

# NHMA NEWSLETTER

Official Newsletter of the National Historical Machinery Association Inc.

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*The NHMA Committee of Management extends to all member clubs the Season's Greetings.*

*May you enjoy a Safe Christmas with family and friends*

*Our wish for 2013 is for good health; happiness and fellowship*

*On behalf of the NHMA Committee: Alan Shepherd; Rob Schoonderbeek; Ken Boock; Kym Elphick*



## **News – News – News .....**

The Association is almost to the end of another year. Probably, many members will be thinking that not much has been achieved, but let us think back a little into our past, and tick off the positives.

- The Association has now been in existence for 25 years: the test of time has shown that the NHMA is a worthwhile organisation for those pursuing the vintage hobby. The Association now has 180 member clubs with over 8,800 insured individual members. Initially, the association was established to foster fellowship between member clubs; to establish safety guidelines that are followed across Australia and to investigate public liability insurance to cover participants at events that the member clubs attend.
- Due largely to a good safety record, the Association has no difficulty in finding an insurer that meets the needs of the majority of the member clubs. Clubs that adhere to the Safety Guidelines are keeping the number of insurance claims relatively low, but there are some clubs that wish to 'do their own thing', causing concern to the executive and the committee of management.
- The three Tasmanian clubs have banded together and formed a 2015 NHMA National Rally Committee. This group is already making some plans for the Big One in 2015 and has presented an interesting submission. The NHMA Committee wish Derril Ashdown and his committee all the best, and look forward to 2015.

- Two submissions have been received for the 2014 NHMA National Tractor Trek; the Burdekin Machinery Preservationists [QLD] and the Hunter Valley Vintage Farm Machinery Club [NSW] have both complied with an expression of interest to host the 2014 event. It is now up to the NHMA AGM to decide the venue of the 2014 trek.
- The NHMA Safety Guidelines have now been revised and adopted by the Committee. The main changes are in the 'stationary tractor & unregistered trucks and cars' and in the NHMA Tractor Pull clauses. **Please advise your members that once a vehicle is displayed outside a fenced compound, it is deemed to be on a 'public place' and, if it is not registered or on permit, it then does not have any third party injury insurance cover.** Please be aware that the NHMA insurance cover does NOT cover motor vehicles on a public place. Owners are advised to arrange comprehensive cover with their usual motor insurer should they wish to fully cover their vehicle.
- A copy of the amended guidelines is enclosed [yellow pages] with this newsletter; please remove the old guidelines from your club Handbook and place the amended guidelines into the sleeves.
- Executive & Committee nominations. In the next Newsletter, the NHMA Secretary will be seeking nominations for most of the Committee of Management positions, these are: Treasurer [executive] and two ordinary committee members from Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and one ordinary committee member from Tasmania. Most will know that many of the current committee have only held their position for about eighteen months – this is because of the Pinjarra AGM being held in September 2011, we now move back on track and will be holding the AGM within six months of the close of the NHMA financial year.
- **Joke time:** Ten Points on the Importance of Walking
  1. Walking can add minutes to your life. This enables you at 85 years of age to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at \$5000 per month.
  2. My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. Now she's 97 years old and we don't know where the hell she is.
  3. The only reason I would take up exercising is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.
  4. I joined a health club last year, spent about 400 bucks. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there!
  5. I have to exercise early in the morning before my brain figures out what I'm doing.
  6. I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people who annoy me.
  7. The advantage of exercising every day is that you die healthier.
  8. If you are going to try cross-country ski-ing, start with a small country.
  9. I have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.
  10. Last but not least: I don't exercise because it makes the ice jump right out of my glass!

**Mudgee Update for November, 2012: Please pass this information on to those attending ASAP !!!**

### Accommodation

Preparations are well under way with the accommodation and exhibitor bookings steady.

Mudgee Tourist Information Centre is the best point of contact for your accommodation requirements and they can be contacted on (Toll Free 1800 816 304).

Currently the onsite camping area at the Rally Ground is booked out. **It is important to note that unauthorised camping in non-designated areas of the rally ground will not be allowed** due to council health and safety regulations.

There are still unpowered camping sites available in, and close to Mudgee.

Again, please contact the Mudgee Tourist Information Centre for advice.

**Exhibitors:** currently we have applications from 474 exhibitors and receiving a steady dozen a day. **Please send in your applications as soon as possible to ensure the best placement of your exhibits in your area of preference.**

**Commercial Exhibitors:** there are approx. 12 commercial exhibitors booked in.

**Dinner bookings:** just over 300 so far

**On-site accommodation:** – Approx. 730 people booked on site.

Following are some dot points covering some areas of preparation and comments to give the committee some idea of progress.

**Other Accommodation:**

All accommodation enquiries have been handled through one point and that is the Mudgee Visitor Information Centre. There is still accommodation available at the Mudgee Showground, Gulgong Showground, various accommodation houses in Mudgee and we have been advised one of the caravan parks is opening up an additional area for the event.

**Saturday Night Dinner:** as the previous rally took 522 dinner bookings we are planning for 600 – 700 people for dinner and we feel we have capacity to go to 800 if required, we are finalising our selection of caterer. A licensed bar will run for the dinner with a live local bush band and historic films as entertainment. Also the dinner hall will contain some selected machines for display. We are inviting local wineries if they wish to offer tastings and sales, pre-dinner.

**Catering & Coffee vendors:** we have settled on the coffee vendors for the event and are filtering through the community caterers who may be interested. We are aware of having affordable food and a variety. We have a caterer secured who will offer breakfast options that will be of interest to the on-site campers and those arriving early to the site.

**On-site campers:** We have organised the Mudgee Men's Shed who have their facility at the Rally site, to be the 'meet and greet people' for the on-site campers and to oversee the allocation of camp sites on arrival of visitors.

**Fire Fighting Infrastructure:**

The AREC site is upgrading the fire fighting facilities for the on-site camping with additional hydrants and fire hose reels to meet the Australian Standard. We are also working with the local RFS who aim to have a 24 hour presence at the event with a crew.

**Access to additional Lands:**

We are entering into a lease arrangement with our neighbour TAFE NSW to access additional lands for the purpose of demonstrations, trailer parking and other contingencies.

**Dump Point for campers:**

This amenity is being put in place for caravan / motor homes etc. for waste.

**TOMM update:** We are putting an update in the TOMM Magazine for the next edition to keep people informed about all things involved with attending the Rally.

**Public Relations:**

We have begun the PR activities with a number of stories appearing on the ABC Radio Station, website, and local news. The bulk of TV / Radio and print promotion will occur in the new year.

**Youth Encouragement:** the committee is finalising the plans for the promotion and encouragement awards that will be a part of the event and will conclude with the Dinner presentation.

**Site mapping and planning:**

An online database has now been in place for 12 months to cater for the collection of booking information. This can be accessed by the rally committee via the internet to input and collate the data for exhibitors/programmes, the ordering of rally merchandise such as wrist bands and rally packs etc. Other committee members are working on the site layout for the displays and positioning of equipment with some 2 kilometres of display frontage already allocated. We believe we will have sufficient space for over 4 kilometres of display frontage in our estimates.

**Third Loading Ramp construction:**

A new loading ramp is nearing completion with the capacity for 4 or more semi's to load /unload.

**Rally Merchandise** suppliers have been finalised.

**The Rally will be run in concurrence with the NHMA Safety Guidelines. Please get a copy of these from your club and read to ensure you comply as an exhibitor.**

**Please bring your own wheel chocks & signs etc. for tractors and wheeled exhibits.**

**We want this to be a safe rally for everyone's enjoyment and look forward to a great rally next April.**

We feel confident that we have preparations on track to deliver a successful event in Mudgee for the 14th NHMA National Rally.

Brian Jones

President, Cudgegong Valley Antique Machinery Club; Mob. 0438 323 909

Should your club have need of any further information, please contact Brian on the above number.

**One for the road:**

The train was quite crowded, so a US Marine walked the entire length looking for a seat, but the only seat left was beside a well-dressed, middle-aged, French woman, who had her small poodle sitting on it.

The war-weary Marine asked, "Ma'am, may I have that seat?"

The French woman just sniffed and said to no-one in particular, "Americans are so rude. My little Fifi is using that seat."

The Marine walked the length of the entire train again, but still the only seat left was under that dog.

"Please, ma'am. May I sit down? I'm very tired." She snorted: "Not only are you Americans rude, you are also arrogant!"

This time the Marine didn't say a word; he just picked up the little dog, tossed it out of the train window, and sat down. The woman shrieked, "Someone must defend my honour! Put this American in his place!"

An English gentleman sitting nearby spoke up. "Sir, you Americans seem to have an inclination for doing the wrong thing. You hold a fork in the wrong hand. You drive your cars on the wrong side of the road.

And now, sir, you seem to have thrown the wrong bitch out the window."

Until next time ..... *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!*