North Queensland Machinery Preservationists
NQMP INC PO Box 11, DC AITKENVALE, TOWNSVILLE, QLD, 4814

Now what was this used for?
It's a curly one! Answer on page 3.

DATE
CLAIMERS

20 May 2018
Townsville Heritage Day

27 May 2018
Train Park Display

3 June 2018
All British Day

30 June 2018
Dam Fine Rally

20-22 July 2018
QHR Biloela

26 August 2018
Inter Club Rally at Townsville

13 October 2018
Babinda Harvest Festival (TBC)

WANTED
Sell—Swap—Buy—Info

SHARE YOUR STORY -
Email the Editor

NEXT MEETING
Friday 25 May at Tony’s place

1897 Fourgon Depart Attele France (Fire Engine) - John McTernan

Now what was this used for?
It’s a curly one! Answer on page 3.
Everything great in science and art is simple. What can be less complicated than the greatest discoveries of humanity - gravitation, the compass, the printing press, the steam engine, the electric telegraph? — Jules Verne

John Moffat was born on May 26, 1841 in Scotland. He migrated to Queensland in 1862. Mr Moffat was involved with tin mining in North Queensland. He owned a crushing battery and smelter works at Irvinebank, and was involved with the mines at Chillagoe, Mt Mulligan, Mt Molloy and Mt Garnet. He also built railways which the Government of the day took over in 1919. He was a co-developer of the Moffat-Virtue internal combustion engine and also played a hand in developing early mechanised sheep shearing equipment in Australia.

"...His only recreation was his work and his studies. It must not be thought that John Moffat did all of this without assistance. It was his policy at all times to assist others as much as possible and help them with their troubles and difficulties even though they were in opposition to him. His policy was based on the conviction that to ensure success in any business, it must be assisted by a community of other successful industries, more especially in all pioneering enterprises." ... Cairns Historical Society

"He was a man who literally made fortunes for others, who developed the north, who was the soul of honour and generosity and who was not a rich man when he died" ... C.E Nicholas

John Moffat died in Toowoomba in 1918. His estate was valued for probate at only £29,431. In 1919 the Queensland government took over the Loudoun mill as a State treatment works.
DID YOU KNOW THE ANSWER?

These old curling tongs were all metal with two prongs. One prong was a solid cylinder and the other was an open shell such that the two fitted together when the tongs were closed. The tongs had to be heated by any method available - in a gas ring or on the hob of a kitchen range. Being metal, they could get very hot and there was a skill to lifting them away from the heat at a suitable temperature. All too often, this temperature was misjudged: too cool a tong and the hair didn't curl and too hot a tong burnt the hair. Burnt hair could not be unburnt and had to grow out, so it was a risky business to use curling tongs. There was no way that they could be thermostatically controlled.

My Grandmother used these on my hair regularly when I was a child, along with Curly Pet to help the curl. She also had a long wooden square stick with rubber pieces attached at seemingly random places around it. With this, she could play songs on the piano with the right chords. It got lost sometime over the years, but I wish I had it now. Dorothy

Great to see this young family looking at Ian Matthews cool tools on display on 29 April 2018. They had come for a ride on the train, but found the NQMP display just as interesting. A future restorer may be?

Some more pictures from Display on 29 April

Keith’s next project

Ian Williams

Ian and his tools

John McTernan
NEW FORMAT NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the new format Newsletter. Keith has kindly allowed me to try a new design for this month’s Tired Iron. Keith has set a high standard, one which I am hoping my efforts will live up to.

There is one request I make. This Newsletter is for this Club and its members and it quite possibly reaches others who are not members. To keep it interesting reading, we need YOUR HELP. Send us your stories. This can be in the form of a recent restoration work perhaps. However, it is not just limited to that. Think about your life and all the things that happen in it from week to week. There must be some story - big or small - that other members will find just as interesting as you have. Have you been on a recent trip? Do you have some knowledge to share, such as how to make wheels for a cart maybe.

Also, is there something you wish to sell - not just machinery, but anything. For instance, we have a metal detector that needs a buyer. It’s as simple as emailing me. Don’t worry about the spelling or grammar - spellcheck is a wonderful thing on every computer! Pictures certainly add colour so send them along too.

Since first visiting the Club last November, it was great to see how far the shed works have progressed. Great work guys. That kitchen can be put to good use - perhaps at the next meet with a sausage sizzle for lunch?!

Hope to hear from everyone soon. Cheers, Dorothy

If you enjoy looking at vintage machinery, these Youtube Links may take your fancy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxETT8OuOhU
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CYAov8nePU
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TzhUj7blyMo