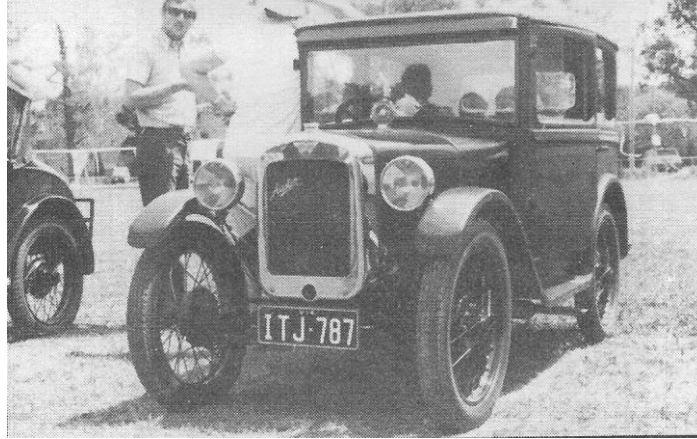


# 1929 Austin 7 Fabric Saloon



The 1929 Austin 7 Fabric Saloon at a Club event in the late 70's

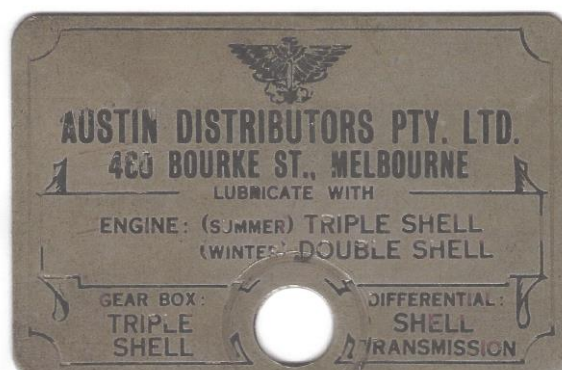
In 1929, for his 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Colin Silcock from Coldstream in country Victoria was given a maroon fabric bodied Austin 7 Saloon registered number 63 422, fitted with a fabric body by Holden Motor Body Works.



Original HOLDEN'S aluminium body plate under the back seat, stamped BODY No 159, MODEL AUSN SLN, JOB No 8142.

An identical HOLDEN'S plate from another car is stamped BODY No 76, MODEL AUSN SLN, JOB No 8141.

The vehicle was purchased from AUSTIN DISTRIBUTORS PTY LTD of 460 Bourke Street Melbourne, Car Number A8 6175, Coil Engine number M 83747, unmarked Chassis, maroon fabric body with black guards and wheels. In a later investigation The Austin Motor Company surviving factory record books held at The British Motor Museum, Gaydon UK, show this vehicle as a chassis for export, entered 26 April 1929, with Chassis Number 83609.



This Austin Distributors plate is bolted to the off side fuel tank mounting bolt

Written in ink on the Memoranda page at the back of the Austin Seven Handbook for the Saloon, possibly by Colin's father-

Caution

Do not exceed 20 miles per. hour for first 500 miles.

Keep radiator full.

Keep oil up to full on gauge rod.

Change Oil at end of first 250 miles and each 1,000 in summer and 500 miles in winter thereafter.

Use triple Shell Motor Oil in Summer and double in winter.

See that the oil indicator on dash shows pressure with engine running. If not, investigate.

Add distilled water to battery every two weeks.

Add  $\frac{3}{4}$  pint of oil to every 4 gals./ of petrol for first 500 miles.

In June 1972 Colin re registered the Saloon JGS 152, later around 1973-4, when the car had covered 78,000 miles he fitted a replacement 1928 Magneto Engine No M 48063 which had been fully rebuilt. Thankfully he retained the original coil engine.

Colin then decided he needed a larger car to tow a caravan, so in 1975 he sold the Saloon to Roy Wilson of Beaumaris, including the original coil engine. In 1979 Roy re registered the Saloon to ITJ 767, which he then changed in 1980 to a Club Permit with the very early 'red plate' number 1-769.



This 1929 Austin 7 fabric saloon is owned by Roy Wilson of Beaumaris, Vic. The Austin is still in original condition, being purchased in 1975 from the original owner Colin Silcock of Lilydale who drove the car until the early 70's when he decided that a larger vehicle was required to tow a caravan. The original  $\frac{1}{4}$  elliptic rear springs had been replaced with a semi elliptic spring kit by Henderson springs. the rear spring shackles were fitted to the rear bumper bar, a softer ride was obtainable but cornering was crook. Magneto ignition is fitted rather than a coil unit. Total mileage is 80,000. Most of the interior upholstery remains. A standard engine with Zenith side draught carburettor is fitted limiting cruising to 30-32 mph with approx. 45 mpg.

The car appears to be the only Austin 7 with its original cellulose fabric body in regular use, conveying Roy, his wife and two children on many events. ITJ-787-27.

**RESTORED CARS, No. 39, Page 47**

### 1979 'Restored Cars' article on Roy's Fabric Saloon

As noted above Roy had removed the poorly handling semi elliptic rear springs which had been fitted by Colin and restored the original quarter elliptic springs. He then drove the car, complete with his wife and two small children on a number of VSCC and Austin Seven Club events during the next 30 years, where it won many accolades. During this time it would have covered around 3-4000 miles in total.



1929 Saloon photographed on a rally in 1970, owner Roy Wilson.

In 2004 the near side door was damaged in an unfortunate event when the car was being carried to a rally mounted backwards on a trailer. The door flew open, came off the hinges and crashed to the road breaking the window glasses and damaging the fabric and wooden frame. Roy managed to recover the remnants and spent a number of years attempting to get it repaired. The damaged woodwork was carefully restored but repairing the fabric covering and replacing the glass was proving difficult.

In January 2015 Tony Press bought the Saloon with damaged door from Roy Wilson. It had been sitting well covered in a garage for the previous ten years, still with the original ID plate showing car number A8 6175 and fitted with the non running magneto engine M83747. Following an investigation into The Austin Motor Company surviving factory record books held at The British Motor Museum, Gaydon UK, the car was listed as a 'chassis for export' on 26 April 1929, with Chassis Number 83609. The purchase from Roy included the original coil motor M 83747 which had been carefully stored for the past 40 years in the garage alongside the car. With David Lowe's invaluable assistance over seven weeks the car was lovingly overhauled and the original coil motor re fitted after honing the bores and replacing worn valves. The body was cleaned and fitted with new carpet; the original fabric covering on the damaged door carefully repaired with new window glasses and remade slide guides fitted. Five new tyres and battery were fitted and the poorly made front footbrake connection was removed, returning the car to separate front and rear brakes. The Lucas 7" headlamp reflectors were resilvered and finally the Lucas AT 201 tail lamp was restored after minimal re-wiring. Following a written request to VicRoads Motor Registration branch they approved transfer of the original Club 'red plate' registration 1-769 to the new owner.



The car has covered 83,000 miles in 87 years,  
driven by just three owners.



Austin 7 Saloon with Club Registration 1-769, outside the Austin 7 Clubrooms 2015.

It now has a full set of the correct Austin 7 tools in a reproduction of the original Tool Roll together with the correct 7" Jack, Tyre Pump and Wheelbrace.

It is interesting to note that my first complete car in 1957 was a 1930 Austin 7 Holden bodied fabric saloon, manufactured a few months after the above car.



My first 1929 Fabric Saloon outside Caulfield Tech in 1959