



Ancient Iron

Official Newsletter of
Marlborough Vintage Farm Machinery Society Inc.

Issue No.16 September 2021

Open Day February 2021









All Open day photos courtesy of Gerard Logan

Busy Club Members



As the editors of this news letter we don't get to MVFM as often as we should but whenever we are there on a Saturday morning our club members are always busy working on their projects or carrying out maintenance around the club. Pictured on the left is Brian Pinnell and Bernie Mason busy replacing some panes of glass that have cracked in the windows of the Engine Shed.

Jamie Acott left, responded to Ian Conway's request for a piece of stainless steel to extend the bench area and cover the hole where once a cut out for a cook top was located from the kitchen that was purchased last year as part of the kitchen refurbishment. Jamie obtained a piece of stainless, cut it and folded it to make a perfect fit.



Ian has been working away in the kitchen, along with several other projects he has on the go and is seen here giving the window sill a sanding before giving it a coat of paint. Thanks for all your hard work Ian, it's looking great.



Bernie Smith was putting his fuel injection skills to good use on the club's Fordson Major while John Neal, who looks after this tractor, cleans out the front of the radiator.

A little while ago, Mark Stead who owned Big Shed Customs, donated this Lansing Bagnall forklift to MVFM but the brakes weren't operating so Dennis Parker quickly got stuck in and sorted them out which being a British machine made for quite a challenge!!





On a cold wet Saturday, while I was looking for a recent acquisition, I found Jim Campbell in one of the sheds near the back of the Park quietly working away on this old Bristol crawler.



Age is no restriction to Ian Le Grice when it comes to getting to MVFM especially when there is a GM that needs a little bit of maintenance or a chance of someone asking him if it starts!!

Ian's son, Robert, is back in Blenheim again and is more than happy to bring his father up to the Park on a Saturday morning to have a cuppa and catch up with the other club members.



When Dennis Parker isn't working on the Lansing Bagnall you will find him in the engine shed either helping Ian or helping this group of blokes who are also there most Wednesday & Saturday mornings. Beside Dennis are Bill Jones, Roger Schroder & Godfrey Earl who have been getting the Andersons driven pumps working.



Keith Worner's recently built mobile workshop comes in very handy when some tractor tyres in the Denton Building require attention while Ross Cooke offers some advice!!



Not only is John Simmons little digger useful for digging ditches but it is also very handy when it's time to do some gardening. Donald and Brian take a break from cleaning up after John's wee digger has saved them an awful lot of back breaking work.

Sometime ago MVFM were given these, mainly Lubberfiner, unwanted filters. Now that the library has been moved both Gordon Taylor and Bernie Smith have spent a lot of time sorting through them and putting them into order on the old library shelves. Looking for and identifying these filters will be so much quicker and easier to find now. Thanks very much you guys, these filters have been sitting around in boxes for a long time and the effort you have put into sorting them out is very much appreciated.



Brian and Bernie are making the most of a warm winters day to replace an old rotten window in the cottage.



Ross Cooke is assisting Vice President Gerard Logan who has been very busy at MVFM since he rejoined the club. Along with serving on several committees and organising surplus items to be sold on Trade Me, he has also dismantled his Grandfathers Model B Allis Chalmers after discovering engine coolant in the sump.

David Brown VAK1A Restoration



Long time Blenheim painter, Ali Broughton, is busy coating the restoration team's hard work!!

Photos supplied by Al Barclay



Thanks to the patience of Ian Conway, Alistair Barclay and the other club members involved in the restoration, it is now near completion. This has been a big project involving hundreds of hours but as you can see it has been well worth the effort. With just the name plates to be fitted and a few other bits and pieces Ian and Alistair are looking very satisfied with the outcome and no doubt Ted Hutchinson would also be very impressed as it was restored in his honour.

Long Term Loan.



John Neal responded to a plea from the Marlborough Aero Club (MAC), of which he is a member, for a rapid response vehicle or something that could be made into one.

As John said, Omaka is a huge grass airfield roughly 1 km square and given the real possibility of aircraft accidents on the field, to say nothing of the potential for grass fires, MAC made their own appliance some years ago. Being simply a hand cart with some fire extinguishers on it, the kindest thing that can be said about it is that it is something you would see on a Keystone Cops movie. Imagine the state of the response crew arriving at a fire or accident having run across the airfield with that thing!

John thought the Jeep that the Flaxbourne Rural Fire Service had donated to MVFM would be ideal so he approached our club president and committee members about MAC's plea. A discussion was had and an agreement was written up and presented to the Aero Clubs president, Paul Halley, to which he responded to this offer both gratefully and enthusiastically, for our Jeep was just what they needed. Two of the Aero Club flight instructors have Fire Brigade experience so the truck will be ideal.

Pictured left to right are club president Paul Halley, Aero Club flying instructor and Fire Chief Ben Morris along with John Neal MVFM secretary and member of the Marlborough Aero Club.

Cottage Windmill



The concrete pad and frame are in place ready for the windmill that Grant Fraser over hauled for MVFM. This will be a great working display beside the cottage. Thanks to everyone who have assisted in getting it to this stage.

Litchfield's Fowler Traction Engine

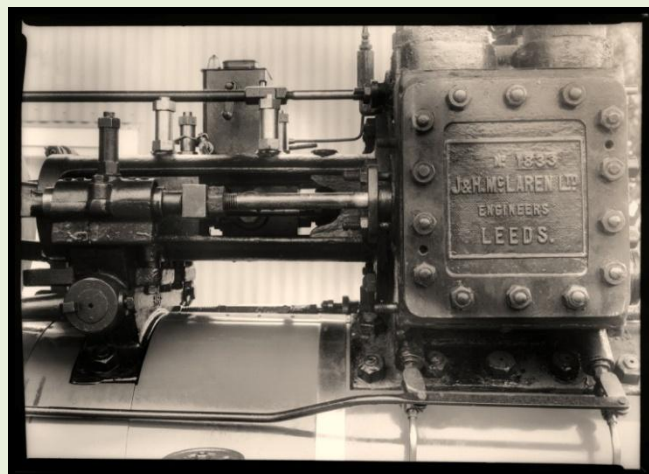


Back in June MVFM received an email from Marlborough Museum to see if we could help with a request that they had received from Rodney Miles who owns the Fowler traction engine that was originally owned by Litchfield's. Rodney wanted a copy of the above photo but Marlborough Museum couldn't quite identify the photo that he was after. So I had a look on the internet and by chance I found the photo he was looking for in an article written about "Methodism in Marlborough 1840-1965". I contacted Rodney to confirm it was the photo he was looking for and then sent the article to Marlborough Museum to see if they had the photo in their collection which they did. The Fowler traction engine was preparing to leave from the old Post office on a Sunday School picnic dated 2nd November 1903. Litchfield's took delivery of this traction engine on 11th September 1903.



John Griffin, who is part of the “Steam Team”, passed on this article for the news letter after a visitor showed up to have a look around. MVFM have lots of visitors who just come to have a look around but when you start talking to them they are very interesting as was the case when Steve Taylor arrived. Thanks John, all articles are gladly accepted and what great photos taken on a camera manufactured over 100 years ago.

Back in March while we had the steam roller out of the shed one Thursday, Steve Taylor from Auckland called by. Steve was on a tour of NZ photographing heritage items using his Lizars Challenge Model C camera made in Glasgow 1905. The lens was made in 1901. Photo of camera attached along with two other photos he took. For the people interested in photography these photos may be of interest to them.



Pictured left to right are John Johnson, John Griffin, Jeff Rowberry and Paul Frazer.



John also shared this article with us.

Steam Roller Bi-annual Survey.

Every two years the steam roller has to have a survey carried out to confirm it complies with all regulations relating to steam pressure vessels. This survey is carried out by an independent person certified to carry out such inspections. The recent survey was completed end of April 2021.

Preparing for the survey requires the following work to be done; remove fire bars, clean fire box, clean tubes, remove fusible plug, open up all inspection points (6), flush boiler, present roller in a clean and tidy condition. This is all dirty work!

The survey is in two parts, inspection without fire to confirm all components are sound and up to scratch. Inspection under steam to confirm safety valves operate, both water injector and mechanical water feed pump operate correctly, gauge glasses are not restricted, accuracy of steam pressure gauge.

Upon completion of the first part, the boiler has to be “closed up”, fire bars replaced, fusible plug installed. After everyone is satisfied everything is back together boiler is filled with water and a hydraulic test is applied to confirm that there is no leaks. If there are leaks they have to be sorted before we can progress further (this time we must have got it right because no leaks appeared) Water is then drained back to operating level and a fire started to bring boiler up to operating pressure. If we have got the timing right the surveyor should be back on site to perform the second part of the survey.

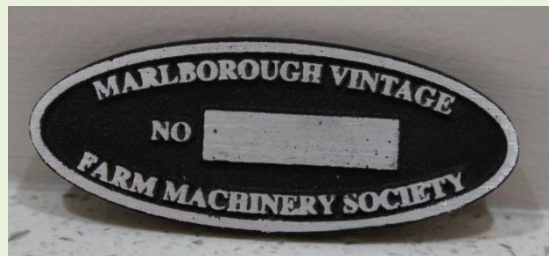
All of above is spread over 5 days.

MVFM ID Plaques

Supplies of our plaques have been starting to run low and an attempt was made to see if the person who originally cast them could make some more for us but that wasn't possible.

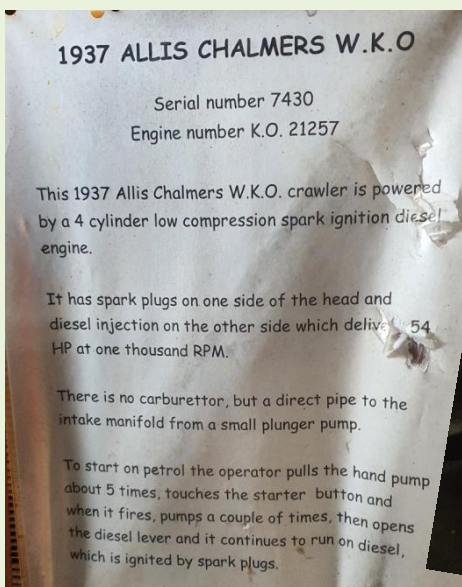
A search on the internet revealed several foundry's that might be able to help us out and so an approach was made outlining what we needed. ABCAST Foundry in Fielding replied almost straight away and the owner Scott Edgecomb supplied a quote to cast one hundred for us. An approach was made to Redwood Trust for a Grant to cover the cost of the plaques which was successful. The Fund application was a simple process and ABCAST foundry cast and freighted the completed plaques to us shortly afterwards. If anyone is looking to get some casting done check out their website www.abcastfoundry.co.nz and have a look at the work they can carry out.

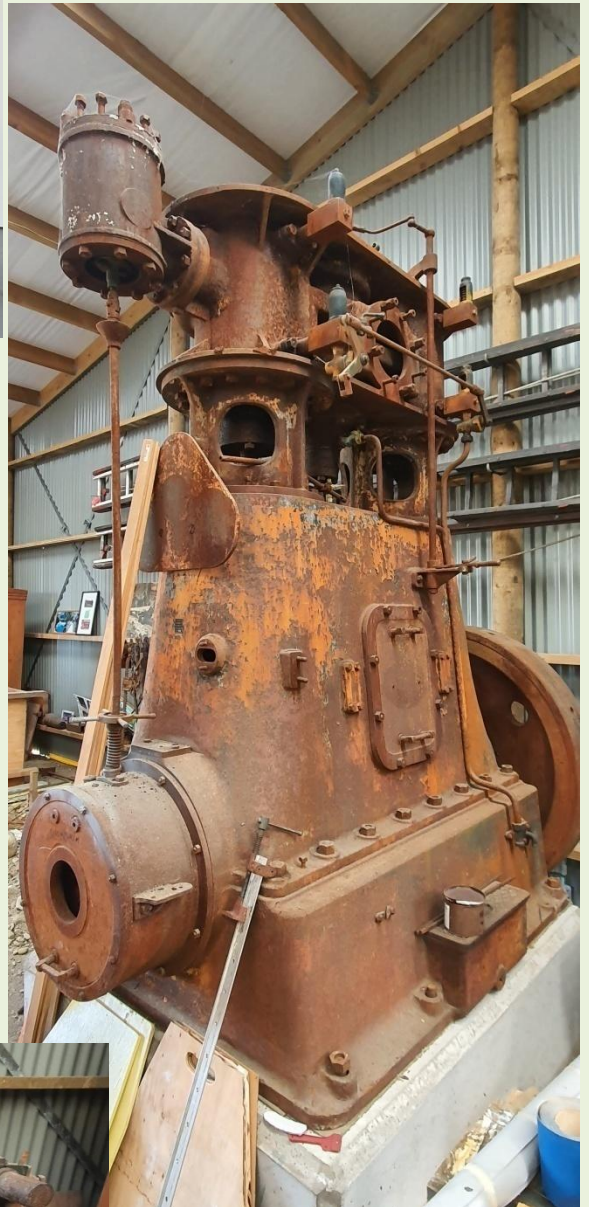
MVFM would also like to most sincerely thank the Redwood Trust, not only for this Grant, but all the other funding for various projects that they have supported over the years.



WESTLAND INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE PARK, HOKITIKA

Gerard Logan recently visited this interesting Park and kindly agreed to share his photos with us.





Above 1930's Bellis & Morcom Steam engine

Left Bach Steam Engine



Bach steam engine

Built by Richard Bach in Birmingham about 1853 this engine is believed to be the oldest existing steam portable of the 'modern' layout known to have survived in the world.


Bach is credited to be the first to have designed and built the engine with the crank on top of the boiler. By the 1860's his design was adopted by all manufacturers.

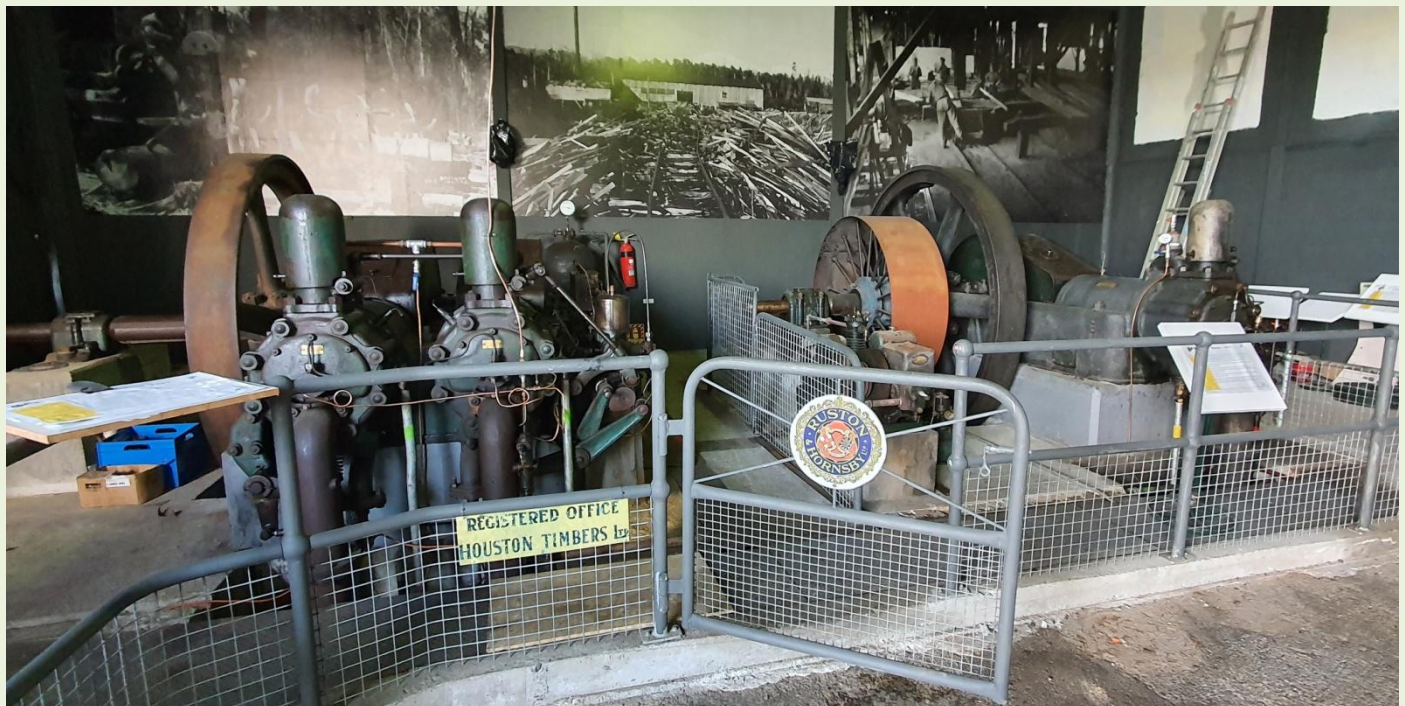
This example may be the one that was exhibited at the Royal Show in 1853. This engine was purchased by Parsons and Co. who brought it to Hokitika as part of a coffee making business – it was located near the wharf area.

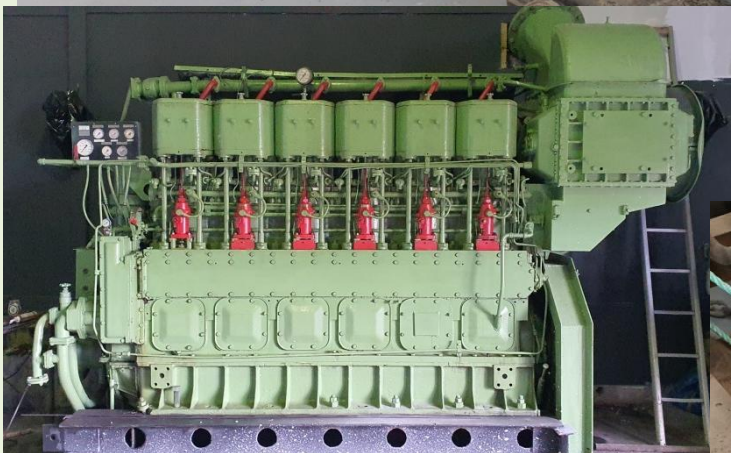
Working pressure was just 25psi with 40 psi the max. The boiler was made with many small plates, Pixie head rivets and the inside out construction of the end flanges.

The split connecting rod was made so the feedwater pump can be concentric with the main cylinder.



 <p>Westland Industrial Heritage Park</p>	<h3>Ruston - 1941</h3>
<p>Maker: Ruston and Hornsby Lincoln England</p> <p>Class HRE Size no.10</p> <p>Engine no. 209709</p> <p>78 BHP @ 280 RMP</p> <p>Age 1941</p>	<p>This Ruston and Hornsby engine was produced in 1941 and we believe it was first used to power a searchlight during the blitz over London. This HRC single cylinder engine, was subsequently purchased by the Banks Family, the flywheel was changed (and still bears the shipping details) and supplied the power for Waiho Sawmills.</p> <p>The engine was purchased for the Park with the assistance of Development WC and the local community.</p> <p>The sawmill was located in the Waiho river valley close to Franz Josef and large amounts of white pine (kahikatea) and red pine (rimu) were sawn from nearby forests on Crown and private land.</p> <p>The HRE assists the original compressor engine to fill the air cylinder so that the adjacent engines can be started.</p> <p>Keith Houston is the official overseer for these engines and to our knowledge having three Ruston and Hornsby engines on display in working order can only be seen here at the Westland Industrial Heritage Park and nowhere else in the southern hemisphere.</p>





Acquisitions



This P6 Perkins powered Fordson crawler has been donated by Bob Butt.



Alistair Barclay has kindly donated his fully restored Fordson Major.

Along with the above items, MVFM continue to receive a wide variety of articles from members of the public. These include a Petter, Anderson and a JAP stationary engine. Timber jacks, saw spindles, service manuals, old books, electrical test meters, a wooden mantel clock, a Quartz crusher, an old steel wheeled clover lifter, an old power hacksaw and many other items often left outside the workshop doors. Thanks to everyone who have made a donation.



This Bentall corn crusher has been donated by the family of the late Lou Wratt



MVFM have hired the services of a gardener for a few hours a month to keep the garden tidy in front of the Denton Building. This photo was taken in March when they were looking nice. Keeping the maintenance up over the winter months will help when the weather warms up.

MVFM AGM May 2021



The AGM was held in May with a small turnout of club members. There were two changes from the previous Executive Committee. Chris McKay decided not stand again as vice president. Thanks for your assistance in this role Chris, it is much appreciated. Gerard Logan was elected as the new VP. Ian Conway has stood down as MVFM's delegate to Brayshaw Park Administrators. Thanks Ian for being our liaison person for the last few years, it too is very much appreciated. Trevor Jane and Alistair Barclay have accepted this joint position.



Dennis Parker, left and Lew Bright were the winners of this year's AGM Raffle.

Bob Thoms, a long serving member and a past president of MVFM passed away in January. Bob and his late wife, Rosemary, made a big contribution to MVFM in the early days. Bob is pictured here in 2014 during an open day.



Lynn Bowman Rutledge passed away in July. Lynn carried out door duties at MVFM every week and helped out during our open days until ill health stopped her. She greeted our visitors with a warm smile usually with her crocheting in hand. When there weren't any visitors she would always sweep both the inside and outside of the Denton Building and dust off the tractors. Lynn was a quiet person who "just got on with things" and will be sadly missed by all.

Visit to Langley Dale Sunday 28th February.

On a sunny Sunday, 28 members of MVFM travelled by car up the Northbank of the Wairau River to the historic Langley Dale Station. The present owners are 5th generation Adams brothers. Richard and Simon Adams farm the 1400 hectare property with Simon and his family living in the historic homestead during the warmer months of the year. The Homestead was originally a modest building but with the addition of a top storey and other extras it is now an imposing timber structure with a relatively new roof courtesy of the Historic Places Trust.



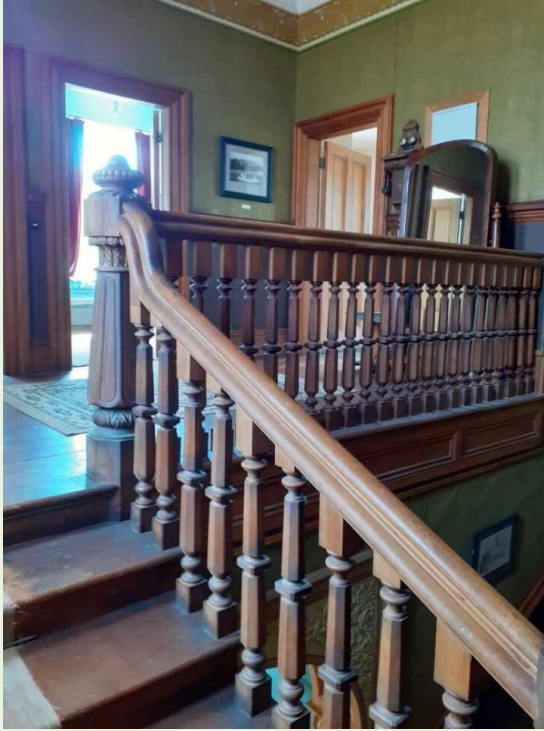
Upon arrival the group was divided into three with Simon, his wife Lorraine and daughter Issy acting as tour guides. They had a wealth of knowledge which they willingly shared with us all. The upper storey comprised a myriad of small and large bedrooms plus bathroom facilities. The main functioning toilet had a room to itself which was fitting as it was a Royal Dalton China toilet bowl lavishly decorated with navy blue flowers. The functioning showers had huge copper rose heads which continue to work efficiently. In this upper level there was some indication of water damage that had occurred before the roof was renewed. Downstairs there was a large kitchen area which had the various means of cooking meals over the years. These ranged from a huge fireplace where pots would have hung over the fire to a large wood range and also a modern electric stove. There was

a large kitchen table which is still used by the family and it was easy to imagine the kitchen filled with family, servants and farm workers. The Butler's pantry is no longer able to be used following storm damage but was evidence of a home with lots of helpers. Off to the cold side of the kitchen were two cold, stone lined pantries where utensils from days of old were stored hanging on the walls and benches for bowls of milk left for the cream to settle ready for making butter. At this lower level were several rooms for entertaining.



There was a large Billiard table and comfy chairs which Godfrey E and Jeff R tried out. The architraves here were covered with gold leaf. The formal dining room had a large polished table and a huge beautifully preserved sideboard and a decorative matching chimney surround. There are many fireplaces scattered throughout the house which, because of a danger of fire, cannot be used at present. If funds allow they could the insurance costs could well be prohibitive.





We had all taken a picnic lunch so after touring inside there was the chance to sit out in the extensive grounds and enjoy the shade of many large trees.



After lunch there was the chance to look at many of the outbuildings. It was interesting to see the men honing in on the various pieces of no longer used machinery and discussing what they had all been. First we visited the Saddlery and Stables where horses had been housed. There were numerous pieces of harnesses and collars for the draft horses as well as a disused set of bellows from the original forge.



From there some walked while others hitched a car ride down to the Woolshed. It still has the original 10 stands for shearing although now only 4 stands are in use. One interesting feature was a shute where the blunt shears were passed downstairs to be sharpened and returned. There was a huge woven cane basket for carrying fleeces plus the normal wool press and bales as used today.

From the woolshed we travelled a short distance along the road to the site of the original Flax Mill. While there is little to be seen now Simon explained how the waterwheel was used, the growing of the flax and processing the fibre.



While we were there it was amusing to see a large flock of geese marching along in order. They appeared to have a very set marching order and without any visible sign would all do a 180 degree turn and march back the way they had come to again do a 180 degree turn and march back. This seemed to be a set routine that lasted all the time we were there.

We noticed a Family Cemetery up on the top of a steep hill above the homestead. It was not immediately obvious how the coffins would have been taken up there or whether the cemetery is still able to be used.

Thank you to Shirley for organising this most informative, interesting outing for us all.

This article was kindly written by Helen Campbell. Photos from both Helen Campbell and Shirley Shefford.

Ross Henderson

While we were at Wheels at Wanaka we caught up with Ross Henderson. You might recall we ran an article about him in one of our previous issues. Ross wrote a book about Hart Parrs in NZ and was at the show looking after all the Hart Parrs that belong to the Central Machine Hire Vintage Tractor Collection in Wanaka. Ross and John are standing beside an 18-36 which MVFM also have as a restoration project.



Ross is getting ready for the tractor display on the only Hart Parr 22-40 in NZ.

Wanaka Easter 2021





Vic Draper is putting the Vickers through its paces. You can tell its British, it has that look about it!!



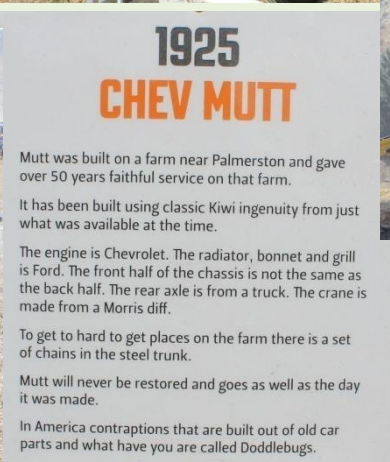
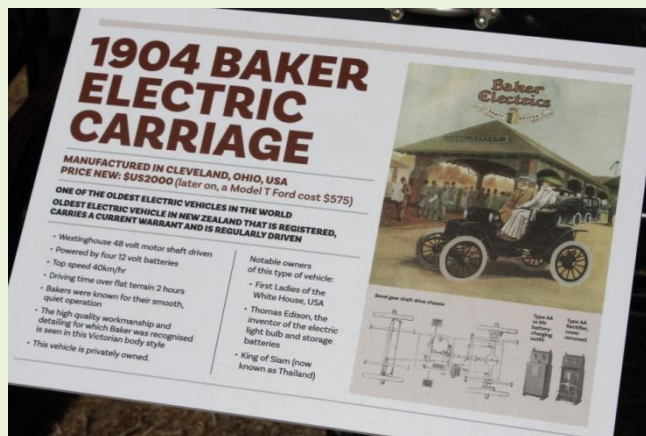
Fred Dagg's Grandson was also there!!



Years of Manufacture: 1952 - 1957
Manufacturer: Marine and Industrial Division of the Chrysler Engine Division of the Chrysler Corporation of Trenton, Michigan
Power Plant: Chrysler Industrial 20A 481 Engine
90 degree inclined V-8 4-cycle gasoline
331.1 cubic inch displacement
hemispherical cylinder heads
180 HP @ 4000 RPM 312 foot pounds torque @ 2000 RPM
7.5 to 1 compression ratio
Bore 3-13/16 inches / Stroke 3-5/8 inches
Dual Venturi downdraft carburetor
Stellite faced exhaust valves
Idle speed 650 RPM Running speed 4600 RPM
Power Train: 13 inch Gyrul fluid coupling
11 inch friction type single plate, dry disc clutch
Compressor: American Blower
Three stage centrifugal type compressor stiff shaft unit 43 inch OD cast iron housing
22-3/4 inch OD cast aluminum heat treated alloy impellers
Rated speed 4,600 RPM Discharge volume 2,610 CFM Discharge pressure 6.95 psig
Projectors: Six throated cast aluminum Directional beam exponential type
Length 25-1/2 inches Height 37-1/2 inches Width 19 inches
Sound Output: 138 dBC at 100 feet Single Tone, 460 Hz
Size & Weight:
Assembly overall length 135 inches overall width 45 inches height 62 inches
Assembly height with exhaust 71 inches
Total weight 5,543 pounds
Price: \$5,500.00 (1952)







The Easter weekend we spent at Wheels at Wanaka was amazing. It was so well organised with three full days required to see all that was on display. This was the second time the show has been held and with the next display being scheduled for Easter 2023 you should pencil it in if you are interested. I have attempted to show a cross section of what was on display but because of a lack space this is only a small sample of what was there. Have a look on the internet at **YouTube Show Highlights Wheels at Wanaka 2021 Truck and Machinery Show** for some more photos and videos.

No doubt you will all be getting sick of COVID and everything associated with it but with winter drawing to an end and the days starting to draw out again we look forward to the warmer weather that spring time brings and hopefully an end to the lock down so we can get on with our lives. The annual Daffodil Vehicle Display for Cancer fundraiser has been postponed at this stage and the Omas Air Show had to be postponed again, this time until 2023 but hopefully our Open day during Marlborough's Anniversary weekend will go ahead. We hope you have enjoyed another edition of Ancient Iron and after looking at some of the photos you are like us, thinking the year is racing by!!

Regards Jocelyn & John

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