

**Proposal to replace Alice Tractor:  
SGM meeting  
30 March 2023  
BBMC 7.30pm**

**Background:**

The issues experienced with the reliability of the tractor have reached the point where we are of the opinion that a replacement option is needed.

This last year we have dealt with many breakdowns of an expensive nature in particular the starter motor/ alternator/hydraulic hoses/ winch. The rust in the structure of the tractor is very evident and a continuation of rust /saltwater related breakdowns is unlikely to abate.

Issues affecting this we believe are related to quality of steel in the John Deere product, the saltwater environment and tractor being misused in the retrieving and launching of boats. The tractor has unfortunately been seriously submerged on a couple of instances and is continually put in too far when seas are running with a swell of N/NE winds. Some of this can be avoided but in general a lot of the conditions we encounter at Browns Bay are N/NE winds. We do not go out only in variable 5 knots.

So to get a more years out of a tractor before replacement we believe we need a tractor that is:

1. Higher out of the water
2. Made from better steel and componentry

We think Kubota from Japan will deliver this.

The steel is known to be of better quality. there are a lot of fibreglass panels and less gadgets with sensors.

The tractor we want approval to purchase is the Kubota M8540.



The notes from John Avery who attended at Norwood's Pukekohe with Warren King and Ian Crump during week of 28/2 are as follows:

- Make is Kubota, built in Japan 2007 and first sold in NZ 2008 by Norwood's Pukekohe.
- Model is M8540 and is still a current model. Has an enclosed cab. The doors and possibly the front and rear windows to be removed for our use.

- First owner was a dry stock farmer who used it primarily for hay feed out and it was traded back to Norwood's.
  - Sold to second owner for commercial block lawn mowing and again traded back to Norwood's December 22.
  - Total working hours - 2980, which is very low for the age. Expected life of 10,000 plus from this motor. We average between 200 and 250 hrs a year.
  - This unit has never been fitted with a bucket, which is a huge plus, with less load being put on motor and frame and hydraulics.
  - This unit is 4wd as are most tractors now.
  - The motor is diesel 4 cylinder, 85 HP and 3769cc. (Alice is 3 cyl, 55HP and 2698cc)
  - Has wider than standard wheels but at 2.130m overall width, will fit in the shed.
  - Dealer advises that this is an unsophisticated model that suits novice drivers and has less to go wrong.
  - Height from ground to sump slightly exceeds that of Alice, as it is. Alice had to be lifted at our considerable expense upon delivery.
  - Has same three-point hitch to which we can transfer the current towbar.
  - Has a wet clutch which can sustain more abuse.
  - Brake system is by hydraulic wet disc brakes, fully enclosed and sealed.
  - General condition was considered good for the age. It is not a new unit and there are blemishes that are expected.
  - Dealer will remove wheels and send them for galvanizing before delivery.
  - Rust proofing that is needed will also be attended to - in terms of first coat and into areas identified.
- Price listed at \$35,075 (gst incl) but as yet has not been discussed.

#### Summary:

We have looked at various options used and new.

To buy this new is well over \$100k.

We believe the condition (despite age) is excellent and we have an objective of 6 years good running from this tractor.

The measurements show:

1. the front axle is higher than Alice by 10cm.
2. the height to the engine support beam at 65cm v Alice at 47cm

While a good N/NE will make a mockery of any height difference – it helps.

The other items to be addressed in changing over the tractor are:

1. Rust prevention – we need to establish a regular maintenance support team to assist Dave Harwood.
2. We need to install electrolysis feed anodes that are recommended as significantly more effective than just attaching anodes.

The price negotiation on the Kubota is to be concluded but we want a ready to run tractor delivered to the Marine Centre/ BBBC.

We will evaluate any trade in values versus selling via trade me or other.

We have an opportunity to acquire this Kubota and have put our expression of interest into Norwood's.

**Remit:**

That the Browns Bay Boating Club Special General Meeting approve the expenditure of up to \$40,000 plus GST for the replacement of tractor.

