

MY PRIDE AND JOY

Advertising Feature

Gracie, an enduring legacy from early New Zealand

Dreams can come true. It might take time and money, but with determination and perseverance, dreams can turn into reality. Brent was only a youngster in the 1960s when he went to a steam engine rally in Templeton. Traction engines grabbed his attention, but he never dreamed he would ever be able to afford one. Brent finally saw his dream come true. Fifteen years ago, he bought a traction engine from Ashburton.

Brent recalled a quote that helped to explain why he purchased the traction engine. "Everyone is entitled to one leisure item in their life." Gracie, the traction engine (named after a member of Brent's family), is that one item for Brent. When asked why he liked his traction engine, Brent states, "It's primeval, it's water fire and steam, and so much power comes out of that."

Gracie is a 1925 Aveling traction engine roller that was initially imported into Auckland. In 1859, Thomas Aveling of England invented the traction engine when he modified a Clayton & Shuttleworth portable engine. These engines were the mechanical workhorses of the day and were used for heavy haulage and in road building. As a result, they were sometimes referred to as road locomotives.

In New Zealand, traction engines were also involved in hauling the



water races for the Coleridge power station. They were robust and durable vehicles capable of carting hefty loads. Waimate County Council was where Gracie's work ended, and from then on, preservation of the traction engine became the goal. Even with a slow speed of only around five miles per hour (8.05 kilometres an hour), Gracie has managed to move around locations. First, from Waimate to New Brighton, then to Ashburton, and now home is

Selwyn. Gracie is Brent's pride and joy, which he calls his toy, although he also says, "Really, it's an exercise in wasting time and money." Since owning Gracie, Brent has built a rock crusher and screening plant. This system is connected to the traction engine by a flywheel for demonstrations.

The traction engine has been based at McLeans Island for a few years but is presently stripped down for repairs.

maintenance and assessment. Although Brent does the boiler repairs, all work needs to be assessed by a boiler inspector to receive an annual boiler ticket.

Gracie is an enduring legacy from the days of early construction and haulage in New Zealand. Fulfilling his dream and Brent's ongoing passion means that this traction engine titan will be maintained and preserved for new enthusiasts to admire.



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OFFICE SPACE TO LEASE

Lincoln's newest dining experience



Lincoln has a wonderful new dining experience in Vernon Drive with Mughlai Kitchen restaurant and bar offering contemporary Authentic Indian cuisine based on North Indian Mughlai cuisine.

Although Mughlai Kitchen only opened a few weeks ago, the journey started in 2011 at Merivale Mall as the Monsoon Wedding restaurant. After closing due to the Christchurch earthquake, Lincoln was identified as a desirable location to open a new restaurant. After a long wait to secure a site, Mughlai Kitchen is now open for business.

Mughlai Kitchen wants its customers to "eat like a king", and the chef, with over 18 years of experience, is keen for people to have a fantastic dining experience. With both dine-in and takeaway available, menus offer an extensive range of authentic Indian dishes, including the ever-popular butter chicken. Abdul, the owner of Mughlai Kitchen, states that a popular dish is

