



The John Deere 9400. A Modern Classic

What is Heritage all about? Surely one can reflect on many things.

Sandstone Estates commenced in its present form in 1996 and started with a fleet of modern equipment, mostly John Deere tractors and combine harvesters. Many of these are now over two decades old with our venerable 9400 model tractor heading the list at 25 years old.

A picture of this magnificent John Deere 9400, which is now in retirement at Sandstone Estates after more than 20-years of hard work, resonates with us in many ways. It is majestic, it is durable, and it is scenically attractive as it shares the landscape with a whole host of hay trailers. In short, it makes for a pretty picture.

This JD 9400 is capable of pulling 10 trailers fully loaded but we do not have 10, so we put this road train together to showcase its capabilities to visitors who attended our recent Easter Festival, which was a great success.



Every machine that we have at the Sandstone Heritage Trust can tell a story. It has its own history and to the best of our ability we try to record that history. However, what is unique is we have been going long enough for brand new machines to cycle right through to the position where they take their place in the Heritage collection. Although they are new entrants, they are obviously ageing and the time will come when they themselves will become elder statesman in the collection.

We at Sandstone also have a policy of putting these machines to work occasionally. We do not stress them and we probably give them work that is much lighter than they can normally cope with but that is basically in their own interests. They are worn and they have done the hard yards and so it would be unwise to put them under too much pressure.

At the Stars of Sandstone 2019 event, the JD 9400, although it had then been retired from active farming day-to-day work, was assigned to pull a big water tanker to keep the dust down on the many different dirt roads at Sandstone during the event. The 22,000 litre tanker was put together from scrap material by the engineers on the farm. When fully loaded it required a tractor of the gravitas of the 9400 to pull it!



The John Deere 9400 was introduced in 1997 and was in production until 2001. Sandstone's example is a 1998 model. The 9400 is powered by a 12, 5 litre six cylinder diesel engine producing 425bhp. Fuel capacity is 969 litres and transmission is 12 speed with four wheel drive. It is equipped with air assisted disc brakes and weighs almost 19000kg in working order. In 1997 the base price was \$121,000-00.

The 9400 was one of John Deere's success stories although in some applications it suffered some problems but generally was reliable. Today it has become a collectable classic, particularly in the USA, with prices fetching \$140,000 and upwards.

Interestingly scale models of the 9400 can also be found as highly collectibles on the Internet.

A tail piece for this classic machine.



In April 2013, before retirement, the 9400 was hard at work cultivating a 3500 hectare farm section.