

Number 611

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2016

# The MICROMETER

AUCKLAND SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS INCORPORATED

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REGISTERED NEW ZEALAND PUBLICATION

## **For Sale!**

Grant sent in this photo:

This lovely little loco could be yours (apparently) for a mere US\$245,000! What a shame that the gauge is 7½" ...

Oh well, it probably wouldn't go round ASME's curves even if it was the right gauge!





# Train Roster

Date	Electric Driver	Electric Driver	Steam Driver	Train Controller	Station / Guard	Station / Guard	Station / Guard
3-Apr-16	P Moy	R Reichardt	Voluntary	<u>S Meikle</u>	H Martin	B Matchett	<b>C Mitchell*</b>
10-Apr-16	P Woodford	B Aickin	Voluntary	<u>T Robinson</u>	<b>G Murray*</b>	A Pritchard	M Richardson
17-Apr-16	I Ashley	A Bailey	Voluntary	<u>G Anderson</u>	<b>K Ryan*</b>	A Shirley	R Stratton
24-Apr-16	G Beazley	D Booth	Voluntary	<u>D Russell</u>	A Stratton	G Taylor	<b>P Tomkies*</b>
1-May-16	P Dowdeswell	M Granger	Voluntary	<u>G Wills</u>	<b>R Crook*</b>	G Healy	Voluntary
8-May-16	M Hollis	D Housley	Voluntary	<u>D Black</u>	P Jones	<b>M Luxton*</b>	Voluntary
15-May-16	J Lankow	D Moffat	Voluntary	<u>T Lawrence</u>	B Matchett	<b>C Mitchell*</b>	Voluntary
22-May-16	M Moore	P Moy	Voluntary	<u>S Meikle</u>	<b>G Murray*</b>	M Richardson	Voluntary
29-May-16	R Reichardt	P Woodford	Voluntary	<u>T Robinson</u>	<b>K Ryan*</b>	A Shirley	Voluntary

### **Bold and Underlined** Name:

This is the designated **Train Controller**, i.e. the person in overall control of all operations for the day

### **Bold with Asterisked\*** Name:

This is the designated Stationmaster, i.e. the person responsible for activities in the station area. The Stationmaster is also responsible to account for the day's takings.

**Drivers:** Please keep your eyes open for unusual or suspicious behaviour around the track which may affect the safety and/or smooth operation of our trains. Report such activity to the Train Controller.

### **Please Note:**

If for some reason you are unable to attend on your rostered date, you are respectfully reminded that it is **your** responsibility to find a replacement member to fill the gap – please don't let the rest of the team for the day be left short-handed.

Also, please ensure the member you arrange a swap with is one who is rostered to undertake the same role to ensure we always have members with the appropriate training and experience on the day.

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## APRIL CALENDAR

**Tuesday April 5th, 7.30pm** - General Meeting , ASME clubrooms. The speaker will be Lindsay Benbrook from Majik Videos.

**Saturday April 9th, 1pm** - ASME Fun Run. Bring your steamer or just come along to watch!

**Tuesday April 19th, 7.30pm** - Committee Meeting.

**Question:** We're still looking for the ASME Rolling Road (loco testing machine). Does anyone know where it is?? Please advise Greville or Grant.

**Stop Press:** HBMEs advise that "Due to the delay in completion of our 7 1/4" track we will not be holding our open weekend ANZAC Weekend. We will set a new date once the track laying is completed and tested."

# President's Report

As April arrives we are half way through the Society's financial year and with a substantial collection of statistics to apply to our discounts scheme. We are continuing to talk about this at our General Meetings, and will do so for the rest of the year until our AGM in December. There seems to be majority support for the system devised by the committee but it is important to say that agreement is not unanimous and there are doubts expressed by some important members. Past president Gary Farquhar wrote to the committee last month expressing his concern that we have continued to lose members over the last 18 months and we now run a further risk of losing those who do not wish or are unable to participate in the roster or to pay the higher membership fee. Certainly, there have been a few such cases in this year's membership renewals which have now been closed off. Committee member Dave Housley, whilst continuing to work constructively with the scheme has repeatedly expressed concerns that we seem to be applying business-like rules to our hobby and that some people will not, either immediately or in the longer term, tolerate that. Committee member Mark Richardson has argued from the beginning against the scheme and whilst also working constructively with the committee has abstained from voting on matters related to it. It is however fair to say that the majority of the committee have agreed that the recent trending situation of difficulty in ensuring enough members to run trains every Sunday has placed every aspect of the Society's survival at risk and as instructed from last year's AGM have taken the only action which seems to be viable. Nevertheless, the committee remains mindful that last time this was tried it failed, although this year's proposals are hopefully learning from that experience.

This is an important matter for the society and one which cannot be stepped around by any members particularly as the approach now being taken deliberately reduces our membership to a core of the willing and committed. There is no doubt that this is being recognised by many. A number of members have contacted me and expressed their support with more than one indicating that they will pay the full fee as well as accepting roster duties. This is of course an option in which case credits accruing from duties are applied to the members account before the membership is billed so any payments have the status of a donation which has benefits to both the club and the member.

In effect, if this proposal is successful, it will limit membership of ASME to those who are willing to participate regularly in running the railway on a rostered basis (who can reasonably easily achieve free membership) or to those who wish to opt out of the roster (that is now an option open to any member) and elect to pay the full membership fee. ASME is a society with considerable heritage, prestige and for that matter substantial assets including the goodwill which allows continuing operation at what must be regarded as an outstanding venue in central Auckland. That view is supported by the continuing popularity of the railway with the public, and in recent times passenger numbers have been much more constrained by our ability to run trains than the number of available visitors. It has certainly been notable that the presence of steam locomotives on the line creates additional interest and if we can get back to a situation where this can be regularly expected (and we're not doing too badly this year — there's been quite a lot of steam on the line) then growth in patronage can realistically be expected.

Assuming we have a solution which will help to attract and retain running members, the question we have to ask is whether that is enough, and we are prepared to accept that those members who have reservations about these terms will go elsewhere in a city which, given its size and growth, can certainly support several model engineering societies. ASME is where it all started in Auckland and it still has the potential to be the focus of model and experimental engineering for the whole region, but at the same time, our resources have to be paid for.

My message at this time is to think carefully and talk about the scheme during the next six months; don't hesitate to discuss it with committee members and others to ensure that we all have a clear understanding of the benefits, the opportunities and risks and the point of view of all of our friends in the society. When it comes to the December AGM, when we set subscriptions for next year, we need a discussion and decisions based on good information and forethought.

David Black, President

## **Reports from the 2015 AGM**

We now have a little bit of catching up to do. The next two pages contain reports from last year's AGM that should have appeared in the February Micrometer but for various reasons have not made it into print — until now...

### **ASME President's Report 2015**

The year ending 30 September 2015 was never going to be easy for the Auckland Society of Model Engineers although in the end, it's turned out surprisingly well. The Society entered the year well into a major project to add an extra rail to allow 7 1/4 inch vehicles to run, and to lower the track to ground level. This change, the major modification to the railway since it was built, will allow the introduction of larger locomotives which is a bonus, but not the underlying reason for the change. As the intensity of running, the size of passengers and increased emphasis on safety all impact on the society the occasional derailments caused by the inevitable instability of the narrower ride cars became unacceptable. After extensive consultation and investigation, the adoption as a standard of 7 1/4 inch ride cars with fail-safe braking was agreed. During the course of the year when the modifications were underway the railway continued to operate although steamers became a bit less usual and passenger numbers were down, as was the club's operating revenue. Nevertheless, the programmed work was completed on time and the railway returned an operating surplus for the year. This was also the year when ASME registered the Railway under the Amusement Devices Regulations (ADR), an audit was undertaken and passed with a high level of compliance. The matter now rests with the relevant authorities for licensing and registration but this should now be no more than a formality. ASME has continued to enjoy an excellent relationship with Auckland Council and the Mount Wellington community. Although there have been delays in finalising lease documents for Peterson reserve these are confidently expected to be completed eventually and the long-term tenure of the railway at the reserve seems secure. It has been a pleasure for ASME to continue to operate the Railway for the enjoyment of our visitors from the Auckland area and the recent improvements will make the facility even more attractive in the near future. We look forward to steady growth in the following year.

David Black

President

# *Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 1st of December 2015.*

Called to order at 8.45 pm.

**Chaired;** David Black.

**Present;** 35 members.

**Apologies;** Jim Greasley, Brian Currie.

**Visitors;** Brian, Samuel and Peter Wilson.

**Minutes;** The minutes of the AGM of the 2nd of December 2014 were read by the secretary and acceptance as a true and accurate record was moved by Gary Farquhar, sec. Dave Russell, carried.

**Matters Arising;** David thanked the members of the out-going committee for their work and support throughout the year.

The minutes of the SGM of the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015 were read and confirmed; mvd Timothy Robinson, sec Mike Banks, carried.

**President's Report;** David read out his Annual Report to the Meeting. Acceptance was moved by Dave Russell, seconded Grant Anderson, carried.

**General Manager's Report;** Greville tabled the annual accounts for the year ended 30/09/2014. He then answered a query from Dave Russell regarding the expected costs from the boat pond repairs, following which the accounts were moved by Greville, sec Mike Banks, approved by the meeting.

**Election Of Officers;** The following nominations were received;

President: David Black

Vice President: Greville Wills

Secretary: Mike Moore

Treasurer: Grant Anderson

Editor: John Lankow

Librarian: Graeme Murray

Committee:

Timothy Robinson, Graeme Healy, Tony Lawrence, Mark Richardson, Dave Housley, Bob Aickin.

Dave Russell moved that the nominations be accepted, seconded Gary Farquhar, carried.

**Other Business;** Notices Of Motion

First Notice Of Motion;

The committee tabled a motion to increase membership fees to \$90.00 per year for full members and \$80.00 per year for all other categories, and to provide discretion for the committee to rebate fees, and to develop a methodology to reflect members participation in revenue earning activities (Sunday Running) from the 2017 membership year.

Greville spoke to the Motion and moved it, sec. Bob Aickin, then a vote was taken: 3 against, 1 abstention, carried.

Second Notice of Motion;

In accordance with the Club Rules a motion had been received nominating Timothy Robinson as a Life Member. The notice had been checked and approved by the Committee. Timothy left the meeting while Grant spoke to the motion, and a secret paper ballot was carried out in accordance with the Club Rules. The secretary counted the votes, and on Timothy's return the President was pleased to announce that his Life Membership had been bestowed by the membership unanimously.

David Black moved that the voting papers be destroyed, carried.

Grant updated promises of progress on the AC Lease and ADR approval.

Meeting closed at 9.42pm.

# Bits and Pieces March 1st 2016

Conducted by Peter Woodford, with photos and report by Dave Russell.

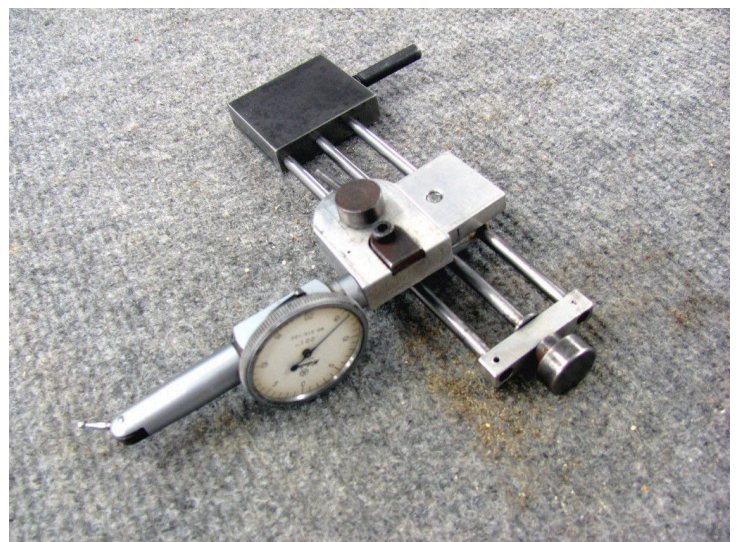
The first item that unfortunately I missed getting a photo of was an easily removable portable turntable for loading 7-1/4 gauge locomotives onto our newly lowered and widened track. The turntable is a temporary measure while work continues to make direct loading to the steaming bays a permanent addition. *(It's not all that easy to see, but it is shown in use in the cover photo of the March Micrometer—Ed).*

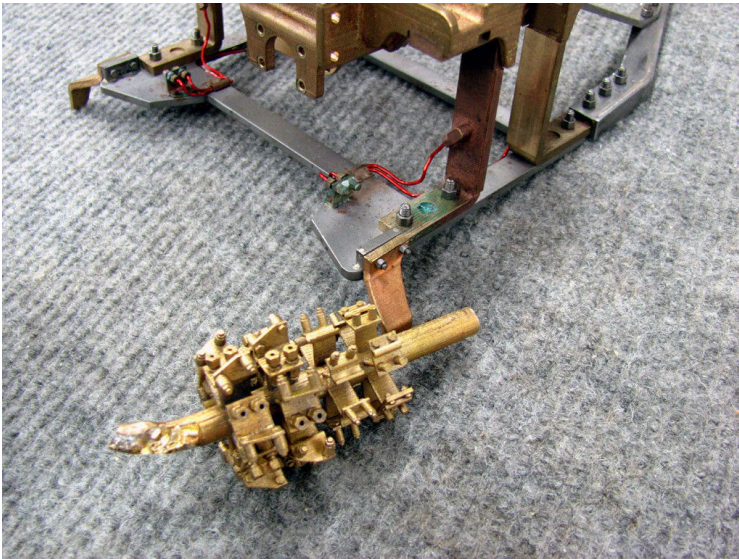
The second item that Peter picked up was mine in the form of a long chuck key that I have made to fit my 3 jaw chuck. The new key replaces the bolt and spanner that I have been using for a number of years to do a particular job that fouls access by the standard key.



Graeme Murray as always produced a couple of items for discussion, firstly was a plastic elbow from a dish washer that looked like it had been designed to fail from the outset. Look closely at how little material has been left at the bottom of the moulded threads, one knock and its broken.

Another one of Graeme's gadgets was a dial gauge on a frame designed for centring large items in the lathe, the assembly can be held in the drill chuck by the spigot.





Mike Jack was having trouble with his small castings being damaged when the foundry was removing the runners so he copied and pasted a whole bunch onto a tree in SOLIDWORKS, printed the wax and hey presto, lubrication fittings for a number of pony trucks without damage. Nice work Mike, clever idea.

Ron Copeland had to remove a leaking copper tube drain pipe for the anchor well on his yacht. Ron modified a hole saw blade onto a spindle and that did the trick. Ron loves old wooden boats and when it comes to restoring them when they are 100 years old removing screws that are frozen in place can be a problem, Ron modified some roll pins by grinding some saw shaped teeth into the end of them and running a drill in reverse. Eventually the screw gives up and out it comes. Also in the photo is a bit for making dowel for wooden plugs out of non standard timbers.

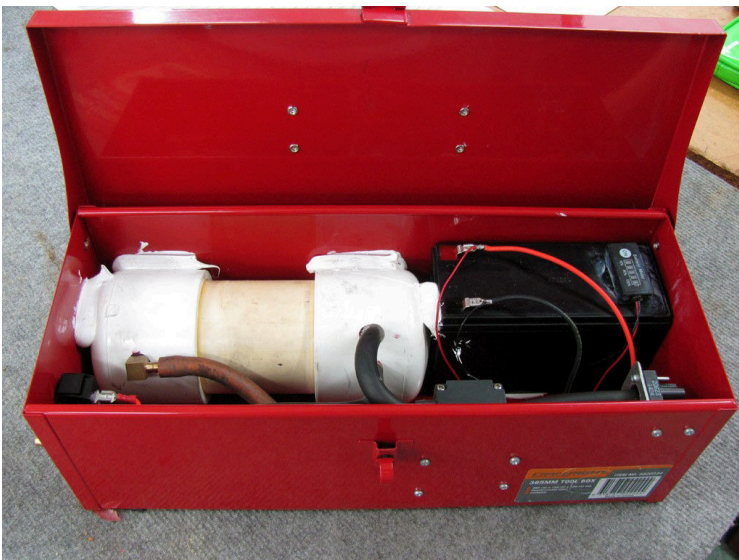
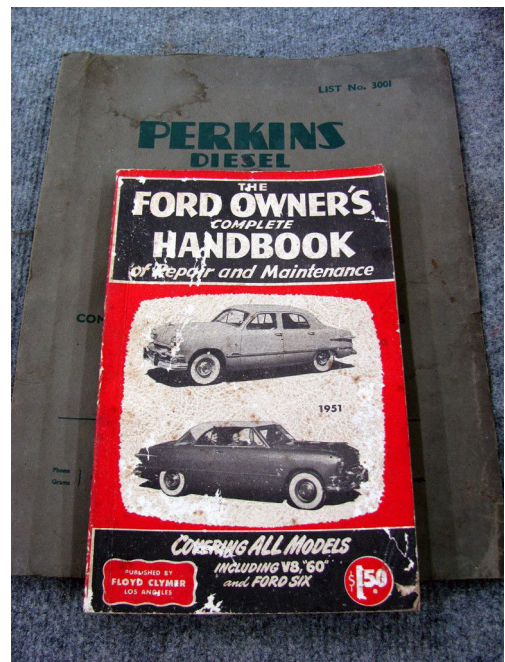


Our president, David Black is having a clean-up at home and found some items that were of interest to the members. Firstly a 3 chime original steam whistle, David thinks it originated from a steam winch used in the bush for extracting timber.



David also had a “what is it” item in the form of a large gauge; the best answers as to what it is were that it was probably for setting the tension on band saw blades, or even setting the tension on aircraft control surface operating cables.

Some old Ford and Perkins manuals were on the table as a giveaway, part of David’s clean up.



Lastly was one of the club’s new portable vacuum braking pumps for use in the new trollies when being used with locos that are not equipped to produce vacuum, nice and neat all in a box.





# ME Wanderings January 2016

Grant Anderson visits Tauranga for the Convention

The Bi-Annual National Model Engineering Convention & Hobby Expo was held from 7 to 11<sup>th</sup> January inclusive and organised/hosted by the Tauranga Model Marine & Engineering Club at Memorial Park. Jan & I weren't able to make it down till Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and arrived early afternoon in pouring rain. Running for the day had been cancelled, so after registration at the caravan I spent several hours at the Hobby Expo in the hall adjacent to the track & clubhouse. The Expo had a wide range of "model" type hobby interests on display; naturally quite an exhibition of traction engines and railway locos, but also powerboats, bulldozer, aero engines, plastic kit-set models & set scenes, Gauge 1 (45mm) & TT Gauge (12mm) model railway layouts, "Twisted" Cycles display of custom bicycles as well as an extensive range of built-up Meccano models (Eiffel Tower, working Auto chassis, Ab and Shay locos). Just the place to spend a couple of hours on a wet day! Fortunately, the weather turned out to be fine for the rest of the event days.

Saturday morning was set aside for the Bi-Annual MEANZ meeting – this ran from 9am to midday with the first half being a talk by Stuart Wright of WorkSafe NZ (DoL) on issues related to Duplex steel boilers. Various remits, election of officers, accounts & so on consumed the rest of the morning. By then most were keen to steam up & drive or ride the many traction engines and locomotives ready & waiting by the track.

The public supported the event very well and there was a steady crowd of people awaiting rides on Saturday & Sunday, albeit a little quieter on Monday. Some 30 odd locos were in use on the ground level track (which now includes a significant viaduct with good grade on a recently completed extension), with two locos and a hand jigger making occasional use of the raised track. More than 10 traction engines were in operation and most common scales were represented. Some of these took part in a road run to downtown and another displayed a Case engine driven sawmill.

The Les Moore Challenge was held on Saturday afternoon and attracted only 2 entries – again the winner was the Palmerston North Club. The Convention Dinner and Awards Presentations were held on Saturday night, followed by a speech by a retired Royal Navy sub-mariner - "life underwater".

Extremely good, catered meals saw us all well fed each night (and for lunch) and were available in the recently refurbished Rowing Clubrooms within a few minutes easy walking distance of the host club's facility. This also was the venue for the MEANZ meeting and Convention Awards. Albeit that it was away from the track, it gave attendees a chance to natter and discuss issues without undue disturbance.

There were also displays from the Vauxhall Car Club, some other miscellaneous auto brands and several stationary I/C engines on show as well. The track was open for a night run on Sunday till 10pm and the locos that ran put on a good fireworks display! The MEANZ auditors held their meeting on Sunday morning – evidently boiler inspection was a key item discussed.

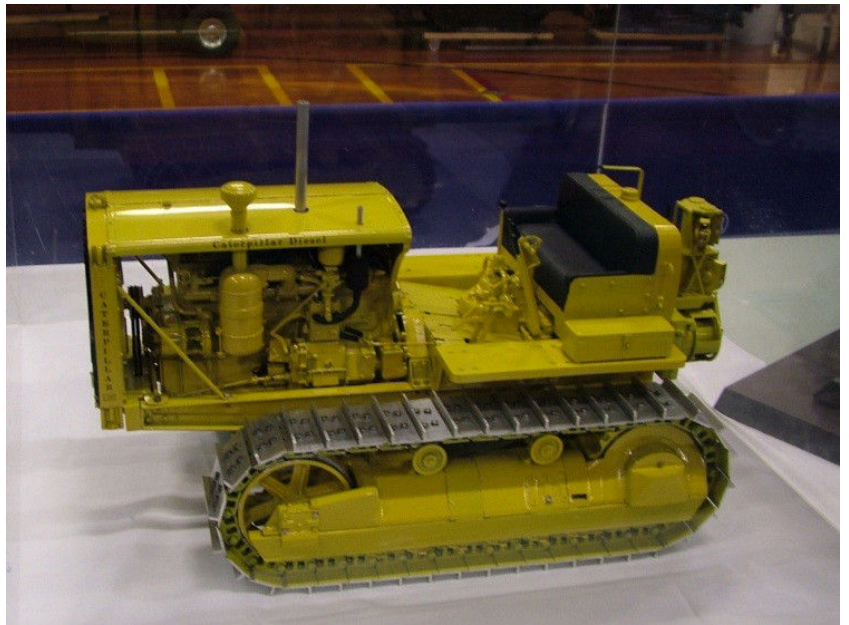
I got to run the Phantom (Jw62) on Saturday afternoon, Sunday night and Monday. The Beejax (Hotpot) was run on Sunday. In each case I used an ASME 7.25g fail-safe braked (FSB) trolley, so was permitted to haul passengers. Greville also ran Smokey on Saturday with his new FSB 7.25g trolley. Don Moffat ran his NZR C class each day too – even Friday morning in the wet, I believe. Other ASME members noted at the Convention were Mike Orange & Greg Burrows, with Martin Plant visiting.

It was a very pleasant Convention with plenty to see and do – the host club had done a first rate job of advertising and organising the event and it was good to be there to enjoy all the activities.

Grant Anderson

Beautiful Caterpillar tractor by Bruce Geange.

(Photo by Grant Anderson)



Great range of aero engines were on display.

(Photo by Grant Anderson)

Prize winning Phantom "Southern Belle' by Mike Treloar of Tauranga ME.

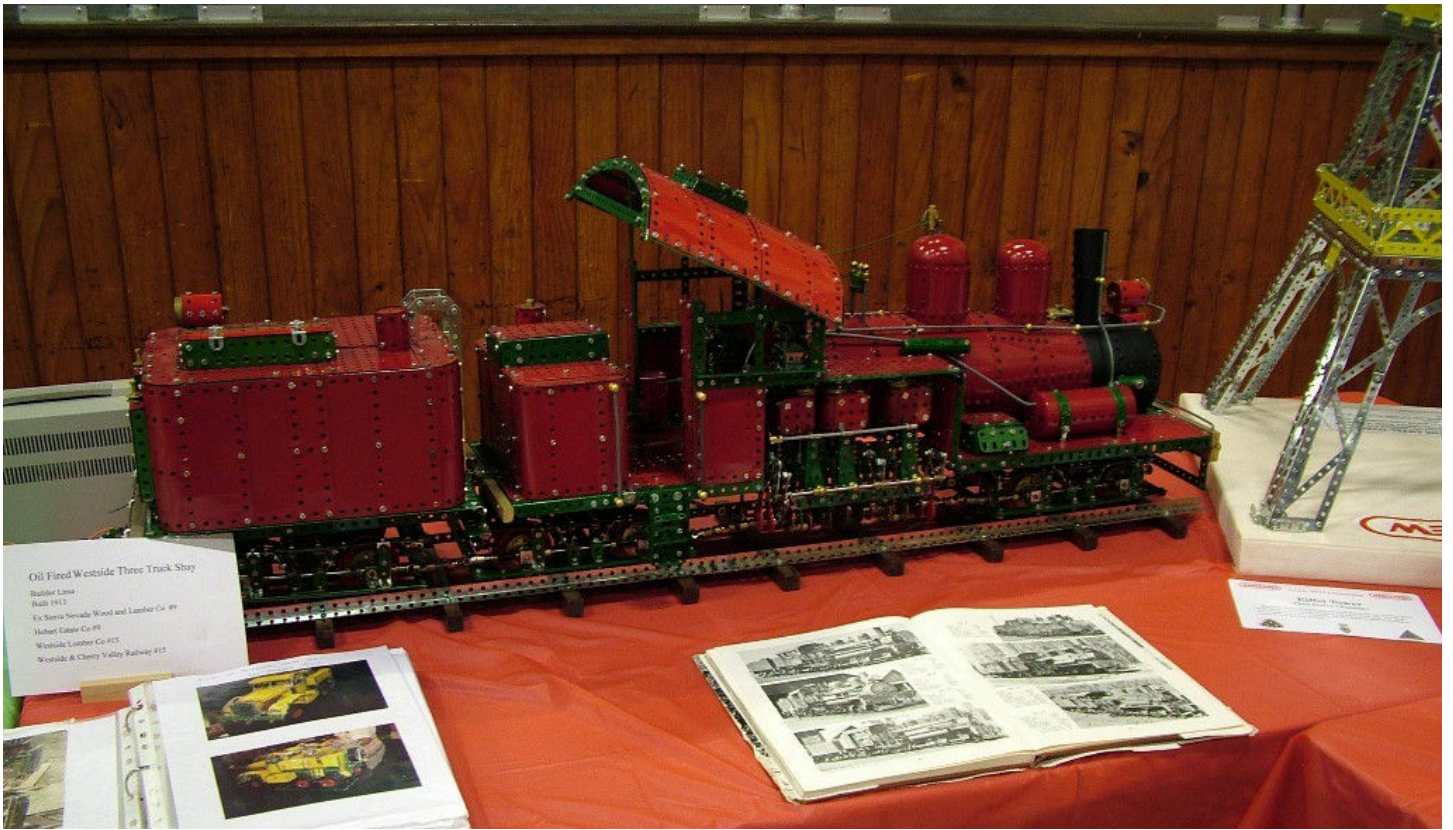
(Photo by Grant Anderson)





Above, Don Moffat (centre) readies the "C" for running.  
Below, Mainstreet Tauranga - wonder who won this drag off?  
(Both photos by Murray de Lues (Tauranga ME) )





Three truck Shay in Meccano - evidently to be pulled down once the show was over!  
(Photo by Grant Anderson)

Line-up of traction engines by the foreshore at Memorial Park  
(Photo by Murray de Lues (Tauranga ME) )



## For Sale

Six gondola freight cars (possibly 10" gauge?), Hamilton area, as per email received:

"We are wanting to know if you know of any one who would be interested in buying six Gondola freight cars that my late father brought from Chad Valley Railroad in Auckland. We also have about a 1,000 wooden ballets (for the train tracks), plus a machine that cuts the ballets (but not sure if its in working order) all in storage and a bit dusty. My father has a train track that runs for about 2 acres which if someone was interested in pulling it up themselves we could discuss but its very over grown."

Details of wagons as follows:

"Length: 1.88m, Width 41.5mm (cm?), Height 33mm (cm?). Designed load 600lb.

Bearings—sealed ball, Springs—16 coil, Wheels—Proudcast cast iron, Body— cast and plate aluminium, Brakes— vacuum on all wheels, Couplings—bronze, automatic., Gondola pattern, deep blue high gloss enamel."

Anyone interested, phone Aimee Wright, Mobile 027 6475362.

(per Brendon England, hme.co.nz)



# For Sale

For Sale at scrap value to ASME Members & Friends only. Must go but would prefer not to scrap.

Phone David Black 021 482 345

## This page:

8 HP totally enclosed Sisson  
Steam Engine

British made 1947

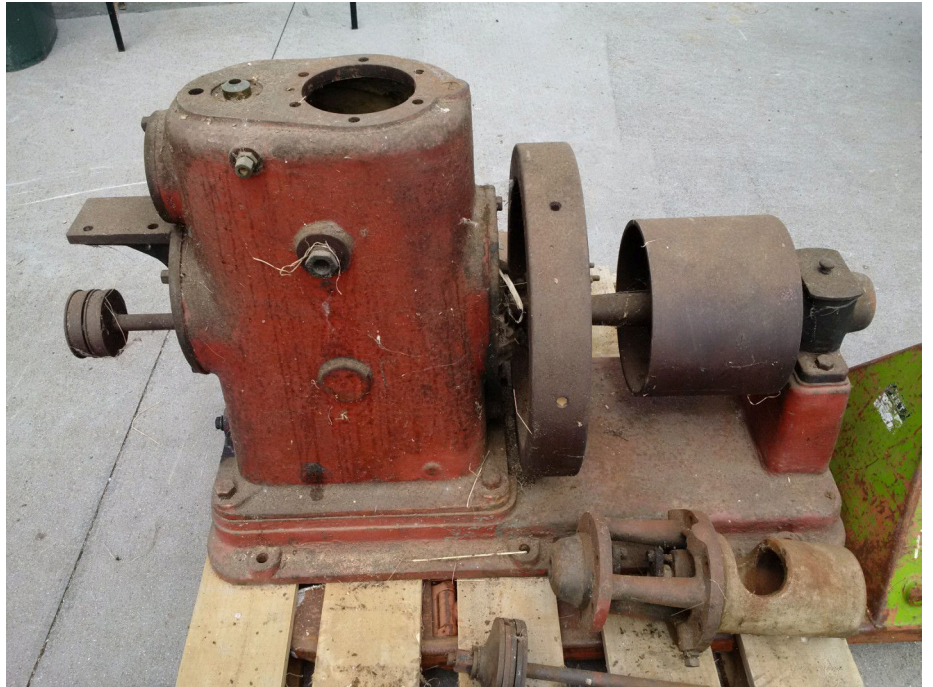
Main parts all there and looks to  
be in good condition

These units are still used in  
industry e.g. for running a  
dynamo

## Next page:

Milling Machine "Qualos"  
Australian made machine

Restoration project





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## **Otago Model Engineering Society 80th Anniversary Weekend**

**16th and 17th of April**

### ***Saturday:***

- ***Light Lunch (Similar to Festival Week), Running Afternoon and Evening Meal (Similar to the OMES Christmas Dinner on the 19/12/2015)***

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### ***Sunday:***

- ***BBQ Lunch, Running Afternoon***
- ***To make this viable we need at least 25 people (probably already attained, aiming for 50-100)***
- ***All members, affiliated club members, past members, and family welcome.***
- ***Cost of \$40pp will cover the weekend***

***RSVP to Colin Downing: 454 2528 or [downings@hyper.net.nz](mailto:downings@hyper.net.nz) before 1st of April***

- ***Money payable by or at the April General Meeting (11th April)***

Craig MacDonell  
OMES Webmaster