

## Ernest Lester-Smith

It is a sad task that I have to report that our member, Ernest Henry Lester-Smith, passed away on October 17, 2017, Aged 94. Ern joined our club in 2014, and was responsible for, and very passionate about, the restoration and the preservation of some very old vehicles that he and his family used in their farming life. The 1913 Thornycroft Type J, WW1 Truck, the 1920 Moline Universal D Tractor, which was purchased new by Ern's father, and a 1923 Moline Universal D Orchard Tractor are the primary examples. Other vehicles were restored in times past by Ern and his sons Gavin and Richard. The 1978 International scout is one of those vehicles.



In April 2013 Ern and his sons took the Moline Universal D Tractor to The 14<sup>th</sup> NHMA Rally at Mudgee, NSW. At this Rally, Ern was presented with the Geoff Wishart Memorial Perpetual Award for Best Exhibit. Ern was a very modest man, and very soon after I spoke to Ern in Woodend I could see the pride and excitement in his eyes as he spoke very quietly about the award. I'm sure this tractor was his pride and joy. Ern was very eager to attend this year's NHMA rally at Hamilton, but unfortunately his poor health prevented that.

Rest in Peace Ern, you leave behind some great historical machines, well preserved for others to enjoy,  
Lindsay Elliott



1913 Thornycroft Type J  
at our Rally May 2015



1920 Moline Universal D  
1923 Moline Universal D Orchard Tractor  
At Nhma Rally Hamilton 2017

Footnote. Gavin Lester-Smith is a member of our club and is responsible for these machines and we could see these at our and other rallies in the future.

There is a great article in The Old Machinery magazine, Issue 170, December 2013-January 2014, Page 48 written by Eric and Margot Thiele from Kyneton Vehicle Appreciation Society Inc.