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COVER:

One of The Iron Bushrangers - acrylic painting by Michael Garwood

The picture of a 1920s Imperial tractor on the cover of this issue of the Journal of Agriculture is one of a series on old farm machinery painted by Fremantle artist Michael Garwood.

The Imperial was the first Australian-made tractor, the first EA model of 20 H.P. being assembled in 1908. The tractor was made by A.H. McDonald and Co. at Flinders Street, Victoria, and later at their tin shed at Hawthorn. McDonald's operated from 1908-1958 and were famous for their quality stationary engines.

Mr Garwood painted the first of the series at the suggestion of a farmer friend at Beverley. Three thousand kilometres and 28 paintings later he had a unique collection of paintings of old machines illustrating an important part of Western Australia's farming heritage.

The complete collection — titled The Iron Bushrangers — has been sold locally. Michael Garwood hopes it will stay in Western Australia, perhaps to be exhibited at charity fund-raising functions.

Eight of the paintings have been reproduced as high quality lithographic prints by Scott Four Colour Print, who won a Printing Industry Craftsman's Award for their reproduction in 1990.