
"THE LIGHT SHAFT"

December 2023



Seen in the most recent issue of the "A30 Minutes" club magazine.

It is interesting to observe that Austin, and its successors, continued to "trade" on the success of the "Seven", even up to the current version of the Mini.

AUSTIN 7 CLUB INC. Reg No. A0003290N
P.O. BOX 462
MOORABBIN VIC 3189
austin7club.org



Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/Austin-7-Club-Inc-1544252182541126/>



Alistair Craven's photos give a good idea of the proximity of the Annual Rally venue to the bay.



Sometimes it's the "bits & bobs" that raise the most interest.

Bev & Graeme's rug, with a plethora of patches tells an interesting story.



Bruce Shearer's Nippy is a worthy winner of Original Sports Award





Magazine of the Austin 7 Club Inc. In its 75th year

Foundation Patron of the Club

**Col. A C R Waite,(dec.) MC, OStJ, DL, JP, Freeman of the
City of London 1894—1991., Life member of the British Racing Drivers Club.
Winner of the first Australian Grand Prix.**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER

3	Sun			Year End Luncheon – Mulgrave Country Club
6	Wed	7	A	M.G.M./Spares
8	Fri	7		Tool Up at Austin 7 Heaven
9	Sat	7		Spares/B.B.Q
20	Wed	7	A	H.A.S./Spares/Christmas Pudding/Awards Night

JANUARY

1	Mon			New Years Day
17	Wed	7	A	Picnic in the Park
21	Sun			RACV Festival of Motoring – Cruden Farm
26	Fri			Australia Day
28	Sun	7	A	Nod & Natter - Booth house
29	Mon			Last Day of Summer School Holidays
31	Wed	7	A	URRRS (See replacement)

**THE AUSTIN 7 CLUB ROOMS AND CLUB SPARES
are located at**

UNIT 8/9, 19-23, KYLIE PLACE, CHELTENHAM NORTH.

All correspondence to the Secretary:

Austin 7 Club Inc. P O Box 462, Moorabbin. Vic 3189

Please do not send mail to the clubrooms

Spares are open:-

M.G.M. from 7.30 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. sharp

H.A.S. from 7.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. and between 12:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. on the Saturday following the M.G.M. (or the following Saturday if the former clashes with a Club Event)

Spares can be ordered by mail from:

Janne and Robert Humphreys, 27 Peters Drive, Cheltenham Vic 3192

Or mailorderparts@austin7club.org

FEBRUARY

3	Sat	7	A	Tool Up at Austin 7 Heaven
3	Sat			Berwick Swap Meet
7	Wed	7	A	M.G.M./Spares
7	<i>Tues</i>			<i>MA State Council - Delegates Mtg</i>
10	Sat	7		Spares/B.B.Q
10	Sat			Federation Delegates Mtg at Maryborough HVC
11	Sun			Picnic at Hanging Rock Classic Car Show
17	Sat			Club hire – Janne’s All Day Craft Day
16	Fri	7		Tool Up at Austin 7 Heaven
16-18	<i>Fri/Sun</i>			<i>Begonia Rally “Blooming Gold” VCCC Ballarat</i>
18	Sun		A	AOMC British & European Show
21	Wed	7	A	H.A.S./Spares
24	Sat			Wandin Draught Horse & Yesteryear Festival
25	Sun	7	A	Progressive Lunch

COMING

You can see a regularly updated 2024 Club Calendar on our website

Many dates are still tentative, or not confirmed

(Tentative Events/Dates are in Italics)

Club Calendar Information

- A** Event counts towards the 750 Shield and Frank Walter Trophy
- S** Event counts towards the Sprint – Hillclimb and Doc Grosvenor trophies
- 7** An event conducted by the Austin 7 Club

Spares Hours Saturday - 12:00 Noon to 2:30pm

Spares Hours for MGM. - 7:30pm to 8:00pm sharp

Spares Hours for Hot Air Session. - 7:30pm to 9:00pm sharp

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As the Club's activities wind down for the Christmas season this signals the start of activities for Historic Winton. The first press release has been issued and tickets are now online in time for Christmas presents. I am also pleased to announce that Bernard Snoodky has accepted the role of managing advertising and sponsorship. We thank Bernard for his commitment.

As we prepare for Christmas, please take the opportunity to reflect on the year, and remember all the outings and activities that the club has organised for your enjoyment. Take time to remember those members who sadly are no longer with us.

As we close the year off, please join your fellow club members for the year-end luncheon at the Mulgrave Country Club, which is subsidised by the A7 Club.

You are also invited to the A7 clubrooms for the final event for 2023 being the Christmas Pudding / Awards Night. In the spirit of Christmas this event is free of charge, please join us.

Remember we always kick the New Year off in January with the Picnic in the Park.

Merry Christmas to all, keep well and travel safely.

Len Kerwood 0419 504 233

PLEASE PAY YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL ASAP

LIGHTSHAFT COPY CLOSING

Copy for Lightshaft **closes** late on

Saturday 20 January 2024.

Vale - Ken Duggan

Sadly, the Club received news of Ken's death, after a long illness, with the following message.

13 November 2023 at 9:14 am

To all of our friends,

Just letting you know Ken is now at peace, in the arms of his

Lord.

Passed away this morning, with me by his side at Beechworth Hospital.

You will be notified of his Farewell celebration in due course.

Much love, Ruth 🤔💔

A Farewell Celebration happened on Friday 24 November, and members were circulated, by Ruth, on the details to "Live stream", and also receive a link to 'Ken's Story'.

Most of us will remember Len and Ruth from their regular attendance at Pub Crawls and other events, in his A7 Open Road Tourer. (Fourth in line in the above photo, of 2012 Pub Crawl, by Russell Dickson)



Again that green tourer is seen, behind the Bester Ulster replica.

Del Bester, another sudden death occurring last month, she is seen in this photo, in that sports.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We are pleased to welcome the new and rejoining members.

Jan Molloy is the Curator of the Australian Motorlife Museum in Stream Hill, NSW. The museum has 3 Austin 7s; a 1929 Van, 1929 Chummy and a 1928 Roadster so it sounds like it would be worth a visit if any members are up that way. Like many new members, Jan is joining up to gain access to the parts available through our wonderful Spares Department.

Many Club Members will already know Dallas Barber and husband Rob who have controlled the parking on the far side of the track at Historic Winton for many years. They now live at Alexandra and Dallas has recently purchased Bob Ellis' 1928 Fabric Roadster.

Over the last couple of years Alan Cass has been a great assistance at Austin 7 Heaven Training and Tool Up Days with his background in prototype development at GMH. From Bayswater North, he now has the beginnings of an Austin 7 for himself.

Mark Sycamnias from Yapeen has purchased Colin Jordan's Chummy "Miss Minty". Mark has joined with wife Alison and daughter Scarlett and it was nice to meet up with Mark and Alison at the recent Pub Crawl at Castlemaine.

Also joining from NSW is Paul Stockley and rejoining after a number of years is David Suttie from Bowral NSW. David has a 1925 Boattail and 1936 Special.

Membership fees are due to be paid by the end of the year so renewals will go out with this month's Light Shaft as part of the address mailer or will be emailed to members who only receive the Light Shaft electronically.

Either way look out for your renewal and deal with it as soon as possible.

Russell

Editor's Wafflings

For some of you - WELCOME TO THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

If you do not get a holiday, then you can be sure of a few things that are likely:-

- A. Your children, grandchildren or great grandchildren will either come to visit, or expect you to visit;
- B. The roads will be full of distracted drivers in category A.
- C. Your neighbourhood will be full of lots of big and little persons in category A & B.
- D. You may think that the shed may seem like a safe haven, until:-
- E. Someone/s will think that you should be “enjoying” the season, and you should be jolly.

To distract you, or fill in the holiday season, I have scattered a few puzzles in this issue of the Lightshaft.

You will, with little doubt, be distracted enough to hate Humphreys, and succumb to some of the alternatives A to E.

Puzzled?

Now I know many of you may be on “holidays”, so you are spending this time to relax and clear your mind, alternately you may be contemplating a coming holiday.

Alternately, you may be spending your relaxation time to work on your car or work on your house.

Some of you will have fallen off a ladder, while doing one, or all, of these things. So you may be having the ultimate relaxation in a hospital bed.

For ALL of you, scattered throughout this edition are a few puzzles, *to keep your brain engaged* – ladder fallers already failed that activity!

Editor's Wafflings

Most of the answers appear later in this edition - if any of you care.

Most of these are taken from “Professor Stewart’s Hoard of Mathematical Treasures”, or “The Penguin Book of Puzzles”.

Rob.H.

PS I think that looking up the internet is akin to “cheating”, for the purpose.

I remind you that these puzzles are to help you relax.

Others will remind me that puzzles are the cause of baldness.

An alternative is that you put some thought into researching, and documenting, the origins and history of your car / parts.

In this edition, David Easton has reported about two of our library books, which come in many different editions – all give good clues to everyday operation and routine maintenance of your Austin 7.

Here’s the first of the Puzzles

Four Jolly men sat down to play,
 And played all night till break of day.
 They played for gold and not for fun,
 With separate scores for everyone.
 Yet when they came to square accounts,
 They all had made quite fair amounts.
 Can you the paradox explain,
If no one lost, how could they gain?

ANSWER - See Page 46

Letter to Editor

Dear Robert,

The L/S back-cover photo, supplied last month by David Isom, interested me. Many years ago when John Hinchcliffe was Editor of the A7 Association Magazine, he sent me this photo, writing that it was claimed by others to be one of Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith's flights. He asked which one was Kingsford-Smith? I wrote back saying I didn't recognise K-S in any of them, so he never published it in the Grey Mag. Mystery solved Thanks, so I'll at least satisfy John, if not the current Editor.

Incidentally, the photo caption of 1925 is wrong. Although the scrawl on the photo itself looks like 1926, which is more likely correct.

Chummys with the flat-top scuttle and straight bottom-windscreen were not discontinued until April 1926 (maybe later in Oz?) and 7" brake drums did not happen until September 1926. Going by the one-piece screen and hood frame, I'd suggest it was an Ozzie body.

Now knowing this, those with more time on the Internet than me, may work out which of Hinkler's many flights it was.

Cheers, Bill Sheehan

That's the second puzzle, from last month partly solved, and Bill has challenged you to solve a few further historical puzzles.

What is the aircraft? Who are the people? Where is it?

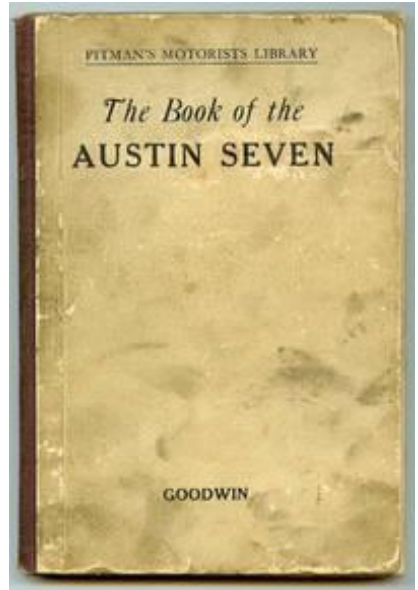
DISCLAIMER

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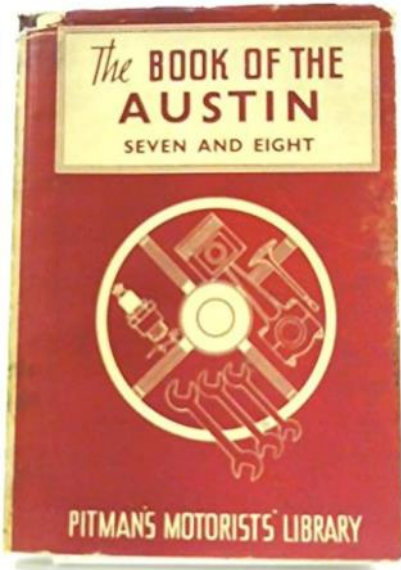
Library News

The Book Of the Austin Seven is an early work edited by Gordon Goodwin and is now hard to find. It contains information on the history and designs of the Austin Seven and includes chapters on maintenance, the electrical system and specifications. The book has quality photographs and illustrations.

The club copy has been well used but is in surprisingly reasonable condition considering this is a reprinted 1939 edition.



We also have The Book of the Austin Seven and Eight which is the fourth edition from 1953 which has been a popular book and is more readily obtainable.



Editor's Note

This series of books was published as "Pitman's Motorists Library", and those early editions by Gordon Goodwin are about 140 pages. As the editions were republished, then revised by Harold Jelley (105 pages), they lost a number of photos and diagrams. The incorporation of the "Eight", by Staton Abbey further reduced the early model content.

If you are searching for copies, have a good look at the library samples, as it becomes clear that the earlier editions that are contemporary to your car are far better. Rob.H.

COMING EVENTS

To all of you who have a car under the Club Permit Scheme.

Check your date of EXPIRY of your Permit.

ALSO check ALL details - including expiry date, addresses etc.

When paying ALWAYS retain your receipt.

Keep a scanned copy of your receipt with your logbook.

Please get a My VicRoads Account.

A My VicRoads Account also assures you of an email reminder for renewal of all your car registrations, permits and Drivers Licence.

Check your My VicRoads Account to ensure that your CPS cars appear - you may need to take some additional action, for this to happen, but it is worthwhile

SPARES

*PLEASE come to Spares **with a list prepared beforehand**, to speed up being served, and make it easier on our volunteers.*

***PLEASE** When you visit Spares try to make all your purchases in **a single transaction**.*

This makes the book-work much easier for our volunteers, and respects other members who also want to make purchases.

EVENTS FOR YOUR AUSTIN 7 IN 2024

If you have an idea for an event for our Austin 7s, or if you want to help run an event, but need help, let a Committee member know, and it can become part of the Club Calendar for 2024.

Perhaps you could even revive, or recreate, a form of event that was popular in the past but lacked an active organiser.

COMING EVENTS

A7 Club Christmas Lunch 2023

Mulgrave Country Club

(Cnr Jells & Wellington Roads, Wheelers Hill) noon

Sunday 3 December 2023 in Panorama Room



64 persons required – 2022 had 74 persons

- ◇ Seniors Soup, Mains & Dessert – and vegetarian to be catered for
- ◇ Soup of the day with fresh bread roll; Turkey Breast & Champagne Ham house made stuffing, Gravy, Cranberry Sauce and Seasonal Vegetables &
- ◇ Plum Pudding with Brandy Custard - including one bottle of red and white wine per alternate table, other drinks at bar prices with complimentary tea and coffee and Christmas decor

COST AT \$35 PER COUPLE OR \$17.50 PER PERSON

INTENTION TO ATTEND REQUIRED IN WRITING BY 20/10/2023

Payable to A7 General Account

BSB 083-323 Account 81-131-6316

MCC LUNCH – YOUR SURNAME

ronandhelencrellin@bigpond.com AND david.finn4@bigpond.com

THE VICTORIAN CLUB PERMIT SCHEME

*It is the policy of our Club that owners of Austin 7 Club Club Permit vehicles **MUST** maintain financial membership at all times.*

Your Club Permit Officers are, our Membership Secretary Russell Dickson and Robert Humphreys.

Remember to plan ahead if you need a Club Permit Scheme application or renewal signed or issued. You will find more detail on the club permit scheme on the Web Site

<http://www.austin7club.org/>

COMING EVENTS

Monthly General Meeting Wednesday 6 December 2023

Our last General Meeting for 2023, come and hear how things have gone at the latest events.

Perhaps buy a few spare parts to treat you favourite car at Christmas.

Club Secretary

Tool Up at Austin 7 Heaven - Friday 8 December 2023

Austin 7 Heaven has also been “tooling up” with a few new pieces of equipment to help you build, repair or maintain your Austin 7.

There’s lots to watch, while other members work on their dreams.

Spares / BBQ Saturday 9 December 2023

Come and share your latest woes, and how you fixed them, share stories, and tell others what you learned at the Tool Up on the Friday.

Plum Pudding Night - Wednesday 20 December 2023

at the Clubrooms - a further chance to celebrate a great year.

Annual Presentations of Club Awards and Aggregate Trophies will occur on this night.

A chance to have plum pudding, with friends, or fruit salad for those who prefer an alternate celebratory feed.

DID YOU THROW OUT THE MAILER?

It had your Renewal of membership form attached.

Please read the Renewal Form carefully and correct any entries that are incorrect and PLEASE add your email address if there isn’t one.

COMING EVENTS

NEW YEARS DAY - Monday 1 January 2024

Time to let your hair down - if you have any, OR get over last night.

Your Club has failed to plan anything exciting, since it's concerned at the potential repercussions, and besides which, most of the Committee will still be recovering, if they have arrived home.

PICNIC IN THE PARK - Wednesday 17 January 2024

VENUE: - Kingston Heath Reserve (locally known as the 50 Acre),
entry from Farm Rd, Cheltenham MELWAY Map 87F1

– on driveway to Ron Brownlees Hockey Pavilion, and Southern United Hockey Club (there is a sign on Farm Road).

Early birds at about 5:45 pm.

There are usually lots of Austins at this event, which is a great time to bring the family for a barbecue. There is good parking for the “baby”.

This is a good time to shake, or blow, the cobwebs out of your Austin ready for the New Year, and to also catch up with your friends after Christmas.

I given up on the suggested quick jog around the oval, although it might be in order for those who indulged too freely during the festive season. Perhaps just bring a comfortable bottle of wine, a delectable low fat partner, and let your chair do all the exercise.

BYO everything. the BBQ is unfortunately too remote (at 450 metres, in the other end of the park.

Rob. Humphreys - 9583 6316


SPARES CHRISTMAS CLOSURE


Please note that Spares will close at the December Hot Air Session on the 20 December, 2023 and re-open again at the MGM on 7 February, 2024.

COMING EVENTS

All the members who attended last year's Festival, came to the next meeting with glowing reports.

An event well worth attending.





Festival of Motoring
at Cruden Farm
Sunday 21st January 2024

Open to all Historic, Veteran, Vintage, and Classic vehicles over 25 years old.
Club displays welcome
A Celebration of Motoring Throughout the Decades.



- Display Vehicles Must Be Pre Booked www.aomc.asn.au/festival-of-motoring
- Cruden Farm, Cranbourne Frankston Rd, Langwarrin
- The McClelland Drive gates open for display vehicles from 9am
- \$20 Entry for display cars (Includes passengers)
- Spectator entry and car park off Cranhaven Rd.
- Spectator Admission \$10 per person. Children free
- All profits from this event will be donated to Beyond Blue
- Childrens Entertainment, Music, Food & Trophies



Presented by the Association of Motoring Clubs in association with RACV
For further details contact 0473 832 277
www.aomc.asn.au and aomc facebook

Nod & Natter - 28 January 2024

A new initiative, essentially an opportunity to drive to a nominated members house for afternoon tea. May be monthly or bi-monthly, a bit like Round the Houses, but more low-key. This first one is at Ilona Booth's property for afternoon tea and a garden/garage tour.

5th Wednesday event

To have a fifth Wednesday in January is rare, and many of you are away, so John McMillan has planned a move of this event to an alternate date early in the year.

COMING EVENTS

Tool Up at Austin 7 Heaven - SATURDAY 3 February 2024

A *new format* just for SATURDAY Tool UP. Come in whatever part of the day suits you. Sandwich and drink refreshment will be available all day

Monthly General Meeting Wednesday 7 February 2024

Our first General Meeting for 2024, I know you will all be excited to tell everyone where you took your Austin 7 for Christmas, or New Year.

Have you planned a rejuvenation for your Austin 7?

Come and collect the parts, so that you'll be able to lose them before you get around to doing the work.

Spares / BBQ Saturday 10 February 2024

Browse the Spares, buy a few, then ask a knowledgeable member how to fit it whilst munching a snag. A great time to share stories.

Tool Up at Austin 7 Heaven - Friday 16 February 2024

These FRIDAY Tool Up days remain as usual, with a BBQ Lunch.

What project do you need help with, or some machining?

Or perhaps the ultimate - Do It Yourself.

BUT, still far, far better, are the facilities, and many knowledgeable helpers at Austin 7 Heaven.

Tool Up: “to provide someone or something with the tools or equipment needed for making something, or to be provided with these tools or equipment.”

I choked on a carrot this morning, and all I could think of was,
"I'll bet a doughnut wouldn't have done this to me."

COMING EVENTS

JANNE'S SCRAPBOOKING DAY—Saturday 17 February 2024

I have opened the booking for - *SUMMER FUN*

There will be a card making session from 1.30 to 3.30 in the afternoon where you will be making 6 cards. The cost for this workshop is \$15.00.

The cost of just attending the all day scrapbooking session is \$40 and if you wish to do both sessions the cost is \$50.00.

I require payment when you book to come. and I can give you my bank account details when you contact me so you can pay me directly.

Please contact me as follows:

Email: janne.humphreys@yahoo.com.au

Mob: 0427 772 261

Phone: (03) 9583 6316

TRAINING DAY - Saturday 17 February .2024

CANCELLED

British & European Motoring Show - Sunday 18 February 2024

Always a great event to showcase our cars, and see lots of delectable vehicles.

Get your car polished up, and there, to promote our Club.

Also a good place to promote Historic Winton.

**BRITISH &
EUROPEAN
MOTORING SHOW 2024**

OPEN TO ALL VEHICLES MANUFACTURED IN THE UK & EUROPE.

Proudly Presented by
THE ASSOCIATION OF
MOTORING CLUBS

Supported by
THE RACV

Celebrating 125 years of Fiat
Celebrating 60 years of the Mercedes Benz Pagoda

Display cars from 9.00 am
Spectators from 10.00 am
Event details 0473 832 277
For site plan and more info:
www.aomc.asn.au/britishandeuropean
fb.com/infoaomc

Sunday 18th February 2024
Yarra Glen Racecourse Armstrong Grove, Yarra Glen

COMING EVENTS

Hot Air Session / Spares Wednesday 21 February 2024

Found a magic way to get better performance - from your car.

Come and share it with others.

MESSAGE FROM BRIAN GIBBONS

In my Nippy article, in this issue, I provide to you “evidence” of just one of our activities at our Tool Up Days.

That said, we are contemplating having a Friday followed by a Saturday on a fortnightly basis as we would like to encourage our working members to participate at the facility.

Cheers, Brian

And, another puzzle, to keep you annoyed.

NAME THE CARDS

“Ladies and Gentlemen,” the Great Whodunni announced, “My assistant, Grumpelina, will ask a member of the audience to place three cards in a row on the table, while I am blindfolded. I will then ask her to provide some limited information, after which I will name those cards.”

The cards were chosen and placed in a row. Grumpelina then recited a strange list of statements:

- To the right of a King there’s a Queen or two.
- To the left of a Queen there’s a Queen or two.
- To the left of a Heart there’s a Spade or two.
- To the right of a Spade there’s a Spade or two.

Instantly, Whodunni named the three cards.

What were they?

NOTE that ‘two’ here means two cards, not a card with two spots.

ANSWER - See Page 31

COMING EVENTS

2024 Progressive Lunch

Sunday 25 February 2024

THEME "MUSIC"



Morning Tea at Sam Holt Memorial Park Playground

777 Point Nepean Highway, Rosebud

Commencing at 10.30 am

BYO chairs, tables and coffee and tea

Nibbles provided

Lunch at Colin and Helen Jordan's house

11 Alexandra Crescent, Rye

Commencing at 12 noon

Finger food

A selection of wines and drinks to be included

Afternoon Tea at Paul and Leanne Goethel's house

Commencing at 3 pm

182 Eromosa Road East, Somerville

Selection of sweets with tea and coffee

Cost TBA per person

**Pay on the day OR into A7 General Account BSB 083 323,
Account 81 131 6316 using**

2024 PROG -"Your Name"

AND

email on socialsecretary@austin7club.org for your intention to attend

Ron and Helen Crellin - Social Secretary 2023

COMING EVENTS



Austins Over Australia 2024
Thursday 7th March to Monday 11th March 2024
in Orange, NSW



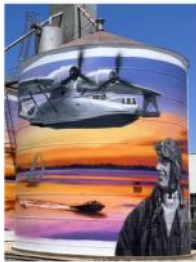
A programme of events showcasing the beautiful city of Orange, our Austin Motor Vehicles, and a time to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Contact details for this event:

Tony Groom, Tour Director AOA 2024

Mob: 0412 036 774

email: AOA2024@amvcnsw.com.au



Save the date

Swan Hill Border Run 2024

13th to 16th Sept, 2024



Why is Santa so damn jolly?

Because he knows where all the naughty girls live.

What do you call an elf wearing earmuffs?

Whatever the hell you want. He can't hear you.

How is Christmas just like any other day at the office?

You do a bunch of work and some fat guy in a suit gets all the credit.

Christmas Card Recycle

Once Christmas 2023 and the New Year 2024 commences, then it is time to recycle all unwanted Christmas Cards at the Clubrooms

There will be an Australia Post Box aptly titled

“ RECYCLED CHRISTMAS CARDS HERE”

These cards are recycled at The Orchards Aged Care in Templestowe, where Helen Crellin volunteers as a craft coordinator

Thanks in advance

It's time to consider how you can get your Austin 7 to Historic Winton 2024, AND help out as an official, but also potentially participate in:-

- ⇒ The Friday Tour
- ⇒ The Display at the track, either in the car park, OR in the Corporate Pavilion
- ⇒ Sunday Parade Laps

If you have a competition A7, and do not want to compete, display in the Competition Paddock may also have potential.

47th HISTORIC WINTON
25th and 26th May 2024
GIGANTIC CAR SHOW
 CLUB DISPLAYS | PARADE LAPS | TRADE SITES

www.historicwinton.org
 Winton Motor Raceway, Benalla, Victoria

BENALLA RURAL CITY | The Austin Seven CLUB | AUSTRALIAN AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION

Austin Seven Club Inc. A0003290N | Photo - Peter Knight Photography

CLUB VISITOR

If you know of a Member who is unwell or in Hospital please contact Bruce Walker, our Club Visitor. He will visit or send a card to the Member.

Contact Bruce on brucewalkerartisan@gmail.com

9807 1729 or 0409 410 700.

Bruce Walker, is a very busy fellow, and much appreciated by all those members who have received words of encouragement, commiseration, or congratulations.

I certainly know that Fiona Humphreys was very excited to receive not only a card, but also a phone call, from Bruce, congratulating her on attaining 40 years.

Fiona also had a great party, at the A7 Clubrooms, with about 40 friends.



OLD NEWS - HISTORY OF THE CLUB

The next pages include copies of the March 1952 Club newsletter, in a Two page foolscap format. Having grown, over two years, from a Quarto single page format.

It is, effectively, a copy of what is the FIRST - "LIGHTSHAFT", a name selected by the Secretary, as he was, at that time, the writer and producer of the newsletter. - Read on with interest!

It is also interesting to ponder that the same repetitive message, about paying your subscription, is a constant.

For Sales at 1/2d, or a 1d per word, was an interesting concept that appeared to "failed to proceed".

PAST EVENTS - ANNUAL AUSTIN 7 RALLY

We were blessed with a perfect day on Sunday 8 October 2023 for the 55th. Annual Rally, at Sandringham Angler's Club. Thirty two cars found their way past the salubrious Sandringham Yacht Club to the end of a sandy track in front of the more modest Angler's Club .

Set amongst tea trees and scrub this was the most splendid of spots right behind the Dog Beach. The dogs didn't seem to mind and neither did we as it would be hard to find a better location unless you want the public to be privy to our passion. This location must be a well kept secret known mostly to local anglers and dogs plus perhaps their walkers. Phil Hallo did well to find it !



The sunny weather brought out many lovely models and quite a few nice Austins too !

The highlight for me and I suspect many others was Allan Tyrrell's Original Supercharged Ulster who unsurprisingly won the Director's Choice on the day.



PAST EVENTS - ANNUAL AUSTIN 7 RALLY

Special award went to Dennis Hourigan,

Commercial to Greg Drummond,

Transport to Rob and Ivy Davis,

Original Sports to Bruce Shearer and

Most Original to Paul Johnson.



Rob. & Ivy Davis with their roadster

Yours Truly in his Comet missed out once again(sob, sob!) even though he'd braved the West Gate, countless roadblocks and thousands of cyclists in Lycra competing in Round the Bay or whatever it was ? Perhaps he needs to clean between the spokes or offer the judges a bigger bribe next year ? We live in hope !

That aside it was a splendid venue and day with a great turn out of Austin Sevens .

Well done to Phil, Julene and others involved in organising a wonderful day.

David Isom.

Right: David Isom's car, with its well presented information signs, is always of interest to passing visitors.



"THE LIGHT SHAFT"

MARCH 1952

The Monthly Circular of the

AUSTIN SEVEN CLUB

Well you think of a better name for this monthly effort. The author of this ghastly name was working on the theme of "When you have seen the Light you save up to buy a heavy shaft"!

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Again we have to start on this gloomy note for some. Unless we receive outstanding subscriptions before the end of the month we will cross you off our books. Come now chaps it is only 10/6 a year, and as each circular cost the Club about fivepence per copy some of you owe the Club several shillings at this rate. For those of you with short memories here is the Treasurer's address again:--

DOUG. VENT, 78 Witford Street, Fwood.

Phone LA5374.

The run to Jamieson and Woods Point on 28th February now joins the famous run to Flinders, neither of which took place. The terrors of mountain roads and fears of a night in dark forests put so many people off that the run was abandoned.

At the March General Meeting Fred Thorne was presented with the Aggregate Points Cup for the second year in succession, the Cup this year was a half pint pewter beer tankard with a glass bottom, so now he has two almost exactly the same. Why the glass bottom? You ask, we don't know.

The Secretary mentioned a Member's suggestion that a For Sale and Wanted section be included in this circular at a rate to be decided, either 1d. or 2d. per word so think about it.

Don Dunoon of Geelong would like to know if anyone would be willing to take part in a few races at the Corio Grass Track Meeting on April 27. He hopes to race but would like some competition and moral support. We dont know if competition licences are required or not, but Don Dunoon at 53 Shannon Avenue, Newtown, Geelong will give you all the dope. Will dope seekers please write early, so as not to be disappointed.

FUTURE EVENTS.

Treasure Hunt on Saturday evening 15th March. This Circular may not reach you in time but those sufficiently interested have already entered. The start will be in Franklin Street beside the City Baths at 7.30 p.m. Fred. Thorne has organised this event and he suggests that competitors should wear old clothes and have a torch and street directory with them. Only Austin Sevens with a minimum of one driver and one adult passenger are eligible for the prize.

The next event is the Eltham Gymkhana on Sunday 30th. March. This will be held at the Eltham Picnic Grounds and the fun and games will start at 1.30 p.m. after a picnic lunch up there. The organiser of this event is Ellis Horman of 609 Malvern Road, Toorak, entries should be sent to him with 5/- fee, or given to him at the Hot Air Session on 19th March. Entries close on the 22nd. Entry forms should also be obtained from him. The start of the Club Run up to the picnic will be at 10.30 a.m. from Stradbroke Park at the junction of Burke Road and Belmore Road.

The Hot Air Session will take place as usual, but next month we may have a discussion of something or other.

The next April General Meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd. at the Club Room 11 Goodwood Street, Richmond, at 8 p.m.

John Pryce, having named the "LIGHTSHAFT", then claimed, in the April 1952 Lightshaft, that we were stuck with the name.

"THE LIGHT SHAFT"

APRIL 1952

The Monthly Circular of theAustin Seven Club

No one has shot the Secretary so I suppose the new name for this circular is approved, or what is far more likely no one reads the beastly thing!

In the hope that at least some people read the first few lines of this work, we will start by giving details of forthcoming events.

16th APRIL - Wednesday - Hot Air Session.

At 10.15 A.M. Rex Davis will be accepting entries for the Rally and Driving Tests. There will of course be the usual volume of hot air talked on all sides.

20th APRIL - Sunday - Rally and Driving Tests.

Prizes given at 10.15 A.M. Entry 100s/- per car. Start from 10.00 a.m.

The morning will consist of a drive into the country during which competitors will be required to make certain observations, obey the usual rules of the road and above all find their way. A picnic lunch will be had somewhere then the driving test will start. These tests will all be of the "type" to which speed is much more important than speed, in fact not one test will be judged on fastest time. Also there will be tests of the car to make sure everything is right.

27th APRIL - Sunday - Civic Race Track Meeting.

Some Members might like to make a run of this Meeting by going down all together, suggested meeting place in Hemlington Road opposite the Royal Colbourne Hospital at say 10.30 a.m. One or two of our members may be taking part in the racing. Interested races the last months circular.

7th MAY - Wednesday - General Meeting.

It is hoped to give prizes for all three of this years club events at this Meeting. More details will be given of May's sporting activities (and a very sporting sort she is too!

10th MAY - Saturday Evening - Chop Picnic at Warrandyte.

It is intended that some or all of the following things will accompany this month's issue. (a) Membership Cards (b) Receipts for those who have not had them yet. (c) List of Members. (d) Technical Bulletin on the Zenith Updraft Carburettor.

Items (a) & (b) are fairly easy, (c) will take some doing and (d) has had a spanner thrown into it as the person who has all the information has had to go to hospital.

Now for the activities of last month. Both the Treasure Hunt and the Gymkhana were a great success. The Treasure Hunt on 15th March had a record number of starters, 18 all together. Among the many queer things that had to be done during the evening we can only list a few such as pulling an old tyre out of the Varra, measuring the "Herald" Office front door with a hot sparking plug, counting broken panes in a window, finding a burned out boat shed, looking for a seated statue in Williams Street, dangling over the water at St. Kilda beach to retrieve a piece of paper and so on. One of the specimens you had to display at the finish was six knitted stitches, this produced both the sublime and the ridiculous. The best effort was the shoe lace knitted with two match sticks, while at the other end of the scale two enterprising young men handed in a very coarse and hairy piece of string knitted with two massive twigs!

Charlie Marshall's flying through the air act is now well known, but the effect of dropping two and a half feet without prior warning was felt most by Charlie's passenger who was sitting on the tools! Rex Davis took so long to get all the answers that he had plenty of time to do his customary 120 miles to complete a 30 mile course. The two starters who did not finish were Alan Waters whose brakes fell off and John Howlett whose stomach nearly fell out.

It is interesting to note that Page 2, of that 1952 magazine, proposes a conducted tour of the site of the proposed racing track on Phillip Island.

John Fleming was intimately involved in this development, and also flogged early membership to PIARC, to many A7 Club members.

A run to Phillip Island is being conducted by John Fleming on Sunday, April 6th. The idea is to make a day trip of it and see the proposed racing track on the Island. The distance is 80 miles to Phillip Island so an early start is essential. Therefore the start will be at 9.00 a.m. sharp from Williams Road by Como Park.

The other dates to remember in April are 8 16th, Hot Air Session and 20th., Rally and Driving Tests, but more of this next time.

Several Members made the pilgrimage to Rob Roy on the 10th. of this month to watch Fred Thorne try this Hill for the first time. As usual there was no opposition, this must be remedied and we do urge all owners of allegedly Hot Machines to get them going and join Fred. in these open sports car events.

The Committee are probably the most guilty for out of the 9 Members, Fred Thorne has the only mobile Austin, while six others are still being built.

Don Patten's car will be taking an active part in competitions when it is run in and some of the Meteors must surely show their paces sooner or later.

So let us see many more entries in the Club competitions, and the Gymkhana at Eltham is a very good one to start with.

Next month we hope to start the Technical Bulletins again. If enough information can be collected the next one will be about that old and trusty friend the Type 22F Zenith Carburettor. Many Club Members still use this instrument so a few notes on what to do and why should be useful.

Also next month we will send out lists of Members, because by then we will know who has paid up and who has lost interest. At the same time Membership Cards will be issued.

The response to the call for Aluminium was not very great so we make it again. This Aluminium scrap is required so that we can place an order for our car badges which will be cast in Aluminium. Bring all the old bits you can along to the Meeting and give them to Jack Cawthorne.

The next page has an extract from Page 1 of the November 1952 Lightshaft. The Club had developed fast over those less than 3 years, with a well developed series of events and a solid start at encouraging the development of "State Branches" (Actually self-governed clubs), in NSW, WA, QLD and SA. (Some of those did not survive, and some flourished)

This extract, on the next page explains a restructure, and naming of new positions that still exist, one being Editor, and another Competition Secretary.

THE LIGHT SHAFT

November, 1952

The Monthly Circular of the Austin 7 Club

The Club Membership continues to grow, not only in Victoria, but also in other States. In view of this increase, certain changes in the Committee have been made, these changes were discussed at some length at a recent Committee Meeting (these Meetings are rather like the Monthly Meetings and Hot Air Sessions rolled into one, but much more unruly, recently they have been held at the Hon. Sec's House - is there a "Bottle-O" in the Club?). The result of this Meeting is that we now have an Interstate Secretary, namely - Nigel Quick of 5 Tintern Avenue, Toorak - he is more energetic in the letter writing than the bloke who should have been doing this before. His job will be to keep in touch with the State Branches and look after the Interstate Correspondence. Next, we have a Magazine Editor - Ellis Norman - he will collect all the material for the Light Shaft, arrange to have it typed and duplicated. The Light Shaft will then be divided up into the usual Magazine Sections such as - a short Editorial on Nothing in Particular - Notes from State Branches supplied by the State Secretaries, in the case of Victoria we hope to have a few words from the Hon. Sec. - Future Events - Report of recent events - List of new Members, etc. At the end of the magazine we hope to have all the For Sale and Wanted Notices.

Other load spreading changes are, that the Treasurer will now issue Membership Cards and so ensure that more of you get them sooner! The title of the Track Steward will be changed to Competition Secretary and John Leaming is the man. He will help in arranging all competitions and will make sure that the description of the event is written up for the magazine.

What are the advantages? Well, more letters should get written, there should be more of the Circular for you to read, the Hon. Sec. hopes to get to bed earlier, and (this should be read very softly) he may even start doing something to finish his car.

Last Month we were unable to report the run to Templestowe, but now we know what a good day it was. There was quite a collection of Austin 7 in the car park but unfortunately this collection was not so prominently placed as in the previous Templestowe Meeting. It should be our regular practice to park in the same prominent place at each Meeting and "show the flag" in more ways than one (pannants at 3/6d. each will be on sale again soon!). The Meeting itself was excellent, once again our sole representative was Fred Thome who came 3rd in the up to 1100 cc sports class with a time better than the previous record.

Another event in which two of our Members took part was the A.H.S. Club Ghymkhana on the 19th October. Rex Davis this time joined the ever present Fred Thome. They had quite a lot of fun demonstrating the suitability of their cars for this sort of event. Fred came third behind a TC and a Singer (shame!).

A description of our own Ghymkhana on the 26th is being included as a "Stop Press".

FUTURE EVENTS

4th November, Rob Roy. We are not having a Club Run to this event as not everyone has a holiday, besides there will be a run to a hill climb later in the month. Members wishing to go should arrange things amongst themselves. Don Patton hopes to run in the 350 racing class.

5th November. Monthly General Meeting at the Club Room, 11 Goodwood Street, Richmond at 8 p.m.

23rd November, Templestowe. Club Run starting from junction of High Street East and Burke Road at 10 a.m. sharp.

Editor's Note:

All of that was a result of Robert reminiscing on the end of his 30th year as Editor. As a result my hair is now white, but at least I have it all (mostly).

I first did the Editor job in 1972, having performed an apprenticeship, under John Neve, and having experience, of about 12 years, producing newsletters for church groups and tennis clubs. Breaks as Minute Secretary, Club Secretary and President in the A7 Club never diminished my passion, but sadly, did not increase my skills as Editor.

With Janne's passion for theatre, I was also enticed to share time with three different theatre companies (writing Club Rules for each), my obsession with Citroens was a diversion, and Committees of about 10 different tennis clubs (not all at once) proved also to be an additional diversion, but my Austin 7s passion has overcome all, and now remains the only club where I continue to directly serve the members.

EMPLOYED WORK, was always an impediment to all of these, but the whole family has a passion to eat and live in comfort (and mess).

BUT tennis is still a passion, and keeps me fit enough to climb in and out of the sports Austin 7 (I wish it was going)

Rob.H.

If you think you are smarter than the previous generation.....

- ◆ 50 years ago the owners manual of a car showed you how to adjust the valves.
- ◆ Today it warns you not to drink the contents of the battery.

This puzzle invented by Gerald Kaufman.

The cards were King of Spades, Queen of Spades and Queen of Hearts.

FEDERATION NEWS

The quarterly meeting of the Federation of Veteran, Vintage and Classic Cars Inc was held on 14 October 2023. Main items of note were:

- a. The Federation lost some \$20,000 last year due to the Victorian Government taking over the Bendigo Showgrounds for those displaced by the Rochester floods so the Bendigo Swap was cancelled. Reason given for no compensation being paid by the govt was that no physical damage had occurred, though expenses had been.
- b. New buildings for table tennis are proposed for the showgrounds which may be adaptable for the Swap.
- c. Possible rerun in 2025 of the Shannons 2000 Rally to Canberra.
- d. Money left over from the Shannons 2000 was used to create the Robert Shannon Trust which provides funds for young restorers to continue their projects. Latest grant has gone to a 21 year old for the restoration of a 1947 Triumph 1800 roadster.
- e. Electric Vehicles – Vicroads are looking at a special RWC for these.
- f. Most clubs will be affected by the ATO's requirement that "Not for Profit" organisations will have to lodge tax returns if their income from anything other than subscriptions exceeds \$416is.

Richard Unkles

Note It is understood that f. affects "Not for Profit" but not Sporting Clubs, and the A7 Club is a sporting club.

Also the \$416 appears to apply to non-mutual income, ie that from other than Club Members.

PAST EVENTS - LADIES DAY

Steve Morgan, member from Warrnambool suggested that we run a Jewellery Day at the Austin 7 Club Rooms, using his friends Nick, Diamond Setter and Jeweller and Jennifer, Geologist. From then on Michael thought let's reward the women who have done exceptional work in our Austin 7 Club.

Brian & Glynis volunteered to create the invitations and send them to as many ladies that they could contact and the men were delighted with the response.

Len Kerwood welcomed the ladies and commended several ladies on their work either on committee or at Historic Winton or both.

Nick gave us a powerpoint demonstration on his designing and setting of the diamonds. Also Jennifer gave us an interesting talk on the variety of gems and geology. They also had a display of jewellery for us to buy. And many women had their jewellery cleaned. There were a few purchases and Nick also took several pieces of jewellery back to his workshop for repairs.



PAST EVENTS

We had morning tea, champagne, a catered lunch and afternoon tea for over 50 ladies and were waited on by Michael, Steve, Ron, Robert and John in their classy black and white uniforms. You can imagine the noise with 50 women talking at once. It's just as well the men were enjoying the speakers and lunch provided by Russell at Austin Seven Heaven.



Thank you to the members who helped to set up tables and to Bev who provided the flowers for tables.

Helen Shegog



Editor's Report

Boy, what a success, the segregated Ladies Day at the Clubrooms, and the Men at Austin 7 Heaven.

All the chauffer driver vehicles were banished to Austin 7 Heaven.

The ladies were then entertained as reported by Helen.

All agreed they had a wonderful day.

EDITOR's Note: I must admit to being a little disappointed, since the men were not allowed to attend, as I was looking forward to hearing these discussions.

PAST EVENTS

However, after delivering the women, to the clutches of the jewellery temptations, the male chauffers were sent to purgatory, into the evil den of Austin 7 Heaven. There they had the pleasure of seeing this wonderful facility for satisfying all sorts of mechanical fetishes and lusts, as they viewed many dependant babies that were being dismembered, disinfected or in day care. (It is apparent that baby/carer ratios are yet to be reviewed by our beneficent rulers)

Russell talked about the history of his creation of this den of iniquity, followed by an informative talk by Brian Gibbons about his present inamorata (the Nippy), and its history of a life term of transportation from the evils of UK. He spoke in great detail about the rehabilitation of this rare sub-species of baby, and fellow siblings. He circulated a very informative document prepared by Chis Gould, about these sub-species of the “baby”, and about the various cloning techniques, available prosthesis, skeletal care, skin care and various performance enhancing techniques. Brian became quite excited when describing its great attributes, but also talked with glowing detail about its older sibling (mostly known as “Ulster”), and described how she had attributes that hampered older riders, as throwing the leg over was quite difficult. However, whilst Brian did not explain the source of the name, “Nippy”, she clearly facilitates much easier entry, for the older owners, and its extra weight gives a much more leisurely ride.



NOTE: Brian also described how “Ulster” was a nickname, given to this sub-species, in memory of its performance enhanced exploits during a jaunt at this overseas colony of UK.

PAST EVENTS - ANNUAL AUSTIN 7 RALLY

After Brian's talk, about his inamorata, he talked about how Austin 7 Heaven satisfied the lusts of a wide range of Club Members, with extremely informed facilitators that were fully prepared to coach and preach about the skills of satisfying any needs of "our babies". He also showed samples of the products of the parent of our babies, and some of the replacement, or prosthetic, parts that are but a small sample of the pleasures that can be found in learning new techniques and skills under careful supervision, and when using the correct implements, and performance enhancing means.

Brian then introduced our leading facilitator, Greg, who lovingly described his role in training and passing on skills to fellow enthusiast, and teaching how the various machines at Austin 7 Heaven can be used to repair/make/create, almost anything.



Bill Sheehan talked about early offspring of the species, and produced various skeletal, and well preserved organ remnants, and sought confirming forensic advice, from his audience, on the potential source of the evidence of early life of the species, before it was subjected to evolutionary development. Some of these "body parts" were signs of earlier performance enhancing techniques used by early "baby doctors". The shock absorbent additives, were clearly evidence that early "doctors" were well aware of the impact of weight gain as the species was genetically modified.



PAST EVENTS - ANNUAL AUSTIN 7 RALLY

Chris Athey then gave an enlightening talk about evidence of brain surgery techniques that were imported from UK, which involved a full head replacement, accompanied by removal of valves from the torso, and grafting into the head. He alleges that it gives his “Meteor” increased performance, so that it lives up to its name. (Then again it may disintegrate on re-entry, only time will tell)

Rob.H.

Editor’s Note: “Meteor” is another sub-species, subjected to extensive skin surgery by Antipodes body builders, which has a bustle and various fripperies, usually with a similar entry impediment to the “Ulster”, but with very obvious weight gain.

MY AUSTIN 65/Nippy by Brian Gibbons

65/Nippy Presentation at Austin 7 Heaven – 21st October, 2023.

Firstly, I must mention my friend Chris Gould, who is highly regarded for his research into Austin 7 Factory built Sports models. He has published his knowledge widely, in particular in the publication: “A Guide to the Austin “65” and Nippy”. Along with other reference publications, such as the: Austin Seven Source Book, I will attempt to present a short summary and musings on the car before you.

Arguably the most popular and successful Austin Seven sports model was the EA Sports, which is commonly called the “Ulster” because of racing success in Ireland in 1929 at the Ulster TT. This was held on the ARDs road circuit near Belfast. The Ulster, like other factory racing cars, had what is referred to as the: sports conversion kit applied to the standard chassis components. This incorporated the use of: lowered steering and suspension, sports engines, gearboxes etc. They were clad in an aluminium body with a pointed tail. In production form they were released to the public and about

MY AUSTIN 65/Nippy by Brian Gibbons

200 Ulsters were sold, with 50 of them with supercharged engines, but they all had pressure fed engines. When the long wheelbase chassis was introduced in October 1931, the Ulster sports became obsolete.

A new model was designed around the new chassis and released by the Austin Factory in June 1933 with the name: The Austin Seven “65” Sports Model. The name is indicative of a 65mph top speed. In consistency with the Ulster that it superseded, it was designated the EB model. The “65” shared most of the Ulster sports conversion kit (with the addition of the new 4 speed gearbox with altered ratios and a rear axle with a lower diff ratio (of 5.625:1). The diff ratio was to deal with the now heavier weight of this model. The “65” body had aluminium panels on an ash frame with a steel bulkhead and floor pan. The name of the car changed around August 1934. It became the Nippy. The name change coincided with the aluminium body being replaced by an all steel one. Externally they looked much the same. What did become apparent very early on was that no amount of tuning was going to make the 65/Nippy a replacement for the Ulster as a racing machine. It was essentially a sports tourer and that is basically how they were marketed.

There were some 980 65s and Nippies sold over their production life from: June 1933 until late 1937. Included in these numbers are left hand drive (LHD) models, which I understand were built in the Austin factory then provided to the Willys-Overland-Crossley (WOC) company. The WOC company was based in: Stockport - UK, Berlin - Germany and Antwerp – Belgium. Their overseas agencies then sold them to local customers. There is a famous photograph of Adolph Hitler standing with Herbert Austin at the 1935 Berlin Motor show, next to a: WOC Austin Nippy. Additionally, the Austin factory also provided 65/Nippy rolling chassis’ to other coach builders. One example is the: Arrow Coachworks in the UK, which built their own style of bodies and in this case utilised the name: “Arrow 65”. In a recent conversation with David Isom I learnt that his Australian built “Comet 65” also has Nippy mechanicals.

MY AUSTIN 65/Nippy by Brian Gibbons

This is my very dry and informative discussion on all things Nippy but rather than bore you to tears, here is another take on them.

Firstly, let's face it, they're a damn good looking Austin 7. But when it comes to sports models, they're not a patch on the Ulsters for performance and purpose. Everyone loves Ulsters. They may have only sold 200 of them but since then they've reproduced over 2000 relatives (they're as popular as Collingwood supporter right now!).

But, there's always a but. Pouring oneself into an Ulster is like putting on a glove that's one size too small. And once you're in, you have to get out again.

And here's the Clincher -The Nippy has doors! Ok, you feel like you've left the handbrake on (with the extra weight penalty) and yes, the doors do



droop and the body does try to fall off the back of the chassis.

But it does have a sporty engine. Hmm??

If you are a reader of Facebook, you may have come across a group called: Austin Seven Nippy – contributors to this group regale the audience with all manner of excellent repair techniques for Nippy crankcases and replacement crankshafts for every time they blow up. This is because the Austin factory initially gave “inch and a half” Big BIG ENDS and BUGGER ALL lubrication (for some reason pressure fed engines just weren't on the menu). And just for fun, they gave you the Ulster camshaft, which only produces power above 2,000RPM. Which seemed ok, because you have scotch mist lubrication as you rev your engines to the factory specified 4,500RPM for

MY AUSTIN 65/Nippy by Brian Gibbons

maximum horsepower. But just to be sure of catastrophe - the oil troughs in the Nippy splash feed crankshafts, were made shallower! Let's just call them a hand grenade.

Perhaps I'm being a bit harsh, the Nippy does have some redeeming features. Take for instance the boot lid. It's all very secure. If

you have a good car, with a well fitting boot lid (you're lucky!). It's held shut by this tiny sliding bolt doovalacky (like the one you had on the side gate), which you have to reach inside the car to pull back. Then you grab the boot handle - wait, bugger me there isn't one, SO you use your finger nails to pry open the lid. But a tight boot lid isn't all that bad, because if you forget to slide the locking bolt doovalacky back and go for a drive - you get the optional air brake as the boot lid flies open and tears off its supporting straps. Leading to tears.

The last item on my sales pitch - the mudguards. They look beautiful don't they. But the beautiful paintjob on your rear mudguards will soon cry out for mercy as they get peppered by road grit from the front wheels (and perhaps pray for mud flaps).



MY AUSTIN 65/Nippy by Brian Gibbons

My friend Chris Gould once described the tale (tail?) of the body design as follows: The back of the bodies were insufficiently supported. Because an early chassis was employed, without substantial chassis extensions, the petrol tank was supported by the body (along with the spare wheel, toolkit etc). In the UK, salt is put on the roads in winter, which attacks the body joins. So along with overloading (or sporting ambitions), the rear inner guard panels separate from the floor panels. This then puts extra load on the chassis extensions, which then either crack the floor or fracture. This then loads up the door hinges and catches, which loosen up and the doors open inadvertently. Finally, the car must be driven with the hood up to keep the doors shut.



To be fair, the cars were not treated kindly - engaging in sporting trials, and were then, when they weren't worth anything, driven into the ground as cheap transport (like many A7s).

And so, onto this car. It is Body 667 and was originally: Westminster Green in colour (but Cherry red when purchased in 1997).

This car had been hacked about around on the floor near the gearbox to enable easy removal (I should think). The floor had rusted out in many places and was just welded over with more steel. The woodwork was rotting or broken. The rear mudguards were broken (from trying to support the body, I suppose). The front guards were replaced by cycle guards and the whole Nippy mechanicals (including chassis) was replaced with a standard chassis and mechanicals. The only mechanicals retained was the Nippy steering box because of its specific angle. The bonnet was a crude single piece job, the windscreen was of similar agricultural design.

As a result, I chose to rectify the shortcomings of the original design and replace the chassis with a late model with the sturdy extensions. A club

MY AUSTIN 65/Nippy by Brian Gibbons

member, Neville Smith then took on the task of creating a new floor to fit the new chassis and attach this to the (salvageable) bits of the original bodywork. Steel framing has replaced the woodwork. Neville had the car for 20 years. During this period Neville also created a copy of my car, which Russell Dickson now owns. When I retrieved the car from Neville, it was still incomplete, with the body, rear mudguards and doors still requiring work. I parked it for 3 years.

In 2019 Greg Hallihan, a cycling and church friend offered to make the doors for the car and this kick-started its restoration. Glynis and I lifted the body onto a 6x4 trailer and I would take the body over to Greg's garage on a weekly basis. On completing the doors, he offered to help finish the body. I'm so glad he did. COVID then raised its ugly head and we were disrupted for some time and then I found that I could be his bubble buddy and work continued. Greg has a fine eye for symmetry and lines and just good at problem solving. He made the use of templates to keep consistent profiles and methods for finding (and rectifying) high and low spots in the panelwork. All the while I would pester him for fabrication advice for items that I had to make (eg headlight brackets).

We have since completed the bodyshell and Greg helped me complete much of the mechanical work. The mudguards required major work. For instance, the replacement front guards were too wide for the car and Greg needed to unstitch the inner guards and reposition, reprofile them and stitch them back together. As you can see, he did a great job. Aside from headlight brackets, we repaired and recreated the windscreen frame. Chris Gould had procured a 16" Frank Ashby steering wheel of similar design to the



MY AUSTIN 65/Nippy by Brian Gibbons

Nippy one for me. Rob Storr (who originally owned the copy of my car) and I collaborated on making a number of body items. I did build a close ratio gearbox, but Allan Tyrrell has since kindly donated an original Speedy gearbox to the project. This has identical ratios to the Nippy. The car currently has a standard 1935 splash feed engine with a 5.25 rear axle. I also now have an original inlet manifold (courtesy of Courtenay Rumble) and have an un-machined repro exhaust manifold. I am still to decide on a Zenith downdraught carburettor.



Years ago, Rob Storr's father (Dennis) made trips to the UK and collected an original engine for Rob's Nippy copy, so that you can see the external differences, which mainly involve the bulges in the crankcase to accommodate the larger conrods for 1-½" big ends. Bob Booth rebuilt the engine but chose not to use the special (original) chromidium block (since it had been sleeved). Rob also obtained a Needham CR gearbox.

In closing, whilst I am ok at identifying parts, I wouldn't have been able to undertake this restoration without the support of: Chris Gould (who bought the car on my behalf in the first place), Neville, Greg, Rob and members of the Austin 7 Club, to whom I am very grateful.

Brian Gibbons



SUB-COMMITTEES 2023

HISTORIC WINTON SUB-COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs - Peta Lee —Secretary of the Meeting,
Entry Secretary & CoChair, Len Kerwood CoChair,
Noel Wilcox, Tony Press (Minutes), Mike Belcher,
Colin and Maria Cheesman, Paul Goethel, Robert
Humphreys, Faye Stevens, Ron Crellin, Alan Barnes,
Leanne Goethel, Yolanda Filip, Graeme Logan, Bruce
Rogers, Greg Drummond

OST SUB -COMMITTEE

Chairperson – Mark Filsell, Treasurer: Leanne
Coakley—Finance & Entries, Stephanie Cox, Cooper
Schweiger, Jason Stock, Alicia Randle.

SPARE PARTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Graeme Logan John Shiells (Facilitator), Janne
Humphreys/Neil Rickard (Spares Treasurers), Courtenay
Rumble, Roger Nation, Alan Barnes, Richard Kempster,
Graeme Burbidge, Robert Humphreys/John Neve (Bill
&stock entry), Ted Thompson, Brian Gibbons, Bruce
Shearer, David Easton, Yolanda Filip, Mike Belcher,
Tony Press (Minutes)

SPARES MAIL ORDERS

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Robert Humphreys/Janne Humphreys (03) 9583 6316

CLUB VISITOR

Bruce Walker 9807 1729, 0409 410 700

PUBLICATIONS and ARCHIVE SUB-COMMITTEE

Robert Humphreys, John Neve, Robert Taylor, Allan
Tyrrell, Tony Press, Archive Curator—David Easton

LIGHTSHAFT MAIL OUT SUB-COMMITTEE

Manager - Russell Dickson, John Shiells, Robert,
Janne & Fiona Humphreys,.

URRRS EVENTS COORDINATOR

John McMillan

CLUB LIBRARY

David Easton

TECHNICAL ADVISORS

Model & Parts Identification, Bodywork & Literature

Bill Sheehan 0435 582 294

Tony Press 0409 948 430

Mechanical and Engineering

Tony Press 0409 948 430

Racing and Special Construction

David Lowe 0458 172 494

O.S.T. and Motorkhana

Grant Campbell 9787 3640

Spares Engineering Review

Russell Dickson, Denis Hourigan, Tony Press
(minutes)

RACING SPOKESMAN

Phillip Hallo 0413 185 576

Noel Wilcox 5428 2689 AH

Motorsport Australia State Council Delegate

Jason Stock

MA HISTORIC MOTORSPORT PROMOTERS GROUP

Noel Wilcox

CLUB WEBSITE Tony Press, Manager

HW WEBSITE Leanne Goethel, Manager

TIMING TEAM SUB-COMMITTEE

Daniel Morling, Geoff Taylor, Stephen Harrison

AOMC DELEGATES

Len Kerwood and Robert Humphreys
alternate John McMillan

FEDERATION DELEGATES

Alan Barnes &/or Remote Member as agreed

CLUB BUILDINGS OWNERS CORPORATION DELEGATES

John Shiells, Robert Humphreys, John McMillan

CLUB PERMIT OFFICER

Russell Dickson, Robert Humphreys (Deputy)

AUSTIN 7 CLUB INC. - COMMITTEE 2023

PRESIDENT	Len Kerwood	president@austin7club.org	9435 2544
TREASURER	Paul Goethel	treasurer@austin7club.org	0412 534 131
SECRETARY /VICE PRESIDENT	Glynis Gibbons	secretary@austin7club.org	0427 837 555
MINUTE SECRETARY	Tony Press	minutesecretary@austin7club.org	0409 948 430
PROPERTY OFFICER	John Shiells	propertyofficer@austin7club.org	0403 228 559
EDITOR	Robert Humphreys	editor@austin7club.org	0427 772 281
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY	Russell Dickson	membership@austin7club.org	0409 577 215
COMPETITION SECRETARY	Jason Stock	competitionsecretary@austin7club.org	
SOCIAL SECRETARY	Ron Crellin	socialsecretary@austin7club.org	

Austin Seven Clubs Association The Online Archive

Handbooks, Parts Books, Body Parts Book and lots more.

Just download it to your computer - all part of membership of the Association.

More being constantly added.

These references are a great way to identify parts for your Austin7.

Also it may help to determine the year of the various parts.

*An original Parts Book, for your model is one of the most
valuable resources, especially for remote members.*

An original Handbook is also a handy reference.

NEW FROM SPARES

SPARES

*PLEASE come to Spares **with a list prepared beforehand**, to speed up being served, and make it easier on our volunteers.*

Please be prepared to follow any current COVID restrictions.

PLEASE When you visit Spares try to make all your purchases ***in a single transaction.***

This makes the book-work much easier for our volunteers, and respects other members who also want to make purchases.

MAIL ORDER PAYMENTS TO AUSTIN 7 CLUB SPARES

Payment for parts is preferred by Direct Deposit.

Please note Spares Banking Details, located at the bottom of our Invoices.

Bank branches are making banking cheques difficult, and Credit Card payments, without card, are a risk to the Club and the member.

Robert & Janne Humphreys- mailorderparts@austin7club.org

The Club proudly supports Penrite Oil and stocks Penrite Vintage Car Oils exclusively in Club Spares.

Unfortunately, not available by mail order.

The 'scores' were their music manuscripts.
The 'players' were musicians, and as they played music all night they may all very well have 'made quite fair amounts' and lost nothing.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER - SUBSCRIPTIONS**IS YOUR CLUB PERMIT VALID ?**

Subscriptions will be due for payment before 31 December.

If you have not paid your membership by 31 December you will be UNFINANCIAL in 2012.

Your Club Permit is subject to the condition:-

“ the permit holder must remain a financial member of an approved club”

If you fail to pay your membership before 31 December there are a number of risks:-

- Your permit will be invalid
- It is possible that you may need to re-apply for a Permit, with the attendant cost of Roadworthy etc.
- The Club Permit Officer will be required to report your unfinancial status to VicRoads
- The Austin 7 Club's authorization under the Scheme could be at risk

The Club Permit Scheme may be at risk.

Club Permit Officer

MARKET PLACE

FOR SALE

Austin 7 Sports (Black Bess)

1929 model with some later parts

Body by Bill Sheehan

Recent extensive overhaul by Walter Raschle: in first class mechanical condition

Extensive competition and touring participation as detailed elsewhere.

Don Smith 5422 7335

Car can be viewed at Kyneton

\$20,000.

MARKET PLACE**GARAGE SALE. - I am moving.**

Most items are pre 1934.

Engines, reconditioned.

Rear axle, reconditioned.

Front axles, reconditioned.

Radiator shells, restored.

Honeycomb rad core. NZ

Gear boxes, 3 spd.

Starter motors & generators. r/cod.

A chummy project. 1929.

Set of 17 inch wheels, painted.

Wheels 19 inch, script, painted.

Dashboard instruments, restored.

Headlights, 5 and 7 inch, restored.

Tail lamps.

Plus much, much, more.

When.....18/11/23 9.00am - 2.00pm. OR BY APPOINTMENT.

Where.....16/260-264 Wickham Rd. Highett. 3190.

Wayne Styles. 0417 532 412.

GEARBOX REPAIRS

To ALL AUSTINs, including F.W.D.

Special Ratios and Standard Ratios

Austin 7 - 4 speed boxes with better ratios from \$1,700

Changeover or yours rebuilt

John or Ben Needham

OLD CAR GEARBOXES P L (03) 9553 3203

MARKET PLACE

FOR SALE - Trailer

Rugged trailer, with electric brakes ,heavy duty tyres , aluminium planks - takes an Austin 7 with ease, could fit a wider car or mower.

Registered until March 2023. \$ 2,800

Ken Innes-Irons 0413 744 337
kennetha7@bigpond.com



FOR FREE

Austin 7 windscreen

I didn't want to throw it in the garbage so hopefully someone can use it?



If anyone is interested they can contact me on apr@iprimus.com.au.

We are at Mount Martha where it can be picked up. I don't want anything for it. This Austin 7 Windscreen is in unmarked, good order, free.

Ken Anderson

FOR SALE

I have the following 3 books for sale.

- ◆ 'Original Austin 7' by Rinsey Mills. One book Mint condition, \$50 and one book Excellent condition, \$45.
- ◆ 'The Austin 7 Manual by Doug Woodrow' in near mint condition-\$75.

John Keane, Blackburn, Melbourne 9877-7754 Bus Hrs Email:

oldercarrepairs@bigpond.com

MARKET PLACE

***Market Place advertisements will normally appear
for FREE in two consecutive Lightshafts Editor***

FOR SALE

1935 Austin 7 tourer

Ready to go

New pressure fed crankshaft

New Pistons plus 0.060"

New Mini valves

New Timing gears

New Electronic Distributor

New Springs

New bushes & Kingpins

New radiator

4 speed Needham gearbox

Perry Exhaust



LED blinkers

5 new tyres

12 Volt generator

New trim and roof

Hydraulic brakes

\$\$ BEST OFFER \$\$

John Franklin 0418 340 433

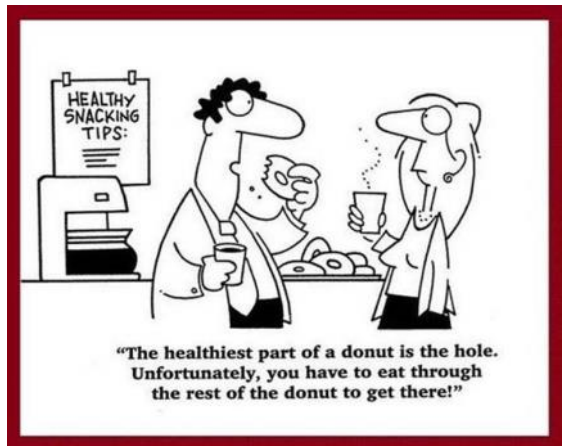
FOR SALE -

8 - 19" Austin 7 wheels

Price \$110 for 4 wheels

Stewart Bush 5435 2536

***This space is for you to
advertise the useless junk in
your shed.***





Every year at HISTORIC WINTON there is something VERY special.

In an era where “Our Cars Are The Stars” this vehicle really stirred the blood.

Noel Wilcox tells us that the car is now for Auction at Donington Auctions, in Cheltenham.

The 1908 MAB Saunders Special is an Edwardian masterpiece,
with its Liberty V12, 27 Litre aero engine

The driver gets the “comfort” of a round glass screen, in front of the steering wheel - no such “luxury” for the navigator.

The Men’s portion
of Ladies Day.

Russell Dickson
gave an enlightening
talk about his
motivation for
purchasing and
creating Austin 7
Heaven



47th HISTORIC WINTON[®]

25th and 26th May 2024



www.historicwinton.org

Winton Motor Raceway, Benalla, Victoria

