

Welcome to the February issue of our newsletter, The Good Oil.

As there are no rally reports for this month, and I have been busy in other fields (rally and work), this Good Oil is a quick one.



Happy Birthday to our February born members. We hope you all have a beautiful birthday and many happy returns.

Ross Nankivell	7 th
David Barton	12 th
Barb Thomson	24 th
Bill Mackay	27 th

New member

I would like to welcome the newest member to our club, Blake Thomson. Blake is a 12 year old, almost 13 year old, great grandson of Bill and Marj Grandell, and my grandson. For those who have attended our rally over the years, you would have seen Blake progress from the pram to being my helper and gopher. Blake is good friends with two of our other junior members, Hugh Freeman and Mathew Bain. It is good to see the new generation taking an interest in our hobby. Welcome to the club Blake.

Rally

Please read all of the information that I have sent out to you this month. There is quite a bit to get through but it is all relevant for the rally.

Night security

To those who have offered to do the overnight security, **I thank you very much.**

This is a hard task after spending all day either setting or running around at the rally, then getting at least two hours of your well earned sleep disrupted, then trying to function again for the next full day of rallying. These people keep all of our, and our visitors, displays safe and secure. I have given those on the night roster a copy of when your time slot is.

Entry forms

Please submit your entry forms prior to the rally. You can either mail them in to our post box at PO Box 855 Kyabram, or bring them along to the February meeting.

We have two new rally secretaries this year and the paper work on the weekend of the rally can become pretty daunting and hectic, so I am asking our members to be considerate to our new secretaries by getting your entry form in early so that it can be processed prior to the weekend. You will still need to register when you arrive at the grounds so that you can get your arm band for your Saturday evening meal.

Flyers

We still have quite a few of our A4 flyers that need to be put up in shop fronts etc.

If anyone can do this in Kyabram, or local towns, please take some and get them out there so that the locals know about our rally.

We are looking for volunteers to man the gate at the rodeo from 12noon to 5pm, and we are also after volunteers to cook on the BBQ for a term during the evening.

This is our commitment to the Show Society and they in turn provide us with our club rooms and they look after us with the use of the show grounds pretty much when ever we need the grounds or the luncheon room. We are very lucky to be able to use these facilities.

Volunteering for the rodeo gets you free entry and it is always a good night out.

Just for fun

A lady walks into a bank in central New York City and asks for the loan officer. She says she's going to Europe on business for two weeks and needs to borrow \$5,000.

The bank officer says the bank will need some kind of security for the loan, so the lady hands over the keys to a new Rolls Royce. The car is parked on the street in front of the bank; she has the title and everything checks out.

The bank agrees to accept the car as collateral for the loan.

The bank's president and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at the lady for using a \$250,000 Rolls Royce as collateral against a \$5,000 loan. An employee of the bank then proceeds to drive the Rolls Royce into the bank's underground garage and parks it there.

Two weeks later, the lady returns, repays the \$5,000 and the interest which comes to \$15.41. The loan officer says, "Miss, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a little puzzled. While you were away, we checked you out and found that you are a multimillionaire.

What puzzles us is, why would you bother to borrow \$5,000?"

The lady replies, "Where else in central New York City can I park my Rolls Royce for two weeks for only \$15.41 and expect it to be there when I return?"

Reaping and Threshing Machine Invented to Save Colony's Crop

The most successful colony in the field of wheat production in the 1830's was South Australia. This young Colony was proclaimed in 1836, but suffered from malpractices and poor political decisions regarding land tenure shortly afterwards, and was brought to a financial crisis in 1838. England then suspended organized migration to South Australia, as the Colony had in fact collapsed. The resulting labour shortage in following years brought another crisis, this time for the cereal farmers, who had no men to cut and gather the wheat crop of 1842.

Much of that harvest was lost due to early ripening and shattering of the grain, and it became obvious to grain growers that an alternative to the labour-intensive sickle and scythe was urgently needed. The early-shattering English wheats also compounded the problem.

Within a year the farmers of South Australia faced the prospect of being unable to harvest a bountiful wheat crop. Unless a mechanical alternative was available, a large proportion of the crop would be wasted. A number of agriculturalists formed a committee to hasten the development of a suitable machine. They offered a prize of £40 for the invention of a harvesting machine suitable for the dry South Australian conditions. By September 1843, sixteen models had been submitted, examined and rejected, including a model presented by John Wrathall Bull.

Another innovative mechanic was still working on his machine – John Ridley made a reaping and threshing machine, and after some adjustments, was successful on 11th November 1843. So the world's first mechanical harvester, which was to revolutionize cropping worldwide, emerged on South Australian soil. Ridley's first machine had an open chimney at the rear of the stripper, to partially winnow dust and husks from the grain. The draught from the beaters would blow the light material out of the chimney. This did not prove comfortable to the horses pushing the machine, or to the workmen behind. It also aided the spread of light weed seeds, and was discontinued in later models.

Once a stripper began to remove the heads of a wheat crop, only the straw stubble was left standing. Ridley's stripper could reap one acre per hour, six times faster than by hand reaping. In quantity, the machine could reap 200 bushels per day. During 1843, Ridley offered to reap wheat for 5/- per acre, a third of the cost of hiring manual labour.

