Dam Fine Rally
From left to right. Keith Hendrick, Glen Harris, John McTernan, Merve Carey, Shane O'Carroll and Tony Binder.
Hi all, This is our first weekend off for awhile and as you can see we have a few in front of us.

Don’t forget your renewals we still have a few missing and we need to pay our insurance at the end of the month. The fees haven’t risen for a few years and the top price for a member is $45, Pensioner $35, Helper $20 and Associate $20.

We always have a good day at the Dam Fine Rally and last Saturday was no different although it seemed a bit less than last year the good part is I think everybody from the motor homes there pay us a visit. Because of their age they identify with us, but come one o'clock it is time for an afternoon nap. Quite a few stalls at the Rally as well as the Bush Fire Brigade display opposite us, the Jaguar club the other side and next door to us a group called Laser Tag where mostly kids spent the day running around shooting at one another with Laser Guns, they where having fun. It was not long before the big kid in our group, yes that’s right (Jacko) wanted to try it and he kept pesterin me to try it with him.
Eventually I relented and to humour him I agreed to have a go. He was like one of those kids, running around, he forgot to mention that he had teed up Glen to take photos. I was a bit surprised when he emailed about 50 photos for the newsletter.

Merve has sent in three short stories of his trips to Mareeba, Mackay and the national rally at Hamilton. He also sent some photos but they were a little dark and trying to scan them in I was a bit of a failure.

Keith.

Mareeba
By Merve Carey

I had decided to go to Mareeba last year but when it came around it was looking doubtful as I had hurt my knee and was in a lot of pain. This probably came about because I stood on a plastic chair to climb up on my ute, you can guess the rest the chair broke.

Being me, I gritted my teeth and went any way I took no engines but there was some club gear to take up.

The display was great with Tony, Gary and Shane from Townsville displaying for the three days. I could not stay the third day.

We had excellent accommodation at the Mareeba Lodge and food was great at the venues we went to, especially the music at the Mareeba RSL on Thursday night.

Because of my knee the trip up and back was very slow but whole was very enjoyable.

Merv.

Mackay Interclub Rally.
By Merve Carey

After loading my engines I set off for Mackay for the inter club rally, on arrival I had some difficulty locating the venue but a few phone calls soon put that right. The display was set up close to the Harbour.

During unloading I was helped by the Mackay club, they made me feel very welcome and I enjoyed my time there.

There were around thirty or so engines on display, with some from the Burdekin a couple came from Proserpine but unfortunately I was the only member from NQMP.

The Saturday night dinner was held at the North Mackay Bowls Club and I thoroughly enjoyed the meal.

The time passed quickly and Sunday afternoon soon came around. Time to pack up, so I loaded my engines ready for the trip home.

Merv.

Ps. I experienced a small amount of trouble with both my engines, but I have since rectified these faults.

My trip to Hamilton
By Merve Carey

Rather than drive, I decided to fly down to visit the National Rally being held at Hamilton in Victoria. I flew from Townsville via Brisbane through to Melbourne, on arrival I rented a car at the Airport and drove to Ballarat and then on to Hamilton.

Unfortunately the weather was not very kind and was raining and miserable all the way to Hamilton. At Hamilton the weather improved, it was cold and overcast.

The display was huge and spread over several acres. There were plenty of stationary engines with quite a few that I had not seen before.

There was the usual tractor pull which was popular with the crowd also they had a large steam section where they had demonstrations of hay bailing and farming methods not many people have seen in the north.

Plenty of stalls selling all manner of craft and food a person would not go hungry with all the excellent food there.
the AGM was held on Friday night with a large attendance from most clubs. I must say the meeting got quite lively at times.

Saturday dinner was very enjoyable with good food and interesting conversation.

On leaving Hamilton I drove back to Melbourne Airport via Geelong on a six lane freeway with large volumes of traffic. The roads are so good in Victoria it was easy to drive there, all I had to do was follow the signs to the Airport.

Merve.

Mareeba
Merve Carey

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Merve.

Photos from The Dam Fine Rally
Left. Shane’s Farm Pumper engine Ride On Mower.
Middle. Jacko playing the kid with the Bush Fire Brigade display.
Right. My 49’ 350 Panther and Tony’s Lister D.