

THE Shed

JUNE/JULY 2010

WIN THIS STIHL CHAINSAW

\$9.90 (INC GST)

WHERE DREAMS ARE MADE REAL



**Chainsaw
makeover**
**Get your saw
up to speed**

BIG CATS AT PLAY



**A HANDLE ON
VENEER**



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Masport celebrates 100 years

An advertisement for New Zealand's first push mower, developed secretly in 1929.

MASON & PORTER LTD.

Masport RAPID BALL BEARING LAWNMOWERS

PARNELL - AUCKLAND

MADE IN NEW ZEALAND

The Masport "Service"

This is a utility machine capable of hard work. Has a five blade cutting cylinder, mounted on British ball bearings. The blades are oil tempered and hardened Sheffield steel. The driving wheels are 8 1/2 in. x 1 1/2 in. This machine is built on sound engineering principles, and embodies all that is best in material and workmanship. The MASPORT "SERVICE" as a low-priced machine represents the best value obtainable.

Made in three sizes—		
12in.	-	65/-
14in.	-	87/6
16in.	-	79/-
Finished in Gold and Red.		

The Masport "Rapid"

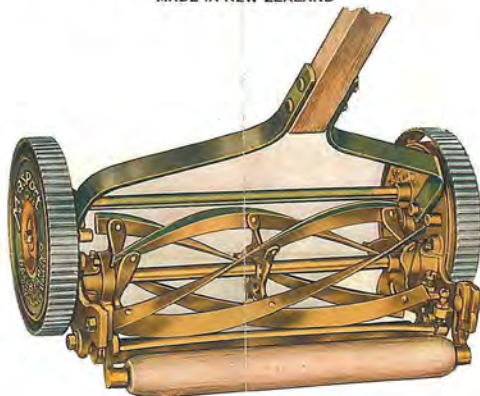
This range includes 14 and 16-inch machines in both Bronze and Ball Bearings. The Masport "Rapid" is a de luxe domestic type mower having a five blade fast cutting cylinder.

Ingress of grass is prevented by enclosed bearings, lubricated by special flap type lubricators. Driving wheels are 8 1/2 in. x 1 1/2 in.

Fully guaranteed.

Made in two sizes only—		
14in. Bronze Bearing	-	67/6
14in. Ball Bearing	-	79/6
16in. Ball Bearing	-	84/-

Finish—Bronze, in Gold and Red.
Ball, in Gold and Green.



The MASPORT "HEAVY DUTY"

This machine, intended for heavy continuous work, is made in two sizes and constitutes the greatest advance in lawnmower design yet made. Read this specification—

- Driving Wheels - 10in. x 1 1/2 in. Mounted on Roller Bearings.
- Cylinder - Five blades of special Sheffield Steel mounted on two large size high quality Ball Bearings.
- Side Plates - The blades are double rivetted to very substantial spiders.
- Knife Bar - Made in malleable iron (unbreakable), fitted with two substantial tie rods.
- Knife Bar - Specially heavy, and fitted with crucible steel hardened and ground bottom blade. The adjustment is simple and efficient.

Made in two sizes only—		
16in.	-	86/10/-
18in.	-	87/10/-
Finished in Gold and Green.		

THE "ROLLS ROYCE" OF LAWNMOWERS

Enclosed
Lubrication

British
Bearings

MASPORT RAPID LAWNMOWER

FAST CUTTING • NO INGRESS OF GRASS

Since the 1930s, Masport mowers have trimmed New Zealand lawns. Mason and Porter was founded by entrepreneur Reuben Porter and engineer Harold Mason in 1910. As Masport, it will celebrate its centennial on 28 November.

Masport historian Jim Allnatt is asking former employees of Masport to contact him with memories and memorabilia for a book to be launched at the Masport Centennial Reunion. He is particularly interested in the period 1990-2000.

One of Reuben Porter's first patents was for a valve mechanism for milking machines that revolutionised the dairy industry. From 1911 to 1925, Mason & Porter was also known for its stationary oil engines, used mainly in the dairy industry, but production of these

engines slowed after 1925 as dairy farmers switched to electricity.

In late 1929, as the Great Depression hit, chief pattern maker Bob Redmond was entrusted with a top



Masport began employing women for light assembly work in 1938.

secret project, New Zealand's first push mower. He made the patterns on his own in the weekends. Even the directors, Harold Mason, Bob Laidlaw and Colonel White, were unaware of the new design until it was unveiled at a directors' meeting – albeit as a sack of parts. The split pins in the prototype hadn't been anchored and the mower fell victim to the rough Clevedon road.

Despite an inauspicious debut, the Masport Rapid was taken to market in 1930. With subsequent models, vacuum pumps and a contract to make F&P washing machine parts, it was a major factor in M&P's quick recovery from the Depression.

In 1938, due to a labour shortage resulting from the Labour Government's 40-hour week, Mason and Porter began employing

women for light assembly. Many of Masport's employees were with the company for several decades, reflecting its progressive nature in innovation and a good working environment.

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WHY GOLF BALLS HAVE 344 DIMPLES

