

# Clean and green

SET to feature  
in this Friday's  
Fishers  
Supermarkets  
Merbein Centenary  
Parade is a  
restored 1952  
Foden prime mover.

One of a fleet  
servicing Mildura in  
the '50s and '60s,  
it has taken a team  
of six mechanics  
from GTS Freight  
Management two  
years to return the  
"green machine" to  
its former glory.

To see the results  
of Greg Thomason  
(pictured) and his  
fellow mechanics'  
work, see Page 12.



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# Fantastic Foden to lead parade

By Hannah Knight

It's not easy being green, but a splash of paint, plenty of elbow grease and some new parts can make a world of difference.

A team of mechanics at GTS Freight Management have been hard at work restoring a 1952 Foden.

The green prime mover will feature in next week's Fishers Sunpermarkets Merbein Centenary Parade before it leaves Sunraysia to share in the limelight at a transport museum in Alice Springs.

Angelo Rodi, GTS Freight Management fleet manager, said a team of about six mechanics have been working on the green machine for two years.

"This 1952 Foden was one of a fleet servicing the Mildura area in the '50s and '60s and onwards," Mr Rodi said.

"Its main task was freighting dried fruit to Hay, NSW, and transferred on to rail and return loads of timber and clay back to Mildura and Mount Gambier.

"It has been donated to the Hall of Fame by Gordon Cupper from Merbein."

While the prime mover is now in mint condition, it has taken a lot of work, according to Mr Rodi.

"It was missing a front end and had



**MEAN GREEN MACHINE:** Greg "Thommo" Thomason from GTS Freight Management.

Picture: Sarah Simmons

stuff missing," he said.

"Back in 1952 it was probably a good truck."

Mr Rodi said one of the trucks original drivers had been contacted and was looking forward to seeing the restored truck.

"He's a man they used to call 'captain' who's in his 90s and now lives in a aged-care place," he said.

"He hasn't seen it yet but we'll

get him in for a look before it goes to Alice Springs."

Greg "Thomo" Thomason, from GTS Freight Management, said working on the Foden had been exciting.

Both the prime mover and Mr Thomason will feature in the centenary parade on August 21.

"I play with the Mildura City Pipe Band so I'll be playing the pipes in it," he said.



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**