

Callington Park Machinery Oatlands



During the late 1970s and early 1980s members of the now former Oatlands National Trust Group collected heritage machinery. All items were used in the district and then kindly donated by families. The machinery was originally displayed at the Oatlands Agricultural Museum before it closed. To allow for the continued protection and display of the machinery a permanent structure was constructed at Callington Park in 2001.

Recording the story of each item is an on-going task. This brochure reflects the current information available and you will notice there are some details missing. Interested community members would like to hear from you if you can assist - please contact the Southern Midlands Council.

We hope you enjoy viewing the machinery and learning about the agricultural history of the Midlands.

1. McCormick seed drill – drawn by 2-3 horses

- Superphosphate fertilizer would be held in the back box and seed held in the front box. The lever at the top has been turned around in recent times. Originally it would have been the other way around for when it was pulled by horses. Different cogs are engaged at the end of the boxes – depending on the seed or rate of super the farmer wished to apply (red box).

2. Corner marker for roads

- Markers like this were used to mark road (often dirt tracks) intersections from main roads.
- This marker was donated by John Archer from Jericho. It is from 'Huntworth', Jericho and was used to mark the intersection of Stonor Road and the Midland Highway.

3. Superphosphate – top dresser (fertilizer spreader)

- Twin spinner.
- 1 horse version has yellow green tub next to wooden roller.
- Adjustable harrows.



4. General purpose grinding stone

- Grinding stones were used on farms to sharpen edges of various tools eg blade shears and axes.

5. Type of steel press used in a foundry

- The steel press would have been bolted onto a steel bench in the foundry. During its working life it would have joined lengths of steel together. The fins would allow hot steam/smoke to come out from what was being pressed.

6. Wagon wheels and early farm machinery wheels

- Examples of very early wheels. The wooden spoke wheels are older, and would be off a dray or light wagon. The steel wheels are from farm machinery. The lighter wheel would be off a spring tyne scarifier, and the heaviest steel wheel off a seed drill.

7. Wooden boat

- This boat was once used on the waters of Lake Dulverton. During the first half of the 20th century this boat, along with several others, were available for hire. The boat was kindly donated by Peter Fielding of Oatlands.

8. Hand chaff cutter

- Would have been used even in recent times – often used by people wanting to cut chaff for two or three horses. A chaff cutter is a machine designed to cut straw etc. into chaff as feed for livestock.

9a Mincer

- This mincer was used to produce small goods such as sausages and saveloys etc.

9b Cover for mincer

- Unfortunately no further information is available about the mincer or its cover.



9c Mincer

- Unfortunately no further information is available about this mincer.

10. Kurtz wool press

- This type of press was first used well before WW I and probably last used in shearing sheds in the 1970s. Could only press 12 to 15 bales per day, each about 250 to 350 pounds. One of the last places to use a press like this, within the district was the “Weedington” property.

11. Grain crusher – “The Emigrant”

- By crushing the grain, it became more digestible for livestock, and therefore more valuable.

12a Potato digger

- Unfortunately no further information is available about this potato digger.

12b Martind potato digger – Stamford England

- Donated by the Late Ian (Sugar) Thomas, Oatlands.

13. Stave pipe

- Stave pipe used to deliver water to the Oatlands Township from the Blackman River – a distance of 17.6kms.

14. Wooden roller

- This homemade roller was used to flatten the ground and press in small stones.

15. Double furrow “National Gang” mulboard plough

- Could alter the width of the furrow.
- Pulled by 2 or 3 horses depending on conditions.
- Manufactured by Sunshine Massey Harris.

16. Winnower

- These machines were used to clean the threshed grain from other material making it edible. Moving sieves and blowing air through fans would help separate the sound grain from the unhealthy dust, husks and small seeds. This machine was used prior to the ‘multifunctional’ thrashing machine.
- The winnower came from the property “Lovely Banks” – Melton Mowbray

17a Mangle cutter (the Eclipse) – different version

- This steel mangle cutter is a later model and would be have sold in the 1940s. They were not used much after 1955, as myxomatosis took control of the rabbits.



17b Mangle cutter

- The cutter was used to cut mangels and turnips for feeding cattle. It was also used to cut turnips, apples and carrots to mix with stricklan poison, and later 1080 poison, for rabbit control.
- This cutter – Cockshut Plough Company Ltd Co. Brantford Canada, F52 model.

18. Threshing machine

- Threshing machines, operating up until the 1930's and were originally drawn by horses. The shafts were later replaced by a tractor drawbar. Eventually these machines were superseded by the header. The threshing machine would be driven by a belt from a portable steam engine or traction engine.
- A team of bullocks would haul the threshing machine and the engine from farm to farm. The hay stack sheaves were fed in at the front of the machine where a rotating (thrashing) drum would rotate stems and thrash causing the grain to fall onto a vibrating siv. After falling through the siv, an air current generated by a rotating fan cleaned the grain by blowing off the husks. The clean grain would then be fed into sacks hung at the rear of the machine.

19. 2 Furrow disc plough

- This disc plough required 2 to 3 horses to pull it. The operator would walk behind the machine up the hills but ride on the machine coming down. An oil bath lubrication system for the disc bearings is a feature.
- The implement could be easily overturned onto the horses if the operator did not drive the machine carefully.

20. Hand pressed bale press (hay baler)

- This bale press is hand powered, wind up version. Wire was dipped in tar to stop it rusting and would be wound around the hay bale.
- The development of mechanical devices to compact loose hay into bales started in the 1850s in America. The first machines were manufactured by H L Emery of Albany New York in 1853. It produced 5 bales per hour through a system of chains and pulleys, connected to a horse to power the machine. It required the attention of several men to successfully operate the machine. The initial demand for hay was to service horses, used for transport and various industries in the cities. Steam driven 'continuous' presses were introduced in 1884 in response to the need for faster bailing.
- Donated by Ian Jones ('Bowhill', Oatlands).



21. Deering binder – 5 foot version

- The next step after the reaper, a binding machine was developed in the 1850s. The binder evolved in the 1860 –80 period. It not only cut grain, but also tied it in sheaves ready for carting to the barn or hay stack. Currently sitting on transport wheels which would be taken off when the machine was in use. One person would sit on implement. It was pulled by 2 or 3 horses and if they were fit and strong up to 10 acres a day could be cut. Two balls of string would sit in the cylinder at the back of the machine. One ball of binder twine would tie between 2 to 3 tonnes. The number of binder twine balls used indicated how good the crop was. Cutting fingers powered off big wheel located in the center of machine. (It also cut and tied flax).
- This binder comes from the property “Lovely Banks” – Melton Mowbray.

22. Hay (tip) mower – pulled by two horses

- Peter Gaillard of Lancaster, Pennsylvania patented the very first Mowing machine in 1812. He tried to reproduce the action of a scythe. A following attempt was made by Jeremiah Bailey of Chester Country in 1822. This example was produced by Massey Harris.
- Cutting blades were driven off the gear box by the wheels turning. The seat is missing. 2 people would be on implement, 1 person making sheafs and other one driving the horses. A third person would come along and tie the sheaf by using some of the crop as the tie material. They would then stook the sheaves up afterwards.

23. Hay sweep

- This hay sweep was used after the hay rake had gathered the cut hay into piles. It was commonly used in the 1920s to scoop up dry hay from the ground and convey it to the stack, wagon or stationary baling machine. Two horses hitched on either side would pull the hay sweep. The farmer would stand at the back and guide it. The farmer also had to hold the wooden fingers up off the ground slightly to slide under the hay. It was dangerous when full, the teeth could dig into ground to causing it to tip over and leave the hay load behind. Later tractors were used to pull the sweep.



24. Spring tyne scarifier

- 2 horse version (lighter/smaller than the earlier one listed).
- Massey Harris – Canada

25. Hay rake/horse rake

- After having been mowed the grain stalks were bound into sheafs and put up in stooks for drying. The horse rake was used to gather the remnant stalks from the ground.
- It is arranged with a seat, so that the operator can ride on the machine while in operation. The spring-teeth gather the hay and retain it until the driver, by pulling the vertical lever, lifts the teeth and discharges it. The horizontal bars projecting through the teeth keep the hay from rising too far into the machine. The hay was left in big wind rows and then later a hay sweep was used to make larger stacks before baling.

26. Hillside reversible or one way plough

- The disc would swing over to use. Note the small steel tool box on the pole between the 2 horses. On steep hills the implement would slip sideways so the pole between the 2 horses could be adjusted to make the disc plough upside into the hill and stop it slipping downwards.

27. 12 plate disc plough – called disc harrows

- This is a middle size set, for the era. Horse drawn – 2-3 horses would be required.
- Manufactured by Massey Harris Canada.

28. Spring sunshine type scarifier

- This scarifier would have been used just after WW II and you will notice that the drivers seat is missing. Horses were attached to the ‘swingle trees’, which are still seen at front of the implement.
- First developed by Arthur Biddell, the Scarifier attracted the notice of the Royal Agricultural Society of England and was awarded their gold medal in 1840. The Scarifier was used to break and stir the top layer of ground, in preparation for plowing. When pulled by four horses it was capable of breaking and stirring eight acres of land per working day.

29. Very early model scarifier

- Would have been made in a blacksmith shop. Pulled by at least 2 horses – depending on conditions.

30. 4 furrow stump jump mulboard plough

- This plough would have been pulled by a tractor but may have been converted from a horse drawn version. If not pulled by a tractor it would have needed at least 4 to 6 horses. The depth of the furrows was controlled by the hand adjusted lever.
- Probably a shearer model.

31. Harrows

Set 1

- This set was pulled from the corner. These are driven tyne type harrows, in that when the tyne was worn down, the remaining tyne was driven further through the frame. This is the oldest set of harrows out of the three. Most likely a two horse set of harrows.

Set 2

- These are driven tyne type harrows, in that when the tyne was worn down, the remaining tyne was driven further through the frame. One horse was used per harrow section, and there was usually a team of horses working several sections at any one time.

Set 3

- These are commonly known as diamond harrows. They are an improvement on the driven tyne harrows in that if a stone was hit, the diamond shape allowed for some movement, saving the tyne from breaking. One horse was used per harrow section, and there was usually a team of horses working several sections at any one time.

Set 4 and Set 5

- Two more sets of harrows.

32. Superphosphate spreader drawn by 1 horse

- Unfortunately no further information is available about this particular superphosphate spreader.

33. IXL rabbit poison cart

- The cart would have been drawn by one horse and filled with phosphorous to poison the rabbits.
- Manufactured by Arnecliff, Sydney.



34. “Badgers box”

- “Badgers box” was the name given to temporary shelters.
- This example of a “badgers box” was used by a team of thrashing machine workers who moved from one property to another in the wider Bothwell area.
- One steam traction engine could pull a convoy of machines including a chaff cutter, thrashing machine and the “badgers box”.

35. Horse drawn vegetable scarifiers

- These were commonly known as a ‘horse hoe’.

36. Steam Radiator

- These steam radiator heaters were mainly used in England for home heating. They operated in the same manner as an oil radiator.

37a Gas producer – from wood charcoal

- Gas producers converted wood charcoal to gas. The gas was then used to run trucks, cars and in some instances tractors. The producers would be mounted close to a truck cab or in the back of a car. Vehicles would be started using petrol and then the driver would switch to gas. Gas produced was hard on engines and therefore they were only widely used when petrol was limited.
- Keith and Hedley Bennett and their father, from Oatlands, used to produce the wood charcoal for a living. The business was viable because of the shortage of petrol during WWII.

37b Gas producer – different model

- Unfortunately no further information is available about this particular gas producer.

37c Gas producer – different model

- Unfortunately no further information is available about this particular gas producer.

37d Gas producer – different model

- This unit was kindly donated by Peter Utting from ‘Holyrood House’, Oatlands.

If you have any further information that you think should be included in this information brochure – please email the Committee listed below at: mail@southernmidlands.tas.gov.au. Alternatively write or leave details at The Council Offices - 71 High Street, Oatlands, Tasmania 7120.

This brochure has been produced by the Lake Dulverton and Callington Park Management Committee with support from the Southern Midlands Council.

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