



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

Issue 9

March 2017



2016 Xmas Party

A well attended end of year get together was had just before Christmas. A time to reflect on the year past and talk about the year ahead. This opportunity was also used to thank all the club members who put in a huge effort throughout the year to keep the club running.



We also celebrated Ken Barr's 80th birthday with a cake and ceremonial lighting of the candles. As usual Doris made a very nice fruit cake which was enjoyed by all.



21st New Zealand Scout Jamboree

Three hundred and fifty scouts per day visited MVFM over the New Year period. They came from all parts of the country as well as some from overseas. Armed with an information sheet and a series of questions relating to Brayshaw Park, the scouts were very polite, interested and keen to learn about our tractors. They all liked to sit on and ask questions about the different types of tractors we have.

We were very impressed with the styles and bold colours on their uniforms which were symbolic of the regions they came from. As you can see in the following photos they were having a good time.





The design of the Jamboree Brand incorporates the rows of grape vines which is a huge visual impact of the region, and the flax plant, if you know your history, this area was originally called Waiharakeke, flax swamp, before it was called Beavertown. When you look at the flax plant you will see it is in the shape of a fleur de lis. It has 6 leaves signifying the 6 Scouts in a Patrol, and 6 flax pods on the plant stem – the number of programme pods. The flax plant is supported by the base – representing the Leaders and Parents. The flax plant is symbolic as a metaphor for family bonds and relationships - where the outer leaves protect the younger inner leaves. Through the centre of the flax plant is a key signifying 'Your key to Adventure' and the key (coming of age) of our 21st Jamboree. Notice in the background the sunshine and of course the beautiful blue sky.

Wither Hills Winery - Shed Another kind offer by Wither Hills Winery saw a small group of MVFM members gather on a hot Saturday morning near the beginning of January to dismantle another shed. The removal of this shed was going to make way for further expansion of the winery. While it wasn't possible to relocate the shed like the previous two sheds, we did take what building materials we were able to in the time we had. The roller doors, with varying widths, had already been removed and were ready to be transported back to Brayshaw Park. The long run roofing iron, which was in very good condition, was removed along with the roof rafters and other items that might one day be used to construct another shed at MVFM.



The team looking rather tired after a long day of hard work. Thanks to Paul, pictured on the right, the Wither Hills representative, who was in charge of the project. Paul's role was primarily as Health & Safety Officer but he also helped us with the recovery of the building materials. Thanks to Wither Hills Winery for their continued support of our club.

Lombard Steam Log hauler



The Lombard steam log hauler, designed by Alvin Lombard, has been designated as a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Ceremonies were held Aug. 14, 1982, at Patten, Me., site of the Lumberman's Museum. A tablet was unveiled, dating origin of the engine at about 1910, and stating:

'This steam crawler-tractor emancipated horses from the killing work of hauling trains of sleds over iced roads in the winter woods of the United States and Canada.

'Designed, patented (1901), and built by Alvin C. Lombard (1856-1937) of Waterville, Maine, eighty-three 'Lombards' were the first practical examples of the often-tried lag or crawler tread that would become the mark of the internal combustion engine-driven agricultural and construction equipment and military tanks in current use.'

In the earliest days of logging, the logs were floated down streams to mills. An attempt was made at using an internal combustion engine to power the haulers, but this did not work with wheels in loose snow. Another man had an idea for using track but did not get anything done.

Lombard's first log hauler had an upright boiler and two upright engines, but these were later made horizontal. It became 'a railroad yard engine, known as a saddle back'. It had a cab in front for the steersman and one at the rear for the engineer and the fuel. Typically, it had a four-man crew engineer, fireman, conductor and steerer. A bell rope was provided so that the conductor, near the rear, could communicate with the front cab.

Lombard later turned to gas engines, and the only difference between his later log haulers and his earlier ones was in the mode of furnishing power. Gasoline, however, did not provide the pull of steam; where a steam engine would haul 12 sleds, a gasoline engine would pull five.

A diesel was built in 1934, but this was the last log hauler since trucks had supplanted the haulers. Lombard went out of business after 83 log haulers, of which three had gone to Russia. Some of the old machines were cut up for junk; others were abandoned, and some still stand rusting in forests.



One Lombard has been restored to running condition and can be seen at the Lumberman's Museum in Patten.

This article is based on the commemorative brochure, which contains a reprint of a story by Lore A. Rogers and Caleb W. Scribner, former curators of the lumberman's Museum. The story originally appeared in 'The Northern Logger' magazine.

Article supplied by Rod Clark

Young Enthusiast

John and I were rostered to host the young folk from the Scout Jamboree on January 2nd. It was a cold miserable day outside but our visitors were full of enthusiasm and eager to visit our display and complete the tasks they had been set.

A steady stream of other visitors were also keen to see our displays but one young boy stood out.

Alex Monro and his dad Phil spent a long time looking through the Heritage shed and the tractors in the Denton Building, about two hours and still Alex was in no hurry to leave.

It was not the first time they had visited and Alex asked if Thomas was still operating. He was very knowledgeable about the tractors particularly the Massey Ferguson's. Alex was a well mannered young man who asked John a lot of questions and was really keen to learn more.

We welcome both young and old to our Club. Alex and Phil you are both welcome back at anytime and who knows maybe one day Alex might become a member of MVFM.



New Sign



On the back of the Cooke/Holdaway-Barr building facing the Riverside Railway is this new sign that has been made and erected by the "Ross & Patricia Cooke Family Trust". The sign has been put up to catch the attention of the many people who travel on the riverside railway.

Allis Chalmers All-Crop 60

Last year Peter Jackson donated an Allis Chalmers All Crop 60 header to MVFM. It was missing the engine but generally it was in quite good order considering its age. Ross Cooke commented to Peter Jackson that he would like to get it going again to which Peter raised his eye brows. With a lot of help from Roger Schroder, John Simmons, grandson Ben and Ernie Thomson they got the header operating again. Parts from another two headers donated by Gordon Higgins from Rocky Creek and Mike McClelland from Seddon were also used. Ross had an Allis Chalmers 25hp engine that would fit straight in and power the machine. The weather was hot and dry while they were restoring the header and whenever an angle grinder was used or some welding was required, one of the team was appointed to fire watch duties, which as you can see in the photo it was also a good opportunity to put your feet up for a while!!



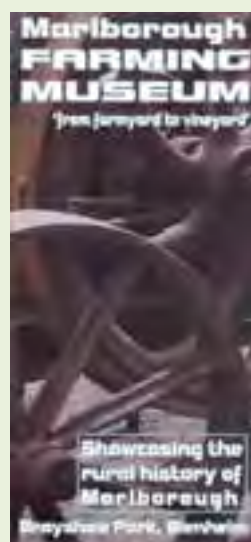
Due to Ross's physical limitations, grandson Ben was sent into the depth of the machine to carry out further repairs to the straw walkers.

Bruce Clark of Kiwi Seed had just the job for this seventy year old machine, one paddock of wheat and one of barley that needed harvesting. After some creaking and groaning, from being in a shed for forty years and some teething problems the header soon settled in and harvested about 14 tons of wheat and barley. The next time you are having some Hubbards cereal for breakfast spare a thought to the Harvester and MVFM club members who helped put the ingredients on your plate.



Behind the scenes

Ray and Sandra Welburn continue to work quietly but tirelessly behind the scenes. Sandra has just designed a new flyer for the club and had it printed. Some time ago she completed a University Degree of which a computer based art and design element was a part, and this has been put to full use to design our flyer. This doesn't mean pushing a couple of buttons on a computer produces a new flyer for the club. While the computer and programme that Sandra uses is very high tech it comes with a sizeable annual subscription fee that Sandra and Ray have to pay for. A lot of work went into not just one but many concept ideas for the flyer. These were trailed for the different font sizes, images and colours to name but a few. Sandra's final design is building on a theme for MVFM which began with the sign on New Renwick Road which displays the name "Marlborough Farming Museum". The executive were shown several concept ideas and this one really caught our eye. While MVFM will always be a club the opportunity to get more funding and grants lies in the way we market our collection and Ray, who is currently applying for grants, in the course of a conversation with a person, was informed of what was available in the way of funds and grants for an organisation like ours that is marketing itself as a museum as opposed to just being a vintage farm machinery club. It will also fit in with other museum and heritage centres around Blenheim like the Omaka Aviation Heritage Centre. Our rare and unique items at MVFM need to be displayed and marketed properly to make the visiting public aware of what we have and ultimately get them through the door to contribute to our income and judging by the amount of flyers that the Blenheim and Picton i-site's keep asking for someone must be taking an interest.



Ray has also been busy for the last two years as the club's treasurer. With the new legal requirements for accounting and auditing for charitable organisations like MVFM, Ray has spent a huge amount of time researching and supplying information to the club's accountants so they can produce a data base that will not only make auditing easier in the future but also help with our monthly accounts. This has been an expensive and very time consuming exercise for our club but it has been brought about by government legislation because of the large amounts of money that have been granted to charitable clubs and organisations that have sometimes been misappropriated. Our constitution also states that our accounts are to be audited annually. While basic accounting principles probably haven't changed that much over time the digital format that we use is changing and this requires a certain amount of computer literacy to keep up with. As any of you that have run a business or even the finances at home will be aware the amount of time that goes into keeping the paperwork up to date is huge.

Thanks to you both for the effort you put in behind the scenes!!

Blenheim Borough Council Steam Roller



The restoration of the steam roller is nearing its completion. Just recently the team working on it lit the fire, got some steam up and drove around the yard with everything working pretty much as it should. Peter Tester reported that they are now in the final stages of the restoration with just a few things left to complete including, the final steam pressure test, lagging of the boiler, touching up some of the paint work and refitting of the canopy which in itself might require some refurbishment. Peter said they put in a lot of hours and hard work to get it to this stage but like all restoration projects they take time and patience.



The moment they had all been waiting for, the first lighting of the fire, smoke coming from its chimney and the steam pressure gauge rising!!



Anyone with or without a mechanical background will appreciate all the work these guys have put into the restoration.

Congratulations to you all and thanks for a job very well done. This will make for another great display at MVFM.

Open day displays



While Bernie Mason explains a big story to Vern Bishell, Errol Hadfield is busy concentrating on the task in hand as he is being watched by an interested audience of young and old. Errol is no stranger to shearing sheep, having shorn a few in his day. In his younger day he was a full time shearer both here in NZ, mainly around Mid Canterbury, and then in Queensland where he worked for a contractor named Grazcos. When he gave up full time shearing Errol's tally was about 100,000, he was paid 6 pounds, 6 shillings/100 and had saved enough to buy his own 300 acre farm in 1962. He wasn't the only kiwi doing this but to achieve this goal he had to keep his head down and save.



As usual the butter making display was also enjoyed by the young and old as Helen Campbell helps this young girl to roll a ball of butter.





Ian Le Grice had all the big engines ready to go at a push of a button and was keen to demonstrate this along with giving the history of these machines which also forms part of Marlborough's history.

Chris Moran has an unobstructed view of the Marshall thrashing machine while it is being driven by the traction engine.



When Ken Barr, Chris McKay and Graeme Shefford fired up the big chainsaws it certainly had heads turning to see where the noise was coming from!! Any bloke that likes to cut his own fire wood was impressed with their display.



Warren too had a busy day.

Lost Trades This year the wood workers joined us with a great display of skills.



Thanks to Vince Smith and all the wood workers who put on such a great display.

Marlborough Lines Diesels



After some advertising in the Sun Newspaper and over the local radio stations a record crowd came to view the diesel engines as part of the heritage weekend celebrations and learn about their history. With Marlborough Lines policy of only thirty persons in the building at once, most of the interested public had to watch from outside of the building as the big Paxman diesel was started.



The photo on the right shows the size of the exhaust valve on the Harland & Wolf two stroke engine.

Once again a big thank you goes to Marlborough Lines, John Bailey and his team and for all the preparation that goes into allowing the public to get a look at a big part of Marlborough's history.

Acquistions Kevin Hayes from Benmorven has donated this old rotary hoe. Note the set up of the crank handle on the front which is connected to the land wheels to alter the depth of the cut.



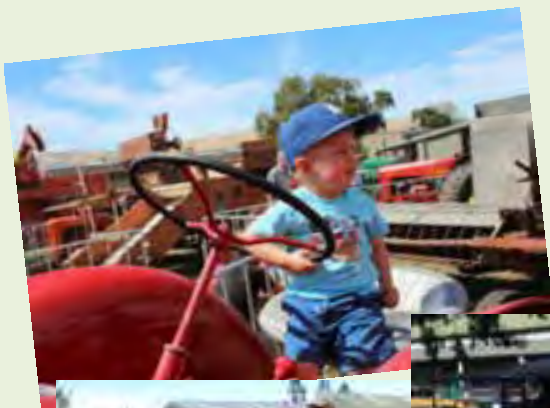
November Earthquake Ken Barr supplied these photos taken at the Wairau bar after the earthquake.



As a result of the magnitude 7.8 Kaikoura earthquake, parts of the South Island have been shunted 5 metres closer to the North Island, some parts had a 12 metre uplift and it affected 21 faults. Some of the ruptures happened instantaneously. The total rupture travelled 180km but only took two minutes to travel its entire length. The photos below are several of many that can be viewed on the Internet.



More Photos





New crowd fencing

Graham Edwards from the wood workers and Jim Creswell set out the new crowd fences just before our open day. Jim Donald applied to the MDC for some heritage funding that paid for the fences.

A bit of humor

Lawyers should never ask a Southern grandmother a question if they aren't prepared for the answer! In a trial a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, an elderly grandmother, to the stand.

He approached her and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know me?"

She responded, "Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a young boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you never will amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you."

The lawyer was stunned! Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, "Mrs. Jones, do you know the defence attorney?"

She again replied, "Why, yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him."

The defence attorney almost died.

The judge asked both counsellors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said, "If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you to the electric chair."

Rai Valley Show Ken and Doris and several other members attended the Rai show and showed the flag for MVFM.



Editors Note Well that's a quarter of the year gone already and as you can see there has been plenty of things going on at MVFM. We hosted the Scouts in the New Year and what a pleasure it was. It has certainly restored our faith in the next generation to see such a positive and well mannered group of kids at the Park. Our open day over Waitangi weekend has been described by a lot of our members as "one of the best" and in the short time that we have been members it certainly was!! We once again would like to thank all the members who put in so much effort "behind the scenes". Without this we wouldn't have a club that continues to grow bigger and better each year. For us the time and effort taken to have a display is small compared to the huge reward we get from seeing the public enjoying and commenting on the displays.

We are aware there are several members of our club who are going through some very challenging times with regards to their own personal health. We would like to wish you all the very best for a speedy recovery. I am sure we are all available to lend a hand with anything you might need some help with. This might be the lawns or a tidy up in the garden or anything else, we are here to support you.

To all you who are celebrating an anniversary – congratulations.

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of Ancient Iron and if you have anything you would like to contribute to the next edition please get in touch with us.

Jocelyn and John

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

Upcoming Events:

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

MVFM AGM – May 2017

