



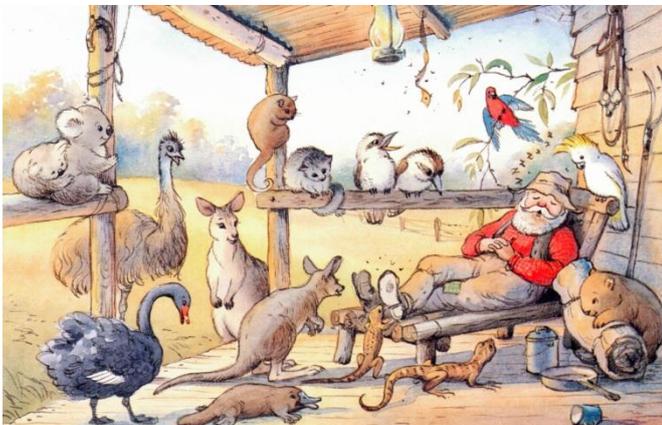
NHMA NEWSLETTER

The Official Newsletter of the National Historical Machinery Association Inc.

ABN: 12908216532 Incorporation No. A0020801V

NUMBER 67

December 2013



*Wishing your club and members a
Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year*

*From President Alan and the NHMA Committee
of Management*

In This issue:

- **Important information on insurance for NHMA affiliated clubs!**
- **OH&S Training for the Committee**
- **Coming events**

1. Important Information:

Carefully read **ALL CERTIFICATES OF CURRENCY** that are presented to your club by **exhibitors who do NOT have the NHMA Public Liability cover.**

NHMA cover has been arranged through OAMPS [contact Jade Playle ph. 08 6250 8313 email: jade.playle@oamps.com.au] ; QBE is the NHMA insurer.

During the course of this year, several clubs formerly affiliated with the NHMA have decided that the NHMA Safety Guidelines are too restrictive and have sought their own insurance, as well as implementing their own Safety Guidelines. Formerly affiliated Clubs wished to retain affiliation with the NHMA while still doing “their own thing”. One club even went so far as to say that they were certain that breaches of the law would be covered by their new policy (i.e. modified tractors, unregistered vehicles in public places etc).

These actions are not acceptable to the NHMA Committee without proper dialogue between both parties. The NHMA has made attempts to resolve these issues with several clubs without any real success.

The NHMA therefore wishes to warn its member clubs that they would be wise to request insurance information from intending exhibitors and participants from other than NHMA affiliated clubs prior to the event, perhaps when they register. If it is thought that sufficient information has not been provided, or that cover and exclusions are not clearly detailed, then the information provided should be clarified by contact with the NHMA secretary, or through OAMPS, the NHMA brokers.

Let this be understood: If a club accepts an exhibitor to their rally who provides no evidence of insurance, or a Certificate of Currency which is not clear, and an incident arises from that exhibit, the club may find themselves with NO COVER. It is then your club, or the exhibitor, who must accept the risk. In the current litigious society, things are, unfortunately, no longer as they were in the “good old days!”

Insurance facts:

- All Insurance policies contain exclusions of some kind. The statement that “no matter what happens, you are covered” never has, and still does not apply.
- The vast majority of insurance policies require compliance with Federal, State, or Local Government statutes. In other words, if you break the law or government regulations the policy may not respond and your claim may be declined. The NHMA policies **do** require you to comply with Federal, State, or Local Government statutes.
- The NHMA arranges cover for its members in respect of **Public Liability** which provides cover for personal injury or property damage arising out of the negligence of the NHMA or its members as a result of NHMA activities or events. This policy also includes Directors and Officers Liability for the Association and member clubs, and cover for a limited sum of misappropriation of funds. The second policy is **Voluntary Workers Personal Accident** which provides club members with limited benefits resulting from injury whilst taking part in club activities or events.

2. OH&S Training:

NHMA Committee of Management held a very productive OH&S training day in Bendigo on the 27th July. Most of the Committee members were in attendance, with all states being represented.

Lance Mason [OH&S Consultant] was the presenter and highlighted the following;

- **Safety Culture has changed dramatically over the past fifteen years**
- **NHMA has failed to keep up with these changes**
- **Breaches of regulations could lead to prosecution of club and Association officials.**
- **Litigation has become ‘the norm’ in a ‘blameless society’**
- **Insurance industry is no longer willing to cover breaches of law and regulations**
- **Younger generation of our hobby are not familiar with the working & operation of vintage plant**
- **The variation of State statutes in regard to vintage plant, its operation and maintenance creates dissention within our hobby**
- **There is a definite need for our Association to now move ahead; plan and implement workable policies regarding all aspects of ‘vintage plant’**

The outcome: The Committee will be making decisions on risk assessment of events and other OH&S issues at its next meeting in November.

It should be acknowledged that as Lance is an active member of an affiliated NHMA club, he gave his services free of charge for the training. Thanks Lance for your generous offer, Committee members appreciated your work on that day, and now take up the task of making changes to the way we do things.

NHMA Committee Meeting:

A well-attended committee meeting was held on the 23-24 November 2013 at Launceston. Graeme Bellette and Brian Scott [Tasmanian Reps.] made the committee very welcome by arranging transport to and from the airport and making all venue arrangements. President Alan Shepherd, welcomed members of the Tasmanian National Rally Committee to the meeting. Questions relating to the 2015 National Rally were discussed with most of these being taken on board by the rally Committee and the NHMA Committee. A visit to the 2015 National Rally venue was made on the Sunday morning; all is shaping up very well for a fantastic time at Quercus Park!! Information on the next National can be obtained from the NHMA website; but be prepared – book early!!! Should you need information urgently, contact the rally secretary, nhmarally2015@gmail.com

Apart from the National Rally, many decisions regarding the administration of the Association were made, especially in the OH&S area.

3. Coming Events

NHMA Tractor Trek: 18 -22 March 2014

Your club is reminded that the next NHMA Tractor Trek will be held at Dungog NSW 18 – 22 March 2014. Your club would have received information from the Hunter Valley Vintage Farm Machinery Club Inc. on this event. This is shaping up to be the biggest & best National Tractor trek yet. The organising club is certainly planning a grand event and bookings so far are indicating that this event will more than meet the club's expectations.

Full information regarding this event can be found on the NHMA website or the latest edition of TOMM.

Farmall “A-B-H-M” 75th Birthday 31st May – 1st June 2014:

(The following information supplied by Federation of Veteran, Vintage and Classic Vehicle Clubs Inc.)
[NHMA Clubs are invited to participate in this milestone event.]

International Harvester, the parent company of Farmall, started in 1850's and they made a number of various pieces of equipment to assist the farmers over many years. Their first tractor came out in 1910.

The very first Farmall was produced in 1924 and several models followed that in the next 14 years with the company building on market share.

The company noticed an opportunity for smaller tractors for market gardens and for general farm work on smaller acres and development of the Farmall A commenced with the first production starting in May 1939 and the first sales from June 1939. These were unique, and the farmer could alter the front and rear tyre-track widths to match planted rows, particularly of vegetables. With the engine being 9½ inches offset to the driver's left-hand side, and with the working equipment being attached to the belly of the tractor, it allowed the operator to view the plants easily. This provided a marketing opportunity under “cultivision”.

Between 1939 and 1947, - 117,550 were produced.

To provide a larger alternative then to the market, production of the Farmall H and M were commenced early in July 1939, and these were available for purchase from late July 1939. Both of these were available with adjustable rear-type track widths, and the front axle was in row crop configuration. The “H” became very popular with 10,000 units being produced in the first year of production. Between 1939 and 1954 – 270,145 Farmall “M”s were produced. Between 1939 and 1953 – 391,225 Farmall “H”s were produced.

Then, another small version known as Farmall “B” was available from 5th September 1939. These were straight inline tractors, but the driver sat to the right of centre, which again permitted a clear view for working the planted rows below. Between 1939 and 1948 – 75,240 units were produced.

The “A” had a unique lifting mechanism that worked off the engine of the tractor and allowed the operator to raise or lower either side independently. This became known as the “touch control hydraulic system”.

Then in early 1940 they started production on the W4 and W6 models. These shared the same power and running gear as the H and M respectively, but were more for use on larger broad acre farms with traditional wheel tracking. These provided for tow-behind implements and over time hydraulic pumps and fittings were fitted which allowed for rams to be fitted to ploughs as well.

Thus, from 1939 till 2013, we have enjoyed 75 years of being able to use these wonderful machines on our properties and in our business. They have had many uses and the smaller engines were even used on pumps and hay-baling equipment. With the number that we see still being used today, these machines must have been very well designed, built and used.

This brings us to the celebration of this milestone. We felt that it was fitting that we have a display, as a celebration, and that we also provide an event that has some static display time, some grand parade time, and as well, some “get it out and use it” time.

The display and home base will be at the Prince of Wales Showgrounds, Holmes Road, Bendigo, and the weekend will be the 31st of May and the 1st of June 2014. This facility provides a truck-sized loading ramp, an oval for the display, and a trotting track for the grand parades, as well as separate viewing space for the public. Overnight security will be provided for the items that are on the oval for both Friday and Saturday nights.

The trek will leave at 10.00am Saturday and will be split into two – one for the slower tractors, and one for the faster ones. Both will arrive at a farmlet in Huntly where we will be able to look at an historic caravan collection, plus a collection of a number of items. It is best described as being “back at your grandparents’ home”. If we get over 50 tractors, we will look for sponsorship and provide lunch whilst the trek is on.

As well, at the Showgrounds over this weekend, there will be a “Homemaker” expo, and that is housed in two large display centres totalling 11,000 square metres under cover. 30,000 people visit this expo from Friday lunchtime until Sunday evening; plus on the Sunday there is a country market, which in winter attracts around 3,000 as well.

We do encourage displays of stationary engines and vehicles, and collectibles as well.

This will be our 7th year of running this event, and admittance to exhibitors is free. The public are asked to make a gold coin donation to a charity and in 2014, it will be “Dragons Abreast”, who are assisting ladies with cancer. In the past, it has been “Camp Quality”, and we have provided \$15,000 to that organisation.

Plus, in late 1913 or early 1914, the first traction engine was registered in Victoria for use on our roads. Thus, this event is a celebration of that milestone as well. To celebrate that, we are asking for owners of all tractors over 25 years old, to come along and enjoy this event along with the Farmalls.

Please do consider coming along. To assist with our planning, we ask that you email your name, address and email address, your tractor make and model/year, to: neil.athorn@bendigobank.com.au.

Please add this event to your club’s ‘to do’ and ‘be at’ list; it is time to share fellowship with like groups.

Next edition of the NHMA Newsletter should be posted toward the end of January 2014.

The 2014 AGM will be held at Lockington Heritage Centre on Sunday 27th April at 9.00am

