Austin Times

Do the right thing, save an Austin!

May – June 2026



Maryborough Town Hall – AOA 2026

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The **Austin Motor Vehicle Club** meets the
first Thursday of each month (except January)
at the Veteran Car Club, 1376 Old Cleveland Rd. Carindale,
commencing at **7.30pm**.
ZOOM log in is available for meetings.

www.austinmotorvehicleclubqld.org

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Austin Times

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Regalia	Jenny Simpson	**0427 412 134**
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Members

Password for the AMVCQ (Inc) website can be requested from the Secretary and will allow members to view the *Members only page.* This password will be updated regularly.

ZOOM log in is available for meetings.
Links provided to members via email.

President's Report

Firstly, a big thank you to the AOA Committee members who put the AOA 2026, together. From all the accounts I have heard, you would consider it a success. The weather could have been kinder but all in all it did not have much effect. The fact that it was in Maryborough did give the Queenslanders with Austins a chance to attend an AOA. It was good to see so many of the Austin Club of Queensland members who were able to attend with their cars. The likes of John and Jenny Hinde, Joe and Judie Sciacca, Ken and Desley Carter, Kerry and Jo Guinea, Lyall and Carolyn Exebly, Ken Duncan, John Davies and Robyn Lubach, Natalee Sanderson, Glen and Heather Todd and the Cameron family.

A special mention to Jenny for the work selling the Regalia at the Display Day. We now need to decide what regalia to order for the future.

Now that the AOA is over, we need to turn our attention to Club matters. The subs are due and the AGM is coming up in September. Think about how you can assist the Club and who you want to see run the Club into the future. More local 1 and 2 day runs need to be arranged and Michael's job is to coordinate the runs not put them together. Some midweek and some weekends would be ideal.

The weather is still cool so some work on the 1800 needs to happen as I am afraid it may take root where it is.

Cheers Kev

Dates to Remember

Meetings

6 August | 3 September (General meeting and AGM) | 1 October | 5 November

3 December | No meeting in January 2027 | First meeting for 2027 4 February

Dates for the Magazine

Articles for the last 3 'Austin Times' for this year are due on the following dates.

The July - August 'Times' articles need to be in by 31 July/ 2 August at the latest.

The September - October 'Times' need to be in by 25 September at the latest.

The November - December 'Times 'need to be in by19 December.

We are always happy to receive your contributions!

AMVCQ(Inc) Members Meeting
7 May 2026

Meeting opened at 7:37 PM

Apologies	Apologies received from John Elsol, Chris Roberts, Kris Palmby, Nicole Chaplin, Pat and Cath McGrath.
President Opening	President Kev opened the meeting at 7.37pm and welcomed those present and those on Google Meet.
Secretary Report	The Secretary requested that everyone present ensure their name is recorded in the attendance book, noting that there were no new members or visitors present. Ken presented the Minutes of the April Meeting advising that the minutes from the previous meeting were sent out in the recent magazine, he did not propose to read them as they did not contain anything contentious. It was noted that a management committee meeting had taken place, resulting in eight pages of notes, and that some follow-up discussion on these items would occur later in the meeting Ken moved that the Minutes be accepted Seconded by Steve Radford Accepted.
Treasurer's Report	In the absence of the Treasurer Barry, Ken advised that correspondence from the Bank of Queensland indicated that the club's branch at Aspley was closing and services have been moved to Albany Creek. The club's term deposit matured on April 27th and was renewed, reportedly at a 5.1% interest rate Australian Austin Over Australia (AOA) Event Status: Ken advised that a number of cancellations for the AOA event were received during the month, primarily due to the cost and uncertainty of fuel, resulting in 11 cancellations, though one participant has since re-registered. The current confirmed attendance is 76 cars and 140 people, and a potential refund for two children's registrations is needed following a clarification with one attendee, paying for meals for 2 children he doesn't have. Kev advised the Balances of the accounts and moved the report be accepted Seconded Steve Radford Accepted.
Events	**Michael Wells advised:** Upcoming events include the Abbey Fine Iron Classics swap meet on May 17th, the Norm Marin swap meet on June 7th, and the Nambour Swap on July 25th. Other events include the David Hack Classic at the Toowoomba Aerodrome, the Leyburn Sprints on August 15th and 16th, and the Hampton Food and Wine Festival on May 17th **Vehicle working Days:** Kev advised of a need to organize another day or two to strip the car parts from the 2 donor cars, Austin 1800 and Austin Lancer in his backyard, was discussed, and the weather is now cool enough for a full day of work. Due to upcoming weekend commitments, the group is looking for interest in a weekday overnight session, with Wednesday/Thursday in early June being identified as a potential target Ken to email dates.
Regalia Sales	Jenny reported that there was not much news to share, but they hoped to sell some items at the meeting. Small badges are now priced at $3, and metal car badges are being offered for $20

Newsletter and Article Contributions	The assistant editor Des thanked Steve Rradford and Chris for their stories in the latest newsletter and called for more contributions, particularly technical articles and stories from new members The speaker suggested that Richard could contribute a story on fitting power steering.
AOA	**Website and Facebook Updates** The AOA section of the website has been updated to reflect that registrations are closed. A thank you message and sponsor logos are now displayed, and information about the two raffle quilts is available. The calendar will be updated with the event dates Michael reviewed, and a link to the AOA Facebook group will be sent out in the pre-AOA information email. **Electronic Payment System Implementation**: Mark advised the new electronic payment system using the Stripe app on a phone has been installed and is pending a final test, which will allow for electronic payments for items like raffle tickets and leftover AOA regalia. Designated times for electronic payments will be established for each day of the AOA event, particularly during the meet and greet, runs, and the display day and dinner. **AOA Logistics and Display Day:** Nairn and Michael advised that logistics for the AOA event were reviewed, with Michael and Nairn organizing the different sections, and a basic trophy will be awarded for each display section. Voting sheets will be included in the program book, and only registered participants with a number on their windscreen will be eligible for voting. Event prizes will be distributed at the dinner after the voting count. **AOA Refunds and Rally Bag Distribution:** Attendees who withdrew will receive partial refunds and will be sent a rally bag containing a badge, a cloth patch, a key ring, a mouse pad, a rally book, The cost of items purchased on their behalf and postage, estimated at about $15, will be deducted from the registration refund **Mug Orders**: The issue of posting mugs to those who cancelled was discussed, with the consensus that it might be better to refund the money for mugs, as posting fragile items is risky. **Police Communication**: Communication has been made with the police, and the Council. The Fraser Coast Mayor and the councillor for Maryborough will be attending the Meet and Greet to welcome participants. **Travel Arrangements and Rides**: Jenny and Kevin have organized their travel arrangements. Doug is looking for a ride to the AOA, but because organisers are going early and their cars are full. The suggestion was made that his son or daughter may be able to help. If anyone can help Doug please contact him. **Rocker Cover Races and Work Dates**: The rocker cover race is confirmed, and attendees are encouraged to prepare their entries.
General Business and Birthday Acknowledgment	The group noted that Timothy Lloyd, who runs Timothy Lloyd Exhausts in Maryborough, has a YouTube channel featuring a 1952 A30 exhaust. The meeting concluded with a birthday acknowledgment for Michael, who will be turning 60 shortly

Meeting closed at 8:10pm.

Next Meeting 4 June 2026

AMVCQ(Inc) Members Meeting

4 June 2026

Meeting opened at 7:30 PM

Members	Kev welcomed all attendees to the meeting, including a visitor named Steve Presser who owns an A30.
Apologies	Apologies were formally noted for John Elsol and Rex Eaton, Richard Brown and Peter Wheatley.
Secretary Report	Ken discussed the previously distributed meeting minutes. A correction was identified and implemented to change “Maroochydore” to “Maryborough” which David James helped identify. The minutes were formally moved by Ken seconded by David Bright and accepted by the members present.
Treasurer’s Report	Barry Horey presented the financial report for the period of May 1st to May 31st, 2026. Moved Barry seconded by Paula. This report was accepted by the members.
AOA	**Event Cancellations and Refunds:** Ken and Barry reported that 11 cancellations so far for the AOA event were processed, primarily from the southern States Vic and NSW due to early fuel supply concerns and the international situation regarding the war in Iran. The club successfully provided refunds for meals, subtracting costs associated with rally bags, resulting in individual refunds of $145.51 per person. Rally Bags will be posted. They also noted that encouraging some members to arrange for the collection of their rally bags at the event, saving those individuals $15 in postage. **Event Logistics:** Ken provided a final update on the AOA event, confirming that 76 cars and 137 people are registered. Attendees were reminded to bring essential items such as chairs, name badges, and personal drinks for the meet and greet, noting that only tea, coffee, and water would be provided by the organizers. **Event Slideshow:** Mark and Nairn advised that a slideshow of past AOAs pictures will be displayed during the AOA dinner. They confirmed they are working to ensure that online participants can also view the content. **Coaster Sales:** Michael Wells reported that the sample coasters featuring the Flying A logo and Austin script are ready. They will collect the order on Sunday and offer them for sale during the display day at the AOA event. **AOA Payment Processing:** Mark announced that they have successfully tested the Stripe Payments system to accept card payments for regalia and other items using his mobile phone. However, they encouraged members to bring cash, specifically gold coins or $5 notes, for raffle tickets to avoid the 3.8% transaction fee associated with card payments. **Publicity and Facebook Group:** Ken mentioned that the AOA event has received promotion on the Fraser Coast Council’s Facebook page and in local newspapers Maryborough and Hervey Bay. Additionally, a new AOA Facebook group page is being tested to allow participants to post updates during the event. **Communications:** Additionally, Kevin Chalmers reminded members to bring UHF radios for their cars if they have one to facilitate communication and recovery planning in case of breakdowns during the upcoming trip.

Club Merchandise Sales	Jenny updated attendees on available merchandise, noting that stickers are available for $2 each. Club Metal car badges have been reduced in price to $20, and the club still has stock of blue shirts for $25, as well as various polo shirts.
Upcoming August Events	Michael provided an update on scheduled August activities, including Jumpers and Jazz, the Leyburn Sprints, and the Steam Fair at Old Petrie Town. Other events include the 9th of August show and shine, a swap meet, and a dirt drag event featuring old-school hot rods at Hodgson Vale. Additionally, swap meets are scheduled for the 29th of August at the clubhouse and Nambour.
Spare Parts Coordination	Kev confirmed that they assisted an A40 owner by providing chrome shield strips, wiper arms, and a fuel cap. Nairn suggested that John Hinde could assist with transporting parts to the owner, who lives in Gladstone, during the upcoming AOA event.
Steam Fair Participation	Michael encouraged members to attend the Steam Fair at Petrie Markets, advising them to inform the gate staff they are with the fair for specific parking directions. The event will feature rides behind a steam engine for a gold coin donation, and a grand parade.
Traction Engine Exhibition and Club Run	Ken discussed a historical steam traction engine linked to their family history, currently housed at Kurwongbah near Narangba. They expressed interest in organizing a club run to see the engine in the future.
Membership report	Irene advised no new members joined during the month. Ken advised that members club membership renewals for 26-27 year were due at the end of the month and that it would remain at $50.00 for the year. Ken would write to members on his return from AOA.
Website Analytics Report	Mark reviewed website statistics for May, reporting 676 clicks and over 21,000 impressions. The most popular pages were Maryborough AOA, Club Registration, and an article about a clutch carbon release bearing. The website is also attracting traffic from the United Kingdom and New Zealand
Birthday Celebration	The club celebrated Michael Wells's 60th birthday with a cake.
Historical Poster Acquisition	Nairn shared that a donor provided a poster commemorating 80 years of Austin (dated 1985). The club plans to see if the poster can be placed at the clubhouse for all members to enjoy.
Meeting Conclusion	Kev officially closed the meeting at 8.20pm, thanking all participants for joining on Zoom and in person. The group shared final historical photos before concluding the session.

Meeting closed at 8:20pm.

Next Meeting 2 July 2026

Austins Over Australia (AOA) 2026 Maryborough Qld

Monday 8 June 2026

Getting ready in residence at The Wallace



Cars tucked up



3 Likely Lads



Concentration



Packing Rally Bags

There was method in our madness



Michael always has a car to clean – he has so many

Trials and Tribulations

We all know when we get in our Austins that we may be on a tow truck for the return journey. However, this fact doesn't deter Austin lovers from beginning every journey.

Getting to the AOA in Maryborough tossed up a few curve balls for some of our participants.

We had a few incidents from our Queensland members.

Two ended up on tow trucks – one being delivered to Maryborough, one sadly didn't get past Kilkivan, but the participants did, and one being trailered survived a blown-out tyre on its trailer.

Another little A30 made the distance but required an A Team of mechanics to replace a water pump after arrival. Didn't miss a beat around town after the repair job and made it home as well.

When you look in the boot of any Austin there will always be the cache of replacement parts "Just in case".



Mark's A 50 Cambridge needed the Ken Carter followed by the Kev Airton treatment followed by everyone 'Putting in their two bobs worth". After stopping unceremoniously at the servo at Curra, the brains trust got this cantankerous car back on the road after the family gave it a push and Mark turned the key on. But, hey it is an Austin and what's not to love! It did have another hissy fit on the journey home and was back on the truck for the last 50 Km

A sad episode for Bernie and Madonna. After a big engine overhaul, the little blue A40 came to a grinding halt and stayed in Kilkivan for the duration of the AOA. Since its return to Kev's place at Plainland it has had the master mechanic on the job with his offsider (Michael Wells) and before too much longer she will be mooching along at Bernie's regular speed.





The Guru of everything A30, John Cameron, came to the rescue with daughter Vicki (needed for her smaller hands). Unfortunately, John was not so lucky with his motor home which had to stay HOME!

Jenny made it Maryborough, but the boys decided the noise coming from her car was not good. So, the water pump was replaced. Lucky Ken had a spare in his cache in the boot.

AOA Day 1 – Wednesday 10 June 2026

Meet and Greet at Tinana Soccer Fields



Michael and Nairn getting ready for the Blind auction.







The quilts designed and stitched by Joy and Allan Hodges. The money raised will go to QIMR Berghofer for advancing medical research into many conditions suffered by people around the world.



Paula and Des preparing Rally Bags



Huge thank you to Alex and Marlene McCullough for finding the Grey Nomads and their coffee van with the best coffee plus the yummy vanilla slices.



Before the rain



AOA Day 2 – Thursday 11 June 2026

Free Day in Maryborough

The participants were free to explore in Maryborough. Their rally bags contained information from the Fraser Council Info department situated in the Town Hall. We went for a whistle stop ride on the 'Mary Ann' and called in to the Military Museum. The collection has some very precious medals and memorabilia. Definitely worth a look.









Down by the station early in the morning! We travelled on the replica 'Mary Ann' which was built in Maryborough by Wm Olds & Sons Pty. Ltd. Many businesses and individuals have contributed to make the 'Mary Ann' dream become a reality. The name 'Mary Ann' came from the names of William Pettigrew's and William Sim's daughters. Both Scottish timber pioneers had daughters named Mary Ann.



The original Mary Ann was the first steam train locomotive built in Queensland by John Walker & Co. Ltd. in 1873. The locomotive was built for timber pioneers William Pettigrew and William Sim who used the Mary Ann to haul logs in the Tin Can Bay area.

Mary Ann's boiler stood upright instead of horizontal. With this arrangement, the wheels could be placed close together so the locomotive could work around sharper curves.

The Military Museum





AOA Day 3 – Friday 12 June 2026

Drive to Hervey Bay







There were serious clouds but off we went to Hervey Bay, anyway, after coffee and Vanilla slices for some. The grounds were very soft after rain during the night, so the cars exited via the back gate. Great idea, because turning at the traffic lights is much easier than running the gauntlet of two lanes of traffic in an Austin. The journey down to the Bay did involve rain but the sun came out and all was well.









The Austins were soon spread through every available parking space along the Esplanade and the 'Go To' eatery was Migaloo for fish 'n chips. Some went further afield for different cuisine.



How clever was he to find this sign?









Hervey Bay Boasts a very comprehensive MG display (The Hayward Hall MG Collection) which many of the participants visited.





AOA Day 4 – Saturday 13 June 2026

Drive to Tin Can Bay





A blue-sky day - down by the Bay



A 30 Lineup



A 40 Tourers and more Austins




The Tourer from Longreach and more Austins!



The Mills, Whytes and Wrights



Mark, Christine, Jayne, Craig, Mammy and Ken having time out for lunch at Tin Can Bay.

Tin Can Bay is a small village on The Great Sandy Strait with access to Fraser Island (K'Gari) and the Pacific Ocean.

Hand feeding dolphins is possible at Barnacles Dolphin Centre. The Dolphins arrive about 7-7.30am.

A great place if you are looking for a quiet holiday destination.

AOA Day 5 – Sunday 14 June 2026

Display Day

The culmination of the activities with the cars took place on Sunday. The local papers had written articles about the Austins coming to Maryborough and the locals turned up in large numbers to see the cars. The cars were arranged in categories, and part of the process was voting for the best car in each category and the voting for the People's Choice award.







Hard to see the cars for the people





AOA Day 5 – Sunday 14 June 2026

Display Day…Continued…

Sunday at The Brolga























Rocker cover races are a tradition at every AOA. Contestants try to build the fastest racer by manipulating the weight and wheels for extra speed. machines



Super saleswoman Jenny at work





Brian in control of the track



Some fast ones here

AOA Day 5 – Sunday 14 June 2026

Award Winners

The Sunday display was thankfully held on a warm and almost cloudless day, which meant we could use the grassed area near the Brolga Theatre. Just over sixty cars were lined up in six categories. There was the option to also win 'The Car I would Like to Take Home' section which could have been any of the winners of the 6 categories, or in this case it happened to win on its own.

The categories and the winners were:



Austin Seven

David & Diane Young 1929 Austin Seven Roadster



Austin A 30

Ken & Desley Carter 1956 Austin A 30 4 Door Sedan



Austin A 40

Ian & Wendy Mann 1951 Austin A 40 Devon



1920s & 30s

David & Irene Bright 1937 Austin Ten Utility

AOA Day 5 – Sunday 14 June 2026

Award Winners...Continued…



Our thanks go to Nairn Hindhaugh and Michael Wells for the organisation of Display Day including the vote counting and arranging for the trophies for the categories.

1940s & 50s

Michael Wells & Janelle Marshall

1959 A105 de Luxe

1960s &70s

Alex & Irene Slota
1972 Austin
Kimberley MK II



Did you notice how the shiny black cars were winners in more than one category?

Bit like the 'little black dress'- stands out in the crowd.

Des Parker



Overall People's Choice

'The Car I would Most Like to take Home'

Mike and Bev Mills

1954 Austin- Healey 100

Nairn Hindhaugh

AOA Day 5 – Sunday 14 June 2026

Dinner at the Town Hall



The Trophies for the winning Austins in each category from the display of cars.



The Town Hall was a beautiful venue for the closing dinner for AOA 2026. We received a donation in kind from the Fraser Coast Regional Council which enabled us to use this venue, for which we were very grateful. The Council and Newspapers provided us with super publicity.



These two legends mastered the kitchen appliances at clean up. Thanks Bernie and Madonna as well as Christine, Linda, Lorraine, Irene, Heather, Jayne, Jen, Michael and Nairn.



The 1926 Austin 12/4 oldest car at the rally -owned by Alex and Marlene McCullough. A testament to the resilience of this 100-year-old car.



The 1972 Austin Kimberley was the youngest car at this Rally. This car is owned by Alex and Irene Slota. This is one of the 15,000 ever built. The longest trip to an AOA (made by this car) was to Ipswich in 2017. The hope was to have air conditioning installed for the trip to Maryborough.



Karen Austin (how serendipitous) won the Quilt with the AOA emblem and Robert Miller won the second Quilt depicting emblems from the Fraser Coast region. More than $750 was raised by the Quilt raffle.

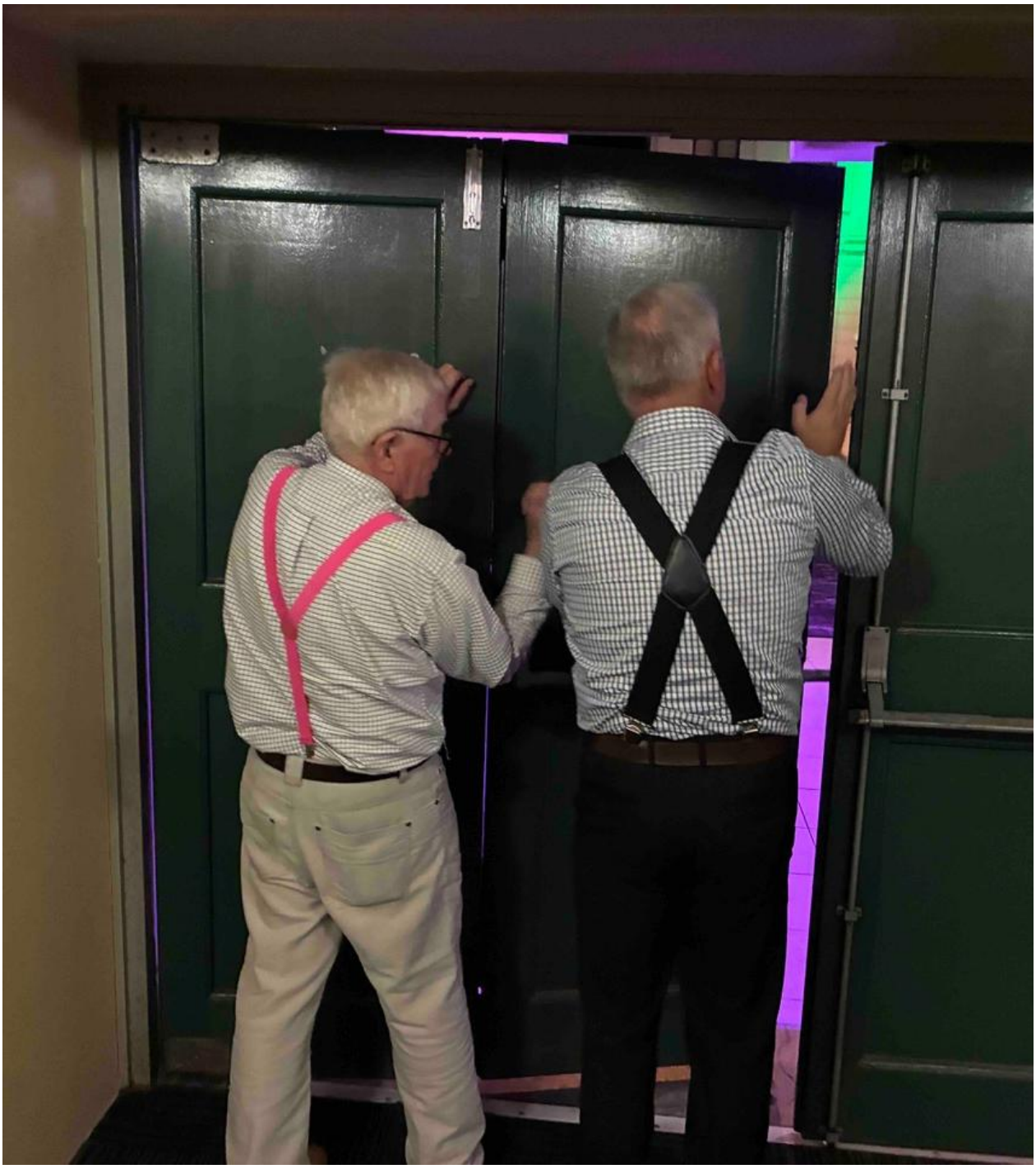








Roy and Tony from the Maryborough, Wide Bay & Burnett Historical Society let us loose on their photo archive for the subject matter on the placemats. This organisation has many artifacts collected from the local community which are preserved in their premises on Kent Street opposite the Town Hall.



Kev and Michael closing the doors at Maryborough Town Hall after a successful Austins Over Australia 2026!