



Reg. No. A0035128D

Preserving our Mechanical Heritage

THE MT ALEXANDER VINTAGE ENGINE CLUB INC. COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES as of 4th September 2017 NO 223

<p>President Peter Thompson P.O. Box 2 Maldon Vic. 3463 5472 2202</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">PRESIDENT'S REPORT.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A big HELLO to you all, Plans are well on the way for this years MUCKLEFEST event and the MAVEC Tractor Pull, which are both gaining plenty of interest and getting plenty of publicity.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">There is a working bee planned before the event at the Muckleford grounds on SUNDAY September 24th commencing at 9am.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">We will need some mowing/whipper snipping, Fence erecting (for Compounds), tree pruning and a good general clean up.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Some of our stuff will need to be transported from Guildford to Muckleford before that date if anyone is available to help.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Further info will be at our next meeting</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Regards Peter t</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Just a reminder; the next monthly meeting will be held at Muckleford Goods Shed.</p>
<p>Vice President Stephen O'Connor</p>	
<p>Secretary Graham Mason, P.O. Box 71 Castlemaine Vic 3450 Ph: 03.54762481</p>	
<p>Treasurer Alan Burgess 0409762367</p>	
<p>Public Officer Secretary</p>	
<p>Committee Jason Williams</p>	
<p>Archives Tony Steiner</p>	
<p>Reviewer George Milford</p>	
<p>John Powell Reserve John Blake & Ray Rice</p>	

ATTENDANCE

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

Attendance/Apologies Moved. J Chaplin Seconded. J Hayes Carried

Meeting Opened At: 7.30 pm.

Meeting Chaired By:

Peter Thompson President

Minutes of Previous Meeting dated 7th August 2017 circulated in Newsletter No 222 corrected to show National Historical Machinery Association (not National Heavy Machinery Association) confirmed. Moved J Robinson Seconded E Harvey 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 NECESSARILY THOSE OF THE COMMITTEE OR OF THE MEMBERS.

CORRESPONDENCE – Dealt With as Read

INWARD.

- August 2017 YVMPS N/letter
- July/August 2017 Central Goldfields Historic Machinery Soc. “The Manifold”
- Goulburn Valley Vintage Tractors & Farm Machinery Club, Invitation to Wunghnu Rally 24 & 25 March 2018
- National Historical Machinery Assoc. Enclosing Member’s Insurance cards plus Certificates of Currency for (a) Public & Product & Professional Risk Liability Insurance (b) Voluntary Workers, Committee and Auxiliary members’ Insurance
- Frances Cincotta re selection of 100 trees native tube stock.
- Sue Luke, Treecology, re selection of 100 trees native tube stock.
- John Tozer, Castlemaine Rotary, re Skew Bridge Beams (see Reports, below)

OUTWARDS:

- John Powell Reserve Committee of Mngt.
 - Australian Taxation Office advising Financial Institution details.
 - Fifteen Trees accepting their offer of trees to be planted at Muckleford
- Moved** .E Harvey Seconded J Robinson. Carried

REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Alan reported that we have a credit balance of \$ [REDACTED] after refund of GST. Moved that the report be received and the account of Thompsons Funerals \$ [REDACTED] be passed for payment.

Moved A Burgess Sec. K Chaplin, Carried

SKEW BRIDGE BEAMS

Castlemaine Rotary Club is the custodian of four steel beams, now stored Vossloh-Cogifer after their removal from the rail-over-road bridge in 2014. Each beam is 17.2 metres long, 1.25 metres high and .5 metre wide. Rotary is in dialogue with Mount Alexander Shire Council as to their future placement. It has been proposed that, being of railway origin, they be utilised at the Muckleford rail precinct. It is considered feasible to move them by steam rail (VGR) from Vossloh-Cogifer to Muckleford. After their removal in 2014 the Member for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards launched a petition, along with local residents, to have the beams returned to Castlemaine

The extent of community objection to the removal of these historic items was such that the Minister for Transport and Victrack arranged their rescue from the scrap yard and return to Castlemaine: this at significant cost to Government. This action in itself is an indication that their historical significance was then recognised! The original community members who ensured the rescue of these items are now being consulted for their views. See page 5 for some background info on these girders.

Report by Peter Thompson

SPEEWA RALLY

There were many favourable comments regarding the atmosphere, Camping, campfires, displays, entertainment and food at Speewa. There was a good turnout by MAVEC members The "Best Turned Out Tractor" award was taken out by John Robinson. It was a delight to see Austin Williams exhibit his 'International' engine with a bit of help from Peter MacDonald. The displays of 'Indian' and 'Kawasaki' motor bikes attracted a lot of attention. Many MAVEC members took note of the layout of the compounds, which seemed to be ideal, with gates at both ends, compounds just the right width and exhibitor's access to the compounds very workable. MAVEC can copy some of these ideas and dimensions when setting up the compounds at Muckleford.

Report by John Hayes and Peter MacDonald

COROWA

John Blake went to the Corowa Spring Fun Weekend on 2nd and 3rd September. They have good facilities there for tractors and had a Tractor Pull Practice session each day with BBQ dinner on Saturday night. John liked it so much that he left a tractor on the site for the next event.

Report by John Blake

METCALFE TRACTOR PULL

Len Girvan reported that the site allocated for engine displays at Metcalfe this year is near the tennis court, far better than the out-of-the-way spot allocated in 2016. The event is on Sunday 17th September...

Report by Len Girvan.

MUCKLEFORD

Suitable areas for tree planting have been identified and the tube stock has been delivered. There is to be a working bee at Muckleford on Sunday 24th September at 9.00 am. Waller Realty has offered a shed currently on land adjacent to the Pyrenees Highway, proposing that MAVEC remove the shed and re-erect it at Muckleford. The shed looks OK, the layout is quite suitable. Might be usable for materials if not suitable to re-erect. Further enquiries are to be made as to the need for permits to dismantle and construct. In the meantime, there needs to be photographs, measurements, drawings and numbering of components. The matter is not urgent; we would have two or three months to undertake the work.

Report by Peter Thompson.

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 insurance purposes.

TRACTOR PULL SUB-COMMITTEE

John Robinson pointed out that the Club's best interests would be served if we formalised the organisation of the Tractor Pull. This is an integral part of Mucklefest. In order to have a successful day, there is a range of issues to be addressed and a variety of skills required.

John Robinson moved and John Blake seconded the following motion 'A Tractor Pull sub-committee be formed to be chaired by a member initially appointed at a General meeting and thereafter elected annually at the AGM with up to four other members appointed by such chair, such sub-committee to be responsible for the organising and the conduct of any tractor-pull conducted by the Club, and the Chair shall report on the sub-committee's activities at the following AGM' This was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

The meeting then brought forward the following nominations for membership of the sub-committee. Chair; John Blake. Members John Hayes, John Robinson, Andrew Chapman and Jason Williams.

A list of duties and roles was then tabled. This will be the framework for the first meeting of the sub-committee.

COMING EVENTS

WHEN	WHERE
SEPTEMBER	
2 nd	Kerang Heritage Day
3 rd	Shepparton Annual Rally
9/10	Wedderburn Rally
16 th / 17 th	100 Years or Fordson Rally Deniliquin
17 th	Metcalf Vintage Tractor Pull
23/24 th	Maryborough Wings n Wheels
24 th	Ballan Tractor Trek
OCTOBER	
7 th ./8 th .	Goldfields Rally, Dunolly
22 nd .	Mucklefest (no card - no start)
NOVEMBER	
3 rd	All-make Tractor Trek at Lake Goldsmith

4th/5th.
19th

Lake Goldsmith
Bendigo Swap Meet

FEBRUARY 2018 16/17/18th.
MARCH 2018 24/25th

Portland Bay Vintage Machinery Rally
Goulburn Valley Rally, Wunghnu

APRIL 14th/15th.

MAVEC Rally at Muckleford railway precinct

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.

Next meeting 7.30pm Monday 2nd OCTOBER 2017 at Muckleford
I should repeat that , Yes that is what it says;- Next meeting at **Muckleford**.

THE BRIDGE BEAMS FROM CASTLEMAINE'S 'SKEW BRIDGE'.

The iron girders for Skew Bridge were manufactured in England. Railway construction company Cornish & Bruce arranged for iron work to be manufactured at various places in England under the supervision of I K Brunel. (It should be noted that Brunel died on 11th September 1859 at the age of 53) But the accolade for establishing the high standards of design and construction must go to Andrew Clarke who was convinced that Victoria's railways should be of a substantial character. Thus the bridge girders were designed to carry axle-loads far above the weight of trains then expected to be used on the line. It was due to this far-reaching decision that the Skew Bridge girders were retained in use for 152 years, only replaced in 2014.

The bridge girders for the Castlemaine section of the railway were mentioned in the Mount Alexander Mail on 27th July 1860 and 1st August 1860. When the railway contractors, Cornish & Bruce failed to pay the normal fortnightly wages of their construction workers, work was stopped on all sites. The contractors stated that the Government were in arrears in their payments. But the men went on strike.

Reporting on a meeting of striking workers at the Tunnel Hill, Elphinstone, the Mail stated "*at the daily meeting a resolution was come to that no loaded or empty drays belonging to Messrs Cornish & Bruce should be allowed to pass, and that they should be turned back in the way they came. This resolution was carried out on the same day. Two stone drays were tipped up and three four-horse drays, loaded with iron girders stopped, eight empty carts, going to load bricks turned back, one cart, loaded with lime and other things, stopped, and four drays loaded with wagon wheels and railway implements tipped up. In addition to the loads that were intentionally upset, a carriage carrying a large iron girder, was accidentally overturned, through the girder being turned on its side; the carriage being on the water table, the whole overbalanced and upset, without, however, injuring either carriage or girder*" Mr Bruce reacted angrily at a later meeting, saying to a workers' deputation "*You struck in a body, you upset my girders, you cut my teams and did me much injury. That is not the way you should have acted, for, instead of drawing closer to me, you only widened the breach*"

These are the girders/beams that have been offered to MAVEC/VGR for the Muckleford rail precinct.

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**22nd Annual
Vintage Engine Rally**
April 14th & 15th 2018
Railway Station
MUCKLEFORD, Vic.

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