Good day fellow members, it has been the busiest month so far. So we have plenty for the newsletter. Will have to finish the Biloela story as well as the trip to McKinley next month.

Keith and Lynda Harnett were visiting from Brisbane and agreed to one last letter, found on page 4. We also had a visit from a founding member, Ian Stewart from Caboolture.

The club displayed on short notice at the Blue Water Swap Meet. As it was a swap meet we had plenty of interest in our display and the venue was quite pleasant. I hope it turns into a yearly event.

Our AGM will be held next month (August) providing the books are back, make sure you all turn up so that you can vote on new committee members. At the last meeting it was decided that all our members (out of town) should have the opportunity to nominate members for positions on the committee. As we have left it late for this AGM we will try to have a better method in place for next year. We would welcome any ideas on how this should be done. Also we have decided that the club urgently needs a Northern Representative, to represent and coordinate the needs of our northern, out of town club members. So people wishing to nominate, should send your nomination in before the AGM at the end of the month.
Queensland Heritage Rally
By Keith Hendrick

Russell and I set off at 5 am Thursday morning and headed off for Biloela via Clermont. I had never been that way and was looking forward to it. The road from the Towers to Belyando Crossing was not bad, a bit narrow in places but after the crossing it was a good road with very little traffic. With more time we would have called into Clermont and checked out the museums on the way down. Emerald was a pleasant surprise, a well laid out, clean and tidy town, would not be bad living there. We pulled into Moura at around 4.30 pm, where we intended to spend the night. The first Motel we came to was for sale so we went and asked for a room, when we were told $91 we back pedalled fast, only wanted a room for the night not buy the place. Up the road we checked into a rough but comfortable cabin at the caravan park.
stake a claim as we were the first there. The Burdekin club set up beside us. So between us the north was pretty well represented, with our members being Russell Spence, Myself, Merve Carey, Richard and Kim Hubinger, Ian and Gwenda Williams, Trevor and Carol Phillipson and Peter and Cheryl Higgins with son Dan. The Burdekin club set up beside us there was, and Jim and Hellen Phillips, Keith and Janett Battley and Alf Shand. In Russell’s hand out was a name tag for Dee, this surprised me as Dee is addiment that she hates Russell’s engines, now! we know better. Continued next month. Keith

After checking with Merve, he assures me that this is the quickest way to unload an engine.

Merve demonstrates how to unload an engine

For all your insulating requirements on roofs, mobile homes, caravans etc see the new space age Thermashield from Jesse’s Quality Paints - Your One Stop Paint Store - 14 Carlton St Kir-
Biloela Rally
By Keith and Lynda Hartnett

Saturday the 17th daylight dawned over Biloela to a crystal clear sky and a ambient temperature of around 5 degrees C which had the boys from the north scurrying around for long trousers and warm jackets. (with the term frozen assets taking on a new meaning).

With the club’s banners on prominent display and the colourful arrangement of engines that the members displayed it proved to be quite an eye catcher for the passing crowds.

The club’s display being situated halfway around the main engine display area between the Pioneer Valley's club display and several of the independent displays.

The inaugural Queensland Heritage Rally was a sight to behold with 140 engines, 160 tractors, 25 vintage cars, 2 steam traction engines and a steam road roller.

There was also rope making, chaff cutting, bore drilling and corn husking displays which kept the crowd amused. only to be usurped by the main crowd puller of the day, the tractor pulls and the slow tractor race (the latter resembling the process of watching grass grow.) but the crowd enjoyed the antics and shenanigans of the competitors during the race with fierce and friendly rivalry evident.

On the Friday(set up day) the whole process was bought to a standstill by the arrival of a fully loaded road train plus two other semi’s loaded with tractors and engines from the Toowoomba club. A major draw card being their display of a 20hp Ronnie, which ran like clockwork all day.

It was great for Lynda and myself to catch up with some old faces as well as meeting some new ones. Lynda particularly liked Peter Higgin’s impromptu (north Queensland) version of the Mexican Hat Dance that occurred after coming in contact with the maggie whilst carry out some running adjustments to his twin cylinder Felix.

True gentleman that he managed to contain the appropriate expletives whilst in mixed company.

The Grand Parade brought out the much loved tractors of days gone by. The display was led by the forerunners of Australian farm work, the horses. Then their replacement the steam era and finally our more mechanised group the four wheel farm tractor and the crawlers. A wonderful sight for all to see.

On the Saturday evening we all descended on the Callide Dawson club’s main shed for dinner and a bit of knees up. The night started with an auction of various donated items that kept the bidding running at a frenetic pace. Mean while the rest of us were starting to be wracked by hunger pangs waiting for the main meal to be served. The Editor in chief of this news letter seemed totally oblivious to the anxiety that the rest of us were feeling. The reason for this became evident later when we found out that he had already dined on sumptuous servings of Chinese with an old school mate !!.

Unfortunately Lynda and I had to leave early on Sunday morning due to work commitments; but we thoroughly enjoyed the Biloela Rally and made many new friends who we will undoubtedly meet again around the traps.

hoping everyone had a safe journey home and am looking forward to catching up again in 2007.

Regards,
Keith and Lynda Hartnett.