North Queensland Machinery Preservationists
NQMP Inc PO Box 11, DC AITKENVALE, TOWNSVILLE, QLD, 4814
September 2014

NEXT MEETING FRIDAY, 26th September at Brian Pumps at 60 Coates st MtLouisa

Pioneering Luncheon at Ravenswood
Left. Merve Carey, Ian Williams, Keith Hendrick, Alan Harris, Glen Harris and Tony Binder
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Coming Events

Homebush Steam Train.
100 year Celebration, at Victoria Mill at Ingham, on 11 October 2014.

Home Hill Harvest Festival.
Home Hill, on 6th November 2014.

Christmas Break Up Dinner.
To be announced.

WANTED
Sell—Buy—Swap—Info

Wanted Your stories

Phone No update
Peter Higgins.
Ph 40616267.

Ravenshoe RAISE Swap Meet on October 3rd—6th 2014

Hi all, we have been fairly busy this last couple of weeks with four displays.

Before we get to them I must make an overdue welcome to four new members. The first is Colin McCloy of Ingham, Nolan Sheehan of Babinda, Ron Casey of Townsville and Len Banner of Cairns. I apologise for not doing this earlier.

On the last Saturday of August we went up to Ravenswood to display for the Pioneer Luncheon, we go up each year but this year we set up next to the old church beside the open area where they served the luncheon. A bus runs up from Townsville bringing up past residents of Ravenswood, where they serve everyone a hot meal then sweets. This year we didn't start their engines because of the change of venues, but we will go up again in march next year to do it. Afterwards they will light up the BBQ for us.

7th of September we were up at the Tea Room on Hervey Range for a display for Fathers Day. This was the first time that we had displayed there and it was a very pleasant place.

Friday the 12th we were back at the Willows School where Merve, Glen and Myself set up a bit further in on the right from last year. This year they set lights over us.

The next day we were all down at Giru for the Giru Show where we set up next to the Burdekin club.

The Homebush Steam Train up at Ingham is a new one for us but should be a good one next month.

Then last for the year is the Home Hill Harvest Festival at Home Hill in November. We went there last year for the first time and quite enjoyed it. I would recommend to everybody.

As promised Graham Gow sent us a story on Mervyn Victor Richardson and his Victa company. Hope he forgives me for changing photos to straight off the net rather than me trying to scan them.

I received a request from Sandi Feller to advertise their Ravenshoe Swap Meet to be held on the October long weekend. This is to raise money for a pool.

Keith.
The Monoplane, Millicer, Mowhall and the Rotomo.
By Graham Gow

In 1916 Mervyn Richardson and his older brother Arch, designed and built a monoplane powered by contra-rotating propellers. An unusual concept at the time when most aircraft used a single propeller and double wings. Unfortunately it was written off when it collided with a post while taxiing.

Fast forward to 1960 when Victa bought the rights to manufacture the Henry Millicer designed and built “Air Tourer”. 168 were eventually built up to 1966.

Looking for related business opportunities, Victa also made a prototype Gyro Plane and a small Hovercraft.

Rewind to 1948 when Mervyn Richardson had observed a rotary mower made by Lawrence Hall of Speciality Engineering, 5 Dock, Sydney. He used one of their 3hp 2 stroke marine, water cooled engines mounted on their side to achieve a vertical drive. It was called the “Mowhall”.

Mervyn Richardson, in contrast used a small 2 stroke motor combined with a light weight frame to produce the first prototype, “Peach Tin Victa”. The rest is history, a classic rags to riches story with Victa selling well in against their main opposition The Grasshopper, who marketed a petrol and an electric rotary mower from 1949 to 1958.


He had visions of offering a PTO Edger with the model 5 and V6, this is evident by channel cast into the frame to take the PTO shaft.

Pace mowers were purchased in1959. other improvements to make Mowing easier followed with, self propulsion, key start, rewind impulse start and electronic ignition.

Prior to Mervyn Victor Richardson passing away in 1972 the Sunbeam corporation bought Victa in 1970 and continued to push ahead with new models, the twin cylinder 20” cut was released in1976.

In 1974 Victa entered into an agreement with

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Ralph Sarich to develop a small orbital engine for use in motor mowers. The unit was extensively tested but no orbital mowers were sold and after a lot of money was spent on the prototypes, Victa relinquished the licence in mid-1976. Victa exported to over 50 countries, sold in England as Chevron. Some of Australia’s major retailers placed large orders on the factory for their own store brand mowers, David Jones, Retra Vision, etc.

By 1978, 3 million Victas had been sold. But long before this Mervyn Richardson had achieved something few have accomplished, for he had orchestrated the creation of an Australian Icon.