



Reg. No. A0035128D

Preserving our Mechanical Heritage

THE MT ALEXANDER VINTAGE ENGINE CLUB INC. COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES as of 3RD December 2018 NO 237

President Stephen O'Connor 109 Yandoit Creek Rd Yandoit, Vic 3463 54762433	<p style="text-align: center;">PRESIDENT'S REPORT.</p> <p>G'day Members,</p>
Vice President Ray Rice	<p>Well it is almost Christmas and before we know it New Year will be upon us. With some luck the Shire will approve our planning permit on the 18th Dec. Telford's have made the footings and as soon as the permit is written we will be able to set them in, then it will be full steam ahead to have the shed ready for April.</p>
Secretary Graham Mason, P.O. Box 71 Castlemaine Vic 3450 Ph: 03.54762481 grahammason1@bigpond.com	<p>Don't forget our January meeting on the 7th to discuss Mucklefest and how we can help make it grow.</p>
Treasurer Alan Burgess 0409762367	<p>We have had help from Maree Edwards partner Steven and Jim Murtagh as to what we have to do to be able to let children on the Merry Go Round. Both these men are ex Worksafe. They came and looked at the MGR and advised us on a few things and Jim has given Sec contact details to follow up on.</p>
Public Officer Secretary	<p>Looking forward to seeing many of you at our Christmas BBQ. If you don't make it on Sat 15th on behalf of MAVEC I wish you all the best for a Happy Christmas and a healthy, prosperous New Year</p>
Committee Jason Williams	<p style="text-align: right;">Regards Steve</p>
Archives Robert Thompson	
Reviewer George Milford	
	<p>After calling the meeting to order we all stood and observed a minute's silence in memory of Laurie Rinaldi</p>

ATTENDANCE

No	PRESENT			APOLOGIES
1.	G.Mason	13	A Chapman	P Rautman
2.	S Thompson	14	E Harvey	K & A Burgess
3.	H Goldup	15	S O'Connor	G Milford
4.	R Rice	16	A Leyshan	M Mason
5.	J Robinson	17	A Murley	J Mc Hugh
6.	A Burgess	18	J Blake	N Girvan
7.	L Rice	19	T Dzioba	D Burgess
8.	J Conn			L Burgess
9.	J Chaplin		Appologies	F Girvan
10.	J Williams		P Thompson	S Mc Hugh
11	K Chaplin			J Hayes
12	Laurie Williams			M Conn

Attendance Mov. J Conn Sec. E Harvey Carried

Meeting Opened At: 7.30 pm.

Meeting Chaired By:

Stephen O'Connor President

Minutes Of Previous Meeting dated 5TH November 2018 circulated in Newsletter No 236 confirmed. Moved A Chapman Seconded R Rice 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.

Nov 2018 Rev N Rec N/letter

Nov 2018 Steam Whistle Gisborne N/letter

Nov 2018 Oily Rag Ballan N/letter

Nov 2018 Port Phillip N/letter

Invitation & flyer for Kyabram Rally and White Truck Rally March 16th /17th 2019

Letter from a wrought iron furniture maker with only an email address

Reminder letter from RHSV our membership has expired (meeting decided not to renew as we no longer have insurance with them.)

Letter from NHMA re early nominations for positions that will be decided at the National Rally at Murray Bridge in March 2019

Letter of information Re National Rally

A/c for newsletter printing

Letter from Shire Re Sec and Pres attending a council meeting that is going to discuss the granting of a planning permit because of one objection

Invitation to Quambatook Heritage days Jan 26th /27th 2019

Cheque from Guildford Grumpies for \$1000 balance of donation for vacating our shed at Guildford.

OUTWARDS

Card to Joan Rinaldi and Family on the passing of Laurie

Letter to the Miniature Railway at Harcourt to invite them to display at our Rally in April.

Letter to Tony Farrell Re Poly Tank

Mov. L Rice Sec J Williams Carried

REPORTS

TREASURERS REPORT.

Alan reported that we have a credit balance

Moved A Burgess Sec. R Rice Carried

GLENLYON RALLY

This is a real laid back Rally held in a perfect setting. Unfortunately this Rally clashed with a lot of other events, but those who attended had a good weekend. The meal on Sat Night was very good and was catered for by Kath Chaplin

Report by Ray Rice

Andrew and a couple of mates took to their motorbikes and zig zagged their way Glenlyon Rally and came home a different way, it was a great day for a ride and Andrew was amazed how green it was over that way

Report by Andrew Chapman

KYNETON AIRFIELD

The Kyneton airfield was the venue for a vintage motorbike rally, when John was there about 25 bikes were on display. One was a 1913 single cyl. belt driven Healing, in showroom condition. This is the same company that went on to manufacture household whitegoods. There were a couple of 1920 Harley's. A couple of the bikes had been taken to Perth and then ridden back to Melbourne.

Report by John Robinson

GENERAL BUSINESS

If you have something to sell or need a special part or treasure let Steve, 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.

The meeting decided that for next years Rally the featured engine would be PETTERS and the featured tractor would be Ferguson up to when they joined Massey. John Robinson has forwarded Ferguson Club contact details to Sec so we will send an invitation to them asap.

The badge colour will be a colour chip will be sent with the order to E Badges in the next few days

In order to help keep unauthorised people out of compounds at our Rally it was suggested we look into having wrist bands to give to our exhibitors when they register. One member said this was the way it was done at the Colac Rally. There has been a change in the way the Christmas BBQ is to be catered, the Club will buy the meat and Kath will do ring around to the ladies to see if they can do a salad and a sweet. THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THE CHRISTMAS BBQ. Eddie Harvey asked on behalf of the Walmer Fire Brigade if they could use the Mavec dam for practice on how to fill trucks from a dam. The water will be pumped from the dam and delivered straight back into the dam. The members present said go ahead and do it. As far as the shed goes Telfords cannot start making it until we get a building permit, hopefully after the council meeting on the 18th December.

The Committee of MAVEC wish you all a happy Christmas and a healthy prosperous and safe New Year. If you have to be on the road drive carefully

COMING EVENTS

WHEN	WHERE
DEC 15 th	MAVEC Christmas breakup BBQ at Dave Bennett Reserve 6.30 pm
JAN 5 th / 6 th	Korweingie Krankup at Charles Hall's place
7 th	MAVEC Meeting
12 th / 13 th 26 th / 27 th	Geelong Truck and Machinery Show Quambatook Heritage Days.
FEB 17 th	Ballan Rally (Feature Ronaldson & Tippet)
MARCH 2 nd 9 th to 11 th 16 th / 17 th 22 nd --- 24 th 30 th / 31 st	Ballan Swap meet Melbourne Steam and Traction Rally Kyabram Rally NHMA National Rally at Murray Bridge Wunghnu Rally
APRIL 13 th / 14 th	MAVEC RALLY at Dave Bennett Reserve

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Next meeting 7.30pm MONDAY 7th JANUARY 2019 at MUCKLEFORD

FOR SALE

Grass hay 5' x4' Rolls \$80 per roll Call Lee on 0403240430
Located Franklinford area

MF 35 Diesel tractor, red. Good tyres. Comes with slasher. Has been a reliable machine, however has not been used for past 2 years.

Needs some TLC. Photos available on request. Located at Miners Rest, (Ballarat area). \$ P. O. A.

Enquiries or to inspect contact Jodi ph. Mob. 0419 392 943."

HAVE A LARFF

A bloke is just leaving a bar and he says to the barman Hey mate what's a breathalyser. The barman replies it is a bag that tells you if you have had too much to drink. The bloke says well whaddya know I have been married to one of them for years.

The teacher noticed a little boy at the back of the class was squirming around, scratching his crotch and not paying attention. She went to see what was going On. He was quite embarrassed and whispered that he had recently been circumcised and that he was quite itchy. She sent him to the principal's office to phone his mum to see what she could advise him to do. He did that and returned to the classroom and resumed his seat. Suddenly there was a commotion at the back of the room, the teacher went to the back of the room, to find the lad with his penis hanging out. I thought I told you to call your mum, she said. I did he said and she told me if I could stick it out till noon she'd come and pick me up from school.

A bloke bought parrot and after many weeks the bird had not spoken a word, he took the parrot to a vet, who advised the bloke that the birds beak was to long and needed filing. It will cost \$100 the bloke asked why so much the vet explained that if he did not take enough off the bird would not talk and if he took too much off the bird would drown when drinking , so you see it is delicate procedure. The bloke said he would think about it and left with his parrot. Next day the bloke is back at the vet's looking sad and puzzled. What happened asked the vet. Well said the bloke I could not afford the \$100 so I decided to do it myself and now he's dead.

Dead said the vet what happened. Well said the bloke I used a medium file and filed very carefully taking off what I thought was the right amount so he would be able to talk and not drown when he was drinking. Sounds good so far said the vet, then what happened. Well then I took his head out of the vice and

ANOTHER STORY FROM GEORGE

A 'bitser'

Hidden away in a galvanized iron shed on Mount Alexander, at a disused granite processing site, is some very interesting machinery. The most unusual one is what you might call a 'bitser' – This machine is a gang-saw,

Few people will have had the opportunity to observe the operation of a gang-saw in a stone-mason's yard. The back-and-forth motion of the blade draws steel shot (in water) along the grooves to abrade the stone. Multiple cuts can be made simultaneously. The most blades ever used on this gang-saw was fifteen, slicing a huge block of granite as if it was slicing bread for sandwiches or a toast loaf. When the gang-saw was first put into use they used Duplex steel for the blades but later went over to mild-steel, which could be prepared on-site. Funnels suspended above the blades enabled steel shot to be fed onto the stone and drawn into the grooves. You may see some of the worn blades, with their characteristic wear pattern, recycled into cattle yards at Faraday, on both sides of Harmony Way, near the intersection of Salathiel Road.

The Mount Alexander gang-saw was put together about 1963 for Ron Layton, who had just taken over Blight's Quarry. This quarry, which was opened up in 1862, was famous for its ability to supply Harcourt Granite in dimensions to suit many and varied applications. Ron Layton had a gang-saw at his Sunshine (Melbourne) works and, with the help of his on-site quarrymen, he built the Harcourt version, with anything he could lay hands on, to be much bigger than the one he had in Melbourne.

To illustrate the use of the term 'bitser' we will describe some of the components. Matthew Churchward, when he examined this machine, was quite puzzled as to the date of its construction, due to the age of some of the bits and pieces used.

It has two large cast steel railway locomotive driving wheels used as crank-flywheels with a thick rim of concrete or iron cast around the perimeter for extra inertia. Cast steel locomotive wheels were introduced by the Victorian Railways from the US around the 1920s or 1930s but these were probably from an R-class or J-class steam loco - the last two types of steam locos introduced by the Victorian Railways in the early 1950s. These steam locos didn't have a very long working life due to dieselization and were being scrapped by the late 1960s, which is when the wheels became available.

The beam attached to the loco wheels is similar in appearance to the beams used in the mining industry for large beam pumps, but is of welded construction, suggesting a 1920s-30s date at earliest and probably later.

The bedplate on which the large electric motor is mounted bears the name 'WESTINGHOUSE MANCHESTER'. This is a reference to the huge Trafford Park plant near Manchester, where the British Westinghouse Electric Company (a subsidiary of the American Westinghouse Electric Co.) manufactured steam

turbines, generators, electric motors and other large electrical equipment from 1902. The British Westinghouse Electric Company was reformed as the Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Company with fully British ownership in 1919, which gives a latest possible date for this item. The design of the bedplate is consistent with that of electric equipment build in the first two decades of the 20th century. This part of the installation has been definitely been recycled from another purpose.

By installing a sawing machine on-site at the quarry, Ron Layton could discover any blemishes, such as unsightly black inclusions, before the granite was transported to Melbourne. Ron Layton also installed polishing machines (these were made in Belgium). An article in The Weekly Times in 1969 informed the reader that the gang-saw slices through massive granite blocks at five inches per hour and that the quarry, which employed five men and \$100,000 worth of equipment, was supplying about 120 tons per week to monumental masons.

The gang-saw and associated machines are well and truly inaccessible. They are located in a difficult-to-access part of the Mount Alexander Regional Park adjacent to the now defunct (privately-owned) quarry. The Victorian Heritage Database entry for Blight's Quarry says "The site has features which dramatically illustrate the processes of production of dimension stone, including extraction from the quarry face, cutting to size and movement of stone" The Quarry, and its associated workshops, are definitely NOT a tourist attraction. The nearby waste-stone piles constitute a snake haven and they are best left alone. My purpose in writing has been to describe a curious, purpose-built contraption, one that could truly be described as a 'bitser'.

George Milford

Thompson Family
Funerals
5472 2202
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Director
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3463
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Fax. +61 (0)3 54752929
Mob. +61 (0)407 562871
john@schwa.com.au
ABN 46 408 270 040

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

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

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.



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ASQ
GARDEN & LANDSCAPE
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CASTLEMAINE: P 03 5472 4053 E castlemaine@asq.net.au
W WWW.ASQ.NET.AU

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

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