

Volume 29 Issue 208

**MEETINGS: 7.30 PM
THIRD WEDNESDAY
OF THE MONTH
IN CLUB SHED AT
MONT De LANCEY
71 Wellington Road
WANDIN NORTH**



OCTOBER 2021

**YARRA VALLEY
MACHINERY
PRESERVATION
SOCIETY
INCORPORATED**
BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

YVMPS NEWS

LOCK DOWN

STAY AT HOME

GET THE JAB



Words we have all heard so often during the last few months and we hold our breath as we move into September and October. What lies ahead we ask ourselves?

So at the end of August I sent out a number of emails to some of our members asking ?

“What has been happening at your place during Lockdown ?”

The following pages are filled with the magnificent replies I received from those who took up the challenge. Many thanks to you all. Ed.

Editorial

Well, it seems that you've all been waiting for the opportunity to launch into print about what has been happening at your place during Lockdown, and what interesting activities they have been too.

All the talk one hears and reads about boredom, and nothing to do is just mad, and has been proven in the stories on the following pages.

When we are entertaining and showing off engines we sometimes forget the things that can be done or in some cases need to be done, and now in some households they are done!

Never the less, even I, who could stay home and find dead ancestors from dawn till dusk, am missing my near and dear, so roll on brighter times.

In the meantime, best wishes to you all from Niel and Heather.

Ron Arbuthnott reported that he is doing



OK thanks, during lockdown. A major task has been to finish cleaning up after the wild wind storms of July that brought down so many trees. A couple of weeks ago he purchased a job lot of engines which he is now starting to work on. "I now have enough projects to last me for ever.!" he said.

Who said retirement is boring?

Ben Wilkinson tells me that during this



period he has been working on 2 Delco Lites and Mal put new rings in his Villiers that was burning a lot of oil. He then found a big score in the cylinder so he is now transplanting the workings into another

block. Mal is also building replica engines out of Lego that has electric motors in them so they actually turn over.

Heather & Don Butcher The lockdown is getting to



most people, with Heather having a big operation in June, so lots of hospital and doctors visits since. Apart from that Don has been trying to

keep up with the weeds but I think the weeds are winning. Otherwise we have made a few phone calls to different people to see that they are OK. Their kids are on our back all the time not to go out, with Jamie doing the shopping now that lockdown has come back in. Don has been watching some rallies on U tube overseas which have kept him quiet on the wet days as well as helping me.

We did enjoy the last news letter.

Stan Rundell is in the process of trying to keep



his license but all testing has been cancelled until further notice. He has started restoring his IHC 1HP Famous engine with ignitor ignition. This will set a new learning curve for him. The next thing he found was a leather bearing on the con rod, and the crankshaft needs a

grind on one journal. "No worries," he can handle all that at home. Now lets have a look at the head, after removing umpteen coats of paint it revealed a bronze weld repair, appearing as though someone has forced a BSP threaded pipe into an NPT thread, thus cracking the cast iron head. As you can see not much happening over here.!

"I WISH BUNNINGS WOULD OPEN THOUGH." he concludes with.

Lewis Carlton During these



dreaded lockdowns, arrangements for the (hopefully running) of the Draught Horse Festival have been going ahead.

Workshop news multitudes of MDL

tools etc. being restored. When we've been allowed. Rick Oliver, Peter Burgi & I have removed and dismantled the church bell tower. Lots of metal has been cleaned or replaced and primed. With everything completed, full assembly was done. With it all apart again and ready for painting, we are waiting on two things.

Better weather and freedom!

Max Holt, one of our foundation members, spends time several mornings a week going for walks of



varying distances, sometimes accompanied by their daughter Kate's 18 month old Pug/Jack Russell cross or "Jug" known as Rusty (walking does us both good). The surgeon who fitted my new knees said the best thing to do is get out walking! More in keeping with our enjoyable hobby he's been assembling a Centaur 2G garden tractor that's been in many pieces since approx 1950. Yes you read it correctly, prior to then it had been in use on Grandfather Bert Holt's farm at Badger Creek near Healsville in Victoria. At that time it had several trailing implements such as single furrows mould board plough, diamond harrow & set of disc harrows, only the disc harrow & 3/4 of the mould board plough survive. Over the years the tractor's been moved to four different locations, surprisingly remaining "reasonably complete" as the dismantled engine was stored in WW2 ammo boxes minus lids. Max recalls his Dad saying the engine was dismantled to assess its condition as it had a "high compression crankcase" in other words much compression escaped passed rings into crankcase then out breather/oil filler tube. Badly worn pistons, rings & cylinder were deemed to be the culprit. As there were difficulties sourcing parts she was pushed aside & engine parts fitted into said metal boxes. All this time later he's says that even if he doesn't rebuild it the least he can do is reassemble what's there so no further parts go missing, hence his present part time project. This machine was built by Central Tractor Company at Greewich, Ohio USA in late 1920's, has 2 cylinder Le Roi 4 stroke vertical water cooled engine producing approx 10 HP 2 speed transmission and interestingly is articulated. *By simply typing in Centaur 2G tractor to your preferred search engine you'll see an image of one.* Several examples of these machines have survived into preservation in Australia and while not being particularly impressive are an interesting machine.

Aside from the Centaur tractor project his wife & grandchildren keep him busy during lockdown.



Mike Fiddes reports for his dad Cliff and says that they started of



the year with the Nyora rally ,then the Heyfield rally which were both great. As the other rallies were all cancelled they turned their focus back onto FC Holdens. Dad has a sedan on the rotisserie on which they've been doing rust repairs and Mike has a Panel van which he's restoring components for. He's also been actively collecting the last missing parts for his 3HP Sunshine engine before restoring it. Finishing off the last bits on the Petter Acorn has also been accomplished during lockdown.



Stuart & Jim Bennett say the lock down doesn't affect them much, at all. They are still working



through the week and on weekends finding plenty to do. Jim is always rebuilding starter motors and tries to do something to his Vauxhalls. When it's been raining Stuart tries to do a bit more to the A40 ute. that he has been restoring. It's been a slow process having to do all the timber work that holds the body together but they are getting there. Also when the weather has been a bit better outside he's been working on the Austral, slowly making progress.

We need a bigger shed, they said.



George Smith



His Daughter Denise reported that he has been busy working out in the veggie garden and is keeping the lawns

mown and tidy weather permitting. He has also spent a lot of time on U tube watching trains and animals.

Barry Thomas



shares some notes from our household.. Work is pretty much steady as she goes, although he's finding it a bit of a hard line to determine where the work day & home day separates, - he used to have a train trip to do that. Hasn't done much on engines so he probably needs to give himself a kick up the bum and get going on that, but like others out in the eastern suburbs he's been cleaning up storm damage, at his place and Josh's mum's place. Mainly tree and fence damage. Learnt that dirt is not good for the chain saw bar. Had a visit from David Ball organizing some Red plates. Going to annoy the neighbors for what was the Wedderburn weekend, and have a night run of engines. He's currently doing the 'StepTember' challenge which is about raising money for supporting people with Cerebral Palsy., and like many others, just challenged with the way the world has changed due to a virus that someone let out.

Alan & Kerry Shepherd



Here are a few lines to finally confirm something we all have known for some time. "Collecting is Contagious" but I am a HOARDER! Having admitted to his human foibles let's move on! Having purchased a new house in Benalla some 6 months ago they are still moving, having spent about a week living at Benalla in what could be called camping conditions i.e. blow up mattress, folding chairs and table. Between the continuing lockdowns and wet weather, they sold their property in Greensborough and started moving. Currently they have moved 2 x 20 ft containers to Benalla for storage and received another 2 containers which they have half loaded.

Time is running away quickly and the "collection" has virtually moved to the Thomastown factory. In order to move their last museum pieces (probably listed as rubbish) they hired a Bob Cat whereby Alan fell from the trailer and hurt his back. The furniture moves very shortly so they will have some comfort in Benalla. The "Bennett Brothers" have been of enormous assistance, without Jim's Farnell they would be in dire straits. Those who know the Greensborough site will be aware that they live on a river flats with lovely soft soil and a steep hill to negotiate to get to the roadway. Rain and lovely soft soil multiplied by an incline gives way to mud, lots of it! However we are nearly finished and desperately wanting to get to Benalla in order to settle down and sort through their treasures. The large shearing shed looks inviting together with the large workshop/shed. Our 6 acres of sandy soil will ensure that Alan gets plenty of practice cutting the grass, and their granddaughter feels that they should invest in Tea Cup animals or miniature donkeys, goats and pigs. Having looked at the pricing of these tiny animals this may be a decision for the future.

"We look forward to the finish of Lockdowns and the ability to meet family, friends and our Club members" they concluded.



Gavin Orr



says during lockdown 6.0 they've been lucky as he and Wendy have been kept busy with work, while the kids have been in daycare and mini school which is great for them socially. He's still busily trying to finish the second floor extension that they started in lockdown 1.0, and have just finished two bathroom installations. And of course they are constantly kept busy playing games and trying to keep up with the kids who are now 1, 3, and 5. The family are embracing the time they have been at home together, and so far they don't see it as anything but fun. They hope everyone has been coping well with lockdown and send everyone our best wishes.

Sincerely, Gavin, Wendy, and the mini tribe (April, Warner and Lincoln).

John Baker says “Hi Guys, Just going to try & reply to your mail Niel” .



A bit happening since the last meeting -- hit by the storms last July, had a HUGE tree come down on the property which demolished the side fence - garden shed & all that was in it! Two chain saws, two mowers almost all of the gardening tools & and many various sprays etc and of course the top of the tree demolished all the garden scrubs and flowers, what a mess,

(Lucky the Ronny was in a different shed!) On the health side he's had all the various pre stuff done for

knee surgery, so as you can see he's had a bit going on, but as the saying goes, “The sun always shines after the storm” It just seems the sunshine is a long time coming!. Oh yes, in between times he adopted a new dog, Our previous dog Noddy, who came to the various rallies with me passed away at the age of 21; he was a really good mate. This one is coming along OK though , got a lot of training to do. “That's it for now hope you are OK & keeping well” he concludes, ”Hope to see you all at the next meeting Cheers “ .

Rod Daniel says, that at the Melbourne Steam Festival March 2021, the Macsdiesel



SPI ran all day each of the 3 days. **With** no action for about three months, and attempting to start up, with no success, found fuel tank empty. Filled it up, bled the fuel supply line, but it would not start!! Checked fuel pump was working, but still not starting. Suspecting air in pipe to injector, over the next couple of weeks regularly cranked the engine and tried to start with no success. He was talking to Niel about the problem and he, in his inimitable way said “Would you like me to come around?” After going through everything they could think of, with no success, Niel noticed a tin of that fabulous stuff “Start Yah

Bast####”. I had not thought of using this on a diesel!! So they removed the air cleaner and gave a good few squirts and cranked:- “BOOM!!!”, off it went, and has



run perfectly ever since!! **Feeling inspired he** grabbed the four cast iron wheels purchased about 4 years ago for this engine. The 10” front wheels, fitted with axle bushes, were easy, but the 15” back wheels required work, but eventually got them on. The wheels have been cleaned and painted and attached and looking good! Thanks to Niel for his inspiration which aroused him to having the engine looking better and starting every time!

So his Recommendations:

Keep the tank close to Full.

Buy a tin of “Start Yah Bast####”.

(Works anywhere).

Rod's MACSDIESEL SPI

This is what we were doing on October 2009

These photos taken from our News letter no136 dated October 2009 it shows four of our foundation members at our 21st celebration Rally at Coldstream
 From left, Don Walker, Max Holt, David Aitken Dec, & Len Prouse Dec.
 As I recall it was a freezing cold day.



COLDSTREAM RALLY 2009

As you can see by the photos, there was quite a turn out of engines, etc. for the day, considering the freezing conditions. It was pleasing to see members venturing out on such a lousy day when it would be considered far more pleasant to stay at home and paint ceilings or vacuum the pelmets. At about midday we did partake in consuming sustenance and then had a bit of a chat about what YVMPS has done during the last twenty-one years. During this chat, the founding members of the YVMPS were presented plaques in recognition of their creating & fostering this society we enjoy, Responses were along the lines of 'pleased and proud that the YVMPS has survived and grown to be a successful and respected group.' Similar presentations were made to Fred Mynard, Alan Bebee and Roland Todd (absent) for their assistance and guidance when the club was being set up.

Last but not least, thanks to the 'ex-members' who braved the elements to revisit YVMPS.
 The long and the short of it, **Weather bad, Company good.** Lewis Carlton.

READ THIS

Our treasurer says thank you to all who have paid their Membership Fees.

You should find enclosed with this News Letter your Insurance Card.

Unfortunately I have no news of any forth coming events.

Don't let lockdown get in the way of your Safari experience



**Club meeting ?
October Wednesday 20th 7.30 pm
Will it happen this month ??**

<u>Membership Fees</u>	
Once only Joining	\$5.00
Insurance & NHMA levee	\$20.00
Annual membership	\$30.00 (plus ins.)
Associate (Wife)	\$10.00 (plus ins.)
Junior/ student (10-18yrs)	\$7.00 (plus ins.)

RITTY SETT & SWAP



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BE SURE TO USE THE GATE!**

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The newsletter will be produced bi-monthly and posted, one copy per member household. A SUBS DUE stamp will appear on the June issue. If payment is not received, the August issue will also be stamped. Without payment you will not receive further newsletters. If you require an extra copy, are not receiving the newsletter or your address has changed, inform the Editor.

Your Committee will not enter into any debate through the newsletter on the 'politics' or general running of the Society, as such matters are for general meetings.

The Editor of the YVMPS Inc. newsletter welcomes freelance contributions of a high standard. Articles may be on CD, memory stick, typed or clearly handwritten on one side of the paper only with the authors name and title of the article on each numbered page.

Whilst the Editor will exercise due care, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omissions and retains the right to edit articles as needed.

The Society and its elected representatives accept no responsibility for the accuracy of statements or opinions expressed by freelance contributors.

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