Good day fellow members, looks like some of us missed out on a good time at Walkamin. Thanks to Ray I have a easy time putting this newsletter together, although I didn’t put names on the photos.

The club would like to welcome some new members, John and Mary McConaghie of Atherton, they say that they will be at Biloela and John Carnsew of Trinity Beach, John is into making models.

Trevor, Carol and I were at the other end of the state, traveling on section cars from Goondiwindi to Dirrimbandi. The trip took us past huge areas of cultivation and giant silos. This was the first time that any of us had been there. Day one was a terrific run but on the return we had a cold wind and light rain. I was well rugged up and enjoyed both days, the distance we have to travel spoils it a bit. August will see us up at Atherton - Mareeba area for our next trip.

Looks like our club will be well represented at Biloela every body you talk to is going. This will be my 4th time and I recon it is one of the best venues I have been to. I only hope that they don’t have any rain on the day as the black soil certainly sticks to you.

Keith.
The 2007 FNQ Rotary Field Days was an excellent opportunity for the northern region club members to throw open the shed doors, select a couple of engines and get ready to head to Walkamin. It was at Terry and Lucy McFarlane’s Walkamin Caravan and Motor home Park that the FNQ Rotary Field Day Committee had selected as the venue to hold its 2007 Field Day. A site that the critics labeled as unsuitable, however by the conclusion of the second day they were reduced to eating humble pie.

As a result of the site survey it was found that the final site layout was in the shape of a spiral thus making the walk around the exhibits both user and environmentally friendly. This together with the fact that Walkamin has one of the best climates in the world exhibitors mooted success.

Wednesday afternoon saw club members arrive with twenty-eight engines in readiness for the following two days of running.

And how about the style of Johnny Taylor and Tony Little, Johnny arrived on his tractor with engine in tow and why not he only lives around the corner. And Tony well we all know that he lives in Chillagoe but to arrive with his engine being towed with a Whippet Coupe is a bit of a worry.

On the day it was interesting to note that around 90% of these engines had not been displayed in the past. This in it’s self demonstrated the enthusiasm and commitment of the members towards the preservation and restoration of machinery.
Prior to the start of the run John Moody provided members with an overview of club rules and regulations as well as WPH&S and insurance requirements.

John also provided members with financial assistance towards fuel and whilst this was not expected it was however much appreciated.

The visit by John provided a sense of unity between city and country members as it has been some time since any elected members have made the journey north.

As usual hospitality between members was in abundance with the Billy being consistently on the boil and food plentiful. It was also an advantage having members’ wives in Joan Atkinson and Astrid Takken working in the Flying Doctor stall. Here we had the privilege of purchasing the best of the cakes, made by Joan of course.

The Field day Committee as in the past provided the best of locations for our display and the visitation by the public over the two days was 100%. Numerous pieces were offered for restoration to members from visitors to the display and I believe that some pieces have already been picked up and restoration commenced.

The display offered a wide cross section of engines and it was also pleasing to see that most engines were belted up to something. I.e. pumps, generators, grinders and shellers.

The Fielding gas engine displayed by Tony Little created a lot of public interest with its silent motion. I am told that this silent motion has not always been the case with this engine. Apparently on a quite Chillagoe Sunday afternoon an explosion was reported and a man was seen staggering out of a shed looking like young Einstein after he put the bubbles in the beer.

Paul and Maurice Del Zellio traveled from Elarish with Paul’s Galloway. An engine of great interest.

Peter Higgins as usual made the trip up from the coast.

Hank Takken, Michael Biggs tied with two nicely presented S/C diesels.

Noel Akers is the first member to display a tractor and did not disappoint with his Cat Ten Crawler.

Doug Smith (Billy Boiler) displayed for the first time his Roseberry and a Whitte Toby Atkinson pumped the well dry with his Farm Pumper.

Tony Riordan ground the recent corn harvest with his contracting plant.
As always Joe Tomerini a renowned corn farmer and supporter of club members supplied the corn. Johnny Taylor’s Little Jumbo, Ruston and his Farm Pumper ran for the duration. John from Cairns displayed fifteen model engines that have to be seen to be believed. Many a little boy just wanted to get them off the table and into the dirt and play.

Their were a couple of other Ruston’s on display as well and we can not say to much about them without self incrimination

In all, the two days saw again how members come together as a group with a common interest and without having to be organized offer the very best of friendship sharing and enjoyment towards their fellow man. An event of great success.

Members should note this location as it is a central location to stay when visiting the Tablelands and with the excellent weather in Walkamin during September the park would also be an ideal spot for a Club Rally.

In closing I could not help but notice the human restorations that have been undertaken since we last meet.

Tony Riordan Zipper Club
Going stronger that ever
Doug Smith Zipper Club
Better than the rest (his words)
Toby Atkinson Nuclear Powered All fired up and ready to go.

We wish them well and see you in Bileola

See you all in Billo Ray.