



# BARTREAD

*NEWSETTER* **OF THE** *WVCG SA INC.*



**FEBRUARY 2015**  
**ISSUE NUMBER—15**

## CLUB BASEBALL CAPS—FOR SALE

We have a new style Club Baseball Cap for sale to members. They are Khaki colour with the WVCG Logo and are for sale to club members for \$20 each and if the club meeting on the 6th January 2015 was anything to go by when every member present purchased one they are not going to last long.

So open your wallets and let the moths out and purchase your club cap before they are all gone. Remember \$20 each is good value. The association is also looking at Khaki shirts with "WVCG" ( In full ) embroidered on one side and your name on the other. More details later.

TO PURCHASE **YOUR** CAP:

Contact the Treasurer:

**Mick JENNER**

**Phone: 08 8398 2738**

**Mobile: 0408 817 485**

**Email: [mick@tabscom.com.au](mailto:mick@tabscom.com.au)**



I'll Bet That's The Last Time Those  
Jehova's Witnesses Ring Our Doorbell !

## Vale

*Cindy Fleming  
Advised her father*

**John Marrow**  
Passed away on  
5th November 2014

*He was an ex  
WVCG member*



# AUSTRALIA DAY—2015

The 2015 Australia Day Parade was well supported by WVCG members who provided Nine vehicles in the parade and proudly showed off their restored vehicles. The huge crowds lining the route down King William Street enthusiastically applauded each vehicle as they passed by. This was the biggest turnout of WVCG members and their vehicles in recent years, despite a number of members who had indicated they would participate, but did not turn up on the day, well maybe next year will be even larger. The following photos are of members vehicles who made the day a success.



















# 1959 FERRET SCOUT CAR

It had come to the attention of the Editor that the Maryborough Museum in Queensland has a nice example of a 1959 Ferret Scout Car on display and of course as editor I chased it up for photographs to share with WVCG members.





## UP IN SMOKE: WWII TRUCKS LOST IN BLAZE



*Reg Gibson and daughter, Phoebe, look at the remains of their large shed that housed rare military memorabilia .*

A rare collection of World War II vehicles it was hoped would feature in Peter Jackson's touted Dam Buster's film have been destroyed in a blaze that tore through a Waikato family's shed. The fleet of military vehicles, one of which was used in the Hollywood blockbuster Pearl Harbour, were just part of Taupiri resident Reg Gibson's collection, worth an estimated half a million dollars. Now they lie as charred shells in the ruins of the fire that tore through what was widely known as Reg's Shed early on Tuesday.

"I feel numb at the moment. We can build another shed but the rare ones [vehicles] can never be replaced," Gibson said. Gibson and wife Rebecca have spent years working with some of Hollywood's top names. Before selling the business, Bald Eagle, last year they supplied transport management and customised trailers on films including the Lord of the Rings trilogy, Chronicles of Narnia and The Last Samurai. Memorabilia from the movies, 35 years of collector's items, and most devastatingly Gibson's work in progress - a Sexton Self Propelled Gun from WWII - were just a few of the items stored in the couple's expansive shed.

"It's not a loss of life so there is no grief, but it means years more work for us and a personal collection gone." Among the wreckage were a one-of-a-kind Bedford QLR radio truck used by the NZ Army in WWII and original ex-RAF Bedford fuel tanker featured in the film Pearl Harbour. There was also a QL Tipper truck used by engineers going into Normandy and a Chevrolet C60 Canadian Military Pattern truck. "They are unique vehicles and this is a huge loss. It would have been great to have them in a New Zealand museum one day," Gibson said.

Rebecca Gibson was at home in the office when the fire broke out about midnight Monday. "I heard what I thought were fireworks. I looked up and thought 'what's that?' Flames were already coming out of the roof when I saw it so it would have been absolutely full of fire inside." Her first call was to 111, and the next to her husband in Wellington. "I felt sick watching it go up. I phoned him [Reg] and said I have some bad news - I'm standing here watching your shed go up in flames." The shed was ablaze by the time fire fighters from Huntly, Ngaruawahia and Te Kauwhata arrived. Fire fighters worked their way around the edge of the fire dousing the sides of the shed with water. They stayed on site dampening down hotspots until 5am, said Gibson. A fire investigator had visited the site and the Gibson's said the initial indication was a fault in a water pump had sparked the fire. Reg said he would look to rebuild, but things could take some time.



# NASHO ASSOCIATION SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Members of the WVCG assisted The National Servicemen's Association of SA by supplying their military vehicles to provide a display and a military theme for their first sausage sizzle at the new Masters Hardware store situated next to IKEA in the airport complex. They were accompanied by vehicle from the military museum.

Tony Van Rhoda displayed his Land Rover Perentie 110, Mark Turner displayed his 1942 Willys Jeep and Grant Robinson displayed his 1941 GMC 6X6. Our displayed vehicles added to the sausage sizzle as a drawcard with many people viewing our vehicles. Though it was a hot day the event was a huge success. They made a tidy profit on the day. This might be an idea as a way for the WVCG to raise funds.





# FOUND WWII TANK

WW II Russian tank with German markings uncovered after 62 years. WW II Buffs will find this interesting. Even after 62 years (and a little tinkering), they were able to fire up the diesel engine! A Komatsu D375A-2 bulldozer pulled the abandoned tank from its tomb under the boggy bank of a lake near Johvi, Estonia. The Soviet-built T34/76A tank had been resting at the bottom of the lake for 56 years.



From February to September 1944, heavy battles were fought in the narrow, 50 km-wide, Narva front in the north eastern part of Estonia. Over 100,000 men were killed and 300,000 men were wounded there. During battles in the summer of 1944, the tank was captured from the Soviet army and used by the German army. (This is the reason that there are German markings painted on the tank's exterior.)

On 19th September, 1944, German troops began an organized retreat along the Narva front. It is suspected that the tank was then purposefully driven into the lake to conceal it when its captors left the area. At that time, a local boy walking by the lake, Kurtna Matasjarv, noticed tank tracks leading into the lake but not coming out anywhere. For two months he saw air bubbles emerging from the lake. This gave him reason to believe that there must be an armoured vehicle at the lake's bottom. A few years ago, he told the story to the leader of the local war history club 'Otsing'. Together with other club members, Mr. Igor Shedunov initiated diving expeditions to the bottom of the lake about a year ago. At the depth of 7 metres they discovered the tank resting under a 3 metre layer of peat. Enthusiasts from the club, under Mr Shedunov's leadership, decided to pull the tank out.

In September of 2000 they turned to Mr. Aleksander Borovkov, the manager of the Narva open pit company AS Eesti Põlevkivi, to rent the company's Komatsu D375A-2 bulldozer. (Currently used at the pit. The Komatsu dozer was manufactured in 1995, and has recorded 19,000 operating hours without major repairs.) The pulling operation began at 09:00 and was concluded at 15:00, with several technical breaks. The weight of the tank, combined with the travel incline, made for a pulling operation that required significant muscle. The D375A-2 handled the operation with power and style. The weight of the fully-armed tank was around 30 tons, so the active force required to retrieve it was similar. A main requirement for the 68-ton dozer was to have enough weight to prevent slippage while moving up the hill.

After the tank surfaced, it turned out to be a "trophy tank" that had been captured by the German army in the course of the battle at Sinimaed (Blue Hills) about six weeks before it was sunk in the lake. Altogether, 116 shells were found on board. Remarkably, the tank



was in good condition, with NO RUST, and all systems (except the engine) in working condition. This is a very rare machine, especially considering that it fought both on the Russian and the German sides. Plans are underway to fully restore the tank. It will be displayed at a war history museum in the Gorodenko village on the left bank of the River Narv. **PREPARING TO PULL IT OUT.**



*People from the nearby village come to watch.*







*Komatsu D375A-2 is ready to go.*







*In mint condition.*



*Hosing off 62 years worth of "muck."*





*Incredibly, after a few minor repairs, they were able to start its diesel engine.*



**PRETTY AMAZING.**



# LIGHT HORSE DEDICATION MEMORIAL

A new memorial was unveiled recently in Maryborough Queensland to the Light Horsemen of WW1 and is a fitting memorial to those men who made the supreme sacrifice. It is a beautiful memorial and well worth a visit,





# JEEP FOR SALE

## For Sale 1942 Ford Jeep

This vehicle has had all new brakes.

The head has been removed and machined.

The vehicle has been converted to Right Hand Drive.

The indicators has been placed into the Blackout lights also all lights have been checked and fixed.

The vehicle has also had the latest fuses added for ease of replacement and isolated switch has been added for more protection.

Tyres are near new and a Canvas covers has been made to cover the vehicle when hood and windscreen have been folded down.



The vehicle drives really well for its age. On club Rego non transferable.

**Price: \$20,000 ONO - Contact: 0405 203 044**



## WARTIME VEHICLE CONSERVATION GROUP COMMITTEE

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**VEHICLE INSPECTORS:** Rick SHEARMAN and Aaron FELL.  
**PUBLIC OFFICER:** Mick JENNER.  
**FEDERATION DELEGATES:** Hugh DAVIS and Aaron FELL.

## FOR SALE—BRAND NEW—HAS NEVER BEEN USED

**2000 lb winch still in the box— \$100**

**Contact: Tony Van Rhoda Ph: 8536 26 27. Email: [gumbrae@acenet.net.au](mailto:gumbrae@acenet.net.au)**

