



## Merry Christmas



Kelvin Stokes with his bull  
View complete profile page 7



Ian Woolley's Plot  
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If it is ploughing news, the editor would like to hear about it. Photos and stories are appreciated.  
Editor: - [bruceandsandy@windowslive.com](mailto:bruceandsandy@windowslive.com)

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## World Ploughing USA 2019

*Ian Woolley*

World Ploughing Report- Baudette, Lake of the Woods, Minnesota, USA. August 2019

Jenny and I left Blenheim on August 7<sup>th</sup> to meet up with Bob at Auckland airport. We were pleasantly surprised to see Willy Willets and Ian Robb who had decided to meet up with us for a quick coffee and good luck vibes. Finding Bob, we tackled security, scanning, then boarded our flight to Chicago, arriving 15.5 hrs later. Then through immigration (a queue), finding bags, out to get a transfer bus (another queue) to terminal 1 which was the other side of the airport, recheck our bags in, \$30 US per bag, lucky we only had 1 bag each, get boarding passes, back through security (another queue) find the correct gate for our flight and board. From when our flight landed from NZ until our next flight, we had 5hrs to do this in, (piece of cake you'd think) we got to our next flights gate 10 minutes before we boarded. Chicago Airport is VERY busy, VERY large, lots and lots of people all going somewhere, and you queue for everything.

So, we arrived in Moline, Illinois at around 10.15pm, collect the bags, and we'll get a taxi to the hotel, yeah right!!!! No taxis at that hour in Moline, no rental car agents open, nothing however thanks to our new friend, Mary who befriended us at the terminal, she offered us a ride in her car to the hotel which we took gladly.

The hotel was just over the road from the John Deere Pavilion, The Pavilion and tour of the combine harvester works, plus out to see where John Deere himself first started his blacksmith shop (where he made his first non-stick steel board plow) was our reason for going to Moline. Huge thanks to Drummond & Etheridge in Blenheim for organising this for us. Bob now owns 2 John Deere caps!!!

We left here early Saturday, a flight from Moline to Minneapolis, Minnesota. Once there, rental vehicle sorted, which was supposed to be a Ute/truck but due to a recent hail storm and other issues there were none available so we settled for a SUV, which as it turns out suited us better, as it sat 7 and everything in the back was covered. We set the GPS for Baudette and off we went traveling north towards the Canadian border, taking over an hour to get out of the city limits, then we started to realise how vast this country is. Sure, there are farms but also a lot of unproductive land, either its swamp, small rubbishy scrub or trees. We just seemed to be driving for ages and not really traveling that far but after 5.5 -6hrs we finally arrived in Baudette. Right, now to find our lodgings Into a shop we go that is open for directions which was a Hardware store, whose motto is "if we aint got it, you don't need it" and another one of theirs is "but if you really do want it , we can probably get it".

We got our directions and drove another 12miles from town to what would be our home for the next three and half weeks. Overlooking the Rainy River, our small 3bedroom cabin, it had a basic kitchen and a bathroom with toilet and shower, cosy!! So, for the first week it's just Bob, Jenny and I, Management (Malcolm, Alan and Alison) don't arrive until the following Saturday. At this stage it's around 4.30pm so we decide to drive back and see where the ploughing site and container is (it was unloaded on the 7thAug). We notice that not a lot of crops had been harvested, wonder where we're going to be practicing???? We find the container and everything is just how we had packed it, cool, shut the doors, come back tomorrow, Sunday and unload.

Sunday morning, we drive back to the container and start untying everything, start my tractor, but I have no forward or reverse, no lights on the dash, and a couple of other things that aren't working, must be a fuse, check these, all seem fine. Long story, short, it was a fuse, the two big 70amp ones down on the side of the motor and I didn't have a spare one. We actually rang D&E, here in Blenheim to find the answer to the problem (it was Monday in NZ). So we waited until Monday morning in Baudette and went to the John Deere agent to see if they had new fuse's and plugs, No, but we can get them in, will take a few days, right, back to the tractor, use plan 'B' as was told to us from D&E in NZ, Used plan 'B' the whole time we were in the USA, we did pick up the fuse's etc but never put them in, didn't have and couldn't get big enough wire crimps.

While waiting on Sunday for it to be 8am in NZ, we got talking to a local and they said go and see Barry "Big Bear" Hasbargen about some practice ground as the paddocks that had been set aside for you are not ready yet. We drove down the road to his farm, knocked on the door, we're thinking no one home, about to leave, then the door opens, and immediately we can see why he's call 'Big Bear', We introduce ourselves and say what we're after, no problem, there's a paddock over there, help yourself, the Austrians are already there and have been for about a week. Barry is a very obliging man, he allowed us to store the tractors in his shed when we were practicing there and when the event was finished, we washed everything down there with his steam cleaner and air compressor.

The practice paddock was ryegrass that had been combined for seed and the straw chopped and blown out the back of the combine, not ideal but better than nothing, we practiced here all week, alongside the Austrians. The soil became heavier and drier as the week went on and us, we moved further along the paddock, not really like the contest site. Barry told us that he had the paddock opposite the contest site and we could go down there, trouble was there was only a strip of about 70m that didn't have too much straw on it.

So, we started in there and by now there are a few countries turning up and wanting practice ground. The paid for pre-practice ground was still not baled (and never was while we were in the US) so that was not available, it ended up that Barry raked and burned the straw in his paddock so as all the other countries could start practice. At this stage the contest wheat fields had not been combined and the grass straw had not been baled, they were waiting for the contractor.

We had been there now for 12 days and there was not a lot of work being done on the contest site, the so called organising people seem to always be at the new big shed drinking coffee and saying wait until so and so gets here then things will happen, no one seem to be in a hurry or seem to realise this World contest was next week!!!!

Malcolm, Alan and Alison had arrived so we were now fine tuning our practice and pretty happy with how things were going. Each day we would meet another one of the locals, and they all wanted to tell you their life story in the first 15mins. One chap that came to see us was Geoff, he'd been to New Zealand during the Vietnam War, on R&R, the stories he told us and how he told them had us in fits of laughter.

The next day Barry came along to see how we were getting on, he pulled up on the headland and started chatting. On the headland were our folding chairs, plastic tool box, plus other bits and pieces which were put there as Alan had to go to town to get a couple of things for us. Anyway, we see this truck coming flying down the gravel road and someone says "hell Barry here comes the Bank manager." Well with that he starts his truck, into gear and runs right over the chairs, tool box, he stops, hops out and starts cursing about what he's done and Barry's young very slightly built worker is under his truck trying to pull everything out that's stuck up under it, all the time saying "Jezz Barry" and "god damn it Barry". Barry being a big man can't bend over to see what's going on, and us Kiwis are once again in fits of laughter seeing the funny side of the whole thing, not much damage really, just the plastic tool box was written off. Barry actually replaced the tool box, but that just shows you the qualities of the man.

All of the New Zealand support crew arrived on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> August, it's certainly great to see these friendly faces and hear more of the New Zealand accent, I think there was around 22-24 people in the official crew, And with Stu & Michelle Paterson, plus Mark Taylor and Alistair McNeill turning up latter in the week, we had one of the largest supporters groups there.

Into official practice, and yes finally there had been some activity on the contest site. Skip marks had been put in for grass practice and they were working on the stubble practice ground. We were again quite happy with how we were going and just a few minor tweaks' here and there. The last two and half days we spent at the stubble, taking our time over things, also we'd had about 2-3" of rain at night so this changed things considerably, the straw wouldn't flow of the skimmers, soil holding together a lot more than it had done before, but we know there was no more rain expected so let the soil dry, to get a better feel for how it was going to behave.

With all the rain we'd had the official marshalling yard was just a bog, as it was a new area along with a new shed for workshop facilities. If only it had some grass growing on it things would have been much better.

First competition day, stubble, the soil had dried out quite a bit over the last two days and was quite different to the practice ground. I drew plot 11, the stubble was quite short but the plots seem to be quite rough and the light coloured sand would show through at regular times. We had been told at the briefing that the judges would penalise hard for too much light coloured sand in the finish. Being conscious of this, worked a lot on the last run to try and keep the depth as shallow as possible, in the end I hadn't produced my best work, possibly a little deep all day, plus a few other things not quite right, 12<sup>th</sup> place, disappointing, will certainly have to do better tomorrow!!!!!!!!

Second day, grass, plot 18, the plot, had at the start end, a high, very sandy ridge in it, plus a few goffer holes, this could be interesting! Anyway, with the soil being moist, the grass ploughed a lot better, putting up nice furrows, but where the sandy ridge was, furrows didn't hold together and looked completely different to the rest of the plot. I was certainly happier with my day's effort, placed 7<sup>th</sup>. Sure, could, should have done things better and a bit different, but that was what I'd done on the 2 days, overall 10<sup>th</sup>. Some days things don't click.

It certainly makes you appreciate the 3<sup>rd</sup> placing in Germany the year before and how special that was!!!! Perhaps some unfinished business????

Over the competition days we had quite a large group of summer locals to the area supporting us. They had their very large caravans (RV's) parked just down the road from our lodgings. These people had just driven in when Bob and I were unloading the container and they just wanted to know what we were doing and WHY????? They become our extended family and we were invited to have supper (tea) with them on two occasions. The first evening Alan, Bob and Malcolm gave a very informative talk on New Zealand, they had more questions so that was the second evening. These people were just so thrilled to actual have us all the way from New Zealand and in their back yard so great friendships were made.

After the contest was finished it was time to get everything washed and blown down ready for packing back in the container. With this done, Barry and his two sons wanted to take us out for lunch. Who's going to say no to Barry? We had an awesome lunch with them at another one of the many fishing resorts/lodges, then back to the container and finish packing everything in ready for the trip home.

This day (Sunday) was also the American plowing finals, for the trip to Russia. We also found out that Colin Millar had been re-elected as World Board chairman for another year. An awesome achievement and never been done before, 5 years in a row.

Monday morning, we packed the suit cases and headed towards Minneapolis, this time with Malcolm accompanying us as Bob and Malcolm were flying back home the next day through Houston. Jenny and I were also flying but staying in the USA to visit friends in Michigan plus a few days at Niagara Falls and Quebec City, Canada, then home.

This World Contest has proved to be the most expensive, twice the cost of going to/from Germany last year and more than Kenya however on the plus side we've meet some very wonderful people and the experiences are right up there with Kenya. Holding it in basically the middle of nowhere, the locals have a saying, "Northern Minnesota, where the middle of nowhere is somewhere", There certainly were not a lot of facilities. The town of Baudette had a population of 1100 people and it all centred on fresh water fishing, where the winter Ice Fishing, on the lake, is more popular than summer fishing. Even the locals couldn't understand 'why' are you holding the event here????

To summarise, Yes, I'm disappointed with my placing this year, however to compete at a World level is a privilege as I am representing my Country. With so many New Zealand supporters in Baudette, I would have liked to have had a better result for you but certainly your support and comradery was fantastic and I hope you enjoyed it all the same, as much as I did.

I have been very fortunate to be part of a great team in the last three years, that have achieved some good goals, had great experiences, meet wonderful people, and who get along very well. There will always be that experience, what we've seen, what someone has said, that will make us smile when we're in our own little worlds. Thank you, Bob, Malcolm, Alan and Alison.

I'd like to thank everyone that sent messages/emails to us during the contest; it means a huge amount when you're a long way from home. Thank you to the Marlborough Ploughing Association for all your continuing support.

A huge thank you to Alan Wallace for coming down to Blenheim and passing on some of his wealth of knowledge, I hope it can continue. Also, to Jenny, for continually being there and enjoying our time at these world events.



## Triple Chocolate Mousse Tart

Serves 10

### Crust

250g plain chocolate biscuits  
125g melted butter  
1 tablespoon flour

### Chocolate Ganache

100g dark chocolate, chopped  
½ cup cream  
Cocoa powder, decorative to serve

### Chocolate Mousse

200g dark chocolate, chopped  
600 ml cream  
1 tsp vanilla essence

### Method

1. Grease a 6 cm deep, 22 cm round springform pan. Line the base with baking paper. Place biscuits and flour in food processor. Process until combined, mix in the melted butter. Press mixture evenly over the base of prepared pan. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.
2. Make chocolate ganache. Place chocolate and cream in small saucepan over medium to low heat. Cook, stirring constantly for 3 to 4 minutes or until smooth. Pour over the biscuit base. Refrigerate for 30 minutes or until set.
3. Meanwhile, make the mousse. Place chocolate, vanilla essence and half the cream in a saucepan over medium low heat. Cook, stirring constantly for 3 to 4 minutes or until smooth. Remove from heat. Cool for 15 minutes. Using an electric mixer, beat remaining cream until soft peaks form. Fold chocolate mixture into whipped cream. Gently pour over ganache layer. Refrigerate overnight, dust with cocoa powder and serve.



## South Otago Results

South Otago Ploughing Association held their match on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 on the property of Ian Young (James Burnby – Manager) at Clinton. Ground conditions could not be better. There were 16 competitors, the paddock was a grass paddock and ploughed very well but most ploughmen had problems making crowns and finishes. The weather turned for the better and a great day was had by all.

Thanks to Ian Young and Manager James Burnby for the use of the paddock and also our sponsors and the Clinton hotel for smoko and the use of the bar for a meeting. Thanks also to our judges.

### Reversible Results:

1	Murray Baird	183 points	65.36%	Qualified
2	James Burnby	164 points	58.57%	

### Conventional Results:

1	Scott McKenzie	183.5 points	70.58%
2	Mark Dillon	145.5 points	55.96%
3	Shane Burnby	136.5 points	52.50%

### Vintage Results:

1	Murray Grainger	184.5 Points
2	Alistair Rutherford	158.5 points
3	Graham Anderson	158.5 points
4	Dave McDonald	134 points

### Classic:

1	Colin Hitchcock	120.5 points
2	Len Bellneaves	106 points
3	Ross Middleton	77.5 points

Farmers ploughing class – Fraser Lesley

Champion Ploughman, Local and Best Finish – Scott McKenzie

Best plain ploughman – Murray Grainger

Report completed by *Ray McKenzie*

## Waikato Results

The Waikato Ploughing Club held their match on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 on the property of Kimpton Farms at Rototuna Hamilton. The ground conditions were ideal for the 2 days of ploughing. We have 2 days of ploughing, the first day with Franklin and the next the Waikato club.

The first day was an instruction day. It turned into a most successful day. The improvement was very noticeable the second day. Thanks, in particular to Alan Wallace, Elvery Hunt and Ian Woolley. Thank you for making the time to come and assist our plough people. The ladies certainly enjoyed Jenny Woolley's company. Good friendships were made.

The next day was Waikato's qualifying match. As I said there was a huge improvement made in the ploughing. Both days were nice hot sunny days. The first day there were 11 plough people, 13 the second day 5 conventional, 5 vintage, 2 horses. Malcolm and Angela Taylor joined us the next day. The weekend was most enjoyable.

Bruce McCormick and Derrick Houghton were to qualify. Both first year qualifiers in the conventional. Unfortunately, both can't go to the championships. They have made their mark in ploughing and we are enjoying their companionship. Colin Millar could not make our weekend, unfortunately. I don't remember when he last missed.

Thanks to John Guy for getting the nice ground and his chairmanship, to Lynda Guy as scribe and many other things she is asked to carry out, to the ladies and judges, thank you. It won't work without your assistance. Thanks to Deborah Houghton for the first-class dinner Saturday evening.

Conventional Results		Points	Percentage
1 <sup>st</sup>	Kelvin Stokes	175	67.30
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Derek Houghton	147	56.53
3 <sup>rd</sup>	John Guy	140	53.84
4 <sup>th</sup>	Bruce McCormick	129	49.61

Reversible Results		Points	Percentage
1 <sup>st</sup>	Malcolm Taylor	216	77.14
Vintage Results		Points	Percentage
1 <sup>st</sup>	Paul Houghton	188	72.30
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Ian McSporran	187.5	72.11
3 <sup>rd</sup>	David Chatterton	159	61.15
4 <sup>th</sup>	Rex Anderson	157	60.38
Horse Results		Points	Percentage
1 <sup>st</sup>	Derrick Thornton	130	50
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Kylie Northcott	113.5	43.65

### Special Prizes

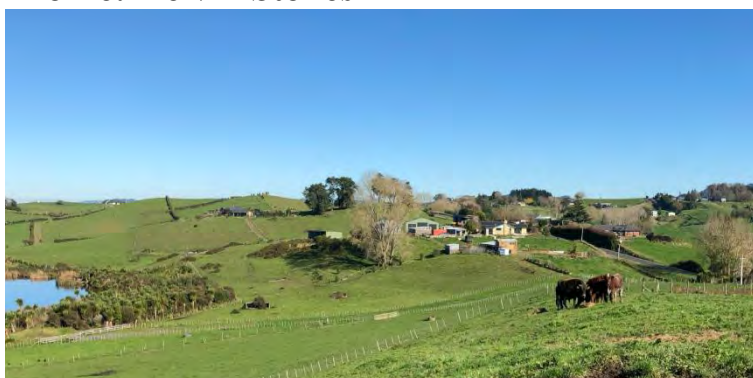
Open Class Highest Points/Percentage no qualifying M Taylor

Waikato member with the highest points/percentage M Taylor

Report completed by *Willy Willetts*



## Profile: Kelvin Stokes



### A TAUPIRI PLOUGHMAN

I was born here in the Waikato and attended the local schools of Taupiri and Horotiu and then Hamilton Technical School (later renamed Fraser High School) for the last three years of formal education.

On leaving school I returned to work on my parent's farm. At this time, they were beef farming and raising pigs for the local market. I stayed on the farm but in the late seventies joined many other locals on

the Huntly power site at a labourer, and later a certified welder.

In the summer months I picked up hay bales for extra income, it was logical add on to my father's hay baling business.

In 1980 I purchased the home block from my parents and to pay for this venture I built a cowshed and converted this part of the farm to dairying. I am the third generation to farm this block, only 15 kilometres from the centre of Hamilton.

I continued dairying for the next 23 years. Once I sold the dairy cows, I increased the number of beef breeding cows and converted the whole farm to a beef operation.

I raise shorthorn beef on the farm and my stud's name is Lochburn.

In the early part of this decade I began showing cattle at the local A&P's shows with some success.

After leaving school I joined the local YFC club (Horsham Downs) that ran the ploughing for the local YFC district. It was at this time I began my interest in ploughing competitions. I bought my first plough in the early seventies and in 1977 qualified for my first New Zealand final. I have maintained the interest ever since but taking some breaks from competition for example in the early eighties when I purchased the farm.

At the 2004 final at Reporoa I ploughed well enough to gain a place on the Australian exchange. In 2006 I went on the most enjoyable trip to Australia (the first time overseas) and this cemented my interest further. Since this time, I have had two seconds in the conventional class competition at the New Zealand final.

I have been a spectator at three of the world finals in New Zealand but this year for the first time I attended an overseas final. The final being in August 2019 at Baudette, Minnesota, USA.

Look forward to seeing you all at many more New Zealand finals.

*Kelvin Stokes*

## NZPA – executive news

1. Could any association wishing to put in an Expression of Interest for hosting the 2028 World Ploughing Championships in NZ, please get their written application in to the General Secretary by January 2020. (this date has been brought forward to ensure accommodation and land can be booked in as early as possible)
2. Reminder – competitors need to bring their lunches for both days of the New Zealand Ploughing Championships competition
3. This year (as per our rule book), points will be taken off those competitors not wearing overalls when leaving the marshalling yard, during the competition and returning into the marshalling yards.
4. Discount deal for those travelling to the North Island on the Interislander are available from any executive member
5. The executive is pleased to announce the following team travelling to the World Ploughing Contest in Russia next year: Judge – Richard Dillon: Reversible Coach -Malcolm Taylor, conventional coach and Manager – Mark Dillon.
6. A wash down area will be provided at the New Zealand Ploughing Championships so that competitors can clean their tractors and ploughs. We all want to take pride in the fact that we are taking part in a national competition.

### 2020 Contestants New Zealand Ploughing Championships

Bob Mehrstens	Courtenay Paparua	Reversible
Ashley Seaton	Waitaki	Reversible
James Burnby	Timaru	Reversible
Murray Baird	South Otago	Reversible
Malcolm Taylor	Reporea Rotorua	Reversible
Warwick Seaton	West Melton	Conventional
Ken Readman	Lincoln	Conventional
Kelvin Stokes	Mid Canterbury VMC	Conventional
Robert Casey	Hinds	Conventional
Scott McKenzie	Thornbury	Conventional
Ian Woolley	East Otago	Conventional
Simon Reed	North Canterbury	Conventional
Adam Mehrstens	North Canterbury	Conventional
Mark Dillon	Tokomairiro	Conventional
Hamish Baird	Waimea Plains	Conventional
Brad McKenzie	Waimea Plains Vintage MC	Conventional
Matt Ridge	Lake Hawea	Conventional
John Guy	Wairarapa	Conventional
Angela Taylor	Takapau	Conventional
Murray Grainger	Otago/Southland	Vintage
Graeme Anderson	Otago/Southland	Vintage
Alister Chambers	Canterbury	Vintage
Colin Boon	Canterbury	Vintage
Ash Murdoch	Marlborough	Vintage
Ian McSporran	North Island	Vintage
Paul Houghton	North Island	Vintage
John Booth	Canterbury	Horse
John and Sharon Chynoweth	Canterbury	Horse
Derrick Thornton	North Island	Horse
Kylie Northcott	North Island	Horse

**TROPHIES:** All trophies must be returned **NOT** engraved to the nearest NZPA executive member prior to Jan 30<sup>th</sup>. Enquires to Ian Woolley. Contact by email: [jenny16@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jenny16@xtra.co.nz)

## World contest

**RUSSIA:** contest now on 8-9<sup>th</sup> August 2020 in Leningrad St Petersburg.

**REP. OF IRELAND:** contest on 17-18<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

**ESTONIA:** 2022

**MACEDONIA:** 2023

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## Ploughing match dates newest updates:

### 25 Ploughing Dates:

Canterbury	Date:	Otago Southland	Date:
Timaru		Taieri	10 May
Lincoln		South Otago	17 October
Hinds	24 May	East Otago,	March
Methven	6 June	Thornbury	18 April
Rakaia	7 June	Central Southland VMC,	19 April
Mid Canterbury VMC,	23 May	Lake Hawea	March
Oxford		Waimea Plains	August
Waitaki,		Waimea Plains VMC (23 <sup>rd</sup>	August
Courtenay Paparua		match),	
North Canterbury		Tokomairiro	
West Melton			
North Island			
Wairarapa	4 <sup>th</sup> October	Manawatu PMA	5 October
Manawatu Vintage	14/15 March	Takapau	3 October
Franklin	November	Waikato	November
Reporoa Rotorua,	27 Sept		
Marlborough	30/31 <sup>st</sup> May		



## Obituaries

Gebhard Betz- WPO Germany

Tony Keetley- 8/1937 - 7/2019

Tony started ploughing in Young Farmers Club, then helped the local YFC at their matches and fun days.

Tony started back with North Canterbury Ploughing Association in 1980 when this association started back from recess. He ploughed for a few years then did stewarding and judging. Tony was President for a few years and was involved in the association matters and stood firm on what he believed. Tony never married.

Melville (Mel) McConachy – Wairarapa passed away 6/06/2018

Elaine Styles



## A man's observation

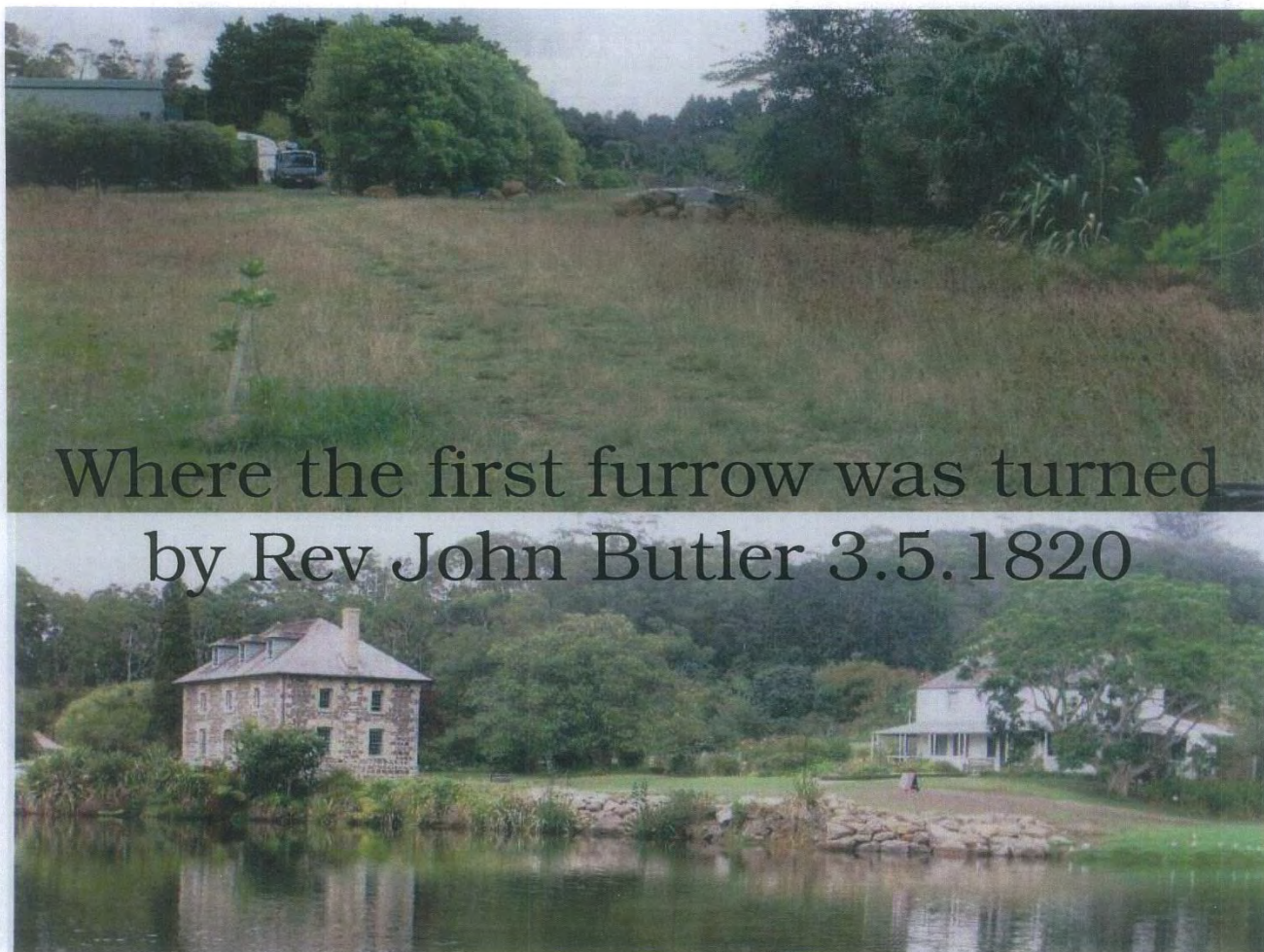
Life is 10% of what you do.

And 90% is how we react to it.

And so, it is with you.

We are in charge of our attitude.

*“as seen on the back of a Mainfreight truck”*



## Reverend John Butler's Plough

3<sup>rd</sup> May next year will be 200 years since the Rev John Butler first put a plough into New Zealand soil. This was the first step in the creation of adaption of English and European cultivation practices in New Zealand. It is in accordance with John Butler's wishes, to be commemorated by "ages yet unborn".

Natalie McCondach of Heritage NZ in Kerikeri is planning for a celebration with a re-enactment near the original site. She is Heritage Destinations Manager Northern and can be contacted on 09 4070474, PO Box 836, Kerikeri 0245 email [nmccondach@heritage.org.nz](mailto:nmccondach@heritage.org.nz)

The Kerikeri Plough has a very special significance for our Association and all Ploughmen. Just what form an appropriate memorial will take is yet to be decided. Suggestions would be appreciated and can be sent direct to me at [reilysk76@gmail.com](mailto:reilysk76@gmail.com), or RD 1 Kaikohe, or phone 021 02672575.

Indications seem to favour of a sign on the roadside going down to the Stone Store with the words from John Butler's diary "I trust that this auspicious day....." and or a small stone cairn with an appropriate brass plate with something like the NZPA logo on it with some words. It is proposed that it be erected on Department of Conservation land over the river from the Stone Store. At this stage contact with DOC is supportive and they are amenable to a simple re-enactment provided the land is re-established after the event.

It is hoped that the Kerikeri Plough will be available for display in either a Kerikeri Bank or the Stone Store for March, April and May. The Auckland War Memorial Museum, owner of the plough, have yet to confirm release of this venerable artefact for the occasion. This permission is very generous as the Museum's current policy is not to lend out, but as the Curator said in 2010, "they recognise my very long association with the Plough" (I first saw it at the Old Colonists Museum in Auckland while on holiday from Wanganui in 1948.) It is the most travelled agricultural implement in the Country, now having clocked up about 10,000 miles over the years.

*Shaun Riley*

## NORTHERN MINNESOTA ROAD TRIP

Kelvin and I arrived at St Paul Union Depot Station to an almost deserted station just nine hours late. Once we had a taxi we went to the twin city of Minneapolis where we had a hotel booking. The next day in Minneapolis included a trip on the Mississippi and a visit to Mall of America, reputed to USA's biggest mall.

On Tuesday we picked up our rental car at the airport and headed northwest on Highway 94 to Fargo (North Dakota). Kelvin insisted that I drive initially because of my experience of driving on the left, but that was 40 years ago and this was a strange car and all those lanes of traffic, everybody seemed to be going out of Minneapolis. About 250 miles of stress later we arrived at our destination and found the address Kelvin had got from the internet. However, this was not quite right and we were directed back to Moorhead (Minnesota) an adjoining city. Along with their instructions and Mr Google we headed back to RDO Equipment, and when we missed the entrance that blasted Google woman insisted, we do a U-Turn in the middle of the two-lane highway, we eventually turned and got back to our destination. The business was quite impressed on how short of time it took us to travel between the two places, I know I didn't go down the wrong side of the road or exceed the speed limit, just better at following instructions I would say.



One of the many long freight trains in Minnesota

Following conclusion of business Kelvin thoughtfully asked for recommendations of where to stay but did he ask how far? No. Another 80 miles later we arrived at Park Rapids and found an Inn. That evening the hotel supplied us with a Pizza for dinner and Kelvin got stuck into the laundry (his penalty for not driving). He is good at doing laundry so long as it can all go in one load, take hot water and can be dried the same way.

We did enjoy Park Rapids it is a resort town, with an old main street and a variety of shops ranging from Amish Country Furniture Store to inevitable \$ shop.

The next day we headed further east towards Duluth the scenery being much the same as rest of Minnesota (trees, lakes, swamps with some cropping and generally flat). In the designated scenic road areas often, the trees were closer to the road and you had to watch for wildlife crossing. At Duluth we found accommodation on the outskirts of the city adjacent to the highway. By now Kelvin was doing some of the driving, although sometimes I think left and right had become a foreign language to him.



Duluth Aerial Lift Bridge

Next morning, we ventured to the shopping mall and caught a bus to downtown and then the free tram to the canal park and got to see the Aerial Lift Bridge the reason we came to Duluth. The bridge spans the Duluth Ship Canal that links the Port of Duluth with Lake Superior. Next, we visited the Lake Superior Railroad Museum and viewed a Duluth Missabe & Iron Range DMIR #227 steam locomotive, the beast of locomotives.



Paul & Kelvin with their filleted Walleye

That night we stayed in the small settlement of Virginia, before heading north next day to Baudette via International Falls. After lunch we caught up with the New Zealand team at unofficial practice.

On Sunday we moved into the Sportsman's Lodge accommodation along with many other New Zealand visitors.

On the Tuesday of the tours Kelvin gave this away for a fishing trip on a charter boat. These were only small boats (four fisherpersons and a skipper). Paul Eaton from Southland also joined the trip and their party was made up with two women from Minnesota. It turned out to be a rough and wet day, but they still caught the local walleye and returned to the lodge where the skipper prepared and cooked the fish for them.

Following the week at the ploughing championships we drove back to Minneapolis. Between Park Rapids and Saint Cloud there was more farming, and more signs of civilization, some areas of rolling land and Amish buggy warning signs, although we saw no buggies.

The last challenge with the rental car was getting back into airport, why can they not put up signs when they close roads – on the second round we found our way (not sure how long it took others parked up looking confused) to rental returns.

From the airport we took the metro back into the city (only one change) to the hotel (The Graduate) with a metro stop outside. It was a lot busier in the area than two weeks earlier the university summer break now finished.

Next morning back to the St Paul station and thankfully train was on time. We said goodbye to Minnesota as the train passed along the banks of the Mississippi, so much bigger here than the streams we crossed in northern Minnesota.

*Barbara Stokes*



Mississippi River east of St Paul & Minneapolis



### Regarding inter islander travel:

NZPA has obtained very favourable discounted rates from the Inter-islander, for people travelling to and from the 2020 National Ploughing Championships being held in Takapau

The discounted rates are available for anyone travelling to the Championships (trucks, trailers, cars, utes etc)

There is a correct process (along with simple conditions) which must be complied with, to obtain the above discounts  
Interested people can find further information from any NZPA Executive member.



Next NZPA Executive Meeting  
3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2020.

Dead line for articles for February  
Newsletter 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Please submit your article in a word document  
instead of pdf as we can edit it better this way.

Thank you

#### FOR SALE

TWZ Workwear, grey and black  
Combination overalls  
Polyester/Cotton  
Size 9

**\$29.95 + postage**

Funds to 2028 World Match



"Maybe  
Christmas"  
the Grinch thought,  
"doesn't come  
from a store."  
"Maybe  
Christmas,  
... perhaps...  
means a little  
bit more."

- Dr. Seuss



### Central Hawke's Bay Map

Ice Breaker at Takapau Town Hall 31<sup>st</sup> March

Practice & Ploughing Corner Highway 50 and Nelson road (maybe slight change)

A.G.M. Meeting & Church Service & Luncheon at Oruawhare Homestead, 3 klm out of Takapau 379 Oruawhare rd.

Awards & Dinner at Takapau Hall Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April.

Takapau to Waipukurau is 17 min or 21 klm.

Takapau to Dannevirke is 26 min or 34 klm.

Takapau to Hastings is 56 min or 70 klm if no road works.

Takapau to paddock 5 min or 4 klm.

## Registration for the New Zealand Ploughing Championships 2020

Held at 279 Nelsons Road, off Highway 50. Takapau 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> April 2020

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Partner \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone; Home \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Please Indicate: Competitor — Judge — Executive — Steward --- Supporter.

**Registrations must be in by 28th Feb. 2020. Late Registrations Cost \$50.00.**

Registration Fee \$10.00 per person

Practice days Wednesday, 1 April & Thursday, 2 April, 279 Nelson Rd.

I/We wish to attend the following functions:

Ice Breaker Evening, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March, 7 pm. Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ \$5.00 each, Total \_\_\_\_\_  
To be held at the Takapau Town hall. Super & Cash Bar

A.G.M.Meeting Thurs. Evening at Oruawharo Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ No Charge

Rededication Service, Mayoral reception, Plot Draw, Luncheon.

379 Oruawharo Road, Friday 3rd April, Starts 10 am Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ No Charge

Following this function, a bus trip will leave Oruawharo 1 [pm to](#) Severinsens hunting museum & medieval weaponry, then option to Norsewear shop, Norsewood, OR to Pfp Fertiliser manufacturing, Waipukurau.

Number to Severinsen's \_\_\_\_\_ \$60.00 Total \_\_\_\_\_

Number onto Norsewear \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Total \_\_\_\_\_ Number to fertiliser store \_\_\_\_\_ No charge

Names \_\_\_\_\_

Extra two-day gate Passes. Under 16 years Free Number required \_\_\_\_\_ \$15. Per day. Total \_\_\_\_\_

Awards & Dinner Evening Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April Held \_\_\_\_\_

at Takapau Town Hall Number attending \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 60.00 pp. Total \_\_\_\_\_

**Limited to 200**

**Total Paid** \_\_\_\_\_

Lunches can be purchased each day at the practice site. Signs will be posted from the main Takapau road.

Cheques to be payable to: Takapau Ploughing 2020 \_\_\_\_\_

Or Direct Credit BNZ account; 020780-0013653-01 USE your Name as reference

Email; [ianhelenmac@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ianhelenmac@xtra.co.nz) or

Postal Address:  
Takapau Ploughing

Cl<sup>r</sup> H.J. McSporran

171 Kaiwaka road,

R.D.1 Napier. 4181

Phone; 06 836 5013 or text; 027 6001107

If you send me your email you will receive confirmation of payment.

Function tickets will be in your registration packs

to be picked up at the Ice Breaker Evening.



### Ashcott Homestead

#### Bed & Breakfast

2318 Highway 50, Ashley Clinton • 021 066 0820  
[www.ashcolthomestead.com](http://www.ashcolthomestead.com) • [ashcolthomestead@gmail.com](mailto:ashcolthomestead@gmail.com)  
 Hosts - Natalie & David • 3 rooms, 6 people  
**Spring Fling Deal:** Book for two or more nights and receive 10% off when you quote Spring Fling 2019, and receive a beautiful bottle of Ashcott Homestead Chardonnay



### Chapelwick Coastal Estate

#### Bed & Breakfast

482 Hunter Road, Parangahau • 06 855 5119  
[www.chapelwick.co.nz](http://www.chapelwick.co.nz) • [stay@chapelwick.co.nz](mailto:stay@chapelwick.co.nz)  
 Hosts - Deborah, Sandra & Pat • 4 rooms, 12 people



### Fergussons Motor Lodge

#### Motel

11 Peel Street, Waipukurau • 06 858 5221  
[www.fergussonsmotorlodge.co.nz](http://www.fergussonsmotorlodge.co.nz)  
[fergussons.motor.lodge@xtra.co.nz](mailto:fergussons.motor.lodge@xtra.co.nz)  
 Hosts - Richard & Sandra Buddle • 12 Rooms  
**Spring Fling Deal:** Book to stay at Fergusson's during the month of September and receive \$10 off your room, book direct using the code FMLSP19



### Gwavas Garden & Homestead

#### Bed & Breakfast

5740 State Highway 50, Tikokino • 06 8565810  
[www.gwavasgarden.co.nz](http://www.gwavasgarden.co.nz) • [info@gwavasgarden.co.nz](mailto:info@gwavasgarden.co.nz)  
 Hosts - Phyllida & Stuart • 3 rooms, 6 people



### Ludlow Farmstay Rural Farmstay

#### Bed & Breakfast

White 53 Drumpeel Road, Otane • 06 8568348  
[ludlow.white@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ludlow.white@xtra.co.nz)  
 Hosts - Gwen & Neil • 3 bedrooms, 6 people  
**Spring Fling Deal:** Stay for 6 nights, 7th night is free. Includes farm tour and a bottle of Church Road 'Gwen' Rose on arrival



### Mangarara Eco-Lodge

#### Lodge

298 Mangarara Road, Otane 4277  
 021 123 4567 or 06 8584343  
[www.mangarara.co.nz](http://www.mangarara.co.nz) • [greg@thefamilyfarm.co.nz](mailto:greg@thefamilyfarm.co.nz)  
 Hosts - Greg & Rachel • 17 people  
 Enjoy a free farm tour and visit the newborn animals and hang out with the farmer on "The Family Farm"



### The Park Lodge

#### Rural Home

Makaretu Road, Ashley Clinton • 06 855 6806  
[larry.jane@whitegroup.co.nz](mailto:larry.jane@whitegroup.co.nz)  
 Hosts - Jane and Larry • Whale house, 7 people  
**Spring Fling Deal:** Book to stay at Park Lodge during the Spring Fling and you'll receive a bottle of Tukipo Estate Wine, Sentry Hill cheese and two bottles of Mamas Brew Shop Kombucha



### Thornton Lodge

#### Motel

2307 Takapau Rd, Waipukurau • 06 8588004 or 0800 846 768  
[www.thorntonlodge.net.nz](http://www.thorntonlodge.net.nz) • [stay@thorntonlodge.co.nz](mailto:stay@thorntonlodge.co.nz)  
 Hosts - Ness & Gilly • 11 Rooms  
**Spring Fling Deal:** Book for two or more nights and receive 10% off when you quote Spring Fling 2019



### Tuki Tuki Motel

#### Motel

Cnr Russell & Herbert Streets, SH2, Waipukurau • 06 858 9206  
[www.tukitukimotel.co.nz](http://www.tukitukimotel.co.nz) • [tuki.motel@xtra.co.nz](mailto:tuki.motel@xtra.co.nz)  
 Hosts - Olivia & Chris • 14 Rooms  
**Spring Fling Deal:** 10% off your stay when you use "Spring Fling" when booking



### Wallingford Homestead

#### Luxury Lodge

2914 Parangahau Road, Wallingford 4284 • 06 855 4701  
[info@wallingford.co.nz](mailto:info@wallingford.co.nz) • [www.wallingford.co.nz](http://www.wallingford.co.nz)  
 Hosts - Chris & Jeanette • 11 rooms, 24 people