



Reg. No. A0035128D

Preserving our Mechanical Heritage

THE MT ALEXANDER VINTAGE ENGINE CLUB INC. COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES as of 6th August 2018 NO 233

President Stephen O'Connor 109 Yandoit Creek Rd. Yandoit, Vic 5476 4233	<p style="text-align: center;">PRESIDENT'S REPORT.</p> <p>Dear members,</p> <p>I would like to thank you for your faith in endorsing me as President. Thanks to our outgoing President Peter Thompson for his two years' service to our club. This two-year period has been a time of achievement of the long-held dream of having our own premises. Of course, we are also grateful to the late Dave Bennett for his confidence and foresight for this great step forward.</p> <p>With more than seventy members the Club will move forward at a great rate if everyone plays their part. We have seen what has been achieved by recent working bees. These have been well-supported, effective and enjoyable. Please remember that your practical help will next be needed to stage the Club's Tractor Pull and Mucklefest.</p> <p>The improving weather will ensure some warmer evenings for our meetings. These are open to all members so come along, hear about our plans and have your say while meeting with your fellow enthusiasts. We have a lot in common.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Steve O'Connor</p> <p>Just a reminder; the next monthly meeting will be held at Muckleford Goods Shed at 7.30 pm Monday 3rd September.</p>
Vice President Ray Rice	
Secretary Graham Mason, P.O. Box 71 Castlemaine Vic. 3450 Ph: 03.54762481	
Treasurer Alan Burgess 0409762367	
Public Officer Secretary	
Committee Jason Williams	
Archives	
Reviewer George Milford	

ATTENDANCE

No	PRESENT			APOLOGIES
1.	J Robinson	13	J Chaplin	P Rautman
2.	S Thompson	14	K Chaplin	D, K A & L Burgess
3.	G Milford	15	S O'Connor	G & B Tonkin
4.	J Hayes	16	A Chapman	P Thompson
5.	Jack Hayes (Visitor)	17	G Mason	J Williams
6.	A Burgess	18	M Mason	M Conn
7.	N Girvan	19	R Rice	
8.	L Williams	20	L Rice	
9.	E Harvey			
10.	T Dzoiba			
11.	S O'Connor			
12.	J Conn			

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

Meeting Opened At: 7.50 pm.

Meeting Chaired By:

Stephen O'Connor President

Minutes of Previous Meeting dated 2nd July circulated in Newsletter No 232 confirmed. Moved L Rice Seconded J Chaplin 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.

- Oily Rag, June 2018
- Royal Historical Society Newsletter July 2018
- Baw Baw Newsletter July 2018
- Deniliquin Spring Rally (Sept 15th & 16th 2018)
- Steam Whistle (Gisborne) July 2018
- Australian Tax Office cancelling old ABN/GST Registration
- Australian Tax Office confirming ABN /GST on new ABN
- Australian Tax Office advice to not-for-profit organisations
- Mount Alexander Shire Council re shed permit
- Mount Alexander Shire Council appointing town planner to our development application.
- Rev & Rec Newsletter July 2018
- Goldsmith Newsletter June 2018

OUTWARDS:

- Mrs Christine Steiner, sympathy Card
- Ms Lisa Chesters MHR re Grant
- Mrs Maree Edwards MLA re our Club plans
- Mount Alexander Shire Council enclosing copy title and site plan.

Moved .K Chaplin Seconded S Thompson. Carried

REPORTS

BEREAVEMENTS

A period of silence was observed as members reflected on the recent passing of Tony Steiner and Wendy Campbell. Tony was a Past-President of the Club. Wendy was the much-loved mother and gran of Leanne & Jason Williams and family. Both gone too soon.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Alan reported the monthly receipts, payments and balances at bank.
Moved A Burgess Sec. E Harvey, Carried

METCALFE TRACTOR PULL

This is to be held on Sunday 16th September. Small engines will be welcome. There will be a revised layout this year .

Report by Neil Girvan

BEALIBA

Geoff McLelland of Bealiba has a good collection which he is very keen to show to visitors. Geoff has 24 tractors in total, and about 12 of these are Internationals, including four 'Farmall' tractors. He also has a rare WD6 McCormick-Deering, which he finally secured after eight years of politely harassing its erstwhile owner, who was reluctant to part with it. Geoff has been collecting for 30-odd years, and is steadily making his way through the tractors, restoring each to its original condition. Geoff, at 72, remembers the difference the International, or indeed any of his family's early tractors, made on the family farm as they replaced the horse and cart. Geoff would welcome any visitors and insists that they have a cuppa before looking at the tractors.

Report by Ted Dzoiba

SEPARATORS

Ray Rice is a dinky-di Cream Separator and Dairy Collector who has been up to Deniliquin to source a few more separators for his collection. Rumour has it that the back of Ray's vehicle was very low to the ground on the return journey.

Report by Ray Rice.

THE SHEDS

The donated shed is now on site, albeit in pieces. The various bits will have to be fenced off from the public during Mucklefest. It was agreed that a letter of thanks (with a \$100 voucher to Klua Sathorn) be sent to Tom Robinson for his help in facilitating the donation.

There is a chance to acquire a complete kitchen at a bargain price. The deal would include a dishwasher, cooktop and oven . The benchtops are of hardwood. Steve will bring photographs to the September meeting so we can make a decision as to its suitability for installation in the club shed.

Maree Edwards MLA met with the Secretary and others onsite on 1st August. Mrs Edwards, who was very positive about our plans, suggested that the club form the

“Muckleford Men’s Shed” thereby becoming eligible to draw on State Government Men’s Shed funds up to \$60,000. Several of the Club members are already members of Men’s Sheds in neighbouring towns and, after discussion, it was resolved to take no action in the matter.

Report by Steve O’Connor & Graham Mason.

MERRY GO ROUND

Mrs Maree Edwards encouraged the Club to investigate Heritage listing for the merry-go-round. Subsequent enquiries found that, in order for an object to be registered it would have to have been part of Victoria’s history (which it has not been). The four carousel horses, made in Belgium in the 1860s, are the oldest components. The local Heritage Adviser states *“you could test the waters with a nomination, but I don’t think it would be viewed well”*

Report by George Milford

BRIDGE BEAMS

A similar suggestion (to try for Heritage listing) was made in respect of the Bridge Beams from Castlemaine’s Skew Bridge, now displayed alongside the Muckleford-Walmer road on the Dave Bennett Reserve. Investigation found that, unless they were in the original (1859-1861) construction of the railway they would not reach the high assessment level required by Heritage Victoria. A close look at the beams reveals that they carry the manufacturer’s name – Dorman Long Ltd. Google tells us that the company Dorman Long Ltd was formed in 1875, so Heritage Victoria won’t be all that keen.

Report by George Milford

MUCKLEFEST

It was resolved that the merry-go-round not be operated at Mucklefest. The first print run of flyers for Mucklefest omits MAVEC contact details. Mucklefest committee will see if tractor-pull contact numbers can be inserted in the next issue. The Mucklefest committee will have a look into insurance questions. These are:- which entity insures who/when/ where? Is there an Incident Reporting System in place? We shall know more at next meeting.

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.

KEYS

It was moved R Rice, seconded J Conn that keys to shipping containers, etc be given to A Chapman and J Williams, Carried.

WEED CONTROL

It was moved T Dzoiba, seconded R Rice, that some Round-up weedicide be purchased for use around the buildings. Carried,

COMING EVENTS

WHEN

WHERE

AUGUST	25 th ./26 th .	Speewa Rally
SEPTEMBER	15 th / 16 th 16 th . 22 nd . 30 th .	Annual Spring Rally, Deniliquin Metcalf Vintage Tractor Pull Glenlyon Swap Meet Ballan Tractor Trek
OCTOBER	27 th . /28 th .	Mucklefest
NOVEMBER	3 rd /4 th	Lake Goldsmith

2019

APRIL 13th/14th. MAVEC Rally at Dave Bennett Reserve

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm.

Next meeting 7.30pm Monday 3rd September at Muckleford

. *****

TONY STEINER

There was a good turnout of club members at the thanksgiving service for the life of Tony Steiner, who died on 22nd July at the age of 66. Tony had been president of the club 2008-2010 and, at that time, used his position and his negotiating skills to arrange the rescue of the historic steam engine, pumps, compressors and associated switchgear from the 1919 Engine Room of Thompsons foundry, Castlemaine. This machinery was later housed at the Maldon Vintage Machinery Museum in Vincent St, Maldon, as an intact reminder of the giant step forward taken by David Thompson in electrifying the works.

Tony was the only son of Joyce and George Steiner. He was born in Castlemaine and had lived in Pleasant Street from the age of four years. He was 'the mayor of Clinkers Hill' (self-styled). After secondary school he attained a Diploma of Arts and did various jobs until he took up work as a production scheduler at Thompsons. This was to be a fill-in job until he got something more in keeping with his skill-set, but he stayed there 35 years, retiring in 2015. Thompsons got more than they bargained for because, in addition to the work of production scheduling for the rail manufacturing department, Tony became a shop steward for the AMWU. This role suited his philosophy and developed his acting skills, because he was known to thump the table when occasion demanded. Family and workmates recall the 'white noise' of Tony's genial grumbling and running commentary on the ruination of the world by empty-headed people who promoted divisiveness and inequality by the deliberate choices they made.

In his spare time Tony was a drummer in a rock band ('the pivot around which everything revolved', so he said) and had a passion for vintage and veteran vehicles as well as LP records and for stationery engines. MAVEC members recall the glee with which he joined in a (rare) club excursion to the National Steam Centre at Scoresby. We extend our sympathy to Tony's wife Christine and to Melanie, Lyndal, Daniel and Alexander. He was a great mate.

HAVE A LARRFF

Little pet

He asked for help and she could see why.
Even with her pulling, and him pushing, the little boots still didn't want to go on.
By the time they got the second boot on, she had worked up a sweat.
She almost cried when the little boy said, 'Teacher, they're on the wrong feet.'
She looked, and sure enough, they were.
Unfortunately, it wasn't any easier pulling the boots off, than it was putting them on.
She managed to keep her cool as, together, they worked to get the boots back on, this time on the correct feet.
He then announced, 'These aren't my boots.'
She bit her tongue, rather than get right in his face and scream, 'Why didn't you say so?' like she wanted to.
Once again, she struggled to help him pull the ill-fitting boots off his little feet.
No sooner had they got the boots off when he said, 'They're my brother's boots. But my Mom made me wear 'em today.'
Now she didn't know if she should laugh or cry.
But she mustered up what grace and courage she had left to wrestle the boots BACK onto his feet again.
Helping him into his coat, she asked, 'Now, where are your mittens?'
He said, 'I stuffed 'em in the toes of my boots...'
She'll be eligible for parole in three years

GOLDSMITH

The Lake Goldsmith Steam Preservation Society Association Inc. advises that the August edition of 'Goldsmith' will not be produced in print. It will only be available by download from their website

www.lakegoldsmithsteamrally.org.au/magazine.html

They also invite you to join their email list .

To add your name to the direct email list send an email to

goldsmithgazet@optusnet.com.au

with your name, email address, phone contact and post code

SKEW BRIDGE BEAMS

Since the August meeting of the Club the Acting Sec has had a bit of a browse in Trove, the online digitised newspapers website of the National Library of Australia, It seems that the 1860 girders were replaced by the Dorman Long girders in 1909. On 20th April 1908 the '*Mount Alexander Mail*' reported that the Railway Dept proposed to renew the superstructure under the railway of the bridge known as Skew Bridge. Then, in its issue of 19th April 1909 , the '*Mail*' reported as follows;-

“Taking advantage of the light traffic on the Bendigo line yesterday, a large staff of men were engaged laying down the girders at the Skew Bridge, and finishing the heavy work in the alterations commenced there some time ago. The operations were conducted under the supervision of Mr Arthur Goudy of the Railway Department and were watched by a great many people.

The work was not concluded till nearly midnight.”

A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME

The Boston buns supplied for morning tea for the working bee at Muckleford on Saturday 18th August were scrumptious. Apparently so scrumptious that someone had his slice eaten by someone else!

The decorative steel archway for the pedestrian gate looks great. It was a really good find. Thanks, Graham!

ROBISON BROTHERS & CO.

From time to time you may come across a Robison Bros pump or high speed steam engine. Some background detail on this firm is to be found in the booklet "One Hundred Years of Engineering in Victoria"¹ published in 1934.

"Probably the oldest surviving engineering establishment of any size in Victoria (in 1934) is that of Robison Bros Pty Ltd, South Melbourne. Established in 1854 by Jared Robison with his sons William, Andrew, James and Thomas, the firm was originally known as The Victoria Copper Works. The original site of the works was royal Highlander Lane, off Flinders Street, but as the business grew it was transferred to 31 Flinders Street, opposite the railway station. Later Henry Dodds, a son-in-law, joined the firm and the name was changed to Robison Bros & Co. A further expansion of business necessitated new works which were situated in Moray Street, South Melbourne, near Queens Bridge.

"The steamer "Florence Maud" of 120 tons , was built on the river bank and launched , stern first, in 1874. An early achievement of the company was the manufacture of eight tank locomotives for the south suburban railway lines. Twenty-five "R" class locomotives were also built about 1895 for the Victorian Railways. In 1887 the present premises in Lorimer Street were occupied and here many large ship repairing jobs have been dealt with.

"The first commercial cargoes of frozen meat shipped from Victoria to England were carried by the "Protos" in 1880 and by the "Europa" in 1881. The refrigerating machinery of these vessels was of the cold-air type, built and installed by Robison Bros., who sent their own engineers to operate it.

"Robison Bros were the pioneers of the centrifugal pump in Australia, building their first pump in 1874. Mr Thomas Robison designed and built a diffuser type swivelling casing pump which proved highly efficient and convenient for irrigation work, for which purpose it has been widely used all over Australia. Today Australia builds practically all the centrifugal pumps she requires, the industry centreing chiefly in Victoria."²

The business suffered greatly during the crash of the early 1890s, but survived in a reduced form. In 1907 Robison Bros. & Co. became a proprietary company in the hands of the descendants of the founders. It went into receivership during the great depression, being bought out by 'Valentine Henderson of Henderson's Federal Spring Works' in 1935. The company operated as Robison Bros. and Co. Pty Ltd until 1973.³

¹ The Institution of Engineers, Australia, Melbourne, October 1934

² Dr J G Burnell, Manager & Director, Thompsons Engineering & Pipe Co Ltd, Castlemaine.

³ Hope, John 'History of Robison Bros. Published at the website
<https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/articles/2407>

Thompson Family
Funerals
5472 2202
123 Mosytrn St Castlemaine 3450

R&R McCLURE Excavations Pty Ltd
Directional Drilling • Excavators 1.5t - 13t
Rock Drilling • Rock Breakers
Ph 5472 3256 Mob 0418 145 930
41 Brown St Castlemaine
UG Power, Communications, Water Mains, Asset Relocations
www.rrmcclure.com.au

S P MACHINERY
ABN: 87 924 221 103
14 HIGH STREET MALDON 3463
PETER MACDONALD PH: 0417487378
STEVE NOBLE PH: 0427752462
spmachinerymaldon@gmail.com
PH: 03 54751018

RAPID
POWDERCOATING
SANDBLASTING
2 Colling Court, Long Gully Industrial Estate, Bendigo 3550,
Ph: (03) 5441 3711 Fax: (03) 5442 9038

BUNNINGS
warehouse

SCHIWA & HAYES MACHINERY
Pty Ltd.
John Hayes
Director
864 Castlemaine Road
Maldon, Victoria, Australia
3463
Ph. +61 (0)3 54752925
Fax. +61 (0)3 54752929
Mob. +61 (0)407 562871
john@schwa.com.au
ABN 46 408 270 040

CASTLEMAINE
MITSUBISHI
Phone 5472 1322
5 Johnstone Street,
Castlemaine
LMCT 7845

PLASMA CUTTING
MURRAY REYNOLDS
M 0407 682 761
www.ourstepplasmacutting.com.au

AMBER ROBERTS
Licensed Conveyancer
34 Lyttleton Street Castlemaine 3450
PO Box 893 Castlemaine 3450
P 5472 5452 F 5472 5459
specialising in property conveyancing

M.A.V.E.C.
P.O. Box 71
Castlemaine, 3450

23rd Annual
Vintage Engine Rally
April 13th & 14th 2019
Dave Bennett Reserve
MUCKLEFORD, Vic.

Castlemaine
KLUA SATHORN
Café & Thai Restaurant
32 Johnstone St., Castlemaine
Tel : 03 54706881
www.kluasathorn.com
facebook / Sathorn1
Opening hours
Lunch W-F 11.30am
- 2.30pm
Dinner M-S 5pm -

the Bike Vault

Haeusler's
Bendigo 5449 4800

BILLMAN'S FOUNDRY
Billman's Foundry
P.O. Box 242, Castlemaine, 3450
Langslow Street Castlemaine
Phone: (03) 5472 4302
Heritage, Reproduction & Restorative
Cast Iron Camp Ovens

PQ
PYRENEES QUARRIES
Doug Hansford | DIRECTOR
m 0407 547 000
t 03 5470 5288 fx 03 5472 5404
PO Box 750
Castlemaine VIC 3450
e info@pyreneesquarries.com.au
www.pyreneesquarries.com.au

Parsons
Motor and Body Shop
5472 2022
admin@parsonsmotorbody.com.au
2 Langslow St / PO Box 447 Castlemaine, VIC 3450

ASQ
GARDEN & LANDSCAPE
ABN 63 089 515 659
EAGLEHAWK: P 03 5446 1292 E reception@asq.net.au
CASTLEMAINE: P 03 5472 4053 E castlemaine@asq.net.au
W WWW.ASQ.NET.AU

JOHN DEERE