

Welcome to the September/October issue of our newsletter, The Good Oil.



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

September

Geoff Forryan 18

October

Hannah Archibald 3
Bill Grandell 3
Simon Baxter 9
Ian Jensen 16
Leanne Laffan 21
Daniel Mundie 31

Rally Reports

Cobram Swap Meet and Show and Shine

Sunday 12th August started out damn cold. With an early start, heater on full bore in the ute and our pockets full of money, all vehicles were headed for the Cobram showgrounds to either pick up a bargain at the Swap Meet or show off their vehicles at the Show and Shine. As luck would have it, we were able to get a car park just two car lengths from the entry gate. After paying our \$5 a head entry, we were off and running. There were blokes everywhere with their makeshift trolleys with boxes on them for carrying all of their bargains, blokes with man bags over their shoulders, and the women were doing the trek to and from the vehicles with the men's bits and pieces. The weather proved to be not too bad with the sun shining, but the breeze, and in the shade, was still chilly. A few familiar club member faces were seen with stalls, some being our club members and some being neighbouring club members. We didn't get too far around the stalls before we met up with fellow club members, relations, friends, and some of our regular rally exhibitors. The outside of the showgrounds arena were full of stalls of all interests for people. Some stalls were car parts, others were old stuff, some had craft things and some had a bit of everything. There were two sheds with a few stalls in them but the rest of the swap meet was out doors. With what we were interest in, some stalls were happy to haggle with the price, others wouldn't budge, I didn't see much that was cheap but there were quite a few bits and pieces that were a bit pricy. The inside of the arena was full of vehicles for the Show and Shine. The local Lions Club had two BBQ stalls, one on either side of the showgrounds, selling egg and bacon rolls, burger rolls and burger rolls with the lot, as well as chip. I think it was the Scouts who were selling the hot donuts. The stall holders had to pay \$15 for their stall and it was a large area that they were given. They could easily put their vehicle with a trailer on behind it, in the space provided. It looked like there was a good crowd of people but I haven't heard any reports on the numbers. The three of us were all able to bag a bargain and knock the price down a bit on what we bought. Once 1pm came, they all started packing up their stalls and the Show and Shine vehicles began moving out. Our club members that were seen there were Eldred J, Phil A, John L, Lindsay E, Rob Mac, Bill G, Mike T, Frank T's vehicle and Barb T. We didn't come across Frank himself, but I am sure he was able to come home with something of interest. Some of our regular rally exhibitors that we came across were Ross O from the Shepparton car club, Mick J from Deniliquin and Dennis L from the Vintage Radio Club. A comment was made that it was good to see the older swap meeter showing the next generation how it was done. We enjoyed the swap meet and would be happy to go back again next year.

Rochester Farm Safety Expo

By Marie and Bill

The Rochester Farm and Safety Expo was a one day event, held on Tuesday 21st August, which was a cloudy and windy day, but eventually in the afternoon the sun arrived. This event is intended for the hundreds of school kids to learn something about the safety of being around farm machinery and also to learn about our emergency services. Our club, along with the Echuca Engine Club, were invited to bring along our engines and associated stuff, to show the kids what machinery use to be used for in the olden days. Marie and Lloyd B, Frank T, Rob G, Bruce A, Ross N, and Bill G, represented our club and there were three members from the Echuca club with us. Our compound was of great interest to the kids with the 13 engines with associated attachments, and Frank brought along his interesting table of memorabilia. We were kept busy all day with the excellent interest which came from the kids.

Other displays on the grounds were the SES search and rescue, police cars, headers, horses, tractors and trucks. When the police car turned its siren and lights on, Frank did a runner, Ross took cover behind the tent and Bill quickly checked that his trailer lights were working. But, luckily for our blokes, the cops left them alone and concentrated on entertaining the kids. McColls and Fontera each had a B Double milk tanker on display and they were both polished up and looking brand new. There was also a John Deere header on display and it had a front of approx. 40 foot wide. Sitting along side this was a Massey Ferguson Tractor and baler (large rectangle bales), which was a very big unit. This machinery is a far cry from what the farmers use to use. One of the good reasons for attending this day as an exhibitor, was the great hospitality from the organisers, along with the free sausages that we were all given for lunch. It sure does beat having a jam sandwich for lunch. You would think that 498 sausages would be enough to feed everyone, but they ran out. This year was the most kids that I have seen at the event, and they must have brought along their appetite with them. It was Frank's turn to do this report but he could not find the time as he was too busy entertaining the school kids. They loved listening to his stories as much as what we do.

Clearing Sale at Marong

Saturday 25th August was the day we attended the clearing sale near Marong, of one of our long time rally exhibitors, Laurie Rinaldi. It was a magnificent day weather wise, with the jumpers coming off around mid day, and the wish that sunscreen had of been applied to old snozzle. Laurie and his wife have been attending our rally for over 18 years. Not only is Laurie a regular exhibitor at our rally, and a friend of many of our club members, but he has also been extremely kind to us by distributing our rally flyers at every rally that he has attended over the many years, and for this we are greatly appreciative of him. Unfortunately Laurie has not been keeping good health lately and he and his wife have decided to scale down and shift closer into Bendigo, which meant that a clearing sale was needed. The sale started at 9am with the usual ½ hour blurb by the auctioneer about their terms and conditions. There were a lot of people at this sale, so much so that the local service club that was running the BBQ, had sold out of snags by 11.30am. They had to make a quick trip into town for more supplies but even that was not enough and they were packing up by 12.30. There were a few familiar faces in the crowd from other engine clubs in the district. The sale started with the scrap metal area and we thought that the sale would never end. Eventually they got onto the tools and sundries area and lastly they finished off with the collection of chainsaws, jacks, about six engines and the familiar caravan that we saw parked at the showgrounds every year. The sale finished at about 3pm and the one auctioneer did a magnificent job by doing all of the auctioneering himself, even without a lunch break, which was good because he would have missed out on a snag anyway. As with all auctions, some bargains were had and some items were good for Laurie. One neighbouring club member was hoping for a bargain and started off all of the engines at \$200, which was a joke, and the auctioneer made him be more reasonable. The people who bought the engines were not familiar faces. There was a Sundial 4HP that went for \$1200, a Wallaby (Sundex) that went for over \$1000, a Cooper model TB with an enclosed crank that went for good money but I can't remember how much but it was somewhere in the \$700 -\$800, a Wolseley that went for about \$500, a farm pumper without its original pump went for about \$350 and an old air cooled engine that had a lot of parts missing was also sold. Laurie's good collection of engines were not on sale so hopefully we may still see him out and about at the closer rallies. We wish Laurie all the best.

Lane's Rabbit Traps

Rabbit trapping helped sustain many Australians through tough times of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, providing livelihoods, extra income or food. Rabbits were plentiful and trapping looked on as a simple way to convert a problem into something useful: money, a hot dinner or furred garment. By the 1970s, when animal welfare legislation banning serrated steel-jaw leg-hold traps started being introduced, millions of traps had seen action – and rabbits – around the country.

It was Lane that produced the near perfect machine, the 'Lane's Ace'. It embodied all the features brought about by trial and error. Light, strong, fast, rust-resistant, it could be exposed to the elements for months, mislaid and left, then brought back into use immediately.

As rabbit populations in southern Australia surged from the 1870s, demand for traps likewise increased. Unlike rabbits, imported British-made traps did not particularly suit Australian conditions. Initial attempts to develop traps specifically for the Australian market based on British models fell short of the mark. New designs proved too heavy for commercial trapping in Australia as rabbiters often worked in isolated locations and over larger areas. 'They should've put a pair o' bloody wheels on 'em' – was the recollection of one trapper.

Early diagrams for a metal spring-jaw trap had been published in England in the late 1500s. By the 1700s, the design had resolved into a form similar to traps used in the 1900s. Improvements in steel quality and production methods in the 1800s saw development of a diverse variety of styles for use on all manner of mammals, many models prompted by the growing trade in fur for fashion. Established in Wednesfield, England in 1844, throughout the nineteenth century the Henry Lane Ltd company produced a wide range of metal animal traps (along with some man traps, primarily for use on private estates where poaching was a problem). At the end of the First World War (1914-18), demand in Australia for traps was so great that Lane moved his rabbit trap production half a world away, establishing the Henry Lane (Australia) Ltd. company in Newcastle, New South Wales in 1919. After testing different steel, spring and pressure combinations, the 'Ace' trap came to fruition in 1935. The Lane's 'Ace' design became the benchmark trap for rabbiting in Australia. Hundreds of thousands were turned out by the company and used around the country. Much copied by competitors, the traps remained in production until 1960.



This 'Ace' trap was used during the 1930s.

Made of carbon steel and weighing around 5 kilograms, time and outdoor use has lent it a patina of rust. It measures about 14 cm long. When the jaws are set open it stands about 7 cm tall. Attached to the spring end by chain is a 20 cm peg.

During the 1930s some men lived a subsistence existence, relying heavily on trapping rabbits for food and selling their skins for 2 shillings 6 pence per pound.

Trapping was extensively used during periods of great abundance in rabbit numbers, particularly from the 1880s and into the first half of the 20th century. Though found to be inefficient as a form of rabbit control, trapping grew in popularity as value of the catch came to be recognised.

Various industries started to emerge as the commercial value of rabbits was realised. In the 1860s and 70s, rabbits trapped on properties in Victoria's western districts (an area where rabbits brought ruin to many farmers) were principally used for food, transported the short distance to Melbourne for sale at the Fish Market. By the late nineteenth century rabbits were being sent to factories where their meat was preserved or their fur processed into felt hats; bales of pelts and crates of frozen carcasses were also being exported overseas. Thousands found employment as these industries grew; more and more rabbits were needed, and destined, to supply them. With the start of the Second World War manpower for rabbit trapping was absorbed by the war effort. Rabbit control simultaneously suffered and in the post-war period the wild rabbit population flourished. Increased demand for skins and meat also saw 'earnings reach astronomical levels during the 1940s and early 1950s... with some trappers earning up to £100 per week.' This was not to last.



From the 1950s, the deadly myxomatosis disease – developed in order to combat the rabbit problem – spread and decimated populations, with far fewer rabbits left to supply now major domestic and export industries. Trapping continued but in the 1960s was dealt a double blow from which the commercial industry could not recover: producers in Europe and China increased production of farmed rabbits, with China becoming the largest exporter of meat from domestic rabbits; and the introduction of battery farming for chickens in Australia offered consumers a cheaper, more reputable alternative. Large-scale commercial trapping ended at this point.

Through the 1960s and 1970s animal welfare groups lobbied for the prohibition of serrated steel-jaw leg hold traps due to concerns over

unnecessary pain and prolonged suffering faced by animals caught in them. The closing force of the jaws and placement of the serrations can damage limbs, and frightened animals can sustain further injuries attempting to get out of the trap.

Platypus Rabbit Trap - 28th July 2014

\$9000 for a Platypus rabbit trap sets an Australian record at trap guru Darol Walsgott's rabbit and wild dog trap auction at Murtoa.

RABBIT traps sold to \$9000 at Australia's biggest rabbit trap auction at Murtoa at the weekend.

Wimmera Auctions principal Leigh Hammerton said he thought the price for the Platypus brand trap was "an Aussie record for a rabbit trap by miles". The unnamed buyer came from North East Victoria, he said.

The Platypus brand trap was made in the 1930s, he said, and sought after due to its rarity and the fact that it had a clear, Australian logo stamped on it. About 250 attended the sale of "trap guru" Darol Walsgott's entire collection.

The Pomonal resident's entire catalogue — more than 400 rabbit and wild dog traps, as well as other trapping and fumigation items — was sold. He described the interest as "just ridiculous".

Several other traps made \$3000 and many fetched more than \$1000. But most ranged from \$50-\$500, he said.

Mr Hammerton said traps were a "new collectables area" which was "just taking off in a big way".

The Rabbit Pest

Thanks Eldred for this article from 1891.

Cobar

Rabbits are swarming over the district. 50,000 were killed in one paddock and 80,000 in another. Runs which carried 50,000 sheep a few years ago are reduced to 7,000 now, and these are kept alive by gangs of men cutting mulga scrub for their sustenance. If wire fence had been erected as proposed by Mr James Cotton, inspector of stock, eight years ago, this ruin would have been averted now. The pastoralists are applying everywhere for permits to remove their stock to other places to save their stock. The young rabbits get through the wire netting of the mesh according to the Rabbit Act. The mesh must be 1 ¼ in. to be effective. Even the town is overrun with them.

New members

Welcome to our two new members, Meryl Allan-Bain and Aaron Bain. Meryl is Rod's partner (Mathew's mum) and Aaron is their younger son. It is good to see the whole family involved with our passion of collecting and restoring. Welcome to the club Meryl and Aaron.

Condolences

It is sad to report the passing of Joy Bell, wife of our fellow club member, Norris. Our thoughts and love are with Norris and his family at this sad time.

Our condolences also go out to the family of Herb Nielson. Herb passed away suddenly. Herb was the blade shearer that attended our rally and he was seen at last year's rally walking around with his two pet sheep.

Membership Fees Due

A reminder to all members that your membership fees are now due for renewal. Your 2017/2018 insurance card became out of date at the end of July, so if you wish to attend any rally, you will need your new insurance card. You can either mail your membership fees to KVE&MRG P.O.Box 855 Kyabram 3619, Direct credit it to the Bendigo Bank (see below for details), or bring your fees along to the next meeting.

Direct Credit Membership renewals

Our memberships were due for renewal at the end of July.

Some of our members have previously enquired about paying for their membership by direct credit.

After speaking to the Bendigo Bank about the availability of this, we have been told that it can be done.

If you would like to pay for your membership via direct credit, please email me your membership form to me at thomobarb@bigpond.com and then complete the direct credit to:-

Bendigo Bank -

BSB: 633 - 000

Account No.: 111145652

Account name: Kyabram Vintage Engine & Machinery Restoration Group

Reference: your surname

Please remember to reference your name so that we know who the money has come from.

Past Events in September

Did you know that September was the seventh month of the original Roman calendar and September means seventh. When January and February were added to the calendar September became the ninth month.

1842 – Copper was discovered at Kapunda in South Australia

1906 – Carlton wins their first Australian Rules premiership by beating Fitzroy

1908 – First factory built Ford Model T completed

1928 – Alexander Fleming discovers penicillin

1939 – Britain and France declare war on Germany

1945 – Japan formally surrenders to the allies

1956 – Television in Australia is launched

1960 – Chubby Checker has a number 1 record with 'The Twist'

1962 – 'Beverly Hillbillies' TV show starts

1982 – Princess Grace of Monaco dies

1983 – Australia wins the America's Cup

2000 – Summer Olympic Games held in Sydney

Just for Fun

A bloke walks into a pub and orders three pints of beer. He sits in the back of the room, drinking some beer out of each on in turn. When he finishes them, he comes back to the bar and orders three more. The bartender approaches and tells him, "You know, a beer goes flat after I draw it. It would taste better if you bought one at a time." The bloke replies, "Well, you see, I have two brothers. One is an FA 18 Hornet fighter pilot, the other is a SAS soldier, both serving overseas somewhere. When we all left our home, we promised that we would drink this way to remember the days when we drank together. So I'm drinking one beer for each of my brothers and one for myself."

The bartender admits that this is a nice custom, and leaves it there. The bloke becomes a regular in the pub, and always drinks the same way. He orders three pints and drinks them in turn.

One day, he comes in and only orders two pints. All the regulars take notice and fall silent. When he comes back to the bar for the second round, the bartender says, "I don't want to intrude on your grief, but I wanted to offer my condolences on your loss."

The bloke looks puzzled for a moment, then a light dawns in his eyes and he laughs. "Oh, no, everybody's just fine," he explains, "It's just that my wife and I joined the Church and I had to quit drinking. "Hasn't affected my brothers though."