North Queensland Machinery Preservationists
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NEXT MEETING SUNDAY 27th March at the Train Park.
Hi all, I apologise for missing last months newsletter. This month Kerry wrote about his trip to New Zealand. Last year I wrote a story about the restoration of my Ronnie diesel and then forgot all about it, so I’ll get it started with it in next months newsletter.

Easter Sunday the 27th of March the Train Park will be operating, so we will be displaying there. After the display Shane has invited us around to his place for a BBQ, BYO drinks. Any one attending the BBQ please let Shane know so that he can order the food for it. We were to have displayed at Ayr for the car club on the Saturday 26th but that has been called off. Please note, that we will hold our meeting at the Train Park on Sunday.

With the price of stamps reaching a 1 dollar we are asking all who can, receive the newsletter by email to help us save a bit on postage. I have given Glen all my electronic copies of the newsletter and when he finishes updating the web site you will be able to access all the old newsletters back to 2002. he will also scan earlier news letters and post them back to 2000. I have read most of them and there are a lot of interesting articles in them, back when I started the news letter a lot of members were contributing to it.

There is a bit of activity in the sheds, Ian has just completed another small gen set, it set him several challenges. Andy is in the middle of constructing a magneto tester. Jacko is doing something weird to a ride on mower. Tony is replacing his submersible pump and says, make sure you use stainless steel cable. Merve is doing battle with an Atlas Tiller and I am well under way with my Lalley Light and to date have almost no information about it, so if any can help I would appreciate it.

Shed update. The application for a grant has been submitted for the first stage to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. The latest shed quote for stage one was for a 3 bay shed 7m wide. The first bay spans 4m and is sheeted in to form the club house, the next two bays are 3m spans.

Keith.
Kiapara Vintage Machinery Club Museum at Dargaville NZ

By Kerry Gavan

Last month my wife and I travelled to the north island of NZ for twelve days. On our way to the far tip of the north island we came across an unexpected gem for the machinery buff, the Kiapara Vintage Machinery Museum outside the village of Dargaville.

To quote from their flyer, the club/museum was “Founded in 2001 by a group of gentlemen with an interest in preserving all types of vintage machinery once used in the Kiapara area. In timber, gum and pastoral development of the land.”

Upon entering the large shed we were greeted by friendly members of the club and offered a guided tour of the premises. Led through the mezzanine level, which contained a mix of private collections contributed by community members, we were surprised to find ourselves looking down on one of the best collections of vintage machinery we have ever seen under one roof. Items included tractors in abundance, trucks, a fire engine, stationary engines, farm machinery such as baling machines (one exhibit was 100 years old and still in working order) there were some fascinating examples of ingenuity with individually modified farm machines created for a specific purpose eg. a crawler turned into what resembled a bobcat. Interspersed with these larger exhib-

its were collections of blacksmithing tools, lanterns, lamps, augers, timber working tools, and a lubrication bay featuring the biggest array of oil and petrol cans I have ever seen. The collection is, in fact a comprehensive representation of farming and industrial activities in the Kamara region over a century. It is financed by community grants as well as donations from visitors. We were guided through the collection by Bill, the President, who told us that the shed housing, the collection, was in fact, a 110 year old wool shed that was moved on to the premises.

Outside the shed, as yet unrestored, was a logging tractor and earthmoving equipment.

The machinery club/museum has a membership that covers most age groups. Members pop in most days for a cuppa and a chat as well as to participate in restoration activities. Exhibits are kept in pristine condition. It was a joy to see so many vintage machines so lovingly restored and maintained. With the acquisition/ donations of more exhibits the work continues on an almost daily basis.

I received their newsletter “Old Grease” for February yesterday, and was interested to read that the club/museum will be participating in the Northland Field Days at the end of the month. There they will work with “Doug the Digger” and his youth pro-
gram to encourage local youth to enter into rural industry at the end of high school. The next Display Day (referred to as “Crank Up” Day) will be in April and the call is out for as many volunteers as possible to man the displays. As the newsletter says “If you haven’t been seen for a while, Aunty Ann will be on your case”.

If you are interested in touching base with these enthusiastic fellow restorers of vintage machinery, they can be contacted on kvmcdargaville@gmail.com or PO Box 239 Dargaville 0340. Should you wish to visit them at any time I can assure you that their welcome to my wife and I was warm and sincere. They even offered us a cuppa and a chat after our tour!

I’d like here to say a special thank you to the ladies who on the day offered us such a friendly and informative welcome. You really added a special touch to our visit.

I have an album of photographs for viewing if anyone is interested.

Cheers Kerry Gavan

Right. Some thing for us to think about to make the most of the space. At Kiapara, shelves set at right angles to the wall for displaying.