

An old header characterises old adage

By KEN WILSON

IT'S an old adage, but it's true: They don't build 'em like they used to.

And the proof is at machinery dealer Hutton and Northey's Merredin branch.

It's an International Harvester 711 self-propelled combine harvester that was first sold in 1978 and PD'd (pre-delivery check) by a young John Trunfio, now group service manager.

It remained a distant memory for John until eight years ago when John fully re-conditioned it for the original buyer before it was traded for a 1620 model.

The 711 was on-sold to another farmer and last year was bought back by Hutton



□ The massive Case IH 7240, equipped with a 13.6m (45ft) front dwarfs the International Harvester 711 with a 6m (20ft) front.

and Northey, celebrating its 40th year in business.

Still in working order, the 711 was put through its pace

during the recent harvest alongside its modern brother, a Case IH 7240 to take off the Burracoppin Progress Association crop.

It quickly became the centre of attention as farmers wanted to try it out against the "new kid on the block".

According to John, the 711, at "flat out" speed in second gear (about 9 kilometres per hour), munched through the crop with a six metre (20ft) front on standard settings and produced a "perfect sample from an average crop".

Its two tonne bin was filled in less than 15 minutes – an impressive stat in 1978, considering today's headers are chockers in less than 10 minutes filling a nearly eight and a half tonne bin (the 7240's capacity is 11,100 litres or 8.5t).

"Farmers were amazed by the difference in technology between the headers," John said.

"But equally, were impressed by the 711's performance."

And John recalled in the late seventies, headers were railed from International Harvester's Dandenong, Victoria, factory to the Merredin marshalling yards where an overhead gantry was employed to lift the units off the rail beds.

"They arrived on blocks," John said.

"They had no wheels, no cab, no grain bin, no cleaning screen, no elevator and no feeder housing.

"All of that gear was in a big crate and we used to put

□ Continued on page 38

commander
ag-quip
INNOVATIVE FARM EQUIPMENT

FREECALL 1800 655 033
www.commanderagquip.com.au
sales@commanderagquip.com.au



Full 'turnkey' stockyard solutions ✓
FREE on-site measure & quote on all areas ✓
Site surveyed with the Robotic Total Base Station ✓
Experienced yard design consultants ✓

TA5119658



Quality Silos from 10T to 81T

Q-Catch Cattle Crushes

Fertiliser Bin holds 58T/ MAP

Heavy Duty, Self-Propelled Augers



Working alongside Australian farmers for over 26 years

TA5048564

ROTA MOULDING

Poly Cartage Tanks

Strong Poly Cartage Tanks
Flexi-N or Water
Low profile design
3" & 2" Outlet
Mounting frame included



8000L - \$5900
6000L - \$4900
4000L - \$3900

Phone Troy - 0417 916 724