

EARLY 1920's J H HORWOOD & Co Ltd BORING PLANT

The boring plant displayed at Power of the Past this year was made by Horwood & Co some time between 1912 and 1925 when the firm joined up with Bagshaws.



Cable drilling in America before boring plants were invented!

The plant is owned by the Mines Department (now DMITRE, Department of Manufacturing, Innovation, Trade, Resources and Energy) and is stored at the Mt Torrens Battery.

Apparently it was used for water boring duties and even in the repair of leaking wells in the Great Artesian Basin.

The plant is powered by a Lister Spec 82M (serial number 61604) which delivers 5 HP at 550 rpm. Assuming that the engine is original, it confirms the age of the rig as Type M's

were exported to Australia in the 1920's. The support legs holding up the derrick are 10.5

metres (34 feet) long and are single lengths of Oregon.

A crew of AHMRC members were able to raise and lower the derrick relatively easily with help of Moore's Hire crane.

When cranes are unavailable the task is achieved by barring the support legs along the ground until a tipping point is reached and the legs then are fixed to the chassis.

In operation, the tool (not attached at POP), is raised and

dropped by an oscillating beam with a stroke of about 76cm (30 inches).

Water is added into the hole to help the bit in pulverizing the ground.



Nameplate

The cuttings are regularly withdrawn using a bailer which is simply a tube with a foot valve. The bailer is drawn out of the hole and dropped on to a pin which opens the valve and lets the cuttings spill out.

If the club gets better access to the plant maybe one day we will drill a shallow hole during Power of the Past . . .

Mark Randell



1920's Horwood boring plant at Power of the Past 2012. Note rocking beam, LONG Oregon sticks supporting derrick, and Lister engine.



Historic cable tools from US oil drilling days.