



Ancient Iron
Official Magazine of
Marlborough Vintage & Farm Machinery Society Inc.

Issue 8

December 2016

Upcoming Events:

Monthly meetings- first Monday of the month- 7:30pm Club Rooms,
Brayshaw Park

Heritage Day- February 2017

Position	Person	Contact information
President	Jim Donald	donalds@ruralinzone.net
Vice President	Ross Cooke	rosco.hydraulics@xtra.co.nz
Secretary	John Neal	njohnpam@gmail.com
Treasurer	Raymond Welburn	treasurer@marlboroughfarmingmuseum.nz
Editor	Jocelyn/John Burnett	burnett.family@xtra.co.nz

Roles Within The Club

Safety Officer: Ken Barr

Acquisitions & Disposals : Bernard Mason

Bulletin Editor: Jocelyn Burnett

Publicity Officer: Sandra Welburn

Curator: John Burnett

Restorations: John Neal

Park Administrators Delegates: John Neal, Jim Campbell

Cottage & Catering : Shirley Shefford

Buildings & Maintenance: Bernard Mason

Open Days Convener: Ken Barr

Auditor: the incoming executive shall appoint a new Auditor.

Solicitor: David Dew

Editor's welcome

Welcome to our last newsletter for this year. We have enjoyed putting all the articles together and look forward to catching up with other members next year in hear their stories. I'm sure you will agree that the Park is looking very smart with the addition of new trees. Thank you to our members in the workshop who continue to restore more gear for display and all the other club members who are working on the continual improvements at MVFM.

Jocelyn Burnett

TRUCK SHOW

In early October over 100 truck enthusiasts spent the day at our Club. After a tour of the park they enjoyed lunch in our Club rooms. A small group of workers, lead by Shirley, spent the morning preparing the food and serving it to a very grateful group of people. The raffle was popular with our guests and raised over \$350.



Richard with his wife & baby son Ollie enjoying the hospitality put on by MVFM. They do have a Volvo truck of their own but with the baby it was easier to travel in their own ute & they covered over 2500km's during the course of the trip.

Cottage

The cottage was once again a popular attraction at the Open Day in November. A display of sewing and craft items were a feature this time. Graeme Gibson spent a lot of time threading the needle on the old treadle sewing machine and he was spotted doing a little stitching with it afterwards. Credit must go to all the members who continue to maintain the cottage and its surroundings.

A family group enjoyed a picnic on the lawn in front of the cottage during Open Day.



As the photo shows, the chimneys did not fare so well with the large earthquake in November. Several members strapped the chimneys the following day and one has been taken down since. It is hoped to restore them to their former glory when the tradesman have time.

Shirley reports that the only other damage was 2 broken vases inside the cottage.



One lady was seen walking in high heels about the Park on Open Day. When visiting the cottage and seeing the mannequin dressed in stockings, she declared that she too was wearing stockings. She kindly offered to pose for our camera.





Another reminder of the damage caused by the earthquake in November. The Hart Parr rolled back with the seat breaking through the window. This has since been repaired.

Tree Planting

It was widely agreed that planting some new trees was needed to provide shelter around the Park. 10 trees have been planted including elms and oaks. A dedicated team of helpers have spent several weekends digging holes and positioning them followed by others who have run irrigation to the trees. These will be a great asset to the Park. A big thank you to everyone involved, including Jim and Dale who travelled to Nelson to source the trees. A number of them have been donated by members and anyone else wishing to do so can contact Jim for details.





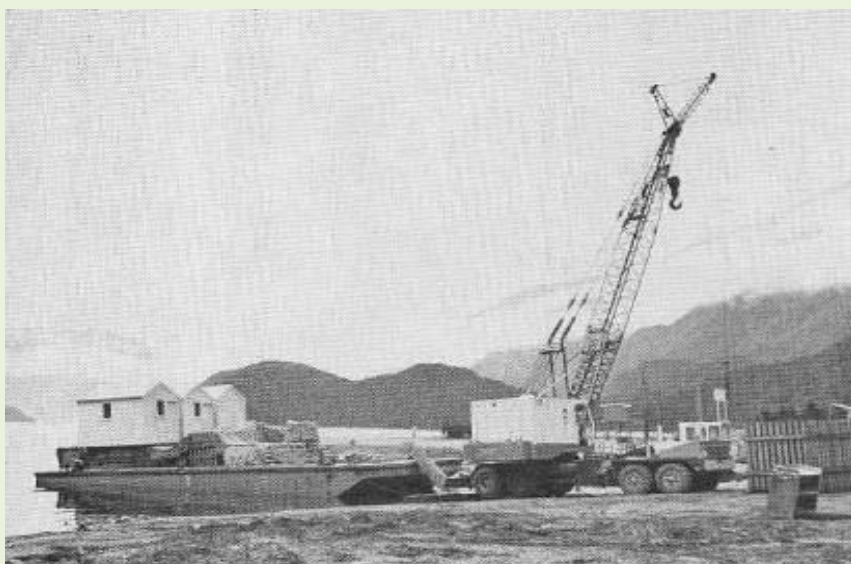
Roger Schroder & Jeff Roweberry kindly supplied the hose & fittings and installed it with some help from other club members

Brian Pinnell

Brian Pinnell was born in Waimate and shifted to Southland when he was 12. For the next three years he boarded in Invercargill while attending Southland Tech, left school at the age of 16 and was married at 21. When he left school and started working he was earning one pound a day, working six days a week on a sheep and cropping farm. Brian reflects that this was good money in those days but hard work.

After meeting and marrying Joy they worked as a married couple on a farm near Otautau for 4 years. They moved to Te Anau and Brian worked for Landcorp as a shepherd, fencing & shooting deer in his spare time. Brian was earning more on the weekends deer hunting than his job during the week and so 18 months later he left.

He cashed in his work dogs to buy a section and bought a transportable house and they moved into Te Anau. At the time NZ changed from pound, shillings and pence to the decimal currency, Brian was working for Utah Construction & Mining at Lake Manapouri as part of the huge power project earning 35 pound/week up from the previous job where he was earning 17 pound/week. He worked at Supply Bay, loading 200 tonne barge's to cart materials to the West Arm power project. He transferred to the West Arm which had become a large workers camp, mainly single men's quarters, full of multi nationals. Brian said the sand flies were terrible. The Yugoslavians working there would eat plenty of garlic which they sweated out and this kept the sand flies away. He stayed at this job until about the end of 1969.



Supply Bay, Manapouri.

Once again he was shooting deer on the weekends. He walked into a valley and placed meat safes about an hour apart. There were plenty of deer about, mainly red deer, shooting three in one place which he then gutted and carried to the closest safe. On one occasion he shot eleven deer in one afternoon, the next day another nine, and a total of 27 in three days.

Next he was shooting deer from a jet boat around the shores of Lake Te Anau and three to five deer /week was pretty good going. He would sell the carcasses to Fiordland Venison who were exporting them to Germany.



A good days work - Lake Te Anau. There are about 24 deer in this photo.



Brian and the kids with the chopper on the front lawn. (Highly illegal)

Brian and two others went 1/3 shares in a helicopter with one of the shareholders, Tony, having a commercial pilot's licence. Tony had been flying a float plane carting fish and crayfish. In late 1972 a Hughes 300 cost about \$46000 brand new. They each put in \$3000 and the repayments were \$1000/month. At this stage they were contract shooting for the Forestry Service but there was a lot of poaching going on and it was not difficult to see why, because during a good morning they could shoot 45 deer and make a \$At the peak of the good times there were 26 helicopters working out of Te Anau and sabotage was a huge issue. Just before things took a dive Brian and the other two sold the helicopter.

Soon after that he went contract fencing but was still keeping an eye open for deer. He built some pens on the Milford Track, where the deer would walk in, trip a wire and drop the gate behind them. This would set off a transmitter. Brian had a contact with the skipper on the local tourist boat who operated a receiver to tell him which pen had deer in it. That night the boat owner would contact Brian to let him know which pens had been tripped. The next day he would go in and wrestle them to the ground, leg rope and blindfold them. Usually a stress drug was given and the deer stretched off to the waiting boat. (Live deer were worth more). It soon became apparent that Brian and Joy needed some land for all the deer that were being recovered.

In 1983 while working full time contract fencing for mostly Lands & Survey he bought his own farm of just over 100 acres. Another transportable house was purchased and approximately 25 deer were brought in which he had captured in the pens, and kept at his mates place. This number was built up to about 400 through breeding.

About the same time Joy started Home Stays catering for overseas visitors and American visitors in particular who wanted to see how ordinary kiwis lived while running the farm. At the same time Brian fenced and later worked for a baylage contractor. Here they stayed for the next 17 years, before health issues decided it was time to move on. Brian had bought an old ex NZ Railways Bedford bus some years before and it was time to go touring. Alexandra was the next stop, from there they went over to Australia to see the kids for three months and travelled from Brisbane to Cairns in an old VW Combie they had bought.

After returning to New Zealand, Brian and Joy looked seriously at buying a house in Clyde but Joy put in a ridiculous offer on a house in Blenheim that she had only seen on the internet. The offer was turned down by the vendor but a little while later and a phone call from the real estate agent in Blenheim, Brian and Joy were packing up their things to move to Blenheim. We are very happy to have Brian and Joy as residents in Blenheim. We enjoyed an evening with them hearing their story. They have turned a near new house and a section that wasn't very well landscaped into a very nice home. When Brian isn't working in their lovely garden or white baiting he is quietly and tirelessly working behind the scenes at the Park.



Restorations

Work is progressing on “Kate” the steam roller. When we caught up with the crew working on it during the week it was obvious they had been making good progress with the restoration. Both rear wheels were being fitted and Peter Tester reported the front wheel will be refitted next week. Some more minor work needs to be done before adjusting valves so they can get some steam up. Once they are happy that everything is functioning correctly under steam they can insulate the boiler, clad it and paint it. The canopy can then be refitted followed by another steam test for the surveyor. All going well the McLaren will be back to its former glory with smoke and steam again.



Godfrey Earle, Peter Tester, Jeff Rowberry, John Griffin and John Johnson take a break from re-fitting the wheels.

John Griffin has recently joined the Club. Welcome to the Club John and thanks for your help with this restoration.

Jeff is obviously the man in charge here!!



Cuthbert Reaper

This Reaper was manufactured by R. Cuthbert & Co, Bedale, Yorkshire, England. It is basically a copy of the American designed & manufactured reaper/mower of Obed Hussey and similar to that of Cyrus McCormick's Reaper. Cuthbert increased the size of the drive wheels compared to the original Hussey machine, suspended the cutter bar by a spring to lessen the friction caused by having it running on the ground, made the speed of the knives slower but the stroke longer and the height of the cut could be regulated by tipping the machine. This machine won many prizes after being demonstrated at agricultural shows in the UK, Holland and France.



This Reaper was imported by Mr. Henry Redwood to his property on the Waimea Plain in Nelson. It arrived in Nelson in 1855 on board the ship "Sir Alan McNabb". It worked there for some years before being shipped to Spring Creek on the Wairau Plain to the son of Henry Redwood, Henry Redwood Junior, where it was used on his farm until 1866. This was not the first mechanical reaper in Marlborough. It is believed Mr. Cornelius Murphy introduced the first reaper in 1854.

Henry Redwood Jnr sold it to Mr. George Rutland who had a property on Jackson's Rd, Blenheim where it was used until 1869. It was then taken by boat to the Rutland Brother's farm, Te Patoa in the Pelorus Valley. It was used there until 1894. During this time it was used to cut oats (photo below) which were later sold to Newman Bros Coaches to feed their horses that were stabled near the Pelorus Bridge. In 1931 it was unearthed near the Pelorus River by Mr. F H Rutland. It was covered in silt and only the iron work remained. He carried out



some restoration work on it and in 1972 Mr. Ralph Denton of Marlborough Vintage Farm Machinery restored it again.

Acquistions

Dick Herkt and his son Glenn are pictured below with a collection of chain saws which they have donated to the Park. These will be added to our already extensive display of chain saws.

Dick spotted an interesting chain saw (right hand photo) which he said was used by the whalers.



Roger Schroder is seen on a new addition to our tractor collection. This TEA Ferguson was donated by Miles Anker and is in good condition. It has been used to launch boats in the past and is fitted with original front wheel weights and a swinging drawbar which is unusual for this model tractor.





Ted Maher has kindly donated this harmonium to our Club. Previously at St Marys Church, it is in very good condition considering its age. It is hoped that the woodworkers will be able to tidy it up even more. Shirley hopes to find room for it in the cottage.

We were keen to learn more about its origins so below is a little background to the company that built these organs.

The Cornish Piano & Organ company was established in Washington, New Jersey in 1879. It was founded by Joseph B. Cornish who was later joined by his son Johnston Cornish. The factory produced 8,000 organs per year with organ actions, keys etc. being bought in from other companies.

The company was a huge mail order house, selling their organs and pianos directly to the consumer from the factory through elaborate sales catalogues, advertisements, and word of mouth. This allowed Cornish to sell their instruments at a lower price than most, and their aggressive financing plans helped them become a major player in the American piano industry. Both Cornish pianos and organs were usually very elaborately carved, and they were generally very good quality overall. Sadly, the Cornish factory burned to the ground in 1922 and the firm never recovered.



Sir Ed & the Ferguson's



On a very cold, wet and miserable day in September, the three Ferguson's that left Piha Beach on a month long 2012km trek to Mount Cook Hermitage (the same amount of time it took Hillary to reach the South Pole) arrived at Allan Scott's Winery. Allan has been supporting the restoration of Hillary's building through his company, "Allan Scott Family Winemakers". He has been donating 5 per cent of all sales from his premium "Scott Base Range" to the Trust.

Staunch Ferguson supporters from MVFM were there to support the cause. Of course Peter Hart had his replica Ferguson there that was used as a prop during the making of the recent Sunday night series about Sir Ed. John Simmons, Roger Schroder, Godfrey Earl, and Ross Hamilton were also there in support of this worthy cause. Also pictured in the group photo with the blue sweaters on are Al Fastier and Brian Blyth on the right. These two were driving the TEA's and collecting donations along the way. To date the trust has raised over \$686,000 with a target of one million dollars in sight.



This tractor, a 120hp Massey Ferguson 5612, is similar to one of the tractors used to cross the South Pole to mark 56 years since the birth of the Massey Ferguson brand & 56 years since Hillary made his historic trip to the South Pole using 28hp TE 20 tractors.

Note the Nudge bar on the front. This was fitted especially for the trip across the ice to stop the tractor from falling into a crevasse.



This is the MF 5610 being unloaded from an IL76 Heavy Cargo aircraft in November 2014 just before it started on its 5000km journey across the ice.



This is one of the seven original TE 20 tractors on display in the foyer of the Commodore Hotel In Christchurch and was used by the British Commonwealth Trans Antarctic Expedition. It was found in a private collection that went up for auction in Canterbury and was purchased jointly by the Commodore Hotel, Canterbury Museum and the Arctic Heritage Trust.



Marshall Thrashing Mill



The Marshall Steel Thrashing Mill or Thrashing Drum as it is known in the UK was imported into New Zealand by Andrews & Bevan of Christchurch in 1924. It was sold to Johnny Moran who was a contractor in the Ward / Grassmere Districts. Johnny lived in Ward and to get it there it was shipped by steamer to Wellington and brought across the straits to Picton. From there it was towed by traction engine to Ward.

I was told by the late Harry Spencer who worked with it that there was a crew of five that were required to run and maintain it.

One on the stack, one on the feed elevator, two on the bag hole and one on the traction engine. Normally the boss was on the traction engine so he could keep an eye on the mill running.

The crew were paid nine pence an hour (9 cents in today's money). This only applied to when they were working, there was no such thing as overtime, wet days or holiday pay!! Johnny Moran had a Maxwell car that he used to carry his crew to work in and during the depression years when shifting between jobs to save on petrol he pulled it behind the mill on a rope to save on petrol. One of the crew steered it.

Another story from Harry was that the crew pooled their resources every now and again to get a keg (4 ½ gallons) of beer delivered to the Ward Railway Station. This cost two shillings and sixpence (25 cents today), delivered, freight included.

On the 7th July 1937 the mill was sold to Dick Wooding and his two sons, Percy and Arthur of Te Moana, Ward. This mill continued to be used around the Ward district for a considerable number of years. The mill was powered by a Hart Parr tractor which had been bought from Andrews & Bevan. On numerous occasions when the travelling distance was not too great the International stationary hay baler that is at MVFMS was set up to bale the straw from the discharge elevator of the mill. This was driven by the Blackstone tractor, also at MVFMS. As a teenager back in the 1950's I was made to spread the straw out from the tail discharge elevator.

The Mill, Hart Parr, Blackstone and Haybaler were donated by the Wooding family to MVFMS when they sold their farm at Ward in the late 1970's.

On trying to find out some information on when this Marshall Mill was manufactured, I wrote to Peter Love in the UK who is a guru on all things vintage and he replied after seeing the photos I sent him that he had not seen a mill like this in the UK. He believes that they were only made to export.

Ross Cooke

Jim, Ross and Dale spent several weekends working on the mill to have it in working order for our Open Day in November. It was a popular attraction as the photos below show.





We hope you enjoy reading the last edition of Ancient Iron for 2016. We have enjoyed putting the articles and photos together. There are a lot more interesting stories to be told and we look forward to hearing them in the New Year. There was just not enough space for all the photos taken but if anyone would like any copies we are only too happy to forward them to you. In the meantime, we wish everyone a Very Happy and Safe Christmas and New Year.

Jocelyn Burnett









