaged side was very tight in the end of the axle casing and I wondered if the casing was therefore bent. Changing it for another half casing proved what I had thought was correct. My theory is that because the half casing had been damaged at some time the differential casing had been under some additional side load and had broken off allowing the half shaft to “float” about causing it too to be under some bending load as well as torsional and therefore failing due to fatigue.

I have only once before come across a differential casing stub to break off. How does a casing become bent? Unless it has been subject to severe impact, accident or the damage to the pinion allowed bits of broken off teeth to jam the axle.

My only other thought is, could it be bent jacking up the car on the centre banjo many times over the years. Hard to believe, but I have always jacked up my cars on the end of the axle where the weight of the car is taken especially on say a Box saloon/Ruby bodied car which is somewhat heavier at the rear. Any similar experiences or comments would be welcome.

Brian Haines



OUT AND ABOUT

The Motor

496

April 14, 1925.



T. A. Hester (Austin Seven) on Porlock.

The "London-Land's End." Thrills on Porlock.

Despite its formidable test hills, its difficult course, and the generally stiffened-up conditions, the 1925 London to Land's End trial will surely go down in history as the most enjoyable of all classic events ever organize by the Motor Cycling Club. Gorgeous weather, from start to finish, and impeccable organisation at every control, good food, and a really sporting course rendered this year's Easter trial singularly untiring. Never were drivers and passengers less sleepy, never was the glorious country passed through better appreciated

Above is an extract from The Motor dated April 14, 1925 which was sent to Glenda by Mark Hester from the MG Club. Mark's grandfather, T A Hester, is pictured in his Austin Seven.
Amazing link back in time.



From Austin Owners Club, 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 Alexandra McManus.

Brookton Old Time Motor Show
BOMBS, BEASTS & BEAUTIES



Save the Date
SATURDAY 28TH MARCH 2026

- VINTAGE/CLASSIC CARS
- STATIONARY ENGINES
- TRUCKS
- MOTORBIKES

**BROOKTON TOWN OVAL
 BROOKTON HWY
 9 AM TILL LATE**

Western Australia's Biggest Celebration
 of Classic Motoring!



**PERTH CLASSIC
 CAR SHOW**



Proud Sponsor

Sunday 29th March 2026
 Robinson Reserve, Tuart Hill

The Northam Motorsport Festival
 being held on
Saturday and Sunday.
25 and 26 April 2026

is a classic car event for all ages when the Vintage Sports Car Club of Western Australia and the Shire of Northam celebrate the annual running of the Northam Motorsport Festival.



Spares Shed 1 March 2026

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

Editor would like to add your name to the birthday list. Please contact with details.

It is kind of fun to do the impossible. - Walt Disney

Get Well Day, Valentine's Day, Ramadan, Chinese New Year all celebrated in February 2026.

May the force of all these celebrations be with those who are dealing with health issues.

Best wishes from us all.



Baby Torque April 2026

Closing date: 27 March 2026

Please send items to gatherm@tpg.com.au

MARCH RUN TO THE TOODYAY SWAP MEET

MEET: Gidgegannup Bakery and Café
2125 Toodyay Road, Gidgegannup

TIME: 8 am for an 8.30 am departure

If you want to snap up an early bargain you are most welcome to meet us in Toodyay. Either way, would you please let me know if you are coming. We will be travelling along Toodyay Road all the way so the trip should take around 45 mins.

Looking forward to seeing you there. Always a great day.

STRICTLY NO DOGS ALLOWED

Avon Valley Vintage Vehicle Association of WA Inc



SWAP MEET



Sunday 15th March 2026

Toodyay Oval (Showground) TOODYAY

Selling: Cars, Trucks, Tractors, Motorcycles, Machinery, Engines, Used Spare Parts, Collectables, Household Items, etc.

Sellers Sites : \$20:00 each (Admits Driver and 1 other person)
Vehicles For Sale **ONE ONLY** per 4m x 6 m standard site

GATES OPEN : Sellers : 6.00am

Public Entry : 7:00am FINISH : 1:00pm

Public Entry : \$5:00 per person (Kids Free) EFTPOS Available

Classic Car Display Vehicles 7am – 1pm on site

Food and Drink available, no alcohol

Organiser Approved food-drink vendors only on site

ENQUIRIES: Facebook Event : <https://www.facebook.com/share/1BzmPZ6ShZ/>
Facebook Message : <https://www.facebook.com/avonvintagecars>

President AVVVA M: 0429 608 876 PO Box 755 Northam WA 6401 E-Mail: fsi93402@bigpond.net.au

Bookings not necessary as enrolment forms on day of event

STRICTLY NO DOGS ALLOWED AT THIS EVENT

Made possible with Support and Sponsorship from



WHAT'S ON WHEN IN 2026

2026

March	1	General Meeting and Spares Shed (Labour Day weekend)
	15	Club Run—Toodyay Swap Meet
	28	Brookton Old Time Motor Show
	29	Classic Car Show, Tuart Hill
April	5	Easter Sunday
	12	General Meeting and Spares Shed
	19	Club Run
	25/26	Northam Motorsport Festival
May	3	General Meeting and Spares Shed
	17	Club Run—British Car Day, Gingin
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>



Midland Railway Workshops

