

The "Old" Letter



Meetings are the 1st Wednesday of each month, 7.30pm. at our Club Rooms, Fawaz Street, Heyfield.

Post Office Box 266 Heyfield 3858.
New members welcomed.

December 2017

ORDINARY MAIL

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Please return undelivered mail to PO Box 266 Heyfield 3858

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CLUB CONTACTS 2015/2016

CHAIRPERSON	NEIL COOK	03 5148 0531
VICE CHAIRPERSON	PETER COLEMAN (SHARON)	
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GHAC REP	PETER COLEMAN (SHARON)	
GSR REP	BARB COOK (NEIL)	
VEHICLE INSPECTOR	PETER COLEMAN (SHARON)	
SAFETY (ENGINES)	DON WRIGHT (LIZ)	03-5156 8975
	JOHN LEES (HEATHER)	
SAFETY (TRACTORS)	NEIL COOK (BARB)	03-5148 0531
SAFETY (STEAM)	PETER COLEMAN (SHARON)	

LIFE MEMBERS

MAURICE COLEMAN, COLIN COLEMAN, RON LANCASTER, JOHN MAHONEY

TREASURERS REPORT and the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT -

The treasurer's report will not be published in the Newsletter. Any Club Member wishing to view the club's financial report can do so by arrangement with the Club Treasurer.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting will not be published in the Newsletter. Again any member wishing to view the minutes may do so by arrangements with the Club Secretary.

****CLUB PERMIT SCHEME - A message from your Secretary -**

Club Permit Scheme (Red Plates) To receive this privilege you must be a financial member of the Club so always pay your fees before the end of July, Vic Roads must be notified if you fail to pay (be a financial member) This means the privilege to drive your vehicle will be cancelled and any use of the vehicle may result (if caught) in a hefty fine (almost \$1000) for using an unregistered /permitted vehicle.

Within our Club any member requiring Club support must attend three events per calendar year.

Please provide the Secretary a copy of your permit papers for Club records, and photographs of the vehicle as requested by Peter Coleman (Club vehicle inspector) as per VicRoads rules.

If you don't comply you will receive a letter outlining the requirements and be invited to explain your situation. The Club is mandated to advise VicRoads of any noncompliance.

Only the Club's authorised officer(s) are able sign renewals.



Heyfield & District Vintage Machinery Group Christmas Breakup

On Wednesday 6th December 2017

At Railway Hotel Heyfield

Time 6pm

Meal & Drinks at your own expense.

Please let Barb know if you are attending

by 24th November to confirm numbers

Whilst this date is passed the odd late acceptance would likely be accepted by Barb

A Fiesty lady

An elderly Heyfield lady did her shopping and, upon returning to her car, found four males in the act of getting into her vehicle. She dropped her shopping bags and proceeded to scream at the top of her lungs, "Get out of that car! Get out of that car!". The four men didn't wait for a second. They got out and ran like mad.

The lady, somewhat shaken, then proceeded to load her shopping bags into the back of the car and got into the drivers seat. She was so shaken that she could not get her key into the ignition. She tried a couple of times with shaking hands so decided to take a minute or two and compose herself. She tried again and then she realised why. It was for the same reason she had wondered why there was a football, a Frisbee and two 12-packs of beer on floor of the front seat. A few minutes later she found her own car parked four or five spaces farther down. She loaded her bags into her car and drove to the police station to report her mistake. The sergeant to whom she told her story couldn't stop laughing. He pointed to the other end of the counter, where four pale faced men were reporting a car jacking by a mad, elderly woman described as white, five feet tall, glasses, and curly white hair.. No charges were filed.

The moral of the story? If you're going to have a senior moment make it memorable or perhaps it should be "She should have gone to Spec Savers"

(Some changes have been made and it wasn't me I have straight grey hair)

CALENDAR 2018

Dec 6th Heyfield and District Christmas Party Railway Hotel
6pm

2018

Jan. 3rd No Club meeting
13/14th Geelong Classic Truck & Machinery Show Geelong
14th Korumburra Swap Meet Korumburra
21st Sale Swap Meet Sale
27/28th Neerim Country Show Neerim

Feb 3/4th Longwarry Heritage Truck Display (& engines) Longwarry
3rd Berwick Swap Meet Berwick
7th Heyfield and District meeting Heyfield
23/24 Ballarat Swap Meet Ballarat

March 3/4th Sale Vintage Tractor Club Tractor Pull Longford
17/19th Kyabram Vintage Engine & Machinery Rally Kyabram
17/19th Korumburra Working Horse & Tractor Rally Nyora

April 22nd Maffra Motor Museum (Shed) Swap Meet Maffra

May 19/20th Heyfield Vintage Machinery Rally Heyfield

Sept 20/22nd 7th NHMA National Tractor Trek Young NSW

2019

Mar 22/24th NHMA National Rally Murray Bridge SA

Saying a Prayer for the Christmas Meal

Lee, a seven-year-old boy, was asked to say thanks for the Christmas dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. Lee began his prayer, thanking God for his Mummy, Daddy, brothers, sister, Grandma, and all his aunts and uncles. Then he began to thank God for the food.

He gave thanks for the turkey, the stuffing, the Christmas pudding, even the cranberry sauce. Then Lee paused, and everyone waited ... and waited. After a long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the Brussels sprouts, won't he know that I'm lying?"

Christmas Spirit

It was just before Christmas and the magistrate was in a happy mood. He asked the prisoner who was in the dock, 'What are you charged with?'

The prisoner replied, 'Doing my Christmas shopping too early.'

'That's no crime', said the magistrate. 'Just how early were you doing this shopping?'

'Before the shop opened', answered the prisoner.

Well I had to put something in this space so resorted to google. As this year comes to an end I hope that you are all well and are looking forward to a healthy and happy New Year.

Don't celebrate too hard over the festive season - the next day is so very very uncomfortable and you don't get anything done The very best for 2018 Cheers Liz (and Don)

Minutes of the Heyfield and District Vintage Machinery Group Inc.

Meeting No 410 Meeting opened 7.30pm November 1st 2017

Chairperson Neil Cook Minute recorder Barb Cook

Present 19 members, Apologies 3 Visitors Nil. Minutes from the previous meeting read out by Barb Cook No 409 4th October, 2017 Passed J Touzel Seconded Rob Jones.

Business arising from previous meeting.

1. Christmas breakup - numbers required by November 24th 2017 Breakup date 6th December 2017 Heyfield Railway Hotel 6pm.
2. Fencing has been completed Thankyou to members that helped with the job. Good job well done.

Incoming mail

- Lions Club Clearing Sale 11/11/2017
- The Emerald Gem Newsletter
- Email from Wellington Shire Council \$5000 grant for the Rally and no grant for the power.
- Federation Newsletter Sept/December 2017
- Yarra Valley Machinery Newsletter Oct. 2017
- Hit and Miss Wedderburn Newsletter Sept 2017
- GHAC Newsletter Oct 2017
- Trafalgar Truck Club Newsletter Oct 2017
- Passed R. Jones Seconded J Jones

Outgoing mail

- Newsletter to members, NHMA and other Clubs

General Business

- Wilson Lodge - display was great and the residents loved it - J Jones
- Gormandise - was a great time and had a great display
- The Club trailer lock wasn't working but it is now. Thanks - Rob
- John Mahoney reported that Liz is after information, reports, photo's she could use in the Newsletter. (Thanks John - members give me a ring and I will make up your story, or give notes to Don to bring home. Put something in the post. If I need to clarify info then I will give you a ring. Liz)
- Phil Taylor has been supporting the Heyfield Museum on Market days.
- Maffra Show was good, bit wet over n right. Crowds were down but overall it was good.
- Thank you to members that have supported events Well done and great to see members getting out and about.
- 2018 Open Day possibly the 2nd week in February. Members will be informed as soon as a date has been set.
- Get well wishes out to our members who have been unwell - hope you are all on the way to recovery.
- Working bees - you will receive a text with details.
- Thank you to Tom for his laugh at the meeting. Very funny (unless you were John) Fine night at the rally will be good.

Meeting Closed 8.10pm.

Remember the Christmas breakup 6th December Railway Hotel meeting night 6pm
2018 First meeting will be February 7th. No meeting in January

Merry Christmas and have a safe, happy and healthy New year.

Cheers from Cookie and Barb.´

MEMBER PROFILE

ARTHUR O'CONNOR has been a friend for some fifteen years beginning when I (Liz) was the editor for the GHAC newsletter. Don and I had retired to Nicholson and became active members of the East Gippsland branch.. Arthur and Pauline offered to come to our home once a month to fold newsletters.

At that time Arthur owned a Diamond T truck that he and Pauline had restored with great difficulty and bloody mindedness. He took on this task not too long after his accident where his mobility was compromised and has now pretty much confined him to a wheelchair. In addition to the truck he sold three years ago he has a "salmon pink and cream" 1957 Hornet Hudson sedan. He remains a member of the GHAC East Gippsland as well as joining Heyfield about ten years ago.

You go to Arthur's or out with him he will talk to everyone, - truckies from days gone by, or maybe people who he and Pauline meet on their caravan travels, or someone from far East Gippsland or the Latrobe Valley, people from his school days or those he meets locally as he goes for a "walk" around his home. Arthur loves to talk, for those that visit the O'Connor home you can always be assured of a good chat, a warm welcome with a cuppa and Pauline's, always delicious, morning or afternoon tea. There will be date scones for Don, biscuits, fruitcake and the like for everyone. As well Pauline is Arthur's trades assistant, purchasing officer, and gopher.

During a chat one day Arthur mentioned to Don that he was bored. Not a enthusiastic reader, nothing on television, a bit tired of making drink can aeroplanes he went on to mention that he was always interested in using a lathe. In a past conversation with someone they told him he wouldn't be able to learn at his age! Don offered to take him to the "mens' shop" in Dandenong for a look. With that Arthur said "if we go down there I'll put your trailer on my vehicle and we will buy one" and that is how he purchased his first lathe. It came home, was manoeuvred into his shed, some modification were made so he could use it from his wheelchair and so began his journey to developing skills from never having used a lathe or to have read drawings, remember he was a trucky, to producing the stable of models he now proudly displays at engine rallies. He outgrew the first lathe, sold it to upgrade.

In the early days of learning he used to say to me he used to be a bit scared of his teachers (and Don in that role). He can now do so much for himself and has developed so many skills sets - not bad Arthur for an old bloke, in fact very bloody good.



Arthur was so pleased to be awarded the Most Popular Engine exhibit at Hinumunje, he was still smiling a couple of days later when we visited. He said, "I have never received an award like this before in my life"

The little face under his arm is Haven, the youngest grandchild, who is the apple of "Poppy's" eye, a regular little visitor in the shed especially now she has learnt not too touch too much and can "help" him. It hasn't always been that way!. She is 4 years old.

JONES Brothers' day out at Wilson Lodge, Sale.-

Robert and his brother Barry took their stationary engine to Wilson Lodge aged care facility on the 15th October. (Janine's place of work?)

The day was slightly overcast and breezy but this did not stop the residents from coming out to look at the engines. There are 50 residents and we got 75 % of our residents out to look and if there was more collectables for remembrance that would have been the icing on the cake. A big thank you to Rob and Barry for a job well done.



(Looks like a big load and lots of work to set up so well done and I am sure the residents would have been talking about the exhibits for quite a few days)

Get well wishesA little birdy whispered that **Neville's (Hadden)** health has been giving him a hard time recently. I trust that the period in hospital has turned your health around and that you are feeling much better, ready and able to do justice to the coming festive season. Take care Neville and I hope you will be able to attend the Club's Christmas do to enjoy the fellowship of members. Best wishes to any member not feeling chipper.

Membership list and the Newsletter I have attempted to update the membership list to minimise the postage costs. There is a good chance I have deleted someone from either the postage list and/or the emails - there was some duplication. Some surnames are multiple as are initials and without a full name and/or an actual address all linked with an email address I made an educated?? guess.. So if someone says to you they haven't had a Newsletter please get them to let me know, phone 03 5156 8975 or donlizw@netspace.net.au (or give Don a note) so I can update the list.

(and I am feeling pretty happy I can do your names on labels - just needed to ask the correct person and that was a very helpful staff at the new Bairnsdale Office Choices).

Gippslander issue Winter 2017 - I am a bit of a bower bird picking up local papers to see if there is anything interesting to learn about our communities including looking for interesting information for the Newsletter and I forgot I had an article that should have been reported on months ago.

The heading was "**The mechanics of mobility**", a heading that meant nothing to me until I recognised a Heyfield and District shirt on one of the men. I reread the article and there are no names mentioned in the article. Turning over the page, more photo's, one of a bearded man wearing a maroon beanie with a white strip, and glasses He is tinkering with a pair of pliers and the "fuel line?" on his stopped stationary engine. The next photo is a traction engine with two operators, one looking like a young lad and the other larger person wearing a white cap, and someone driving a "Fordson?" tractor named Mr Jon. The final picture is a couple of older members, perhaps not our club, sitting near a steam engine and a mobile work "shed". Did you get interviewed for the story and was it you in the picture?

The stated purpose of the article "was a pictorial exploration of a collection of Gippsland's numerous workshops to demystify the processes behind crafting different means of transport". To do this one of the venues the reporter visited was the **Heyfield Vintage Machinery Rally**. The reporter says he/she was eager to learn more about steam engines and vintage vehicles.... (the men) "proudly displaying their meticulously restored equipment were sparse with their words and more than content to let their machinery being the only thing blowing hot air."

The article continued with pictures and a few words about the Frenchville Heaney Boat-builders (Paynesville), the Mahindra Aerospace (Traralgon) and the Eval Motorcycle Co, (Traralgon)

Liz Wright

Some more about the things members get up to ...We went to the Maffra Shed for the **Ford Flat Top** display a couple of weeks ago - and as I walked around I sighted some familiar names, John Hague displaying a 1930 Special Model A Ford, and a Michael Coleman a 1945 Bren Gun carrier. Likely Club members.....

Also on display was a flat top Ford in a trike made from bits and pieces robbed from at least twenty different pieces of machinery. - It is huge, probably at least 3 metres long and over one metre wide and was used last year to carry Father Christmas in the Bairnsdale Christmas parade. Built by Max Curtis from down this way, a name that will be familiar to some of you.

NOT OUR CLUB but an interesting item ... The Bombala engine group at their last rally had just taken delivery of a huge Crossley Engine. I believe that they are now working very hard to make sure the building for this engine will be completed and that she will be installed ready for their Rally in November?? Put this on your Calendar, it's always a great rally and this new giant of an engine when started will really be a sight to behold. See you there.

A COMMUNITY LOSS I imagine some of you would know the couple tragically killed in the local vehicle crash. For family, friends, Clubs and the community to loose such contributing citizens as the **Kennedys** was a tragedy and to those who knew the couple you were privileged to have had their friendship and in time able to enjoy the memories.

Yarram Show 25th November

Heyfield did themselves proud with the following members providing an interesting display at the Yarra Show. Those who attended are, John Mahony, Mogul engine & pump. Jim Symons, Bamford engine & Ruston pump, Len Hayes with his 1956 Land rover, Lorraine & I with a Heinrici Hot air engine (guess who forgot the gas torch to run it and it wasn't Lorraine's job??). a 1943 5 hp Briggs & Stratton and pump, an home built electric fencer and a few blow lamps. There were plenty of stalls/exhibitors but crowd numbers appeared poor, some interest was shown to Heyfield's exhibit.

Creswick Ploughing Competition 25th & 26th of August and Coronet Bay

Lorraine and I travelled to Rocklyn - near Creswick, to compete in my 1st ever Ploughing competition, I competed in the vintage 2 furrow Mouldboard class and surprised myself being placed 9th out of 17 - I was expecting the wooden spoon! Four of the vintage class entrants were from Gippsland and members of the West Gippsland Ploughing Assn. It was a very steep learning curve as these people are very competitive.

More recently the Ferguson Club held a Ploughing weekend at Coronet Bay and 3 of the Ploughing Assn members were able to get a bit of practice in -I needed to sort out a few gremlins that I had with my plough and get a bit of practice as well.



Thanks for the report John (Touzel)

More trivia but important Heyfield history everyone in Heyfield and beyond has heard about the eighty seven year old letter unearthed in the clear up of the Post Office now a museum. Club member, in another role, Ron Lancaster was the "finder" of the letter. Well done Ron. I believe that Ron knew the sender of the letter, a Mr and Mrs Clark of Clark St, Heyfield.

Tonight (28/11/2017) I saw another familiar name mentioned on the TV news, non other than another Club member Gerald Molphy who attended the historic opening of the letter addressed to a Mr H.J.Ford. The letter included a 1927 pound note for payment of a saddle purchased by the Clark's son.

I am lead to believe that the letter has been donation to the Heyfield Museum.

Continued..... **The International story** ... (late 1940s to 1961).

1947 International purchased fifty six acres in Dandenong for the manufacturer of vehicles, this was the second IH plant in Australia and was dedicated to truck manufacture. In the period of building the Dandenong plant trucks were manufactured at the Melbourne City Road headquarter. The first truck came off the temporary assembly line in August 1950. Dandenong was opened in 1952 and the first truck came off the assembly line four months later.

Back at Geelong. In 1948 the plant was expanded for the Farmall M line. In 1952 the 10,000th tractor was built. The Super AW-6 was driven off the line by Sir John McEwan. In 1954 the first AWD-6 was built. the first diesel tractor built in Australia. It had a 50 hp engine (AD-264) The AW-6 series was modelled on the American W-6 made between 1940 - 1953. Early W-6s featured a cast-iron oil pan and deep fan cowling and lacked the A prefix. American models were sold in Australia as early as 1942 after being imported and assembled at Spotswood, Melbourne and finally Geelong.

By this time 2,578 employees worked at the Geelong plant. The company established a Human Relations Centre to look after employee needs, followed by a Medical Centre, an onsite doctor, a canteen that seated 560 serving hot three course meals. Everyone was expected to eat in the canteen whether or not you purchased a hot lunch (this was still practiced at Dandenong in the 1970's).

In 1958 there was another expansion, seven acres was purchased at Port Melbourne just one hundred yards from the wharf on the Yarra. This plant focussed mainly on small production runs of more than one hundred products including a transfer from Geelong of some equipment. In 1961 the Product Engineering Centre began across the road from the Geelong works on ten acres of land.

In 1953 the first Super AW-6 (McCormick International Super AW-6) was released in Queensland. and sold until 1958 with a AC-264 engine. It was replaced by the AW-7. released in Perth in 1957. A kerosene version (AM-7K) followed in 1958 with a 45 hp engine or a 50 hp diesel (AM-7D) The most interesting feature of the AM-7 was its power steering. This series was not sold after 1961.

The Farmall series, the AM replaced the American version in 1948 It was a row crop tractor. The American M & H was offered during the war until Australian factories could make more castings. It was popular because of the row clearance for front and mid mounted attachments. The Farmall Super AM was recognised as a new and higher powered unit released in 1948, a kerosene engine with 18% more powerful than the Farmall AM. The Super AM was replaced in 1958 with the AM-7K The diesel Farmall Super AWD released in 1953 - 1957, a 50 hp unit providing ample power for most farm implements.

The McCormick International AOS-6, a modified W-6 Introduced 1953 until 1959, it was produced for orchardists and initially painted white.

I trust I have summarised the articles accurately. Liz.

NB It is obviously a myth that the Dandenong plant was used to build tanks in WW11 - it didn't exist! You can learn something every day - well every now and again!

