

# Kaesler “Reliance” Engine

## TECHNICAL HISTORY

The club’s Kaesler engine is a “Reliance” type DA of 4 ½ HP and is numbered 91. It is an open crank horizontal engine using petrol as a fuel – like all other Kaeslers although some oil engines were also apparently made.

Club member Michael Sheehan is custodian of the Kaesler register and he considers that the club’s engine was made some time in the 1920’s. It certainly has to be after August 1917 when the Nomenclature Act was introduced as the name plate on No. 91 states “Ambleside” rather than “Hahndorf” as the place of manufacture. There is evidence to suggest that some engines labelled “Hahndorf” were made after 1917 because there were still some name plates to use up!

Mike has about 60 engines on his register and it is interesting to note that they represent about half of the engine ever built. This speaks volumes for the quality built into the engines and also indicates how careful the original owners were in making their choice and in keeping it in good order.

## WORKING HISTORY

The Kaesler “Reliance” Engine was made in Hahndorf, in the Adelaide Hills, east of Adelaide, South Australia. The company making this machine was still in business in premises in the main street of Hahndorf up to July 006, although it ceased production of engines many years ago.

Machines and engines made by this company are important to the preservation of the industrial history of the Adelaide Hills, and their preservation is a high priority of The Adelaide Hills Motor Restorers Club.

The engine was purchased by the Club at a clearing sale at Woodside. It has been mounted on a transporter and is displayed in its “working clothes”. No significant restoration was required to make it operational.

The engine and its companion clover thresher now makes an imposing exhibit at **Power of the Past**, the Club’s annual event held at Mt Barker SA on the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of March each year.



