The Steiger Vortex Gun, displayed in a park at Charleville.

This was a failed attempt at rain making during the 1902 drought.
Hi all, it doesn't take long, we have a new year. What happened to 2013.

Time to look forward to the Queensland Heritage Rally in July. Would you to get your registration form in for the Rally as early as possible to prevent a flood of registration forms close to the Rally date.

Ian Matthews has given us a before and after of a nice little Ogden mower that he restored.

I have the last instalment on the restoration of my R&T. I am now looking for some one to write their restoration for the Newsletter.

The cover picture is an interesting bit of history. The 4m gun invented by Austrian, Albert Steiger in the 1880’s, was used in 6000 locations across Europe to dispel hail bearing clouds. 13 were manufactured in QLD, only two remain in Charleville. As rain makers they were a dismal failure.

Keith.
North Queensland Machinery Preservationists

Before and after of my Ogden Mower
By Ian Matthews

Here is my Ogden M35 before and after pictures and U-tube of it running, this mower is dangerous to start you can’t stand behind it, you can’t start it with the grass catcher on and nothing to put you foot on at the front to hold the mower so you can start it
After it was assembled it of course would not start pulled the carbie of found nothing still no start so of with carbie again and again and again, oh crap now have no spark of with magneto checked every-thing all seams Ok so tried to start it and of it went great for about 20 seconds and the magneto fly-wheel key sheared ???? don’t know how that happened so of with magneto again fitted a new key by this time and about 5hrs latter I started talking to the little sod saying do you know the value of scrap, it must of got the picture and of it ran on and on did not want to stop must of given the little sod a big fright.

Ian

http://youtu.be/1g6Ebddd5rBA

For all your insulating requirements on roofs, mobile homes, caravans etc see the new space age Thermashield from Jesse’s Quality Paints - Your One Stop Paint Store - 14 Carlton St Kirwan
that is supplied from a small battery through a ballast resistor with a condenser connected across the points.

With the Head finished, the next task was to manufacture a fuel tank. After agonising over it for some time Ian Williams suggested using a piece of RHS. Looking around I found just the thing, 5"x3".

I cut a 10 1/2" piece off which was the most I could fit under the engine. I then cut out two blank pieces for the ends of the tank, after tacking the four corners I sent the tank over to Ian to osey weld them in. The tank came back looking a million dollars so I welded three lugs on and mounted the tank.

Above. The Battery Box is fitted. Left, The unfinished tank is fitted to the engine. Below. The engine is assembled and points and spark plug are wired up.

It was then back to Ian to braze in a filler cap and a pick up fitting. The tank was then fitted to the engine.

With the tank finished a box was made to house a battery and coil for the ignition and then fitted between the timber rails. After fitting a knife switch to the front of the box, the points were wired up and the spark plug is connected up to a coil.

The engine is ready for a start.

Keith.