Good day fellow members, well the new year has started and we have finally had a bit of rain. Must apologies for the late newsletter for November, also for the error calling it January.

I haven’t give you much warning but our next meeting at Brian Pumps place is this Friday the 20th, because the following is the Australia day weekend.

Haven’t heard of much progress in the sheds around town, Ian W seems to be the only one still pottering, I was hoping to go on a section car ride to Yeppoon on the Australia day week end but that has been cancelled.

Stuart and Natalie passed through Townsville last week, on their way to Darwin. Stuart has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant in the army based in Darwin, he seems to be getting further away from Townsville.

Andy and family have settled in at Weipa and hope the year pass quickly so that they can get back to Townsville. They must be glad to stop for a while after coming thousands of kilometers across Australia.
On the next page Ray Blain has written about the exploits of the northern club members. And Marie has written about the final leg of their trip to Weipa.

**Exmouth to Weipa (cont)**

By Marie Nicholson

Our 8 days in Townsville were spent Shopping and catching up with old friends. It was great to go to the Satay Mas break up night and to see everyone, some old faces we knew and some we didn’t; this only made it harder for us as we knew we had to leave in a few days.

I caught up with my old boss and had lunch with her and the girls at the factory.

Alex enjoyed looking at all the shops and really knows the meaning of “Shop till you drop”, also how to spend Dad’s money.

Ian W offered to collect my poor bent trailer from the transport company, when it arrived in Townsville from Tennant Creek. He is going to repair it and baby sit for us until we return. Next time you see Ian, ask him how some people load trailers. Keith is also baby sitting for us; he has the Tandem, until we return from Weipa. To both of them a big thank you, as the trailers would not have survived the rest of the trip to Weipa.

We set of to Cairns on the Monday morning, had a good run (no flat tyres). Alex was in the car with me and we followed the Ute, it was a different view following with out the trailer to stare at, I almost missed the engines, but not quite.

We arrived in Cairns around lunch time, and spent the rest of the afternoon shopping again. In the morning we dropped off both vehicles at the transport yard, for their trip to Weipa, and we went back to the Motel to repack the suitcases, to try and distribute the load among all the cases we were taking, because of all the shopping we just had to have, but found out afterwards that the Weipa flight doesn’t worry about it; Comalco has an arrangement with the Airline Company, they just off load freight until the next day, which is why mail here is so very slow.

We arrived in Weipa to 37 deg C and humidity you could cut with a knife and of course it rained, we enjoyed it as we haven’t see a good down pour in a long time.

We spent 7 days in the Motel and moved into the house when the furniture arrived, the next day we picked up the Cat and Dog, who were flown up from Cairns after spending just over a month in the boarding kennels.
Now we are all together settling down in Weipa, and waiting for the “Wet”. Next Xmas its home to Townsville.

Marie………

**News From The Top Shed**  
Bt Ray Blain

News? What news. Not much to report from the shed as members have been otherwise occupied over the past few months doing all sorts of things like.

1 Tony & Larna  
Rushing around all over Russia.
2 Tony R  
Having restoration on himself instead of restoring some thing in the shed.
3 Noel A  
Riding his motor bike and acting like a seventeen year old instead of seventy.
4 Hank T.  
Is cleaning out houses but would rather be looking inside a crankcase.
5 Johnny T  
His yard is looking moor like a tractor dealership each day.
6 Toby A  
Has returned to his old profession as a ringer on his daughters property in the Towers district.
7 Les Mc  
Just ask him what happens to the engine in your pet Corvette when a timing chain brakes.
8 Paul D  
Working in cane.
9 Doug S  
Has not been well and we wish him a speedy recovery.
10 Ray B

Travelled to Ilfracombe Swap Meet. Sixteen hours to a non event. However met up with the gents from Biloela, Tambo and Toowoomba.

On Saturday the 10th December club members from this end enjoyed what could only be described as a fantastic way in which to end the year.

The afternoon began with a gathering at Johnny's Taylors with a sticky beak around his yard and then moving onto Mt Uncle Wine Distillery located a few k's down the road.

Here we were treated with a tasting of their products in a tasting room decorated with all sorts of memorabilia from yester year.

We were further invited to inspect the soon to be opened coffee house with its initial fit out being made from the timber that was once the Walsh River bridge. This together with other old fixtures and the exterior gardens are a must to visit for anybody that is travelling in the area.

Whilst the women folk lingered in the tasting room the men soon found interesting conversation with the Distillery owner Bruce Watkins who also has a passé for engines, tractors etc.

After leaving the Distillery we headed to Mario Raso farm in Tolga and after spending some time finding the place due to bad navigation by one self we arrived to find a collection beyond ones wildest expectations Mario has been silently collecting for the best part of his life and has now put a display together for all to enjoy.

His collection consists of numerous tractors, trucks, implements, milking machines and cream separators, stationary engines, black smith shop and so on.

All members could not believe that this collection existed so close by and that no one had been there before. Mario was blessed with the fact that we had paid him a visit and he invited all to return.
The day ended with a meal at the Baron Valley Hotel in Atherton. This is the oldest hotel in town and has been in the hands of the Nasser family since before the war.

Once it was identified that we were all members of a club a setting was provided so that all could enjoy and we did.

PS

A note on the notice board in the shed has it that Larna Little was seen returning to the Distillery late last week and was further observed leaving with a box of bottles. Did not know that Tony was into collecting bottles.

Ray Blain.