

Inc # A0038764

# TRACS TORQUE

Trucks too.

February 2025

Newsletter for  
Members of the Tractor  
Restoration and Appreciation  
Club Sunraysia Inc.



PO Box 569 Irymple 3498 [www.tracsmildura.com.au](http://www.tracsmildura.com.au) 436 Wilga Road, Red Cliffs

TRACS members will recall the success of the ABC Facebook stories on our working Sunshine Strippers. Over 700,000 views in each of the 2 years. Heath Koenig added a comment to the page and included several photos of a field day on his family's property near Horsham in the early 30's. He has allowed us to use them here. The stripper is being pulled by a Moline Universal—the same as the one Bryan Hamilton has. Thankyou Heath.



At left, Bryan Hamilton's Award winning Moline Universal at the 2024 Wentworth Show.

To hook it to a stripper or plough or whatever else, the rear wheels are easily removed, the tractor remains perfectly balanced and it is simply connected in place of a horse team. The steering wheel and all the controls remain attached to the tractor. As shown in the photo above, 1 person can operate the tractor and the stripper.

More details on The Moline Universal further in this newsletter.

**Next Meeting Wednesday 12th February 7.30pm at Irymple Bowls Club.**

## TRACS—What's On in The Next Few Months.

### January 2025

- **Sat and Sunday 25th and 26th**—Quambatook Heritage Working Harvesting Machinery Days

### February 2025

- **Wednesday 12th**—TRACS meeting
- **Sunday 23rd**—American Motoring Show at Mornington Racecourse.

### March 2025

- **Sunday 2nd** — Tractor Pull practice and training day at Wilga Rd. 5pm start BBQ to follow.
- **Sunday 9th**—Clunes Historic Vehicle Show. Ph 03 5469 1239 for more info.
- **Wednesday 12th**—TRACS Meeting

### April 2025

- **Wednesday 9th**—TRACS Meeting
- **Sunday 27th**—Wangaratta Historic Motor Show and Flyin—at Wangaratta Airport.
- **Sunday 27th**—Federation Scoresby Picnic

### May 2025

- **16th and 17th**—Mildura Field Days

### June 2025

- **4th to 11th**—Tractor Trek to Belvedere
- **6th, 7th and 8th**—100 years of Caterpillar at Belvedere.

### August 2025

- **Australia Day**— date and format to be confirmed.
- **23rd and 24th**—Wentworth Show

### October 2025

- **Sunday 5th**—Tractor Pull at Wilga Road



**Original rear tyres from a David Brown Cropmaster.  
Only lasted 75 years.....**

**The first Caterpillar crawler was built in Stockton in California in 1925.  
As noted in the above list and discussed at the last meeting, an event to celebrate 100 years of  
Caterpillar is planned for the June long weekend at Belvedere.**

**The weekend will be organised jointly by TRACS and The Vintage Machinery Society of  
Sunraysia.**

**Attendance is not limited to Caterpillar gear—anything with age will be appreciated.**

**On-site camping will be available with showers, toilets etc.**

**We will be running a tractor trek to fit in with this.**

**This newsletter has been printed on a copier supplied by OEDigital. We thank you for your support.**

**TRACS Inc. PO Box 569 Irymple, Vic 3498 Website [www.tracsmildura.com.au](http://www.tracsmildura.com.au)**

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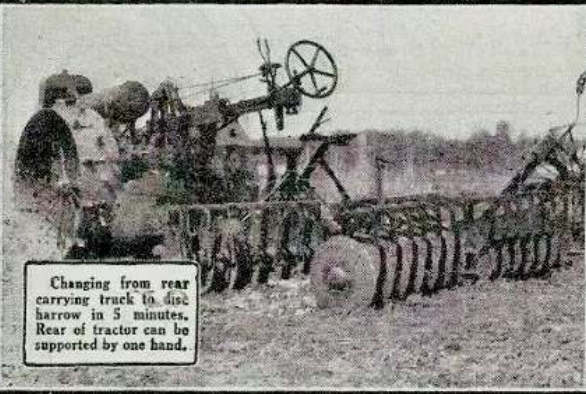
**0434 901 812**



# Why a Two Wheel Tractor



One man plowing 9 acres a day. All the weight goes into the pull — this gives great power on the draw-bar.



Changing from rear carrying track to disc harrow in 5 minutes. Rear of tractor can be supported by one hand.



Cultivating corn last time. Tractor has ample clearance to straddle row. One man cultivating 14 to 20 acres a day.

**W**HEN designing the Moline-Universal Tractor we did not follow the automobile or motor truck, which are complete units in themselves and carry their loads. A farm tractor must *pull* its load and is useless unless operated in connection with some farm machine. Thus, we built a tractor which does the same work that farm horses do, which operates under the same conditions and in much the same manner—but faster, cheaper and better. A two-wheel type of tractor is best adapted to farm conditions, because—

Ninety-eight per cent of its weight is placed on the two big drive wheels and is available for traction. This eliminates dead weight and enables the Moline-Universal to pull as much as tractors weighing from 1500 to 2000 pounds more. The Moline-Universal has enough power for heavy requirements, yet operates economically on light jobs. This is essential because farm power requirements vary from light work such as cultivating to heavy work such as plowing, and a tractor must be able to do all work economically and efficiently.

The two-wheel construction enables the Moline-Universal to be attached close up direct to the implement, so that one compact unit is formed. **ONE MAN** controls the entire outfit from the seat of the implement—the best position to manipulate the implement and make adjustments for varying field conditions. Tractor and implement go forward, backward and turn as one unit.

The two-wheel construction gives the Moline-Universal ample clearance for cultivating. On many farms more hours are spent in cultivating than in any other operation. Unless a tractor can cultivate row crops it will not replace horses on such farms.

Wonderful success on thousands of farms in replacing man and horse power, proves that the Moline-Universal is fundamentally correct in design — it doubles a farmer's efficiency. You will find the Moline-Universal Catalog mighty interesting — it's free on request. Address Dept. 63.

**Moline Plow Co., Moline, Ill.**

*Manufacturers of Quality Farm Implements  
Since 1865*

# MOLINE UNIVERSAL TRACTOR



Mowing a 10-ft. swath. One man operates tractor and implement from the seat of the implement. A real one-man outfit.

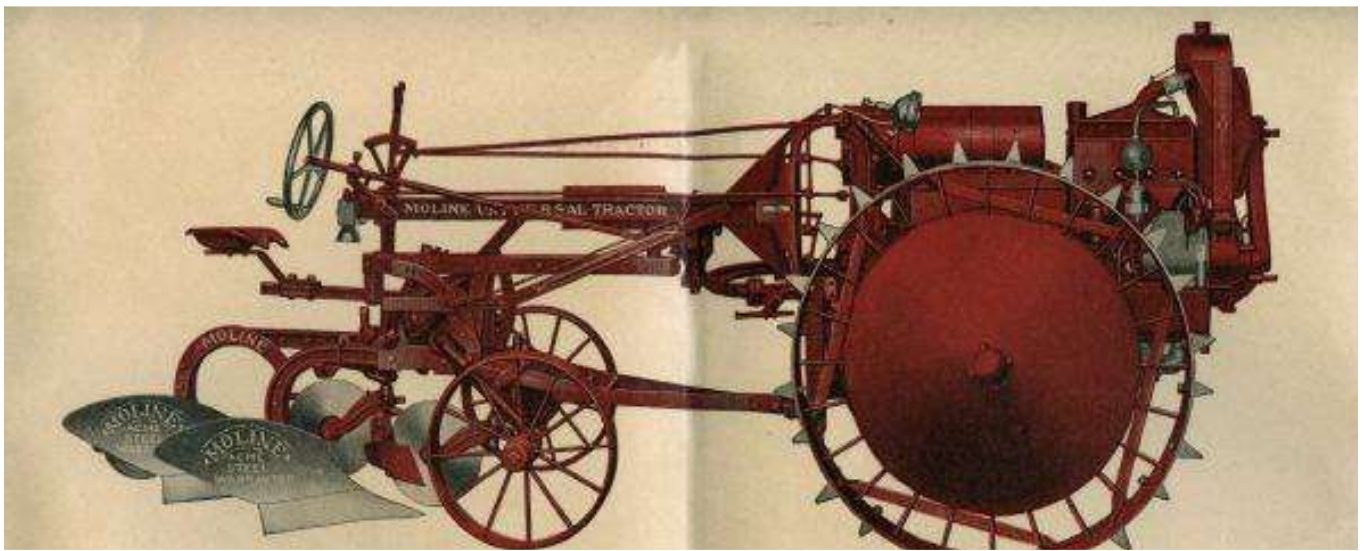




**The top 2 photos supplied and used courtesy of Heath Koenig.  
A demonstration day was held on his families property near Horsham in the early 30's. It was to  
promote modern farming in an era when most still used horses.  
Heath's grandfather, Geoff Koenig, is the young lad in the top photo.  
The tractor used is a Moline Universal.  
It looks strange today, but as shown here it literally replaced a team of horses.**



**Scan the QR Code  
for videos of  
Moline Universals  
at work**







**We had a clean up morning at Wilga Rd on 15th January.**

**Several slashers on the job—including Rex Stone with his very useful bit of kit.**

**A dead tree was taken down and cleaned up.**

**Dave Beard and Dale sprayed out the weeds on the fencelines.**

**With the improvements at Wilga Rd over the last couple of years it now takes very little effort to keep the site tidy.**

**Thanks to all involved.**



## **What is the future of TRACS Australia Day?**

- **It is supported at meetings but with a view that it may need a different focus or format**
- **Initially it was largely a Club day and with all sorts of items—not just vehicles—put on display**
- **In recent years the range of displays has been low—mainly vehicles.**
- **It was successful last year with a Chamberlain focus—although local contributions to the day were less than ideal.**
- **It has historically been held in August—although there is a view it may be too close to the Tractor Pull.**
- **All of the above issues were discussed at the last meeting.**
- **A group was nominated to work through these issues. Melody Keays, Jack Droffellar, Dale Munro, Robert Mansell, Ken Creighton, Phil Muir.**
- **If we continue with Australia Day it will need TRACS members to make it happen.**

# TRACTOR RESTORATION & APPRECIATION CLUB SUNRAYSLIA

Inc # A0038764N

## Minutes of Meeting 8th Jan 2025 at IBC

**MEETING OPENED:** 7.30pm

**APOLOGIES:**

Murray Green in hospital with heart issue and minutes taken by Phil N

Other apologies as per sheet.

**PRESENT:**

As per attendance sheet.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Taken as read and correct

Moved : S Richardson Sec Moose. Carried

**BUSINESS ARISING**

Nil

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Inwards**

1 NHMA advice of AGM 12th April 2025 at Rutherford along with nomination forms

**Outwards** Nil

Moved P Newton, Sec A McGauchie that correspondence be accepted. Carried

**BUSINESS ARISING:**

Nil

**TREASURERS REPORT**

Not present

**General Business**

**(a) Acceptance of New Members**

Discussed members with vehicles not attending club activities and requirement for attendance to put vehicles on permit. No further resolutions.

**(b) Clearing Sales/Auctions**

Nil

**(c) Restoration Activities**

Nil

**(d) Additional Purchases**

B Hamilton an old forklift and lister generator

S Richardson a Volvo F86

Leon Wittwer another B250

T Monson several old Sunshine stat engines.

**(e) Newsletter**

All Good

**(f) Wilga Road.**

**Working Bee** next Wed 15th at 8.00am

Plumbing to be attended.

David B has been out spraying.

Will need slashing.

**(g) TRACS Website**

OK

**(h) NSW Registrar**

Nil.

**(i) Vic Registrar**

Lots of renewals

**(j) Future Club Events**

**100 Years of Caterpillar Day** at Bevedere

Long weekend June 2025.

Jointly run by Sunraysia Vintage Machinery and TRACS. Not open to general public. (invitation only) Will be a tractor trek up there.

**Training Day for tractor pulling** Sun 2nd March 5.00 followed by sausage sizzle. Discussed having ladies only class but decided against.

Any people participating must be club members.

**All Aust Day**

Discussed whether to continue or not. Decided yes

But format may need to change. Called for people to organise and plan. Melody, Dale, Jack, Ken &

Robert.

**(k) Any Other Business**

**Dave Beard** gave report on Danny's health

**Next Meeting** 12th Feb at IBC

**Meeting closed** 8.20pm