

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Spring has sprung, the Shows have begun.... By the time you are reading this the first round of A+P Shows have come and gone.

I wasn't at the Ellesmere Show, but believe cold weather was a major player. (Heard some members were home beside a fire drinking cups of Coffee by 10.30! This is such a shame as so much work goes into organising these events. But we can't control Mother Nature.

I was fortunate to attend the Rangiora A+P Show. Once again this year, the majority of the organising and direction was provided by The Case Club and in particular Tony Keetley, and Keith Philpot on our clubs behalf. This event, which is "shared" by several clubs, always seems a very relaxed and convivial affair. I think everyone involved had a good day. The number of Shiny new tractors exhibited was noticeably down from previous years. (Perhaps a reflection of the sombre Farming mood). An interesting "Newcomer" dealership bucking the trend, displaying some nice "newy's" big and little.

Of course one of those "newys" rested for the weekend at our place. I would have to say a lovely little thing. You know, brand spanking / sparkle, 4WD, fat tyres, power steering, hydrostatic drive (the type even your disinterested mother could manage) nifty front end loader etc. etc. Gill thought all her birthdays had come at once, my son said "Dad" I see you have come to your senses at last and brought something MODERN! I did have a chuckle (I wish). Worse, I had to load it on a trailer and take it back to its real owner on Tuesday morning. But my trusty Fordson Dexta thought otherwise, and immediately required a front tyre re inflating! Congratulations to Robbie Cassidy for getting first prize for his Fergie.

At the last minute the "Centaur" pivot Steer, horticultural tractor was included for display – A very interesting piece indeed. Better still, its former owner was present and able to give us a bit of information regarding some of its latter life and some technical details. An idiocincricy of its 2 cylinder Le Roi engine, being its firing cycle. This possibly being similar to 2 cylinders John Deere. Apparently its engine stubbornly refusing to run on all 2 cylinders. Although not going at present, it is obvious that not much work required to be done. Principally minor repairs to fuel tank and magneto sorting. This machine has been somewhat of a mystery to us. It has been in our car for a year or more. But like many other brothers/sisters, our club has no actual record or notation of its circumstances. I have been advised of one persons "Interest" in it and we will undertake to determine its actual position in life. We do however hope it can remain at Keating Park and possibly be "tickled up" to operate. Quite a rare gem.

This year's Becca (Christchurch) Heritage Week display went well, but I think (for our part anyway) was somewhat hampered by being the day after the Ellesmere Show. None the less the 3 Tractors exhibited were just right. George's newly restored Massey Pony; Robbie's impeccably restored TEA Fergie and our "just right" Patrons WD40. These 3 formed the centre piece and entrance to Victoria Square. I would like to thank the owners for allowing the children to set on them. This is a magic connection and a real flag waver for us and indeed the whole Vintage Machinery movement. And yes there were a number of them on and off tractors all day. We accept that allowing pretend drivers on board is not every owners desire, but believe me the look of sheer delight on every kids face said it all. Some almost having to be prised off to let others in the que on! Also our display of stationery engines/pump was well recieved. The noise of the "put putting" of these machines certainly got the attention of the crowd. The bubbles in the water drew the kids in. Also, even if not going, the Mother of all Reel mowers sounded like a Harley Davidson Quite a sight. Thankyou everyone for your efforts.

Also thanks must go to everyone for the efforts at our VCC Swap Meet display. Not sure of actual numbers but I believe a very good turnout. Once again our Shuttle Tractor Drivers and Assistants efforts where well appreciated. We couldn't do this without their support. An enjoyable evening meal at our club rooms capping of the weekend.

As I have said before, the physical land layout and cooperation between ourselves/Kustom Car Club And VCC may well be unique, anywhere in the world! Long may it continue?

Next event is the big one - The Christchurch A+P Show. So please give us a hand if you can. It takes a

Huge amount of effort to put this on.

We seem to have got a little fuddled with this month's Club meeting. Apologies to anyone turning up last Wednesday night. Remember, Club Meetings are always on the 4th Wednesday of the Month. Sometimes this seems odd but depends on whether month starts before or after a Wednesday.

Have a good month.

Regards

Wayne

.