



National Road Transport Museum Newsletter

December 2022 Issue

Message from the CEO

Contents

- Ghan News pg 1
- Featured Vehicles pg 2 and 3
- Kenworth Corner pg 4
- RSL Sub-branch Updates pg 5
- Visitors' Corner pg 5
- News in Brief pg 5
- Improvements and Upgrades pg 6
- Meet the Volunteers pg 6
- Thanks to our supporters pg 6



Another great year comes to an end. I would like to thank our Advisory Committee members for their contribution over the last few months. We look forward to moving back into an incorporated business model in the next few months under their leadership.

We have a lot planned for 2023 and we welcome you all on the journey to becoming a bigger, better and brighter Road Transport Historical Society. From everyone at the Road Transport Historical Society, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Nick Prus



Ghan News



We have this wonderful new signage at the entrance to Alice Springs thanks to the work of Robert and David who moved this cattle car down to the end of the line during their latest visit. They completed other shunting work to enhance visitors' walks throughout the Ghan Train and made sure the consist were safe after all the shunting. Also, the loco sheds now have lockable gates and are holding W924 Class Loco awaiting her sandblasting and painting.

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Featured Vehicles

The Egg Truck- UD

This UD-CV41L has travelled approximately 3 million kms. The vehicle was originally set up with tabletop and gates with a high abb crane. It was originally used for rail delivery in Forbes, NSW by Don Hodge. In 1984, with 300,000kms on the clock it was purchased from Don and had a chassis extension and new home alloy body, tailgate loader and fridge installed. The truck was set up to cart egg dolleys for Ingham's Chicken. This truck spent most of its time transporting grandparent eggs and carting fertile eggs interstate to Brisbane, Melbourne and Adelaide. It had a total load of 90,720 eggs when at capacity. This UD carried its last load of eggs for Frank Attard and Sons Transport in August 2017. It has a 265 horse-power Ud-Nissan PDGT motor, 6 speed gearbox with .73 overdrive. It has a 10,000 pound diff with a 4.6 ratio and a Denco-Schwitzer Turbo Kit.



Gilbert's Kenworth T650



On Saturday the 13th of August we had the pleasure of welcoming the Gilbert's truck to the museum.

It was the 58th Anniversary of Peter Gilbert starting work and an occasion that saw 4 generations of the family in attendance.



The T650 was purchased for the specific purpose of hauling freight between Adelaide and Darwin in triple road train configuration. It operated on that journey all its life carrying goods and freight essential to the communities along the way.

The truck was acquired by Gilbert's in 1988 and over its travels, completed over 3 million km's. The truck's last run was in 2017 and its home is now with us.

Featured Vehicles

Ferguson TEA20 and Ferguson TE35



Steven and Rick Shelton of Alice Springs donated these meticulously restored Ferguson tractors to the museum as a long term loan, earlier this year. The care and pride taken in the restoration is evident in every aspect of these magnificent machines.

Both these vehicles are 1952, 2.2 4 cylinder in-line models with a H pattern transmission.



Kenworth Corner

KENWORTH Classic Trucks.

The model line-up at the Kenworth Hall of Fame includes three classic trucks with the name 'Legend' added to the model designation. They are T950 Legend, T900 Legend, T900 SAR Legend.

The T900 and T950 are part of a Classic tradition that commenced over 5 decades ago with the unique style of the W900 featuring the long hood and square radiator. The design specification of the T900 and T950 called for the retention and the classic appeal of the W900's unique style.

These trucks are current production replicas of the original models designed and produced in the early 1990's to Kenworth specifications at the Kenworth Manufacturing facility, Bayswater Victoria. This is where all models are designed, application engineered and built for the Australian, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea markets.

The original trucks were so popular with operators all around Australia and for all applications such as logging, livestock, refrigerated freight and three trailer road train operations, that a 'Legend' series was devised and presented to operators via the Kenworth Dealer network. These Legend models were subjected to a limited production run.

This Legend series included all features and benefits of the original production, however trucks were built to present day specification and included latest in engine, suspension and drivelines as well as EBSS, the Kenworth featured electronic brake safety system.

The specification of the trucks on display at the museum feature Cummins 550HP engines coupled to 18 speed Roadranger manual transmissions. Rear suspensions are Kenworth AG 460 air, with Meritor RT46-160GP rear axles. Cab and sleepers feature deep padded diamond pleated trim overlays, a high-density foam which reduces in-cab noise significantly.

Come and see these trucks up close at the Kenworth Hall of Fame.



RSL Sub-branch News

It was pleasing to hear visitors to the RSL-Sub branch display say that it rivals many other displays they've visited, including Canberra, as some of the items are so unique.



Visitor's Corner



Lananda Tours began in 1975 when Grenda's Bus Service sold the coach division to AAT Tours. It was initially being used by AAT and Centralian Tours to instruct the drivers on out-of-the-way destinations. The vehicles carried tents, poles and pegs, water and food, and cooking equipment on board. Lance and Rae Grenda designed a coach camper trailer: half kitchen and half storage which was the envy of many other coach crews of the time. Together with its camper-trailer, it was, at that time, a fabulously appointed and luxurious way to tour the Australian countryside.

Anne was excited to see the Lananda Tours display which not only houses one of their coaches but also the 'kitchen trailer' the family designed. Anne reminisced about her time with the Grenda family, the pride Rae had in 'her kitchen' and the fun the Grenda's had on family outings in their coach.



Other visitors to the Museum include the CALM Ladies - or the Central Australian Lace Makers who enjoyed a Devonshire tea while chatting and creating in the pleasant surrounds of the Ghan Tea Room gardens.

News in Brief

Due to the coming months of heat and some refurbishment work, the Ghan cafe will be closed until early 2023.

Improvement and Upgrades

Over the last six months there have been many people working on upgrades and improvements to the museum, some you will notice from the moment you step foot onto the grounds, others go on quietly in the background.

Jac has devoted many hours of work creating our new Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/trucks.trainsNT/> and our updated website will be live shortly.

Noelene began researching the vehicles on display in the Buntine Shed. The aim is to create a sign in front of each display showing both the specifications of the vehicle and tell a story about the truck, what it was used for, where it worked and so on. Kath is continuing this work and has extended the research into the vehicles in the TIA (red) shed. The aim is to have signage in front of each vehicle in these two facilities by early 2023. If you know the history of any of these vehicles please reach out to Kath at kjgilbkoet@outlook.com so your information can be incorporated into the story of the vehicles.



Gardening



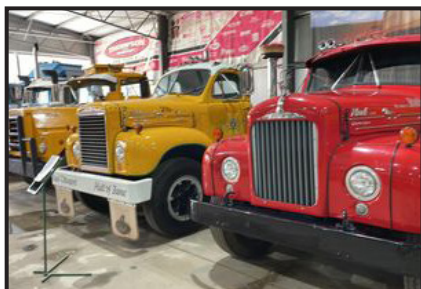
Removing non-compliant buildings



Clearing for outdoor museum



Arranging the outdoor museum



Washing vehicles on display



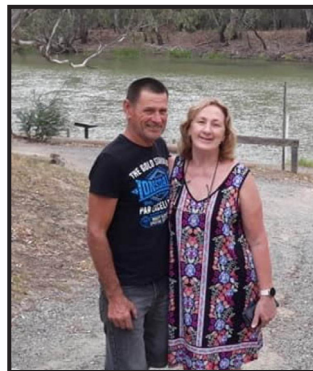
Shunting W924



Rearranging displays

Meet the Volunteers

You won't spend long at the museum before you meet Lee-Anne and Wally. You may bump into Lee-Anne when she greets you at reception or Wally when he shows you to your camping spot or driving the train or in many other places; taking your camp booking, completing maintenance tasks, updating computer records, the tasks go on!



And thankfully, so do Lee-Anne and Wally. Neither come from a transport or tourism background but both are invaluable to the running of the museum. They are enjoying the quiet caravanning life having left Sydney 12 months ago. If volunteering as you travel is something that you've thought about please contact Nick or Jac to discuss your interest on (08) 8952 7161.

With Thanks!

Upgrades and improvements at the museum have been enabled due to the continuing support of many local businesses and groups. We would like to thank:

- Alice Springs Town Council
- G & S Transport
- Bill Yan MLA
- Hardy Fencing