

STEAM SUPREME

Extracts from the Melbourne Steam Traction Engine Club Newsletter



Busses



Vintage Tractors



Rally Round Up



John Belfields
Experimental Tank



Antique Caterpillars



Steam
Loco



Jackman's Ploughing Engines



PREPERATIONS



Not seen by our visitors or even some members was the huge amount of work done setting up for the rally . It was pleasing to see how many members stepped forward in the last few days to support our new rally organisers Chris Glassock and Arthur Bithell to ensure such a successful event . Here is are just a few examples

← **Tim Collard and Chris marking out the car park with precision not seen before. Important as space is at a premium and if left to park randomly we lose about 30 % of capacity .**

Turning Grass onto lawn as they used to say (early Victa ad).

John Mills and Peter Morris spent an enormous amount of time with their tractors slashing the grass up the back , which just kept growing .

This was in preparation for the huge Caterpillar display .
John Mills photo



← **An overall view of their end result .**

With a capacity crowd the front soon filled up and the overflow park was called into play . Couple that with the Caterpillar display in the Top Paddock and the mown area nearly extended up to the BP sevo. Aaron pic

Just when it looked like everything was on track → we had yet another burst water main right outside Bay 1 front door.

Steve Nichol noticed it Thursday evening luckily giving time for Plumbers Luke and Phil to replace the corroded through section of cast iron water pipe with large diameter copper early Friday morning .



← **Setting up engine pens . Greatly helped by Peter Morris's pneumatic post driver Aaron words and pics.**



← **On a bright note there was a steady trickle of exhibits of all types arriving over the last few days not least was this huge low loader with a Twin engined Caterpillar scraper on board.**

Certainly a good sign as the Antique Caterpillar Owners Club was to be our special guests as they celebrated 100 years of Caterpillar and hoped to have just about every model represented.



Trucks James Finn from Cora Lynn just east of Koo Wee Rup brought his water cart along with his own water to help with dust suppression . *His 1985 Kennworth fitted with a 3406 Caterpillar engine . Aaron pic* →



↑ *James also brought along his Grandfather's very original cc 1965 David Brown 880 implematic tractor and muck spreader .*

Peter Morrow's Federal with Cummins Diesel engine is a USA civilian version of the WW2 tank transporter Peter imported it from the USA but no one was prepared for its pristine condition when it finally appeared after a protracted restoration. Warwick photo . →

In sharp contrast was Jonseys line up of derelict early 1920's trucks awaiting restoration . ↓



Chris Glasscock enjoys a ride in Rob Jones's Yorkshire steam truck . Greg V photo ↓



← *Peter Morris's Euclid being loaded by the clubs historic Kato excavator (first batch of Jap machines to Australia) .*

He impressed the Caterpillar boys with the noise and smoke of it's screaming 2 stroke 671 GM

ENTERTAINMENT

← *John Wolfe our tame organ grinder brought along his contraption and monkey to the delight of our visitors . Aaron pic John was an instrument maker at Holden.*



People mover from a different perspective . The Public enjoying the scenic tour around our site. Always a great hit with our visitors it was kept busy all day , Thank you to various drivers and guards who assisted Martin Spotiswood over the weekend

This year it included a special stop for the 100 years of Caterpillar display at the top of our grounds . Aaron pic



↑ *Our patrons enjoyed music from the band Warwick Pic*

Relaxing under out shade sails and enjoying a variety of foods Len Brighton pic →



↑ *Our little railway was kept busy giving children rides during the rally . The Saturday being hot and dry services were provided by REG our Diesel Hydraulic loco to VR P11 outline For those unfamiliar with the layout the track is almost a km long and encircles our main display area and includes a cutting , embankments a couple of level crossings rail , yard and a mock bridge.*

Cameron assist ing Rob Worland our Railway Manager with the firing of the loco Clive . Paula photo ↗





STEAM

← The ladies are impressed with the stationary steam engine line up obviously appreciating the effort put into there cleaning and polishing

Another old favourite was Mickle Stappmans steam merri-go-round engine Warwick pic



← It was good to see the Wiles military steam cooker now back at the club and in Derek Moore jnr's hands. Once again the Saturday night dinner patrons enjoyed it's boiled potatoes. Warwick pic



→ Darryl Killingsworth was the highlight of the show for many of our younger visitors . With a good head of steam up on our Britannia portable he encouraged them to pull the whistle string . Many where not prepared for the ear splitting blast but once over the surprise it was hard to get them to stop.

Darryl commented on the difficulty he had in procuring a whistle valve . At one outlet the sales man asked him if he was sitting down before he told him the price . A whopping \$ 350 !





Lloyds Marshall Road Locomotive Blackbutt makes easy work of just one wool wagon



Miniatures Are becoming increasingly popular at UK rallies . Probably because of issues with cost , space, transport difficulties , boiler inspections and now availability of coal . It will be interesting to see if we go the same way . Hopefully we will continue to have both out here.



Brad Hector put a lot of work into refurbishing and repainting the clubs freelance miniature traction engine and 2 riding wagons that he is custodian of.

Despite the herculean effort he put in he just ran out of time to get it into steaming condition but we look forward to seeing it in steam for the RunDay.

A Dad explains the workings of a miniature traction engine on display with the John Davies collection Warwick pic



The Melbourne Model Engineers had, as always a popular display of their miniature steam and I.C. engines in shed 9 along with Plough Books Sales' amazingly diverse range of technical publications .

Sparks family miniatures



Engines

Wall to wall people fixated by the running of the Willans Diesel engine .

Our engine, which represents the worlds first commercial Diesel engine design built to Diesels Patents, now starts easily and runs very smoothly .

It was demonstrated 3 or 4 times each day to an appreciated audience as there is only 1 other running one in Australia . Amongst the visitors was Ray Gillet a very satisfied man being the key player in its rescue from being scrapped now 40 years ago . Warwick



← Another rare engine on display for the first time was this Foden 6 Cylinder 2 stroke Diesel engine of unconventional construction from the 1960's .

Introduced as an alternative to the Gardner engine it was not well received out here finding more favour as marine generating sets with the British Navy. It remains to be seen if it can be put into running condition

Warwick pic .

Chris Glasscock and Nag Vajrala, with their line up of stationary engines .

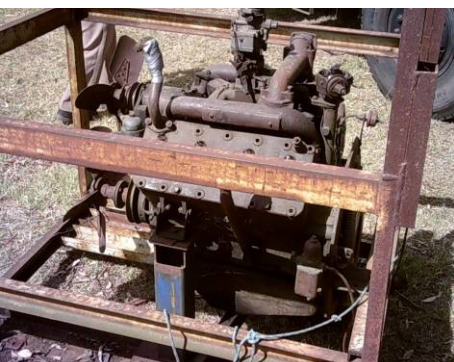
Some less popular types appeared to take a bit of coaching to get running.



← Ross Shilton is running the Lyttelton port engine for a large number of visitors during SteamFest. We managed around 6 starts per day. I also gave Sparks a commentary over his P.A. system on how club members recovered the engines from the tug. Bill Mc Robb.

Bill was pleased to catch up with an old Caterpillar engineer who

V8 Cadillac tank engine as used in the Australian Cruisers was on display with the Military vehicles .



Each tank had 3 arranged in a trident configuration . Warwick pic

There was quite a diverse range of classics car on display but not too many of any one sort . Same went for the tractors .



Big Machinery

Steam Shovel Major progress has been made on it since the last rally including sandblasting painting , putting on the tracks and getting the machinery operating .

In the last few days the cabin frame has gone on . →

Disappointingly it did not seem to attract much attention from the general public .

Thinking about it , perhaps being somewhat hidden behind shed 7 and with the moved arena fence forming a barricade there was not much to attract patrons to that corner of the grounds.

Also still being in 4 major sub assemblies I do not think the non technical could mentally assemble it despite Rohan's graphic information board .

← Anticipating this to some degree was

the reason for the big push to get the cabin frame up for the rally despite it

still needing more paint. Unfortunately without cladding this still did make it obviously recognizable to the un initiated .

That said those in the know , particularly the Caterpillar people where very interested in it's background and amazed at what had been achieved and are looking forward to seeing it together and in steam.



Mobile Steam



Mobile Steam is of course what started MSTEC in the first place. Everyone was impressed with the our line up of Traction Engines spanning the full range from the Lloyds 6 tonne steam tractor George to Peter Jackman.s Fowler Z 7 ploughing engine Suzie Jane of over 25 tonnes. With a couple of steam rollers, including Brendans Marshall and the steam trucks of Sam Newman and Robert Jones's our show pretty well had everything covered . Unfortunately despite a herculean effort by Peter Jackman and crew in replacing 6 firebox stays the clubs Poughing engine just missed out on getting signed off so there was no steam ploughing this year.

Sam's Foden Steam Wagon →

On the other hand everyone loved BigFoot . The non technical with it's absurd walking action which was demonstrated each day by Warwick with help from Adrian Anderson .

Walk—throughs had to be the highlight for many visitors with its curious mix of technology eliciting comments like “ its just full of Machinery is it “ to the Grandmother who just had to know what everything did and how it operated.



Junior(s) Matter(s)



It was good to see our younger members having a great time getting fully engaged in the rally while at the same time putting on a great show for our visitors which I am sure will result in a few more signing up .

← Junior member Hamish Collard and his friend Xuan honed their skills at traction engine driving on the Lloyd's Ruston Proctor "George".

Not only did they enjoy the experience but they helped keep up constant activity on the arena while allowing the Lloyds to sit in the shade to supervise.

The club needs to encourage younger members and George is the ideal engine to introduce beginners to the hobby. A number of young enthusiasts were able to give it a go over the weekend. Jo Lloyd



Juniors in the grand parade
Paula / Brett photo



Koby opening up the main steam valve to start an engine in the Stationary Steam section as Graham watches on . Paula / Brett



Military

← Star of the show on Sunday was Australia's First ever Experimental tank just resurrected John Belfield . Note the information boards prepared by his granddaughter Grace , that tell the amazing story Pic Aaron .

See Steam Supreme 647 Dec 2024

First bough as a derelict hull from a farmer in the 1970's its significance was not recognized so was put up for auction in 2006 but did not get a bid. Fast forward another 15 years and not until the release of a book about Australia's first experimental tank did John realize

what he had been sitting on . Now nudging 90, retired and with a bit of money he set about restoring it . Mechanically it was not too daunting but no useful upper armour was left so he explored the option of having replicas produced in fibreglass using the latest computer 3D modelling and machining techniques. Well the great day came as a 93 birthday present with the delivery of a complete set including the turret from JP Fibreglass.

It was quickly assembled and so skilfully made as to be indistinguishable from the original as those who had the privilege to inspect it at our Steam Fest will attest . John feels extremely privileged to have had the foresight , luck , finances and long life to be able to preserve such an important piece of Australian history which will end up in the Australia Army's Tank museum .

Quite a range of military vehicles were on display over the weekend.

→ In addition to the tanks there was a couple of Jeeps , Neal's Ferret Scout car , Adrian's Blitz and the Brooksmith's Mini Moke



Anette Brooksmith photo VMVC

Caterpillars

Something very special for this year's rally was a display by the Victorian branch of the Antique Caterpillars Machinery Owners Club featuring 100 years since the start of Caterpillar.

A great variety of Cat machinery of all types was lined up in a special area of our Top Paddock while others gave working demonstrations on the area normally reserved for ploughing.

Here is a sampling of the 65 odd machines on show



MSTEC member and long term Caterpillar technician Eddie Bedwell's day was made when he had the opportunity to drive a Cat grader he helped bring to life many years ago

The Cat club had a hospitality area and merchandise stall for owners and visiting enthusiasts.

Old and New earthmovers rub noses



On the way up the back you would have noticed 2 stroke Morris's pen of restored Bulldog tractors



Tractors A special effort this time was made to have tractors on the Arena .

Here we see Chris's Fordson EN27 front end loader conversion and Nag's John Deere rowcrop .

Other tractors entered and left the arena at various times ensuring there was always some action



The Blairs had their Allis Chambers model B out

Also on display was this very recently restored ride on mower branded DECKSON , looks like an entry level model . Internet claims they were made by John Deck and son in Sydney in the 1960's also had a basic mini bike



Morris's had a range of Chamberlain tractors on display around our duck pond. The center one is an old Super 90 GM



Andrew Jackson brought along his 2 tracklayer Sixtys .

The grey one was built by Holt and trade marked Caterpillar . In 1925 Holt merged with Best to form the Caterpillar Tractor Company and yellow then became the standard colour . Aaron pic Wiki info

Adam's "Nuttie Professor" collection in shed 6

