

BAGSHAW WINNOWER

TECHNICAL HISTORY

A winnower is a machine that is designed to separate grain from chaff & dirt prior to bagging and marketing.

Portable winnowers such as the BAGSHAW winnower were brought to the corner of a paddock when harvesting was in operation.

In the simplest winnowing machine, the blast of air from a fan, which rotated inside the machine, was directed on to a stream of grain passing over a shaking sieve from a hopper at the top of the machine.

The BAGSHAW winnower is hand operated, designed for Australian conditions, and a great advance over the old practice of tossing grain in the air to remove the chaff. Still, operating it in the hot Australian summer was dusty, labour intensive, hard work. Those who used them learned to apply a few simple tricks to get results. The most important of these was to place the winnower so that the wind blew from the fan diagonally across the machine and away from the man operating it. Regular turning of the handle gave best results. The tailboard had to be set low enough to allow the chaff to blow over, but high enough to catch the grain.

It was manufactured in Adelaide SA by John Stokes Bagshaw, who designed & built the first winnowers in Australia. His works were established in 1838 and most machines carried the motto:

IFWO RTHDO INGDO ITW ELL

This must have puzzled and amused many farmers and their sons until they worked out that re-arranging the spacing generates a homely truism. Similar mysteries were included in Furphy Water Tanks except that the pearls of wisdom were cast in Pitman's Shorthand which gave the mothers and daughters an opportunity to outdo the menfolk!

WORKING HISTORY

The Bagshaw winnower was purchased by AHMRC on 30 April 1993 at a clearing sale on the property of the Kramm family on Echunga Rd Hahndorf.

It is understood that the winnower is a very early design of this South Australian Company, and worked on this property all its life, possibly being purchased by Ben Kramm's father.

The restoration has been done by Keith Powell, on behalf of Club members, being brought back to as near as possible to original.