

OLD PLOUGHS AND PISTONS

Newsletter of the Machinery Preservation Club of WA Inc.

www.machinerypreservationwa.com

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PO Box 1471, Midland. WA 6936



“SPECIAL EDITION”

PRESERVING FOR THE FUTURE

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MONTHLY MEETINGS: 1st Wednesday of each month (except January) from 7.30pm, Powerhouse Precinct, Midland Railway Workshops. Off Maingate road.

TUESDAY ‘GREASY GANG’ DAY. Each Tuesday morning from 8.30am.
Join us for a BBQ lunch.

FORTHCOMING SHOWS – These will have to be confirmed. More Information as it comes to hand.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE AT ANY OF THESE SHOWS,
PLEASE CONTACT ROSS MORTON on 0437 772 443 or grmdraft@gmail.com

THE MPC OF WA IS A PROUD MEMBER OF THE NHMA, WHICH HAS 164 MEMBER CLUBS, WITH APPROXIMATELY 8,500 MEMBERS AUSTRALIA WIDE.

**THE NHMA PROVIDES A RANGE OF BENEFITS TO MEMBER CLUBS, INCLUDING A GROUP INSURANCE SCHEME, COVERING PUBLIC LIABILITY, PERSONAL ACCIDENT, VOLUNTEER INSURANCE AND INJURY AND ASSOCIATION OFFICER’S INSURANCE.
FOR FURTHER DETAILS, CONTACT OUR CLUB SECRETARY.**

FORTHCOMING SHOWS:

CANNING SHOW – Fri, Sat – 4/5th November. Set-up Saturday – 8am.

“HAVE A GO DAY 2022” – Wednesday, November 9th. 9am – 3pm. Burswood Park, Gt, Eastern Hwy.

CHITTERING CAR DAY, NESCI ESTATE WINERY – Sunday, November 13th.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH – To be Advised.

**PRESIDENT'S WELCOME:
October 2022.**

Well, here we are celebrating the Machinery Preservation Club's 40th Anniversary which gives us a great opportunity to celebrate, enjoy, reflect on where we have come from and where we would like to go in the future.

I'm sure you will enjoy a read through this special 40th Year Anniversary version of our Ploughs and Pistons Newsletter that will take you through our journey from way back in 1982 when a small group of people with a shared passion to rescue, preserve and restore iconic items of machinery and equipment that was instrumental in shaping the development of Western Australia, got together and formed a club.

There were 11 foundation members at the inaugural meeting held on the 9th February 1982 and we still have six of those members in our club today. David and Judy Ashfold, Ralph and Wendy Thomas, Victor James and Bob Jackson. On behalf of all members, I thank them and their fellow foundation members for the wonderful club we have today.

We have now settled back into the old Power house /Boiler room complex and created a wonderful setting for the next phase in our club's evolution.

Our membership has grown to close to 300 with the introduction of 'Affiliate clubs', meaning we now share the facility with like-minded groups, to ensure these magnificent heritage listed buildings are available for the wider community to enjoy.

Currently our 'Affiliate Clubs' listed are:

- CWA Midland Branch
- Midland and District Historical Society
- Hand Tools Preservation Society of WA

Our future looks bright with our aims to create a working Power House museum, working displays of iconic engines and equipment and a whole range of activities/experiences associated with our affiliate clubs. Together we plan to create a really busy hub by expanding our offerings to the wider community under the banner of "Midland Workshops Community Groups".

Lastly but not least, I wish to make special mention of Ralph and Wendy Thomas, who have spent an inordinate amount of time putting this magnificent publication together for us to enjoy. A great job and very much appreciated by all members and associates.

Regards and enjoy your read through our past 40 years.

Max Leggett – President MPC of WA

FROM THE EDITORS.

Wendy and I have written and edited many editions of Old Ploughs and Pistons, but this was without a doubt the most difficult, as we had committed ourselves to produce an edition that covered the 40 years of our club history. Hopefully this commemorative edition will give you something to keep as a record of our past, and aspirations for the future.

Looking back, when we set off on this journey to establish a club that would bring together like minded enthusiasts, it never occurred to us that 40 years later we would reach this milestone. One of the real pluses for us, is that we still have three members and partners from the original eleven, still involved in our activities.

Sadly, we have lost several of these stalwarts, while others have moved on to other interests. During the years of club life, we have had many enthusiastic and hard-working members who have contributed to the success we have enjoyed.

Early days saw us attempting to convince show organisers that we could put on displays which would benefit them. Our efforts were not short on enthusiasm, but we had to make do with what we had to make our displays presentable, i.e., steel pickets and rope fences. As the years flowed by, we soon learned to put a polish on how to attract both members and demand for our presentations. Members with more experience helped others with restoration projects, and a great comradery was established.

This was improved by our social activities, where camping became very popular when attending country shows. After the establishment of the NHMA, we found members were keen to head across the 'big paddock' to show our Eastern States enthusiasts that we were able to challenge them – and we did!

We have now been at the Midland Railway Workshops for over a quarter of a century. Firstly, in the Powerhouse Complex for 15 years, then we were moved to temporary accommodation in Block 3, where we remained until we were returned to the Powerhouse last year. This demonstrates our commitment to the Midland area and its historic past. This time we are part of the Midland Community Group, and together we hope to expand the interests in the Midland area.

Obviously we have not been able to cover all shows and displays for 40 years and much has been written up before, but we hope it will be of interest to new members and a reminder to older ones again. We have tried to put together a selection of different articles and include as many members as possible.

We hope you enjoy the read and the photographs.

**Ralph and Wendy Thomas –
Founder and Life Members.**

HAPPY 40th ANNIVERSARY!

Late in 1981, Bob Jackson and Ralph Thomas independently placed articles in WA newspapers, looking for like-minded people to join them in establishing a club for the restoration and displaying of farm machinery. The two made contact and arranged a first meeting for the 9th February 1982 at the home of Bob Jackson.

11 people attended: Bob Jackson, Ralph Thomas, David Ashfold, Victor James, John Stidwell, Mark Collieran, Fred Gibbon, Mac Lightbody, Tom Mackay, Wally King and Hugh Manning. 4 of those are still MPC Founder and Life members 40 years down the track.

One of the early meetings was a field trip and meeting at the property of Hugh Manning in Mardella, where members enjoyed inspecting Hugh's collection and driving around on tractors older than most of themselves.

After meeting at the homes of Victor James and Ralph Thomas for some time, the increasing membership began meeting at the Kelmscott Learning Centre on a monthly basis, and the Machinery Preservation Club was then registered as an Incorporated body for the 1st January 1984.

The first edition of 'Old Ploughs and Pistons' was issued in 1986 and these are still available in our library.

FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

South Suburban News WEST AUSTRALIAN, 9TH NOVEMBER, 1981.

Down on the farm

When the Thomas family of Beckenham want to go down to the farm they need go no farther than their backyard.

For part of their 1.5 hectare block is filled with a collection of old farming implements—and a horse to complete the rural setting.

Mr Ralph Thomas and his wife, Wendy, have collected 14 antiquated pieces of machinery including single-furrow ploughs, cultivators, a horse-drawn wagon and a tractor.

There is also a miniature mining museum in one corner of the block complete with a gold-crusher, which harks back to Mr Thomas's previous work in mines in Cornwall.

The farming implements were collected from various parts of Western Australia. Mrs Thomas said that whenever they saw an old piece of machinery rusting away in a paddock, they asked the owner if they could add it to their collection.

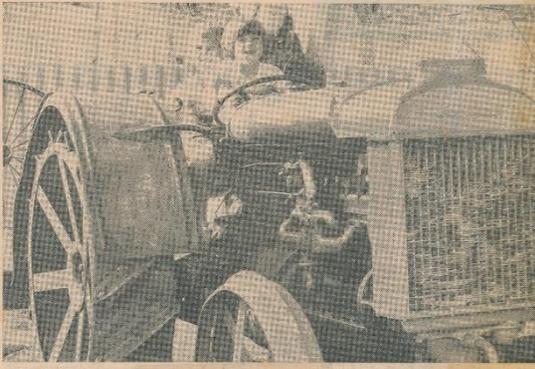
"Most people agree to either sell or give it to us but some want to keep it themselves," she said.

The collection was started by her husband, and she became involved because she decided that it was a case of "if you can't beat them, join them."

Another reason was that neither she nor her husband were keen gardeners and the machinery collection was a way of filling the backyard.

It was also a source of interest to their children, Robert (8) and Sandra (6).

Robert (8) and Sandra (6) Thomas, of Beckenham, play on a 1923 tractor in the backyard of their home. Their parents collect old farm machinery and are keen to hear from anyone with similar interests who would like to form a club. The telephone number is 458 5435.



TRACTOR BUFFS TO MEET

Eleven local vintage tractor enthusiasts are forming a club to collect, restore and display the tractors and other farm machinery.

At a meeting held at the Mardella property of Mr Hugh Manning the members discussed future activities which could include field days to display working and static machinery.

Displays may be organised in conjunction with local historical societies, charitable groups and agricultural shows.

Members inspected and operated some of Mr Manning's collection of 30 vintage tractors some of which were being used before they were born. The group will meet again on April 2 at the home of Mr Vic James, 11 Pries Place, Kelmscott at 8pm. For more information on the group contact Mr R Jackson on 398 3798.



1st Show at Liddelow Homestead, June 1982.



1st Canning Show, November 1982.

During the early years the MPC attended many local and country shows: Yarloop SteamFests, Donnybrook Apple Festival, Dwellingup Log Chop, Wagin Woolorama, Muresk, Northam, Boddington Rodeo, Kelmscott, Canning, Wanneroo, Castledare 25th Anniversary weekend show, and the Royal, to mention but a few.



Father Christmas arrived for our children, via Jeep in Gosnells and via boat on the Canning River in Beckenham. A weekend show at Newtown House in Vasse incorporated a street parade in Busselton. We gave rides to children behind

the road roller 'Mary Hannah' at the 75th Reunion and Fete of Beckenham Primary School. The 'Firebreak Festival' in November 1987, held at Ralph and Wendy's paddock in Beckenham, became an annual event, and was greatly enjoyed by all who attended, with or without tractors.

The Yarloop SteamFest in 1988 was the first time we cooked an oxtail stew (compliments of member Bernie Williams) in the camp ovens, and this was to be a feature at quite a few future shows – greatly enjoyed by club members and some public alike, although maybe not by some of our children!



Club badges, stickers and iron-on badges were introduced in 1986, as well as club apparel. Bob Jackson was honoured with a Life Membership.

We had quite a few country members in the early days, and eventually they decided to start a club of their own, and in 1989 The Old Machinery Club of WA was born.

Over the years we have attended weddings, milestone birthdays and unfortunately, some funerals together, just like any extended family. We have been away on many weekend and Easter trips in our caravans and campers and have travelled east on several occasions to attend National Machinery Rallies – 3 of which won us the Best Club Display, not a mean feat for a West Australian Club!

In 1987 Ralph Thomas was asked to be the official representative of the MPC, at the Inaugural National Machinery Convention in Victoria, to be hosted by the Lake Goldsmith Steam Society during their 50th Rally, and it was here that the National Historical Machinery Association was formed. 27 clubs attended this first meeting, representing approximately 3000 members.

There are now 170 plus clubs, representing app. 10,000 members.

A steering committee was formed, headed by Jim Ross, Bendigo Steam and Oil Engine Preservation Group, as President, Geoff Wishart, Mallee Steam and Oil Machinery Club, as Secretary. Committee members were John Glynn, John Norris, Alan Eatts, Reg Schuster and Ian Gibbs. Ian Stewart of TOMMS offered the assistance of his magazine, as both contact and medium for the National Body.

Ralph and Wendy Thomas travelled in their Ford utility with a Moffatt Virtue engine and a 44-gallon drum of fuel in the back, towing their caravan. They were accompanied by Bernie Williams, and David and Judy Ashfold. Bert Tyler travelled by bus, and Paul Freeman was to meet us at the rally.

Compared to a lot of clubs that attended, ours was relatively small, but we more than held our own in WA. We were very warmly welcomed, and our club badges and member's cards were indeed an asset and greatly admired, as was our club newsletter.

This was a wonderful rally and for some, a first for steam participation and pure size of exhibits, as we had seen nothing like this in WA.

The smell of steam and the sound of the steam whistles are something that one never forgets!

RUSTON HORNSBY.



A lot of you will have heard about the Ruston Hornsby, the ex-GPO engine, which was removed from underneath the Perth Post Office in Forrest Place early in 1987. It was a massive effort and a great achievement for the MPC.

As stated in the OP&P at the time, "it would have been unfair to single out one helper from another, but our 'Stanlee' catering services must rate a special mention. Tea, coffee and hot pies were really tops, which goes to show what a bit of initiative and enthusiasm can

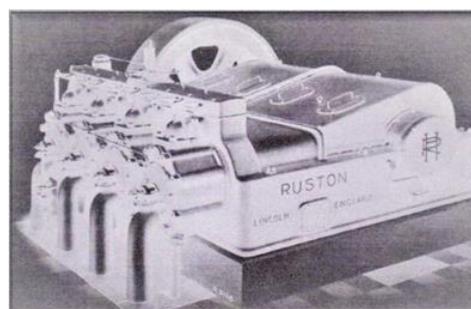
accomplish". ('Stanlee' was actually member Stan Everitt, our Yorkshire song and dance man – a little man with a big heart!)

Sponsors included: Mt. Newman Mining Co; WA Mining Engineering Services; Westwood Salvage (Bunnings); I.E. Jarvis & Co; Westinghouse Electric Australasia Ltd; Consolidated Constructions; Morgan Equipment (Aust), Cockburn Hire Service and Forklift and Engineering.

Shortly afterwards, a thank-you lunch at Cicerellos in Fremantle was organised by Bert Tyler, for members and families, joined by representatives of the firms who helped us with the removal of the Ruston, followed by a guided tour of the steam yacht "Ena", arranged by fellow member Paul Freeman, who had joined the "Ena" crew as Chief Engineer.



The Ruston engine, after being stored in several places for the last 30 plus years, has now been donated to the Mt. Magnet Museum, where MPC members Kevin and Kathy Brand, have been working non-stop with their members and volunteers, to have it installed in their museum.



HORNSBY-AKROYD.

In 1990, through the efforts of Bill Downie, our member from Mt. Helena, and the generosity of his farming colleagues, the MPC became the proud owners of the very rare and historic 'Hornsby-Akroyd' oil engine No. 1951, 5 H.P., which was despatched to Western Australia from the manufacturers, Richard Hornsby & Sons Ltd, of Grantham, England, on 6th February 1897.

Enquiries made at the time revealed the engine was still on the property of the original owner, where it had been for the whole of its 83-year life.

The engine was placed under cover in Bill's shed, with the help of David Ashfold and his truck and crane, and Vic James's fuel donation, and preliminary de-rusting and freeing-up commenced.

Of course, it was to be a long-term restoration job by many members to bring it up to show condition, ready for display at our shows and rallies.

However the engine was eventually taken to the 4th National Rally in Bendigo in 1993, in a wooden crate, supplied by Atlas Copco, fitted out by members to take the engine, and transported to and from Victoria by Saddle Transport.

On return to WA, the engine was placed on loan to the SECWA Museum, and Mrs. Phoebe Henning (92), daughter of the original owner G.T. Best, and representing Edward Best, remembered using the engine, and was one of the special guests on the presentation day.

The Akroyd drew large crowds and proved to be a great attraction to the public.



The Akroyd as found.



MPC Members with the Hornsby Akroyd after restoration.



Mrs. Phoebe Henning and MPC Members at the SECWA Museum Presentation Day.



GOOLWA, S.A. – 3rd NATIONAL RALLY. 11/12th May 1991.

15 members and partners travelled across the country in a variety of ways, taking a total of 9 engines, the majority being West Australian made. Added to these were display and photographic boards, and of course 'Bert' our travelling cyclist. We also used our new MPC logo bunting and mesh fencing for the first time. Vic James, with his drag-saw cutting up the JARRAH log he took with him, proved a rare novelty for the Eastern Staters. He also helped out the crew of the paddle steamer "Industry" by cutting up a heap of timber for their boiler, thus earning quite a few of us a complimentary ride on the boat.

Exhibitors came from all over Australia, bringing over 400 exhibits to add to the 5 steam paddle boats, the local Cockle Train and the Steam Ranger from Adelaide.

The huge effort put in by the members was well and truly rewarded when we were awarded first prize for being the 'Best State Exhibit'.

All in all, a wonderful rally and greatly enjoyed by all who attended.



Members loading for Goolwa.



'Bert' the travelling cyclist.



Part of the MPC display at Goolwa.

1991 was a year of Firsts – 'Best State Exhibit' at Goolwa; 1st Prize to the MPC for Best Non-Commercial Exhibit at Koorda Show; 1st time the MPC had \$10,000 in the bank; 1st time for a combined display under the NHMA Insurance cover, between the MPC and Narrogin Restoration Group at the Katanning show.

The MPC celebrated its 10th Anniversary with a dinner and presentation evening in July 1992, at the Gypsy Baron Restaurant in Armadale. Members were presented with a 10-year memorial brass medallion by Club Patron, the Hon. Cyril Rushton. Unfortunately, this was to be his most enjoyable, but last function with the MPC, as he passed away the following month. Condolences were extended to his wife and family on behalf of the Club.



David Ashfold, Hon. Cyril Rushton, Ralph Thomas and Stan Everitt.



Judy Ashfold made the 10th Anniversary cake.



THE CLAYTON & SHUTTLEWORTH TRACTION ENGINE.



In August 1993 the restoration of the Clayton Shuttleworth Traction Engine was completed, then moved to the Armadale Tourist Centre, in front of the Bert Tyler Museum.

A large vote of thanks must go to all the volunteer members who put in such a lot of hard work over many hours, to get the traction engine to its present state. It was to stand in a great location for public viewing, serving as an excellent 'shop front' for our club.

Our esteemed Patron, the Hon. Kay Hallahan MLA, spoke of our efforts at the opening of the Tourist Complex.

During this period, the MPC was looking at different venues with the thought of attaining a home of their own. Submissions of interest (at different times) were made on Fratico Farm in the City of Gosnells; Armadale Settlers Common Property and Meeting hall; and the Midland Railway Workshops.



In April of 1994 the MPC was invited to display during Heritage Week at the National Trust Headquarters (Old Perth Observatory Site) in West Perth. The overnight security campers greatly enjoyed the experience of camping in the Perth CBD. Seeing the tall buildings around us was an entirely different aspect to most of our displays. This was an extremely enjoyable show and attracted a lot of public, due to the extensive advertising. Our geriatric teenage member Bob Brown, on the newly restored BFW tractor, had a great time ferrying the ladies and others around the grounds.

The MPC also displayed at the WA Deaf School in Lake Monger, much to the delight of the children who attended.

Life Memberships were awarded to Bert Tyler and Ralph Thomas in June 1994 at an MPC dinner at the Gypsy Baron Restaurant in Armadale..

A Bus Trip was organised in July 1994, travelling to the Toodyay area, to view collections at Robin Mackay's and Rex Downie's Katrine Barn. A picnic lunch was enjoyed during the day.

The MPC attended their first Wanneroo Show and this was to become a regular venue for several years. As it was an overnight show we cooked the oxtail stew in the camp ovens, and the aroma used to attract a lot of the public, who often asked if they could buy a plateful.

The first of many ploughing days was organised by Bill and Ronace Downie in Mt. Helena. BYO meat for a BBQ.



The first of many Christmas functions at Ralph and Wendy's in Beckenham was held in December of 1994. Weber Roast meats were supplied, BYO salads, desserts and drinks.

The 5th National Rally was held in Canberra in March 1995 and as only a few members planned to attend, it was decided that the Akroyd and Traction engine were left home.

It was around June of 1995 that the MPC submitted an expression of interest in the proposed development of the Westrail Workshop, Midland, which was being handled by Government Property Office, who had conducted a series of meetings with the interested parties, including ourselves.

Our interest was only in the old power house, which housed the compressors used to supply pneumatic services throughout the workshop area, and the vacant adjacent copper shop.

As this project was in the hands of a semi-government department, it was expected that a decision on the future of the area could be a long time down the track.



STREET PARADE in BUSSELTON - 1986.



Street parade in Busselton.1986 Hugh Manning at Kelmscott.1984



Les Greenham at Northam. 1994



Ladies prepare the Oxtail Stew at Wanneroo Show. 1994



Roller rides at Beckenham School. 1987 Snowy Gaskin at Northam. 1994.



Children Gold-panning at the WA Deaf School in 1994.



Ploughing Day at the Downie's, Mt. Helena, in 1994.



Mining display at the Old Observatory 1994.



Heritage Week Mines Department. 1990.



Santa gets a helping hand 1984.



Tractor run at Canning Show. 1983



Firebreak Festival 1991.



Kelmscott Show 1989.



Cousin Jack and his girls at the Gidgegannup Show in 1992.



Kathryn James had a 'Hair Raising' experience at the SECWA Museum in 1990.



Members on the Toodyay Bus Trip July 1994.

In Easter of 1996 members went on an historic journey along the Golden Pipeline, stopping and/or camping at various water and pumping stations on the way, ending the tour at No. 8 Pumping Station in Dedari, the last before Kalgoorlie.



Members on the Pipeline Trip – Easter 1996. Dedari Pump Station.

Old Ploughs and Pistons celebrated its 10th birthday in June 1996 with a new look issue No. 29. The Editors had updated from their original portable typewriter to a Compaq 386 computer and with a new Publisher program, the newsletter took on a different and definitely more professional look. The only thing that remained unchanged was the lack of articles from other members!

In June the Homes Committee informed the MPC that Settlers Common in Armadale, and Fratico Farm in Gosnells, were a long way off, and the main emphasis was now on Midland Workshops. The club-approved submission was then lodged with the Premier’s Dept.

On the 12th July, members Bob Wallis, Tom Mackay, Ralph Thomas and Paul Freeman, met with Ian Robson, from the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet, to discuss the tenancy of the Workshops and the MPC. This included the Power House, the Copper Shop and Annexe, Pattern Shop, The Water Tower, Panel and Radiator Shops.

On 31st July we were offered a home in the Workshops, with a 2 year lease, with notice for 6 months cancellation.

**“THE MIDLAND VISION”
HAD JUST BECOME A REALITY!**

A few comments heard from members and others:

“Before making a stew, first you must catch the Hare. I would like to think we have just caught a very nice Hare and now it is up to us to add the rest of the ingredients, of which I know we have the best, to make the tasiest stew ever!” Tom Welch.

“August 7th will always be remembered by me as the day the club ‘Became of Age’, the day the club took the final leap and made the decision for a home.” President David Ashfold.

“How did a club with only 60-odd members pull off the deal of the century?” An unknown non-member enthusiast.

“We certainly WILL lay the foundation for the heritage movement from our new home, and for future generations.” Paul Berkavicius.

“You people will have the best Museum in Australia.”
Ian Robson.

Of course, this now meant a lot of work in front of the MPC. First we had to have security ID cards, displaying the Club logo, Members number with an added ‘P’ for partners, and including a passport photo. All members, partners and property taken into the precinct were the subject of scrutiny. On entering and leaving the precinct identities were recorded, to aid in the event of any emergency which necessitated evacuation procedures. Speed limits had to be observed by vehicular traffic at all times.

The first meeting in our new home was on 4th September 1996, and it was very pleasing to see so many members and partners turn up.



Members watch Ralph Thomas cut the congratulatory cake made by Judy Ashfold to celebrate our first meeting in the M.R.W.



Supper in the Pattern Shop Afterwards.

The 1997 AGM was held on Sunday 8th February, to allow for working members to have a good look at their new home. Once again members and partners took the opportunity to support the club.



Members enjoyed a BYO BBQ after the 1997 AGM.



**BUSSELTON, WA – 6th NATIONAL RALLY
15/16th March 1997.**

A lot of people had doubts as to whether WA was ready to hold a National Rally, but it was to become the year that WA showed what it could do, when everyone pulled together to put on one of the best rallies in Australia.

The atmosphere at Busselton was electric, with exhibits from all over WA and the Eastern States, including a semi-trailer load from Canberra.

The 23 members and partners of the MPC who exhibited were congratulated on their excellent displays and the professional way they presented themselves. This was obvious by the fact that the MPC was chosen once again for ‘Best State Display’.

It was a great opportunity to catch up with old friends from the East again and to meet new ones. For many of them it was the first time they had crossed the ‘big paddock’ to see our great State, and all seemed very impressed.

The Old Machinery Club of WA was congratulated on their achievement, with special thanks to Brian Blum, who headed up their organising committee and proved the ‘knockers’ wrong.

**IF YOU DIDN'T ENJOY THE WEEKEND,
THEN YOU WEREN'T THERE!**



Willy and Tini Hanaart's West-Ho Display.



Ralph and Wendy Thomas's Display.



Graeme Parkin with his Traction Engine and Organ.



Bob Wallis and his display of tools.



"Big Bertha" from Esperance.

**FRANK WATER'S WHEATBELT EASTER TRIP
28-30 March 1997.**

Our first stop on this trip was on the property of Norm Waters, 29kms NE of Kununoppin (300kms from Perth). Friday included a visit to the Merredin Military and Railway Museums.

Unfortunately, during the Saturday afternoon, we had an horrendous storm with huge hailstones, which did some damage to our caravans and vehicles.

During the rest of the weekend we visited the Army and Agricultural Museum in Nungarin, the Stagecoach Inn and Museum at Mangowine, and the Norm Bates Museum in Welbungin, including a historic tour of this area.

The fellows were delighted to be able to visit Norm Water's Spare Parts Yard, although no trailers were allowed, and they may have been subject to a strip-search before leaving!

All in all, a very interesting and informative weekend.

As Frank was known as 'Mr. Tea Break' Waters, frequent Tea-breaks were mandatory on this trip!

There was a quick stop at the Wyalkatchem Museum on the way back to Perth, where some MPC members became Good Samaritans and helped Vern Whitney from Tracmach get his ute out of a ditch!



Members at the Merredin Railway and Military Museum.



The size of the hailstones!

Beth Mackay found herself a new puppy during the weekend, which she promptly named "Merredin".

MPC Members help to push Vern Whitney's ute out of the ditch!



**15th YEAR ANNIVERSARY DINNER AND
'SPECIAL AWARDS' EVENING,
Lynwood Hotel, 19th July 1997.**

The list of honours on this evening included a Life Membership for Tom Mackay, shared by Beth, who received a basket of flowers.

Other 'unsung' heroes of the club, long overdue for recognition, were presented with a Certificate of Merit and their partners received gift trays, to show the Club's appreciation for all their achievements.

These included David and Judy Ashfold, Bob Brown and Joan Peggs, Les and Bessie Greenham, Bill and Ronace Downie and Paul and Marge Freeman.

Thanks went to Norm Robins and Vic James for organising the function, Wendy Thomas for the certificates and table decorations, and Brenda Wallis for helping to make up the gift baskets. Lastly, to the members who attended the function.



Beth and Tom Mackay.



Judy and David Ashfold with Ralph.



Bob Brown and Joan Peggs.



Bessie and Les Greenham



Ronace and Bill Downie and Paul Freeman were unable to attend the dinner.



In the meantime, meetings only were being held in the Workshops, due to the Consultants engaged by Westrail doing a Property Inspection and the MPC was banned from doing any manual labour.

Various speakers were engaged to keep the members interested during this period, including Norm Robins demonstrating his fire extinguishers and Paul Berkavicius who organised a restoration demo of a small engine.

FIRST MIDLAND OPEN DAY

Sunday, 3rd August 1997.

The first MPC Open Day was undoubtedly a resounding success, attracting a grand total of 5 'prospective' members at the next meeting.

It was estimated we entertained in excess of 300 guests on the day, and all visitors seemed very impressed, some even envious, of our acquisition.

Thanks were given to the Avon Valley club for helping to make it a 'fun day'. Sadly, Tracmach had their AGM on the same day, so we hoped they could attend the next one.

A vote of thanks was given to the ladies for keeping up a steady supply of refreshments. Some plants were supplied by the Midland Markets and others brought along by various 'partners' and the greenery made all the difference.



'Bert' outside the Power House Precinct.



Frank Waters keeps a watchful eye on the MPC Akroyd.



Members Norm Robins and Ben Pether with the MPC display.

EAST PERTH POWER STATION

Friday 22nd August 1997.

An 'eye-opening' visit to the soon to be partially demolished Power Station was arranged at short notice by Peter Mack. How sad it was to see the decrepit state of these buildings after 'time and vandals have done their best'.



Members inspect the East Perth Power Station turbines.

'PEA PICKING' was on the agenda for Sunday 19th October, at the Downie's property in Mt. Helena.

We ploughed the fields and scattered the green peas on the land,
Bill gave the word the pods were full, so off to give a hand.

Plastic bags and buckets were used to gather up the crop,

And soon before we notice, it's time for lunch, so stop.

Around the fire we gathered, for Soup and a 'Bar Bee Que',

Joined by Tracmach members, all now in the queue.

And so another year is gone, time for soil and us to rest,

We look forward to the next time, for Bill's Green Peas are Best!

R.T.

SECOND MIDLAND OPEN DAY

Sunday 22nd February 1998.

This was the first time that the ladies had put on a display called "Home Treasures" and it was very well received by members and public alike, even though it was a very hot day.

Thanks to Tracmach and other clubs who attended.

The new "Greasy Gang" Café, where visitors stopped to enjoy a cold drink or cup of tea, looked very colourful with its green and gold tablecloths, thanks to Beryl Waters, (These tablecloths are still being used today.) and adorned by various floral arrangements.

The Health Centre had some of our large library on display, along with Bob's fine example of a Cornish 'stamps' and Peter Mack's antique dental display.

The Pattern Shop included a comprehensive display of small tools owned by Bob Shoosmith, while outside the beautiful sound of the only Fairground Organ in WA, owned by Bob and Carmel Constance, entertained all.

The Tower had a collection of farming equipment and horse-drawn implements, including the newly restored club wheat pickler.

The Panel Shop had on display for the first time, the club fruit grader and Vic James mobile 'office machinery'.

Outside was the working machinery including the club Akroyd and the Traction Engine.

The Boiler Room and Power House proudly displayed a large collection of stationary engines, Australiana and 'Home Treasures' to finalise a great display and day.

**EASTER TRIP TO
WILLIAMS/KOJONUP/WAGIN
10-13 April 1998.**



'The Sandgroper' organ belonging to Bob and Carmel Constance.



A little 'Twinkle-Toes' dancing on the day.

Nine camping units met up at Quindanning and camped at the local Race Track. After a glorious misty morning, we headed for Jesse Martin's museum in Williams, where we were joined by several day-tripping Perth members. We spent a day wandering at leisure through Jesse and Mrs. Martin's historical village and around their 'deer' property.

We then headed for Kojonup where we spent a delightful two days with the Goodall family. Ross, Jo and Stratton hired the local school bus to take us on a tour of the district. We visited the Old Barracks Museum and Elverd Cottage, a local Yabby farm for afternoon tea and lastly a visit to Proandra Flowers – a Protea farm. Some helped with the feeding and milking of the beautiful Charolais cattle, and then we were treated to a BBQ tea. Easter Sunday began with bacon and eggs, both ordinary and chocolate, then we inspected their sheds and 'rat pile' before making our way in convoy to the local creek for a lunch of hot dogs and fresh caught and cooked yabbies.

The trip home was via Katanning and Wagin, where we visited the Historical Village, then a lunch stop at Narrogin Restoration Group's complex.

Thanks went to Judy Ashfold for the basket of Easter eggs supplied to members, as she and David were unable to make this trip. We were glad to hear that she had greatly enjoyed her trip to the Ningaloo Reef to swim with the whale sharks. Good on you Judy!



'Home Treasures' display.



The 'Greasy Gang' Café.



The Tower Farming and Horse-drawn Implements.



The 'Mary Hannah' and Ronaldson Tippett Orchard Sprayer.



Camping at Quindanning.



Proteas Drying.



Member Ben Pether with his Drag Saw.



Helping to feed the Charolais Bull.

Grateful thanks went to the Sponsors for the day:
Forklift Engineering – Material Handling.
Cockburn Hire – Temporary Toilets.
Consolidated Constructions – Safety Helmets.
Colour Patch – Floral Decorations.
Lindsay Hill – Beverage Refrigeration.

ORANGE TREE FARM celebrated their 10th Birthday on 19th April and the MPC supported them with a small display, which was greatly appreciated and resulted in a small donation to cover MPC expenses. Quite a few young ladies were the recipients of skipping ropes and left with huge smiles on their faces.

**MPC DINNER AND PRESENTATION EVENING
CAROUSEL BISTRO, 18th July 1998.**

Another successful evening with good food and good friends. Bob Wallis and Frank Waters were presented with Certificates of Merit for Services Rendered to the MPC, while their wives received gift baskets. This evening was organised by member Norm Robins.



Beryl and Frank Waters.



*Brenda and Bob Wallis with
Chris Rowe.*

In October of 1998, the MPC was granted a twelve month extension of its current lease at the Workshops.

The MPC began a monthly raffle asking members to bring a grocery item or the equivalent in cash to increase the club's income.

**THIRD MIDLAND OPEN DAY
Sunday 21st March 1999.**

It was very rewarding to see so many reunions between ex-workers, and their varying reactions to being back at their old workplace and seeing what was happening to it. Some of them were unhappy with the way things were going, but most were very aware and appreciative of the part we were trying to play in the retention of the Workshops Heritage Precinct.

Our actual display was interesting and colourful, particularly with the new flags, as well as the extra greenery provided by the many pot plants dotted around. The sounds of Bob Constance's Fairground Organ gave a 'carnival' feeling to the day, and the introduction of the Garden Railway display by member David Brown and his fellow enthusiasts, added to the overall effect. We must also mention the grand arrival of Ian and Mathew Rubery in their 'almost aircraft sized' beautifully restored 1965 Buick Electra, as well as members of the Veteran Car Club.

Special thanks were given to the ladies on the day, for their efforts in the non-stop supply of refreshments.



Norm Burton & Paul Freeman. Members relax after a hard day!

**EASTER TRIP 1999.
VIEWING THE GOLDEN PIPELINE
Incorporating the Old Goldfields Road.**

On this trip the MPC had been granted access to all of the Pump Stations by courtesy of the Water Corporation.

Although this was another interesting and informative tour, two occasions stood out. Firstly, on the return journey, when the Goldfields Road was impassable, due to heavy rain from Cyclone Vance, and several of the vehicles had to back out, one by one. Not easy with campers and caravans hitched up. Secondly, when Ralph had to make the daring rescue of 'Scotty', the dog belonging to George Carr, after he took a leap towards the wall, miscalculated, and landed down in a dam! Fortunately, no water and he was unharmed!



*Members' masked up' for the visit
to Yerbillon Power Station.*



*Ralph's daring rescue of
'Scotty' from this dam.*

Obviously it has not been possible to cover a lot of the shows, Open Days or other outings in detail, as there are just too many of them. However, you can read up on these in full in the OP&P which are in the Club library.

In August club members went on a 'RELIC RAMBLE' to visit the general interest collections of Stephen Green in Kingsley, and Willy and Tini Hannaart in Woodvale. Afterwards we attended a BYO BBQ at the home of John and Jeany Gordon in Gnangara.

8 members passed a Forklift Course, arranged by Consolidated Constructions, and received their tickets in October and were then encouraged to spend as much time as possible with the Forklift to gain extra experience. This was a first for the MPC and very likely made us leaders in our field of similar clubs supporting our comprehensive Health and Safety Policy. The proposed First Aid course was another step in the same direction for the club.

In February of 2000 10 members went on the First Aid Course in Basic Life Support. Although it was a lot to remember in one night, we all learned a great deal and had quite a bit of fun doing it.

Negotiations were completed to purchase the 2.5 tonne Forklift from Forklift and Engineering and it was delivered in May, sporting the club's livery of green and yellow. Thanks were extended to Tom Mackay and Forklift Engineering for the use of their forklift over the past couple of years.

2,758 man-hours were worked in 1999, making a total of 7,055 hours recorded in our time so far in the Workshops.

**PREMIER'S LUNCHEON.
Friday 26th May 2000.**

This was organised by the Midland Chamber of Commerce and the MRA in Block 3, where 700 guests dined with the Premier Richard Court.

The MPC and the Australian Historical Railway Association were invited to open their doors so guests could peruse the areas prior to and after the luncheon.

Members were asked to be on site early as it was planned to blow the Power House whistle at 7.20am, for the first time since the Workshop closure.

This was repeated several times during the day, with Premier Richard Court blowing the lunch-time whistle.

JUNE – The Trusty and Edwards engines arrived from Mullewa.

AUGUST – Members celebrated the 75th birthday celebrations of Frank Waters, Bill Downie and Bob Brown at Caddy's Bistro in Canning Vale.

**8th NATIONAL RALLY – CARRICK, TASMANIA.
9th – 11th March 2001.**

Several members travelled across to this Rally, including Tom and Beth Mackay, David and Judy Ashfold, Bert and Beryl Tyler, Lindsay Hill and Eric Schulstad, amongst other West Australians, visiting or displaying, including Brian Blum from The Old Machinery Club of WA.

GOLDFIELDS MINING EXPO – 2001

Another first for the MPC and thanks go to the members who attended and the sponsors who supported us. One visitor relayed that it was the noise, action and seeing members dripping oil into an old engine that brought back very fond memories.

Sovereign Petroleum was over the moon with the quality and passion the MPC displayed to the people of Kalgoorlie. It brought home the adage, 'you cannot go forward, until you know where you have been!' The MPC was nestled in amongst millions of dollars of high tech machinery and displayed a truth to the organisers and the visitors alike, that the old and the new do have parallels – a base for the new!

MRW OPEN DAY – 9th September 2001.

Another very successful day at Midland, although it started out wet, windy and cold. However an estimated 6000 people came through the gates and kept us busy. At the end of the day we made quite a handsome profit, with sponsorship for the steam engine and our 1/3rd share of the gate takings, totalling to around \$2,000. A huge amount of work on the day, but well worth the effort at the end of it. The social function afterwards in Shed 2 was put on by the Australian Society for the Study of Labour History and allowed us to put our case to the "Pollies".

**TRACKS TO FEDERATION 25th October 2001.
EAST PERTH TERMINAL.**

This day was a chance to demonstrate the MPC diversity and professionalism, aided by the members passion and dedication to both their club and the preservation of our heritage. A Tilt Semi was used to transport most of our display on one truck, including the forklift which proved invaluable in setting up and dismantling.

Our display represented a selection of exhibits pertaining to pre 1945, which included steam, gas, kerosene, diesel and petrol driven machines. This included Peter Dymond with 'Arthur', supplying steam to Ralph's Ruston for the first time; Willy with his hot air engine and butter churn; the Groper accompanied by patterns from the workshops, under the watchful eye of Jack Bellotti; Norm Robin's McDonald pump set; Bob Brown's Cooper Shearing plant, and Ben Pether's drag saw. Club engines on display were the Trusty, Akroyd and Hornsby, cared for by various members.

The Governor of WA, His Excellency Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC, and Premier Geoff Gallop chatted amiably with various members, congratulated us on our display, and showed great interest in our involvement in the Railway Workshops.



Premier Geoff Gallop and Governor John Sanderson.



Peter Dymond with 'Arthur'.



Members of the public dressed in period costume on board the train in East Perth.

The 20th Anniversary Dinner was held at the Junction Hotel in Midland in August 2002, organised by Bob Wallis and greatly enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks were given to David and Judy Ashfold for the special 20th anniversary badges and cake.



In August 2002, Michelle Roberts (Member for Midland) presented the MPC with the \$10,000 grant from the Lotteries Commission for our aluminium fencing. Kieran Kinsella, CEO for MRA and the chairman of the board were also present, and they affirmed their appreciation of the club and indicated that we had a long-term future at the Midland Workshops.

**‘MIDLAND ALIVE’ OPEN DAY – 3 Nov 2002.
MIDLAND RAILWAY WORKSHOPS.**

Estimates on crowd numbers told us that over 100,000 people entered the Midland area and up to 20,000 came through the workshop complex. Joining the MPC’s display were the Book Binders Guild, the British Rail Modellers Club and the Morsecodians Fraternity who sent live Morse code messages, printed out by Ralph and Wendy Thomas specially for the day. The Wood Carving Association, a brilliant collection of fishing reels and some Hand Tool Association members also joined our own for a combined display.

The first whistle was blown at 7.15am, and gates opened at 10 and the public continued coming until close at 4.30.

One of the main attractions on the day was the street parade, where the Premier Geoff Gallop rode in the fire engine from Midland Town Hall to the workshops, for the official opening of the Helena Street Railway crossing. Ralph Thomas towed the club trailer behind his Ferguson TEF20 tractor.

Catering on the day was down to Keith Chappell and his ‘Miracle Maids’ and they were kept flat out supplying refreshments to the large crowds and the many members in attendance. Another very profitable day for the club. \$2000 of the Gold Coin Admission Donation Bins went to the Lord Mayor’s Bali Relief Fund and the balance of \$3000 to be distributed between the 3 community groups, the MPC being one of those.



Members relax after a hard day.



The Morsecodian Fraternity.

MPC CHRISTMAS WIND-UP – 7 Dec 2002.



A change of venue from Beckenham to Midland for the annual Christmas Carvery supplied by the MPC. Ralph and Wendy camped in their caravan on site, to be early to cook the meats on the Webers. BYO salads, drinks and cutlery as per usual.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE DISPLAY.

8th February 2003.

Ten members and partners attended this small casual display, but one which attracted great interest from the public. Government House staff looked after us well and invited us to afternoon tea. The house itself was a draw card for the ladies in particular, as well as walking in the gardens and enjoying the music being played inside the house as well as in the grounds.

INTERNATIONAL VISITORS ‘AUSSIE BBQ’

26th February 2003.

What a hot day this turned out to be, but what a great number of members turned up to welcome the 36 visitors from England, Scotland, Canada and the USA. The visitors thoroughly enjoyed their time looking at the workshops and several made comments about the amount and high standard of restoration work they saw.

The traditional *Aussie BBQ* of genuine Australian fare, including kangaroo sausages, pavlovas and lamingtons, was thoroughly enjoyed by both visitors and members alike. The members did themselves proud as usual.

The visitors were reluctant to leave, and their tour leader was hard pressed to get them on the coach, but they eventually left, several of them sporting MPC hats and badges; along with David Ashfold and Bob Wallis, who were taking them on to Williams and Yarloop the following day.

NEW NORCIA RUSTON – May/June 2004.

A number of members and partners travelled to New Norcia to begin work on the restoration of their Ruston Engine. The engine had seized due to lack of lubrication from standing for so long, but the boys were into the job in a short while and plans were made for a return visit in the near future.

A letter from the Friends of New Norcia Benedictine Monastery was received afterwards, excerpts from this below.

“A note to thank all the members of the Machinery Preservation Club for your visits. After the weekends of hard work our old Ruston Hornsby engine looks fantastic – all cleaned down, spruced up and almost ready to go. For the Monks, it’s a great thrill to know that this important piece of New Norcia’s heritage is at last receiving the kind of care it deserves. We are indebted to you all for your skill and enthusiasm – and to the ladies for being such good sports”. Christopher Power OSB.

SPECIAL MEETING – October 2004.

This meeting was called to discuss the MPC move from the Copper Shop and Power House Precinct with the members and to make a commitment for the next decade. The MRA had offered the MPC the Panel Shop as a home.

**MRW 100th ANNIVERSARY OPEN DAY.
24th October 2004.**

The predicted number of spectators was down for this day, but those who attended were happy and appreciative of all they saw.

Our visiting clubs did us proud and the first attendance of the Ulysses Motor Bike Club made quite a spectacular entrance with our own 'Bobby' (Jack Watson) on his LE Velocette (Noddy Bike) leading the way.

Ross, Colleen and Tammy Morton, along with many other members did an excellent job of cooking and serving hot dogs and sandwiches. Unfortunately we very much over-catered and a lot of food was left over. I think quite a few members lived on 'toasted sandwiches' for a time and we had enough sausages left to feed the members at the Canning Show the following week.



CANNING SHOW – 6th November 2004.



MRW OPEN DAY – 14th August 2005.

A very low key day with only a few members on site to man the main areas. However those in attendance made the best of it and enjoyed interaction with the public who came. Ross, Colleen, Enid and Tini were kept busy sizzling sausages and made about \$200 on the day and the Gold Coin donation bins split 4 ways returned \$150 each.

PLOUGHING DAY – 5th June 2005.



This annual event was now being held at the property of David and Janice Pether in Helena Valley. Members picking up wood for the BBQ lunch.

TREK THE TRAIL – 20th August 2006.

A lovely clear and sunny day greeted the 8 members at Glen Forrest for this display. Coates Hire delivered a Gen. set and compressor, and a marquee was also erected for us.



Ross Morton with Ralph Thomas's Steam engine.

Sean Finbow with the club miniature traction engine.

**10th ANNIVERSARY OF MPC AT M.R.W. DINNER.
Cannington Greyhound Track. 10th September 2006.**



James Riddle and Kim Freind in front.

The **New Norcia Ruston Engine** now had new life breathed into it, and for those interested this machine sprang to life for the general public to view on 24th September 2006. Well done MPC Members.

DWELLINGUP LOG CHOP – 17 February 2007.

It was touch and go that year as to whether the annual Log Chop would go ahead due to the earlier devastating bush fires in the Dwellingup region. However, we did attend and apart from putting on our usual display, we put out donation tins on our display, returned our display cheque, added our February meeting collection and raffle money and the ladies made use of the huge jumble sale in the local hall - \$5 per bag for all you could put in it! All in all we donated the grand sum of \$626.45 to the Bushfire Appeal. Well done to all members.



Wendy, Joy, Tina and Britney show off their \$5 bargain bags.

The new Annexe was put to good use during this show.

ANZAC DAY SERVICE – 25th April 2007.

This is an annual event for the MPC, assisting the MRA and locals to celebrate this occasion of remembrance. The members then help in the serving of the morning tea after the service, put on by the MRA.



MPC WEBSITE.

The Website was taken over in 2007 from Peter Dymond by Ralph and Wendy Thomas.

MIDLAND RAILWAY WORKSHOPS BLOCK 3.

As other venue options within the MRW complex were discounted for various reasons, the MPC moved into Block 3 in 2007, beginning the next 15 year phase of the club’s history.

During these years we had many Open and Special Visitor Days, as well as attending the usual number of annual and outside displays at different venues. Far too many to itemise in this newsletter individually.

HARVEY SHOW – 12th April 2008.



TOMC Wayne Edmunds, Ralph Thomas and grand-daughter making rope.

This was a show at which only a couple of MPC members joined the Old Machinery Club to display. A lot of people along the fenceline showing great interest in the display.

MPC SOCIAL FUNCTION – 5th August 2008.

This function was hosted by the MPC, in honour of a visit by City of Swan Mayor Charlie Gregorini, Daniel Henley and Council staff members, and Dr. Bill Leadbetter, Principal Policy Officer for Heritage. It was catered for by Acclaim Caterers and was very well received.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND THE PRESIDENT’S GOLDEN SPANNER AWARDS – 13th Dec 2008.

As our club premises was not suitable for this sort of occasion, this lunch was held at the home of Ralph and Wendy Thomas and catered for by WA Spit Roast, on behalf of the MPC, and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Several members received ‘Golden Spanner’ Awards, made by Ralph Thomas, for extraordinary services to the MPC.



Bob Wallis. David Ashfold. Jack Bellotti.



George Chappell. Joe Gittos.

LOTTERYWEST GRANT PRESENTATION FOR “BERT”, THE TRACTION ENGINE. 17th February 2009.

Members and partners arrived early to set up the area for afternoon tea, provided by the ladies, before guests and dignitaries arrived. After speeches from President Ralph Thomas, Bob Wallis and Peter Dymond, The Hon. Donna Faragher JP MLC, presented Ralph with a cheque from LotteryWest for the sum of \$54,028.00, for the restoration of the traction engine.



Members in front of our new mural.



Donna Faragher presents the cheque. Bob Wallis, Peter Dymond, Ralph Thomas & Donna.



**MURRAY BRIDGE, S.A. 12th NATIONAL RALLY.
3 – 5th April 2009.**



This was another National Rally to remember, as so much had happened in the lead up; preparing exhibits; making boxes; loading the container, and finally seeing it off from Midland, to travel across the country by road and rail, with fingers crossed, hoping it would arrive safely at the rally site.

Thankfully, it did, right on time, and with not a thing out of place. This was the result of excellent loading by our members, led by David Ashfold. I have to say here that the full-size mural, designed by Ralph Thomas with the help of All Flags, was well worth the effort and expense. It proved quite a spectacle when it arrived at the Sturt Park Reserve and some of our Ladies found it quite a moving moment. The rally site almost came to a standstill as other exhibitors came to view this wonderful and colourful exhibit. Spectators too were quite amazed by our effort in bringing sixteen tonnes of machinery etc. across the country; and found it hard to believe how much gear was crammed into the forty-foot container. Offloading was soon underway, and most watching were amused to find that apart from all our displays, we even had our own fridge, chairs and supplies, right down to teabags and biscuits.

The MPC trailer, towed across by Victor James also arrived safely. This carried extra exhibits and became a great advertising icon for the MPC. Kim Freind organised a Murray River cruise on the paddle boat “Captain Proud” in the afternoon, which was great fun.



Kim Freind at the helm.



Our display was quite spectacular and very colourful.

During the NHMA Committee meeting, the presentations for the next Rally were given; the first from the Mudgee Club in NSW, then ours, presented by Brendon Widdowson (from Fairbridge Village) and member Bob Wallis. The vote was quite close, but we won it! Then it was congratulations all around – the 2011 NHMA Rally was to be in WA, at Fairbridge Village .

The Rally Dinner on Saturday evening was very well attended, with about 600 seated, after which it was then time for the speeches and presentation of the Geoff Wishart Trophy for best display. Our members were ecstatic when the MPC was announced the winner, and President Ralph proudly went up to be presented with the award, by the NHMA Vice President Phil Morrison.

After an early start on Sunday morning, with all members getting stuck into packing boxes, in the correct order, for loading into the container; by five pm we had completed the task. It was a very relieved and well satisfied crew, I can assure you, and everyone had the look of ‘a great job well done!’.

Monday saw Bob Wallis and Ralph Thomas back at the site, to see the container loaded for the return journey of 2759 kms, back to the Midland Railway Workshops in Perth. This was certainly the culmination of what must be the biggest and most challenging project the MPC had undertaken; and winning the Geoff Wishart Trophy for the third time was the ‘icing on the cake’.



Peter Dymond's Portable 'Arthur'.



The 'Sydney' Engine.



'Cousin Jack' and WASP engine. WAGR Gauges. Rally Bid board.



Stan & Margaret Gale from Margaret River, 'Mural on the Move' with the trophy for the longest distance travelled to the Rally, beating Brian and Dot Blum from Busselton by just a few miles.



“The Machinery Preservation Club has been an enduring and vibrant part of the Midland Railway Workshops, both for its own club activities and its role in keeping the Workshops’ stories and some of its old machinery alive and active. The support the club has offered in the stewardship of this important heritage place and in embracing changes and new directions is appreciated. May all your members past and present enjoy the milestone you’ve achieved today and those to come in the future.”

Matt Ryan, Executive General Manager, Planning and Transition, Development WA.



Congratulations to the Machinery Preservation Club of Western Australia on your 40th Anniversary. The Club does so much to preserve, restore and rebuild historical plant, farm and other machinery. Your dedication to showcasing our history through your wonderful space at the Midland Railway Workshops and at various events throughout Western Australia is to be commended. Thank you to all members for your commitment and best wishes for the next 40 years!

**Hon Donna Faragher JP MLC
Member for East Metropolitan Region
Shadow Minister for Community Services; Early Childhood Education; Youth; Seniors & Ageing.**



It gives me the greatest of pleasure to congratulate the MPC on its 40th Anniversary of operation.

I understand that the club was founded by 11 members in 1982, and in fact one of your founding members, Ralph Thomas, represented your Club at the Lake Goldsmith Rally in 1987, when the NHMA was formed. As you would be aware, Ralph is still a State Rep for the NHMA.

I am told that the Club established a home at the Midland Railway Workshops in 1996 and are now located in the Powerhouse Complex.

With the introduction of social media, I have also followed the posts of the Club activities, and Ralph keeps us up to date also.

40 years is a great milestone and I commend all members for not only participating in the historic Machinery Movement, but also performing the rolls of keeping all members involved and enthusiastic. Well done. Finally on behalf of the NHMA Committee, and I suggest all NHMA clubs, Congratulations. Think what will be achieved in the next 40 years!

Regards, **Peter Garnham, NHMA President.**



“My congratulations to the Machinery Preservation Club on their 40th Anniversary.

Our history is preserved by members of Clubs like MPC, restoring old machinery to its former glory so that people through the generations can see how our technology has evolved over the years, and through its dedicated members traveling to community events as a roving museum. The club brings people interested in older machinery together and the camaraderie of its members is to be applauded.

Congratulations to all members and supporters of the Machinery Preservation Club on this 40th Anniversary and wishing the Club further success in the years ahead”.

**Hon Michelle Roberts MLA
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Member for Midland**



On behalf of the Committee and Members of The Vintage Tractor and Machinery Association of WA Inc, we extend to the Committee and Members of the Machinery Preservation Club of WA, our congratulations in recognition of the Club’s forty years of affiliation and fellowship. It is commendable that a group of like-minded persons can attain the longevity in a Club that the MPC has shown. Best Wishes for the next forty years to come.

Kind Regards,
Graeme Burges, Vice President.



The Old Machinery Club of W.A. Inc wishes to extend congratulations to the Machinery Preservation Club of W.A. on their celebration of 40 years’ service in the preserving and promotion of vintage machinery. It is something we all, vintage enthusiasts alike, strive to keep the old machinery in the forefront and not be forgotten. Well done to all concerned.

Regards, **President, Committee and all Members,
The Old Machinery Club of W.A. Inc.**



On behalf of the Hugh Manning Tractor and Machinery Museum, I wish to extend to your club members, heartfelt CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES on your 40th Anniversary year.

May both our Organisations go forward in the coming years, enjoying our mutual interests and the much-valued friendships that they bring.

**Colin Cotgreave, President
Hugh Manning Tractor and Machinery Museum.**



The WA Craft Bookbinders Guild offers congratulations to the Machinery Preservation Club of WA on achieving 40 years in WA. The dedication and perseverance they have shown is commendable as they work tirelessly to preserve

and maintain mechanical history for the betterment of the future. It is our hope that the club will continue to collect likeminded individuals and never cease their mission.



Memories of the Machinery Preservation Club go back to the early 1980s, when the Canning Agricultural Society was approached by Mr. Ralph Thomas and Mr. David Ashfold to

display their vintage machinery at the Canning Show. They proposed that the group receive a donation from the Society along with an insurance policy to cover their costs. This was agreed to, and the Group has since been an appreciated regular attraction at the Canning Show for many years since.

They are a happy group of people and have always contributed tremendously to the Canning Show. It's a pleasure to see them arrive each year brimming with enthusiasm and enjoying sharing their passion with the public. The kids love seeing the traction engine and hearing it toot its way through the showgrounds. Congratulations on turning 40, and thanks for all your support!

Jenny Outram.

On behalf of **Canning Show/Canning Agricultural, Horticultural & Recreational Society Inc**



The VMCCWA would like to congratulate the MPC on their 40th Anniversary.

Over the years, we have enjoyed many joint events including Open Days at the Midland Railway Workshops where the

MPC have been extremely hospitable with putting on BBQs and refreshments. They have also participated in the Old Iron Classic Motorcycle Show at the Cannington Show grounds where they had a fantastic display, which was well received by all patrons.

We would also like to wish the MPC all the very best with their relocation to the Powerhouse at the Midland Workshops. The VMCCWA look forward to continuing this relationship into the future.

Steve Hills,

VMCCWA Events Coordinator.



Midland Branch of CWA would like to congratulate you on reaching 40 years of the Machinery Preservation WA. We are well aware of the hard work that has gone into making the MPC as it is today.

Your drive and enthusiasm and tenacity never ceases to amaze. Thanking all your members who have involved CWA and allowing us to use the excellent facilities you have provided for us, which has given us a permanent home. We wish you every success .

Kind Regards

Maureen Barker

Secretary Midland Branch of CWA



Hand Tool Preservation Society Of WA (Inc).

The Hand Tool Preservation Society of WA

congratulates the Machinery Preservation Club of WA on achieving 40 years. Your efforts in preserving past engines and displaying them to the public is to be commended. Keep up the great work as future generations will appreciate your efforts.

Kim Mitchell, HTPS President.



Congratulations to the M.P.C. of W.A, on achieving the milestone of 40 years of club activities.

Thanking you for our close association and for your kind donations of machinery and artefacts over the years. Wishing you many more years of restoration. **President, Committee, and members of the Mt Magnet Historical Society.**



The Machinery Preservation Club of WA play a major role in the restoration and preservation of heritage machinery keeping them alive for future generations to know and understand. We value the work of the Machinery

Preservation Club of WA.

On behalf of the committee and members of the Midland and Districts Historical Society, I would like to congratulate the Machinery Preservation Club of WA on their 40th Anniversary.

Matthew Pavlinovich, Chairperson

Midland and Districts Historical Society Inc.



On behalf of the Kelmscott Agricultural Society's Councillors and Committee, I am writing to offer our very best wishes and

congratulations to your members on the 40th Anniversary year of the Machinery Preservation Club of WA.

KAS also has a milestone this year, 125 years since the Society was formed to promote agriculture in the area.

We look forward to celebrating with you at the 123rd Kelmscott Agricultural Show on 15th October 2022.

Kind regards,

Jan Billan, Honorary Secretary.

AS I REMEMBER IT.

My wife Jean saw an ad in the Comment News in 1982 inviting people interested in old machinery to a meeting at Bob Jackson's home in Gosnells.

This ad generated the James family involvement in 40 years of the Machinery Preservation Club; 40 years involvement in The Kelmscott Agricultural Society; over 10 years involvement with The Hugh Manning Tractor and Machinery Museum and 4 years with Horse Power Day – a combined effort with Tractor Museum, KAS, MPC and the Serpentine community.

The first Show I remembered going to was the Kelmscott Show. I went to the KAS council meeting to organise the site, etc. Exhibits included Hugh Manning's Drag Saw; Rope maker, with motors from other members, including Kevin Lewis.

For two years we went to the Bridgetown Show and with the help of our Busselton and Bunbury members, put on a very good display. From this display I was offered the new record Drag saw I currently operate.

In the early years when our three oldest children were at primary school, Jean, the children Raewynne, Kathryn and Vaughan went to the Corrigin Show with my Sundial and other items. My trailer was nick-named 'The Prairie Wagon' by Bob Jackson, due to the number of items loaded into the trailer. Traveling with three young children to Corrigin and back in the one day required plenty of patience and planning by my wife Jean. I think this trip convinced my wife to go to the various shows separately with the children.

In the 1980s Bunnings had their Centenary year. I was involved with the Company in organising celebrations; one of which was the machinery display at the Perth Royal Show. Our club assisted with stationary motors and ropemaking and Hugh Manning's New Record drag saw, Dennis power saw, Dennis drag saw; and all were demonstrated after being approved by the Safety officers.

This was the club's first show that ran for eight days.

At another show at Cannington, Rob Berkavicius drove his Lanz Bulldog from Sawyers Valley to Cannington. Going down Greenmount hill, the motor got too cold, and they had to reheat and restart the motor on Greenmount Hill. I understand there were no problems going home up the hill!

The first National Rally I attended was at Goolwa in South Australia. I took the club trailer loaded with club gear plus stationary motors. When loaded, the trailer had just enough space for one more tyre. My HZ ute was loaded with 205lt. drum of fuel, my drag saw, a seven-foot jarrah log, tools on tray, and inside my food and clothes etc. I pumped the back tyres to 50lbs because of the load. I set off from Kelmscott around 8.00am. When I got to Greenmount hill I was down to second gear on the four-speed box, going up the hill. When I got to the top of the hill my wife and family pulled up in front of me. They had come to check that I got up the hill ok. Max speed on the way to Goolwa was 90km per hour, but no problems with the ute.

My second National Rally was in Victoria in Timber country. Once again I took the Drag Saw, but no log. This Rally had a bigger selection of machines, including an English Drag saw that could cut trees down, and a working Blue Streak Chain saw.

The first National Rally in WA was at Busselton. Run by the WA Clubs including the MPC it was well worth the effort. The Canberra club brought over a semi-trailer load of motors and exhibits. Brooks bought his Tractors and demonstrated the dozers working. The MPC had a display area including my drag saw, typewriters and other items. Jean brought the family down, so we had a few very enjoyable family days.

I will always be thankful for the support of my wife and family over these years and the friendship I have found in our club. We come to enjoy ourselves and follow our interests to the benefit of all,

BEST WISHES FOR OUR 40TH AND FOLLOWING YEARS.

Victor James – Foundation Member.



Royal Show 1989.



Stan Everitt on duty at the Royal Show.

My wife Barbie and I emigrated from U.K. to Australia in 2005, aged 62, having been asked by family if we would consider living in Perth.

We came over on a Contributory Parental Visa costing \$80,00 for both of us, which we thought was a bargain as it included Medi-Care and a Residential Visa, which we converted to a Full Visa some years later.

It was not just to lead the Grandchildren astray, but the chance of a lifechanging adventure on the other side of the World. We had holidayed here on three occasions, to see if we could take the heat. We stayed with our son, a Mining Engineer and family in Darlington, so the nearest area of Engineering interest was No 1 Pumping Station at Mundaring.

When we received our Visa, we had an email from National Trust in U.K saying, 'sorry we are losing you and good luck' and an email from National Trust Australia to say 'glad you are joining us'.

We bought a House in Quinns Rocks, two blocks from the beach, and it's great to go to bed at night listening to the surf.

I had volunteered at Liverpool Maritime Museum, Waterways Museum, Ellesmere Port, and was also a member of a small team that looked after and maintained a 100-ton Grass Hopper Pumping Engine at Shore Road Pumping Station, Birkenhead. I was also a member of The Northwest of England Stationary Engine Society.

I wanted to transfer these interests to ones here in Perth, so I volunteered at the Robert Steele Marine Engine Collection at Fremantle Maritime Museum, which I left at the outbreak of Covid. The Machinery Preservation Club of W.A. advertised in the Stationary Engine Magazine, so I was aware that there was engine society here in Perth. We had been here three weeks when I rang the number given and spoke with a fellow Countryman, but one who had a slightly different accent to mine.

Ralph answered the phone and having listened to my story, invited me along to the next meeting at the Midland Railway Workshops Powerhouse precinct, where we are now located for a second time. I wondered what was happening on arrival, as you had to report at the Gate house in those days.

David and Ben Pether took me under their wings and showed me around. Thanks both, you made me very welcome.

Peter Dymond was the President and having been asked to give a brief account of myself, I was welcomed by all. That was 15 plus years ago, and during that time I have met and enjoyed the company of many members who have given me a lot of help and advice over the years.

When the Club moved to block Three, the atmosphere was worth bottling, serving my time as a Fitter and never leaving the tools. Just to walk on hallowed ground that allowed men to put bread on the table for

generations, it is/was probably the last bastion of Heavy Engineering in the area, shame to see it go.

Here we are now back in the Powerhouse with a changed identity and emphasis of Community Groups into the future.

May the Club flourish for many years to come
Eric Coates - Member M.P.C.



Part of Eric's Collection.

NHMA AGM – YARLOOP – 9th May 2010.

The Committee of the National Historical Machinery Association held their Annual General Meeting in Yarloop. This was the first time it had been held in WA.

The Committee members visited the Workshops before heading for Yarloop. Several MPC members travelled to the meeting and attended the dinner afterwards.



MPC Members at meeting.



Peter Dymond.



Kim Freind.



Committee & State Reps.



Members enjoy the dinner.

V.M.C.C. VISIT 24th July 2011.





Canning Show
4 November 2011
Les Jones and
Les Smith.

Below
Christmas lunch.
MRW. 5 December 2011



NHMA 13th NATIONAL RALLY. 2 – 4th Sept 2011.
FAIRBRIDGE VILLAGE PINJARRA, WA.

What can be said about this Rally other than we did WA proud again. The combined efforts of the MPC, the Old Machinery Club of WA and Tracmach, and the years of planning and hard work made this a Rally to be remembered. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the backing of Fairbridge Village in Pinjarra, and it's marvellous staff, who were with us right from the beginning, particularly in Murray Bridge, when we applied for the right to have the next National Rally.

Fairbridge did all the catering and were responsible for as much accommodation as they had available. They allowed us to provide a temporary caravan park for our local, country and interstate exhibitors and visitors. It is here that we must make special mention of a past (and late) member, Mike Pedley, who dedicated a great deal of time and effort in the designing and eventual running of the park during the rally. Of course, Mike did have a lot of help, but he was the backbone of this area.

There were so many members of all clubs who worked hard towards this event, I am loath to mention anybody in particular. Needless to say, you all know who you were.

We had decided, on hearing many comments during the Murray Bridge rally, that those from the East would like to come to WA during the wildflower season, so that it what we did. Added to that we put out a great deal of information about attractions and collections on the way to and from the rally, so visitors had plenty to look at.

The exhibitors and visitors started arriving on site from the Monday and during the next four days we booked in hundreds of vehicles and caravans.

The MPC container with its lovely WA mural was the first thing that everybody saw when they arrived, and it was in here that the registrations took place and exhibitors were directed to their relevant areas.

There were so many breathtaking exhibits arriving, on trucks, being towed on trailers, and driven to Pinjarra. Two of the stand-out exhibitors would have to be Peter

Creek and Peter and Ros Craig, both of whom drove their tractors and vans across Australia, one of them via the Nullarbor at the bottom and the other via Darwin across the top! What a marvellous feat that was and it was quite exciting to be there to welcome them both.

Although we had a few hiccups over the weekend, in general things went very well. The evening meal on the Saturday certainly tested Fairbridge staff, but most were happy to give them some slack. After all, there was plenty to talk about while you waited!

At the end of the three days there were a lot of very tired but happy people, who were very sorry to see the end of the weekend, and have to say goodbye to both old friends and new ones made that weekend.



The MPC truck arrives.



The Rhodes Ridley.



Peter & Ros Craig from Victoria.



Ralph welcomes Peter Creek.



The Hand Tool Preservation Society.



The Book Binders Guild.



David & Shirley Boyle's Models.



Some of the cars arrive.



The Chamberlain Club arrive.



Part of the MPC Display.

Continued on Page 25.



The Tractor Trek arrives.



Most of the Organising committee presenting Fairbridge with a plaque.



A model Land Rover.



Ralph's Moffat Virtue.



All of the Rally Committee received one of these machinery plaques.

NHMA 14th NATIONAL RALLY. 19–21 April 2013. MUDGEES, N.S.W.

The focal point of this rally was the MPC's Trusty Engine No. 689, built in Cheltenham, England in the mid 1890's. It is only the third example of a Cheltenham Trusty in the world. George Chappell and Paul Freeman, amongst others, had been extremely involved in the restoration of this rare engine, and it ran perfectly for the three days of its first public appearance since restoration, by George and his two sons, Ian and Keith.

A group of 20 members from the MPC travelled across the country once again, with various exhibits including model live steam displays by Lindsay Hill and Ralph Thomas; David Pether displayed the MPC model Alchin Traction engine; Bob Wallis had his collection of rare and unusual tools and WA timbers; a Dairy display by Les Jones and Les Smith; Clive Griffiths with his Heinrici hot air engine and Graeme Simpson with his Fairbanks Morse.

STEAMER'S DAY AT MIDLAND WORKSHOPS 26th August 2012.

The MPC held the annual steaming day in the newly extended workshop, with small and large stationary engines, portable steam engine running, scale model traction engines, steam train and steam boat (under steam but not sailing). A Trash and Treasure stall was also held. The main event was the commissioning and official thanks for the restoration by the Club and generous manufacturers and friends of the 1904 Clayton and Shuttleworth steam tractor after 5 years.



Members with the Trusty engine.

LAKE GOLDSMITH 100th RALLY. November 2012.

Bob and Brenda Wallis and Ralph and Wendy Thomas made this rally one of their stops on a trip to the Eastern States. It was the second time that Ralph's Moffat Virtue had been displayed at Lake Goldsmith, the first time at their 50th rally in 1987, when the NHMA was formed.



Les Jones Milking Display.



Lindsay Hill's Model Display.

Relaxing at a camp site stop after a day's drive.



Ralph and Wendy Thomas's Steam Display.



MPC CHRISTMAS LUNCH – 8 December 2013.



The lunch this year was held in the Tool Box meeting room. George and Kerry Sjepceвич received a special award for the most

consistent exhibitors, and Stewart Macpherson for the best exhibit for the year. Congratulations to them all.



Stewart (Left) And George. (Right) with their awards.



Bindoon Museum.



Members enjoying morning tea.



Some of Dave Lucas's collection. Some of Clive Griffith's collection.

NHMA 15th NATIONAL RALLY.

27 Feb – 1 Mar 2015. CARRICK, TASMANIA.

A very small contingent of MPC attended this rally – Keith and Kathy Chappell, Ralph and Wendy Thomas and Stephen Barlas. Keith and Ralph shared a steam model display.

It was the first time Ralph and Wendy had been to Tasmania and the ferry trip was a great experience. With a long caravan and a four-wheel drive vehicle, we were the last to be loaded, but the first to disembark. Tasmania was a lovely place to visit, but not the best place for driving around with this outfit. However, the rally itself was first class, with a lot of interesting exhibits, and it was there that we managed to purchase our little Ruston Proctor traction engine, so that made the whole trip worthwhile.



BINDOON MUSEUM – 15 July 2015.

Members were welcomed to the museum by Clive Griffiths and Dave Lucas, and with their volunteers, there were around 50 people who were treated to morning tea, before a tour of the museum, Men's shed and Arts and Crafts Centre. After a sausage sizzle lunch, Dave Lucas took us to view his marvellous collection in a 15 plus car convoy. A few us went on afterwards to member Clive Griffith's home. Another enjoyable day for MPC members and a chance to see how others display.

**DFES HISTORICAL & RESTORATION VISIT.
21st March 2016.**

Members enjoyed a visit to the historical and restoration section of the Department of Fire and Emergency Services in Belmont, by kind invitation of Bob Hawrylak.

After an interesting talk by Bob, and a morning coffee, members inspected the many restored vehicles.



Doug Baker's Austin 7 with one of the restored Fire Engines. Members enjoy a coffee and chat.

GUILDFORD HERITAGE FAIR – 26th March 2017.

12 members and partners attended this festival, and after early showers it cleared to a fine day. Our area was too small for our displays so we had to double up.



'You do it this way Les' says George. James Riddle with his engine.

**16th NHMA NATIONAL RALLY – 21-23 April 2017.
HAMILTON, Victoria.**

7 members and partners representing the MPC, Hand Tool Club, TOMC and Hugh Manning Tractor Museum attended this National Rally. Ralph and Wendy Thomas with their extensive collection of model steam and Hot Air engines. Keith with the model Mill engine that he and George had just finished. Victor James and Kim Freind took their typewriters, computers and phone switch board in the back of the club trailer. Bob and Brenda Wallis displayed their wood working tools and a model steam engine. David and Jan Pether took an absolutely tiny 4 cyl. engine that fitted into his pocket, which his Dad machined during WW2. Les and Diane Jones took model aircraft engines, gas turbines, 2 & 4 strokes, which Les sectioned and rotated to show internals.



Ralph and Keith on duty at the show. Elwyn & Daisy Harries' 'Buttercup'.



A view of some of the Rally Ground and Displays.

MOORA SHOW – 16 September 2017.

A fine and sunny day for this show, though not a lot of spectators.



The MPC display.



Ore Crusher.



Mining Display by Ralph Thomas. Bill Gabriel & Ross Morton.



ST. JOHN'S DEFIBRILLATOR.

In August of 2017 several members went on a course at St. John's in Belmont for instructions on using a heart Defibrillator, and the following month the club purchased a Defibrillator (with opposition from some members) for the sum of \$2000, including AED cabinet with alarm and light. Fortunately, so far we have never had to use it!

**BRITISH AUTO CLASSIC – CLAREMONT.
29 October 2017.**

This was a huge show for all things British and the MPC did their best to display in the theme. The public came in their droves and the exhibits were many and varied. We had visits during the day from several non-exhibiting members.



Part of the MPC Display. Ralph's Organ Display.



Some of the displays at the British Auto Classic.



In the latter part of this year the MPC was informed that they would be locked out of Block 3 for an indefinite period, due to an asbestos scare discovered during construction work. This forced us to cancel the busy program we had planned, particularly up to the Christmas period. The decision also meant we had to hastily remove equipment required for any planned rallies, as well as personal items. Members were notified by email and phone and the situation handled quite successfully.

An evening meal was held at the Gosnells Hotel as a substitute for the cancelled Christmas lunch in the workshops.

CANNING SHOW – 3/4th November 2017.

Ralph and Wendy attended this show as night security for the two nights as per usual. Some members set up on Friday while others arrived for the Saturday.



Victor James with his dragsaw.



Ralph with the stilt-walkers.

**CHRISTMAS DINNER – GOSNELLS HOTEL.
13th December 2017.**

The Christmas dinner in the Gosnells Hotel was made more pleasant and private by Max and Anthea Leggett's kind donation for payment of the hired conference room, than being in the normal hotel dining room.

We used this opportunity to make the presentations of two well deserved Life Memberships to Victor and Jean James, and Bob and Brenda Wallis. Both Victor and Bob had given great service to the MPC. Victor was a founder member in 1982 and Bob had given 25 years of service and also held executive positions for most of that time.



Victor James and Bob & Brenda Wallis with President Ralph Thomas.



Eric Rose, Jack Watson, Les & Diane Jones, Anthea & Max Leggett.



George Chappell, Paul Freeman & Kim Freind.

DWELLINGUP LOG CHOP – 17 February 2018.

11 members and partners attended this annual show, displaying 15 assorted engines and exhibits.



George & Keith Chappell working on one of Max Leggett's engines. Ralph Thomas models display.



Display of tools and timbers by Bob Wallis.

KALAMUNDA 120th SHOW – 14 April 2018.

18 members turned up for the best Kalamunda show we had attended, with traction engine 'Bert' on the gravel behind our display. There was plenty of entertainment for all, and during the day members spoke with Liberal candidate Ken Wyatt, and Labour candidate Lauren Palmer, both representing Hasluck.



Stewart Macpherson's Shearing display.



A 1913 Sandow engine



Some of the cars on display including Doug Baker's Austin 7.



A Jacobson engine both belonging to Max Leggett.



George Car explains some of the arts of blacksmithing.

AZALEA LEE HOMESTEAD – 29 April 2018.

We joined up with The Old Machinery Club members for this display at the small homestead in Hamilton Hill. 6 members and partners put on a good display in the lovely park setting, but unfortunately the spectators were in very short supply, we were told due to the Eagles playing!



Laundry displays by Willy & Tini Haanaart. Rupert Weller's tools.

VINTAGE MOTOR CYCLE CLUB – 8 July 2018.

A very successful day with 37 VMCC bikes and over 10 Ulysses Bikes with the same number of vintage cars lined up outside. All of the MPC engines were running, as well as 'Bert' and the Blacksmith shop was operating. Diane Jones had a collection of tins and Wendy Thomas displayed a collection of her family heirlooms. The BBQ ran out of rolls, and we had to buy extras.



Family Heirlooms by Wendy Thomas. Ulysses Club.



Diane Jones tin display.



Model Aeroplane display by Willy and Tini Haanaart.. Collection of WA Brand Names.



VMCC Bikes on display.

VISIT BY DONNA FARAGHER – 7 August 2018

Donna Faragher arrived in time for morning tea and spoke with members who made their ideas and opinions known. We then gave her a tour of the workshops, after which she asked for photos for her Facebook page and told us she would write to the appropriate Minister re our situation.



Donna Faragher taken with L to R – Michael Harris and Robert Brayshaw; Ross Morton and Keith Chappell.

POLITICIANS' VISIT – 28 August 2018.

Once again, a morning tea provided by 3 of our ladies, for visiting Politicians, including Donna Faragher, Shadow Minister for Heritage Tony Krystovic and Shadow Minister for Planning Lisa Harvey. Bob Wallis gave a short outline of the book he had written about MRW and presented each with a copy, after which we gave them a tour of the premises.



Members and Visitors on the day.



Lisa Harvey and Donna Faragher with Buster Fourie (L) and with Tony Krystovic and Doug Baker.

VISIT BY KEN WYATT – 4 Sept 2018.

This was the month for Politician visits apparently. Ken Wyatt joined members for morning tea and a tour of our premises. Bob Wallis also presented Ken a copy of his book. Members seemed pleased with his attitude and concern about the MPC situation.

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Founder Members,
L to R - Fred
Gibbon, David
Ashfold, Ralph
Thomas, Gillian
Gibbon, Wendy
Thomas & Judy
Ashfold.



Member Judy Bellotti
arrived with scones for
morning tea and has a
chat with Ken Wyatt.



Members enjoying their Christmas lunch.

M.R.W. OPEN DAY – 28 October 2018.

Another successful open day for the MPC. Members arrived early and most of the club engines were running throughout the day, including ‘Bert’, the traction engine. The BBQ made an early start and sold out quite quickly. With the ‘gold coin’ entrance fees and food sales, a profit of \$1000 for the day was very pleasing.

Amongst the outside exhibits was the David Shearer steam car, built by member Doug Baker, with the help of Bruce Weir-Smith. Doug drew up the plans for this from the original 1898 Shearer car which is housed in the Birdwood Museum.

AGM – 6 March 2019.

An unusually jovial Annual General Meeting! I wonder what made the members so happy.



17th NHMA NATIONAL RALLY. 22-24 March 2019. Murray Bridge, S.A.

15 members, partners and other friends travelled across the ‘big paddock’ for the National Rally held in Murray Bridge, South Australia, for the second time.



Members with the 1898 Shearer car. Graeme Simpson & Stewart Macpherson start Max’s Cooper.



Members work on Ralph’s Detroit. Doug Baker & Richard Duncan.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH – 9 December 2018.

The MPC lunch this year was provided by WA Spit Roast and was very enjoyable. Founder members were invited to attend and an Honour Board listing the 11 original members, donated by Ralph and Wendy Thomas, was unveiled. Bernard Carney entertained us with some MRW songs, and our own Father Christmas (aka Doug Baker) presented the ladies with a small gift.



An Old Sock Knitting machine. Victor James Office Equipment.



Tables decorated for Xmas Lunch.



Father Christmas with Michael & Val Harris.



One of the Junior displays.



A sewing machine display.



Members and friends on board the paddle boat "Captain Proud" for a 3-hour river cruise and luncheon, before the start of the rally.

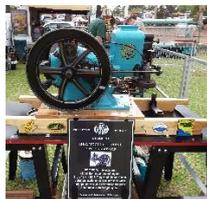


Some of the other Exhibits at the rally.



KALAMUNDA SHOW – 13 April 2019.

There was a good turn-up of members displaying 20 exhibits for this show, although there was not a great number of spectators, and the weather was a little damp.



IHC Mogul belonging Steve Barlas's Rosebery. James Riddle's To Les & Diane Jones. Cooper.

MINNIVALE RAILWAY DAY – 11 May 2019.

Only a couple of MPC members attended this show, which was located in the Wheatbin, where a number of ARHS wagons and a Class A Diesel Loco were stored. There were displays of photos, handicrafts, woodwork, blacksmiths, metal work, motor vehicles and engines. The Hand Tool Preservation Society also had a large selection of tools.

Kevin Harry & Jane Swan with their 1930 Workshop Display trailer.



Bob and Brenda Wallis with part of their tool collection.

VMCC OPEN DAY – 7 July 2019.

This was thought to possibly be the last open day in block 3, and it was very well supported by members and visitors alike. The VMCC members arrived early and we placed them inside. Several car clubs were represented as well as the Ulysses Motor Cycle Club. Bob Hawrylack brought along his fire engine and Hotham Valley Railway had a promotional stand. Donna Faragher was the only politician to turn up. There were crowds of people watching the large number of running engines and displays. The BBQ crew were flat out and made good money from donations.



Doug Baker's model engines. Bob Hawrylack's 1952 Dennis.



A collection of 'Toys' made by Eric Coates.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH – 7 December 2019.

Our Christmas lunch was again catered for by WA Spit Roasts. George Chappell was presented with a very well deserved Life Membership and a framed caricature of himself. The new Life Membership board was unveiled.



The Life Membership Board. Keith & George Chappell, Ralph Thomas & President Max Leggett.

As the year 2020 arrived, the Covid Pandemic was beginning to circulate around the world, and life as we knew it began to change, with businesses closing and restrictions imposed on activities and social gatherings.

DWELLINGUP LOG CHOP – 15 Feb 2020.

Only a few members turned up for this annual event – Ross and Colleen Morton with the trailer, Dudley Jensen, Steve and Liz Barlas and Ralph and Wendy Thomas with their new mobile display trailer,

The rest of the show was full of entertainment besides the main event of the Log Chop. Market stalls, tractor rides, bouncy castle and transformer digger rides, although the day ended quite early.

Unfortunately, this was to be our last show for some time, as we were forced into lock-down, due to the Covid epidemic. It became mandatory to wear masks indoors and restrictions on numbers put in place for private and outdoor gatherings.



Ralph Thomas's new trailer outfit. Dudley Jensen's Ruston & pump.

FUN DAY – 14th June 2020.

This was held in Ralph and Wendy Thomas's backyard as a welcome back from the severe covid restrictions and proved to be a great success. A good number must have been glad to be out and about again, as around 26 members and partners attended, and several brought along an engine to run or a static display, as well as something for morning tea. The lunch of bacon sandwiches provided was very well received, and the ladies were happy to sit around and have a cuppa and chat, along with some of the delicious cakes supplied.



Les Jones, Willy & Tini Haanaart.

Paul Meadwell.



Mrs. Martin, Noela Duncombe, Lynne Lyon, Vivienne Millstead.

Ruth Huston, Kathy Rose and Diane Jones.

During the lock-down, although we could not attend shows, we were able to work in the workshops, with masks, hand sanitisers and other safety procedures in place.



Ralph Thomas on forklift with Ian Lyons and Buster Fourie moving a pedestal drill.

We had club trailers being built, restorations of a rare Hornsby engine and a Cooper Little Wonder underway. A Bridgeport Milling machine was installed in the workshop area. Ian Lyon's store was well stocked and George's Blacksmith shop became fully functional. Bob Wallis continued to catalogue the rare tool sets and gauges from MRW days, and the library completed by Eric Rose, and pretty much all non MPC owned material and equipment removed. A great achievement by all members.

KATMACH VINTAGE FAIR – 19 Sept 2020.

There were several clubs represented at this show, as well as a lot of tractors and exhibits. The weather was not particularly kind to us, wet, windy and cold winds. Ross and Colleen Morton, Eric Rose, Brian Brocklehurst, Kevin and Jane Harry and Ralph and Wendy Thomas displayed alongside The Old Machinery Club members.

BBQ packs were made available for the Saturday night, followed by sweets, tea, and coffee; all enjoyed by those attending, sitting around a huge warm fire.

A lovely, cooked breakfast was supplied on Sunday morning, followed by tea or coffee, a great way to finish off an enjoyable weekend.



QUAIRADING SHOW – 10 October 2020.

Once again, there was great representation from many clubs here, as well as the 14th Light Horse, Vintage vehicles, Racing cars and a Working Horse demonstration. The MPC had a particularly good turn up of 19 members, some of whom camped on the Friday night.

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Blacksmith Buster Fourie. Kevin Harry's 1940 Blacksmith W/Shop.



Donna Faragher with President Max Leggett who presented Paul Freeman (L) and Peter Dymond with their Life Memberships and wooden Plaques.



Model Engine Collections of Max Leggett.



Wooden Plaques made by Eric Rose for Paul and Peter. The B.M.W. for Paul and the Traction Engine for Peter.



Graeme Duncombe runs the MPC Hornsby.

Neil Millsted and the MPC Displays.



Life Members present on the day.



Rebecca Evans with 'Betty' operating the Horse Works.



Collection of Ralph Thomas.

OPEN DAY – 31 October 2020.

A highlight of the year was our Club Open Day for members and friends where we had around 100 people attend. We self-catered with all hands on deck, especially Keith and the ladies who put in a great effort for the BBQ lunch, and again made things look easy.

We awarded two long term members Life Memberships, Peter Dymond and Paul Freeman, both of whom were extremely instrumental in the club being what it is today.

The MPC 'Mullewa 1906 Crossley' was officially run for the first time, which made the moment more significant, in that new Life Member Paul Freeman witnessed the start-up of the engine. Over the years Paul has put a huge amount of time and effort into the restoration of the Crossley, which was donated to the club by the Mullewa Shire back in 2000.



Paul Freeman, Keith Chappell and Sean Freeman (Grandson) who used to be a Junior member.



Life and Past Members present on the day.



President Max Leggett addresses the members and friends who attended our Open Day.



Keith Chappell cooking the BBQ lunch for past and present members.

CANNING SHOW – 7/8 November 2020.

This was the only Metropolitan Show granted permission to be held this year, and it was run under very strict Covid restrictions, with only a certain number of spectators allowed for three different time zones. All entries were done ‘online’ with a gate limit of 5000 for each of 3 sessions. Friday night, then daytime Saturday until 4pm, when all public had to vacate the showgrounds. The stall holders and exhibitors then did a ‘clean up’, before the gates reopened at 5pm for the evening session.

The MPC put in a great effort, with an excellent collection of engines and varied displays. “Bert”, the Clayton and Shuttleworth traction engine, was back on display, and entertained the public by driving up and down the road, and the shriek of the whistle got everyone’s attention.



The MPC Display.



Paul Meadwell unloading the easy Way!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH – 6 December 2020.

Numbers were down this year, but President Max Leggett and Eric Rose had the webers going in good time for the annual members lunch. Wendy Thomas supplied the buttered bread rolls and various members brought along salads and desserts. A very tasty and enjoyable lunch was served by several of Santa’s helpers dressed in bright red aprons.

Max presented Graeme Duncombe and Keith Chappell with the President’s Award for their efforts in restoring club engines.



Graeme Duncombe and Keith Chappell with their Awards. Proud Father George looks on.



‘Hard work Cooking’ says Graeme.



Judy Ashfold enjoying the day.



Willy & Tini Hannaart, Suzanne & Doug Baker.



Clive Griffiths, Anthea Pate, Kathy Rose, Angie & Brian Brockleherst & Robert Brayshaw.

The show season for 2021, although a little slow to begin, was far more promising than last year. However, Covid rules were still in place and some of the predicted shows were cancelled.

THE SOUTH WEST RAILWAY HERITAGE CENTRE, BOYANUP. 24 January 2021.

Ralph and Wendy Thomas joined members of the Old Machinery Club at this small display. Phillipa Rogers from the Railway Heritage Museum in Bassendean was camped in the centre with the railway crew.

Unfortunately, as our set-up was too large to display inside, we set-up outside the main gates. A few MPC members came down as sightseers. The organisers seemed quite pleased with the number of spectators who went through the centre.



Part of the OMC display, with Elwyn Harries and ‘Buttercup’ the cow.



TOMC member Wayne Edmunds with his trike and trailer and a fellow enthusiast.

VMCC ‘OLD IRON’ SWAP MEET – 21 March 2021.

A great display of over 200 bikes, filling both halls of the Cannington Exhibition Centre, with the Moto Guzzis lined up outside celebrating their 100th anniversary. The Swap Meet proved to be a great success with a large crowd buying up big! The MPC put on a good display of engines and exhibits.



The bikes on display in one of the halls.



Motor Guzzis on display.

SHANNON’S CAR CLASSIC – 18 April 2021.

MPC members were kept busy all day with interest from the public, although our display area was tight. Ascot Racecourse was a lovely venue and there were hundreds of vehicles on show by their proud owners.



Only some of the vehicles on display.



The MPC compound.

BEVERLEY SHOW – 21 August 2021.

Around 12 members turned up and provided a varied display. Once again the public kept us busy and showed interest in our exhibits.



Neil Millsted with his Sundial engine.



Steve Barlas & Stewart Macpherson.



Ralph Thomas's Steam Engines.



Max Leggett, Vic James & Keith Chappell.

WAROONA SHOW – 26 September 2021.

Not as many spectators as in previous years, but the public came in great numbers.



A very rare Thistle Oil Engine belonging to Phil Scott – TOMC.



Jigsaws and solar models - Wendy Thomas.



MPC members working on their display.

It was around this time that the MPC was informed that we were able to return to the Power House precinct and the big move began. A lot of equipment in Block 3 had to be removed or sold and plans had to be made to move the bigger items to our new home.

And so it was that we were able to have our Christmas lunch in the Boiler room on 5 December.



Members enjoy their first Xmas Lunch back in the Boiler Room.



For the MPC 40th anniversary newsletter I thought I would put some words together about my father George Chappell (Life Member 156). [KEITH CHAPPELL]

We first encountered the MPC when dad and myself attended an open day at the Midland railway workshops in the 1990's. I think it was more of a railway historical society event for past railway employees and the public, however the MPC were also displaying a large number of engines in an outside area in the workshop complex. Dad had been an electrician at the workshops for nearly 20 years, hence his interest in workshops.

While there, we got talking to Frank Waters (who was running his engine in the MPC compound) and he invited us to join the club, and suggested we attend the next MPC monthly meeting (he also had us sign a membership application form).

We duly went to the next MPC meeting (held in the workshop copper shop) and were warmly welcomed by Ralph (President) and Bob Wallis (Secretary) etc.

It was easily the best move Dad made, as over the next 20 years he experienced probably the happiest period of his life; diligently attending 'Tuesday Greasy Gang' days and 'Sunday Worker's BBQ's, tinkering around with MPC club and other member's engines and equipment.

Dad also enjoyed helping David Ashfold (who coincidentally was Dad's apprentice in the Railways) with the Royal Show, and always made sure he was scheduled on the same days as his close friends and fellow members Joe Gittos and Paul Freeman, to help them run engines.

During his time in the MPC, Dad also attended NHMA national rallies in Murray Bridge, Mudgee and Fairbridge. The Mudgee rally was particularly special, as prior to it he managed to get the club's very rare Trusty engine running, where it was displayed for the first time.

Until poor health recently forced him into retirement, I suspect there are few MPC member's engines that Dad has not weaved his magic on, by fixing the magneto, adjusting the timing or making spare parts; his efforts recently recognized, when he was awarded A Life Membership on 7th December 2019 at the annual MPC Christmas Lunch.



Paul Freeman & George Chappell with the rare MPC Trusty Engine.



George received his Life Membership with son Keith looking on.



'Bert' as delivered to the MPC.



As a relative newcomer to the Club, I have missed the pioneering history of the Club and the characters who undertook great projects with a legacy to challenge the appetite and capability of today's membership.

One such project was the restoration for the Club of our 1904 Clayton Shuttleworth Traction Engine (Bert). The extent and scale of work done including design, certification, manufacture, testing and registration of a completely new boiler, and then the complete mechanical restoration of the machine was a great achievement.

The Engine is a unique magnet for interest from the public and we have a significant obligation to maximize its exposure for public display, particularly in operating condition, as well as prolonging its service life. It is still working well and is licensed to operate in public.

Memorable occasions associated with Bert of recent years include –

The Machine being driven amongst crowds attending from all around the country at the Dowerin Field Day, whistle blasting, transmission singing. It then participated in a ploughing demonstration.

At Brunswick Junction 'Lights on the Hill', Bert was giving a display using the on-board winch to haul in a sizeable log. The exercise was repeated using a vintage tractor to haul the log out again. The hauling-out created a channel for the log that eventually caused the tractor 'dig in' and stall, leaving Bert to wind in log and tractor.

At a Toodyay Ag Show, Bert undertook a solo run through the Town out to the Showground, towing a heritage wagon with wooden wheels that was loaded with wine barrels, whilst accompanied by a police escort and a press helicopter.

At a Canning Show, Bert did a demonstration travel along the main drag soon after show opening. There was a good crowd of spectators observing a main event at the show, who paused, turned around and offered Bert a standing ovation.

The time is coming when we need to give Bert a major overhaul and a serious face lift to preserve its value to the people of WA. Generous support will be needed. The new boiler was first commissioned in 2009.

R.B. BRAYSHAW.

Following are a couple of amusing anecdotes about two of our early members and special characters.

BAD HABITS DIE HARD by Snowy Gaskin.



Some time back (1990) a mystery disease appeared in the MPC. It was later diagnosed as black spot. This was transmitted without fear or favour by one elderly Blackstone oil engine to all who came to pay their respects or offer cures. The cause, it was agreed, was heavy smoking and poor diet. It

reached its all-time low at Dwellingup, where it had a very bad turn – it spluttered, spat and refused to co-operate in any way.

Home again and admitted to the Gaskin workshop, where a major operation was performed – alteration to its timing and a change of diet, from black crude to lighting kero.

It's nice to report it has now given up smoking and it is breathing much easier. It could now be called environmentally friendly. Some people could even learn to like it!

Just goes to prove that smoking is a bad habit!!

“UP ON THE ROOF!” by Ralph Thomas.

Most of our older members who attended shows over the years, would have at some time or another, seen the sort of antics our 'song and dance man' Stan Everitt, was capable of.

At one of our early monthly meetings, Stan volunteered to perform the annual task of cleaning out the gutters of our meeting hall in Kelmscott.

In his usual vigorous way, Stan was performing this chore, with leaves billowing from the roof like confetti at a Church wedding, and no doubt at the same time subjecting the neighbours to a rendition of an Al Jolsen or Sammy Davis song. Not that Stan's singing had any bearing on the ensuing disaster!

At some stage during his soft-shoe-shuffle along the ridgecap, a loud screech of tyres, followed by the inevitable thump, attracted him to check the traffic on Albany Highway, only to see a distraught lady and a rather irate gentleman discussing some extensive damage to their cars, and the lady pointing frantically up at Stan.

It seems that the lady had spied Stan's antics on the roof and diverted her attention from the traffic flow, thus failing to notice that the vehicle in front of her had stopped!

Stan, not wanting to interfere with the course of justice, turned tail and went back to work. Upon doing so, he heard another crash, but told me he did not even turn around that time!!



MOVING HOUSE!

Below are some photos showing the scale of the move back to the Power House Precinct. Sincere thanks must go to all the members involved.



Delivery and Set up of the new toilet block.



Members paving the pathways and adding ramps to the toilets.



Members all doing their bit – whatever the job!



The Club Library taking shape.



Bob Wallis setting up the MRW artefacts display in the flue.

The Boiler Room starting to take shape.



L–R Ralph Thomas cooks the BBQ Lunch. Stewart Macpherson and Doug Baker with his Bending machine.

THE 40th YEAR - 2022.

“MIDLAND JUNCTION.”

The birth of the new clubroom, by Eric Rose.



Stick something here somewhere!



Is this what you mean?



How's that then?

Given the task to develop a comfortable, dust free, airconditioned, well-lit meeting space in a bare, dusty, industrial “new MPC home” Boiler Room complex, Eric Rose drew up a design, and with the help of Brian Brockelhurst mainly, and several other members constructed the new “Cubby House” and kitchen for the convenience of all users of the complex. The pilot and the truckie “flew” into the task and “drove” it home. Enjoy.



Members discussing the plans and layout for the MPC exhibits.

ANZAC DAY – 25 April 2022.

This year the Midland Workshops Community Group was asked to run the Anzac Day Service. Members of the MPC, the Hand Tool Preservation Society and Midland and District Historical Society laid wreaths at the foot of the Midland Peace Memorial, while the CWA Midland Branch provided the morning tea.



Nigel Burges and Kim Mitchell HTPS. Ralph Thomas MPC. CWA Morning Tea.



*L to R:
MPC members Ralph Thomas,
President Max Leggett,
Doug Baker and Secretary
Robert Brayshaw.*

CWA THANK YOU LUNCHEON – 14 May 2022.

MPC members were invited by the CWA Midland Branch to a luncheon, to show their appreciation of being welcomed into the Powerhouse Precinct, giving them a permanent home, and becoming part of the Midland Community Group.

The ladies put on a lovely, tasty buffet style lunch, which was greatly enjoyed by all, but I am sure it was the delicious desserts afterwards that definitely gave them the ‘heads up’!

Between the main course and dessert, the ladies presented a framed certificate to President Max Leggett, to be mounted on the wall of the clubroom.

Afterwards, the kitchen area adjoining the Midland Junction clubroom was officially named the “Rose-Brockle Tea-Rooms”.



CWA Ladies serving lunch.

MPC members enjoying lunch.



CWA ladies eating lunch. Presentation and Hanging of the new sign.



Serving the desserts. MPC members waiting for the meal.

HAND TOOL SALE – 21 May 2022.

A week later the Hand Tool Preservation Society held one of their sales days open to all members and the public.

Members of the MPC were invited to display some of their engines and give people a chance to look over our new home and the Midland artefacts.



Ken Byers & Graeme Duncombe trying to start the club Akroyd.

Ralph's display in the Power House.

**TO THE END OF AN ERA!
AND A NEW BEGINNING!**

**WE HOPE YOU HAVE ENJOYED READING
THIS NEWSLETTER.**



NHMA - Where it all started! Lake Goldsmith in 1987.



WA Reps Ralph Thomas & Fred Plane with the new NHMA Marquee.



Bert Tyler and Peter Dymond naming the Traction Engine 'Bert'.



The Power House Precinct.



Inside the Power House.



MPC Members erecting the Club Shed in Beckenham in 1987.



Display at Midland Centrepont – 16 November 2017.



MPC & Hugh Manning Members at Mt. Magnet Museum.



Collette Donating RAT tests to the MPC.



The Lifting Company relocating the Milling Machine.



MPC & Hugh Manning Members share a joke. Members celebrate George's 90th birthday. Members with the Sydney engine.



The Lifting Company would like to congratulate the
MACHINERY PRESERVATION CLUB OF WA
on their 40th anniversary



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**OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO THOSE
WHO DONATED FINANCIALLY
TOWARDS THE PRINTING OF THIS
NEWSLETTER.**

**THIS NEWSLETTER IS DEDICATED
TO THE VERY MANY MEMBERS
AND FRIENDS
WE HAVE MADE OVER THE YEARS,
WHETHER DECEASED,
PAST OR PRESENT,
WHO HELPED TO MAKE THIS CLUB
THE SUCCESS THAT IT IS TODAY!**