

BABY TORQUE

AUSTIN 7 CLUB NSW INC

Number 299



Valley Heights, NSW

Winter - 2019 – Edition

Baby Torque

Committee Members

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Secretary / Public Officer	Maureen Boatwright	(02) 9822 8609	0413 017 263
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Committee Member	Russell Linfoot	(02) 9624 2801	
As a courtesy, please do not contact Committee Members after 9:00pm			

Banking Details

Austin 7 Club NSW Inc		Austin 7 Club NSW Inc Spare Parts
Bank	Laboratories Credit Union	Bendigo Bank
BSB	802-841	633-000
Account	100008499	128875804

Meetings

The Austin 7 Club NSW Inc meets at 8:00pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Bankstown Sports, 8 Greenfield Parade, Bankstown NSW. Parking is available via Mona Street (off Greenfield Parade) in the multi-level car park. Visitors are welcome.

Deadline

This magazine is published seasonly. Contributions to Baby Torque should be sent to The Editor, Baby Torque, P.O. Box 6009, North Ryde NSW 2113

President's Report

The Austin 7 committee members have been busy in the last quarter updating membership and club rules, ensuring our finances are in good order, improving website and ensuring all necessary regulatory compliance are completed. This is particularly so when our CMC (Robert Bryne) has reported that a number of clubs which breached RMS regulations have been deregistered by RMS.

The club runs for breakfast at Milperra Flower Power was fun for my little grandson Ethan. Lunch at Picton bowling club brought out a number of baby Austins and moderns and the occasions were very enjoyable, allowing members to catch up socially. Picton, in the shire of Wollondilly in the MacArthur region of NSW actually has quite a few tourist attractions like the Picton Botanic gardens and the Thirlmere Lakes National Park. Also, thank you Lyall for your great effort in writing up the Winton event, much talk about the Boatwrights making two trips to Winton in a weekend!

Amy and I will be joining Graham Burgess and Elaine Taylor in trailing our Austin 7 to Alice Springs and then driving our little babies to Darwin. No doubt, if the experience of Nullarbor crossing we did together was anything to go by, it will be a most interesting adventure that Amy and I will undertake. Perhaps there may be others who may want to join us for the interesting journey. Life is too short, it would be nice to do something out of the ordinary, we believe.

Due to logistic challenges with holiday booking and cost considerations on the proposed president run period of October 5, 6 and 7, it has been decided that the 2019 Austin 7 President's run this year will be a one-day event to be held on Sunday October 13, 2019. The run will cover some of the very scenic lower north shore areas of Sydney, starting at Lady Macquarie chair at Woolloomooloo, and including visiting the plaque indicating where Herbert Austin used to live. The run will finish at my residence in Castlecrag and a late BBQ lunch with compliments from Paul and Amy. Everyone is welcome.

Happy Motoring

Paul Pui

2019 Alice to Darwin

Invitations are still open for those interested to leave Sydney around July 21st. Please contact Graham Burgess 0413 641 659 or via grahamburgess@live.com.au



*I will never say no to
A trip I can still do
Perhaps one day when I am old
I can look back and not wish
That I had done more.*

*What can be more enjoyable
Than to dream in the wilderness
With no ending in sight and
No reason to be there.*

Events Report

Since the last report not a lot has happened when referring to Club Outings/Runs. Members enjoyed a lovely breakfast at the brand new Flower Power at Milperra and everyone was chatting so much that the time vanished before our eyes and therefore we didn't have sufficient time to continue on our organised run to the Camden area. Club Mystery Run organised for May was postponed due to a few very loyal Club Run attendees having prior functions to attend. This run will now take place on 29/09/2019.

The Run organised for June 16 went ahead even though weather reports warned heavy rain and possible hail. All members arrived at the start point in moderns except for Graham Burgess and Elaine Taylor. Graham was hoping for a change in the weather conditions on their arrival at the start but, he had second thoughts and left Rita on the trailer as we drove to Picton via Razorback Mountain. Well done Graham, you deserve a reward travelling from Newcastle with no sign of the weather conditions improving.

Hopefully, the Austin 7 Club will see more members back on the road with their Babies, visiting many places of interest during the second part of this year.

Happy Austin 7 Touring,
Maureen Boatwright

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

“Many Happy Returns” to all members celebrating their Birthday during June, July and August.

Club Membership Renewals

Club Membership renewals are due on 1st January each year.

Fees are as follows:

Single membership: \$50; Family membership: \$55; Joining fee: \$30

The joining fee applies to all new members and those who have not renewed their membership by 31st January each year.

Note: To ensure that all membership monies are safely banked, the use of direct credit into the club's bank account would be the preferred option.

Special thanks to Bankstown Sports Club for providing a meeting room free of charge to our club for our monthly meetings. Without the support of Bankstown Sports it would be difficult for the Austin 7 Club to hold meetings without passing on some costs. With their continual support our club is also able to enjoy the various facilities available to us.



UPCOMING EVENTS



21 July 2019 Ladies Day - Progressive morning tea and lunch.

Meet at Macquarie Park Windsor by travelling over the Hawkesbury River via bridge Road then Left Turn into Park. Arrive 9.30 am to 9.45 am. All you need to bring is a thermos of tea/coffee, morning tea will be provided. You need to supply numbers attending lunch as booking is required.

18 Aug 2019 Sydney Classic – Eastern Creek.

15 Sept 2019 All British Day-Kings School Nth. Parramatta

Contact Maureen to order tickets \$10 each

23 to 27 Sep 2019 Austins Over Australia – Barossa Valley. For expression of interest contact Chairman David

Grear 08 8296 1689 or Event Secretary Ralph Drage 0418 846 082

dgrear@optusnet.com.au

rdrage@bigpond.net.au

29 Sept 2019 Mystery Run - Meet at NRMA car park,

George Street North Strathfield at 9.30 am to depart 9.45 am.

13 October 2019 President's Run – North Shore. A one-day event instead of the usual weekend away. A run

around Sydney's lower north shore starting at Lady Macquarie's chair at Woolloomooloo, also visits including to the plaque indicating where Herbert Austin used to live.

The run will finish at Paul and Amy's home, where a late BBQ lunch will be provided.

27 Oct 2019 Centennial Park Display Day

24 Nov 2019 Christmas Party/Presentation Day

11 Dec 2019 Annual General Meeting

9 - 14 April 2022 Austin 7 National Rally – Warrnambool. The Austin 7 Club Inc (Vic) has just announced that the 2022

National Austin Seven Rally will be held in the seaside town of Warrnambool. The Rally Registration will be on Saturday 9th April, and conclude with a Farewell Dinner on Thursday 14th April. Expression of Interest will be available at the end of the year. Set aside the dates to celebrate the 100 years of Austin 7s and tour the areas. Any queries can be directed to Andrea Casabene and the Rally Committee at 2022rallyinfo@gmail.com



Austin 7 Club NSW Facebook

Kevin Lewis has created an Austin 7 Club NSW Facebook page and invited everyone in the club to be a member. This will allow people to check on what's happening in the club and add comments and photos if they wish to.

Into the mountains, back in time

Valley Heights Locomotive Museum March 2019



I'm going to kick this off with full disclosure - I'm not much of a car buff. I'm also not particularly fascinated by trains or buses (planes are a different story, particularly if I'm on it and heading somewhere amazing!). So when faced with an Austin 7 day trip to 'a train station', I was probably more excited by the possibility of a Devonshire tea somewhere along the way.

So here we are, weeks later, and it's as shocking to me as to anyone else that the day sparked an interest! Not in trains, nor cars (although really, how cute are Austin 7s!), but in the often untold stories from our history.

I loved hearing the story about how the daily 'Fish' and 'Chips' services from the Blue Mountains to Sydney were named. It was also fascinating to hear about how they moved essential products and services around – like milk on refrigerated rail cars that could hold their own today.



Into the mountains, back in time

Valley Heights Locomotive Museum March 2019

What I loved most was hearing about how World War II impacted on the communities and people back home. With rail workers highly sought after for the transportation of military personnel and supplies for the war effort in Europe, they were in short supply back home. For the first time, this opened the way for women to take on roles as porters, guards and in maintenance and workshop operations.

In the midst of a horrifying period, these women were able to expand their skills and contribute something valuable and important outside of the home.

After hearing the wonderful stories, experiencing a ride on the beautiful steam train and exploring the museum, my little family and I enjoyed lunch and chat with the other Austin 7 members. All the while, I couldn't wait to get home and search for more stories about how women contributed during World War II.

What I found were stories of incredible women, some of the most amazing of whom have mostly been ignored by history, often in favour of less impressive and less effective male counterparts.

The classic example is American woman, Virginia Hall, whose life is detailed in the book 'A Woman of no Importance'. Arguably one of the most important allied spies of World War II, Virginia established the French Resistance, relayed important messages about enemy movements to London, and made many trips – on a prosthetic leg - across the unforgiving Pyrenees, smuggling downed US and British airmen to safety in Spain. While Virginia's peers were caught, captured, tortured or killed, Virginia was the longest serving spy of her time. Yet her contribution and achievements were, outrageously, largely overlooked upon her return to the US.



Merv and Maureen; Paul and his girls cruising the M4

Into the mountains, back in time

Valley Heights Locomotive Museum March 2019



My current read is 'True Grit' about a group of nurses who survived years in a Prisoner of War camp in Burma.

So while Nazi-occupied France and a Burmese POW camp are a long way from the NSW Blue Mountains, the day trip for me highlighted the importance of taking the time to learn about the history of where you live and the stories of the people who lived there. The very central role of transport as part of our history can't be ignored and, as I learned, can open the door to endless other stories of adventure and heroism.

By Janine Sherringham



We met some knowledgeable train folk who provided us with a great tour of the facilities and some fantastic history of the Blue Mountains, Sydney and the train line.

Into the mountains, back in time

Valley Heights Locomotive Museum March 2019



Above: Paul discussing fast rail with the president of the rail museum.

Below: A particularly attentive Jackie Boatwright



Breakfast Run, April 28, 2019

Three cars with Mervyn and and Maureen Boatwright, Mark and Joanne Wellington, Lal Etherington, Paul and Amy Pui with son Jonathan and grandson Ethan turned up for the event. Ross and Kim Warner showed up unexpectedly. A lovely new place at Milperra, nice food, good atmosphere.



1 Flower Power Flower Power Milperra



Paul Pui's two- and half-year-old grandson Ethan studying the run log

43rd Historical Winton, 17-19 May 2019

Preparation for Winton 2019 dragged on with the Austins lithium battery replacement requiring a 20% rewiring and a different mounting place due to totally different dimensions and polarity. After a last minute trailer hiring disappointment the President and I came to an amicable agreement, that some unloading practice would have made my 1st unloading less exiting. When we 1st unloaded in the bike pits, 4 middle aged riders all leapt from their seats as I reversed off and Paul's trailer unfolded. After following instructions and moving the car the clutch refused to disengage so it was a case of stopping the motor, engaging 1st gear, then hitting the starter [12v battery and 6v starter] and driving nonstop to the display area, leaving the car there for the rest of the weekend. There was a fine display of desirable vehicles of many exotic makes at the heritage display in the corporate center.

In between events I met up with Bryce Davies who I knew in my vintage bike days, Bryce has been winning on his 1937 4 valve [not ulster] Rudge 500 for the last 30 years normally leaving many later model bikes behind and I had not seen him for 15 years or so but the Austin 7 connection is a long time ago when Bryce told me he had bought the stringer special an Austin 7 race car I replied that I had an Austin Meteor waiting for a full restoration and I thought twin Amal bike carburetors would provide a fantastic straight air flow then he replied he had the same idea but neither of us old men have tried it and recently Paul Boatwright told me it had already been done a few times without any exceptional results.



43rd Historical Winton, 17-19 May 2019



Mention of the Amal carburetors idea caused me to digress even further as I cast my mind back to my apprenticeship days in the 1950's when the other apprentice was the offsider to Fred Foster who raced "Fossy" a skiff fitted with a Holden Grey Motor, the original twin cam head, and six Amal bike carburetors. You can understand the difficulty when modifying speed boat motors in those times before step up gearboxes, variable ignition timing, and variable induction manifolds when the motor needed enough torque to get up on the plane, after that enough revs to prop-ride and go fast enough to win, this was a much smaller problem in 3 pointers than skiffs and runabouts. Nevertheless, Fred established a new international speed record for the grey motor's capacity but the "Yanks Pharlapped him" with an unheard of regulation specifying no more than 1 carburetor per 2 cylinders. Fred's never say die character took over and he immediately started to build an aluminium V12 which would have * 6* webber carburetors, this required his own design, own patterns for the castings, and his own machining.



43rd Historical Winton, 17-19 May 2019



This was carried out by a man who only a few people knew was barely literate but was so respected in the motor racing world that a wealthy champion driver who had his V12 Ferrari stripped down invited Fred to inspect it prior to his mechanics assembling it and Phil Irving came up from the south to help with the cam timing, my mate said it was terrifying watching these two old blokes leaning over the motor "roll your own" stuck to the bottom lip and the V12 screaming at previously unknown revs with everyone else standing well back waiting for the explosion.



43rd Historical Winton, 17-19 May 2019



It was all to no avail as with one set of camshafts it would rev it's head off and with another set pull well down low while heavily loaded but not do both on any cam and when Fred passed away my apprenticeship mate inherited the V12 and spares with the instruction "to get it going properly".

Getting back to the reason for this article, Winton was a little disappointing for me from the Austin 7 perspective not only with my Meteor declining to proceed but as an occasional Winton spectator from the early 1990's having watched and heard the late Peter Giddings in the "whitney Straight Maserati", Tony Johns wins in the top "raid car" through to Paul's winning the "Colonel Arthur Waite Trophy" in 2011 in the subsequent years there has been a distinct decline in A7 entries culminating at this Winton in 1 entry in J class Vintage Sports and Racing and none in K class post Vintage. In regularity event we had better representation with 25% of the entry being A7's , Bill Morling Austin ulsteroid and George Taylor 1927 Austin 7 Special winning an event each and many of the other Austin7's finishing well. A new record for time and distance was established by Paul Boatwright with help from his dad Merv, they left Sydney 10 am Thursday drove to Benalla, spectated at Winton on Friday then left Benalla 6am Saturday and were sitting down at midday to a Birthday lunch in Pastow to celebrate the 100 years Birthday of Paul's wife Sandra's Grandmother Mrs Merle Fletcher, they left the Birthday celebration at 5-00 pm and drove to Benalla, spectated Winton on Sunday and drove home Monday, "much easier said than done." At the last A7 meeting Maureen did not appear to happy regarding the brisk running in of her new car that they were driving, it's certainly difficult to keep everyone happy all the time. After that sexist comment hopefully Amy will sack your Winton correspondent before next year, not much Winton but a bit of motor racing history.

Lyll Price

Don Avery Memorial Shield Run, Picton, 16 June 2019



Our trip to Picton began at the meeting point at Liverpool Regional Museum, where we all assembled to begin the day. The sun was shining and all was bright with the world. As we started up the babies, and began the drive down Camden Valley Way, tops down, the balmy breeze in our faces, as we then continued through razorback mountain, the sun shining on the green grass, the babies purring along, no stalls or breakdowns just a leisurely drive to Picton.

We then stopped at the gorgeous sun drenched town for a cool drink and leisurely stroll admiring the Post Office, old Churches and the historic George IV Hotel. Then back in the babies for the short drive to the Picton Bowling Club.



Don Avery Memorial Shield Run, Picton, 16 June 2019

Okay Okay Okay - I can hear all of you who were present saying "This is not how I remember it!!!!"okay I may have used some poetic licence - but its all in your attitude!!!!

I said "sun was shining" well it was.. above the thick layer of cloud and spattering rain.

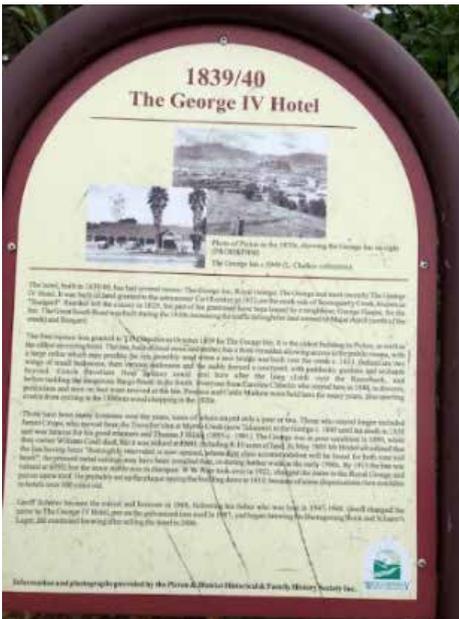
I said "started up the babies" well our modern cars could still be our babies...

I said "balmy breeze" well it was - modern air conditioning can turn cold damp air into a balmy breeze.

But one thing I won't embellish is the fact the brave that attended all enjoyed a lovely drive, and some excellent company, but sadly only one real baby(Rita) was with us thanks to Graham and Elaine's adventurous souls. The lunch at the bowling club was very tasty and I think it even filled Paul up. The girls - Jackie and Emma bought the chocolate prize game machine (or paid enough to buy it.) 😁

All in all a very pleasant way to spend a Sunday.

Joanne Wellington



Running the Bulls

The Adventures of an Austin Seven Driver

Do you think running in front of the bulls at the Pamplona *San Fermin* festival is crazy?

Then try driving an Austin Seven on Tasmania highways among the huge semi trailers that overtake at 120 Km. hr, and almost blow your little car sideways off the cycleway that runs alongside. I recall the stomach stirring feelings as the large lorry wheels were spinning beside my head, a mere three feet away from the running board of my little red car. After 1800 Km of tension from the strain of keeping in a straight line for hours on end, I don't recommend you do it just for fun (which was the main reason I was there in Tassie during 2015.)

Such is also the tension faced should you ever decide to travel to Spain and take part in the famous *San Fermin* annual festival, where all common sense must be left at the airport on your arrival in the country. The festival has been functioning for over four hundred years and is the Mecca for fools and idiots, one of which I must admit to being on the odd occasion. Each day during the seven day festival the traditional Running of the Bulls takes place at 7.00 am where up to three thousand stupid people gather in the enclosed street and get charged by very frightened and savage rampaging bulls. The specially bred and expensive bulls are brought to the town for the bullfights which take place daily. The animals are corralled some 750 metres from the bull ring and are made to run through the street among the stupid /drunk/frightened/ soon to be injured/ fools who take part.

I recall being ejected from the street prior to the Bull run, by the National Guard police who are in charge of the event. When asked why myself and three friends were made get out of the event we were told "You are too old you will definitely be hurt". 'Seventy and up' people are not the average age there. We were smart enough to not refuse the police directions as we had earlier seen a National Guard hit a young inebriated man with his rifle butt and drag him to the fence and throw him unconscious out onto the cobblestones.

Suffice to say our enthusiasm wasn't dulled and we ran to the place where the bulls were corralled and re entered the fray. A huge skyrocket was sent aloft and a loud explosion was intended to scare hell out of the bulls, and to let the thousands of spectators along the roadway know the carnage was about to begin. A second loud explosion announced all the bulls were out of the pen and many people would soon be trampled and gored. A surprising number of young drunks were suddenly very, very, sober and wishing they were somewhere else, but no opportunity was available to escape from the path of the bulls, as that's the reason spectators on the fences along the way were there. (to watch them be trampled and hurt.) My friends were soon out of sight among the crowds of scared and running nitwits of which I soon learned I was one. A large black bull caught the runner beside me and plunged its needle sharp horn through his throat, and I soon learned the meaning of scared s...less. Large numbers of young stupid runners were falling over and being trampled and gored by the maddened and scared bulls.

I was not among the young stupid runners, as I was and *old* stupid runner and also wishing I was on the outside of the fence.

Never ask a man why he does such ridiculous things as run in front of crazed bulls as you may lose all compassion and respect for him. After running the whole distance from the bull pen to the bull ring and being crushed against the high timber fences by mad and frightened bulls I was wishing I had been trampled at the start to put me out of my misery and fear. No bull ever wins, for at the end of the day's mad run, the bulls are penned once more then brought out to fight the matadors in the afternoon to entertain the thousands of morbid spectators who cheer from the bleachers as the poor bull is ceremoniously slain .

At the conclusion of the bullfight the animals are slaughtered and made available to the local restaurants for the end of day ceremonious meals.

I have now given you reason to maybe not like me any more for taking part in such gory practice for entertainment or fun. But I do ask you consider my penance for such behaviour. By driving an Austin Seven among the high speed semi trailers and down incredibly steep hills in Tasmania I can understand the fear and terror faced by those bulls. I promise I will drive an Austin Seven for many years to come as my punishment for taking part in unacceptable animal cruelty. The *San Fermin* bull running at Pamplona Spain.

Graham Burgess

Austin Seven Club NSW

Disclaimer

(Many people were hurt and a number of animals died in the making of this story)

FOR SALE



FOR SALE
1929 Austin Tourer.
Red and Black guards and trailer.

Club Rego.
\$20,000.

Contact Mob:
0412 940 001
(Mervyn Boatwright)



All Spare Parts correspondence should be addressed to:

Mr Mervyn Boatwright
P.O. Box 366, Casula Mall, NSW 2170
Tel: (02)9822 8609

NOTE: Members requiring their Historic Vehicle Declaration Form (1259) to be Club signed and Club stamped, need to fill out the 1259 Form and post it with all necessary paperwork regarding their registration to:

Mervyn Boatwright - P.O. Box 366, Casula Mall, NSW 2170

This paperwork will be signed and stamped, photocopied for our Club records and the originals returned to you immediately so you can register your vehicle.

From the editor:

Please be reminded that any contributions of articles or subjects of interest etc to be published in the magazines from members of the club are always greatly appreciated.



Point Score Trophy

Don't forget the Austin 7 Club NSW **Point Score** program. Our aim is to see as many people as possible attending events and meetings (including monthly general meetings). Participation in an event or outing from the starting point to the finish will score you 2 points, while attending a general meeting will score you 1 point. These points are awarded whether you attend in your Austin 7 or modern car. The person with the highest points tally will receive a trophy at our Christmas Luncheon / Presentation Day. Come along and get involved.



DISCLAIMER: The Austin 7 Club NSW Inc (the Club), its Officers and the Committee cannot be held liable for any errors and/or omissions in items that are published in good faith in this Baby Torque magazine. It should be noted that the publication of an advertisement or expression of views in articles and reports in this magazine does not necessarily imply endorsement by the Club.

Austin 7 Club NSW Inc

“Dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of all types of Austin Sevens”

Our Club is a member of The Council of Motor Clubs, Inc

The Austin 7 Club NSW Inc has been active since 1984 and aims to bring together people with the common interest of restoring, preserving and driving Austin Sevens. We are an informal family club that regularly takes our “Babies” to the road for some fun social touring. Spare parts are available to Club Members through the Club Spares Division and our technical people will give advice, where possible, in regards to the restoration of these cars.

RMS Regulations & Club Rules

Members are to observe all RMS Regulations and Club Rules as contained in our current Constitution and Members Mate booklet.

If this Club is nominated as your Primary Club under the RMS Historic Conditional Registration Scheme (HCRS) then the following documents **MUST** be carried in your vehicle at all times.

- a copy of your RMS Certificate of Approved Operation of Vehicle
- a copy of this Clubs Certificate of Insurance (Public Liability)
- a current or recent Baby Torque magazine
- a current yearly membership receipt

If bad weather conditions are looming:

please contact Maureen Boatwright (Home) 02 9822 8609 (Mobile) 0413 017 263
or Paul Pui (Home) 02 9958 1791 (Mobile) 0413 621 078
Saturday evenings or from 6.30am on the Sunday of the run.

Postal Address: P.O. Box 6009, North Ryde NSW 2113

Email: info@austin7clubnsw.org.au

Website: www.austin7clubnsw.org.au