

THE WORKSHOPS RAIL MUSEUM

INFORMATION SHEET

GARRETT STEAM TRACTION ENGINE



The Garrett Traction Engine in its early years. Circa 1914.

The development of the steam traction engine in the mid-nineteenth century made many tasks for farmers, saw millers and contractors much easier. The traction engine could be used to pull heavy loads and power many types of machine.

Clark & Fauset, a Brisbane machinery dealer ordered a two cylinder compound engine in 1911 which was supplied under the Builder's Number 29788 by Richard Garrett & Co., Leiston, England.

A compound engine uses the steam twice by passing it through a small bore cylinder as high pressure steam and then through a larger bore cylinder as low pressure steam.

The Normanby Shire Council, based at Harrisville near Ipswich, bought the engine together with a rock crusher in 1914 at a cost to the council of £1, 220 (\$2,440). The engine was used to pull wagons of crushed rock as well as to power the rock crusher for roadworks in the Shire.

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From the mid 1930s the engine was used to power various sawmills at Wilson Plains and Chasewater near Esk, and then for land clearing at Crows Nest.

The Queensland Museum bought the traction engine in 1979 and it was transported to Brisbane with the help of the Australian Army.

The engine was restored to working order by skilled staff at the Queensland Museum. Steam was raised for the first time after the restoration program was completed on the 18 May 1982.

Since then, the Garrett traction engine has been used at many vintage machinery days organised by enthusiast groups, even travelling to Japan for a cultural exhibition in 1989.

The Garrett traction engine is now based at The Workshops Rail Museum and is still steamed on special occasions. It is cared for by the Museum's Collection Management team and volunteers.

The Garrett Traction engine will be in steam at The Workshops Rail Museum from Monday 26 to Friday 30 June 2006.

There is sometimes confusion about the spelling of Garrett as in the case of the builders of this traction engine and Garratt steam locomotives. The Garratt steam locomotive type was invented by Herbert William Garratt and made famous by the firm of Beyer Peacock, Gorton Foundry, Manchester, England.

Specifications (as built)

Builder	Richard Garrett & Co, Leiston
Serial number	29788
Year built	1911
Cylinders	2 cylinder Compound High Pressure Cylinder 6" X 12" Low Pressure Cylinder 10 1/2" X 12"
Boiler Pressure	180 psi
Weight	12 tons (approximately)
Fuel	Wood

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