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Good day fellow members, please note my email change.

There are still several outstanding renewals, we need to get them in so that I can send away for the insurance cards in one go.

It is good to get some correspondence from the members, it makes the newsletter more interesting. Thanks to Peter for his story and John for his letter.

There Four displays on the cards at this time the first being Biloela and there three of us heading down on Friday, might be a bit cold but we should bring back some good tales.

We have been asked by Ravenswood to put on a display up there on the 1st Aug.

Cairns Swap Meet is to be held at the Cairns Show ground on the 9th Aug.

And The Good Shepard Hospital have asked us to put on a display on the last weekend in August.

The club welcomes two new members.
John Dent from Malanda and Vito Musumeci from Miriwinni Keith.

Q150
A few weeks ago I was fortunate to get a volunteer job on the steam train running from Townsville to Cairns. It has to be one of the best train journeys I have made.

I do not know what speed that it traveled at but whole journey seemed to be over 70k, it really got along.

The carriages were beautifully restored and ranged from 1907 to around 1935. The carriages varied from a guard van with seating to a dinning car and a sleeper.

Guess who turns 60 soon
Kids were the highlight there were hundreds. A batch of well behaved school kids got on at Ingham and rode screaming and waving to Cardwell where they were replaced by another batch and so on up the coast to Cairns.

My job was to keep an eye on the verandah of one the carriages, which meant travelling on the verandah for most of the two days.

Would you believe I was talking to a retired Miriwinni cane farmer on the verandah, who I find out later had just joined our club. He was taking his grand child for a ride.

Each big station had a welcome committee some dressed in period and supported with a band, every school we passed had a row of screaming, waving kids along the fences, it was a unreal experience.

Keith

Hello All.
Not too much to say on my behalf, a bit of a quite month.
Some members displayed at the All British Day, we may get a store from that.
Merv went to the Charters Towers Queens Birthday display, still waiting to hear about that one to.
Sorry to say a reduction in Fee’s won’t be on, the Insurance has gone up, but the Fee’s will stay the same (should do depending on the AGM).
A few of us are going to Biloela, it’s going to be cold but should be a good display, tell you more about it when we get back.
Some of you may know, John Moody gave me a R&T 8hp C.F. some time back, well I’ve lost the Pushrods (put them in a safe place but can’t remember where I put them), is there an one with spare set they’d like to donate.

See ya… Andy
Strange Coincidences
I By Peter Higgins

I held the first Old Machinery at the annual Innisfail show in 1985. Being the first of its sort in the district I was hoping get quite a few leads—But with having about 15 engines to attend to, conversations were few and short. One in particular was of a McDonald Diesel. A pair of old brothers worked a cane farm in the Mena Creek area. I fondly remember them as the Rungert brothers as every year they would turn up at the fence and admire all, in particular a 3” Bulldozer water pump they had donated, now a working display.

Anyway the Rungert Brothers informed me in 1986 that their neighbor Mr. Austin had a McDonald in his shed, been there unused for umpteen years.

Being rather shy in those days, I did not know Mr. Austin so I did not follow it up. Years later I eventually met Mr. Austin through work at QR. I asked him about the McDonald and he advised me that he had given it to an old diesel mechanic to play with. I gave up on it. Then I think 2004 Old Joe the diesel mechanic died. Well I thought his son-in-law would end up with it as he was keen on old machinery as I had many conversations with him at the display fence over the years.

The phone rang at work one day, my wife's cousin, he being the executor of old Joe's will, was clearing out the shed. There ‘s an old engine here in the shed, it has to go, you have until Friday to remove it or its off to the dump with whatever else is left. Well I thought what a strange turn of events. I collected the 2hp McDonald type S the next day, complete except for, no injector, still a good find.

2006 I had been hearing rumors that a young chap in town was trying to contact me. I followed them up and ended up at old Joe's shed. The young chap had bought the place and was an avid collector, old cars, engines, motor cycles and a tractor or two. Well the conversation got round to “I got an old McDonald out of this shed but am missing the injector”. An injector, what did it look like he asked, a description was given, year he said, I found it in a tin of oil on the wall of the shed, cleaned it up and gave it to John Taylor of Walkamin. Well John did not have any use for it so he returned it. So after about 20 years the engine is now complete in my shed awaiting restoration.

If the same situation arose tomorrow, I’d have to chase it up quick as I don't think I’ll be around in 20 years time.

Peter.

Happy Birthday Russell
Dear Keith,

Walkerman was more than just an “Enjoyable Day”, it was indeed a brilliant display of what our machinery preservation is all about.

With a display of exhibits ranging from the very small to the very large, unique and interesting machines with a standard of restoration equal to that of any seen in this land, not just my opinion, but also that of many of the large crowd that this intriguing display attracted.

Enthusiastic members hauled heavy loads over long distances just for a chance to display their machines. One member towed his monster up from Tully behind his ute, this is true enthusiasm. To see a display of this standard with an excess of fifty engines, possibly the best ever held in the north really warrants more than “just an enjoyable day”.

It also was a golden opportunity for some intriguing machine photos that could have made “Tired Iron” an interesting read, instead we got photos of a lot of old timers sitting around doing nothing.

John Carnsew.