

# The Oily Rag

**Newsletter of Manilla Vintage Machinery Group Inc**

**PO Box 16, Manilla NSW 2346**

**Email: [mvminc22@gmail.com](mailto:mvminc22@gmail.com)**

## **FEBRUARY, 2026 NEWSLETTER**

**President: Tim Scanlon (6785 1181)**

**Secretary: Bette Langton (0428 658132)**

**Treasurer: David Jones (0429 852110)**



## **FUNNY BONE**

**Time to complete the Irish humour.....**

- **RECTUM** – Damn near killed him
- **RHEUMATIC** – Loving, affectionate
- **SECRETION** – Hiding something
- **SEIZURE** – Roman Emperor
- **SORE** – Watched it happen
- **TABLET** – A small table
- **TERMINAL ILLNESS** – Getting sick at airport
- **TIBIA** – Country in North Africa
- **TUMOUR** – More than one more
- **URINE** – Opposite to ‘You’re out”
- **VARICOSE** – Nearby
- **VEIN** – Conceited

And what about this for a good conversation stopper:

Stranger: “You look familiar”.

Me: “Were we in prison together”?

**Message from secretary Bette: Members,  
please check your membership subscriptions  
– some are not financial. Year ends July 31.**

## FROM THE MEETINGS

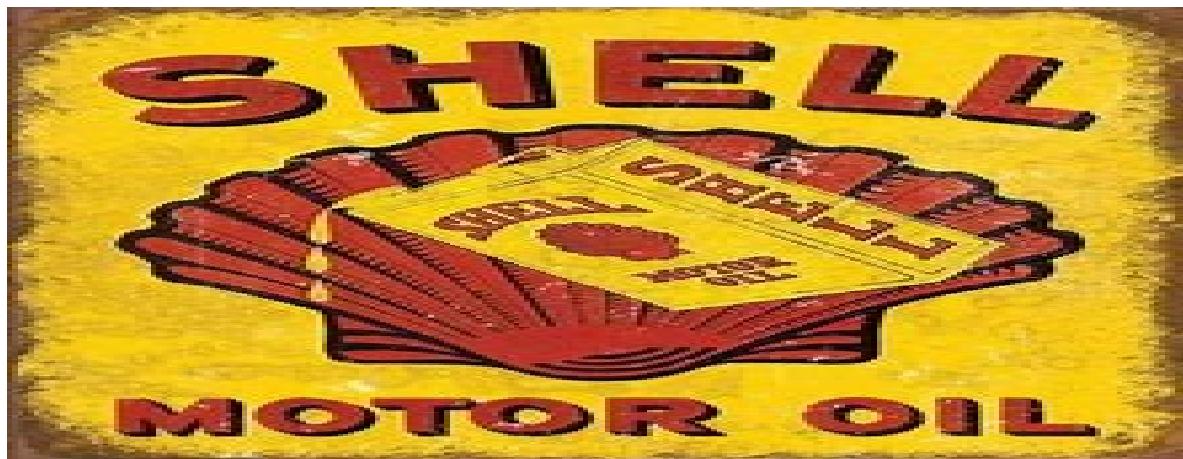


## JANUARY

- Richard Betts spoke about the new H & VMA magazine in regards to ordering a hard copy of it. He also spoke on a possible program for the June Rally, but after some discussion, it was decided not to go ahead with a program. The meeting was shown a possible flyer for the rally, which was given the Thumbs Up and agreed upon to print up in readiness to take to Guyra and Walcha rallies.
- Margaret Hurle inquired about 2026 mugs which will be discussed at a future meeting.
- President Tim received a visit from Gunnedah's Alana Smith regarding the shed that the defunct Manilla Dog Club used eight years ago. MVMG was given the shed by TRC in January 2018 (as per the minutes which also states that, if the dog club ever wanted the shed back,

they'd have to give 12 months' notice). On acquiring the shed, MVMG had to install a new roller door and new locks, as keys could not be found or handed over. There have been further repairs done due to numerous break-ins over the past eight years. It was decided to seek advice from Council regarding this matter (to include copies of minutes).

- Correspondence was received from Heritage NSW regarding the Lithgow Arms Factory.



## FEBRUARY

- President Tim welcomed new members Brett Heywood and Katherin Davis.

- Rally badges – In response to email from Rally Badges, secretary is to make further enquiries regarding the cost and number of badges required to order.
- Richard Betts gave a report on the Guyra Lamb & Potato Rally. The feature machine was the 100-year-old celebration of the Stihl Chainsaw. Richard also announced upcoming rallies and swap meets. These appear in the Upcoming Rallies section.
- It appears that the next National Rally is to be held in Maitland on April 9 to 11 next year.

## **UPCOMING RALLIES**

FEBRUARY 7 – Spring Ridge Tractor Pull

FEBRUARY 13-15 – Walcha Rally. (13<sup>th</sup> Tractor Run, 14<sup>th</sup> Family Day, 15<sup>th</sup> Swap Meet).

FEBRUARY 22 – Swap Meet Jack Woolaston Oval, Tamworth

MARCH 8 – Inverell Swap Meet

MARCH 14 – Moonbi Kootingal Motor Show & Historical Machinery Exhibition.

MARCH 15 – Classic Motor Show at Inverell's National Transport Museum.

MARCH 22 – Bingara Show Society's Show & Shine.

- **Richard also advised that Timbertown Wauchope has closed once again. There will be an auction – possibly online – on May 3 and 4 with an estimated 1400 to 2000 items to go under the hammer.**



Richard Betts has the following items for sale:

- **Quality Nuffield and Leyland tractor parts (new).....\$150 the lot.**
  - **Bolens G10 garden tractor (complete). Make a good restorer, or keep as is.....\$850.**
  - **Victa 15/60 garden tractor – hyd drive. Make good restorer, or keep as is.....\$850.**
  - **1/18 scale steel shed frame. Make unknown. Make a great display. 2.2m x 1.0m x 1.24m.....\$250.**
  - **All items pick-up Tamworth only.**
- Phone Richard on (02) 6766 4254 (after 7pm).**

TIME TO START SPREADING THE WORD – TELL YOUR FRIENDS

MANILLA VINTAGE MACHINERY GROUP  
*Annual* **RALLY**  
UNDER THE SHADOW OF OUR HISTORIC VIADUCT

**JUNE 6th & 7th 2026**

**Saturday 9am-5pm Sunday 9am-3pm**  
**MANILLA SHOWGROUND**

- STATIONARY ENGINES, VINTAGE TRACTORS, TRUCKS, CARS & MOTORBIKES
- SHEEP SHEARING
- JUMPING CASTLE
- FAIRY FLOSS, SNOW CONES & POPCORN
- TRACTOR TREK FRIDAY
- MARKET & TRADE STALLS- \$15/DAY (INSURANCE REQUIRED)
- STREET PARADE 11AM SATURDAY
- 'NEW' PAVILION EXHIBITIONS

**Adults \$10  
Kids Under  
16 free**



Featuring  
**80 Years of**  
**'The Little Grey Fergie'**

**CONTACTS:**  
TIM SCANLON 02 67 851181  
BETTE LANGTON 0428 658 132

**MARKET STALLS:**  
RICHARD BETTS 02 67 664254 AFTER 7PM

**SPONSORS-** WOODS GARAGE,  
TAYGAR, KEN & DENYCE ROACH  
CAMLIN INVESTMENTS

**NHMA affiliated.**  
**No Insurance, no start**

As advertised, the Group's annual June Rally will focus on the 80<sup>th</sup> year since the popular Little Grey Fergie's production. So I thought I'd share a few pointers on the little treasure, courtesy Mr Google.

- It's an iconic 20hp lightweight and versatile tractor designed by UK's Harry Ferguson and manufactured between 1946 and 1956.
- The grey colour was chosen as it was the cheapest post-WWII paint.
- The Fergie featured a 3-point linkage which connected implements directly to the tractor via hydraulics, increasing stability and manoeuvrability.
- Over 500,000 units were built, including petrol and diesel models.
- It's officially known as the Little Grey Fergie (Ferguson TE20) – the TE20 being for Tractor, England, 20hp.



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**Most of us have grandkids, and most of them like to colour in. I know this isn't a Grey Fergie – just its cousin John Deere - but maybe the little ones could colour it in. And another maybe, if we get enough interest, they could be displayed around the admin van at the Rally – and a box of chockies awaiting the winner perhaps.**



**NEXT MEETINGS – From 7pm March 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**Vinnie Todd (Publicity – 0428 668854).**