I was made to crank the Hart Parr while Ian and Shane looked on.
Hi all, the pressure is starting to increase with every starting to happen at once.

First the next meeting has been brought forward one week as Glen will be away when it was due. We also have a date for the AGM, that is the 27/6/14.

Next the club annual fees are upon us again so we need to address that as soon as possible so that we can apply for insurance all in one go at the end of next month. Our current insurance will cover us for the Queensland Heritage Rally. So detach the club guidelines to keep and sign the front page and return it with your money.

As you can see both the North Queensland Field Day and the Townsville Heritage Day are one after the other. We have three blocks at the top right corner of the Field Day grounds. Accessed by a road running up the right hand side of the block.

Set up is on Thursday, you can’t drive in on Friday and Saturday. No vehicle movement between midnight Thursday to 7am Sunday. Police will be stationed on site all night Thursday through to 7am Sunday. Full details at http://www.nqfd.com.au/information.html

Last Monday Ian Williams, Myself, Shane O’Carroll and Ian Matthews travelled down to Brandon to drag out the Hart Parr to clean it in readiness to painting and to get the engine going. The was a lot of gear in front of the tractor and I thought we were going to experience a great deal of trouble extracting it, fortunately I received a phone call just at the right time and when I was finished it was out.

We then dragged it out and pressure cleaned it. The carby and fuel bowl were removed and were cleaned and with a bit of work on the throttle linkage it was time for a start. With no thought to age I was elected to crank it, fortunately it started fairly easily. Next trip, I’ll fit a stop switch for safety.

I think next Monday is set aside for painting and on Saturday 31st of June we have to remove the Case tractor from Tom Callow’s shed, to prepare it also for NQ Rally. We need volunteers for those two jobs so get in touch with Shane.

Ian and I again went down to Brandon for the QHR meeting and thing seem to be coming together. We will bring you up to date at our next club meeting.

Keith.
McCormick Deering Tractor

1942, W4, Manufactured from 1940 to 1953, 33067 were made.

By Graham Gow.

This tractor was previously owned by David Wynne who owned the famous Rent a Moke on Magnetic Island. It was used as a rescue unit and also to tow the owners boat from the from the business in Picnic St., Picnic Bay. The tractor was parked out in the open along with a fleet of 100 Mini Mokes.

The owner placed the tractor on the Magnetic Island barge and we towed it off the barge on its arrival at Townsville and on to the workshop only 100 yards away.

On checking it out we found it to be basically sound mechanically, however the mudguards, seat, front wheel rims, draw bar, PTO cover, muffler, etc. were completely rusted out and the fuel cap and air cleaner were missing.

When the metal surfaces were rubbed back prior to painting we found that the original colour was Olive Drab Flat. The tractor repainted to the same colour.

These tractors were mainly sold to farmers during the war but some went to the military. Photo’s of some have surfaced, one on an airfield in Korea and one in England.

I found a W4 mated up to drive a compressor on a farm at Bambaroo. Another W4 was located at Woodstock, a wrecked W4, good for various parts was discovered (fortunately) at Home Hill.

The tractor was featured in the renowned “Wheels and Tracks” magazine on its arrival at Caboolture. It is now on display at the Caboolture Historical Village complete with the original Magnetic Island Rent a Moke sign as well as a restored Mini Moke.

Prior to this the tractor was on show during the 1995 VP50 celebrations at Coles Aitkenvale. Later it participated in the Reserve Forces parade through the streets of Brisbane.

Graham.
Veteran war machine on show for VP50

By JILL SHIELDS

PEOPLE won't be the only focus during VP50 next month.

Graham Gow's McCormick Deering tractor will go on display for the celebrations as well.

Built in the United States in 1942, the W4 tractor was used by the Australian Army during World War II to build roads and airfields.

Mr Gow has spent the past eight years restoring the tractor, which he bought from a moke rental company on Magnetic Island.

He said he did not know the tractor had been an army vehicle until he started peeling back the coats of paint and found the number 256 painted on the bonnet.

"It really made my day, because I have four other military vehicles all restored and registered," he said.

Mr Gow said McCormick Deering made the W4 tractor from 1940 to 1953, and only 33,067 were ever made.

He had waited five years to purchase his tractor which had been used to retrieve mokes that strayed from the road.