

*WISHING ALL OUR MEMBERS
AND FAMILYS A MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
AND PROPEROUS NEW YEAR*



NEWSLETTER December 2016

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



Former Vice President Brett Wilson in his 1930 Roadster with Amanda in, taken at a Static Display not too long ago, Amanda Wilson our former Treasurer is standing behind.

An Open Letter to All Members

(Hi Tim

I am going to ask you to put the following in the newsletter as a letter to the editor since I do not know how to thank the Austin 7 Club or the members other than by a few words of thanks. As you will read below I think the world of the club and the members as they are truly great people and keep the Austin 7 family going.

Thank you - Brett Wilson)

To All Austin 7 Club members,

Over the last 11 years that we have been involved with the Austin Seven Register of QLD I have always said the Austin 7 Club is the best club that I have ever been in and over the last 2 years you all have shown me why that statement was true.

After my ruptured disc and the 3 surgeries to fix it I had offer after offer to help with anything that we needed. I never did take up the offers as I was too proud and I did not want to put any one out in any way. Then one day I was told (not asked mind you but "told") that the club members were coming to help tidy up around the yard and the shed and they were going to get in a skip and do everything that

Amanda and myself couldn't. Well, they did that and more in spades, as they turned up and cleaned up under the house, around the yard and sorted out the inside of my 4 bay garage. To top that off, four members then helped us to transport our belongings down my Dad's place in NSW, just south of Port Macquarie. There were 2 cars on trailers and another 2 large trailers full of assorted car parts and stuff that they drove to Port Macquarie and although we offered repeatedly most would not take a dollar or anything else towards the expense of the trip considering it was a 6 ½ hour drive each way along with an overnight stopover.

So again, I will tell you all that the Austin Seven Register of QLD is the best club I have been involved with in my life and I'd like to thank some people directly for their help, Doug & Robyn, Ron & Daphne, Ian & Valda, Mike & Kathy, John and Trevor for without their assistance we would probably still be at Riverview QLD in a world of pain. So thank you to everyone for everything that you did for us and enjoy this wonderful club as you aren't just fellow club members are all good friends too.

Amanda and I thank want to thank every one of you from the bottom of our hearts.

Yours in Austineering

Brett & Amanda Wilson

-----oooOOOOooo-----

YOUR CLUB COMMITTEE

President: Lindsay Jordan 0408 876 559

Secretary: Robyn Clark (07) 3800 1965

Vice Pres.: Still Open

Treasurer: John Que (07) 3396 0882

Spares/Tech: Trevor Moore (07) 3848 5575

Webmaster: Mike McGuill (07) 33512598

Tour Director: Neil Thyer (07) 32179880

Librarian: Alan Couser (07) 33499628

Dating Officer & Editor: Tim Braby(07)33592086 **Second Hand Parts:** Doug Clark(07) 3800 1965

QHMC Rep : John Que (07) 3396 0882

Raffle " Stinger": Valda McDowell

The A7RQ Inc. On Line

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.

<http://austin7.org.au/>

& <http://www.shannons.com.au/club/carclub/austin-seven-register-of-qld/>

& Facebook Austin7 Register of Qld Inc.

AUSTIN 7 REGISTER OF QLD. CLUB EVENTS

Friday 9th December General Meeting commencing at 7.45pm at Clubroom, Carindale.
Folks please bring a plate of food for supper.

Sunday 11th December A7 Register Run: A7 Club Annual Christmas Lunch to be held at the Redlands Sporting Club, Anson Road (off Birkdale Road), Wellington Point. Lunch will be held at the Buffet World restaurant within the club - cost \$26.00pp (inc. seafood). Members to meet in the Sporting Club car park from 11.00am for entry into the restaurant at 11.30am. Members are requested to bring along a wrapped unisex Christmas gift per person to the value of \$3.00 to be shared over lunch. As this is an A7 Register Event, members are encouraged to drive their A7. For more information, contact Robyn Clark (Ph. 3800 1965).



EVENTS FOR 2017

Friday 13th January General Meeting commencing at 7.45pm at Clubroom, Carindale

Saturday 14th January Special A7 Morning Tea will be held at the Clubroom, Carindale from 10am to 12 noon. The purpose of this meeting is for all A7 members to meet with the 2017 National Tour Committee to

discuss not only details of the Tour but also member's involvement in the Tour in Toowoomba from Saturday 8th to Thursday 13th April 2017.

Sunday 15th January Annual A7 Reg. Buffet Breakfast to be held at the Colmslie Hotel, Junction Road, Colmslie commencing at 8am. Event to be organized by Neil & Karyn ph. 0431 067 909. Cost for this all you can eat Buffet Breakfast is \$14.95pp. As this is an official A7 Reg. event, members are encouraged to drive their A7s. Members to make their own way to the venue.

Thursday 26th January Australia Day Gathering and Run organized by BVRC commencing with Breakfast from 7.30 am to 9:00 am at Ormiston State School. Rally around 10.30am to follow around Moreton Bay area - finishing at Redlands Sports Club, Wellington Point for lunch. Contact Robyn Clark (ph. 3800 1965) for more details. A7 members to make own arrangements re travel, registration etc.

Friday 10th February General Meeting commencing at 7.45pm at Clubroom, Carindale.

Sunday 12th February Valentine's Day Run. Run to commence from Centenary Pool Carpark at 9am. BYO Morning Tea & Lunch.

Friday 10th March General Meeting commencing at 7.45pm at Clubroom, Carindale.

Sunday 12th March A7 Register Event: President's Run organized by Lindsay & Sharon (Ph 0408 876 559). Run to commence from Centenary Pool Carpark at 9am. BYO Morning Tea & Lunch.

Friday 7th April NO GENERAL MEETING THIS MONTH due to 2017 National Tour

Saturday 8th April to Thursday 13th April A7 Register Event: 2017 NATIONAL TOUR, TOOWOOMBA. This event, organized by A7 Qld Register, provides the opportunity for members to see the biggest number of Austin Sevens in Australia. Headquarters for the event will be the Darling Downs Veteran & Vintage Motor Club, 2 Rocla Court, Glenvale, Toowoomba. The programme includes daily drives from Toowoomba to places of interest, a swap meet, a static display and welcome and presentation dinners. Entry and Catering Forms can be accessed on this A7 Web site. For more information contact John Que, Tour Chairman, 2017 Austin 7 National Rally. Ph. 07 3396 0882.

Friday 12th May 2017 General Meeting commencing at 7.45pm at Clubroom, Carindale.

Sunday 21st May 2017 Mothers Day Run. Run to commence from Centenary Pool Carpark at 9am. Run details TBA. BYO Morning Tea & Lunch.

Friday 9th June 2017 General Meeting commencing at 7.45pm at Clubroom, Carindale.

Sunday 11th June 2017 Winter Run. Run to commence from Centenary Pool Carpark at 9am. Run details TBA. BYO Morning Tea & Lunch.

INVITATION TOURS AND SWAP MEETS

23rd – 24th January 2017 Allora Heritage Weekend – 20th Anniversary Rally. Allora Showgrounds. Warwick Veteran and Vintage Club

Saturday 4th - Sunday 5th February 2017 Toowoomba Swap Meeting Toowoomba Show grounds

Sunday 26th March Bayside Swap Meet - 6am to 2pm at Ormiston State School..

Friday 14th to Monday 17th April 2017 AUSTINS OVER AUSTRALIA Ipswich - Contact k.pairton@bigpond.com or austinmotorvehicleclub-qld.webs.com for information

Friday 14th to Monday 1st May 2017 QHMC TASMANIA TOUR – Hosted by Greg & Christine Stevens & QHMC – All historic vehicles are welcome. You are welcome to join all of part of the tour. Enquiries – Greg & Christine Stevens – info@frs.com.au

28th May 2017 QVVA Swap Meet – Carina State School

9th-11th June 2017 RACQ QHMC Southern Queensland Rally- base in Beaudesert. Phone (07) 55449230 or 0414 066 121 or Email Secretery.bmec@yahoo.com.au, or website beaudesertmec.weebly.com

MINUTES OF PAST A7RQ MEETINGS

Austin Seven Register of Qld Inc

Austin Seven Register of Queensland Inc

Meeting No 553 13th October 2016

Held at the Veteran Car Club Hall, Carindale



The President Lindsay declared the meeting opened at 7.45 pm welcoming all.

Attendance: The attendance book was signed by 22 members

Apologies : Apologies received from G & J Preddy, R & J Sims, E Moore, P Baker, H Whitehouse and M & K McGill

Previous Minutes: The Secretary read the minutes of the September Meeting and moved that they be adopted as a true and correct record. Seconded by Ross Guthrie. Carried

Business arising from Minutes: Looking at flag or banner designs & prices.

Correspondence OUT:

Get Well Card to Aileen Potts

Emails & Letters to unfinancial members

Thank you card to Nick Sinclair re parts

Thank you card to Tony Bendell re 2017 trophy's

IN : Newsletters from other clubs as tabled

Membership renewals

Veteran Car Club re Tenants meeting 19th November

Secretary moved that the inward correspondence be accepted and the outward endorsed.

Seconded by Graham Gleadhill. Carried

Business arising from Correspondence: Nil

Treasurer's Report : Treasurer John Que gave the report on the club finances and moved that it be accepted Seconded by Alan Couser. Carried

QHMC Report: John Que gave this report.

Spare Parts Report : Trevor Moore reported sales had slowed down.

Second Hand Parts Report : Nil

Events : Neil Thyer reminded members of the following outings.

16th October Organised by Alan Couser. Meet Centenary Pool 9am. BYO m/t & lunch

13th November Organised by Trevor Moore. Meet Centenary Pool 9am. Byo m/t and BBQ lunch at his residents.

11th December A7 Christmas Lunch. Redlands Sporting Club Meet at 11am lunch 26-00 pp.

Please inform Robyn if attending. Also bring a wrapped gift to the value of \$3-00

15th January A7 Clubs Breakfast Comsle Hotel Details TBA

Other Events :

16th October 23rd Annual Morris Minor Display Day, Ormiston State School

23rd October Kingston Butter Factory Heritage Fair

13th Nov Wheels of the Century Automotive Show, Redcliffe Showgrounds

26th January Bayside Australia Day, Ormiston State School, 7.30am

26th January Australia Day, Samford Historical Museum. 9am

Past Events :

11th Sept Mini Muster BMC Round Up, Carina State School. Doug Clark reported a good turn up and took his Mini on its maiden journey.

18th Sept All British Day, Tennyson. Trevor Moore received “Best Commercial Vehicle” with his 6 wheeler A7 lorry. Also Ken Folliott in his Rolls Royce received “Best British Thoroughbred.”.

24th Sept Classic & Historic Cars & Motorbikes, Kilcoy. No report

1st-2nd Oct Lama Event, Gatton. No report

Web Master Report : Certificate of thanks given to Paul Bolt & Pixel Frames for their help with the website.

Library Report: Nil

2017 A7 National Tour Report: John reported 94 cars registered at present for the tour. Also listed some of the sponsors who have donated products or cash.

General Business : Tim had his Australian Austin 7 poster to show everyone. 1927 to 1938 which are available from the Melbourne club. \$30-00

Duncan Logan reported on the Noosa classic.

Because our April 2017 meeting is on Easter Good Friday, also the start of AOA. Straight after our tour it was moved that our April meeting be cancelled. to cancel. Carried

Anyone wanting name badges please let the secretary know. \$10-00 each.

Other badges are for sale including the club lapel badge.

Report on Cars &/or car troubles ; Ted Bale and Peter Baker have been helping Mike Hawthorne with his restoration.

Raffle: Thank you to Margaret McCormack for selling the raffle tickets in Valda’s absent. Could members please bring some non perishable items to the next meeting so we can have a Christmas Hamper for the raffle.

Birthdays : Members having a birthday in October were wished a Happy Day.

Sick members were wished a speedy recovery, with special thoughts to Alan Wood.

Supper Organiser : Thank you to Robyn for tonight’s supper.

November Rhonda Guthrie

December All members to bring a plate of goodies

Committee Meeting : TBA

Next Meeting : 11th November 2016

As there was no further business to discuss the President closed the meeting at 8-45pm. wishing everyone a safe trip home.

Austin Seven Register of Queensland Inc.

Meeting No 554 13th November 2016

Held at the Veteran Car Club Hall, Carindale

The President declared the meeting opened at 7.45 pm thanking members for coming. A welcome was extended to members we had not seen for some time.

Apologies:- Apologies were received from – M Potts, E Moore, A Couser, P & S Waller, R & J Sims & M & M Thompson

Attendance:- The attendance book was signed by 26 members.

Previous Minutes :- The Secretary read the minutes of the October meeting and moved that the minutes as read be adopted as a true and correct record. Seconded by Tim Braby. Carried

Business Arising from Minutes :- Tenants Meeting 19th Nov 1.30pm will be attended by Lindsay Jordan.

Correspondence OUT :- Nil

IN:- Newsletters from other clubs as tabled

Email from LAMA 7th-8th October 2017

Email from QHMC re fees to be paid.

Limestone Insurance re parts insurance

Secretary moved that the inward correspondence be accepted. Seconded by Duncan Logan. Carried.

Business Arising from Correspondence:- Limestone Insurance expensive. Try other company's like Shannon's or QBE. To be looked into by Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report :- John Que reported on the Clubs finances and moved that it be accepted and bills be passed for payment. Seconded by Trevor Moore. Carried

Queensland Historic Motoring Council Report :- John reported QHMC 2017 June Tour on website. It will be in the Beaudesert Area.

Spare Parts Report :- Trevor Moore reported sales good and another order to be sent to Melbourne.

Second Hand Parts Sales :- Doug Clark has actually made a sale.

Event's Organiser :- Neil Thyer advised members of the following events.

13th Nov Trevor Moore organised. Meet Centenary Pool 9am. BYO M/T BBQ Lunch. We will finish at his home so the Spare Parts Shed will be opened for business.

11th Dec A7 Xmas Party Redlands Sporting Club. \$26-00 pp + a \$3-00 wrapped gift. Members to make own arrangement for travel. Meet at 11am in foyer.

15th Jan A7 Breakfast Comsle Hotel. \$14-95 pp Meet 8am in carpark.

Other Events :-

13th Nov Wheels of the Century, Redcliffe Showgrounds

23rd-24th Jan Allora Heritage Weekend

26th Jan Bayside Australia Day, Ormiston School, 7.30 am

26th Jan Australia Day, Samford Historical Museum, 9am

4-5th Feb Toowoomba Swap

Past Events :-

16th Oct Alan Couser's Tour = Report in newsletter

16th Oct Morris Minor Display Day, Ormiston School - No report

23rd Oct Kingston Butter Factory Heritage Fair – No report

28-30th Oct Qld Heritage "Wheels of Time" Oakey. Trevor M, Doug C & Ian McD reported excellent show for anyone interested in machinery.

Web Master Report :- Mike reported still waiting for club website to be handed over.

Library Report :- Nil

2017 A7 National Tour :- John Que reported 5months to go. 103 entries so far.

Catering forms are being returned

Newsletter No5 ready to go out.

Albert Budsworth from RACQ will be backup trailer.

Rally Badges to be made.

Flyers for Display Day at Cobb & Co to be printed.

14th Jan Information Day at Clubrooms 10am to 12 noon.

General Business := Justin reported he and Russell had competed in the Noosa Hill Climb, and had "Alfred" (A7) at 60 mph down Lakeside.

At the last Executive Committee Meeting it was moved that the Secretary to be informed of any sickness, hospitalization or death on club members. This information will be passed on to members after first finding out if any help is needed by the family. In the case of death the President will nominate a member to write the memorial to be placed in the newsletter. The Web Master to post the passing of a member on the clubs 3 websites, (A7 club website, Face book & Shannon's) after permission is granted by the family to do so. The Cam McCulloch trophy to be called the McCulloch Trophy. Tim moved it be called the Cam & Judy McCulloch Trophy. Seconded by Mike McGuill. Carried.

The club consider buying 2 more computers. (One for the Secretary and the other for Spare Parts.) To be looked into.

Justin asked about new cloth badges and flag or banner. Prices are being looked at.

PLEASE give Robyn your name if coming to Christmas lunch.

Report on Cars and/or Car troubles:= Nil

Birthdays : Members having a birthday in November were wished all the best.

Raffle: Valda had tickets for tonight's raffle. Also asked for members to bring non-perishable items for December raffle to be drawn at Xmas Lunch.

Sick members were wished a speedy recovery.

Supper Organiser : Rhonda thanked for tonight's supper.

Members asked to bring a plate of goodies for the December meeting supper.

Committee Meeting : TBA

There being no further business the President closed the meeting at 8.53 pm.

Robyn



A Sad Good Bye to Judy McCulloch



It is with sadness that we advise of the passing of Judy on Sunday 16th October 2016.

Judy was a long time member of our Club and assisted her husband, Cam, looking after our Clubs spare parts and restorations for our Members. She was a hard worker for the Club and was given Life Membership in recognition of her efforts.

Judy had several falls this year in April and September the latter one she did not recover from. Judy was brought back from Melbourne to Clontarf where a private Family funeral was held on Thursday 27th October 2016.

Rest in Peace Judy

The Committee of the Austin Seven Register of Queensland Inc.

Judy and her husband Cam (who passed away suddenly 6 years ago), joined the club with their

sapphire blue 1937 Ruby tourer in 1972.

This car was the very first Austin 7 featured in Restored Cars magazine no. 2 in 1974 and travelled a lot of miles. They then went onto restore several more Austin 7s to perfection, setting a standard that the rest of us struggled to emulate. Judy was Cam's No.1 apprentice, helping to prepare panels for paint, fitting trim and reassembling the cars. Whenever we visited, Cam would be at work with the mechanicals, whilst Judy was in the back yard, sanding down a freshly primed mudguard, but the house and workshop was always immaculate and tidy. They were both quiet and unassuming but very talented experts in the restoration of Austin 7s and the occasional MG.

No problem was too hard for Cam, he would say to bring the car around for him to look at. As he and Judy would say "it is another Austin 7 on the road"

When Cam took on the spares parts job from around 2000 to 2010, his knowledge of his beloved Austin 7s was unbeatable, but it was Judy who did the bookwork and invoicing!

Judy would have only been 74 in November.

Thank you very much to Judy's daughter Donna for keeping us informed of her mother's untimely demise.

Tim Braby Editor

And a Farewell to John Hoerlein.

It is with a sad heart that I contact you regarding the death of John Hoerlein.

John passed away early on the morning of the 20th November 2016) in hospital, John had not been well been for a long time.

John joined the Veteran Car Club of Queensland in 1969 and restored his Hupmobile having it registered for the first time in 1970.

John (& his late wife Daphne) will be remembered by many club members for his willingness to assist members with their restoration. John



and Daphne restored a 1931 Austin Seven Tourer and were members of the Register for 31 years. until Daphne passed away in 2004. John & eldest son Peter attended rallies in the Hupmobile and Daphne drove the Austin 7 with daughter Ann and their youngest Bruce drove the Austin - apparently there was great competition between the family. sent by Rhonda Guthrie (VCCQ.)

Toowoomba Round-Up - Only 4 months to Go

As of writing we now have 112 entrants, they just keep on popping up from all over Australia, many from new Austin 7 owners!! But our aim is 120 entries, have you entered?

October and November saw a steady stream of entries at about one to two a week from all over Australia before the advertised date for the close of entries to enter at the rate of \$150 per vehicle. But it is still not too late to join in the fun and to get your entry into what promises to be a fantastic event for \$185 per vehicle. We also would also like to acknowledge thanks to our own members who have swelled the ranks of entrants, thank you one and all, especially those who live outside the South-East region.

We need your help. This Tour is being put on by the **Austin Seven Register of Queensland**, not just being put on by the Organising Committee. We will possibly need help with running the event during the week, jobs include, parking marshalls, raffle ticket marketing, help with putting up and taking down of signs, etc.

If you are at all interested to find out about the Tour, even if you are not able to attend but want to see what it is all about we shall be holding a 2017 National Tour information Day with FREE morning tea on Saturday the 14th of January at the Veteran car Club Hall from 10 am-12 noon.



Two New Queensland Cars- Mike & Jo Hawthorne's 1934 Nippy and Ken Burtons 1927 Chummy



A Fine Vintage

Those going on the 2017 Tour have a catering form with mention of the PJ's & Slippers Fortified wine (Port) which being especially bottled with a limited edition label designed by a club member (ahem) . We would like you to please considering ordering a bottle or two of this fine Queensland wine, even if you are not going on the Tour. It is an excellent way to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Austin Seven Register of Queensland next year in 2017!!! The editor can testify to the quality of products from **2nd2none** after sampling a few sips at the cellar door and taking home some of the bottled product to try at home!!! An excellent winter warmer at \$25 for a 750 ml. bottle plus post and handling for non-entrants.

This is available also to Non Entrants. To order contact Rhonda Guthrie at PO Box 74, Tweed Heads, NSW 2485.

Rally Entrants. Do Not forget to get in your catering forms!!!!!!

PAST RALLY REPORTS



A7 Excursion 16 October 2016

On a near perfect October morning, several A7 Register members assembled at the Centenary Pool Car Park to participate in our A7 Librarian's "excursion" to the south of the city. Four well-tuned A7s lined up for the 9am start. A7 drivers with their navigators were Peter & Sue, Lindsay & Sharon, Doug & Robyn and last but not least, Alan, the excursion organizer. Accompanying the A7s were four modern vehicles. Members in these cars were

Trev & Elaine, Jo & Margaret, John and Neil & Karyn.

Just after 9am we all set out from the car park, passing through Fortitude Valley and over the Story Bridge. The excursion took us through the Gabba 4-ways, along Ipswich Road and past the PA Hospital. We then made our way to Logan Road, turned east along Broadwater Road and south to Underwood Road. At the end of Underwood Road we stopped at Underwood Park for morning tea. Under a shady Fig tree and beside a small lagoon we enjoyed a cuppa and congenial chat..

After an hour or so we again hit the road heading south-west and passed under the South -East Freeway. Along Compton Road we turned left into Acacia Road and right into our lunch stop in Karawatha Park. After parking in the overflow



parking area because the normal car park was full, we had a short walk to a shaded grassed area for our lunch. Members visited the very interesting Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre close to where we were sitting. The Centre had a myriad of environmentally educational displays and exhibits about the surrounding forest.

After lunch and a visit to the Discovery Centre, we all headed off home. Thanks Alan for your excursion and your choice of venues, which were not only interesting but also ones that very few of us had ever been to.

Neil



Lunch at the Karawatha Forest Discovery Centre

THE NOVEMBER AUSTIN 7 RUN



Austin's at Simpsons Park, morning tea stop

The theme for this month's run was "Old & New Places of Interest"

Assembled for the start at Centenary Pool were Elaine & Trevor and Neil in their Austins, Robyn & Doug in the RED Mini and John, Tim, Kathy & Mike, Lindsay & Sharron, Valda & Ian all in moderns.

Trevor & Elaine had been planning this run for 9 months so we were handed run sheets that had grown to 12 pages. Luckily it was only 5 pages of Instructions and the rest photos and interesting facts about



Sharon, Trevor, Tim & Margaret, inspecting replica Dugout Canoe

the places we would see.

As is normal there were a few wrong turns, U-turns, follow the leader (whether they knew where they were going or not) and lots of old Brisbane landmarks to view along the way.

It was a happy group that arrived at the morning tea spot to find Barry & Molly in Alice and Margaret & Joe on their first trip in their Chummy, waiting for us. It was a leisurely stop where we were joined by Margaret & Joe's daughter and partner, and a local bush turkey who helped himself to some biscuits from Sharron's bag.



After saying our farewells to Molly & Barry we all continued our run and ended up at the Moore's residence for lunch. The BBQ was lit, the coffee was on, spare parts open and we were joined by Karyn and Peter & Gail for lunch. It was lucky the Moore's deck was large enough to seat everyone out of the sun.

The McCormack's chummy had waited till we arrived at the lunch stop before deciding that was enough. So after lunch the problem was diagnosed but it was decided that a bit of hot-wiring would get them home

safely.

Thank you Elaine & Trevor for your hospitality and all the work you put in for an enjoyable, interesting run.

Valda & Ian McDowell

Austin Seven Super Service Guide for Toowoomba

(Article Courtesy of Practical Classics Magazine of August 2001,

NOT NECESSARILY 100 % GOSPEL FOR AUSTRALIAN CARS, BUT A GOOD GUIDE.)

THE BABY Austin is a high-quality motor car, manufactured from high-grade materials, to a simple design. However, because of these qualities, many of the little cars have been abused, neglected and driven into the ground with hardly any maintenance, thus earning the unfounded reputation for bad brakes, a knife-edge clutch, and other nasty habits. If you take time to minister to your Seven's needs, you can transform a cantankerous vehicle into a real joy - just because they're able to survive years of poor maintenance doesn't mean to say it's good for them, so do justice to the 'best small car in the world' by giving it a birthday. Spares availability is good and specialists are willing to help, making the Seven an ideal choice of vintage car - so there's no excuse

ENGINE Sevens leaked oil from new and even using modern sealants you're unlikely to totally cure its incontinence. Although the tappets should be regularly checked and adjusted in theory, this is something of a job for a contortionist and, in practice, tappets rarely need attention if set correctly in the first place. Check all the nuts and bolts for tightness but don't overdo it or you'll break something.

CRANKSHAFT Listen for a rumbling rear main bearing on post 1936 cars, which used a three main-bearing crank. If left too long, the crankshaft could break as a result of the increased bending stresses. Don't ignore a worn rear bearing on the earlier two main bearing engines either, or the clutch splines will suffer. The reputation for Sevens breaking their cranks isn't totally unfounded, although Phoenix Crankshafts (01753 821303) make an 'unbreakable' two bearing crank costing about £530 (in 2001), which is worth considering if you're contemplating an engine rebuild. Seven special racers use these cranks and rev their engines without breakage.

OIL SYSTEM There's no filtration of the Seven's pressurised oil except for a mesh screen fitted between the crankcase and sump, so change the oil at least every 1000 miles and take off the sump and gauze every 2000 miles for cleaning. The big-end bearings are lubricated by oil that is dripped onto the crankshaft through jets in the crankcase. Clean them by undoing the brass plugs in the crankcase, and then poking a piece of wire through the jets. Make sure the crank webs are vertical (do it while the sump's off) so any dirt doesn't fall into pockets in the crank. Oil pressure is rarely over 5psi. Only worry if it suddenly goes high, not low, because that could mean that an oil way is blocked. If the engine has been rebuilt and is clean internally, reap the benefits of a 20/50W multigrade but if it's an old engine, use an SAE 30 monograde.

COOLING SYSTEM A well-maintained thermo-syphon system will cope in even the hottest weather but if your Seven always overheats it may be due to built-up silt in the radiator or a wrongly handed fan pushing rather than pulling air through the rad. Check the fan belt's condition and grease the fan spindle.

GEARBOX Change the oil every 5000 miles or so, using exactly one and a half pints of 20/50W engine oil, being particularly careful not to overfill it or the oil will flow straight into the middle of the clutch

CLUTCH The three clutch toggles on the pressure plate wear badly at their fulcrum points. This notoriously makes the clutch operate like an electrical switch, either in or out. Replacing the toggles with new ones and repairing the pressure plate with weld or by fitting hardened bolts will put things back to rights again. Lubricate the release bearing with six drops of engine oil every 250 miles

WHEELS Check the brass wheel nuts for worn tapers, which could mean they're bottoming out on the drum before clamping the wheel. Dressing with a file should help. Stripped threads are common. Use the correct wheel brace, so that's the amount of leverage you should use. Loose wheel nuts can also be caused by freshly painted or powder coated wheels. Check the spokes by tapping them - if they clunk instead of ring, they're loose.

TYRES Avon sidecar tyres have always been plentiful in the 3.50x19 size but until recently, the later 4.00x17 size has been tricky to find. Watch out for 4.50x17s, which can rub on the mudguards and stress the kingpins, foreign brands of dubious quality, and old tyres found at swap meets

IGNITION Early models were fitted with a magneto, which was insulated with an oil-based varnish that decomposes over time. A lot of mags have since been converted to coil ignition in the absence of a decent magneto repair specialist.

LIGHTS The Seven has six volt electrics. If the lights are dim, re-silvering the reflectors will help. Check that the wiring is up to the job - the volts are half that of a 12 volt system but the current is double, so the wires should be twice as thick. Good earthing is imperative. Motorcycle reflectors and bulbs will make a big improvement

PROPELLOR SHAFT Early cars used a rubberised fabric or leather gearbox coupling that was prone to oil contamination and decomposition, causing nasty vibrations along the way. Replacement is tedious but definitely worth it. Inspect the rear joint's cover for integrity and make sure it's packed with grease - if it's dry, it'll sound like a flock of birds following you. Joints were gradually improved until a Hardy Spicer type (identical to Morris Minor) was used towards the end of production.

KINGPINS AND HUBS Apart from keeping the pins greased weekly or every 250 miles, tap the retaining cotter pin lightly using a drift and pinch-up the nut - wear is most likely to arise from movement of the kingpin in the axle if you don't. If you strip the assembly, note that the cotter pin is not a tapered type but a half-moon type, so don't try to drift it out all the way. Ignore the factory's provision for a grease-nipple on the hub and just apply enough grease directly to the actual bearings to lubricate them.

STEERING GEOMETRY If the car wanders all over the road, it's likely there isn't enough castor on the front wheels. Adjust by slackening the radius-arm nut where it passes through the axle and twisting the tie rod until the kingpin leans back slightly. Hold the radius-arm steady while retightening the nut.

STEERING BOX Sloppy steering can be adjusted by minimising column end-float and drop-arm end-float, and by adjusting the mesh. Eliminating play in the straight-ahead position might cause tightness in other parts of the lock: dismantle the box and turn the drop-arm gearwheel through 120 degrees (twice) to an unworn sector. Grease the box every 5000 miles.

REAR AXLE The handbook recommends the use of a grease and oil mixture for the rear axle but it's quite happy to run a straight 140 oil instead - EP additives will attack the bushes and bearing cages. Drain and refill the axle about every 5000 miles. Regularly grease the nipples at the back and spray the springs with WD40.

BRAKE ADJUSTMENT Regularly check the condition of the cables and ends, and replace them if you find wear or fraying. Apply grease to the cables where they pass through the chassis and a drop of oil on the brake shoe fulcrums

via the holes in the back plate. Lubricating the cross-shaft with WD40 every 500 miles helps to keep it free. Poor braking is generally caused by wear in the system, stretch in one or more cables, or an over-adjusted brake that won't allow any of the other brakes to be applied due to the lack of any compensation in the system. To put it right, get the car on stands, remove the wheels and drums, slacken the cables and, concentrating on one brake shoe in turn, shim both ends of the shoe equally with 0.020in or 0.050 in mild steel until the drum refuses to fit, then remove the last shims. Do the same to the other shoe, check both shoes are being applied at the same time by looking for equal marks on both shoes after spinning the drum, then replace the drum, and repeat for the other three brakes. Tighten the brake cables while checking that all four wheels are being equally retarded, by incrementally applying both the foot brake, which operates at the end of the cross-shaft, and then the handbrake, which operates at the centre of the cross-shaft there's bound to be a little wear, which produces different braking effects depending on which is applied, so strike a happy medium between the two. Cable tensioners are restricted to one per cable at the (British) MoT and can be useful in fine-tuning - use the rolling road to your advantage in making final adjustments.

UNLEADED FUEL Handbooks of the day mention de-cokes and valve-grinding but with modern unleaded fuel, there are no problems. Tuned engines will require higher octane ratings and hardened valve seats.

Collection of old Austin Cars and parts in Deepwater, NSW



A friend send me these photos but no other details yet, other than the fact that the owner restorer has passed away and his wife is trying to sell the cars. If you know anyone who might be interested in Austin 12/4 and Austin 16/6 parts I will try and find out more for you! The 12 and the 16 shared the same chassis. There is a complete 16/6 Burnham Saloon for which some chrome work has been done. Date not known, but possibly 1928-30.

Editor Tim



Top Left: A collection of Austin 12 and maybe Austin 16 gearboxes with the handbrake mechanism that operates on the tail shaft.

Centre Left: Austin 12/4 Chassis, one with motor, gearbox, steering and axles. Possibly 1925-30



Bottom Left: Engine bay of the Austin 16/6 with Autovac fuel pump. The fire wall has an opening for a tool tray, which is still there! Carbide is missing, but brass priming cups and copper fuel lines are still all there, as is the wiring.



CLUB REGALIA - Show your Allegiance in Toowoomba

A7 name badges \$10-00 each and available from our Club Secretary Robyn. Red with white lettering. (Pic A) The Club is taking orders if members want them, let Robyn know on 3800 1965

Also the best dressed Austin 7 owner for the coming 2017 Touring season will be wearing;

Austin 7 Register lapel badge available to the next 80 customers for \$7 (Pic B)

25th & 40th Anniversary A7 Register badge - limited edition for the first 15 customers (Pic D)

Austin 7 car shaped badge 8 only price ? (Pic E)

1 only small club badge

Longreach Leap Badges (Pic F)

All the above items (excluding name badges) are now

available from Treasurer John on 3396 0882

For Sale No it is not an Austin Seven , but a very nice 1970 MG Midget with 1275cc motor, wire wheels and red paint. Asking \$12,750. Peter Dorman (07) 5443 2262. Cotton Tree, Sunshine Coast

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