

# NHMA NEWSLETTER

## Official Newsletter of the National Historical Machinery Association Inc.

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### PRESDENTS REPORT

The old traditional Australian Song, "The Springtime it Brings on the Shearing" could also relate to our Rally Season with spring now with us, the Rally season is well and truly up and running.

When we look at the range of varied rallies available for N.H.M.A. Members to attend we can see that our hobby is alive and well. Recently, when discussing how many events that are available to members I was severely rebuked by referring to those lucky members able to travel from rally to rally as "grey nomads". My rebuke came from a lady member and her husband who regularly travel from state to state, attending as many rallies as they can. The lady implied that she was definitely not a "grey nomad" but a "Silver Gypsy".

I took my criticism and discussed the fact that we are very lucky to have such a diverse rally scene whereby our membership can actively participate in an excellent Hobby. These travellers, Oops "Silver Gypsies" pass on to other clubs their diverse experiences with safety at rallies and transfer a wealth of knowledge to other groups around OZ. The N.H.M.A. will hold a Committee of Management meeting at the forthcoming 100<sup>th</sup> Rally at Lake Goldsmith on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> November, at Lake Goldsmith with committee members travelling long distances to develop new projects and meet as many members as they can. Make sure you look for our N.H.M.A. flag and have a yarn with your representatives.

The Committee at Lake Goldsmith indicate this, their 100<sup>th</sup> Rally will offer visitors an exceptional rally with many new exhibits.

Can I say a big thank you, to all members for their attitude towards safety and responsibility around rally sites.

Well the trailer is packed and a copy of TOMM is in the front seat, together with a thick folder of maps, I'm off to follow the "Silver Gypsy" trail.

Happy Rallying

*Alan Shepherd*

PRESIDENT

### NOTES from the SECRETARY

I have been keeping a few statistics over the past few months. Some may interest club secretaries:

- Almost 30% of clubs apparently DO NOT read the news-letters. These clubs sent in their renewals on the GREEN form that was meant to be placed in the NHMA HANDBOOK. A white renewal form

was also attached to the newsletter to be used for this year's payment.

- Approximately 10% of clubs have at least two addresses. One where all correspondence is directed to [and probably doesn't come before the club meeting or all Officers; the other for renewal purposes. As I print sets of labels for all my postage requirements, this is very inconvenient!!!

**AS OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2012, ALL CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NHMA WILL ONLY BE ADDRESSED TO YOUR CLUB MAILING ADDRESS. PLEASE MAKE THE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR YOUR MAIL TO BE PICKED UP AND GIVEN TO THE CLUB SECRETARY !!!**

- **It is hard to believe that over 34% of clubs have not returned their receipt for the NHMA Handbook that was posted in April this year.** These Handbooks cost the Association just over \$10 each to print and post to clubs, plus many hours spent in placing the information in the sleeves. The Committee had expected a better response.
- The time is up. Clubs who haven't paid any affiliation or insurance dues will now have to go through the joining process again, if they wish to remain members of the NHMA.
- Now for some positive comment:  
I have attended three or four rallies in my area in recent months. It is great to visit these and meet up with those I have known for many years. Attendance at these rallies has been quite good with a lot of interest being shown in the machinery of yesterday. It is good to see that many exhibitors at rallies are now giving a lot more detail on their information boards; please continue to do this as many members of the public like to read through the history of the exhibit. Also include your club name, people are interested in where you come from and that a club exists in that area.

### An appeal for safety at rallies.

The NHMA is only a couple of months into the new insurance year and already I have been notified of three incidents that may result in claims being made. All are personal accident matters, with at least two of the injured being hospitalised.

Club secretaries are advised to read through the Certificates of Currency that have now been posted to all clubs. Please note that the Personal Accident cover that the NHMA has, offers limited benefits.

### **Assistant Secretary:**

In March this year the NHMA Committee of Management appointed an assistant secretary, Mrs Christine Norris. Christine is quite able to assist your club, should you ring 03 5444 1113. May I add that Christine has been very helpful in putting together the NHMA Handbooks and assisting with the renewal process. Thanks Christine !!

### **Club Newsletters:**

Thank you to those clubs that continue to post their club newsletters to me. Some of the productions are quite professional in their production. However, there is space on the NHMA website for club newsletters, and Ralph Thomas [webmaster] would love to hear from your club. There are two benefits; one there is no charge to do this and the other is your club saves all production and postage costs. Enthusiasts around Australia would also like to know of club activities and your club may gain some new members. Your club can talk this over with Ralph at any time.

### **Joke Time:**

*A lady goes to her priest one day and tells him, "Father, I have a problem. I have two female parrots, but they only know how to say one thing."*

*"What do they say?" the priest inquired.*

*"They say, 'Hi, we're hookers - do you want to have some fun?'"*

*"That's obscene!" the priest exclaimed. Then he thought for a moment.*

*"You know," he said, "I may have a solution to your problem. I have two male talking parrots, which I have taught to pray and read the Bible. Bring your two parrots over to my house, and we'll put them in the cage with Francis and Peter. My parrots can teach your parrots to praise and worship, and your parrots are sure to stop saying - that phrase - in no time."*

*"Thank you," the woman responded, "this may well be the solution."*

*The next day, she brought her female parrots to the priest's house. As he ushered her in, she saw that his two male parrots were inside their cage, holding rosary beads and praying.*

*Impressed, she walked over and placed her parrots in with them.*

*After a few minutes, the female parrots cried out in unison, "Hi, we're hookers! Do you want to have some fun?"*

*There was stunned silence.*

*Shocked, one male parrot looked over at the other male parrot and exclaimed "Put the beads away, Frank - our prayers have been answered!"*

### **4<sup>th</sup> NHMA National Tractor Trek**

I have only heard a few comments on this recent national event. As the NHMA secretary, I apologise for my absence, due to a couple of health issues. Both Queensland NHMA Representatives, Ray & Alf were there and reported that although the tractor numbers were not large, it was a great event. The Callide Dawson Club was again to the fore with fantastic hospitality, making all participants very welcome with an interesting trek.

**Expressions of interest for the 5<sup>th</sup> NHMA National Tractor Trek** have now closed, with two clubs putting in an expression of interest. These clubs will now make a

presentation to the 2013 AGM at Mudgee and those in attendance making the decision.

### **2015 National Rally:**

One joint expression of interest has been received from the Tasmanian clubs. These clubs are now working on their submission to the 2013 AGM at Mudgee. One of their problems is the freighting of exhibits across the ditch. But they have a few contacts and with some luck, concessions may be able to be worked out.

### **The Calendar:**

**November 2nd, 3rd & 4<sup>th</sup>. Lake Goldsmith, Victoria.** This club will be celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> Rally; two rallies a year for 50 years!! A great achievement when you consider the time and effort that is involved in presenting a top class event.

Also at the same time the NHMA will celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; yes the Association was founded at Lake Goldsmith in November, 1987. Some of the founding committee members will be in attendance, so member clubs nearby, come along and say hello. It would be great to see you.

### **A Meeting of the current NHMA Committee of**

**Management** will also be held at the L/G 100<sup>th</sup> Rally.

Should your club have any issues that need to be discussed, it is now time to contact your State Representatives, so they can 'prepare your case'.

### **Club Rallies:**

These are just too numerous to mention, but please support your local events, as this is where much club fellowship is fostered with mateships being forged.

### **The 2013 NHMA National Rally at Mudgee NSW.**

Progress reports indicate that all is going well for this BIG rally, however the organising committee seeks your support, by booking as soon as possible. Space & time are running out.

**On the horizon**, the Henty [NSW] Club is planning a huge harvest rally in February 2014. Yes, it is a long way off, but this is when good planning begins.

