

NEWSLETTER



Christmas December 2023

Official Newsletter of the Austin Seven Register of Qld. Inc. (formed 1967)

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR FOR 2024



Gentlemen, please Start your engines!

On the Presidents Run in November the Seven Little Sevens all behaved themselves with NO problems. From L to R, we have Ian and Valda in their 1937 Van, Trevor and Elaine in their 1930 Sports and Col and Gay in their 1929 Ace leaving Sir John Chandler Park at Indooroopilly.

Austin 7 Register Club Meetings and Events

General Meeting Friday 8th December

A7 Club Christmas Lunch Sunday 10th December.

Editorial Comments – The Joy of Giving

Tis the season of Goodwill and Giving. This year on the world stage we have seen terrible things happening with neighbours who lived together for almost forever are shooting and bombing the heck out of each other again. On top of that we have had a few natural disasters in Australia, with the recent (and ongoing bushfires). We as human being feel upset at these happenings, and while we cannot help those overseas, we can at least help our country cousins. This I have achieved thru my membership of another club, AMRA Qld which is a model train group with over 300 members. We have been in close contact with a group called Helping Hands in Tara, where you will recall, they lost 58 houses in the fires at the end of October. By doing a call out to our members we soon filled the equivalent of two 20-foot-long containers of donated goods, which, as you read this have found their way from Zillmere to Tara in November. We also raised some cash which have purchased several good quality tents that people can stand up in for less than half price from BCF in Toowoomba. All the goods have reached their destination now.

Editor 7im Braby

A7 Register of Qld. Committee 2023 - 2024

President: Steve Davidson 0418 814 501

Vice President: Lindsay Jordan

Secretary: Robyn Clark Mob. 0412 276 313

Treasurer: Sharon Cowden

 Editor:
 Tim Braby 0405 740 418

 Spares/Tech:
 Trevor Moore (07) 3848 5575

 Second Hand Parts:
 Doug Clark (07) 3800 1965

 Runs & Events Coordinator:
 Neil Thyer 0431 067 909

 Webmaster:
 Neil Thyer 0431 067 909

Dating Officer (North side): Tim Braby 0405 740 418
(Southside): Trevor Moore (07) 3848 5575

Librarian: Lindsay Jordan

OHMC Representatives: Steve Davidson & Justin McKeering

Raffle "Stinger": Valda McDowell

The A7RQ Inc. Online

We have a website which you can view at. Here you can find past newsletters, rally reports and a regularly updated list of events.

All our websites have now been updated with photos and reports of our last runs.

austin7.org.au/events& Face book Austin7 Register of Qld Inc.

AUSTIN 7 REGISTER OF QLD. CLUB EVENTS & INVITATION RUNS FOR 2023-2024

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT AUSTIN 7 REGISTER OF QLD. EVENTS

I will endeavour to keep you regularly informed of A7 Reg. Qld updates as they occur by updating our website. Please let me know if you hear about any of the "External Events" that I have listed on the A7 Website that have been cancelled or postponed.



Also Very Important: Make sure you have cancelled any accommodation bookings you may have had for any cancelled or postponed A7 Event.

Please contact me if you have any suggestions/comments etc. about our A7 Websites. Always check our A7 Register Qld Web site for possible recent updates/cancellations/postponements prior to attending any event. And IF IN ANY DOUBT - contact the event organisers to find out what the situation is. Happy Motoring and stay safe & well in these difficult times.

Neil Thyer (ph. 0431 067 909) A7 Qld Reg. Events Coordinator & A7 Web Master.

Also note!! Some details and or dates of these events are still to be confirmed.

Please check for updates on the A7 Register Website: http://austin7.org.au/

Do not forget it is always recommended that while on all Events and Runs, you carry your current Membership Card along with any information about the event you are attending. It will be necessary to produce this information if you are confronted, for any reason, by a member of the Police Force while participating in an Event.

<u>Friday 8th December 2023 - A7 Register General Meeting</u> commencing at 7.45pm at Clubroom, Carindale. Members are requested to bring a plate of Christmas Food to share.

<u>Sunday 10th December 2023 - A7 Register December Event - A7 Club Christmas Lunch</u> to be held at the Carindale Clubrooms and is to commence at 11.30am. Chicken, Salads and desert will be provided but drinks (hot or cold), cutlery and plates are BYO. As this is an A7 Register event, members are encouraged to wear their name tags and drive their A7s. For catering it is essential that you RSVP Robyn Clark by 1 December – Ph. 0412 276 313.

Friday 12th January 2024 - A7 Register General Meeting commencing at 7.45pm at Clubroom, Carindale.

Sunday 14th January 2024 - MONSTER 2ND HAND A7 PARTS NEW YEAR SALE & SUNDAY FUNDAY MORNING TEA. A7 Register January Event: Come one, come all to Doug & Robyn's Monster 2nd Hand A7 Parts Sale to be held at 195 Middle Road, Boronia Heights on Sunday 14th January from 9am to 1pm. Heaps of A7 parts at unbelievably cheap prices including engines, wheels, cylinder heads, gear boxes, springs, carbys, axles and heaps more. Hurry in while stocks last. BYO Morning Tea, your A7 or modern (Register Event) & Lunch if you intend being there until then and beyond – or just come for a jolly good time! For more information or to beat the 14 January A7 parts rush, contact Doug Ph 0412 276 313.

Friday (Australia Day) 26th January 2024 - Redlands Coast Australia Day Event - External A7 Register Invitation Event: organized by BVRC commencing with vehicle entry from 6am and Complimentary Breakfast, tea & coffee from 7am at Ormiston State School. BYO chairs & cups. Raffles are drawn at around 10am. Runs commence around 10.30am through the Redlands Coast – finishing with a BYO Lunch in a park at completion of your chosen run. For more details or contact Steve on 0411 516 122. A7 members to make own arrangements re travel etc. No dogs or smoking allowed on school grounds.

Friday 9th February 2024 - A7 Register General Meeting commencing at 7.45pm at Clubroom, Carindale.

Sunday 11th February 2024 - Valentine's Day Run - A7 Register February Event.

This Run will be organised by Col & Gay Jacobson and will commence from Mt Coot-tha Observatory Carpark. Details of this event are yet to be to be confirmed.

<u>Thursday 7th to Monday 11th March 2024 - Austins Over Australia.</u> External A7 Register Invitation Event: This event is hosted by the Austin Motor Vehicle Club NSW and is to be held in Orange, NSW. The weekend consists of organised drives, car displays and visits to local places of interest. To register your interest, email AOA2024@amvcnsw.com.au or contact Tony Groom 0412 036 774.

Friday 8th March 2024 - A7 Register General Meeting commencing at 7.45pm at Clubroom, Carindale.

<u>Saturday 23rd March 2024 - Wamuran Day Out & Run -</u> A7 Register March Event. This event is organised by Russell & Vanda Curtis. BYO Morning Tea & Lunch. Further details to be announced.

Friday 12th April 2024 - A7 Register General Meeting commencing at 7.45pm at Clubroom, Carindale.

<u>Sunday 16 April 2024 - A Day at the Bay 3</u> - A7 Register April Event. This Run will be organised by Hugh & Judy Cullen (ph. 0412 096 186) and is to commence from the Carindale Clubrooms at 9am. BYO Morning Tea & Lunch.

Sunday 5th May 2024: TO BE CONFIRMED - External A7 Register Invitation Event: Our Club has been invited to attend the Wheels of the World Car & Bike Show static display at Pat Rafter Arena, 109 King Arthur Tce, Tennyson. Display vehicle entry at 8.30am – \$30/display vehicle. Public entry at 9.30am. Music, food & drinks at venue. All proceeds to Variety – the children's charity. For more info. contact Bryan ph. 0418 790 962. Please inform our A7 member, Trevor Moore ph. 0407 485 575, if you are attending.

Friday 10th May 2024 - A7 Register General Meeting commencing at 7.45pm at Clubroom, Carindale.

OUTSIDE EVENTS BY OTHER CLUBS

<u>Saturday 27th to Sunday 28th January 2024: Allora Heritage Weekend & Swap Meet</u>, hosted by Warwick Veteran & Vintage Vehicle Club, to be held at the Allora Show Grounds. \$10/person/day. For more information phone Graham: 0428 717 623.

<u>Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th February 2024 - 49th Annual DDVVMC Toowoomba Swap Meet</u> to take place at the Toowoomba Show Grounds. Open to public from 6am both days. The Swap Meet closes at 6pm Saturday & 12pm Sunday. Admission is \$15/person on Saturday & \$5/person on Sunday. Parking is free. For further details contact Swap Co-ordinator, Bill Shepherd, ph. 0499 990 622.

<u>Sunday 24th March 2024 - 37th Annual Ormiston Swap Meet</u> organised by the Bayside Vehicle Restorers Club to be held at Ormiston State School commencing at 6am and concluding at 12noon. Pedestrian entry: \$5. Information & Bookings contact Steve 0411 516 122. No dogs or smoking allowed on school grounds.

<u>Sunday 5th May 2024 - LAMA Annual Swap Meet</u> organized by the Lockyer Antique Motor Association Inc. to be held at the Laidley Showgrounds. Contact The Secretary email: sec.lama@hotmail.com for more details. Members to make their own arrangements re. travel, etc.

MINUTES OF PAST A7RQ MEETINGS

Austin Seven Register of Qld Inc

Meeting No. 630, 13th October 2023

Held at the Veteran Car Club Hall

Meeting Opened. The President declared the meeting opened at 7.45 pm with a welcome to all.

Present: 23 members signed the book

Apologies: Lindsay & Sharon J, Ross & Rhonda G, Trevor & Bev McC, Ted B

Minutes: Robyn read the minutes of the September Meeting * move it be accepted as a true & correct record.

Seconded by Tim. Carried

Business arising from minutes: Office of Fair Trading to be looked into by the committee.

Valda asked for goods for the Christmas Hamper raffle.

50 yearbook for Joyce Dannenberg (One found in Library & will be given to Joyce)

Correspondence IN: Newsletters from other clubs

Email from QHMC re LOGBOOKS, Newsletter & Minutes.

Allianz Insurance re A7 parts at Trevor M

Email from Keith Ryan re selling his 1937 Roadster & Tim's email to Keith.

Phone call from Neil Thomson re how to join the Club.

Invoice & Receipt from Veteran Club re rent

Change of Email for Natt Noble

OUT: Email from Neil re a Club run to Russell & Vanda's next year

Email to Tim re Keith selling his car.

Office of Fair-trading form after AGM

Membership Receipts & cards to various members

Robyn moved the correspondence be accepted as read & the outward endorsed. Seconded by Doug. Carried **Business arising from Correspondence:** Members then discussed the LOGBOOK & voted against it. (NO happy with the present system)

Treasurer's Report: Trevor gave this report on Sharons behalf, then moved it be accepted & all accounts be passed for payment. Seconded by David N. Carried

QHMC Report: Justin McK spoke about things discussed at the meeting.

Spare Parts Report: Trevor has made some good sales. 2 Axles going to Bowen.

2nd Hand Parts Report: Mike H has made a purchase. Discussed the club purchase some Floor pans. Will be looked into.

Editors Report: Newsletters ready to post. Tim also asked if we charge nonmembers who wish to sell their A7 through the club newsletter. If so, how much? To be discussed at the committee meeting.

Dating Officers Report: NIL

Web Master Report: Neil has it up to date. If you know of any events, please let him know.

Club Events:

13th Nov President's Run. Meet at 9am Centenary Pool. BYO M/T & Lunch

10th Dec A7 Christmas Party at Clubrooms. (Numbers Please)

Other Events:

15th Oct Kalbar Swap, Showgrounds

28th-29th Oct Tadoms Old Machinery Expo, Oakey Showgrounds

26th Jan Australia Day, Ormiston State School

7th=11th May Austins over Australia, Orange

Past Events:

7th=10th Sept Evans Heads run organized by Ross & Rhonda

9th Sept Gympie Swap

10th Sept Chrysler Expo, Rocklea Showgrounds

17th Sept All British Day, Tennyson

7th Oct Tingalpa Cemetery Heritage 155 yrs.

7th-8th Oct LAMA

Most reports are on the website.

Library Report: NIL

General Business: Bayside Club invited A7 Club to join them on the 11^{th of} Nov to visit Witchetty Grub Bush Food Nursery, Obi Obi.

Raffle: Valda had tonight's raffle drawn. Hugh C the lucky winner.

Report on cars &/or Car troubles: Justin McK reminded everyone to carry a car jack. Justin & John Q spoke about places to have wheels respoke.

Birthdays: Members having a Birthday in October wished Many Happy returns.

Sick members wished a speedy recovery.

Supper Organizer: Thanks to Steve for tonight's supper. November John Q

Committee Meeting: TBA Next Meeting: 10th November 2023. Meeting closed: 8.30 pm.

Apologies for next month: Hugh C

Austin Seven Register of Qld Inc

Meeting No. 631, 19th November 2023

Held at the Veteran Car Club Hall, Carindale.

Meeting Opened: The President declared the meeting opened at 7.50 pm with a welcome to all.

Present: 25 members signed the book & 1 visitor

Apologies: 10 members apologized

Minutes: Robyn read the minutes of the October meeting & moved it be accepted as a true & correct record.

Seconded by Trevor. Carried

Business arising from Minutes: Committee decided NOT to have any A7 floor pans made.

Answer to Tims question about non-members advertising in newsletter: The decision was YES but ask for a donation & only publish it in 2 editions.

Correspondence IN: newsletters from other clubs

Membership application from N Thomson

Invitation from Bayside Club to join in their Presidents Run 11th Nov to Obi Obi.

OUT: newsletters & membership cards & receipts to various members

QHMC re Logbooks

Robyn moved the correspondence be accepted as read & the outward endorsed. Seconded by Colin Carried.

Business arising from Correspondence: 91 clubs in QHMC & 58 voted no to Logbooks.

Treasurer's Report: Sharon informed the members of the Clubs finances, & moved her report be accepted & all accounts be passed for payment, Seconded by David. Carried

QHMC Report: NIL

Spare Parts Report: Trevor made some good sales but A7 axles have gone up in price.

2nd Hand Parts Report: NIL

Editor's Report: Tim has started on the next newsletter.

Dating Officers Report: NIL

Web Master Report: Neil is working on the events Calander for next year. If you know of any events,

please let him know. Also, if you wish to organize a Club Run.

Club Events:

12th Nov Presidents Run. Meet Centenary Pool 9am BYO m/t & 1

10th Dec A7 Christmas Party at clubrooms, 11 am 14th Jan 2nd Hand Parts Sale, Boronia Heights

11th Feb Valentines Day Run 23rd March Russell & Vanda April Hugh to organize. 14th July John Q to organize.

Other Events:

26th Jan Australia Day, Ormiston State School 27th-28th Jan Allora Heritage Weekend, Showgrounds

2rd-4th Feb Toowoomba Swap

7th-11th May Austins over Australia, Orange

Past Events: Report on events attended by members in newsletter & on website.

Library Report: NIL

General Business: Brett Reif spoke about & showed members the papers he had received from England

about his car.

Tim asked of Peter G behalf if anyone had a Magneto & generator.

Robyn has spoken to Terry F about the A7 parts he wishes to give away.

New Parts Books & 2023-24 Register to be printed.

Raffle: Thank you to Hugh for the donation towards tonight's raffle.

Report on cars &/or car troubles: President hopes to have his car running by Sunday.

Birthdays: Members having a Birthday in November wish Many Happy Returns.

Sick members wished a speedy recovery. Trevor McC lost his brother.

Supper Organizer: Thank you, John, for tonight's supper.

DECEMBER All members asked to bring something for supper.

Committee Meeting: TBA

Next Meeting: 8th December 2023

Meeting Closed: 8.25 pm Robyn

NEWS OF MEMBERS AND CARS

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS





Neil Thomson from Murwillumbah, NSW, owns the nice chrome yellow 1928 Chummy pictured left. Ken and Val Bossom come from Uraween in Hervey Bay and own the tidy red 1937 Austin 7 Tourer at right. Somebody may remember who may have owned these cars previously?

Joyce's Joy!

A few months ago, I ran into Rex and Joyce Dannenberg's daughter, Sue, and thanks to her, I was able to get a

copy of our 50th anniversary book to her dear Mum who now lives in the Inverpine Retirement Community up at Murrumba Downs. Joyce regularly receives our





newsletter and loves the book. Sue sent me this lovely photo of Joyce with the book. Notice there is one of those "Motor for the Million" framed paintings on the

wall behind her. For those do not know Rex and Joyce, Rex was our club president in 1996/96 and for many years they owned "Chocolate Monty", a lovely little 1929 roadster which was a regular sight in Brisbane. I first (stop me if you have heard this before) saw it down by the gates to the QIT in Alice Street in 1975 when

it was owned by Jak Guymar. Eventually Rex and Joyce bought the car and had a ton of fun in the little car until they had to sell the car 15 years ago after over 20 years of ownership. The other photo is taken from the 50 yearbook and shows Rex and Joyce in Chocolate Monty in 1992 on the Canberra Rally.

Austin 7 Display at Tingalpa Pioneers' Chapel & Cemetery Decoration Day. Sat. 7 October 2023.



Under overcast skies and with gusty winds, a group of our members gathered at the Tingalpa Pioneers' Chapel and Cemetery at around 8.30am on the morning of Saturday 7 October to display their cars at the Cemetery's 155th annual Decoration Day and fun fete. In their A7s were Lindsay, Doug & Robyn and Neil & Karyn, and in their Austin Lancer were Ian & Valda.

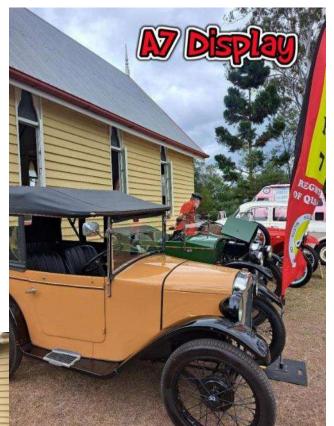
Fortunately, the showers held out for most of the morning, giving

Decoration Day visitors plenty of time to admire our beautiful cars, along with some old motorcycles belonging to members of the Historical Motorcycle Club of Queensland.

At about 9.15am, formalities took place, with speeches by the President of the Friends of Tingalpa Cemetery, relatives of the pioneers buried in the Cemetery, various dignitaries and a member of the Anglican

Diocese. This was followed by the cutting of the 155th Anniversary cake. Afterwards, people enjoyed the music of the Queensland Choir, followed by a talented solo guitarist.

Everyone spent time browsing the many stalls that were selling arts and crafts, books, plants, food and coffee. The Koala Society was also represented with a stall selling a variety of koala associated items. There were also opportunities on the day to inspect the surrounding graves, visit the Chapel and even dress in



period costume to have a photo taken.

A Lucky Door Prize and several raffle prizes were drawn towards the end of the morning event by the local State member, Mr Steve Minnikin MP. Our own Raffle Person, Valda, was one of the lucky winners, choosing a prize of a coffee mug and matching tray with a very cute cow motif.

As the raffle draws concluded, the heavens finally opened up. Fortunately, the heavy



shower coincided with the end of the event at around 12 noon. Soon after, our members packed up their belongings, cranked up their A7s and headed for their respective homes.

The morning was a huge success and a very enjoyable A7 October Event. Our presence at Tingalpa continued the positive relationship between the Austin 7 Register of Qld. and the Friends of Tingalpa Cemetery Heritage Group.

Karyn and Neil

2023 A7 PRESIDENT'S RUN – Sunday 12 November 2023.

Under overcast skies, with a predicted temperature in the high twenties, Centenary Pool carpark came to life with the arrival of our small, but cute, Austin 7s. In their A7s were Doug & Robyn, Lindsay & Sharon, Trevor &

Elaine, Colin & Gay, Russell & Vanda with Tilly, Matt & Trent, and Ian and Valda. In modern cars were President Steve, John, Tim, Neil & Karyn, and David, Kirsty, Molly & Anne.



President Steve gave his run briefing, which included an alert about two speed cameras on Coronation Drive. It was agreed that anyone who could get a speeding ticket in an A7 deserved a prize, plus a collection would be taken up to pay the fine!

With engines revved, the group departed Centenary Pool carpark, heading past the Normanby Hotel and Lang Park and onto Coronation Drive. The drive along the river, past the Regatta Hotel and the jacaranda trees in bloom, was lovely.

We headed towards the University of Queensland via Sir Fred Schonell Drive.

The drive through the University along the river was picturesque with many of the different trees in bloom. In particular, the flame trees were magnificent with their bright red blossoms.

On turning out of the University campus, the run route took us alongside the St Lucia Golf Course, then through the suburb of Indooroopilly with its lovely houses, past the Indooroopilly Golf Course to Sir John Chandler* Park on the river for morning tea. As we enjoyed morning tea and convivial conversation, we were also able to observe the



various water activities happening on the river - jet skis, boats, a motorised surfboard.

The route from morning tea to lunch took us over the Indooroopilly Bridge, through the suburbs of Chelmer and Tennyson, through the Queensland Tennis Centre, through Yeronga (past the home of our Spare Parts Manager) and Highgate Hill, to West End's Orleigh Park on the river. As on most A7 runs, there were a few participants who arrived a bit later than others because they had taken a wrong turn somewhere on the route.

The group settled under the shade of a magnificent Moreton Bay fig tree to eat lunch and



chat. Rally Coordinator, Neil, thanked President Steve, on behalf of all attendees, for an enjoyable President's Run. Eventually, everyone packed up and headed for their respective homes, following a most enjoyable 2023 President's Run.

Karyn

Queensland Historic Motoring Council Inc. T

(This is a letter the club received from Carle Gregory, President of the Qld Historic Motoring Council as way of explanation of the approach to canvas all clubs about the Logbook system used in Victoria and NSW. It is meant to be a full and final end to this debate.)

Hi, to fully explain the story on the recent emails on the Logbook scheme, see below.

This is the letter QHMC recently received on Letterhead dated 8-9-2023 (from a member club- Ed)

"At a recent meeting of a (member club) there was a lengthy discussion about the restrictions imposed by the current Special Interest Vehicle Registration System in comparison to the Logbook System used in other states. It was generally agreed that given the favourable reports from those using Logbooks, this revised system would be more beneficial to members than the registration system currently in force (in) Queensland. Therefore, on behalf of the (member club) I would ask that the QHMC Canvas the opinions of the other Affiliated Clubs to determine their position on this current Registration System. If supported, that the QHMC approach the Transport & Main Roads Department with a proposal to move to a Logbook System similar to that which operates in other states."

QHMC was aware that an investigation had been made into this matter in approx. 2018-19 with a No being the result. However as this was an official question from a member club it was decided to reluctantly canvass the member clubs, hence the email on 1st October 2023.

From the time the email went out until the night of the AGM, 52 of 91 member clubs had replied with an emphatic NO! Additionally, a number of clubs cited that with the Impromptu Events now included that it was unnecessary to go to the suggested Logbook System.

At the October meeting a delegate stated after a recent comparison with Logbook systems in both NSW & VIC that there were as many restrictions, in fact more, on Logbooks as there are with SIVs. Additionally, the Logbook System puts the onus on Clubs Committee, and it is hard enough to get Volunteers to put their hand up now let alone with the legal implications of having a person certifying Vehicles. There are many more advantages you would lose on Logbooks.

So therefore, QHMC has decided that This will be a closed subject and no further correspondence will be entered into unless TMR initiate a change to the system.

Cheers Carle Gregory QHMC President Taken from the Minutes for the General Meeting – Thursday 26 October 2023.

(The QHMC has 91 Affiliated clubs with a total number of 12,516 members, with 21,445 vehicles. 19 unfinancial clubs have been contacted.)



The Royle Austin Chummy

Nothing to do with the British Royal Family, this realistic little fibreglass-bodied electrically powered Austin Chummy was made by Royle Cars Ltd. Of Staindrop near Darlington in West Yorkshire. David Royle also restored cars professionally, including Austin 7s, so it was a natural progression to make miniature version. It was very well detailed as you can see by the photos and came with a folding hood and removeable side screens and cost £3,195 UK (roughly \$6400) in 1984/85. (Although Billy Boddy

in the 1984 Motorsports magazine said it was only £1,500/\$3000.) It was 4 foot 6 inches long (





1350mm) and weighed 100 Pounds (45 kg) and is quoted as being ½ scale.

According to the Austin Seven Friends website 30 were made and sent as far afield as California and New Zealand. Some were sold by Harrods, including a van version. When the business was closed all assets including the scale Austin Seven items were auctioned off. There was a van version and even a LHD BMW Dixi Version! (Thanks to Terry Hicks who started me on this journey via a Royle Chummy for sale on eBay)



Above a Royle Chummy, a 1929 Austin & 2-seater and an Austin 12/4 (or is a 20/4?)

The Best (And longest) Austin Seven Joke

By Pedr Davis, Australian motoring Journalist and author (and a former Austin 7 owner) I've always thought the 1920's Austin Seven was the most infuriating, frustrating and endearing passenger vehicle I've ever owned. Its tiny engine, 'crash' gearbox and bathtub-like body were laughable, but it was made by a man I greatly admired - Herbert Austin.

British-born, Austin migrated to Australia from Britain when 17 years old and served an engineering apprenticeship in Melbourne. After joining the Wolseley Sheep Shearing Company, he moved to Thomas Street, North Sydney, where there's now a plaque commemorating his residence in Number 45. Later Austin was sent to manage the company's factory the UK and, while there, he designed several Wolseley cars. However, he found the board of directors unsupportive and quit. The next step, in 1905, was to form Austin Motor Company which was financially backed by, I think, Dunlop Rubber Company. Initially, he concentrated on conventional tourers, although he once flirted with a 7HP baby car via a liaison with the Swift Car Company. In an early example of badge-engineering, they produced a single-cylinder, 7 HP car that both

Austin and Swift sold from 1907. The cars were identical, apart from the radiator insignias. Unfortunately, by 1920 Austin's company was in financial trouble and, in a last-ditch strategy, he took another crack at the baby car market. Austin proposed to make another Seven that was otherwise similar to the 1907 design except that the engine had four cylinders. Unfortunately, the company receivers had little faith in it and refused to spend the necessary money. Undeterred, the 56-year-old Austin privately hired a 17-year-old draftsman, Stanley Edge, and set about designing the car privately.

The 'research' into the new model was quite comical which brings me to mention Alf Depper, a long-term employee who was still working in the prototype department when I joined the company as an engineering apprentice in 1948. Alf once recalled that, in the early 1920s, the Old Man (Austin) had sacked him - and not for the first time. Austin was notoriously quick-tempered and prone to hiring and firing on a whim. "That's it. I'm fed up with him and the Austin factory", Alf Depper announced to his mother when he got home one Friday evening. Two days later, there was a knock at the front door. His mother answered and returned to the kitchen saying: "The Old Man's here!" Unmoved, Alf replied: "Tell him, I don't work for him anymore!" Instead, Mrs Depper ordered Alf to the door where Austin instructed him to put on his coat and borrow his mother's sewing tape measure.

Without a single mention of the sacking or even exchanging a word, the pair drove to the factory and pulled up outside the carpenter's shop. The foreman was there, along with a motorcycle and sidecar, a combination popular in Britain at the time because of the low road tax payable. The Old Man turned to Depper and ordered: "Measure the length; measure the width and write it down. Herbert Austin reviewed the figures and announced, "Son, we're going to design a car with four wheels, four seats and four brakes within those dimensions.

"That", said Depper much later "was the birth of the Austin Seven."

A Lucky Coincidence - the power of the Internet?



club was able to help David, a former owner of Brett and Kylie Reifs 1933 Saloon make contact with them

AW1824

after seeing a photo of the car in one of our newsletters from 2019. David sent Brett the original sales receipt for the car from when it was

new, which neatly rounds out the original paperwork with includes the original UK logbook and MOTs for the car as well as two old UK tax discs. Originally the car was sold new by Lionel H. Hugh of South Molton, London, two blocks west of Hanover Square, and not far from Marylebone Station. The car cost £91 11s UK new after a reduction on a traded in Austin 7 Chummy.

Above is one of the original number plates, the broken number 3 resulted in a MOT failure! At the right is the photo that started it all. Bretts Dad seen in the car back in Tasmania where he found it for sale.

SEEN ON FACEBOOK.



Old British Cars - Join

Ian Watts - 3d - 🔾

One of my customers with his 'daily driver'! An Austin 7 of unknown vintage to me.

Apologies if this has been posted here before, but this is only the second car this chap has ever owned in his life. He bought it for £25 in 1953 and has been his only car ever since.

He even taught his previous dog to drive it at car shows!

He is an absolutely brilliant old school engineer and has been massively influential in the number of steam boats still operating today, yet he has never owned a computer or smartphone in his life! He isn't on Facebook obviously, but there may be one or two people in this group who know of him? I'll protect his privacy by not mentioning his name though. One of the most interesting people I have ever met in my life - and I've met more than my fair share of characters and public speakers!



This item was sent to me by the ever-vigilant Rhonda Guthrie who loves surfing on Facebook!

SEASONAL SEVENS

Over the years there have been several miniatures made of Austin 7s. One of the most popular were the Matchbox Models of Yesteryear. In 1992 Matchbox brought out a 70th anniversary set, comprising a red 1929 Austin 7 Castrol Van, a BMW Dixi and a Rosengart 2 door saloon. These were made to the popular collector's scale of 1/43rd (or if you like 7mm to the foot), which was the scale for modelling British trains to "O" gauge



which had been popular since the early 1920s. Then two years later they announced the arrival of another set, this time, 4 of the Austin 7 vans in a red box, complete with a chrome hanging hook so they could be hung from a Christmas tree. These cost about \$60 the set in Australia, if memory serves me correct. Each van had the year 1994 on the door, a seasonal message at the waistline and a colourful Christmas illustration on each side of the body. The detail was the same as the 1992 van, with two-part wheels, vinyl tires and a chrome crank handle up front. The colours were red, white, blue and metallic green.

Next year Matchbox brought out another box, the difference being that it was green. This time the vans were dark green, white, gold and red. The green set is apparently rarer, but the green box is fairly common. Prices vary wildly on eBay but \$20 is a good price for a 1995 green boxed set down to \$10 for a used set at a swap.

MID 1990S A7 REGISTER MEETING AT CARINDALE



Recently I found these two photos, I think I took them in 1994/95, just after our meeting place, the VCCQ Hall, was opened in 1994. Notice how we were sitting facing right of how we sit now. Those metal folding chairs would have been hard on our backsides!

Listing left to right.

Back Row: Terry & Gwenda Hicks (obscured), Robyn Clark, Donna Hebblewhite, Jack Kelly, Trevor Hebblewhite,

Against right wall: Clark Hebblewhite, Doug Clark and Ross Guthrie

Middel Row: June and Graham Gleadhill, Ian Waring? (obscured), Nancy Jones, Gail Cahalane, Lauren

Cahalane

Front row: Ted Bale, Guy Freeman, Rex and Joyce Dannenberg, Ron and Joan Gliddon, Cathy Dellit.



On the Table; President Colin Jones, Secretary Rhonda Guthrie, Treasurer Peter Cahalane.

Photos Taken by Tim Braby

Austin 7 Classifieds

Please note: to avoid congestion, adverts <u>may</u> only be printed for 3 issues (6 months) depending on space. If you have also sold your car, PLEASE <u>do tell the</u>
<u>Editor, DO NOT assume I know!</u> I have deleted a couple of adverts over the year as we have other members who wish to showcase their cars.

FOR SALE 1937 Austin 7 Ruby roadster (part restored)



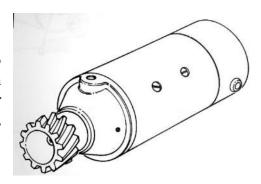
Club member Keith Ryan down in Woolgoolga tells us it is time to sell his 1937 Roadster.

The car is now restored with a rebuilt engine rebuild. (have all the receipts). Also has new green paint, new tyres and a new soft top.

Have complete History of the car, reluctant sale due to ill health. Asking \$10,000 firm Car located Coffs Harbour area. Contact Keith Ryan Phone 0430 166 133 and leave a message with your name and contact details please. Or email keithryan2@bigpond.com (4th advert)

WANTED Dynamo to suit a Magneto Ignition model Austin 7

Peter Goldsworthy tells me he would like to get a good dynamo to fit Baby Jane, his 1927 Doctors coupe which has magneto ignition The model he wants is a C.A.V. DFL Please write to Peter GOLDSWORTHY at 11c Wadell Road, Two Mile, Gympie, QLD4570 Or Email: pgoldsworthy3@gmail.com



For sale 1930 Ulster sports replica

Originally the work of Brisbane Austin 7 "officiano" Peter Baker who took 33 years to build this authentically detailed and well engineering recreation using a composite body made by Chris Gould in the UK, imported as one of a pair in 1984 by Peter Baker and Wayne Fisher. Peter followed a book written by Chris (the Editor has a copy of this, and a letter wrote to David telling him the build details of the chassis, axles, brakes and motor.)

Present custodian, David Ure, says it now time to sell it on and he really would like it to stay in Queensland, so here your chance, everybody, for a very Special Austin 7 in your life!





David is in Warwick. We need someone in our club, north of the Tweed River, to buy this wonderful car, so it stays in our Queensland club and does not head south across a border or two! You will find the car in Warwick. Price is a firm \$29,000.

Contact David and Karen Ure for more photos and details. Ph 07 4661 7933 (work hours), or email david@showribbons.com.au (3rd advert)

FOR SALE 1927 Austin 7 Chummy in Restored Condition

Amazingly Alan Couser is still trying to sell his 1927 Chummy. The car was professionally restored 20 plus years ago by Guthrie Crash Repairs for Ron and Joan Gliddon to a high standard (cost was not a factor). but is still in excellent running order on club registration. The body is pale yellow with black mudguards It has been in the club for many years. Asking price is \$16000 ONO (and good value). Please contact Alan on 0403 504 709 or (07) 3349 9628, Mansfield, Brisbane. (8th advert)



AUSTIN 7 REGISTER OF QLD MERCHANDISE

All Merchandise can be purchased from the Spares/Tech. Officer, Trevor Moore.

Ph: (07) 3848 5575 OR Email:

temoore@live.com.au

PRICES:

- a Cloth Badge (sew to shirt or cap): \$10 (75mm tall) NEW ITEM b Lapel Badge: \$7:50 (30mm tall)
- c Dash Badge, 25th Anniversary 1967 1992 \$5 (35mm tall)
- d Longreach Leap Badge 2009 \$8 (60mm wide) e Brass Car Badge \$50 (85mm tall)
- f A7 baseball Cap with adjustable strap \$20 NEW ITEM one size fits all! Additionally official A7 Register Name Badges can also be obtained from Rhonda Guthrie for \$10 each email Rhonda at guthrie45@bigpond.com. Pricing MAY vary with future availability.





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