



The Oily Rag

Newsletter of Manilla Vintage Machinery Group Inc

PO Box 16, Manilla NSW 2346

Email: mvminc22@gmail.com

APRIL, 2026 NEWSLETTER

President: Tim Scanlon (6785 1181)

Secretary: Bette Langton (0428 658132)

Treasurer: David Jones (0429 852110)



FUNNY BONE

Ask a man to do the job.....he will. There's no need to remind him every six months.

FROM THE MEETINGS



MARCH

- Showground shed – TRC’s Charles Impey reported that council hadn’t received any application from outside interests regarding use of this, and neither would they give permission for outside use while ever a local group was still using it.
- Council letter received regarding permission to use showground for the June Rally.
- Ruth Buckler gave a report on the very successful swap meet held at Jack Woolaston Oval by Tamworth Car Club, which was able to donate \$3000 to Westpac Helicopter. Ruth was asked to invite the club to our own rally this year.
- A discussion was held on a quote of \$450 from radio’s Jim Guider to promote the rally during

March, April, May and June. The meeting accepted the quote.

- A quote for club badges from Action Badges was accepted - 100 badges, cost \$480, set-up charge \$130 and postage \$25 (GST on top of all charges).
- President Tim spoke with restaurant owners at the bowling club regarding the rally dinner, and to Marion Woods of Delish On Wheels Ice Cream van. Marion to get back to him.
- Norm Gardner reported on the break-in at the showground shed. It appeared nothing was taken. Council to repair locks. Norm also reported that the now permanent fence around the viaduct has been moved out further, making less room for rally compounds.
- A letter has been sent to council re the possible filling in of the gully on the northern side of the showground. This would give extra room to not only the rally but also other showground activities.
- Tony McClellad spoke about the changes when registering vintage tractors. NHMA is in discussions with the RSM, so members should have more information later.



APRIL

- Locks have been repaired at the showground. It was confirmed that the Delish On Wheels Ice Cream would be attending our rally in June, and Tamworth Car Club to get back to Ruth Buckler regarding their attendance at the rally.
- The ordered club badges and coffee mugs are on their way.
- Secretary received a reply from council regarding repairs to the table drain at the showground. Council indicated no intention of filling in the drain as the area gained would only be 400 square metres.
- Television ads in the weeks leading up to the rally were discussed. The figure of \$1320 given for the 77-spot, 15sec ads was agreed upon, but the meeting would like to view the ad before committing.

- A letter from United Soccer Club regarding their canteen (and it not being profitable and operating at a loss) at the rally was discussed at length. Some statements in the letter were considered not correct regarding the passing foot traffic, and the suggestion of moving the canteen was not accepted by members. Weather was also considered a concern. President Tim to talk to the club's Harrison Pettit regarding the canteen's continued operation.
- Bob Dickson requested some green exhibitor wristbands from the group for Manilla Mens' Shed to stage its April 11 car boot sale. Request was granted.
- Denyce Roach told the group that Sue Stephenson would be bringing her sewing machine display to the rally.
- President Tim and Les Mauger to discuss and organise Friday's Tractor Trek at the rally. At present there are several enthusiastic about it, including travellers from Toowoomba.
- **Richard Betts is keen to organise a bus trip from Manilla (Tim to contact Chris Jeffrey regarding the bus) to the New England Heritage's Glen Innes Brick Works Open Day (at Glen Innes) from 10am to 2pm, June 14. Richard said that the works operated for 100 years before its closure in the 1990s, and all the equipment used is still on show. Entry is gold coin donation. Anyone interest should contact Richard on 6766 4254 after 7pm.**



UPCOMING RALLIES

- April 18 – Holden Ute Muster Show & Shine, Coffs Harbour.
- May 1 to 3 - Timbertown (closed down) auction of estimated 1400 – 2000 items going under the hammer.
- May 2 and 3 – Quirindi Rural Heritage Village Inc's Heritage Festival & Swap Meet.
- May 16 and 17 - Coolatai Vintage Tractor Pull – may be in doubt due to current fuel situation.
- June 5 to 8 – 25th HD HR Holden Nationals at Bathurst (celebrating the 60th anniversary of Holden).
- June 6 and 7 – Manilla Vintage Machinery Group Rally at showground.
- June 14 – Glen Innes Brick Works Open Day.



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).

WANTED

Chris Love is looking for a 1HC 1hp hopper-cooled Famous crankshaft, and 1hp Titan N Tom Thumb, with the same crank. Must be in good journals and good working condition. Chris can be contacted on 0419 237964.

SPREAD 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**

2026 RALLY FEATURE - Grey Fergie 1946-1956



Ferguson tractor enthusiasts are a lucky bunch. For many of those new to the old-tractor hobby, deciding on the make and model to buy can be an involved and time-consuming process, as there are so many tempting possibilities that making a final choice can be agonising. But for the Ferguson fan, it's plain sailing as, within the family fold, there sits perhaps the most influential and iconic tractor of all time.

The 'Little Grey Fergie' is the machine that's widely regarded as being the one that changed agriculture around the world, forever. The brainchild of Harry Ferguson, this fantastically functional little tractor with its revolutionary three-point linkage – and the system of dedicated implements and support networks that he masterminded around it – probably did more for farmers across the globe than any other tractor.



Wander into either one of Manilla’s garage/mechanic workshops, odds are there’ll be one or two grease guns laying around the floor or poking out of a toolbox.

In the case of Tim Scanlon at Wood’s Garage, apart from the functioning guns in his workshop kit, he has a massive collection of around 85, either in a display cabinet, at home or still in their original packaging.

Tim just loves to collect the skinned-knuckle-saving devices.

“I was cleaning my shed out a couple of years ago, and found heaps of them, sitting around everywhere, and thought they’d make a nice display,” Tim said.

He’s currently in the process of making up another display board – one on wheels so it can be moved around, even taken to various machinery rally days.

“And I’ve never bought any of them, they’re all giveaways. A fifth generation farmer selling up came in one day and said I could have whatever I wanted. Out of the 20 I got, there were 12 I didn’t already have. It was like getting the pot of gold.”



Filtered amongst Richard Betts' collection of everything imaginable, not only in his home but also in several storage sheds on his large city block, are 200 chainsaws of differing colour, size and vintage.

And a selected portion of those will be on show for the public to view and strike up conversation about when Manilla Vintage Machinery Group Inc, which Richard has been a member of for around 25 years, stages its annual Vintage Machinery Rally in June.

"Chainsaws are great conversation starter, particularly with families who pull up to look," Richard said.

Being a farm kid before becoming a qualified diesel mechanic, Richard was struck with the collection bug after attending clearance sales and rallies in his early 20s.

"Sometimes at sales, the auctioneer didn't even know exactly what it was that he was selling, so, being a farm kid, I told him." he said.

"I started getting bits and pieces together, and attending the Manilla Rally. Then one day I asked Les Owens if I could bring a ute full of stuff out. I set up in front of the pavilion area – that's what basically kicked off the swap meets that we still hold today. It was a lot different back then though. You could spend \$20 and get a ute load of stuff. Today you wouldn't get much at all for your 20 bucks."

Most of Richard's treasures are picked up around boot and clearance sales. But some are also giveaways, like the time he went to a home that was advertising an old chainsaw for sale.

"I went to the wrong address, but sitting on their front lawn was an old chainsaw, so I asked the lady what she was going to do with it. She said 'we can't get it going, so you can have it'."

Richard considers his favourites to be an air-operated chainsaw (from around the 1940s) that was used on the railways to build bridges and viaducts.

"Mine is a two-man operated one – pretty big. They're few and far between now. And the other special one is a big yellow McCulloch, with a motor about half the size of a little car's."

Pat and Mick at the bus stop –

PAT: Did you ever yell at your dad Mick?

MICK: Yeah, once when I was about 12.

PAT: So what happened?

MICK: Dunno. I was 16 when I woke up.

HAPPY ANZAC DAY TO ALL



NEXT MEETINGS – From 7pm May 5 and June 2.

Vinnie Todd (Publicity – 0428 668854).