

Ploughing News

January 2018
Editor: colin@millarz.co.nz



Congratulations Bob 2nd Place Overall

The New Zealand Ploughing Association congratulates Bob Mehrstens, Timaru for his 3rd placing on Stubble and 6th placing on the grassland, giving 2nd placing overall at the recent 54th World Ploughing Contest held in Kenya. The NZPA also congratulates Ian Woolley, Blenheim, on his 8th placing on the stubble, 6th on the grassland giving a 7th placing overall.



Well done Bob



If it is ploughing news, the editor would like to hear about it.
Photos and stories are appreciated.
Editor:- colin@millarz.co.nz

Please remember the items in the newsletter are submitted by volunteers and to the best of the editors knowledge, the information is correct at the time of printing.



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Post card from Kenya



NZPA EXECUTIVE INFORMATION

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Treasurer	Noel Sheat	Palmerston	027 2016821
General Secretary	Sarah McCully	Timaru	021 0308202
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Vintage Convenor	Alistair Rutherford	Gore	027 6843146
Horse Convenor	Ian Robb	Papakura	0275 711232
	Alex Furniss	Masterton	0272 466575
	Alan Gifford	Blenheim	0272 262379
	Paul Murphy	Darfield	0274 399713
	Norm Styles	Pleasant Point	0274 411694

Regional Representation

The NZPA Executive confirms that members of the Executive that are competing at the National Championships, are excused (if they choose) from attending the NZPA Executive meetings during the week of the Championships. This will allow them to concentrate on competing rather than the organisation.

Ravensdown Conventional Plough

The Ravensdown 2 furrow Kverneland conventional plough is now available to those who may wish to use it. The plough is available to encourage and develop the skills in ploughing. The plough is suitably equipped for competition ploughing. Anyone interested please contact Paul Murphy 0274399713

NZPA Reversible Plough

The NZPA has a near new, 2 furrow Kverneland Reversible plough for sale for use in competition ploughing events, this includes very favourable purchase terms.

Anyone interested, please contact the General Secretary, at sjajmc@farmside.co.nz for further information.

Rule Book

The NZPA Executive advises a new rule book covering all classes is now available from your local executive member. There has been some rule changes/adjustments, so please make yourself conversant with the 2018 rule book.

NZPA Facebook and Website

The NZPA Facebook and Website are being regularly updated with scheduled events along with the newsletters which are now being listed.

.Future New Zealand Ploughing Championships

2018 New Zealand Championships	Thornbury VMC (Southland)	14 th – 15 th April
2019 New Zealand Championships	Rakaia PMA	Date to be confirmed
2020 New Zealand Championships	Takapau PMA	Date to be confirmed

OBITUARIES

Edna Grainger Milton
Victor Adams
Henry Walker North Gore

The NZPA Executive asks everyone to support the ploughing sponsors where ever possible, it is through the sponsor's generosity, that ploughing continues to thrive throughout New Zealand.

Thank you to all sponsors, big and small,
we appreciate your support.

GULF OIL SILVER PLOUGH – FARMLANDS FUEL REVERSIBLE

NORTH ISLAND

Takapau PMA	Angela Taylor	Qualified	Conventional
Wairarapa PMA	Cancelled	Barbara Wilson	06 3797403
Manawatu PMA	Postponed	Paul Henson	06 3293969
Waikato PMA	Malcolm Taylor	Qualified	Reversible
Manawatu VMC	John Guy	Qualified	Conventional

CANTERBURY

Timaru PMA	Robert Casey	Qualified	Conventional
Hinds YFC	Adam Mehrtens	Qualified	Conventional
Mid Canterbury VMC	Simon Reed	Qualified	Conventional
Methven PMA	Ian Woolley	Qualified	Conventional
Rakaia PMA	Ashley Seaton	Qualified	Reversible
Oxford WMC	Jeff Cridge	Qualified	Conventional
North Canterbury PMA	Eric Gin	Qualified	Conventional
Lincoln	Kelvin Stokes	Qualified	Conventional

OTAGO SOUTHLAND

Tokomariro	Scott McKenzie	Qualified	Conventional
Taieri PMA	Hayden Allison	Qualified	Conventional
Thornbury VMC	Mark Dillon	Qualified	Conventional
West Otago	Ken Readman	Qualified	Conventional
Waimea Plains VTMC	Murray Baird	Qualified	Reversible
Middlemarch	Tryphena Carter	Qualified	Conventional
South Otago	James Burnby	Qualified	Reversible
East Otago VMC	Bob Mehrtens	Qualified	Reversible

NEW ZEALAND VINTAGE

North Island	To be advised
Marlborough	To be advised
Canterbury	Gordon Carter, Peter Mehrtens, Robert Weaver
Otago Southland	Alistair Rutherford, Murray Grainger, Tom Fowler

RURAL NEWS HORSE PLOUGH

North Island	To be advised
Canterbury	Erin Cassie, Colin Drummond
Otago Southland	To be advised

Tokomairiro association held their event on 13th may 2017 at the property of Gowanbank, Barrie Allison's, 6km south of Milton on State Highway 1. A nice amount of moisture which made ploughing conditions good with an even amount of stubble over the paddock. Conditions were also very good underfoot. Twenty competitors competed which included 4 silver conventional 3 silver reversible, 8 vintage ploughing, 1 horse team ploughing and 6 classic class ploughing.

Gulf Lubricants conventional class

1	Scott McKenzie	177.5 pts	68.2%
2	Hayden Allison	160.5pts	61.7%
3	Shane Burnby	120.5pts	46.3%

Farmlands Fuel Reversible Class

1	Bob Mehrtens	177pts	63.2%
2	James Burnby	143.5pts	51.2%
3	Murray Baird	138 pts	49.2%

Vintage Class

1	Alistair Rutherford	196pts	76.15 %
2	Sean Leslie	184 pts	70.7%
3	Murray Grainger	177 pts	68.07

Classic Class

1	Lenny Balneaves	156 pts	76.15%
2	John Goldsworthy	116 pts	44.6%
3	Murray Grainger	112 pts	43.07%

Champion Ploughman	Alistair Rutherford
Best Feering on ground	Scott McKenzie
Best Finish on ground	Alistair Rutherford
Youngest Ploughman	Shane Burnby
Winner of Gulf Lubricants Conventional Class	Scott McKenzie (Qualified)

Middlemarch held their ploughing match on 22nd October 2017 at Lindsay Carruthers property, with a practise day held the day before. A sunny day saw 19 competitors take to the lea paddock. Four contestants trying to qualify in the silver plough/reversible. Ploughing was finished as the weather turned and rain drops began to fall.

Qualifying event placings:

1.	Tryphena Carter	117pts	45%
2.	James Burnby	123pts	43.9%
3.	Shane Burnby	102.5pt	39.4%
4.	Calvin Phillips	96pts	36.9%

Horse:

1	Tom and Casey
2	Des and Paul

Vintage

1	Alistair Rutherford
2	John Stalker
3	Ray McKenzie

Classic

1	Owen Anderson
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Reversible

1	James Burnby
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Silver Plough

1	Scott McKenzie
2	Eric Gin
3	Tryphena Carter

Report completed by Sean Leslie

Central Southland Vintage held their event on May 28th on the property of the Clark family. It was a fine day in a wet stubble paddock. The match was not a qualifying match so it was run as a "help and be helped", match. This was very successful.

Thanks to all those who helped others. There were 7 in the open class, 7 in vintage and 7 in classic class. The next weekend we held an education day with a very good turnout. We hope that everybody learned something. Big thanks to Mark, Scott, Hayden and Alistair for their help.

Conventional and Reversible

1	Mark Dillon	207pts
2	Scott McKenzie	202 pts
3	Hayden Allison	183pts

Vintage

1	Alistair Rutherford	195.5pts
2	Murray Grainger	183.5pts
3	Ray McKenzie	155pts

Classic

1	Iain Bulling	141.5 pts
2	Calvin Phillips	134 pts
3	Len Balneaves	112 pts

South Otago Ploughing was held at Andrew Taylors Springland Farm on Saturday 4th November 2017. The paddock was quite dry and ploughed very well. Thanks to Andrew for the use of your paddock. Ground conditions were very good, maybe a little on the dry side but not without challenges. There was a good number of competitors with 22, the most for some time and two new ploughmen in the conventional class. We had smoko before we started and ploughed right through. Just as well because it rained just as we left to go to the pub for the prize giving. Thanks to the Clinton Hotel for lunch and sponsors for a grand collection of prizes. The match was a qualifying event and run off for vintage so James Burnby qualifies for the Farmlands Fuel Reversible class, also Alistair Rutherford and Murray Grainger and Tom Fowler qualified to plough in the vintage class of the New Zealand Ploughing Championships in Thornbury.

The Reid and Gray Cup was won by Alistair Rutherford for the Best Ploughman in Otago and Southland.

Reversible:

1	James Burnby	159.5pts	56.9%
2	Murray Baird	146.5pts	52.3%

Qualifying and Open

1	Scott McKenzie	170.5 pts	65.5%
2	Brad McKenzie	138 pts	53.0%
3	Calven Phillips	135.5 pts	52.1%

Vintage

1	Alistair Rutherford	169.5pts	65.1%
2	Murray Grainger	149.5pts	57.5%
3	Tom Fowler	144.5pts	55.5%
4	Ray McKenzie	131.5pts	50.2%

Horse

1	Casey and Sean	159.5pts	61.3%
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Classic

1	Jackson Lawery	127pts	48.8%
2	Iain Bulling	103pts	39.6%
3	Owen Anderson	83.5pts	32.1%

Champion Ploughman – Scott McKenzie

Best Finish – Brad McKenzie

Plain Ploughing Cup – Alistair Rutherford

Best Local Ploughman – Scott McKenzie

Winner of Farmlands Fuel Reversible Class:

Bob Mehrstens

Winner of Vintage Class

Alistair Rutherford

Winner of Rural News Horse class

Sean Leslie

Report submitted by Alister Allison

2018 RULE BOOK

The new 2018 Rule Book is now available from your Executive member.

The 2018 Rule Book covers all four classes of our ploughing championships

To New Zealand Ploughing

Kenya, what an amazing place and I am so pleased I got to plough in the World Ploughing Contest. About two weeks was put into practice at the contest with us being the first to plough along with Austria soon after, although we never saw them for the first few days. The soil was volcanic and very sticky in the early days because of the moisture in the ground, if you had steel boards, like the Austrians had, but for us with plastics, it was not a problem. After a short time the plough was running good but with the heat of the day and the ground drying out the furrows started kicking with lumps coming off the boards, but with good coaching we managed to improve with different settings and after walking around some of the other countries who had since arrived, we were happy with our efforts. Some countries struggled from day one and that never changed the whole time they were there.

Our NZ team of Alan, Malcolm, Ian and myself, were a great combination and it was good to bounce different ideas off each other to fix the problems with the drying soil and many thanks must go to Malcolm for his guidance in helping me make the plough go better in the dry conditions, his help was amazing to get us close to the top.

To Ian and Jenny, you did an amazing job to get through all the hurdles to get the container to Kenya on time, many, many thanks. Alan and Alison Wills, many thanks for being a great manager and the laughs we had will be remembered for a long time. To Colin and Vicki Millar, my grateful thanks for all of your effort and support for what was a brilliant world contest, I know you had a lot of pressure on your shoulders, but you came through and showed what New Zealanders can do.

Many thanks to NZPA and Timaru PMA for your financial support and to all of the people and companies in South Canterbury who got behind me with finance and encouragement to help ship the tractor and plough, many thanks.

I am very proud to bring home second prize in Reversible for NZ and Timaru, I went over there very determined to be at the top and with good coaching we proved we are as good as the rest.

To future contestants, taking our tractors and ploughs was the best decision we made, and if you want to be competitive on the world scene, your own gear is a must, the hassles and frustrations I saw some countries put up with only dragged them down.

Finally, what a great experience to plough in Africa, lovely people and many friends made, thank you NZ.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Bob Mehrtens and family (Reversible contestant Kenya 2017)

Judging at the World Event in Kenya.

Having arrived there for 2 weeks prior to the event and having followed Ian's and Bob's ploughs for most days I had an understanding of the local conditions. Because of the heat we were well aware that the site from a ploughing perspective was going back by the day.

Preparation for 2 days of judging involved firstly a power point presentation by Peter Gladwell and then the following day a walk over the practice plots. There was a continual banter going on between Ronnie from Northern Ireland and "skippie", Peter Gladwell from Australia.

Both presentations I thought were of good value and we became aware that in the grass there was going to be plenty of challenges for the ploughmen.

On the morning of the stubble we were advised of our judging panels. I was with Ole from Norway making up a panel of 2 and on day 1 would be judging reversible. I was surprised at the number of cards, from memory at least 8. We were in for a big day.

Ole was an experienced World Judge and had a better command of English than he gave himself credit for. Obviously I didn't have a word of Norwegian.

We quickly established that when judging our own we would stand down and it would be the call of the other judge. On occasions we had judged a plot before we realised, we didn't go back.

Like any ploughing match there was a full range of standards but quite clearly those who could shatter the furrow more than others were rewarded for it.

Every one including the judges knew we were heading into a tough day in the grass.

With Ole again, and this time conventional.

As we expected there was a complete range of workmanship. Those who were struggling had plots that were quite hazardous to walk on. However those who received higher points had less holes, good weed control and ploughed straight!!

When we went to Kenya I was a little concerned I hadn't judged enough plots. However judging with Ole, the briefing that was given and with the judging I had done I quickly gained my confidence and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

It was all part of the adventure of going to African Highlands.

Alan Wills (Judge Kenya 2017)

The Great Ploughing Adventure in Kenya.

Wow, Wow, and Wow, This place had everything we'd been told and more, not only are you up at 1840m above sea level but the ground conditions were never even, flat or easy. The days were always warm 23-28dec and on competition days around 30plus. It was both fascinating and frustrating at the same time. It was never going to be easy coordinating the freight of the container in and out of the country, as you never seem to get a direct and certain answer to any question. All countries had this same trouble and the one country that did use a different freighting company ended up with their container arriving the week of the competition, not good.

We left New Zealand with Alan & Alison Wills on the 11th Nov. on our way to Dubai where we spent a couple of nights to get over the 17hr flight. While there we enjoyed an evening 4x4 driving on the sand dunes, and watching the sunset, along with a BBQ evening meal then back to the hotel. Next day we did the Hop on- Hop off bus trip around the city, just fascinating, with all the construction, being built on top of sand. To think that before oil was found here in the 1970's all that was here was sand and a few date trees. The development is amazing!!!!

Next day back to the airport, we met up with the rest of the New Zealand team, Colin & Vicki Millar, Malcolm Taylor and Bob Mehrtens, who had flown in that morning. We all boarded the flight to Nairobi, Kenya. The fun begins!!!

The contrast between Kenya and New Zealand is huge to say the least, it starts with the drive into the city where people are walking between the traffic selling anything from newspapers, bottled drinks, chewing gum, flowers, just to make a living, and the road rules are non-exist, just keep going, don't stop, push in front of the next vehicle. Once at the hotel in down town Nairobi you realise how many people live here and how many of them have next to nothing to call their own.

We try to get some clarification on where the container is, and no surprise the answer is conflicting and no real help. Wait until tomorrow things may seem better. Next morning we're told the convoy is on its way from Mombasa and should get into Egerton University the next day, So the decision is made that the men will travel up to Egerton and the ladies will stay and do a bit of Touristy stuff while in Nairobi. The drive time was around 6hrs, we got to experience Kenyan roads, won't complain about N.Z roads for quite sometime, the amount of potholes, no shoulders and just dangerous passing manoeuvres, we're all pleased we made it home.

Upon getting to the University, we found out the convoy would arrive the next day, great, The next morning came, the convoy didn't arrive until mid-morning, then someone made the decision to put the crane and trucks over a wetish soccer field and get stuck, more entertainment!! Anyway finally they get them off loaded and in place up by the road(common sense here) Open the doors and our gear has arrived apart from clothes, overalls, work boots, wet weather gear, the wharfies had taken them down in Mombasa, not to worry just about all the countries had something taken, our donation to the Red Cross we think, Ha Ha. Bob's tractor had developed a fuel leak on the way over so that was the first job to fix. Plus get ourselves a vehicle. You may have seen pictures of this, The Hi-Lux, looked the part but no guts, power, it served its purpose well though, just abit slow. During this time Colin, Rasmus (Norway) and Lars (Denmark) plus David England (Zimbabwe) were getting to grips with what needed to be done before a World contest could happen. As nothing had been done, they had to put in a huge effort to make it happen. No harvest had been done, the wheat still had too much moisture in it. The grass still had to be cut, raked and baled, although there was a small amount of grass to start practice on, in a few days. We fixed Bob's fuel leak, this is when our adopted Kiwi turned up "Alex", he just appeared and wanted to help, so we thought as long as he's not losing out on his normal work why not, he become a valued team member and have a lot to thank him for, local knowledge goes along way.

After a day or so of getting things sorted and the grass ready, we were into practice. We quickly found out how deep the wheel marks were and how rough it was. At this stage the soil was still quite moist and ploughing reasonable, we were happy with how things were going, some of the others had problems with the dirt sticking, due to new plastic boards not run in or using steel boards. We spent about 7days in the grass as

the wheat was only just starting to get harvested, they still had to bale the straw and cart it away, this was all very labour intensive, the combines would harvest then auger the grain onto tarpaulins on the ground, then 40 women would bucket it into large 3 stripper bags then the men would hand sew them up then left them into a truck to be taken away and dried, to get rid of the weed heads. But there's 40% un-employment so the more people that's employed the better!!

The showers left a lot to be desired at the University where we stayed the first few days, especially the wiring of, -- or lack of. They were wired with an electric element on top of a shower head to warm the water, power cables inside the shower and connections done just with electrical tape, the fuse would often blow if someone else was showering at the same time. They did provide rubber jandals to use in the shower to help against electrical shocks. With the ladies arriving, we moved into the official hotel in Nakuru as we thought it best not to endure them to this bathing process. The hotel was about half an hour's drive each way, but hugely entertaining seeing the locals living their everyday life. One day we came across a herd of cows coming around the roundabout, using the inside lane no less, their traffic sense was way better than the local humans we reckon.

The road we used to get from the marshalling yard to the ploughing fields was rough would be an understatement. It took us 50 minutes to travel about 4km. More entertainment !!! This road was used by the locals as a freight road. We saw push bikes with wood stacked 2m high, motorbikes that carried anything from spuds, maize cobs, chooks, goats, a couch, beer and people. We also saw a Landover full of cabbages just enough room for the driver to shift gear and steer.

The official week started with bus trips, the first day was up to Lake Bogaria, to see the flamingo's, thousands of them, then further up a very rough road to see about 4 hot springs, lunch then back down the rough road, each way about 3hrs, very hot, one bus blew a diff, so the people on the bus got spread around the other buses. Next day was a trip to Thompson Falls, plus views of the Rift Valley, very spectacular. Monday was first day of official practice, grass again, still getting the bales off the stubble, by this stage things had dried out rapidly, trying to make nice furrows was difficult but we were managing, there was talk at the briefings to change the depth due to the deep wheel marks and roughness of the ground, but at this stage we were told the rule book states 18-22cm so that's it. In to the Stubble and now the long straw, anything from 200-500mm long and lots of loose straw that the baler didn't pick up. A lot of trial and error to fix this, in the end we managed but very frustrating. Again at tonight's briefing more discussion on the depth, ploughman not happy, and wanting a greater depth variance. At practice the next day we're told the depth has been moved, to a larger variant 16-22cm, this is better. Next day is the Stubble competition, so here goes, put what we have learnt into practice. Opening split, ok, straight, happy, next the crown, not too bad, read out good, body work-seed bed, ok but every now and again a bit of straw would flick up then I hit the wheel marks, three large blocks came up, didn't turn over just spun and sat there, bummer!! Finish, good nice and straight, that's day 1 over with. Now the points, 8th a bit disappointed. Bob was second so thrilled for him, top job. Had another opening ceremony as Kenya's President arrived to see the ploughing, and I got to shake his hand afterwards.

Grassland plot, They were still taking loose hay off the plots as we were putting up our sighting poles, this ground was hard, Opening split, had to put the plough in 10 turns just to get it in the ground, the notes I'd used from practice weren't much good at all, the ground had changed that much. So it was plough as you see it. Trouble most of the day with blocks coming up, spinning, not turning as a furrow. By the end of the plot I was more disappointed than the day before, it wasn't until Malcolm came up and said the job wasn't that bad, there were some real messes out there, guys have trouble just to get the plough in the ground. Result 6th, felt better but you know you can do better, Overall 7th, 3 places better than the previous year. We just needed 30mm of rain the week of the contest.

Bob, had an outstanding contest, being 2nd overall, huge congratulations to him and on his ability to cope with the very dry conditions. Also his driving of the Hi-Lux in local traffic was an added bonus. We had a lot of fun and laughs with what we saw and how things are done in Kenya, these times will never be forgotten.

Malcolm was outstanding as coach, for the way we had to think and get me to plough outside of my comfort zone. He was always to the fore when things went wrong and quick to get it fixed or think of a way to improve what was happening.

Alan, Team Manager, he was always there with a helpful word or encouragement, and being able to see what was going on with the plough when you're looking forward. His ability to converse with anyone was an asset, also the way he lead the team both in the field and away from it, a compliment to New Zealand.

I would like to congratulate Colin Millar on being elected as chairman of the World board for a third year. This is marvellous and shows what high regard he's thought of in the world of ploughing.

Also huge thank you to Jenny for being there through this adventure with me, not everyone's idea of a holiday! Special thanks to Vicki and Alison for being part of the team and supportive. We were a small team but very solid.

Once the container was loaded, and locked, ready for transport home, we went on Safari to the Masai Mara National park. It was great to unwind and travelling with the Republic of Ireland, USA, Canada, Belgium, you get to know them away from ploughing. We had a lot of fun and saw 4 of the big 5, missing out on seeing a Rhino, but gives us a reason to return, plus catch up with our honorary Kiwi "Alex".

Thank you to all those that sent words of encouragement. These messages are very well appreciated, knowing that people back here are thinking of you and wanting you to do your best. Thank you to the Marlborough Ploughing Association for all your continuing support and commitment. An adventure -

---- Never to be forgotten !!!!!

Ian Woolley (Conventional Competitor Kenya 2017)



The WPO Chairman assisting the local people with bagging of the barley



Sharpening the 350 posts for the security fences with machetes

Coaching in Kenya

I flew from Rotorua to Auckland with Colin and Vicki and met Bob at Auckland airport. We travelled to Dubai where we joined up with Alan and Alison Wills and Ian and Jenny Woolley.

We stayed in Nairobi for one night at the Sarova Stanley. Then travelled to Egerton university, checked the container, the tractor and ploughs were all there. The next day the ploughs were in the ground, the soil was similar to NZ, Volcanic Ash.

I spent many hours assisting to get the ploughs adjustments sorted. My engineering experience was put to good use. We discussed and practiced different ideas. Some of the suggestions were used and some were discarded if it didn't suit the ploughman.

I had a lot of fun working with Bob and Ian along with Alan. The end result was rewarding. My only disappointment was that I couldn't fix Ian's front furrow. Unfortunately the Kverneland container did not arrive until the evening prior to the contest which meant we did not have the right equipment to solve the issue.

It was very interesting and an educating experience being a coach, instead of participating as a ploughman. I would like to thank the NZPA and sponsors for their contribution to my trip to Kenya.

It was a unique experience and I would like to thank the World Ploughing Organisation for a wonderful event. Malcolm Taylor (Coach Kenya 2017)

Letter to the Editor

My personal thoughts, written as a Life Member of NZPA, about funding the national organisation. When interest rates were in the vicinity of 10%, Executive members approved major increases in assistance to competitors at all levels. I am aware there is still a major gap between these grants and actual costs of competing in ploughing contests, however, the reduced interest returns have not resulted in any reduction of these grants.

In fact there have been Vintage and Horse competitors, plus extra funding for our world competitors added to the grant total. All other costs have escalated. The newsletter has gone from 2 pages on a Commodore 64 and postage from 4d to \$1.

These costs are nibbling away at the capital fund built up by many dedicated volunteers over 60 odd years. This isn't a problem in the short term, but can suddenly snowball in to a major reduction in the capital fund.

There have been discussions in the regions about setting a subscription for members, and the North Island Conference approved in principal that this was acceptable.

I understand there are computer programmes that can handle this exercise and there is legal advice that Life Members can be expected to pay a subscription. Unfortunately, a volunteer is needed to set up and administer this programme and to date no one has put their hands up.

One of the things that was changed in the golden era was abolishing the \$25.00 application fee to hold a Qualifying event. My thoughts are to reintroduce this fee.

Whether it would be refundable if you aren't granted a qualifying event is debatable, as you now have regional Vintage and Horse competitors representing your region as well as your club's flag flying over your conventional/reversible competitors.

I believe the fee should be at least \$100 as a contribution to NZPA to support your representatives at the Championship.

Clubs have a membership of about 10 people, and to set a subscription, an absolute minimum would be \$10 per person. Assuming there are 30 affiliated clubs or 300 members, either system would generate \$3000 which would help reduce the watering down of the interest-generating capital fund.

Alex Furniss

Editor's Note:-

Thank you Alex for providing your personal thoughts regarding the results of the interest rate changes which the Executive are currently experiencing.

I am sure all of the NZPA Executive, are willing to listening to any-all other ideas from our members

The Franklin Vintage Machinery Club event was held in Hamilton with Waikato PMA on 4th Nov. Our day was on Saturday in very wet conditions. Arrangements were made at very short notice for this event due to wet weather and the harvesting needed to be done and cleared then plots set out. Sorry if you missed it.

Our day was a training day with ploughmen and officials coming from Manawatu – Napier – Reporoa – Rotorua – Taranaki – Cambridge – Hamilton – Papakura to attend the day.

Many thanks to Alan Wallace from Te Awamutu – Colin Millar from Rotorua - Willy Willetts from Hamilton leading the training team. We all went away wet well schooled and we did dry out in the afternoon. Sunday was a fine warm day for the Waikato PMA qualifying match.

Perfect soil conditions and good keen ploughmen ready to compete.

Gulf Oil Silver Plough, 1st Malcolm Taylor from Putaruru 184 pts 65.71% with his reversible plough and he travels to Invercargill in April 2018 to compete in the NZ Ploughing Championships. 2nd was Kelvin Stokes 161pts 61.92 %, 3rd was John Guy 141 pts 54.23%. Our own Murray Jamieson also ploughed a very good plot being placed 4th.

Vintage class 1st Rex Anderson from Palmerston Nth 142 pts 54.62%. 2nd Ian McSporran from Napier 132.5 pts 50.96%. 3rd Ian Cocker from Palmerston Nth 119.5 pts 45.96%.

Rural News Horse class 1st Derrick Thornton from Cambridge 151.5 pts 58.27%.

2nd Kylie Northcott from Taranaki 114.5 Pts 44.04%.

Many thanks to the Landowners, Waikato PMA & Sponsors for the prize table and ploughmen and officials.
Ian Robb

Further Information

63rd New Zealand Ploughing Championships

10th – 15th April 2018

Restaurants/Cafés in Riverton

Beach House Restaurant 126 Rocks Highway Riverton 03)234 8274

Aparima Restaurant and Bar 15 Orepuki-Riverton Highway Riverton 03)234 8502

Carriers Arms Hotel 96 Palmerston Street Riverton 03)234 8506

Colac Bay Tavern 15 Colac Bay Road Colac Bay 03)234 8399

The Crib 135 Palmerston Street Riverton 03)234 8600 (no evening dining)

First In Café 102 Palmerston Street Riverton 03)234 9304 (no evening dining)

Postmasters Café 166 Palmerston Street Riverton 03)234 8153 (no evening dining)

More Accommodation Options

Colac Bay Tavern has cabins that sleep between 2-5 people.

Phone 03)234 8399 or Email wazzabevin@gmail.com

Drummond Golf Club members are offering accommodation for the duration of the ploughing championships. This will be a fundraiser with the funds going to the club to purchase some new machinery. The following are available:

- 2 self-catering houses in Riverton that can accommodate 2 couples
- 1 self-catering house in Riverton that can accommodate 3 couples
- Various club members are also offering Bed and Breakfast accommodation @\$50 per person per night.

For more information Contact Greg Boyle at giboyle@unifone.net.nz





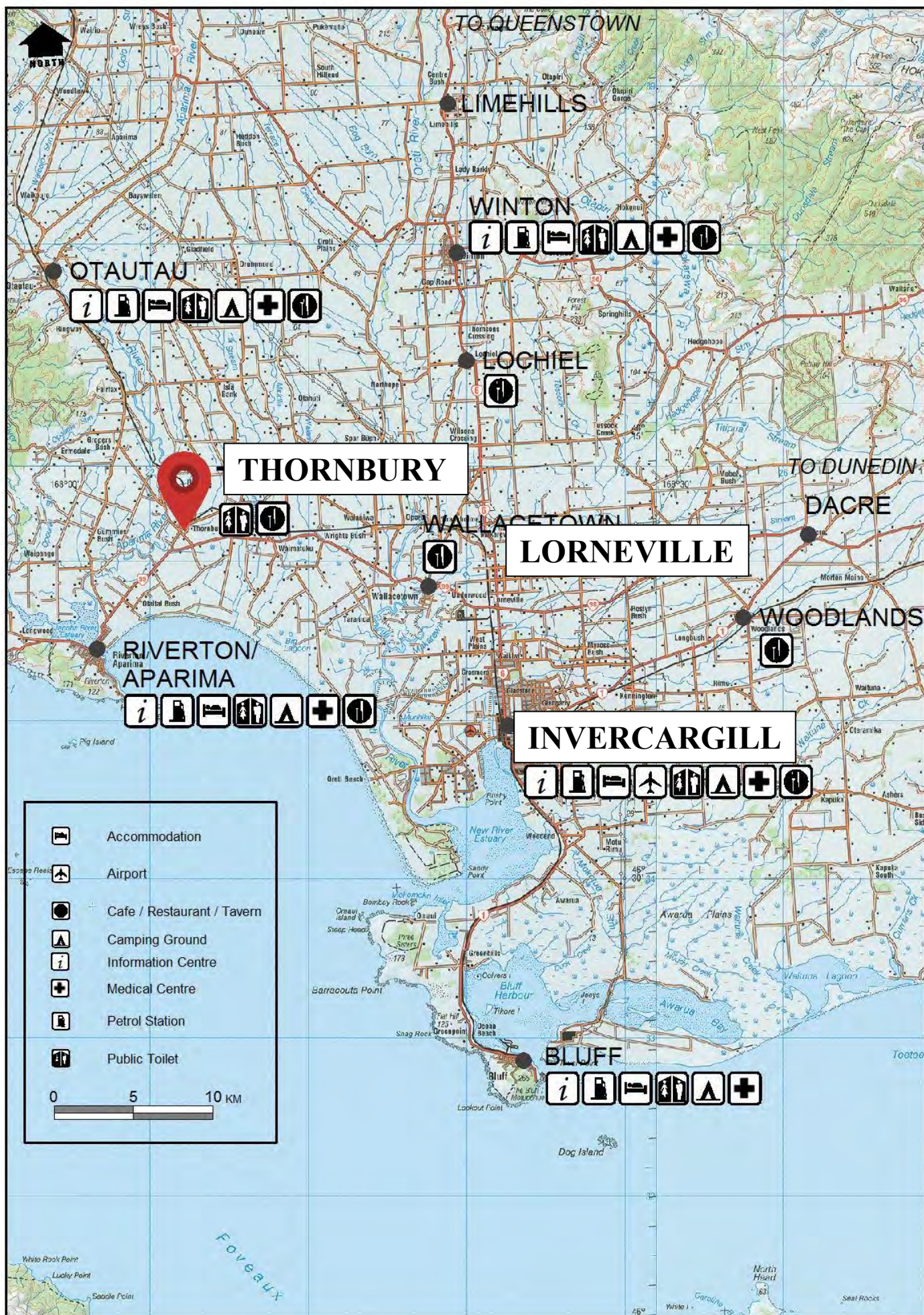
Event Programme

63rd New Zealand Ploughing Championships

10th – 15th April 2018



- Tuesday 10th** Practice Day (grass) 9.30am-4.30pm at 273 Cross Road Waianiwa
Ice Breaker Evening – 5.30 at Thornbury Clubs Rural Heritage Centre
- Wednesday 11th** Practice Day (stubble) 9.30am-4.30pm at Paulin's Bush Road
- Thursday 12th** Bus Trip leaving Lorneville at 9.00am and will be returning around 5.00pm
- Friday 13th** 10.00 – Church Service at Riverton Union Church, 126 Palmerston St
The following will take place across the road in the Riverton RSA
11.15 – Plot Draw
12.00 – Mayoral Luncheon
1.15 – Ploughman's Briefing
2.00 – NZPA Annual Meeting
4.30 – Judges Briefing in the lounge of the Thornbury Bowling Club
- Saturday 14th** 10.00 – Official Opening in the marshalling yard
10.45 – Parade to plots
11.20 – Start of ploughing
11.40 – Stop for judging of splits
12.20 – Ploughing commences again
3.00 – Ploughing stops
3.15 – Parade to marshalling yard
- Sunday 15th** 10.45 – Parade to plots
11.20 – Start of ploughing
11.40 – Stop for judging of splits
12.20 – Ploughing commences again
3.00 – Ploughing stops
3.15 – Parade to marshalling yard
- Presentation Dinner – Wallacetown Community Centre, 57 Dunlop St**
5.30 – Drinks
6.30 – Presentations
7.30 – Dinner





Registration Form
63rd New Zealand Ploughing Championships
495 Thornbury – Waimatuku Road



10th – 15th April 2018

Name: _____ Spouse/Partner: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Please Indicate: (circle) Competitor Judge Executive Steward Supporter

I/We wish to attend the following functions:

Ice Breaker Evening (Tuesday 10th) number attending _____ (no charge)

To be held in the Thornbury Vintage Tractor Clubs Rural Heritage Centre, Foster Road Thornbury.

Bus Trip (Thursday 12th) who is attending _____

Leaving from Lorneville (Lunch is included)

Adult \$45, Child \$20 Total\$ _____

Mayoral Luncheon (Friday 13th) number attending _____ (no charge)

To be held in the Riverton RSA after the church service and before AGM

Awards Evening (Sunday 15th) who is attending _____

To be held in the Wallacetown Community Centre

\$50 per person Total\$ _____

Registration Fee \$ 10.00

Registrations to be received by 15th March 2018

Total to Pay \$ _____

Registrations and payment forwarded to: Stan Knowler

6 Castle St Riverton 9822

Email: knowlercastle@xtra.co.nz

Phone: 03 234 8201 Cell: 021 040 5569

Cheques made payable to: Thornbury Ploughing Committee

Direct Credit to bank account: 06 0925 0766788 00 (please use your name as a reference)

**All tickets will be in your registration pack to be collected at the
Ice Breaker Evening**