



Merry Christmas



Ian Woolley ploughing at World Final in Germany



Bob Mehrtens ploughing at World Final in Germany

If it is ploughing news, the editor would like to hear about it.

Photos and stories are appreciated.

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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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World Ploughing Finals, Reutlingen, Southern Germany – 2018

by Ian Woolley

It's with great delight that I'm writing this report, as this year's final was my best result at a World final. The whole experience was just outstanding, from the start of our trip to the return back to Blenheim.

Jenny and I left Blenheim on August 2nd, flying to Singapore for a couple of days to de stress, then on to Munich, Germany. Whilst there we went to Dachau Concentration Camp (World War 2 prison camp). This place just blows you away as to how human beings treated one another, very very soul searching. You come away with a mind-set of how this could ever have happened.

August the 8th we travelled 2hrs South by train to Stuttgart, where we met up with Bob, who had been visiting friends in Holland on his way over. Rental car sorted we then proceeded to find our way to our Airbnb house. No easy task, our nav man device from home was not quite up to it, we seemed to go around in circles for a while, what with road works and one way systems that our nav-man didn't know about. Anyway after taking the longer way we arrived in Metzingen and our cottage for the next 17 days.

Metzingen is a famous town known for all the outlet stores, so if you're into retail therapy it's certainly the place to be. We had trouble keeping Bob away from the shops, only a 5 minute walk, he thought it fantastic!!!! We stocked up with food etc from the grocery store and set about getting ourselves into a normal organised lifestyle. Breaky at home and a cooked meal at night.

Next morning we went to find the ploughing site and our container, and WOW what a site it was. As you drive up through a forested reserve, suddenly the trees stopped and you were at the estate, wide open area, fantastic sight. Our container was in place, opened the doors and everything was just as we had loaded it, nothing moved OR missing.

We met up with Sebastian Murkowski (German reversible competitor) who was practicing at the estate. He had been given/told to use a Lemken plough as they were a main sponsor however things were not going well for him and he had all sorts of problems, very frustrating as this was the last contest he could plough in due to Germany's ploughing rules.

Once we found out we couldn't practice at the site, Sebastian made a few phone calls and he found us land to go and look at, 25kms away. The guy wasn't home, we had to wait until the next morning so we went and found a very good friend of Peter Buttericks, Eric, who had worked for Peter for a while and was very happy to catch-up with some Kiwi's. Another trip where the nav-man had us going in circles, but on this trip we found a guy that knew how to work the car navigation system so we tossed our nav-man back into its bag.

Next day we travelled to Alexander's place, a small village, Hailfingen. Travelling about an hour from where we were living. Alex and his wife Nicole had a small property 20ha on which they had free range hens for egg production and grew wheat, canola, flax plus a piece of set aside. He also worked at Mercedes Benz to help their income. What a fantastic family, they had been to New Zealand, seven years ago and went out of their way for us. So it was decided to get the tractors and ploughs brought over to his place on Monday. We had to drive through the forest reserve on sealed tracks that were used for biking, walking etc, as the tractors aren't allowed on the motorways and this was the easiest solution. It took us about 1hr15mins to drive, but what a great drive it was, the scenery was fantastic.

Once at Alex's place we were into practice, the ground was very dry and hard and days very hot, 35-38°C and not much wind to keeps the air moving. It was good though to get the ploughs in the ground and get the mind into gear to think ploughing. We practiced here for about a week, and then it was back to the ploughing site to use the pre-practice ground that we had paid for. Driving back through the forest, just delightful!!!

All this time Jenny was amusing herself with the daily household chores, walking the town, had found the local swimming pool and catching trains to nearby villages and exploring, always

managing to get herself home. I think there might have been a bit of retail therapy in there as well!! None of us found the language a barrier, a lot of English spoken or a translator not far away.

We were invited to a private tour of a co-op owned vineyard in Metzingen, some owners only owning two rows. We had to walk up the steepest row but we were rewarded with a pop up bar table, instantly garnished with vine leaves, samples of wine and pretzels to eat. Amazing hospitality and that owner, Gerhard, came up to Jenny on the competition days and asked how I was doing.

Malcolm had arrived on Sunday so he was able to check out the practicing for the past week and also got to experience the forest drive. On site there was just us and Sebastian for a couple of days then the Austrians turned up, they had been practicing elsewhere for about the same time as us. The soil here was a lot kinder and we really thought we were achieving good work, however with Malcolm showing his skills as coach he had us doing even better ploughing. Other countries slowly showed up during the week and by Friday evening everyone had arrived. Friday was the day Alan and Alison Wills, and Colin and Vicki Millar arrived so now our team was complete; it's certainly good to see these friendly faces.

Saturday 25th, we moved from our cottage in Metzingen, (goodbye normal life) to the official hotel in Reutlingen. Sunday was bus tours with some going to a dairy farm and others to Hohenzollern castle, on a hill, I should say a high hill, a great blow out walking up the hill and great views once at the castle. We all meet up at the Marbach Horse stud for lunch and welcome speeches then onto a BBQ dinner and drinks. The Stud is over 500 years old and is now owned by the government. Certainly a magnificent facility.

Monday was the start of official practice and we decided to start with the grass, as to date we had only been in stubble. Well, no changes, the grass was very hard and dry, still no rain, we did a plot each here and then went down to the stubble and returned to the grass later in the week and with the hope it might change. During scrutineering I was informed that the land wheel I'd put on the plough didn't meet World rules so I couldn't use it, bugger!!!! Back to the grass, we thought it couldn't get any harder or drier, we were wrong, it was amazing the difference of two days, it was extremely difficult to get the ploughs in the ground and on the last run of the finish it just wouldn't go in, so hard!!!!

Friday morning Malcolm set about building up shares and getting the correct cutting edge on them, brilliant job!!! The afternoon was opening ceremony and flag raising. It started to rain just as we all arrived at the ceremony and continued to rain but after a month or more of no rain, it was a pleasant sight. That night we had about 20mm, enough to keep the dust down but not much good to soften the grass.

Saturday, stubble day, I drew Plot 2, next to Hailey Gruber, the young 17yr old from the USA. Hailey had a huge following from not only her fellow Americans but from the local press. I was happy with my days' work when driving back along the headland and seeing everyone else's, 4th place, good.

Sunday, grass day, a little more drizzly rain over night and in to the morning, still not enough to do any good. Just being a nuisance. Plot 12. Opening split came out nice just should have been straighter!! Crown ok, general ploughing not too bad, finish was not too bad either, had to use extra weights I'd borrowed off a machinery dealer or we would have had problems with the plough staying in the ground again, all in all a good job done.

Big crowds at the ploughing, just a sea of people at one stage with Sunday the most people. Shops all closed on a Sunday, even supermarkets, so off to the ploughing they came.

Presentation evening, we had purchased tickets for Alex and Nicole (Farm owners) to join the N.Z. Team and as it turned out what a night for me, us, the whole team really. I was 3rd in the grass and wrapped to get a medal and then when I was 3rd overall, I couldn't believe it was me !!! Fantastic result, still can't believe it!!!! Bob was 3rd in the grass. We certainly had things to celebrate!!! Should also mention that Bob and I won the Four Nation Certificate which is contested between New Zealand, USA, Canada and Australia, the team with the highest combined points

over the two days wins. Also includes South Africa if they attend the Worlds but South Africa absent this year.

Monday was clean-up day, and time for some of the New Zealand contingent to take up their travels, Bob, Alan and I did the washing and cleaning ready for loading back into the container Tuesday morning. Time to say goodbye to new and old friends, it was certainly a great contest, very well organised, great site, fantastic result, and great to get two nice plots.

It was certainly great to have two couples from Blenheim at the contest, Roger & Dianne Jordan and neighbour Quentin Wratt & Di Woolf, also Noel & Thelma Sheat, Ian & Helen McSporran, John & Izzy Kylie & family and Jim Stevenson, and always good to have Colin and Vicki. We had a great team of supporters.

I would like to congratulate Colin on being elected World Ploughing Chairman for a fourth year, outstanding and well deserved, you are held in high regard by all.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank NZPA for the chance to represent you and our country at a world event, and the Marlborough Ploughing Assn for their continued support through the encouragement, and financial support that you give to me. I am proud to be a part of Marlborough Ploughing. And to all those that send emails and on Facebook, both before and after the contest, it truly is appreciated.

A special mention to Alan Wallace, for the trips that you make down to Blenheim to give me your expert coaching and the talks we have on ploughing, I have a huge respect and admiration for you and we are seeing the reward, thank you.

To the team, it is great to have a group of people that get on really well so together, have a few laughs, well, a lot of laughs. Alan with your words of wisdom, Malcolm with his great coaching skills, Bob, I believe the friendship, comradery, along with the humorous conversations we have, is exceptional. This team is about getting results and it has worked. And to Jenny, my words cannot thank you enough, for your calming influence and being my rock, without you I wouldn't be still ploughing.

I will certainly not forget Germany 2018.

World Ploughing Finals, Reutlingen, Southern Germany – 2018

by Bob Mehrtens

We arrived in Germany and met up with Ian and Jenny and went looking for the container. I would like to thank Ian and Jenny for all their organising and freighting the container there. Thanks also to Mainfreight for having the container delivered earlier than needed. Everything was there. No damage to anything. We drove the gear out, fuelled up and then went to find the paddock. 25 kms by road. A lovely drive over motorways and through the countryside. A real buzz to do it on a tractor.

Practice Days – we found a paddock 3 ha that the man said we could do what we wanted with. We got a real shock at how hard the ground was. We persevered and got things running the way we wanted them. We spent a week at that farm. What lovely people.

Next was the unofficial practise on the ploughing contest site. There the ground was a lot more user friendly. Still hard but not as difficult as where we had been. With Malcolm arriving soon after it was not long before the ploughs were going very well. I would say NZ were one of the few countries that handled it so well. That followed on throughout the contest.

We spent most of the unofficial practising in stubble. It was interesting seeing some other countries turning up and then trying to handle the hard lumpy ground. We kept our ploughing up to the minimum depth and that seemed to get the best results. We spent a week doing this, tidying up ins and outs, bettering our finishes (all the loose soil fell in, we went for a walk about and watched what some of the other top competitors were doing to combat this). The ground was exceptionally hard; some struggled to get their ploughs in the ground. Luckily I had hooked

shares. This was a tactical challenge we had to overcome. The team that we had Ian, Malcolm and I worked well together to better our ploughing in such hard conditions.

Official Practise – this is when we decided that we'd have some time in the grass, we expected the ploughs not to go in. We were pleasantly surprised that the ground peeled off the mouldboards and we could make tight, tidy furrows. Once again, ploughing at the minimum depth at 16cm really paid off. Those who ploughed deeper, their workmanship suffered. We had two days of grass then went back to stubble and finally the last day we finished off the grass. Even though it was a few days later, the ground was a lot harder. We still handled it though and were happy with what we had done.

The Big Week – The ploughing site was reasonably level, the plots were all very similar so no-one was disadvantaged. I got off to a good start, nice and straight. I knew after a few rounds that this paddock was going to plough very very nicely. It was beautiful stuff, I had a great day. When all the top countries come to you and congratulate you on the great plot you had ploughed, I felt very happy with my performance. Interestingly enough I was mistakenly penalized for being over time. Because I had 13.5 minutes left on the clock on my tractor. I was once again honoured to have top competitors come up and tell me that they felt a mistake had been made in my points.

Grassland ploughing day – I was happy with what I did. Nice crown, awesome finish. I was 3rd in the grassland.

Overall I was very happy with the two days I ploughed. The contest was very well organised. The weather cooled down a bit towards the end. The site was a credit to the organisers. I am very grateful to Malcolm for his input. He is an awesome coach and one whom New Zealand can be very proud of. I know our results are a reflection of how much he has invested in us. He has a great knowledge and it's great to have a different set of eyes helping out.

My grateful thanks to Alan and Alison for their input as Manager. We also really appreciated all the other New Zealanders for their support and encouragement both before and after the contest. The New Zealand team were awesome.

My congratulations to Ian for his top placings on both days and his overall achievement. Once again having our own equipment on the job has really paid off. After seeing other countries that should have known better, borrowing equipment and struggling with it, I consider it a huge advantage for future ploughmen representing NZ, to seriously consider taking their own gear in order to achieve good results.

My grateful thanks to Ian as a fellow competitor, we get on very well together. Thanks to NZPA and Timaru Ploughing Association, my family and all the Canterbury people who financially supported my journey to get the equipment over there.

Wairarapa Ploughing Association Annual Match Report 7th October 2018

The weather was great and the ground was ideal for ploughing. 17 contestants had a great day and the local Wairarapa Times-Age report put major reports and photographs in the Monday edition of the paper.

Non-Qual Silver contestants. 1 Malcolm Taylor. 2 Kelvin Stokes. 3 Angela Taylor

NZ Vintage Qual . 1 Paul Houghton. 2 Ian Cocker. 3 Ian McSporran. 4 Gavin Jones. 5 Frazer Donald. 6 Elvery Hunt

Open Vintage. 1 Peter Noaro. 2 John Brookie. 3 Stan Wilton. 4 Jack Noaro

Horses.

1 Kylie/Clohe Northcott. 2 Fred Pilling

Alex Furniss

Qualifying events (2020 Takapau)

Canterbury	North Island	Otago/Southland
Courtenay/Paparua	Waikato	East Otago
Hinds	Reporoa Rotorua	Central Southland VMC
Lincoln	Takapau	Middlemarch
Mid Canty Vintage	Wairarapa	Thornbury
Timaru	Marlborough	Tokomairiro
Waitaki		Waimea Plains
West Melton		Upper Clutha
North Canterbury		Waimea Vintage MC

Stand Downs:

Canterbury	North Island	Otago/Southland
Methven, Rakaia, Oxford WMC	Franklin, Manawatu, Manawatu Vintage	Edendale Vintage, Southland Shaft and Wheels, South Otago, Taieri

- Head Stewards at NZ Ploughing Championships 2019 will be Paul Murphy as Chief Head Steward. Head Stewards: Norm Styles, Ian Robb, Richard Haffner, John Thornton, Alan Wills.

We really require people to steward at the Rakaia final. If you are available and are keen to help out, or even if you have never done it before and would like to learn more about being a plot steward, please contact Willy Willetts 021 924093

NZPA Executive News

- Welcome to our new affiliate Upper Clutha Ploughing Association. It is great to have you on board.
- World Ploughing Contest in New Zealand 2028. We have compiled a document to be used as guidelines for any association keen to host this event. Please contact us if you are interested
- The Executive would like to farewell Alex Furniss after 20 years and Noel Sheat after 25 years. We really appreciate the huge contribution they have made to ploughing in New Zealand over the years. Welcome to Ian McSporran who joins the executive as Alex Furniss's replacement.
- Thank you also to Colin Millar for the wonderful job he has done as newsletter editor. Sandy Redmond will take over on a trial basis.

YFC Competitors

- The Executive are delighted to announce that there will be four Young Farmer contestants taking part in the New Zealand Ploughing Championships. We welcome them aboard and hope that they enjoy taking part in our competition.

Ploughing Event Dates 2019	
Manawatu Vintage – Non Qualifying	March 2019
Thornbury TMC	5 th April
Courtenay/Papaprua	6 th April
West Melton	7 th April
Tokomairiro	27 th April
Taieri	28 th April
East Otago VMC	4 th May
Waitaki	5 th May
Timaru	6 th May
Central Southland	19 th May
Mid Canterbury Vintage	25 th May
Hinds	26 th May
Marlborough	Queen's Birthday
Methven	8 th June
Waimea Plains Association	10 th August
Waimea Plains VMC	11 th August
Reporoa/Rotorua PMA – Qualifying	28 th September
Takapau PMA - Qualifying	5 th October
Wairarapa PMA - Qualifying	6 th October
Manawatu PMA – Non Qualifying	7 th October
Edendale	20 th October
Marlborough PMA – Qualifying	25 th October
Middlemarch	27 th October
South Otago	2 nd November
Waikato PMA – Qualifying	To be Advised November
Franklin Vintage – Non Qualifying	To be Advised November
Waikato Heavy Horse – Non Qualifying	To be Advised

Rule Book

- After looking through the rules again, the executive have decided to change the rule about powered attachments to tractors in the vintage sections (page 10, Rule 15) This will now read **NO NON STANDARD POWERED ATTACHMENTS ON TRACTOR OR PLOUGH ARE ALLOWED.** This rule will come into effect for the 2020 New Zealand Ploughing Championships.
- At a recent meeting the Executive have decided that a chartered accountant will now take on the compliance and financial recording responsibilities for the NZPA.
- As you are all aware, there are many threats to biosecurity in New Zealand. We are asking that everyone does their best to help us care for our environment. Please ensure that your tractors and ploughs are as clean as possible before going from farm to farm. Horse competitors need to be careful not to leave seeds from hay residue when feeding their horses.
- New Zealand Ploughing Championships: Volunteers are important. We are sure that you will all understand when we stress the fact that people involved in the New Zealand Ploughing Championships are all volunteers. Volunteers, who like everyone, may sometimes make a mistake. If you have any concerns or complaints please talk to **Sarah McCully**. The NZPA Executive does not condone any verbal abuse towards anyone. We appreciate all the work that our many volunteers do to make our ploughing events happen.

Waimea Plains Vintage Tractor and Machinery Club

Match Report 2018

Waimea Plains Vintage Tractor and Machinery Club held their match on Sunday 7 October 2018 on the property of Mark and Sonia Dillon at Kaweku. The paddock was rape stubble, good moisture with some stone. There were eight competing in the Gulf Oil Silver Plough class with three trying to qualify. There were a total of 21 competitors. The day was cool but fine with one light shower.

Thanks to Mark and Sonia Dillon for the use of their property, Balfour Lions Club for the lunch and the members of the Vintage Club for the afternoon tea and the use of their clubrooms. Thanks also to the judges and the ploughing committee.

Hamish Baird qualified.

Results are as follows:

Gulf Oil Silver Plough Conventional		Points	%
1 st	Scott McKenzie	178	68.4
2 nd	Hayden Allison	137	52.6
3 rd	Mark Dillon	128	49.2
4 th	Hamish Baird	126	48.4

Farmlands Fuel Reversible		Points	%
1 st	Murray Baird	166	59
2 nd	James Burnby	131	48.4

Agricentre South New Holland Vintage		Points
1 st	Murray Grainger	196
2 nd	Alistair Rutherford	173
3 rd	Ray McKenzie	169
4 th	Tom Fowler	167

Classic		Points
1 st	Ross Middleton	138
2 nd	Colin Hitchcock	118
3 rd	Owen Anderson	105
4 th	Len Balneaves	138

Champion: Murray Grainger Runner Up: Scott McKenzie

Report completed by Alistair Rutherford

Takapau Ploughing Match Report 6th October 2018

This match took place on the property of Minehan family farm at Speedy Road, Takapau. There was a hard crust on top with furrows crumbly. There were five Silver ploughmen, 11 vintage and two horses. The day went well and due to Central Hawkes Bay generous publicity a large number of the public turned up to watch on a fine but cool day. Thanks to Minehan family and the sponsors, judges and plough people.

Gulf Oil Silver Plough Conventional Farmlands Fuel Reversible		Points	%
1 st	Angela Taylor qualified	196 points	75.38
2 nd	Kelvin Stokes	189 points	72.69
3 rd	Bruce McCormick	136 points	52.50
4 th	Ross Hunt	128 points	49.23

Agricentre South New Holland Vintage		Points	%
1 st	Paul Houghton	193	83.91
2 nd	Elvery Hunt	165	71.74
3 rd	Ian Cocker	161	70.00
4 th	Ian McSporran	142	61.74

Rural News Horse		Points	%
1 st	Kylie & Clohe Northcott	84.5	32.5
2 nd	Fred Pilling	-22	8.46

Report compiled by H McSporran

Manawatu Ploughing Match Report October 8th 2018

Held on Paul Henson's property at Rongotea. Conditions were ideal. A great day in the Manawatu sunshine. Sixteen plough persons competed over 3 classes. The paddock and ground conditions were near ideal. Thanks to travelling competitors, judges and sponsors of this event.

Gulf Oil Silver Plough Conventional Farmlands Fuel Reversible		Points	%
1 st	Malcolm Taylor qualified	228	81.43
2 nd	Paul Henson	90.5	34.81

Agricentre South New Holland Vintage		Points
1 st	Ian Cocker	182
2 nd	Elvery Hunt	180.5
3 rd	Paul Houghton	178.5
4 th	Ian McSporran	168.5

Rural News Horse		
1 st	Kylie Northcott	119 points
2 nd	Fred Pilling	-275 points

Report completed by Paul Henson

Sandy's Christmas Cake

Ingredients

10 oz soft butter	6 eggs
10 oz sugar	1lb flour
½ tsp baking powder	1 tsp nutmeg
¼ tsp salt	1 dessert spoon golden syrup
2lb 6oz mixed fruit soaked overnight with a small tin of crushed pineapple	



1. Preheat oven to 320°F (160°C) and line 9 inch tin with four layers of paper.
2. Cream butter, sugar and golden syrup. Add 6 eggs one at a time. Fold in sifted flour, baking powder, nutmeg and salt. Then fold in mixed fruit/crushed pineapple.
3. Bake at 320° F(160 C) for half an hour, reduce to 300° F (150C) for ½ an hour and finally 250°F (120C) for 4½ hours.
4. Cooked when skewer comes out clean.

Trials and Tribulations from the retiring Newsletter Editor – Colin Millar

Negatives

Information supplied wrong, as some examples:-

- Two match reports with different winners listed
- Match reports that don't advise the qualifiers
- Match reports that are not informative
- Some match reports are hand written, electronic is much easier to understand

Information supplied with spelling and contact information incorrect

Many reports that do not use correct names of each class (Farmlands Fuel Reversible etc etc)

Names listed on photos that are incorrect

- Photos supplied, folded, so when copied they have a fold mark shown
- Poor quality of some photos or not identifying who the person is
- Very few photos of events are supplied unless requested (thank you to John Davison)

Lack of support for information when requested:-

- Obituaries, stories, match details, photos, etc

When time frames are advised for information, they are seldom adhered too

Almost ready to go to print, then information arrives or after gone to print

- Decide what to include, excluded
- Rehash the layout (very time consuming)

Requests to hold the newsletter until information is supplied

Positives

Support from some regular people

Valuable support from the following and special thanks (Sarah, Sandy, Willy, Noel, Thelma, Vicki)

Newsletter progressed into an informative document

Printer

- Easy to deal with
- Immediate response (same day printing and courier service)
- Value for money

Now printing A3, stapled, folded, trimmed, then couriered for postage, looks professional

Included colour on some pages, at front and rear but keeping cost down

Spelling, grammar and typing skills improved over the period of being the editor

General Comments

Pleased to have been the editor, however it was very challenging and frustrating at times.

A very time consuming process (especially the layout part)

Apologies for the errors the editor has made.

Completed six years, 27 newsletters, time for the newsletter to progress further, others to be involved.

Special thanks to my proof readers, Vicki and Thelma, along with Noel and Thelma for posting newsletters.

Many thanks Colin for your years of dedication as Editor.

Next NZPA Executive
Meeting 23rd & 24th January
2019

Dead line for articles for
February newsletter 30th
January 2019

Dear Santa

This year please send me a fat bank
account and a thin body and don't get
them mixed up like
you did last year.

Many thanks.





Noel Sheat Retiring from NZPA after 25 years –

thank you Noel and Thelma

This article is a repeat but it sums up Noel's involvement for over 50 years with ploughing.

Sheat's contribution to New Zealand ploughing was recognised at the Palmerston-Waihemo A&P Show on Waitangi weekend when he was awarded the Royal Agricultural Society's 'Medal of Excellence in Agriculture' for his services to the sport as a national champion in 1978, New Zealand representative at four World Ploughing Championships, judge and administrator.

"We actually present two of these medals every year to our ploughing champions," Sheat told the *NZ Farmer*. "I've organised these for our contestants for a number of years, but I

never envisaged I'd ever get one myself so I'm quite chuffed about that."

He has been on the executive of the New Zealand Ploughing Association since 1993, the last six years as executive officer. He is currently "stepping back a bit from the front lines," although he will continue in his role as treasurer and looking after sponsorship.

Sheat's introduction to ploughing came through the Palmerston Young Farmers' Club in 1965, when the club was challenged to a ploughing match by young farmers from Macraes Flat.

He had only just taken over the family farm following the death of his father and had only ever ploughed one paddock before. His uncle, a partner in the farm, was the tractor driver who had a good eye for ploughing and made a neat job of it.

The Palmerston club won the challenge, filling the first three placings (Sheat was second), but that competition sowed the seed for a lifelong interest in the sport.

At his next event, he won the novice class at the Taieri Ploughing Match and surprised himself at Milton the following weekend when he won the open class and was declared overall champion against some of the biggest names in ploughing.

So was that just beginner's luck?

"Ploughing's a bit like golf," Sheat explains. "You can have a good day and then there's always a leveller afterwards and a bit of a downhill after that."

To be a good ploughman, he reckons you have to be a perfectionist and have a good eye for detail.

"I think I had some natural skills. Some have it and some don't," he says. "You see some people ploughing and there's a fault in their ploughing right through. You've got to be able to see that and decide what you are going to do about it."

It also helps if you have some mechanical ability and that means being comfortable on the end of a gas torch or welder to adapt, modify or build your own gear.

For the next few years Sheat competed in about 14 ploughing matches a year all over Otago, Southland and a few in Canterbury to qualify for the New Zealand Silver Plough championships. He made it to his first national final in Masterton in 1969, but finished well down the field. With more experience his placings improved and in 1978 he was runner-up and therefore qualified to represent New Zealand in his first world championship in Germany.

With a borrowed tractor and plough, Sheat recalls ground conditions in Germany were very dry and difficult for ploughing. With technical advice from one of his supporters and a week's practice, he adapted to the conditions quickly and that gave him a slight advantage.

"We knew a bit about ploughing hard, dry ground so we tweaked our plough a bit and it worked," he says. As a result he fished second in the grassland section and fourth overall in his first world championship.

"I was a bit rapt about that," he admits modestly 40 years later.

He represented New Zealand in world championships three more times in the Republic of Ireland in 1981, Zimbabwe in 1983 and Canada in 1986, after winning the New Zealand title for the first time in 1985, and notched up three creditable ninth placings.

At the time competitors were only able to compete in world championships four times "so that was the end of Noel, but at least I was consistent," he jokes.

Since then he threw himself into judging and administration of the sport, which has taken him to another 15 world championships and built on friendships with ploughmen and their families all over the world.

The highlight of his involvement in the sport came as organising chairman of the World Ploughing Championships at Methven in 2010, planning for which started six years earlier for him.

"It was one of the most successful World Ploughing Matches, so I have been told by overseas participants, and a very successful match as far as New Zealand was concerned."

The Methven community got right behind the event, hosting 61 competitors and an official party of 400 guests, including managers, coaches, judges and their partners, all housed for 10 days around the township of Methven.

"It took a lot of work by everyone involved," Sheat says. "I had been to a lot of world matches before then and I knew what was needed and what wasn't needed and you find that out by being a contestant."

"The support we had from throughout New Zealand was what made it the success it was."

"It was very satisfying and would have to be the pinnacle of my career ploughing and a very good financial result for New Zealand ploughing."

After six years in the top job as executive officer of the association, Sheat believes competitive ploughing is in good heart, despite the financial pressures on farmers today.

He says farmers have to work twice as hard to ensure their farms are viable and with larger properties to manage they have less free time.

Many larger farms have moved away from ploughing to minimum cultivation and direct drilling to save costs, but Sheat believes ploughing is still necessary at least once every four years to reduce compaction and improve soil structure.

While tractors and ploughs are larger and more sophisticated with more hydraulic and electronic controls, he says the skill of the operator is still paramount. As proof he cites the current world champion who won the title with a standard reversible plough.

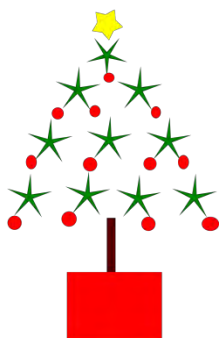
In New Zealand ploughing match competitors need bigger tractors, particularly to pull reversible ploughs, and often need a reasonable sized truck to cart their own gear to compete in ploughing matches around the country.

The New Zealand Ploughing Association has responded to this issue by loaning younger competitors a tractor or plough to encourage newcomers and get them started in the sport.

"Contestants travelling overseas from New Zealand don't realise how lucky they are with grants and support, including coaches and managers, we give them," he says.

Meanwhile Noel Sheat is looking forward to the next New Zealand Ploughing Championships at Kirwee in April and has his eye on the calendar for the next World Ploughing Match scheduled to be hosted by New Zealand in 2028.

"My intention is to attend," he says with his characteristic chuckle, "but it might be in spirit."



Obituaries

Ashley Johnston - Rakaia

John Freeman Johnson - Temuka

Gordon Carter – Rakaia. 14 -10-1942 - 7-11-2018

Gordon started ploughing competitively with his twin brother Peter when they were 12 and for the first six years ploughed in the plain class. Gordon qualified for the first Silver Plough match in 1963 at the age of 20. He ploughed in Rotorua. Atlantic were the sponsors then. He ploughed 40 finals in all, 37 in the Silver Plough class and three in vintage.

Tenacity and dedication were finally rewarded when after 19 years of competing; Gordon was runner up in Silver Plough firstly in 1983 and then again in 1988. He ploughed in the world final in England 1984 and Norway in 1989. 1989



was particularly special as he ploughed with his best mate, the late Bruce Smith. It is unlikely to ever happen again that two ploughmen from the same association, Lincoln, will plough at the same world event.

Gordon was a life member of the Lincoln PMA and held the office of president in the 1980s. Lincoln's loss was Rakaia's gain when Gordon and Helena moved to farm at Somerton in 1994. He has been a member at Rakaia since then. He was president of the Rakaia PMA when we hosted the 2002 final at Hatfield. Gordon was a tireless worker on our committee. For as far back as I can remember Gordon has marked out the paddock for our annual ploughing match.

As recently as June this year when we had our local match Gordon won cups for champion plain ploughing and best district ploughing.

Gordon was a gentle man who lived life as he wanted. He was extremely proud of Tryphena- and a tear could be seen in his eye when Tryphena qualified.

We shall all miss him greatly- he was a man of the land and we are the better for having known him. While poetry was probably not high on Gordon's list of interests- I'm sure he wouldn't mind if I read this in conclusion.

The gate swings closed, the task is o'er
The furrows are all deep and straight
The ploughman smiles in honest pride,
And slowly shuts the gate
Satisfied he wends his way
To his home and evening's rest
And sleeps the sleep that comes alone
To he who's done his best
Each task will end, each gate will swing
Each ploughman will go home to rest,
And furrows left upon the field should say, 'He Ploughed His Best'

An abridged version of the eulogy given by John Davison

South Otago Ploughing Association Report

South Otago Ploughing Association held their match on 3rd November 2018 on the property of Andrew Taylor at Clinton. The ground conditions were wet – very wet with thick grass thatch. There were 20 competitors and 1 team of horses. The weather was not good. It rained off and on all day. Ferring and finishes being a real challenge but the bodywork was of a very high standard. It was good to see 3 new ploughmen in the YFC Class. Thanks to our 2018 sponsors, the Taylor family, judges and caterers. Tryphena Carter qualified.

Results are as follows:

Gulf Oil Silver Plough Conventional			%
1 st	Scott McKenzie	194	74.6
2 nd	Tryphena Carter	166	63.8
3 rd	Brad McKenzie	130	50

Farmlands Fuel Reversible			%
1 st	Murray Baird	167	59.6
2 nd	James Burnby	166	59.2

Agricentre South New Holland Vintage			%
1 st	Tom Fowler	167.5	64.4
2 nd	Alistair Rutherford	158	60.7
3 rd	Murray Grainger	151	58
4 th	Graham Anderson	131	50.3

Rural News Horse			%
1 st	Casey and Sean	170	65.3

Classic Class			%
1 st	Ian Bulling	162.5	62.5
2 nd	Colin Hitchcock	124	47.6
3 rd	Lenie Balneaves	96	36.9

YFC Class			%
1 st	Tim Hastie	138	53%
2 nd	Paul Kowalewski	106	40.7
3 rd	McLaren Mitchell	92	35.3

Special Prizes: Champion ploughman – Scott McKenzie, Local Ploughman – Scott McKenzie, Best finish – Casey and Sean, Plain Ploughing Cup – Tom Fowler. Scott McKenzie also won the Reid and Grey cup for the highest aggregate of points for Otago and Southland ploughing competitor.

Report completed by Ray McKenzie.



Registration Form

64th New Zealand Ploughing Championships

Held at Wilkinson's Farm, Wilkinsons Road, Chertsey

8th – 12th May 2019

Name: _____ Spouse/Partner: _____

Phone _____ Cell: _____ Email: _____

Please indicate: (circle) Competitor Judge Executive Steward Supporter

Icebreaker Evening (Wednesday 8th) Venue to be advised

Sponsor - Gluyas Motor Group Number attending _____ (no charge)

Mayoral Welcome (Friday 10th) To be held at
Sinclair Community Centre, Park Street.

Ashburton. Number attending _____ (no charge)

½ Day Bus Trip (Friday 10th) \$30 pp Number attending _____ Total \$ _____
Includes afternoon tea
Leaving from Hotel Ashburton.

Presentation Dinner (Sunday 12th)

Hotel Ashburton. Who is attending _____

\$55 pp,
Children 0 – 5, No charge,
Children over 5 - \$10
Number attending _____ Total \$ _____

Registrations to be received by 12 April 2019

Total to Pay \$ _____

Registrations and payment forwarded to: Graeme Joyce

Address: 794 East Maddisons Road, Rolleston 7614

Email: thejoyces@xtra.co.nz

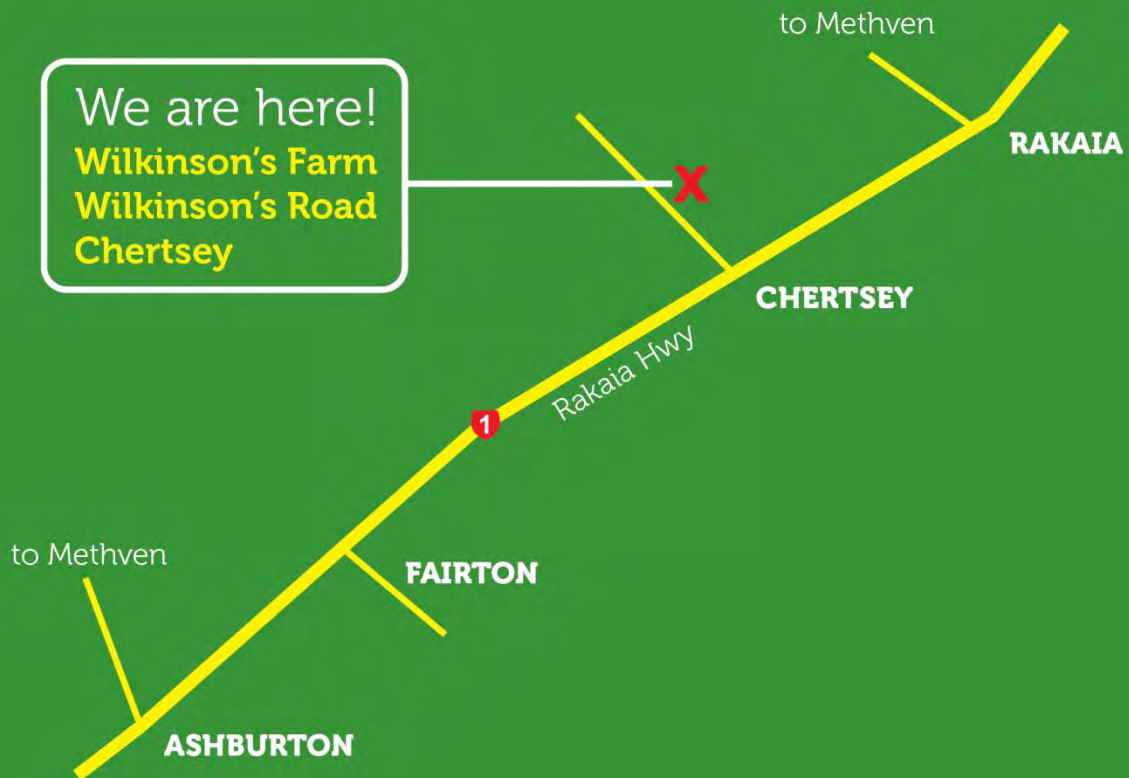
Phone: 03 347 0791

Cheques made payable to Rakaia Ploughing Match Association 2019

Direct Credit to bank account 02 0836 0161437 001 (please use your name as a reference)

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

We are here!
Wilkinson's Farm
Wilkinson's Road
Chertsey



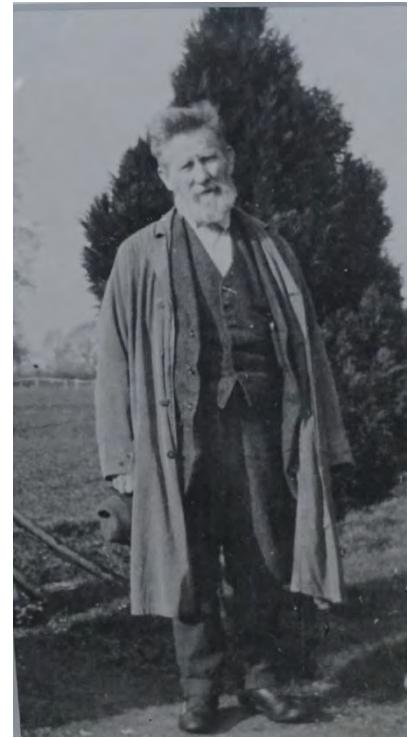
**‘Bad ploughing done straight is better than good ploughing done bent’
Ken Chappell**



Part 2 of Alex Furniss's Great great grandfather's letter to his family back in England about his journey to the next farm at Rangiriri in 1906.

I went from Auckland to Huntly by rail and had a look at the farm. A neighbour showed me around but it was difficult to find the boundary for the map does not seem right by the ground and we could not find the pegs amongst the scrub. I then went to Huntly again and by train to Rotorua and stayed there till noon the next day looking at the wonders – boiling holes, hot lakes and such like.

I set out for Taupo at 10 am and got over 15 miles that afternoon and stayed in a roadman's hut the night. Started at daybreak, without breakfast. Reached a Post Office and boarding house after I had walked 13 miles, got my breakfast – a real good fill up. I had to pay 2/6 for it but it was the only house I had seen since leaving Rotorua and there were no more between there and Taupo which I reached about 8 the same night – tired and hungry. I'd walked nearly 40 miles that day and only one feed until then.



Set off early next morning to walk 35 miles around one side of the lake to Tokaanu for there was no boat crossing the lake that day and also I wanted to see what the road was like. I found the road all right except there were no bridges over 7 or so rivers so I got through by taking off my boots and socks and drawing up my trousers as far as I could. Some of them I had to get my trousers off to get through. I had got within 9 miles of Tokaanu when darkness came on. I had 2 more rivers to get through so I lay down for the night on the roadside without supper. I would have been all right except that it started raining and continued so for about 2 hours, drenching my rug. Then it turned cold until morning. As soon as day broke I crossed one river and another shortly after, then ate a sandwich which I had in my pocket for breakfast. I did not call at Tokaanu for I found it was out of my way by about two miles so I kept right on for another 20 miles until I reached a hut and some stables where mail coaches change horses. There I found an Irishman in charge, stayed the night and had supper and breakfast with him 3 miles on the east side of the volcano Ngauruhoe. A very frosty morning.

I set out again, passed about 4 miles on the east side of Mt Ruapehu, walking 28 miles that day. Stayed the night in a government cement shed and lay on some horse corn sacks. The rats were very busy smelling around and jumping on me so, as you can imagine, I did not get much sleep. There was a heavy downpour of rain throughout the night. The next morning I had some breakfast at a navvy's eating place, a canvas one, then set off. At Taihape the rain turned to snow, the road knee deep in mud, so all traffic ceased. I waded through it as best I could but got on a wrong road going to Napier. Went 4 miles along this wrong road before I found someone to ask the way. I got some food and warm tea, then set out back to the right road getting to Taihape at dusk. Stopped by a stream, took off my boots and socks, washed them and my feet in the stream, put on a pair of clean socks, got tea and went to bed.

Missed the train at 6am so I walked 16 miles to Mangaweka, and 16 more the same day brought me home to my smiling family, which was to me the pleasantest sight I had seen, having walked 188 miles in 6 ½ days. I did this journey by road so I could see if the roads were fit for us to take our horses and carts with the family and needful things, camping as we went. I found that we can do so if we go up in fine weather, but the road beyond Taihape is not yet passable.

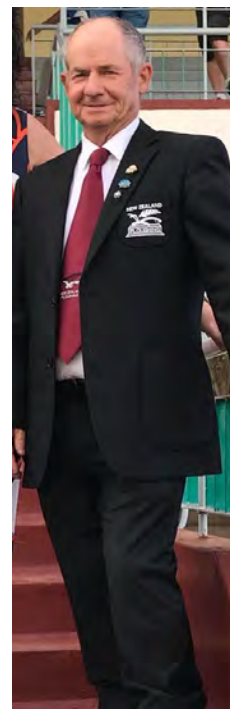
To be continued

Congratulations Colin Millar on re-election unopposed for a 4th term as Chairman of the World Ploughing Organisation

Colin Millar has certainly been recognized on the world stage. The New Zealand Ploughing Association is very proud of the position Colin has attained at the World Ploughing Organisation. Colin was voted onto the board in 2007 not knowing what he could achieve, working his way through the committee.

In 2015 Colin was elected as Chairman which generally is a three year term. For the first time in history he was re-elected unopposed for another year, their rules only allowing one year thereafter. It is obvious the committee recognised Colin's ability for detail. He listens to what is spoken; remember most of the committee don't speak English. It is hard to imagine how much time Colin has given to ploughing; some of the conference calls have taken up to 4.5 hours (think how your arm would feel). The time and energy Colin has given to ploughing is hard to comprehend for most of us. A job extremely well carried out, thank you Colin.

By Willy Willets



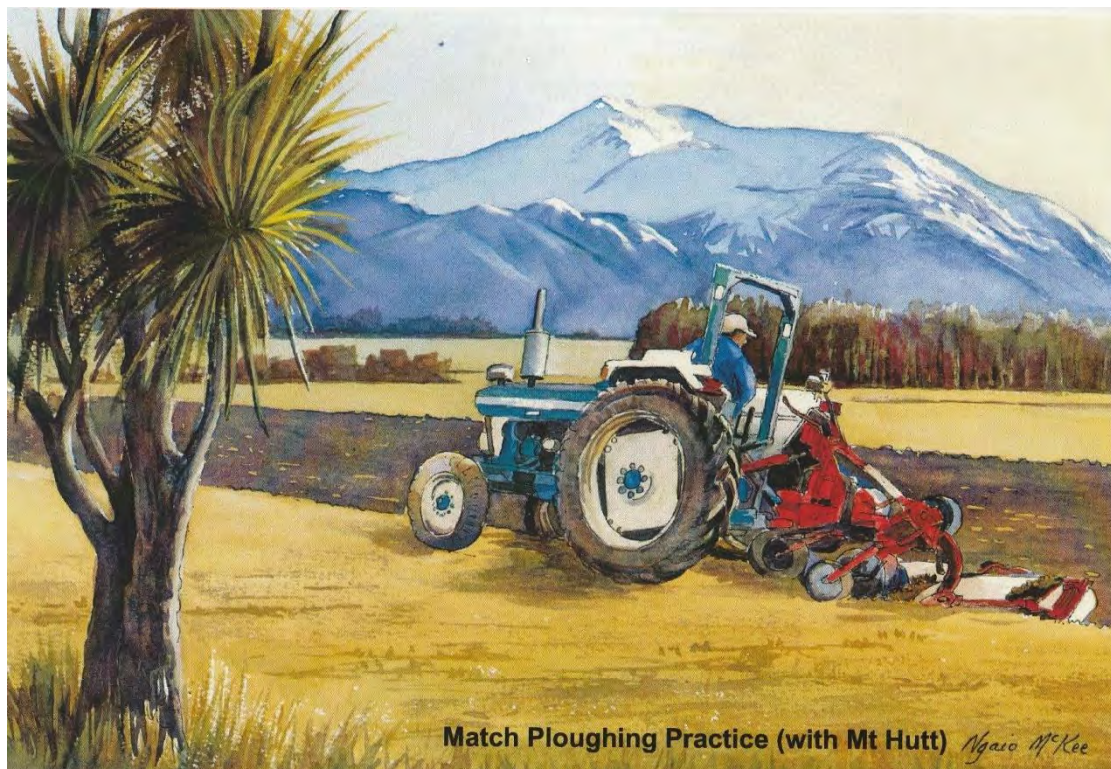
NZPA – Fundraising for World March 2028

Ploughing Prints and cards

Prints - \$20

Cards - five for \$5

Available at Rakaia final



Alex Furniss - Ploughing involvement

In 1965 Brian Wills (Alan Wills' father) and Roy Miller (Colin Miller's father) held a coaching day for Reporoa Young Farmers. They loaned me the plough that Stuart Allison had left behind after the Rotorua Final. Alan Wallace and Shaun Rylie had qualified and I was the best of the locals from the Reporoa-Rotorua qualifying match, so my second ploughing contest was the Gore Final. I then competed in the North Island circuit for 4-5 years but failed to qualify again. Pam and I got married in 1970 and apart from Ross Murray getting me to join the Waikato PMA briefly, I had no involvement until we shifted to Galatea and Brian Wills conscripted me to chair the 1987 Reporoa-Rotorua final organising committee. From there, Pam took on newsletter editor from Elaine Rawlinson, and then became Max Cooper's apprentice points' compiler and the first Minutes' Secretary to the NZPA Executive under Bob Kingsbury, so I had 'pillow talk' info about how the Executive worked!

By 1985 we had shifted to Manawatu and I was elected to replace Neville Rowe as the Lower North Island Exec representative.

When I first became involved, the Mobil Silver Plough was the only competition. Since then, the Reversible, Vintage and Horse classes have evolved. Each class has different

challenges for Exec members to create a single event. There are many different ways to approach these challenges and it has been wonderful to be involved with this committee as we found a common solution to these challenges.

I have to confess that I have never seriously studied a result sheet. My focus has always been looking for problems and trying to sort them out before they happen.

It has always been a highlight being involved in the Ploughing family. I wish you all the best for the future challenges of involving a YFC class, and the upcoming 2028 World Contest.

Alex Furniss



*Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas
and Best Wishes for a Prosperous and
Happy New Year*