Good day fellow members, it’s hard to believe that it’s 2009 already, hope you all had a good Christmas.

Our Christmas break up dinner at the West End Hotel went well, the food was terrific and the service was excellent. There must have been a couple of hundred people there, so it was a bit noisy, but as some one said, if it had have been quiet, the food would have probably been poor.

Eighteen family members along with a sponsor, Ron Ostrenski our (newsletter printer), Russell and Dee, Ian and Gwenda, new member Bob and Heather, Glen, Ian and Desley, Merve, Rod and Kyle with sons Danny and Kieran, John and Robyn, Merve and myself enjoyed the outing.

Last meeting the members decided to have a working bee on our Hartt Parr tractor stored at the Burdekin club’s shed. We decided to get it running, make any repairs necessary, clean it up and give it a coat of paint. Members volunteered to bring the necessary equipment to complete the task. As Andy lives close to the shed he is bringing a compressor, John is bringing a pressure washer, Kerry volunteered the paint and the rest will bring the elbow grease, afterwards we plan to have a BBQ. I think we should make it a sausage sizzle with the club supplying the sausages, drinks can be bought from the Burdekin club at a $1 each.

I have decided to bring the newsletter out as I get enough stories and pictures to fill it, hopefully that will be monthly. It is extremely difficult to print a newsletter if I receive no input from the members.
Hello All.
A start of a New Year, what will it bring???
We have a “Working Bee” 25Jan09, at the BMP Club rooms in Brandon.
It’ll be an 8am start, the main idea is to try and make the Tractor a bit more presentable for the up coming “Inter Club Rally”.
Getting it going will be a plus, but not really required.
A BBQ will be on for lunch, Snags will be supplied, and also there is a fridge with cold drinks for a $1. Coffee and Tea will be available also.
So what has been happening out there in 2008?
I’ve been told that Malcolm has a new style of starter motor for his Howard Tractor?
Russell has a quick way of dismantling a Southern Cross?
Keith has a new Shim making tool?
I’m still trying to make room in my shed?
Andy.

An old Howard DH22 bursts into life
By Keith Hendrick

When I first joined the club this old Howard rotary hoe resided at Brian Pumps place. Unfortunately it was parked on the bank of Pee Wee creek and of course it went under water. The tractor was offered to me and as a new keen member with very little experience and even less other machinery to work on, I jumped at it. When I first saw it looked a bit sad (a big bit sad) sitting on the bank of the creek and almost covered in leaves.
It didn’t take long to organise a neighbour to load it on his truck and ship it over to my place, where once again it sat for a few years.
My contribution to its restoration was to remove the tyres, and what a job, they seemed to be vulcanised to the rim. Anyway after a few weeks the tyres were off.
Other projects came along and the poor old tractor was pushed further down the list. When Malcolm showed interest in it, once again I jumped at the chance this time to unload it. This time it went to a better home as Malcolm loves tractors and already has two, a Fordson and a Chamberlain. It did not take him long to get stuck into it and each time I visited him at Woodstock he seemed to have more and more pulled apart.

Eventually he had in pieces and I remember seeing them and thinking this is never going to go again. It looked like I was going to be right as it sat like that for a long time. Another engine was obtained from a former member Barry Roberts but after dismantling both engines Malcolm stuck with the original.

We were able to get a copy of the Howard manual off Sam Licciardello from the Burdekin, this helped no end as it was a pretty comprehensive manual.

On a later trip to Woodstock I was surprised to see the tractor had been reassembled and fitted with old truck tyres. As the radiator core was missing another radiator had to be adapted.

When I finally received the message that he was ready to start it, but was having trouble with the timing, I made another trip to Woodstock.

Imagine my surprise when I saw that he had fitted electric start (well sort of). The Howard had the front wheel against a tree and there was a jack under the right back wheel, backing on to this, was his Fordson with its back wheel jacked up and the bucket pushed into the ground at the front.

Malcolm hopped on to the Fordson and turned the key and the Fordson burst into life, he then put it into gear and released the clutch. With the wheels revolving he climbed up on the Howard and repeated the operation putting it in to gear and releasing the clutch. Even though the engine was spinning it would only backfire now and then. So it was back to the drawing board and checked the timing. The maggy was not the original and had no advance and retard feature, so it has to be timed fairly advanced but we did not go fully advanced as we might get kicked trying to start it. Once again all we could achieve was a couple of backfires.

Another check we determined that we were one out with the position of number one cylinder. Once the maggy impulse was triggered, the rotor button would come to rest at the next cylinder past the cylinder that it fired on, so we were timing to the wrong cylinder. Once the leads were moved along one position the engine burst into life and ran sweetly.

I recon it is a good feeling to see something come back to life when others would send to scrap.

Even though it is not a show room restoration, it has been preserved. Who knows 50 years down the track some one may restore it to showroom.

Keith.
North Queensland Machinery Preservationists

Some of the members enjoying a chat at the Christmas dinner. Right, Gwenda, Dee and Kylie Below, Brian, John and Robyn.

Right, Rod, Danny, Kylie and Kieran. Ron is in the back ground. Below, Ian and Gwenda.