

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

A FALTERING START TO A NEW SEASON, - BUT STILL MORE TO DO.

At our Wednesday nights Club meeting, we made a decision to cancel our up to now, annual Vintage Machinery Auction. This was not made lightly, but with less than half of previous pre entries, this was probably the right decision. Whether we have 25 or 250 entries, the lead up and preparation is much the same. I know it will be disappointing for those that have notified us of an interesting line up of tractors, especially. We will be thinking of some alternative way that we can help. Perhaps a special listing in next month's magazine? Also Club treasury takes a hit. The real downside(s) are that we all miss out on a really good day socialising, and that nifty feeling inside that we've just brought something special/required and satisfying. Personal up side – more cash for the swap meet.

In last month's magazine we had a Massey Harris 101 up for sale. We have withdrawn this from sale due to the wishes of the original donor. Fair enough. In the general grounds clean up and after much deliberation, there is still a list of minor/odds and ends we consider surplus, or unlikely to be prioritised for action. Often, this is not necessary because they are unworthy of restoration, but probably in the big picture they don't get far enough up the priority ladder. The Massey 101 in point is a very good example of this. We already have at least one keen member who has indicated he is willing to consider this machine as a "Club Project". Although the tractor looks pretty sad it is more or less complete, and reasonably straight i.e. a "do-able project". There is the rub.

I have no doubt that with plenty of elbow grease a considerable start could be made. But assuming we had a suitable covered space to do it, there would come a time where some/ probably more money would be required for this or that... In the meantime perhaps someone may have time to remove spark plugs, fill engine (to the top) with oil, drain water from gearbox and cover.

Another casualty for next month was a possible ploughing day offered by one of our regular suppliers of such things. It is not easy for them to fit in the timing of such events, nor a suitable venue. We could have had both. It is a pity to see these factors slip by. Perhaps, there might be demand in the future... maybe.

The next big event is the Swap Meet in mid-October. Brent Chapman has agreed to be the convenor. In the past Swap Meet has been a good earner for us. As well a great Vintage display so if you have a tractor-implement-engine- machine, brings it along. It's a very easy format, just rock on up. See add further on.

On a less than chipper note I am concerned to have received notice of unrest and complaint amongst some at Keating Park recently. Up to now things really have gone from strength to strength here. In fact the rise in our power bill says it all. Much more activity all around. On fine scrutiny these dastardly kilowatt hours are being used – BY EVERYONE! There has been some scuttlebutt that our custodian is responsible for a large portion of this powered bill. Nothing could be further from the truth. In fact he probably is paying more than his fair share of power and gas.

There are several other issues raised here thought, that are black or white.

Any club member, who visits or "works" on our home grounds, should be entitled to do so in safety and peace. Safe Driving and machinery operations are demanded here, and are not negotiable. Period.

We are all humans however. As such, we all don't necessarily get on with every other human. That's life. But ... We are all grown up/responsible adults – not children. If you can't abide by someone – stay clear of them! (It's really that simple).

Every member should be able to respect other members and be respected in a turn.

A positive side of this has shown that we need to also consider more carefully some other peripheral issues raised. Your Committee will work its way through this.

Last month we were advised by the Community Grants Trust that our application for \$50,000 for museum finance (A \$160,000 Project) had been partially/conditionally approved. That is we have been allocated \$25,000 on conditions that we obtain full building consent, find the balance within 12 months and use it solely for the build that we proposed. Specifically we cannot use for anything else (different building for example) so plenty to think about here.

Recently some questions and suggestions were raised with regards to Workshop or just plain good quality storage / general purpose shed space requirements. We do not; however need more suggestions for any other high cost buildings.

Spring is almost here. You know the time you have welded back on, the bit that fell off the mower last year. Several Club Tractor projects coming along nicely.

Regards
Wayne