

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



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

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Norris Bell	2	Ross Nankivell	7
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Enid Tobias	11	Bill Mackay	27
Bonnie Fletcher	11		
Greg Ross	12		
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## The History of an “Austral” engine

By Bob Stuart

Recently on a trip away I heard this story and found it to be very interesting, so thought I would share it.

It concerns an “Austral” (4 or 6 HP) stationery engine, complete with transport, ordered from the manufacturers, “Ronaldson & Tippett” at Ballarat in the early 1900’s by the present owner’s grandfather.

The order being placed, it was then delivered by rail to the ‘Penshurst Railway Station’ in the western district and was accompanied by a serviceman and his bicycle. The serviceman had been instructed to ride to the property and advise the new owner that his order had arrived, there being no telephone connection at that time.

Two draught horses were yoked and the men then set out to collect the engine from the station, and drag it home behind the horses.

The serviceman returned to the property with the owner, and the following day demonstrated how to start and maintain the engine. The serviceman was obliged to stay on a further two days, as the train only ran twice a week to Penshurst.

The engine was used to drive a 5 stand shearing plant, but proved difficult to start, as it was a ‘Hot Tube’ ignition. After a few seasons it was returned to the manufacturer whereupon it was converted to ‘Magneto Ignition’.

This modification was most successful, as the engine was then very reliable. It was used until the power was connected in the area.

It remains in going order, and awaits a grandsons interest!

## **Rally Reports**

### **Nathalia Agricultural Show**

We had a good roll up members attend the Nathalia Agricultural Show on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October. Bill & Marj G, Rob G, Bruce A, Ross N, Lloyd & Marie B, Kevin D, Greg R, Frank T and Bob S took along something to display and wandering around the grounds were Rod, Meryl, Mat and Aaron B.

We were able to display approx. 15 engines with various pumps. Also on display were 4 tractors (1 Massey Harris, 2 Chamberlain and 1 Bulldog). Kevin displayed his car and Bruce displayed his BSA Motor Bike.

Other things of interest at the show were the sheep dog trial, a motor bike obstacle course and plenty of horses on the arena.

They also had the usual side shows and stalls that young ones seem to flock to.

We had plenty of interest from the public with a steady crowd all day and the weather was fine and lovely.

### **Euroa Wool Week**

On Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> November Lloyd and Marie B. and Mike and Barb T. loaded up the trailers and headed over to the Euroa Wool Week street festival. Being my first time there, I didn't know what to expect but Lloyd and Marie assured me that it would be worthwhile in going, and they were totally right. It was great to see a small town put on a terrific street festival and a magnificent street parade.

The main street was blocked off to traffic and the festival was set up along the street.

Lloyd & Marie took along a trailer load of engines and they joined one other engine enthusiast to have a beaut display. The organizers provided, and set up the fencing for their compound, which was portable sheep yard fencing. Because we were all set up along the main street, nothing could be hammered into the ground. Mike was set up a bit further along the street with his shearing plant and portable panels and yards. The organizers provided the sheep for Mike to shear. Another shearer was also with Mike and he was shearing with the 'Mum and Dad' manual hand shearer. The shearing gained a lot of interest from the public, especially when we needed someone to turn the handle on the mum and dad shearer. If you are wondering what a mum and dad shearer is, come along to our rally and truck muster in March as there will be one there in action.

Other activities on the day was Maypole dancing display from the local children, street stalls, singers (one up either end of the street), line dancers, a model train race and a foot race. The model train race was good fun to watch. They had two model trains, side by side, on a single piece of straight track. There was another piece of straight track at the back and the teams had to run that part of the track to the front and join it up so that the train could go forward, this had to happen many times for the train to get to the finish line. It was very entertaining and good fun for the two teams of young people involved. They also had a foot race for anyone inclined. This was mainly made up of the local footballers with a couple of young women joining in. I didn't really want to watch this because if one of them lost their footing they would have ended up with bits of asphalt embedded into their bodies. But luckily everyone kept upright.

The event ended up with a magnificent street parade. Everyone involved with anything in the town either had a float or dressed up or just walked with their banner. If you could think of an organization, a club, shop keepers etc, they were in the parade.

Everything from the local school kids, senior citizens, emergency services, pony club, historical society, sporting clubs and everything else in town. There were a few old bicycles, old cars, trucks and tractors.

The organizers couldn't do enough to help us. They made sure we had everything we needed, they helped with the setting up and taking down of our yards, they provided us with close parking and they came up for a yarn several times throughout the event. The interest from the public was terrific and we were able to talk to the public about our rally and truck muster and we handed out a heap of flyers as well. The event finished early in the afternoon so we all had plenty of time to pack up and have a good yack afterwards.

This was a good event to go to and quite a few people said that they would see us at our rally and muster.

### **Tatura Show & Shine**

By Pete Fletcher

The Tatura Show & Shine was held at the Tatura race course on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

We had a good roll up of members for the day, including Bob S, Ross N, Rob G, Jed H, Marie and Lloyd B, Greg M and myself. We were also happy to have our great friend and neighbor, Gary T from the Wunghnu Club, joining us.

Our displays included 16 engines, 2 tractors, 3 trucks, 1 feral ute, pumps, grinders and a corn sheller.

Those of us who attended put on a great display, especially Greg M who brought along 2 big Austral engines, 2 tractors and 3 trucks.

The organizers had a very good day with the car exhibit numbers way up from previous years and there were heaps of public visitors. They had a light aircraft fly over once again this year.

This event is a great day out, and close to home which makes it even better. As always, the hospitality from the hosts was very good.

For those of us exhibiting, we had excellent catering provided by, and with many thanks to Jed and Kim.

We have always had good interest from the public at this event.

The weather started off cool but it warmed up towards the finish which made it pretty much a perfect day.

## **Toolamba Twilight Christmas Festival**

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November Frank T, Rob G, Bill & Marj G, Greg & Jenny R, Bob S and Peter & Ned F took their engines along to the Toolamba Christmas festival.

In all, they displayed 6 engines with various pumps.

Even though Toolamba is a small community, there was plenty of entertainment for the good crowd of people. Even Santa showed up. He doesn't like to miss out on a good Christmas party.

They had plenty of food for the hungry and their local Lions Club really know how to do a good baked spud with heaps of filling in it. There was no room for seconds after eating one of those.

The hospitality from the organizers was good and we had quite a few onlookers. One young boy, aged about 3 years old, was very interested in our engines and he came back for a second look. A future enthusiast in the making.

The weather was lovely and warm and a beaut time was had by our members.

## **Dookie Agricultural Show**

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November Ray E, Ross N, Rob G and Bill G attend the Dookie Ag Show and they were fortunate to have our good friend and neighbor Gary Thorne with them.

They were able to display 12 engines, a grain crusher and various pumps. Also on display was 2 tractors and one classic left hand drive car that was looking for a fuel bowser.

Many kids and the odd adult gave Rob's hand water pump a good work out. The public love to be able to get involved.

The hospitality from the organizers was good and we had a steady lot of lookers showing interest and wanting to talk.

The weather was lovely and mainly sunny for the day.

## **Lake Goldsmith Vintage Rally**

By Bob Stuart

I thought I would share a few moments of my trip to Lake Goldsmith on what started out to be a cold and blustery morning, which fortunately turned out to be much warmer in the afternoon.

The temporary display did not have as many exhibits as we see at our rally, however amongst them there were a few interesting items some of which were for sale!

The permanent displays in the sheds were many and varied from huge to small and the variety was quite something to see.

Safety did not seem to be a consideration as there were Traction Engines and tractors with trailers attached with people aboard, joy riding and travelling throughout the lanes all day, unescorted.

The Grand Parade was well presented with an excellent P.A. system and compeer who had an excellent knowledge of the exhibits.

The highlight for me was the steam powered Saw Mill, and when operating under full load the engine was visibly shaking!

The food line presented a long wait, however there was plenty to choose from, and there were ample tables and chairs.

I would thoroughly recommend this as a most worthwhile and enjoyable trip for all members, and a great incentive for the juniors as there was so much to see, experience and learn.

## **Christmas Party**

50 people, big and little, old and young, and everything in between, enjoyed each others company at our Christmas party.

The show grounds luncheon room was decorated with Christmas tinsel and the tables had a great supply of lollies on them.

Thank you to the people who donated the lollies. It wouldn't be a proper Christmas celebration without a lolly or two or three or more.

Thank goodness for the new air conditioner in the luncheon room. This was started up early in the afternoon and the room was then a good temperature when the crowds arrived. We are very lucky to be able to use the luncheon room pretty much when ever we need it. The show society appreciate the work we do for them and they repay us in this way.

Our BBQ chefs and helpers looked pretty dapper in their new aprons. Now we won't have the women looking for the Preen bottle to get the fat splatters off the men's clothing.

And the new flowery oven mitts were a hit as Frank was seen proudly strolling backwards and forwards with the hot trays of meat and not a burnt finger was in sight.

Thanks Mia and Cooper, our little helpers, for mowing the grass at the luncheon room door.

Many thanks to those who helped with either the setting up, packing up, dish washing, cooking and every other little job that had to be done that goes unnoticed. Without these great club members we would just be standing around looking at each other, with empty tummies.

## **Thank you**

A great big thank you to Mick Ciavarella and his son, from Tatura, for helping us to put new carpet in our club room.

The old bits and pieces of carpet did what was needed at the time but now we need to be a more pro active in looking for any risks or dangers to our members and the old carpet was beginning to be a trip hazard.

Mick and his son spent a lot of time and their own money in chasing up the carpet for us, delivering it and laying it in place.

Those who came along to oversee the carpet laying, we were entertained the whole time by Mick and his words of wisdom and funny jokes.

## Help Wanted

Remember from the last issue of The Good Oil that Gary from Wunghnu was looking for a flywheel for his Petter M after it fell over onto the pulley side and broke the flywheel, well we have good news to report.

- OK, after my flywheel tragedy the other week I found a Rosebery flywheel that will work. I just have to make a spacer up and a new key. She lives to fight another day. It doesn't look pretty but it works until I can find a Petter one. Thanks to Bill Grandell for your wisdom and foresight.

## For Sale

Colin Barlow, Lloyd & Marie's son, has for sale 7 binders, Allis Chalmers, rotor baler and a V4 Wisconsin wind rower. If you are interested in any of these please contact Colin on 0427 746324

Bulldozer - 1944 D7 Caterpillar bulldozer. Asking price about \$7,000 (Rushworth area)  
Contact Andrew 0447 158589

There is a heap of 'stuff' for sale out Wunghnu way. The stuff includes engines and tractors. If you are interested, please contact Barry Hoffman 0400 217039

Glen has the following engines for sale:-

- Cooper 3HP
- Cooper 1 – 1 1/3
- Villiers
- Cooper shearing plant

I don't know where these are at so if you are interested contact Glen on 0457 874315

Des Nicol from Euroa has a 3HP Rosebery for sale. Contact 0412 515004

Col from Kialla has as a Ronaldson & Tippett 5HP vertical engine for sale. It is complete except for the diesel pump. Contact 0418 559191

To give away - Old gramophone records – Contact Pete Fletcher 0403 846412

## Just For Fun

Never Argue With a Woman.

One morning, a husband returns the family boat to their lakeside cottage after several hours of fishing and decides to take a nap. Although not familiar with the lake, the wife decides to take the boat out.

She motors out a short distance, anchors, puts her feet up, and begins to read her book.

The peace and solitude are magnificent.

Along comes a Fish and Games warden in his boat. He pulls up along side the woman and says, "Good morning Ma'am. What are you doing?"

"Reading a book" she replies, (thinking isn't that obvious?)

"You're in a Restricted Fishing Area," he informs her.

"I'm sorry officer, but I'm not fishing. I'm reading" she says

"Yes, but I see you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment. I'll have to take you in and write you up" says the Warden

"If you do that, I'll have to charge you with sexual assault" says the woman.

"But I haven't even touched you" says the Warden

"That's true, but you have all the equipment. For all I know you could start at any moment" she says.

"Have a nice day ma'am" and he left.

*Moral: Never argue with a woman who reads. It is likely she can also think.*

## Who is doing what

The Bain family have been eating a lot of lamb chops and lamb roasts. Hope you are on the mend Meryl.

Blake T has been pressure washing a little Cub International garden tractor, getting it ready for restoration.

Jane and Pete F have a new addition to the family, and heaps more doggy doo to pick up.

Gary S spent Christmas Eve celebrating his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. Happy Birthday Gary!!

Ray G has a new toy. Hope we can see the Cletrac Crawler at our rally and truck muster in 2019.