



Bits & Pieces

PO BOX 390, ASHBURTON 7740

FEB/MAR 2014



John Tait harvesting

Meetings are held on the FIRST Wednesday of each month at 8pm in the K88 Room at The Plains Museum

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President's Report

Dear Members,

Well it has been another year of interesting events, places to see and speakers from around the district.

On the 12th of December we went on our Tractor Trek to the lime works, Midlands Aviaries and to Bowyers stream for lunch. We left Allan Willetts place at 8.00 am with 13 tractors and 3 vehicles. Struan was busy taking photos along the way of tractors and also the places we visited. We had a barbeque lunch which was enjoyed by all.

We packed up and headed down the road to Greenstreet where we went for a look around Lyndon Webb's array of machinery.

A pleasant day was had by all.



It was also a sad loss to hear the passing away of 2 vintage members David Wright and John Tait. Our sympathy goes to the families.

Peter McMullan
President

Christmas Parade

The annual Christmas parade was held on the 7th December, a beautiful day with a good crowd in attendance. There were seven members who took along their machines; Murray Elliott -IH WD 9, John Moore

Dave Thompson - IH M, Cliff Begg - IH WD, Kevin Begg -Massey Harris 101, Andrew Brown - Massey Harris 44. Donald Gundry bought along the late Davey Wrights Ferguson. This year there were no traction engines in



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Obituaries

The last couple of months have not been good for the club.

Long serving member Davey Wright passed away in November, Davey will always be remembered by all as someone who took part in various activities run by the club, either with his Ferguson or the David Brown Cropmaster.

John Tait also passed away in mid-December after a short illness.

John will be greatly missed by the club, always ready to give a hand at working bees, and ploughing matches. John had just been to Canada this year to see the world's best, ploughing in Olds Alberta. John has three restored tractors all IH and was out on them regularly. We will all miss the dry sense of humor and his ability to produce very entertaining poetry. John was a past President of the club and served on the committee for many years.

Reid and Gray

Engineers and Iron—founders was originally founded in Oamaru in 1868. Five years later the firm shifted to Dunedin as there was not sufficient scope in Oamaru for the rapidly expanding trade.

The smithy works occupied a building 140 feet by 50 feet. There were 23 blacksmiths forges and 4 furnaces. As manufactures of double furrow ploughs they turned out over 13000 of these needful implements. In the fitting shop there are a number of splendid machines, including multiple drills, one of which bores ten holes in one operation, a milling machine which cuts grooves in shafts and teeth in wheels, machines for bolt screwing, iron planing, double emery grinding machines, besides a large number of the most recent appliances for fulfilling the various requirements connected with their operation.

The machinery in the fitting shop was driven by a 12HP Horizontal engine made by the firm, steam being provided by three Cornish boilers. The carpenters shop was a two storied building with a loft supported from the roof, and measured 180 feet by 56 feet. Appliances in this shop took on the whole of the wood work required in connection with the various machines made by the company.

The moulding shop was perhaps the most important of the various departments of the firm's premises. Messrs Reid and Gray manufactured cast chilled shears, of which about 100 tons a year were produced. Reid and Gray employed about 200 people. The manufactured articles turned out by the company found a ready market not only in New Zealand, but in Australia. Reid and Gray ploughs have been sent as far afield as Scotland and Argentina.



Reid and Gray also manufactured zig zag harrows and disc harrows, turnip and manure drills, broadcast seed sowers, rotary harrows, cultivators, strippers, drays chaff cutters with screw presses, and many other implements they were the New Zealand agents for the Deering pony Binder, Clayton and Shuttleworth's threshing mills. Burrell traction engines.

The company found it necessary to set up centers around the country namely at Oamaru, Timaru, Ashburton, Christchurch, Palmerston North, Invercargill and Gore. Their Dunedin shop was fitted out with electric lighting supplied by Chambers and Son of Auckland. This was run by a compound dynamo.

Reynolds Museum

Recently I visited the world renowned Reynolds Museum of Transportation and Agriculture situated in Edmonton Canada

History – Stan Reynolds was a World War II pilot who upon returning after the war, built a small garage and started fixing and selling used cars. His motto was "Stan Reynolds takes anything as a Trade-In". He was known to take loads of hay, old machinery, you name it.



Awaiting their turn for restoration

Opportunities after the war were immense, for an entrepreneurial person like him. He soon diversified into new cars and farm machinery, and using innovative advertising techniques soon became one of the largest dealers in western Canada.



1912 Case—oldest one known in existence

He soon built up a large collection by attending auctions, following leads, trade ins, or flying his tiger moth over the prairies locating abandoned farm equipment, then landing his plane and negotiating with the farmer.



Some of the engines waiting for restoration

In 1974 after 25 years of collecting in order to preserve this collection he offered it to the Alberta State Government. They hand picked 1000 items and built the new complex that is the museum today. It contains a large restaurant, shops, crèche and incredibly well laid out displays inside.

With over 40,000 visitors annually it has a full time staff of 27. Besides the cars, trucks and farm machinery, it has a collection of 90 aeroplanes. During World War II this area was used to train pilots.

Some from New Zealand including my uncle, so years ago it wasn't hard to find abandoned planes.

The unique thing about this museum is that they have a very large area of machinery waiting for restoration. They have 4 full time restorers working out of the museum workshops. A panel of 6 people headed by a 30 year old woman decides which piece of equipment is the next to be restored.



1917 12 furrow Oliver Engine Gang plow used for breaking large areas of prairie

It took several months of negotiating to get a look through this out of bounds area, but it was so well worth it. I think there was something like 50 traction engines, some of them straw burners waiting their turn for restoration. The overflow from the museum is housed here on mezzanine floors.

It's great to see a local government actively participating in restoring and preserving the past

Ross Worner

Drill Restoration

In 1938 my Dad bought one of the last of the Massey Harris 15c No 8 drills to be imported into New Zealand. One 15 Hoe Drill complete with turnip Box & Grass box on wooden wheels. He paid 130-10 pounds. It was used on the farm and also contracting, sowing 650 acres per year wearing our 2 sets of coulter points on hard Waitaki Plains country.

As luck would have it, I found this circa 1910 Massey Harris 15c No 8 Drill on a farm at Winslow in rough condition. It had just the Fertiliser and Grain boxes.

I started the process of restoring it to its former glory. I stripped and cleaned up the cast Fertiliser Box bottom which had rotted out. All the tine assembly was rusted up, the wood work rotted and had borer. I renewed all the timber boxes. I had a full set of new cast bottom plates for Fertiliser Box. I had been collecting parts for some time so I sorted through all the gear I had and managed to rebuild some parts. I started from the bare frame, reassembled and painted it. It had a good turnip box, which just needed face-up and paint.

The grass box however, had to have all timber renewed. I also had a good pair of steel wheels to fit.

Since restoring the drill I have sowed hundreds of acres with it.

Alan Willetts



Before Restoration



After Restoration

Just for Fun!

The Great Bus Trip



A couple of years ago one of our club members bought a passenger bus with the vision of turning it into a motor home. But before this happened he wanted to make sure it was all ok mechanically and the decision was made to take the family on a trip to Invercargill, so one Friday night after work the family and supplies were all aboard and south they went. All was going swimmingly well, the bus hadn't missed a beat and no one had a worry in the world, as they were approaching Waiholla the family decided they needed a comfort stop, the driver hauled the big bus to a stop and everyone disembarked. The driver gets back on the bus and asks if everyone on and he gets the confirmation that they are so once again the bus is south bound at a great rate, about 5 minutes later the driver asks his wife a question and on not getting a reply he turns his head to the seat behind him where his wife was sitting. But now the seat was empty he asks the rest of the family where the wife is no one knows, by this time he is starting to get a little concerned and anxious. The bus is turned around and back to Waiholla they go, and pulling into the rest area he finds the wife standing patiently beside the toilets. I bet this mishap would have used up a few brownie points

Notice Board

UP COMING MEETINGS

The February meeting will be in the K88 room at the plains on the 5th February at 8pm the March meeting will be on the 5th March at the same venue.

TRADE ME SPECIALS

Fordson Major Restored	\$5050.00
Fordson Major Original	\$1870.00
Farmall M Original	\$4010.00
IH W6 Faded Original	\$1520.00
IH W4 Restored	\$2300.00
Massey Harris 744D asking	\$8000.00
IH WD6 Unrestored not going	\$1500.00
Lanz Bulldog Original asking	\$18000.00
IH BT6 Original	\$5250.00

Harvest Day at Buttericks

Pete plans to have a day for people with vintage headers to harvest some wheat over a weekend in February or March depending on weather. This will be a great weekend to operate some old timers or to just view the spectacle. Peter will have a better idea on how things are going at the February meeting

Taranaki Vintage Club visit, some members from this club are visiting Mid-Canterbury on the 18th March and we have organised some sheds for them to visit, all welcome to attend. 11am Gordy Carter's place at Rakaia the group will have lunch at Rakaia 1pm will visit John Stewarts and then up to Anthony Hampsons about 2.30pm. Will be good to catch up with like minded people from the North Island.

WEB PAGE

The web page is up and running and is getting hits from all over the world which is great. If you have not already had a look please do so and pass any comments on to the committee

NEW MEMBER

We would like to welcome Nigel Rose to the club

FOR SALE 1946 W4 International crank start. Reasonable condition, tyres average.

Offers contact Colin Cress 308 4945

The ploughing day at Wakelins will be in February early March now as the crop will be harvested not silaged and this will now depend on whether the ground will be suitable more info later

Rally DVD The club still has 40 copies left over to sell.

UP COMING EVENTS

Ploughing at Wakelins

8th March Mayfield Show

15th March Methven show

Feb/March Vintage harvest day at Pete Buttericks

29& 30th March 150 years of leeston

12 & 13 April Steam extravaganza Mcleans Island

19& 20 April Sth Canty Traction and Steam 50th anniversary

3rd May—18th May Wheels Week



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