North Queensland Machinery Preservationists
NQMP Inc PO Box 11, DC AITKENVALE, TOWNSVILLE, QLD, 4814
April 2018

NEXT MEETING Friday, April 27th at Tony Binder’s Place.
Hi all, there is movement in the shed again, with a couple of working B’s, we have sheeted a fair bit of the club room and last Saturday we trenched across from the power pole to the shed and installed the power mains and polly pipe for the water.

Rod Allison has installed copper pipe inside the shed and has only to hook the line up to the train park water at the toilet block.

While we had the trencher Ian Williams and Russell had post holes put down around the old shelter shed and installed pipe posts in readiness to put a permanent fence along three sides for our display. At the start we will erect orange fence along the forth side at the back once the machinery has been placed on display. Down the track we hope to replace the orange fence with removable panels.

I have been putting in extra time with Merve and Dave trying to catch up with the electrical work. Up to now I have been dragging my feet a bit. Hopefully it won't belong before we have power on the Shed.

While we were doing the trench we had a visit from Wayne Rammit and Tracy his carer. Wayne used to be a member and wants to re-join. While he was with us before, he and Jacko (Shane) restored a Victor mower.

New members Steve and Dorothy Reeves sent in an article on a restoration that they did on a Billabong Double Acting Piston Pump.

Good news Shane O’Carroll (Jacko) is recovering well from heart surgery that he had earlier and is now venturing down to his shed for short periods.

Keith

Filling in the trench

Cover. Keith Hendrick, Tony Binder, Merve Carey, Ian Williams, John McTernan, Glen Harris and Wayne Rammit.
Recently it was my pleasure to meet an elderly gentleman in Ingham who collects old hand water pumps, buggies, tools and everything in between. He had a Billabong Double Acting Piston Pump which had been passed on to him by another stationary engine enthusiast. He offered it to me and I was keen to take it on board for restoration. When it was stripped down, it needed new pistons, a new main brass piston rod and new leather piston cups which I was fortunately able to buy new. New pistons and the rod have been re-made using brass.

A round water valve cover was missing which I made. There are two “finger” parts that hold the covers in place and one of these was missing. It would have been a miracle to find an original, so I took the one part I had to NEM Group in Townsville. They scanned the piece and then waterjet cut another part for me.

I have just finished building a recycling water tank using 10” PVC pipe a metre tall and fitted the plumbing to it. It is now ready for painting. I am also now looking for an old stationary engine, preferably open crank and exposed valves, to hook up to this pump for future display events at the club. If anyone has anything suitable I would love to hear from you. I am happy to do a restoration if needed.

Hopefully, when an engine is sourced and the pump connected, it will come close to the original machine and shoot volumes of water. A search of the internet has turned up the original John Danks Catalogue for the pump, which is most likely one from the 1920’s. It lists all the parts of the pump and was an interesting find on Trove.

Steve & Dorothy Reeves.
Above. Rod Allison connects the water to the shed.

Above left. The first sheet goes up for the club room. Russell is screwing the sheet, John is holding the marker while Tony and Ian check his work.

Left. John and Wayne shovel the dirt back into the trench after the cable and pipe have been laid.