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P.O. BOX 1471
MIDLAND 6936

Members of the National
Historical Machinery
Association Inc.

Editors: Ralph & Wendy
Thomas

OLD PLOUGHS AND PISTONS

PRESERVING FOR THE FUTURE

MAY 2023

MPC COMMITTEE:

PRESIDENT	Max Leggett	0400 249 380
VICE PRESIDENT	David Ashfold	0427 542 222
SECRETARY	Robert Brayshaw	0428 377 956
TREASURER	Judy Ashfold	0427 542 222

David Ashfold (0427 542 222), Ross Morton (0437 772 443), Keith Chappell (0407 341 279), George Car (0435 662 645), Ralph Thomas (0474 112 878), Ken Byers (0428 276 375), Bruce Weir-Smith (9367 4594), Stewart Macpherson (0400 015 768).

MONTHLY MEETINGS: 7.30 P.M.

**First Wednesday of each month in our Clubroom,
Midland Railway Workshops.**

COMMITTEE MEETINGS: As per arrangements.

**WORK DAY: Every Tuesday 8 AM Onwards at our
Clubroom.**

**Please remember – COVERED FOOTWEAR AT ALL
TIMES! THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION!**

EDITORIAL:

I extend a warm welcome to readers of another edition of our newsletter.

I make a special welcome to new member Peter Kidd, who has joined us since the last edition. We trust you will find your new interest rewarding and enjoy the company. Things at our club are moving along at a pleasant pace. We are still sorting out displays, as limited space has meant a bit of juggling around, however we are getting there. The MPC has been involved in several events this year and many more are planned in the months ahead. Your support will be appreciated to make them successful, as this is the main financial means to keep our club viable.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Hi everyone.

Been a bit of a lull between shows so I took the opportunity to shoot over to Melbourne and attend the Anzac game at the MCG. Last time I saw a game there was in 1966 and Richmond played Essendon, so a few things had changed. Billy Barrot was the man of the moment then.

Whilst I was a Collingwood supporter when I grew up in Victoria I'm not that fussed these days, but I did barrack for Collingwood at this game. With around 95,000 people screaming it's a fantastic experience and hopefully I will do it again one day.

Back now and getting used to the cold weather (was actually better weather in Victoria during our 9 day stay) and catching up with what's happening around the club.

We had our AGM last week and I was fortunate to be elected as President for another term. Now that we have completed most of the work required to get our new premises functional we can spend more time restoring/ fine tuning our various displays and adding new ones.

Our aim is to have more public open days, get more involved in community projects, show off our collection of machinery and historical equipment and generally spread the word about the wonderful history of the Midland Railways Workshops and the people that worked there. I encourage all to follow our Facebook pages/ newsletters, etc. and come on down and see what the groups are up to.

Remember we share our Boiler house/Power house building with the following three clubs under the banner of The Midland Workshops Community Groups.

- CWA Midland branch
- Hand Tools Preservation Club of WA
- Midland and District Historical Club.

Cheers, **Max**

WORK DAYS AT OUR CLUBROOM:

Every Tuesday 8 AM Onwards.

We are still having a good turn up of members each Tuesday, where there are always jobs to suit all comers needing to be done. Why not join us for a chat over a tea or coffee at morning tea, and a BBQ lunch is always available for a nominal cost. Members can also get assistance with their restoration project. Come along and become part of our happy group.



*Bryan working on a newly
acquired Shun Shin Lathe.*



*Bruce working on a donated
Myford Lathe.*

EXCERPTS from MPC AGM Meeting – 3 May 2023.

Election of Office Bearers: The following Members have been elected for this year.

Executives: **President** – Max Leggett.
Vice President – David Ashfold.
Secretary – Rob Brayshaw.
Treasurer – Judy Ashfold.

Committee:

George Car, Keith Chappell, Graeme Duncombe, Stewart Macpherson, Ross Morton, Ken Byers, Ralph Thomas, Bruce Weir-Smith.

Portfolios:

NHMA Representative - Ralph Thomas.
Newspaper Editors - Ralph and Wendy Thomas.
Show Co-ordinator - Ross Morton.

Retiring Committee Members:

Buster Fourie, Steve Barlas, Chad Wolfe.
(Thanks for your contributions)

Signed - R B Brayshaw - **Secretary**.

Treasurers Report for 2022 by Judy Ashfold.

Where does the time go? Our years seem to pass so quickly.

This year's review of our profit and loss statement was done by David Jury and Associates. The books that David and I put together and presented were from 1st January to 31st December 2022.

During the year we had an income of \$27,693.50 made up mainly of ATO refunds, Shows, Subscriptions, Facility Fees, Public Donations and Grant from the City of Swan. Our two investments now show us a healthy balance.

Our 40th anniversary celebration was great, good to catch up with old members. Thanks to the CWA ladies for a great lunch, and as usual left-overs were divided up among members. Some of our older members who could not attend were sent our best wishes, via the magazine.

Thanks to Max, Robert and David, who have given me great help during the year with my paper work, especially David who helps with the work that's done at home.

Thank you, all members, for your support during the year, as without you there would be no club. Let us hope 2023 is a better year for everyone.



Committee and Members at the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the MPC.



Members health.

Wendy, Keith Chappell and myself recently paid a visit to see MPC Life Member Paul Freeman at his Braemar Care Home in Melville. Despite being 97 and wheelchair-bound, Paul was in extremely good spirits, and still retains his sense of humor and a sharp memory. We reminisced about past memories of time spent at the club and remembering past members, and he was very interested in how we were enjoying being back in our old area.

Paul and his deceased partner Marge supported many club activities and were always reliable at events. Paul was a member from the early days and attended the Lake Goldsmith Rally with us in 1987 when the NHMA was formed. Paul was our club photographer and many of the old photos were his work. Paul was a steam engineer and ran several WA and other power stations. He also spent many years at sea, working on steamships travelling to many parts of the world.

We also joined Keith Chappell, along with Les and Diane Jones, and enjoyed a 'cuppa' in the grounds of George's aged home. Unfortunately, it was not the best day for George, but we hope he was pleased to see us all.



We send best wishes to any member who is not feeling the best at the moment, particularly to Denis Hextall after his recent fall.

Happy Holiday to Alan Keeble who has gone to the UK. Members Steve Barlas and Bill Gabriel are on the mend.

The MPC has several engines available for sale. These are close to display standard. Check them out any Tuesday for prices.

WANTED.

Vintage Apple peeler, condition not important and the larger the better. Please contact Editor if you can help.

Flywheel to suit a Wolseley - Model WLP8. (pictured)

Contact Editor if you can help.



FOR SALE.

Items must be accompanied by a description, asking price, photo and contact information.

RALLY REPORTS by Ralph Thomas.

Old Iron Vintage Motorcycle Show and Swap Meet – 19th March 2023

I was happy that Wendy and I had set up the day before as it was an early start, with the first of the swap meet sellers starting to arrive before 6am. We were soon joined by members Stewart Macpherson and Ross Morton, with the club trailer allowing us to establish our area.

It was a very busy day with close to 200 sellers and a lot more punters on the lookout for bargains. Added to this both pavilions housed lovely displays of vintage machines, all a credit to their owners. By 11am some sellers were leaving and by 12noon it was all over, allowing us to pack up early.



Brookton Old Time Motor Show - 25th March 2023

The return of the Old Time Motor Show after several years was most welcome to the large number of vintage exhibitors who arrived to display their prized exhibits. While the weather forecast was not encouraging, the oval and surrounding area was soon alive with all things vintage. Fortunately, the inclement weather held off for the duration of the show. This allowed both exhibitors and punters alike to peruse the entries and catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Spectators were treated to two Grand Parades, which was enjoyed by the participants as some I noticed did several laps. Only two entries were there from the MPC, as the Classic Car Show was on next day. Late afternoon saw the change of weather and soon heavy rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning, came in. This I am sure would have given many a wet trip home. The weather continued throughout the night, and the oval looked like a lake next morning, causing the community breakfast to be cancelled.



Kalamunda Agricultural Show Saturday 1st April 2023 by Stewart Macpherson.

A nice display by the MPC; Les and Diane Jones with their miniature engine models; Keith Chappell with his Ruston Hornsby; Ross with the Moffat Virtue; Paul Meadwell's International Famous, and Max Leggett with three engines - a Hobbs gas fueled engine, a David Brown driving a water pump, and a Ruston Hornsby engine driving a Whirley bird, and my two Listers.

A steady flow of people walking past, some asking questions - the most common of which were 'are these steam engines, what did these engines do? what sort of fuel do they use?'

Thanks to Paul O'Keefe, a club member with no engine to show, for helping in the morning with setting up the fence and unloading engines.

Bassendean Railway Museum Display Sunday 2nd April 2023 by Stewart Macpherson.

We had a small area to exhibit, but a good crowd walking through all day. Ralph and Wendy with their trailer full of miniature model steam engines running on air; Ross with his Moffat Virtue; Paul Meadwell with the International Famous; Max Leggett with three small engines - a David Brown driving a water pump, a Hobbs gas-fueled engine, plus a Sandwich Engine driving a Whirley bird.

Thanks to Alan Keeble and Bruce Weir Smith, with no engines to display, for their help in setting up in the morning and packing up at the end of day, very much appreciated. Makes the day worthwhile with extra help.

Thank you Colleen for the chocolate cake you sent out with Ross.



Max, Bruce and Stewart check out one of Max's engines.

Ralph's trailer display.

NHMA NATIONAL RALLY - 14/16th April 2023
by Dudley Jensen.

My wife Dorothy and I travelled to Mudgee for the National Rally. There was a good variety of displays, including some for the ladies. The weather was good for us, and we are extremely glad we made the trip.



Stephen Carter, NSW Rep & NHMA Committee, with his Milking Separators Display.



A miniature Steam Engine Display from Warrnambool.



Display of Office Equipment by Victor James. MPC.



Horse and Buggy.

Fire Engine Display.



Anzac Day “Lest We Forget”
Tuesday 25th April 2023

We held a service to commemorate Anzac Day at our Midland Railway Workshops. We did this in conjunction with other groups who share the Powerhouse Complex with us. After a short service in which wreaths were laid at the “Peace Memorial “ (which is only one of two in Australia). The Last Post was played, and the Flags lowered ending the ceremony. Spectators, including Lynne Lyons and Son, retired to have morning tea, compliments of the C.W.A; with many taking the opportunity to peruse the Vintage collection display of the M.P.C. “Lest we forget.”



BOYANUP RAILWAY MUSEUM – 23rd April

It was a great day at the South West Rail Heritage Centre at Boyanup. The Steam crew had an early start at 4 am getting the Leschenault Lady fired up ready for the big day. The 9am start had punters coming in the gate and queuing for a ride. All other displays had a busy time with the whole Centre extremely active; many had travelled a distance to experience this event. Wendy and I joined the other volunteers for the last run of the day and were given a double ride. All in all, a great day and lovely weather.



Unloading coal to steam up the ‘Leschenault Lady’



The public and our display.



Wendy with Master Blacksmith Malcolm Payne.

MORE ACTION AT MIDLAND by Ralph Thomas.

Member Stewart spotted this WAGR Groper Engine, built at the Midland Railway Workshops at a local auction house. I went on line and managed to purchase this on behalf of the MPC. We are fortunate to already have the complete set of patterns used in the 1920s to build these engines, which powered the gangers’ work trolleys.



A great addition to our railway memorabilia collection. We are now on the lookout for a trolley, can you help? Seen in the photo Stewart, Keith and Ralph.

A pleasant visit by Donna Faragher MLC and her assistant Annette to our club was a nice surprise. They spent time talking to members and inspecting our displays. Before leaving they both sampled the “Sausage Sizzle” being prepared for members lunch. In the photo are President Max Leggett, Donna Faragher, and Ralph.



75 YEARS OF LAND ROVER - 1948 – 2023
by Graeme Duncombe.

Recently three MPC Members, Dennis Hextall, Brian Brocklehurst and Graeme Duncombe travelled with other Land Rover enthusiasts from PERTH to COOMA, NSW, to celebrate 75 years of Land Rovers.

A total of 8 Series 1 vehicles made the trip from WA; four on trailers and four driving the 3800 kms. A long drive in 75-year-old vehicles!

All went well until Dennis's fan snapped and put three holes in the radiator! Some time was spent removing the radiator to see if we could repair it, and by chance a farmer drove by, stopped and asked if he could help. After looking at the problem he said he could repair it; took it back to his farm and two hours later returned 'all good to go'. Good people in the bush!

Eleven days later, after a few small hiccups, we arrived in Cooma.

Over 1,000 people joined us for the 4-day celebration event, with many visitors attending the parade of 650 vehicles, an unofficial world record.

Twenty-four days later we arrived home safely.



NHMA UPDATE

As you know the NHMA has just had their very successful 18th National Rally at Mudgee, NSW. I was unable to attend this year but have made myself available for re-election as a WA Representative for the next two years.

Our members Dudley and Dorothy Jenson and Victor James attended the rally, and you will see some photos from Dudley in this newsletter.

Several thousand spectators came through the gates to enjoy the 700 exhibits. The Ian Stewart Junior Awards went to Lyam Marshel, SA, and Daniel Ives, Qld.

The Wishart Awards, (which the MPC have won twice) were as follows:

NHMA Club Mid North Coast. NHMA Junior James Allision, Boarder Flyers.

Non NHMA Sydney Antique Machinery. Non NHMA Junior, Muscat Bros SACI.

Cont.....

To encourage junior participation in the awards, all juniors will be contacted direct, informing them of this opportunity.

The next National Tractor Convention will be at Deniliquin in April 2024, and the next NHMA National Rally will be hosted by Jondaryan Woolshed in August 2025.

Please check the NHMA website and Facebook page for news and updates, or contact your State Reps.

The NHMA is going from strength to strength, with now close to 10000 members, with growing interest from several other clubs. Regular Committee monthly Zoom meetings and three-monthly Zoom State meetings are being held, and all clubs are invited to join these meetings. This type of transparency has been well received by the membership, giving anyone requiring information relating to our activities a chance to have their say or ask questions.

See the NHMA Website for the Safety Guidelines we operate under.

BAPTIST CARE GRACEFORD – 27 May

Ralph and Wendy Thomas, along with Les and Diane Jones, visited this Retirement/Care Home in Byford with our Steam Model displays, with a number of Classic and Vintage cars adding to the atmosphere. The weather was perfect for such an event. Volunteers manned the Sausage Sizzle and over-saw the residents, while a couple of musicians played some well-known songs. It was extremely rewarding that we helped make the day successful for people not enjoying what we take for granted. "There but for the Grace of God go we!"

If any reader knows of a retirement home who might like to take advantage of this sort of display, please contact the editor or a Committee member.



Ralph's Trailer Display.



Les and Diane Jones Display.



Residents and Families enjoy the sunshine as well as the tea, coffee, and sausage sizzle on offer, while they check out the displays.



Some of the Cars on Display.

FORTHCOMING RALLIES and EVENTS.

Members please be aware the Rallies we attend are our biggest contribution of finance to support the MPC; consequently, your support is extremely important. Please come along with your exhibit and/or help.

Contact Ross Morton on 0437 772 443 for more information.



Come and join us at our family-friendly 'Members & Friends Day'! The iconic heritage Power House and Boiler Room building will be open to the public. "Bert", our 1904 Clayton & Shuttleworth vintage steam traction engine will be in steam. Attractions galore! Lots of interesting fun displays and eats. FREE ENTRY.

Max and Ralph, on behalf of the MPC, will be organising Hamburgers for sale on the day, while the Ladies will be selling Tea, Coffee and Cakes.

Members are requested to provide whatever cakes, scones, slices they like to assist with this catering, and are asked to liaise with Kathy Rose on 0422 126 873 so that she knows what will be forthcoming.

Assistance will also be needed before and on the day to help out with cleaning, serving and anything else required.

This will be an important opportunity to showcase to the visitors, our new premises and all of the hard work done by members over the past year or more, so please come along and support your club.

An email will be sent out closer to the time as a reminder to all.

VMCC Day at the Workshops – Sunday July 16th.

The Vintage Motor Cycle Club will start arriving from 7.30, and the usual sausage sizzle and morning tea will be provided by the MPC.

Assistance from members is requested on the day.

BEVERLEY SHOW – Saturday August 19th – 7.30 setup.

Please contact Ross if you have any questions.

GIDGEGANNUP SHOW – 28 May

By all accounts, the Gidgegannup Show was a very successful event for the MPC.

An excellent turn-up of members and displays, as seen in the photographs below.

Well done everybody.



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