



Reg. No. A0035128D

# Preserving our Mechanical Heritage

## THE MT ALEXANDER VINTAGE ENGINE CLUB INC. COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES as of 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017 NO 222

<b>President</b> Peter Thompson P.O. Box 2 Maldon Vic. 3463  5472 2202	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>PRESIDENT'S REPORT.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hello to you all, Thank you again for the support in electing me to be your president for another 12 months.</p> <p>It is shaping up to be a big year ahead for our club, firstly with the fast approaching Mucklefest event and our move to our new home and the planning for the future of our club at Muckleford. Designing and laying out the Dave Bennett Reserve and the Muckleford Railway precinct so that it is a very usable event area for us all to be proud of.</p> <p>Along with designing an Insurance Plan that will be tailored to suit all of our club members, so that each can have the cover that is needed to display, run, demonstrate, use and enjoy, whilst knowing that the Insurance plan is the best that we as a club can have to protect our members.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Looking forward to a great year ahead Peter T.</p>
<b>Vice President</b> Stephen O'Connor	
<b>Secretary</b> Graham Mason, P.O. Box 71 Castlemaine Vic 3450 Ph: 03.54762481	
<b>Treasurer</b> Alan Burgess 0409762367	
<b>Public Officer</b> Secretary	
<b>Committee</b> Jason Williams	
<b>Archives</b> Tony Steiner	
<b>Reviewer</b> George Milford	
<b>John Powell Reserve</b> John Blake & Ray Rice	

## ATTENDANCE

No	PRESENT			APOLOGIES
1.	P Thompson	13	J Chaplin	P Rautman
2.	S Thompson	14	K Chaplin	K D & L Burgess
3.	G Milford	15	E Harvey	A Burgess
4.	J Hayes	16	A Chapman	G Tonkin
5.	J Robinson	17		S O'Connor
6.	A Burgess	18		M Hayes
7.	J Williams	19		M Conn
8.	B Tonkin	20		G & M Mason
9.	N Chislett			R & L Rice
10.	J Blake			P MacDonald
11.	W Mein			
12.	J Conn			

**Attendance/Apologies Moved. J Williams Seconded. J Hayes Carried**

**Meeting Opened At: 7.55 pm.**

**Meeting Chaired By:**

Peter Thompson President

Minutes Of Previous Meeting dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017 circulated in Newsletter No 221 confirmed. Moved S Thompson Seconded J Robinson Carried.

DISCLAIMER – THE COMMITTEE AND MEMBERS OF MAVEC WILL NOT BE HELD LIABLE FOR ANY ITEM OF ADVICE, RECOMMENDATIONS, SUGGESTIONS, METHODS, FIGURES OR MEASUREMENTS APPEARING IN THE NEWSLETTER. ANY OPINIONS ARE NOT NECESSERILY THOSE OF THE COMMITTEE OR OF THE MEMBERS.

## CORRESPONDENCE – Dealt With as Read

### INWARD.

- July 2017 Oily Rag Ballan N/letter
- July & August 2017 Baw Baw N/letters
- August 2017 Gisborne N/letter
- June 2017 Lake Goldsmith N/Letter (features pedal power parade)
- July 2017 History News
- Griffin Conveyancing Re. purchase of land enclosing copy Title Certificate.
- Royal Historical Society welcome to membership of RHSV
- Castlemaine & Maldon Railway Preservation Society, will forward sub-lease when head lease is signed.
- Australian Taxation Office, seeking Financial Institution details.
- Australian Heritage Association acknowledging that MAVEC doesn't need their cover.
- Fifteen Trees , offering 100 trees native tube stock for planting at Muckleford.
- National Heavy Machinery Association , seeking renewals for 2017-18.
- John Powell Reserve Co M asking when will MAVEC be vacating shed?

### OUTWARDS:

- Email to NHA declining offer of insurance coverage.
  - E o I to Lisa Chesters MHR under 'Stronger Communities Program'
- Moved** .J Chaplin Seconded N Chislett. Carried

## REPORTS

### TREASURER'S REPORT.

Alan reported that we have a credit balance

Moved A Burgess Sec. J Hayes Carried

### JOHN POWELL RESERVE

Chairman Brian Adams advises that the Committee has sought expressions of interest regarding the future use of the MAVEC shed and has sought guidance from Mount Alexander Shire Council. In the meantime they would like to know a date when the shed will become available. **Moved** J Blake, seconded J Hayes that secretary advise JPR Committee that MAVEC is not yet ready to make a decision as to the date of our relocation to Muckleford. Carried.

### INSURANCE

John Robinson reported that he has now received, from Secretary, NHMA, full particulars of the NHMA/QBE Liability Insurance Policy plus Endorsement, together with the NHMA/Zurch Voluntary Workers and Personal Accidnet Insurance Policy. Peter Thompson advised that membership of RHSV has been taken up, with a Certificate of Currency soon to be issued for Property Owners Insurance and Association Liabilities Insurance. Discussion then centred around the coverage on tractors participating in tractor-pull competitions. While these have not been modified to the extent seen in Australian Tractor Pull Association events, they may not be fully OHS compliant, there RHSV coverage would not apply. NHMA coverage seems more applicable to MAVEC situation. **Moved** J Robinson, seconded J Hayes that MAVEC continue its membership of NHMA and send in subscriptions as received for the current year. Carried.

### P RAUTMAN DONATION

Paul Rautman has given the club an old chain block and lights. Thank you Paul.

### PSYCHE BEND PUMPING STATION

This heritage-listed site is at Irymple, Rural City of Mildura. It is worth a look if you are in the vicinity. The pumping plant in the Psyche Bend pump house used a triple-expansion steam engine which was the latest technology of the time. The pumps were the biggest in Australia and almost the biggest in the world. The fact that four pumps were directly coupled to the crankshaft and engine was an innovation of world significance. There is a short film on You-tube of the engine in operation

Report by Andrew Chapman

### WEEKEND FESTIVAL OF SPEED, WINTON

The weather was adverse and the cars were aquaplaning during the Australian Touring Car Championship so the main event was curtailed at ten laps. On the way home had a look at a Ruston & Hornsby traction engine being restored at the Inter dealer at Nagambie. This traction engine had been bought as scrap in the 1970s and is just now being restored. It will eventually go to Echuca.

Report by Eddie Harvey

## TREWHELLA MONKEY GRUBBER

John Blake has just purchased one of these wonderful devices. He will pull out your stumps at 1/6 a go. George regaled the meeting with stories of his childhood, working alongside his father to clear a bush paddock with a Trehwella Monkey grubber. We're not certain that it really is child's play! See back page for more.

Report by John Blake and George Milford.

## PERPETUAL TROPHY

At the July meeting we agreed to have a perpetual trophy in the 50HP class at the MAVEC Tractor-Pull at Mucklefest. This would be the Laurie Adams Memorial Trophy. Graham has obtained particulars of the design of such a trophy from "Great Ideas" of Strickland Rd, Bendigo. As Laurie's tractor was a Chamberlain 9G this is definitely in the under 50HP class. The shield will carry a suitable tractor emblem. It was **resolved** to go ahead to be ready for Mucklefest.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

If you have something to sell or need a special part or treasure let Peter, Alan or Graham know and we will put your request in the newsletter.

Please note

If you are going to display your treasures at a Rally that has not been through the minutes of the Club meeting please let the Sec. know for insurances purposes.

A letter of thanks is to be sent to Leech Earthmoving for their help in ripping the tractor-pull track at Mucklefest.

It was agreed to hold a tree-planting day at the newly acquired land at Mucklefest. Acting Secretary is to organise the trees, Jim Chaplin will bring the stakes and plant guards. Trees are to be positioned to shade the yet-to-be-erected compounds. Planting is to be carried out on 20<sup>th</sup> August at 10 am followed by a BBQ lunch.

Metcalf Tractor-Pull will be held in September. Members may wish to show-off their stationery engines. Contact is to be made with organiser H Mitchell to secure a less out-of-the-way site.

## COMING EVENTS

WHEN	WHERE
AUGUST	27 <sup>th</sup> . Marong Picnic Day
	26/27 Speewa Rally
SEPTEMBER	2 <sup>nd</sup> Kerang Heritage Day
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Shepparton Annual Rally
	9/10 Wedderburn Rally
	16 <sup>th</sup> / 17 <sup>th</sup> 100 Years or Fordson Rally Deniliquin
	17 <sup>th</sup> Metcalfe Tractor Pull
OCTOBER	7 <sup>th</sup> ./8 <sup>th</sup> . Goldfields rally, Dunolly
NOVEMBER	3 <sup>rd</sup> All make Tractor Trek at Lake Goldsmith
	4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> . Lake Goldsmith
	19 <sup>th</sup> Bendigo Swap Meet
FEBRUARY 2018	16/17/18 Portland Bay Vintage Machinery Rally
APRIL	14th/15th. MAVEC Rally at Mucklefest railway precinct

Meeting closed at 9.09 pm.

Next meeting 7.30pm Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Guildford Clubrooms

#### HAV A LARFF.

A retired older couple returned to the Mercedes dealership where the salesman has just sold the car they had been interested in to a beautiful, leggy, busty blonde in a mini-skirt and a halter top. The older man was visibly upset. He spoke to the salesman sharply. "Young man, I thought you said you would hold that car till we raised the \$55,000 asking price. Yet I just overheard you closed the deal for \$45,000 to the lovely young lady there. And, if I remember right, you had insisted there was no way you could discount this model" The salesman took a deep breath, cleared his throat and reached for a large glass of water. "Well, what can I tell you? She had the cash ready, didn't need any financing help, and, Sir, just look at her. How could I resist?" replied the grinning salesman, sheepishly. Just then the young woman approached the senior couple and gave the car keys to the old man. "There you go" she said, "I told you I could get that idiot to lower the price. See you later Dad. Happy Father's Day" Once again...don't mess with seniors.

#### THE TREWHELLA MONKEY GRUBBER

The Trehwella Monkey Grubber has a pair of wheels for transport from tree to tree. The Grubber comes complete with wire rope for pulling, wire rope to anchor the device and a pulley/ snatch block and grab. The grubber is fastened around the butt of a stout tree or stump which acts as an anchor post. The pulling rope is fastened to the tree next selected to be pulled down, as high up from ground as will give the best leverage. With two men on the handle it can develop up to 24 tonnes of pull, enough to pull down any tree in the bush. By this steady means the largest trees can be pulled out by the roots. ( My dad and granddad cleared about twelve acres with a monkey grubber in 1936. Then, when I was boy, Dad wanted to lay a pipeline through the bush so the monkey grubber was dragged out of the shed to pull out any trees that were in the line of the pipe. My brother and I had to have a go, of course. It really is a marvel to see the tree suddenly pop out of the ground. It's all due to the action of the lever on the ratchet.) There is a 'You-tube' video of about seven minutes which shows a monkey grubber in operation. Don't forget to look at the text below the film because it gives valuable instruction - (1) operate winch (2) run away. In the 'You-tube' film the top of the falling tree neatly swats the winch, right where the operators were pulling the handle a minute before. There is also a link to the instruction manual.

..... George Milford

The Trehwella Bros, William and Benjamin, were tin miners in Cornwall who emigrated to seek their fortune in the gold-rush. They made enough money on the goldfields to buy some property for farming. But the land was covered with eucalyptus trees and they invented the Monkey Jack to push the trees over. In 1887 they set up an engineering works to make and sell an expanded line of tree-jacks and tree grubbers. The business was closed down in 1967.

*(extract from page 34 of "Remarkable Australian Farm Machines -Ingenuity on the Land". by Graeme R Quick.)*



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**22nd Annual**  
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