

Inc # A0038764

# TRACS TORQUE

Trucks too.

September 2023

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

Next Meeting Wednesday 13th September and a working bee at Wilga Road on Sunday 17th

Danny's latest Trek—with 4 other tractors and a couple of utes—departed Wilga Rd on the afternoon of Australia Day.

Planning to cross the Simpson Desert and be in Birdsville for Race Day.  
Latest reports had them at Yunta but not without a few mechanical hiccups (all fixed).  
Danny reports there is scope for improved weather.....

Serving Mildura and district since 1920

# Sunraysia Daily

Monday, August 14, 2023

[www.sunrasyiadaily.com.au](http://www.sunrasyiadaily.com.au)

\$2.20



## Desert foxes

MERBEIN man Danny Lee is among a small group of vintage tractor enthusiasts about to take their machines on an epic and unique expedition across the Simpson Desert. His 1957 Fergie is all set for the Outback trek.

REPORT, more pictures, Pages 4-5



Picture: Meagan Verstappen



## TRACS—What's On in The Next Year or So.

### August 2023

- **Saturday and Sunday 26th and 27th**—Wentworth Show.
- **Tuesday 29th**— Federation Northern Tour

### September 2023

- **Saturday and Sunday 9th and 10th**—Wedderburn Rally
- **Sunday 10th** —Shepparton Swap Meet.
- **Wednesday 13th** — 7.30 pm TRACS Meeting at Irymple Bowls Club
- **Sunday 17th** — Working bee at Wilga Road. 9am start and BBQ Lunch.

### October 2023

- **Sunday 1st**—Working Bee at Wilga Road to get ready for The Tractor Pull. 9am start and BBQ Lunch.
- **Saturday 7th**—Tractor Pull and Truck Show
- **Wednesday 11th**— 7.30 pm TRACS Meeting at Irymple Bowls Club.
- **Sunday 15th**—Central Goldfields Rally
- **Sunday 22nd** —Bay to Birdwood
- **Late October**—likely Nullawil Trip

### November 2023

- **Wednesday 8th**— TRACS Meeting—7.30pm at Irymple Bowls Club
- **Saturday 11th**— Bendigo Swap Meet
- **Sunday 26th**— Christmas BBQ—bring a toy and try it on the sled.

### December 2023

- **Wednesday 13th**—7.30pm TRACS Meeting at Irymple Bowls Club

### February 2024

- **3rd and 4th**—Glenelg Vintage Machinery Rally—feature is 75 yrs of Chamberlain

### April 2024

- **25th to 28th**—Dareton Coomealla Centenary

### July 2024

- **6th and 7th**—Wentworth Junction Rally

### August 2024

- **8th to 11th**—TRACS Australian Day—feature 75 years of Chamberlain

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TRACS INC. P.O. Box 569 Irymple VIC. 3498. Web site [www.tracsmildura.com.au](http://www.tracsmildura.com.au)

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## Australia Day 13th August 2023

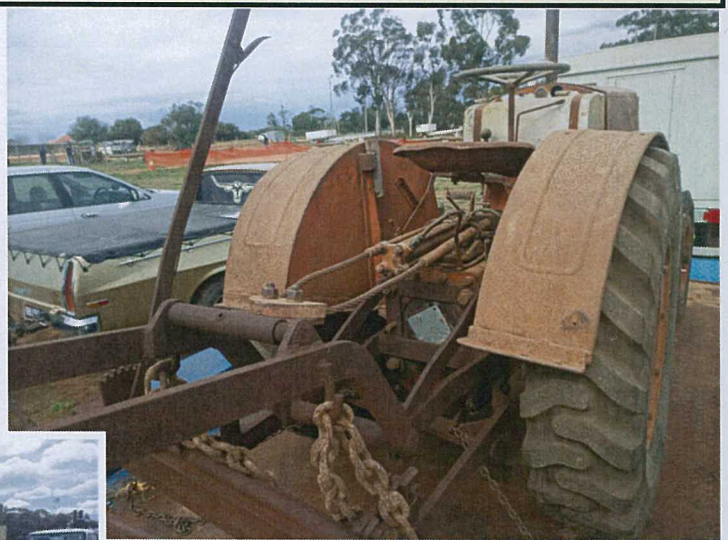


We had a good roll up of Club members and a wide range of Australian built machinery on show. This years focus was on Howards and Australian Built Stationary engines.

Several DH 22 tractors and a wide range of smaller Howard Hoes as well as many small stationary engines. The only large engine was Neil Kelly's Austral pictured below.

Alec McCracken brought a couple of blades from the Chaffey/McLaren rotary hoe of 1893.

Thanks to all Club Members who brought machinery to the day.





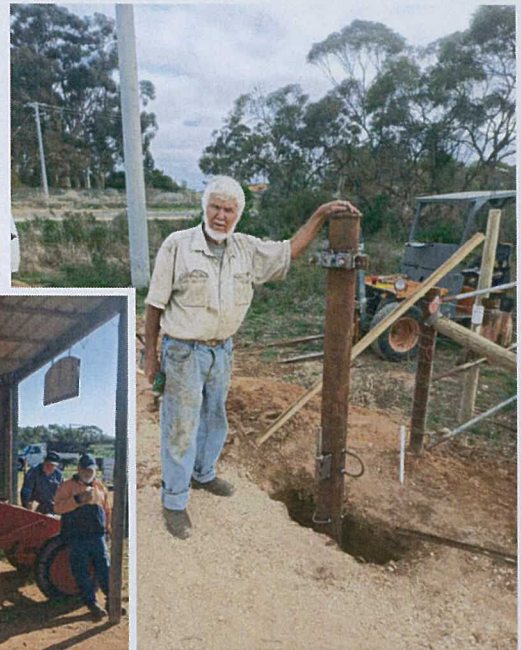
## Works Continue at Wilga Road.

We had a successful working bee on the 6th of August with more fencing done, final trim work on the new entrance road, addition of side rails to the loading ramp, finalization of the changes at the toilet block as well as a good clean-up prior to Australia Day.

Phil Moser has finished the new main front gates.

Since then we have moved the shed frame to Wilga Rd. and the holes for the footings have been dug. All posts for the next stage of fencing have been jetted in ready for the wire to be put up at the next working bee on 17th of September.

Thanks to all involved.





## Might be Time to Rethink the History of Rotary Hoes.

This year's TRACS Australia Day noted 100 years since the first Howard Hoe was built and it is widely considered that Cliff Howard invented rotary hoes.

This Chaffey/McLaren rotary hoe was demonstrated in Mildura in October 1893 as described by the following article from The Mildura Cultivator of Saturday 14th October 1893. This was the year Cliff Howard was born.

McLarens supplied most of the Traction Engines used by Chaffey's in the clearing of Mildura.

Their rotary hoe was not a success—managing a rotary hoe connected to a steam traction engine would have been a challenge. Stumps and remnants of same would have been a problem as well.

The McLaren Traction engine used had a vertical boiler which was later sold to Mildara in Merbein and was used up to the early 70's. Apart from the hoe—which remains on Alec McCracken's property—the rest of the machine has unfortunately been scrapped.

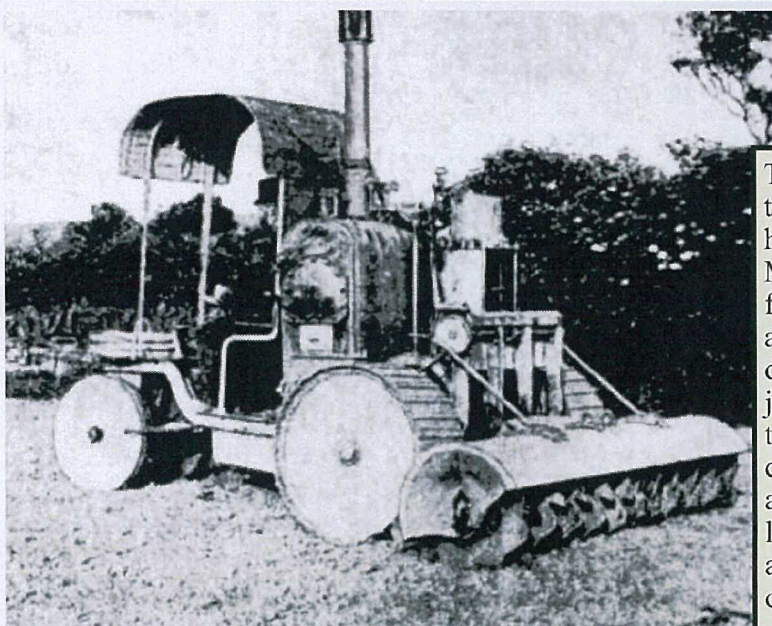
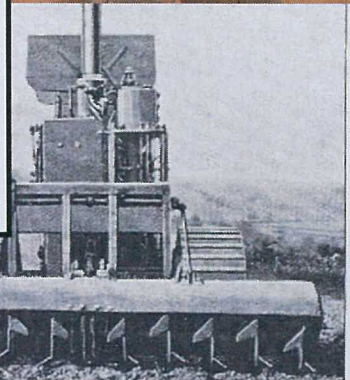
### MILDURA LEADS THE WAY.

A cultivating appliance of an entirely novel character has been introduced by Messrs. Chaffey Bros. Ltd. It consists of a small traction engine of new design, to the rear of which is attached what is called a revolving hoe. This hoe consists of a row of steel discs with flanged teeth. These discs are set at equal distances along a 2ft. shaft, and are driven by independent gear, the motions being so arranged that they revolve 15 per cent faster than they would do by the friction of traction. This imparts a cutting motion to the hoe, and also assists in propelling the machine to some extent. The traction engine, which is of about 8 IHP, is set upon four low wheels, and the steering gear consisting of a hand wheel working a pinion on a toothed quadrant, enables the entire machine to be turned round in a radius of eight feet.

This machine, which was designed jointly by Mr. G. Chaffey and Mr. Henry McLaren, was manufactured by Messrs. J and H McLaren, of Leeds. Before being shipped from England, it was subjected to severe working tests which it came through very satisfactorily, working is ground so soft that horse machines could not be used. The normal travelling speed of the engine is about 2 ½ miles per hour, and it is designed to cultivate about 15 acres per day.

The soil is worked by the hoe to a depth of six inches, and the surface is left in a thoroughly pulverized condition. Mr. A. McCracken who witnessed the trial of the machine in England, declares that it is a perfect "crucifier" of weeds, and this can readily be believed on inspecting the construction of the discs.

A trial of the new appliance was made, yesterday afternoon with promise of satisfactory results.



The illustration on this page shows a view of the newest type of steam cultivator which has just been completed by the patentees, Messrs. J. and H. McLaren, Leeds, England, for Messrs Chaffey Brothers, Mildura (Vic) and is reproduced from a photograph taken during trials at Bardsey, near Leeds. The object of the machine is to cultivate between the rows of trees in the orchards, but it is claimed that it may be used beneficially for all kinds of cultivation. The machine is easily controlled by one man and may be used as a stationary engine when not required as a cultivator.





A close up photo of the blade options for the Chaffey/McLaren rotary hoe.

And below, the blade assembly's.

Thanks to Alec McCracken for preserving this history.

**Alec McCracken's description of his family's connection with McLarens and how the machine ended up on their property at Sunnycliffs..**

My grandfather was never employed by the distribution company in Melbourne, but had worked for McLarens for a time before he married their sister, mostly travelling overseas demonstrating McLaren equipment.

Within days of his marriage, he set sail for Australia to manage what later became the McCracken property.

John & Henry McLaren originally owned our property, probably persuaded to invest in Mildura, after having sold quite a bit of machinery to Chaffey's, but when the depression of the nineties set in, McLarens decided to sell.

My grandfather bought it from them and stayed on.

It's probably worth noting, if only to explain why one of the hoes came to my grandfather, that John McLaren had married my grandfather's sister, Jane McCracken, and Henry married another sister, Grace McCracken. My grandfather completed the treble of three McCracken siblings marrying three McLaren siblings, by marrying Isobel McLaren.



W4 McCormick Deering (1944)  
Mechanically sound & runs very well  
Lights work, tyres in good condition  
Current owner since 1959  
Located in Renmark

Asking price \$3,000

Contact Kym Bennett 0417 882 204





## NHMA Golden Safety Rules

NHMA Safety Management System provides guidelines to ensure a high level of safety for our activities. The guidelines apply to all participants during all club events and activities. Below is a high-level summary of points essential to ensure compliance with the Safety Management System and maintain your and the public's safety.

- **Rally Co-ordinator** - Is responsible for the control of all exhibits and must ensure a **documented** rally risk assessment is carried out in conjunction with daily toolbox meetings.
- **Insurance and Age Limits** - The minimum age for machinery exhibitors is 10 years and all exhibitors must have appropriate public liability insurance.
- **Clothing** - Appropriate clothing and footwear should be worn at all times.
- **Exhibit Placement** - All powered mechanical exhibits must be fenced. The 1.5 away from the fence and 1 metre between exhibits rule should be followed as a minimum with flywheel and belt operation parallel to the compound fence.
- **Unloading and loading** - Ensure adequate space and the suitability of winches etc. being used. Do not hold onto suspended loads during loading/unloading exhibits but rather use a tag line.
- **Licensing** - Where applicable exhibitors and participants must be appropriately high risk licenced and pressure vessels certified.
- **Public Entry to Compounds** - Non-insured persons may enter compounds at the discretion of the rally coordinator provided that they are appropriately inducted and escorted at all times.
- **Exhibit Supervision and Refuelling** - Operating exhibits must be attended at all times by a person **capable of safely operating the device**. Internal combustion engines must not be refuelled while operating.
- **Belt Starting** - Loose belt starting of an exhibit from a running engine is prohibited.
- **Hazard Consideration** - Particular care should be given to the potential hazards of displays:
  - Drive belts, Drive chains & Drive shafts (Entanglement)
  - Gearing, cogs, wheels (Crushing & Entrapment)
  - Blades, spikes, cutters, propellers (Cutting & Crushing)
  - Exhausts, cooling water, fuel & other chemicals (Burns)
  - Excess noise
- **Alcohol & Illicit Drugs** - Must not be consumed in compounds or while operating machinery.
- **Tractor Activities** - Only permitted in a public excluded areas. Passengers are not allowed unless there is an allocated seat. Modified tractors are not permitted to take part in NHMA insured tractor pulls.
- **Driver Qualification** - Tractor operators must be appropriately licenced or accepted as competent by the Rally organisers.
- **Moving Tractors In Public Rally Spaces** - Restricted to walking pace under a marshal's supervision.
- **Public Roads** - Tractors operated on public roadway must comply with State or Territory registration, insurance and licencing requirements.
- **Static Tractor Displays** - May be displayed outside compounds provided that unauthorized access is managed, and that the vehicle is rendered inoperative and in a stationary condition.

Peter Garnham  
President NHMA

For the latest copy of this checklist please visit the NHMA Website at [nhma.com.au](http://nhma.com.au)



# TRACTOR RESTORATION & APPRECIATION CLUB SUNRAYSA

Inc # A0038764N

## Minutes of Meeting 9th Aug, 2023 at IBC

### MEETING OPENED: 7.30pm

**APOLOGIES:** P & R Carter, D Gordon, L Wittwer, M Hunt, C Richardson, D Richardson, B Fox, R & C Kovac, G Chislett, M Follett, R Henschke, G Benson, N Smart, K Creighton, M McGauchie, B Hamilton, P Johnson, A Moser, M Midgley.

**PRESENT:** D Munro, B Foster, J Porker, R Blanch, R Stone, K Forster, P Newton, D Lee, D Beard, R Bunton, T McGauchie, B McNabb, L Knight, F Wallace, A McKenzie, B Lampard, L Grivec, M O'Callaghan, A Whyte, R French, J Droffelaar, B Stirrat, A McGauchie, M Snadden, N Kelly, S Richardson, P Muir, A Haw, J Ablett, G Lane, B Gray, P Moser, R Carter, J Lindsay, D Bennett, L Cricelli, N Boyd, D O'Toole, I Hinks, T Robinson, T Dobbyn, C Clark.

**PREVIOUS MINUTES:** Taken as read and correct  
Moved : A McGauchie Sec R Carter Carried

### BUSINESS ARISING

Nil

### CORRESPONDENCE

#### Inwards

- 1 HCVC July Monitor
- 2 Photos from Ian H for use.
- 3 LMW acct 65.29
- 4 Denilquin Collectors Club July Newsletter
- 5 NHMA invoice for Ins
- 6 Membership cheque Potts, Pech, Wittwer.
- 7 NSW HMA Meeting notice and Bulletin
- 8 Shepparton swap meet notice 10/9
- 9 Incorrect Invoice from Runnymead.
- 10 Ford Flat head notice 22/10
- 11 National Holden 75th Anniv notice 26/11
- 12 Trafalga museum notice 27/8
- 13 Baw Baw poicnic notice 29/10
- 14 Receival of C of C policy
- 15 Runnymead acct for Fire ext and 1st Aid
- 16 Bendigo bank letter re dishon chq and chqs
- 17 Hit and Miss July newsletter
- 18 Invitation Robinvale Almont festival 20/8

Moved P Newton, Sec I Hinks that correspondence be accepted. Carried

### General Business

#### (a) Acceptance of New Members

Nil

#### (b) Clearing Sales

Nil

#### (c) Restoration Activities

Nil

#### (d) Additional Purchases

K Creighton pur old Citroen Rally car

#### (e) Newsletter Co-ordinator

All Good

#### (f) Wilga Road.

Quite a lot has happened over last month, and working bee last Sunday. Loading ramp has rails. Oval slashed, driveway including new gates comp. Toilet revamp is largely complete. Shed has arrived and hopefully up by Tractor pull. Hopefully next stage of fencing after All Aust Day. Thanks to everyone who has helped.

#### (g) TRACS Website

Up to date

#### (h) NSW Registrar

1 renewal

#### (i) Vic Registrar

Lots of renewals

#### (j) Future Club Events

##### All Australian Day 13/8/23.

Need as many display vehicles etc as possible

Open to public from 10.00am

Tractor trekkers will be there Fri, Sat & Sun.

##### Wentworth Show 26/27th Aug

Get display vehicles over on Friday, same site.

##### Tractor Pull /Truck show 7/10/23,

Suggest BBQ be simple like last year.

Will need help on Sled, Gate, Records, BBQ

##### Christmas BBQ Set for Sun 26th Nov.

##### Chamberlain Tractor muster/All Aust day 2024

Date set as 8th to 11th Aug 2024.

##### Nulawil Visit TBA

### Other Business

**Werrimul Run** had good mix of vehicles

27 members and partners attended. Good meal

Thanks Frank for organising.

**TRACS** can register with Richies loyalty Program.

**Next Meeting Wed 13th Sept 7.30 at IBC**

**Meeting Closed 8.00pm**