Good day fellow members, sorry this news letter is a bit late, I don’t know where the month has gone. So far no one has sent in any stories, makes it hard to write this news letter.

It is with regret we inform our members that last month, John Taylor’s wife passed away after a long illness. John is a long time member who lives on the Tableland.

We have been asked by the Townsville Museum and Historical Society to put on a display for their opening. The museum shifted from the Court House building in town. The new position is at 23 Hugh st Currajong, but the entrance is from Barbeler st. The display still has to have council approval.

Ian Williams is overhauling the motor in his Howard tractor. When I called in today he was making rings.

Malcolm has pulled his section car into smaller pieces. He has completely stripped the frame and is cleaning and straightening ready for painting.
Russell is wrestling with small air cooled diesel Lister, he has a job in front of him as there is a fair bit seized on it.

Last month I mentioned that I started the Bristol tractor, since then I fitted one of Malcoms carby’s. Ian and Russell came round one weekend to help get it going, in the mean time I fitted some hose connections to the radiator hoses and plugged it on to the garden hose. With another hose fitted to the outlet and a si-phon hose from a petrol container we were ready to go. It took a few cranks to get it going and with a few twitches from Ian the engine was running sweetly. I was rapped in the engines note as I had a straight pipe with no muffler.
When we had it running smoothly it was time to try it. Ian made several clutch adjustments before we were able to engage first gear, when I let out the clutch and the tractor moved off under its own steam for the first time in maybe thirty years, not forgetting that it had been under water and when I bought it water came out of the dip stick. Ian was on one side holding the inlet hose and the fuel can and Russell on the other side holding the outlet hose and off we went until we ran out of hose so in to reverse and back to the starting point. After a couple of trips Russell had a go I think he was impressed, I am sure he mumbled something like, D8, when he got off. The right hand clutch has still not freed so I’ll have to wait until I get the proper carby and fit the radiator so that I can drive round with the right clutch lever pulled to see I can free the clutch.

Peter Higgins of Innisfail found a carby for me
In fact he found a complete tractor sitting in a shed not far from his place.

Last week end Malcolm his wife Gwen and I headed for Innisfail in the Starlet. Gwen had a sister to visit at South Johnstone, Malcolm and I had an appointment with a Bristol 20.
We left fairly early and picked some cheaper fuel at Yabulu as we proceeded it began to look like rain. We pulled up at a little park at Cardwell and had lunch that’s when the first rain began, before we reached Tully it was bucketing down, some what like out trip on the section car, may be Malcolm is the problem. After crawling along for a few miles the rain began to ease and we were soon pulling into Gwen’s sisters place at South Johnstone, not before a little direction trouble, we went through the little place called Moresby two times before we realised that the South Johnstone turn off was the first turn after Moresby.

It didn’t take long to find Peter Higgins place after that. Peter soon had his trailer hooked up and away we went, ten minutes later we were pulling up at small shed housing a little Bristol 20, we were sill in town.

The tractor had the normal coat of black grease over the engine but it was probably in better condition than mine, in fact I have been assured that if I put petrol in it, it will go. When I picked my first tractor up, I pulled out the dip stick and out ran water, so the first thing I did was to pull out the dip stick and what do you know, clean oil.

That did it I bought it, there were several parts I need for mine, the carby of coarse, the governor and housing, the mud guards are in better shape than mine, I’ll save a fair bit in panel beating and the seat will do to.

The shed was up on a hill side behind a house so it was decided to tow it down the hill to a spot where we could load it onto the trailer.

I climbed on board to steer it and it soon became evident that the turning clutches and brakes were in better shape than the tractor I already had.

Malcolm got the job to take photos as the tractor was towed down the hill, but there must have been too many buttons to press (one), I hear MGM have been in touch with Malcolm. Any way the tractor was soon loaded along with a spare set of tracks. The tracks will come in handy as they have a rubber compound where they hinge and some of rubbers in my tractor have perished.

The tractor has been layed up at Peters place until I can organise transport for it.

After a cuppa at Peters place and a look over Peters treasures we headed for home.

Keith