

Western Sydney Historical Truck Club



May 2020

COVID-19 PANDEMIC NEWS

This issue of the WSHTC newsletter is referred to as "Covid-19 Pandemic News" because, on 17 March 2020, no less than three of our scheduled events had already been cancelled. More were expected to be cancelled as time went by, due to the arrival of the coronavirus and the federal government's ban on large gatherings. It had been suggested that the ban would extend to much smaller gatherings in coming days.

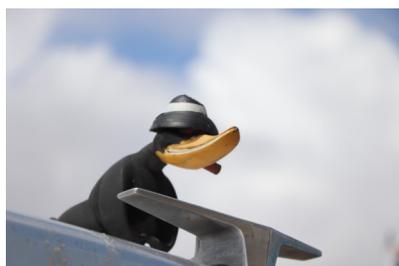
Well, things did get worse. Everything was in lock-down. States closed their borders. The buzz word was "social distancing." This pandemic had people running scared. It's a pretty grim situation when toilet paper is seen running out of supermarkets, even with a little help from panic-stricken customers!

Now, May 2020, things are starting to get better, if only slightly, step by tiny step. We can't afford to relax the restrictions too quickly in case there is another spike in virus activity... and everything gets locked down again.

So, with that in mind, our writers in the newsletter department have the determination and imagination to bring you the news when it occurs or make something up when it doesn't...

Imagination is intelligence having fun! - "Worry is a waste of imagination"

Life is short, time is fast, no rewinds, so let's enjoy every moment as it comes because difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations!



◀ Our medic, "Doctor Malady Duck," professor of Medicinal Quackery and champion for old-fashioned journalism and true lies is ready and prepared to defend our writers, making sure that they will be safe from any virus that attempts to interfere with the promotion of a good yarn...!

They walk among us, they breed and they vote....

When my wife and I arrived at the dealership to pick up our car after a service, we were told the keys had been locked in it. We went to the service department and found a mechanic working feverishly to unlock the driver's door.

As I watched from the passenger's side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked.

'Hey,' I announced to the technician, 'it's open!'

His reply, 'I know. I already did that side.'

STAY ALERT!

Breakfast Run At the Blacktown City Show

Sunday, 15th March was like any other breakfast run. It was partly cloudy to start with, but it brightened up to a warm sunny morning until big black clouds came over to threaten us.

I followed behind Brian's Mack B61 into the showground to park with other members trucks. The kitchen crew had already set up and, were busily prepping and cooking the usual gourmet spread. Lynda Hayward and Geoff Martin were our chefs for the day.

There was the usual number of feral utes and, this year, a number of shiny vintange Ford sedans and utes as well. We had 23 members present. Some brought their historical trucks and parked them side by side around the trotting track. The Fords were parked on the showground behind the trucks.

While waiting for the "come and get it" call from the kitchen, there was much chatting and catching up to be done. The hot topic for discussion amongst members was the ever-changing developments and panic caused by media coverage of the "Coronavirus," or in medical-political speak - 'COVID19'. Even the Blacktown City Show was not immune from the effects of the virus. There was not the public turn out for the event, as in past years. The side-show operators fiddled with their mobile phones, waiting for the people that wouldn't show.

Meanwhile the activity was around the track. Members from the Ford group came over to investigate our trucks - to ask many questions and admire. For us it was a fairly productive and enjoyable morning. However when that big black cloud hovered overhead it was time to pack up and go home...



***Remember to fill out your log book before taking your truck out on the road !!**

It's not what I have been through in my life that defines who I am, it's how I got through it that has made me the person I am today!

MACK MUSTER DREAMING - 2020...

I have never ridden in a MACK truck before, let alone driven one. I picked up this one a week ago. I just sat in the driver's seat for a moment, remembering the starting procedure told to me by the previous owner. Fortunately it's not a Whiz-faaaart start, thank goodness! It would be such a rude awakening for the neighbours at this early time of the day. Instead it's an electric crank. It started on the second go and soon settled down to a relatively smooth rattly idle. She is after all, an old truck with an equally old engine. After running at idle for a short while, I selected first gear and drove slowly out of the shed. When I was happy with the way the truck was handling, it was time to set off for the Kyabram Showground.

There's no dog's bum facing the driver, like on the bonneted MACKS... But I do like the thought of the bull dog mascot connected to the windscreen washer and, peeing at unsuspecting people who become too inquisitive.

At the showground, it was a fine, sunny, warm day. The bonneted MACKS were lined up together along the fence and, opposite were the cabover models.

There were other truck makes there too!

But strangely, there were no people milling around inspecting the trucks, chatting and telling stories and crude jokes, like you would expect. Instead my wife appeared at the shed door.

"Stop dreaming Mike, It's time for lunch!"



A good imagination is what enables one to enjoy the good times that never happened!

Requirements for Historic Registration:

For vehicles previously registered on historical plates, you will need the following:

1. RMS Conditional Registration Renewal form (sent to you by RMS prior to renewal);
2. "Historic Vehicle Declaration" form, duly filled out with you and your trucks details, (Do not fill out the club's registrar's part)
3. "Pink Slip" available from a local mechanics garage.

For vehicles NOT previously registered on historic plates, you will need to fill out a registration application form plus you will need item 2. and item 3. above.

**Send all originals plus a copy of each to Steve Pardey,
PO Box 3140, Rouse Hill, 2155**

Steve will return the originals to you after he has completed his part of the process so that you can then go to the RMS to complete the historic registration of your vehicle.

If you have any queries, contact Steve on 0412 646 280

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS - All membership renewal fees (\$50.00 per member) must be paid by June 30. Please note that if you have not paid your membership fees by June 30, you will be considered as non financial and your truck rego will be cancelled.

Payments can be made by cheque, bank deposit or EFT to the club's account (Refer page 7 - "Merchandise" for club's bank account details)

PLANNING - "CRAWLIN' THE HUME" - 2020

By Rob French

Returning home from "Haulin' the Hume 2019", as usual, I was thinking about planning "Crawlin' The Hume 2020" but could have never known the challenges that lay ahead... I contacted Trevor Davis to see if he could do the entries - A massive job with listing entrants, sending out welcome letters and dealing with changes.

As the weeks rolled on we needed to organize:

- Dates to align with Winton race way and Albury race club, including catering for lunch and dinner.
- Getting all the merchandise and sponsors on board.
- Contacting all the volunteers for bag packing.
- Flyer printing and distributing, Direction signs and so on.

Everything was going as planned for March 28th start and, was two weeks ahead of schedule.

Friday 13th March, Hayley Defina was packing envelopes and Tony Lewallen was down the back packing bags.

Saturday 14th March, I was still working on bag packing when Trevor turned up saying the Mack Muster was cancelled and we must consider Crawlin'.

At lunchtime the government announced a limit to gatherings of 250 people from Monday and, I knew we were in trouble. I contacted Winton raceway and they said "I will leave it up to you".

Sunday 15th March, I went for a drive into the bush in my 1968 Datsun Homer and realised that Crawlin' needed to be deferred. I felt disappointed for the entrants, the venues and the caterers who have bent over backwards for us.

The Sydney boys said they would come down for a visit but soon realised it was not possible.

Monday 16th March, I received a text from Trevor that he was stepping aside and would send all paperwork back. Then over night I got a text from a late entrant requesting return of his money, and two phone calls worried about their \$50.

I felt like I had been thrown under a bus!

Then there were numerous calls of support for Crawlin and, support for the venues and the caterers. "Crawlin' The Hume" had the support of almost everyone who were happy to participate no matter when.

"Crawlin' the Hume" could not have been run if there was no "Haulin' the Hume" and, it is only a success because of their help.

Nobody knew when we could run both events so Bruce Gunter and his team offered their 2021 date to run Crawlin' and, Haulin' will skip a year.

I am in their debt and can't wait for 27th March 2021.



People are like stained glass. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is light from within! 4

THE 2020 PUTTY ROAD TRUCK DRIVER'S MEMORIAL SERVICE ... (THAT WASN'T!!)

by Marie Warby

Yes we from The PUTTY ROAD TRUCKIE'S MEMORIAL had the best 2020 service organized ever... particularly as it would have been our very special 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY service!

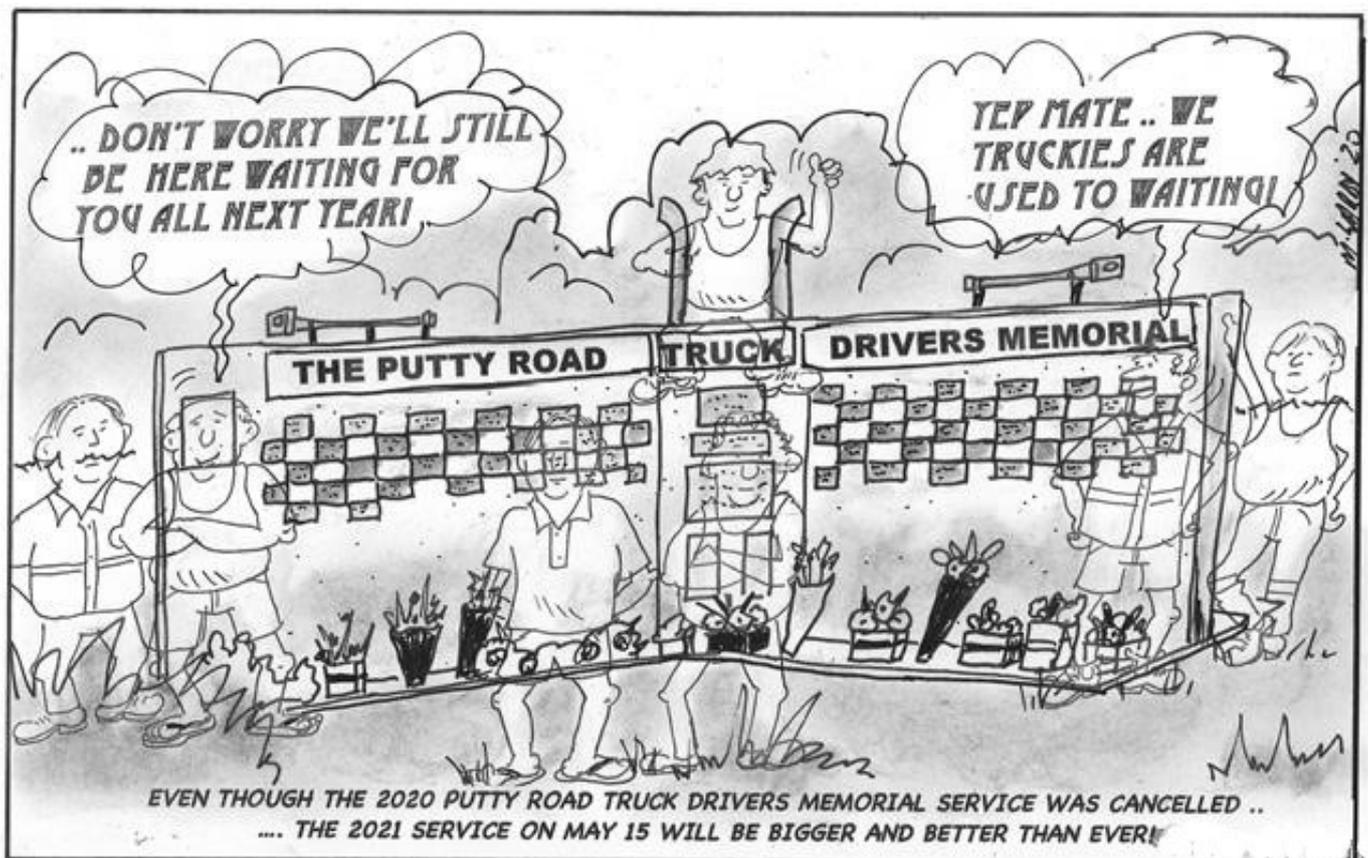
BUT because of the world-wide virus (thank you CHINA!) like so many other great events we sadly had to cancel it.

It would have been our best service ever, including the very important addition of many new plaque's in memory of our hard-working truckie's who are no longer with us.

George Souris the former leader of the National Party of NSW .. who officially opened The Putty Road Truck Driver's Memorial 10 years ago was to be one of the many guest speakers. Others were Rod Hannifey .. Federal Minister Joel Fitzgibbon .. State Minister Clayton Barr ... 'The Ferret' ... Singleton Mayor Sue Moore ... Singleton Councillors John Martyn and Sue George .. that larrikin 'Yogi' from Outback Truckers and our usual great entertainer, country music singer Jason Carruthers plus many others.

Also our hard working Putty Road fundraising ladies selling merchandise, the Mega-raffle, the gigantic auction at the official dinner and the good folk from the little Milbrodale School P&C who supply the tasty refreshments each year. As well, the wonderful display of trucks and cars driven by their proud owners from various distances that compliment our service each year.

BUT our boys on the Wall will be waiting for us all to come together next year at 1pm SATURDAY MAY 15 2021 for another great PUTTY ROAD TRUCKER'S MEMORIAL service. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL THEN!



“Worry is a misuse of imagination”

The following article is reprinted courtesy of the Veteran - Vintage Chevrolet Association Limited Australia Magazine...

Electric powered cars and trucks are nothing new. GMC produced a complete line of electric trucks from 1912-1917. There were nine standard models ranging from 1,000lb to 12,000lb capacity. Some sources claim these trucks were also produced under the 'Rapid' name in 1912. General Motors Truck Company was formed in 1911 to handle the sale of 'Rapid' and 'Reliance' Trucks. By 1913, all GM trucks produced were badged as "GMC" trucks.

The Lansden Company of Newark, New Jersey was producing electric wagons in 1906. The origins of this company are sketchy, but an original catalogue of the Thomas Van Degrift collection is proof of this. A February 1912 advert in the Commercial Vehicle magazine states that GMC Electric is a product of John M. Lansden, Manager of the Electric Division of the General Motors Truck Company. A 1912 GMC catalogue states that every GMC Electric is built under the direction of John M. Lansden and of the 600-700 units built in 7 years, all are still in service. The catalogue also states that Lansden and his associates were not hampered by expense and were given a clean slate in the perfection and new higher standard of electric truck construction. Somewhere between 1906 and 1912, John M. Lansden was hired by General Motors for his years of electric truck designing, manufacturing and marketing expertise.

A total of 173 electric trucks were produced by GMC in 1912. This accounted for 39.8 of all the trucks GMC produced that year. 509 more were produced between 1913 and 1917. By 1914, GMC Electrics accounted for 22.6% of production. 10.3% in 1915, and 3.2% by 1916. Only one GMC Electric was built in 1917.



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Because of the failure of the screen printing process on many of our polo shirts, the committee has decided to have the club's name on the back of the shirts embroidered. The result looks much better but does incur an extra cost. The cost of future polo shirts will be \$40.00 per shirt.



Life comes around once, so do whatever makes you happy, and be with whoever makes you smile...

Public Risk Policy # AONBWU1FVCC

Club Merchandise...

Merchandise must be paid for at the time of ordering from David West. You can pay cash or EFT directly into the club's bank account -

BSB 032371 Account 396047. *Please include your name and member ID number as a reference.*

When making an EFT payment please advise Treasurer Brian Hodges of the payment, either by a text message to his mobile 0408 275 754, or emailed to

fjhodges@bigpond.com ...Brian will supply you with a receipt which you must show to David when you collect your order. If you don't have a receipt from Brian, then you cannot claim your merchandise.

David has a supply of shirts that were ordered up to 12 months ago. If you have ordered a shirt, but not received it yet, please contact David on 0409 724 647.

Make sure you have a receipt of payment to claim your shirt. If you do not have a receipt, contact Brian on 0408 275 754

The following club merchandise is available for purchase:

Polo Shirts - \$40.00 each - sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL

Jackets - \$60.00 each - sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL

Windscreen Stickers - \$4.00 each

Baseball caps - \$15.00 each

Number plate frames - \$15.00 per pair

Name badges - \$10.00 each

10th Anniversary mugs - \$20.00 each

2019 - 2020 Committee Members

President/ Assistant Registrar	Andy Nash	0418 277 271
Vice President	Darrell Killick	0412 050 224
Secretary/ Newsletter Editor	Mike Dodds	0417 068 144
Treasurer	Brian Hodges	0408 275 754
Registrar	Steve Pardey	0412 646 280
Safety Officer	Ron Ross	4576 3423
Safety & Merchandising Officer	Dave West	0409 724 647
Events & Major Events Coordinator	Michael Vella	0404 011 813
Major Event Coordinator	Bruce Gunter	0459 991 929

Over the past many, many years Australia has struggled through very long droughts. And, in more recent times we also have fought devastating and catastrophic bush fires and, weathered some mighty ferocious storms.

Below is a story about old Ted and how he has survived...

“Life could be pretty rough up around where Old Ted lived. In winter, it used to get so cold at night that the candle flame would freeze. Ted used to snap it off and bury it so the light wouldn’t keep him awake.

In the morning, he’d dig it up and the warmth of the sun would gradually melt it so he could blow it out.

But if the winters were bad, the summers were much worse. It used to get so hot the billy would boil before you could collect the wood to light the fire. Wood was pretty scarce anyway.

It was hard to find some good bark to make a roof for the shack. Old Ted used to collect the bark from his dogs.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

The coronavirus has created a situation of immense uncertainty which has affected all activities, runs and shows that have been planned prior to its arrival. Since March 2020 we have seen event after event cancelled. There is no end-date in sight to the restrictions imposed on the community by health and government authorities.

We have been in contact with organisers of some events planned for the latter part of the year, that our club traditionally support. They have cancelled their events due to the uncertainty of the current situation.

We, too have had to cancel our breakfast and lunch runs. But, as soon as the restrictions are safely lifted and we get the green light to hold our runs again, we will certainly organize some as quickly as we can!

The WSHTC AGM, scheduled for Sunday 26 July has been cancelled because of coronavirus health restrictions.

The current committee members have agreed to continue in their current positions until July 2021 subject to any objections from the membership.

If you have an objection to the committee continuing until 2021, it must be submitted in writing to the secretary at PO Box 3140, Rouse Hill 2155 and received no later than 26 July 2020.

Saturday 21 - Sunday 22 November - 16th Annual Southern Tablelands Vintage Farm Machinery Rally at Taralga Showground. Make sure you have your membership card with you. Further information contact Robert Handley (02) 4840 6150 or M: 0406 875 695.

At the time of printing this event is still going ahead but that is subject to change. Please contact Michael Vella 0404 011 813 for the latest status of events.

All contributions for publishing in the next Newsletter can be mailed to PO Box 3140, Rouse Hill 2155, or emailed to wshtctrucks01@gmail.com