Good day fellow members, well we have had our AGM last meeting and there are a couple of changes to the committee, Merve replaces Mick as President. Ian Williams and Richard keep their old jobs. Ian M, Russell and Richard are the Rally officers. Ian M, Ian W and Merve are Safety officers. Ian M and Richard are the dating officers and I got the job as custodian.

Once again we thank Mick’s wife Beth for doing our books, it is much appreciated. I promised more stories from Bileola, my trip to McKinley and the last display at the agricultural college at Clare, but a welcome story from Ray Blain has been used first. It is comfortable to know that I have enough stories to fill another newsletter.

We have still a few displays to attend and the first is this weekend at Calvary Temple.

Merve took to the presidents job like a duck to water within 30 seconds of being nominated he ordered Russell to shift so that he could sit up front.

Keith.
WANTED
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By Ray Blain

The Atherton and Cairns Show

The month of July saw the passing of two historic events in the north with the celebration of both the Atherton and Cairns Centenary Agricultural Shows. Members of the NQMPC were invited to attend and as the saying goes they stole the show on both occasions.

The Atherton Show, a two day event was arranged by the guy with the best front yard in Walkamin, John Taylor. John made several trips to Atherton to meet with the show committee to negotiate a suitable piece of ground for a display. After some debate John was able to secure a sizeable display area and for those of you who know the size of the Atherton Show grounds he would of had to debate his best.

On the day five club members arrived with a total of thirteen pieces of equipment. Noel Akers (new member) top scored with five engines that ran from start to finish. Noel has been actively restoring engines for some time prior to joining the club and I am sure he will be a valuable member in the future.

An other new member from Atherton Doug Smith displayed a nicely restored Sundial for the first time. Doug moved to Atherton from the coast few years back to retire. I believe he is pretty handy with a mill and a lathe so I guess that on a wet day you will find him in his shed practicing his skills.

The ever reliable Hank Takken also displayed. Hanks engines are always well presented and ran for the duration of the show. With the Atherton Tableland farmers being renown for there ability to produce top quality maize it is with out a doubt that Tony Riordan’s corn Sheller and grinder driven by an open crank Cooper had many of the older generation providing all sorts of advice and telling many interesting stories. Ladies included, like I had to turn one of those by hand all day Saturday so I would be aloud to go to the pictures on Saturday night.

With the annual migration of visitors from the southern states Tony’s outfit provided the background for many interesting questions. With Tony’s health now in good order after heart surgery saw him receive five by passes he provided answers to the questions as fast as they came.

As always with an Atherton Show it must rain however this year was an exception and only a bit of mizzle was experienced which did not dampen things to much. Feedback from the committee is yet to be received however club members enjoyed themselves so I guess that is the main thing.

The Cairns Show three days and three nights of full on action with non stop fence dwellers some returning a number of times. This would have to be the best outing I have had since becoming a club member and anyone planing next years events would have to put the Cairns Show high on there priority list.

All praise must go to Ian Allen show chairman and co coordinator of the historical village Louis Underwood. The historical village was the brain child of Louis a number of years back and has grown at a rapid pace each year.

Contained in this village are a number of replica shop fronts of business from bye gone years of Cairns where people can enter into marques containing all things old and beautiful.
Ian Allen himself a restorer of engines, tractors, machinery and collector of fuel relics made a number of visits to our display to ensure all was to the satisfaction of exhibitors. This origination supplied just about everything except for the oxygen we breathe. They erected a wooden paling fence, supplied fuel and oil, a lockable shelter, a twenty foot container plus gave us as much room as we needed. A little different to what members are normally use to.

Tony Littles steam tractor created enormous interest as it always does, with adults and children alike stopping just to watch the fly wheel turn ever so slow or to listen to that steam whistle penetrate their ears. Poetry in motion was words I heard come from a British visitor who also said that the display reminded him of a county fare at home.

Vic Allen a veteran collector of everything displayed a number of engines including a family of McDonald’s, Ruston’s, Listers and a beautiful hot air engine. (This engine now has Tony Little working flat out on his recent acquisition) Vic also had various pieces of equipment connected to his engines. John Kilpatricks engine attracted various comments from the wise men within the fence as for some reason (to date still unknown) the piston became very tight in the bore over night. Was it the fuel? Was it the oil? Who knows it is running alright now. Once again Tony Riordan’s corn cracking and grinding equipment was a crowd pleaser with the ground corn finding its way home to John K’s chooks.

The display was supported by our next door neighbours Queensland Transport/Main Roads heritage section. This section travelled from Brisbane with a number of engines, a Ford truck, tractor, a photographic display as well as a working Blacksmith.

In closing I have to mention my Ruston. It preformed as expected and attracted favourable comment, although I can not understand as to why my Farm Pumper standing next door had all the heads nodding. Must have sum thing to do with the beat Hit n miss, hit n miss, miss miss miss god dam out of fuel and so am I.

RAY B.
PS
Thanks Lyn for the darn good coffee, tea and fruit cake.

Merve asks Russell to move