

Number 624

June
2017

The MICROMETER

AUCKLAND SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS INCORPORATED

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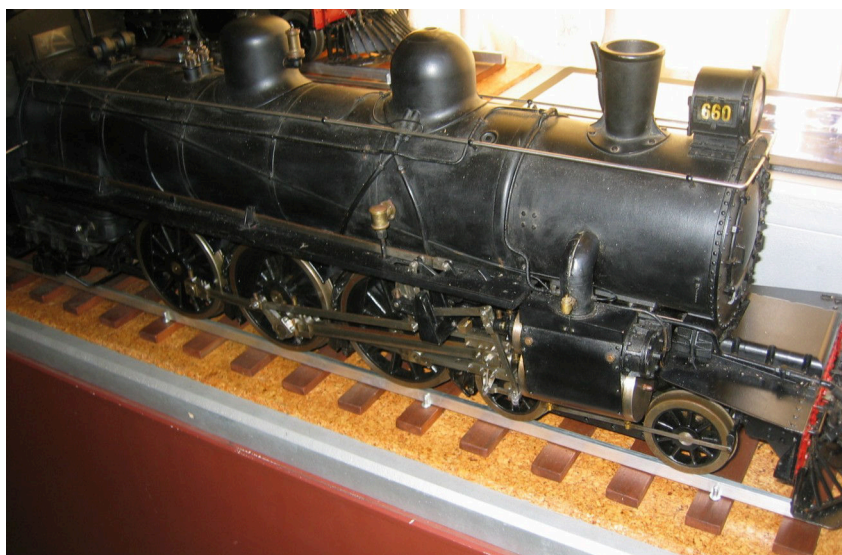
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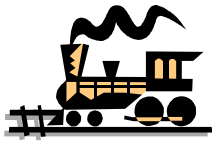
REGISTERED NEW ZEALAND PUBLICATION

Out of the Shadows..

...comes a *museum piece*??

See page 11.





Train Roster

Date	Electric Driver	Electric Driver	Steam Driver	Train Controller	Station / Guard	Station / Guard
4-Jun-17	M Plant	R Reichardt	Voluntary	<u>T Robinson</u>	R Crook*	T Sharp
11-Jun-17	P Woodford	B Aickin	Voluntary	<u>G Anderson</u>	P Jones*	R Copeland
18-Jun-17	I Ashley	A Bailey	Voluntary	<u>D Russell</u>	M Luxton*	D Beecher
25-Jun-17	G Beazley	P Dowdeswell	Voluntary	<u>G Wills</u>	B Matchett*	M Vickers
2-Jul-17	M Granger	D Housley	Voluntary	<u>T Lawrence</u>	B Matchett*	D Wilson
9-Jul-17	J Lankow	D Moffat	Voluntary	<u>S Meikle</u>	M Richardson*	T Sharp
16-Jul-17	M Moore	P Moy	Voluntary	<u>T Robinson</u>	B Cooper*	D Beecher
23-Jul-17	R Reichardt	P Woodford	Voluntary	<u>G Anderson</u>	J Service*	M Vickers
30-Jul-17	M Plant	A Shirley	Voluntary	<u>D Russell</u>	K Ryan*	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 Asterisk* 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.

JUNE CALENDAR

Tuesday June 6th, 7.30pm - General Meeting , ASME clubrooms.

Tuesday June 20th, 7.30pm - Committee Meeting.

President's Report

With sadness we report that Jim Greasley passed away on Wednesday morning 24th May. Please see pages 4 & 5.

The new website has been up and running a month now, so have you logged in to the Members page yet? There you will find a host of interesting and useful information for members at a one stop shop. Membership list, Stores List, Rules, Operation Code just to mention a few - plus the last 6 months of the Micrometer. In the future you will be advised by email when the next Micrometer is available and you will then need to go to the Members page and log on to view or download it.

The ASME application for a renewed amusement device registration was received by Worksafe NZ on 26 April 2017 - at the time of print there have been no queries or receipt of the new registration. ASME started the process of renewal in early April and has therefore done all it can - it's now up to Worksafe NZ to perform!

We have recruited 3 volunteers (Mike Vickers, Trevor Sharp & Derek Beecher) to help with Sunday Running station duties. They are Friends of the Waipuna Miniature Railway (FWMR) rather than ASME members, but are keen to assist us operate each Sunday for the community. So if you are on Sunday running duties with them, please make them feel welcome.

The batteries in the Ec loco have been giving some trouble for a while now (even though they are less than 2 years old). The committee has approved purchasing a new set, subject to some final testing.

Timothy Robinson

President

For Sale

Some months ago, we advertised the sale of our now-redundant raised-track-type 5-inch gauge passenger trolleys. To date, only two have been sold, so the track and trolley team are now taking offers for the remaining six of these as they are taking up space in the engine shed which could be used more productively. This offer is open to ASME members as well as other clubs on an as-is, where-is basis. Contact Grant Anderson or Greville Wills (or the ASME Secretary) for details.

Jim Greasley 1916—2017

With sadness we report that Jim passed away at 6:50 am on Wednesday morning 24th May following a serious fall on Tuesday at his room in St Andrew's hospital. Jim turned 100 years old last December.

He was a respected life member of ASME and a stalwart for improvement to ASME facilities over many years since becoming a member in 1981 - to list a few he was heavily involved in: library extension, 1987 track extension including timber trestle bridges, SMM boat pond, engine shed and toilet block. He was a keen modeller and built a wide range of items.

A service to celebrate Jim's life was held at the All Souls Chapel, Purewa Crematorium, on Monday 29 May

The following is an abridged version of an obituary written and delivered by Greville Wills at the funeral for Jim:

I am speaking today, as Vice President of the Auckland Society of Model Engineers Inc. - ASME for short.

James Greasley was born in Nottinghamshire (Kirby in Ashfield) England on the 31st December 1916 – at 2 minutes to midnight – he always stressed the 2 minutes.

Jim joined ASME in January 1981, and brought many talents that contributed immensely to the club. He was a Master Builder by trade, and had recently retired. Jim was very involved and a driving force for construction of a number of the assets we enjoy to this day.

In August 1983, a building permit was obtained by Jim for the east end extension of the clubrooms (the Library, video screen and T/C cupboard areas) – Jim oversaw and did a lot of the construction of the project. The extension was completed and opened in February 1984.

In March 1987 plans were drawn up (and approved by the then Mt Wellington Borough Council) to build a Boat Pond, (after Scale Marine Modellers became affiliated to ASME). The Boat Pond was started in February 1989. Again, it was Jim's expertise that devised an alternative design (instead of concrete) that was to cost far less to build. The boat pond was built and completed in August 1989.

Jim of course was a member of the "Tuesday Club" from 1985 on – a group of retired members that met every Tuesday morning and carried out various maintenance items and improvements around the club site & premises.

Jim was elected a Life Member of the club in November 1987 – a great honour and recognition of his exceptional contribution to the club.

Jim was instrumental in one of the club's biggest projects – the stage 3 extension of the track - extending the length of the track by 250 meters. It involved a new track along an embankment beside the existing track past the engine shed, and a very long trestle bridge - a cunning embankment (really a track on stilts) past the Water Ski club, plus another short trestle bridge then round through a short tunnel. This tunnel allowed the council contract mower to pass over the track in order to mow the lawns at the top, then joining the existing track just before the girder bridge.

This took several months of Saturday working bees (as well as weekday work by Jim and a small band of helpers) and was opened by the Mayor of Tamaki Borough Council on 1 November 1987. The Punga retaining wall, the final part of the colossal project, was completed in May 1988.

Jim designed the new toilet block and with the help of members participating in working bees completed it in 1988

Jim was involved in many projects – an example was the building of suitable tables for displaying models at the EMEX exhibition held in 1987, to raise funds for the track extension: the club therefore did not have to hire tables which saved quite a lot of money.

Another building project was begun in May 2000 – an extension of the Engine Shed, adding a coal storage & tool storage room. This was completed by the end of 2000.

Many other smaller, but still meaningful projects were a result of Jim's drive for improvement of ASME's assets. By no means was he the only contributor, but he certainly was one who made things happen rather than just talking about it!

Jim was an avid modeler and built many models; Some of which I mention – not necessarily in the order he built them; A WW1 Artillery Gun, A model of Stephenson's Rocket Loco (not finished), Small Single Cylinder Stationary Steam engine, A 3-cylinder Compound Marine steam engine. A model of an Indian Motorcycle, An LNER Greasley Class A3 Loco (4-6-2) Enterprise in 5" gauge, An LMS Class Black 5 Loco (4-6-0) in 5" gauge. Also, he was restoring a Mini Traction Engine till quite recently. He was still working quite regularly in his workshop up until about a year ago when his health started to deteriorate.

He was a regular contributor to the Bits & Pieces at our monthly club-nights, while he was able to attend. He did often attend our social dinners and on one occasion about 5 years ago provided some light-hearted entertainment for the members and guests by way of stories of his many and varied experiences from the past.

Jim was always willing to share his knowledge and helped me with the design of a support beam in my garage -similar to the steel tension rods used on the trestle bridges.

I am ever grateful to have known such an interesting and talented person.

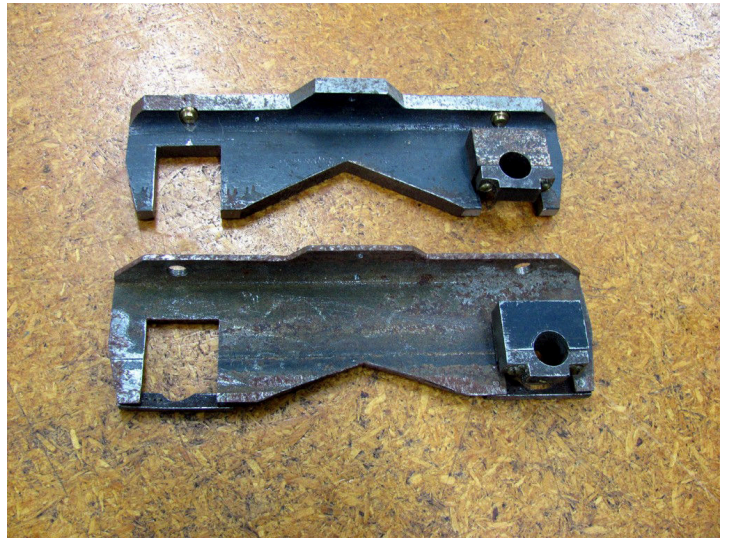
We will always remember Jim Greasley.

Bits and Pieces 2nd May 2017

Conducted by Peter Woodford, Report and Photos by Dave Russell



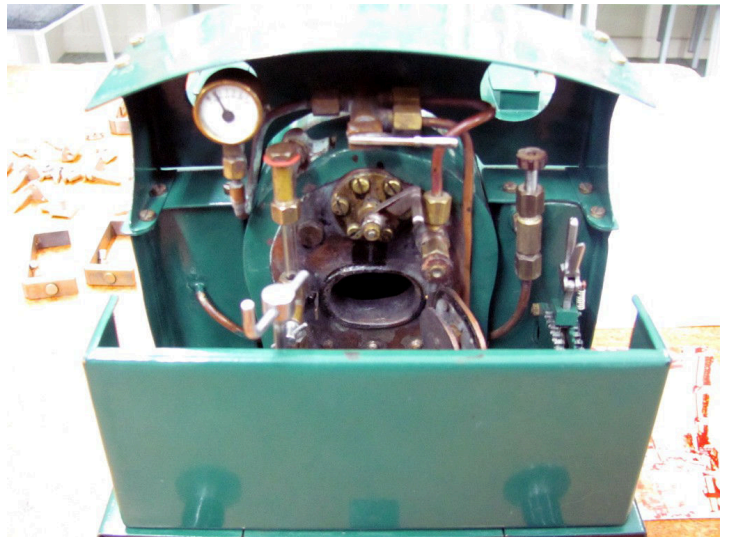
This first item was a fly cutter as supplied with a Chinese milling machine. Peter Woodford explained how incredibly badly made it was, the hole in the end for the cutter did not meet in the middle (there was about a 2mm step in the hole). Pete had chopped the end off to make it more robust then spark-eroded a nice square hole for the tool steel.

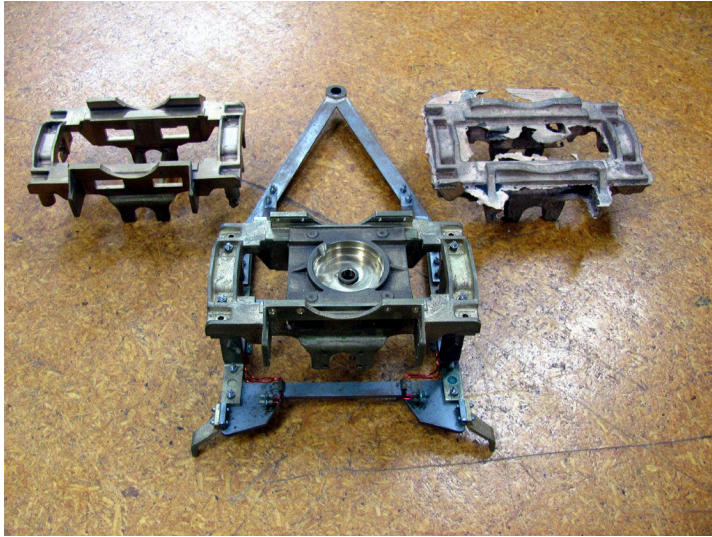


Bob Aickin is making a start on what he calls "Bobs Experiment": this will take the form of a Heisler articulated bush locomotive in 5" gauge, in which the various bogies are all driven by a drive shaft that runs under the middle of the locomotive. Bob has made a start on the bogie frames and has some gears put aside for the differentials. When finished it will be powered by an electric motor.

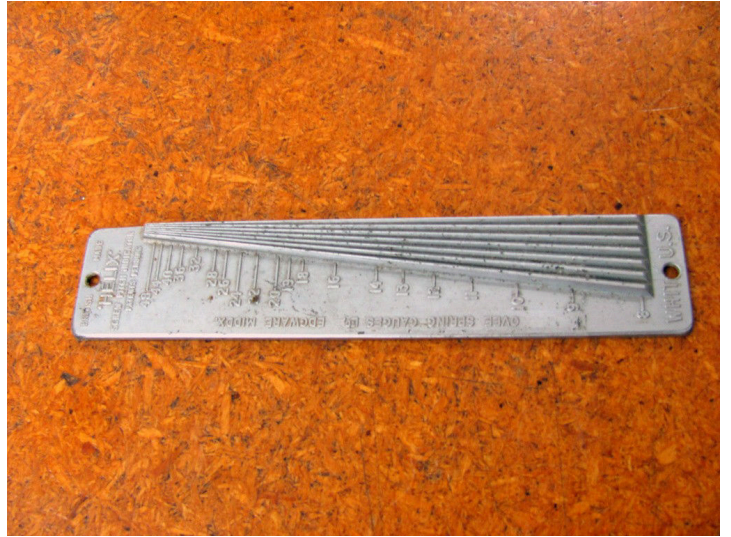


It's quite a while since we had a "Tich" locomotive on the Bits and Pieces table: this fine example was built by Bruce Cooper's father in South Africa many years ago. It is the Big Boiler version with proper valve gear, Bruce hopes to get it running again. Bruce and his family can be seen driving the Tich in the old photos he brought in.





Mike Jack brought in his BR Standard type pony truck nearing completion. This is made using his lost wax, investment cast bronze castings. The casting on the left is one of Mike's as it comes from the foundry, in comparison to the one on the right cast in the normal way using sand moulds. There is quite a bit of difference in the finish and probably well worth the bit of extra money to get one through Mike.



This unique thread gauge was brought in by Peter Woodford. To use it you simply place the thread of a bolt on the grooves where they best fit and read off the number of threads per inch as indicated next to where the bolt is sitting. Presumably there are different gauges for metric as this one is marked "WHIT" for Whitworth. A nice "what is it?"



Greville Wills is manager of the water supply company that looks after the collection, storage and supply to the residences in his street in Waimauku. Part of this is to make sure that the supply continues without problems to all the members of the community. This group of fittings had come apart and as Greville explained where there is a plastic fitting it is almost always the cause of the problem.



The last item on the table tonight was my own electric motor off my horizontal metal band saw. The main reason I had brought it in was to get our president Tim to have a look at it as the last time I was using the saw the motor started pouring out black smoke.

Behind The Scenes

Most Saturdays you will find the same small group of members hard at it round the track somewhere, keeping the premises in good nick, or adding a new piece of concrete path, stretch of rail or what-have-you.

Grant Anderson has sent in these photos taken at a Saturday working bee on 20th May.



Mike Banks hard at it water blasting the steaming bays & engine shed yard; he also did the dogbox which has since been painted.



Greville Wills, the 1 man cleaning ladee. As they say a ladee's work is never done, but Greville is making short work of it with the new ASME vacuum cleaner - complete with his own designed & built well-deck trolley & bag frame carried on a standard ride trolley. (Note: the length of rope (in the top picture) automatically controls the fail-safe brake, making this a true one man (or ladee!) operation).



Bruce Matchett takes a short break from his garden tidy-up duties to watch the vac bag being emptied of leaves, etc. from the trestle above

As well, Grant water-blasted the station shelter roof to remove the remaining build up of lichen and moss, which was sprayed several months ago by Mike Banks with a "wet 'n' forget" type product. We don't have a picture of it—it's only a corrugated iron roof after all, but I can report after having driven trainloads of passengers past it several times the following day, that the roof positively gleamed! "Well done" to all the Saturday workers! - Ed.



Basil Wilson's Locos

Some weeks ago, we were approached by Mr Pat Wilson, one of Basil Wilson's sons, who had two model locomotives (1/12th scale, 3½" gauge) that his late father built, sitting in his garage, taking up valuable space, and being seen by no-one. These had spent several years on loan as exhibits at Auckland's Museum of Transport and Technology, but owing to some re-organisation at MoTaT they were deemed to be no longer relevant to their needs and were returned to the Wilson family. Pat was hoping ASME could accept the locos on a loan basis so that his garage space would be freed up and that his father's locos would be in a place where they could be seen by people who appreciate fine models.

(For those newer members (and others) who have not heard of Basil Wilson, he was one of a small group of model engineers who, in 1959, got together and formed the society which today we know as ASME. Basil was well known for building three outstanding models of New Zealand Railways steam locomotives, and this story is about two of those: a Ww class (Ww 480) and an Ab class (Ab 660)).

As a result, we now have these two models on display in our clubrooms, which is a win-win situation for both Pat Wilson and for ASME, as these outstanding locomotives are of as much sentimental value to ASME as they are to the Wilson family.

The terms of our custodianship, if you like, of these fine models include the following:

1. The locos are on loan to ASME for a period not less than five years - they are not ASME's property.
2. Because they are not the property of ASME or any current ASME member, the locos are not covered by ASME's insurance. (Their value precludes this anyway). As a result, the locos must not be removed from the relatively secure environment that the ASME clubhouse provides, and they remain within the care of the present ASME committee (and future committees).

Hopefully we will have the two locos out of their display case and on the table at our June general meeting where they can be examined closely by those present, who will see the amount of fine detail and quality workmanship involved in their construction.



EXPO NEWS

News and information for visitors and exhibitors at the

TAUPO HOBBY EXPO

Issue # 1

May 2017

Welcome to the first edition of **EXPO NEWS**, a monthly newsletter containing the latest information about the next Hobby Expo being held in Taupo.

This is an annual event, now in its 22nd year, and is organised by the Taupo Model Railway Club. Although it is a railway orientated exhibition, it also provides an opportunity for craft and modelling groups, both local and from further afield, to display their skills and interests to a wider audience.



Our regular exhibitors include the Taupo Vintage Car Club who bring five or six restored vehicles and the Taupo Gliding Club who have a full size glider on display.

This year's exhibition will be held on **Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th July**, this being the middle weekend of the school holidays and an ideal time to visit Taupo and enjoy a mid winter break.

The Expo is held at the **Taupo Event Centre**, a sports hall located on Spa Road about a couple of kilometres from the Taupo CBD. This large hall provides plenty of space for exhibitors to set up their stands and for visitors to move around freely. There is also almost unlimited free parking at the Event Centre, so no problems getting to the venue even if the weather is not too special. Adjacent is one of Taupo's thermal swimming complexes, the A C Baths, so an opportunity for a hot dip after a busy day.

As well as the various hobby and trade stands at the event there are a number of activities for the younger visitors. The Bouncy Castle is a regular favourite, and there is also the opportunity to try slot car racing, model kit building, and radio controlled boats courtesy of Auckland Marine Modelling Group.



**GREATLY APPRECIATED
MAJOR SUPPORTER
OF THE CLUB**

THE 22ND TAUPO HOBBY EXPO



The 2017 Expo is shaping up to be another spectacular event, with a range of displays, trade stands and activities to entertain the whole family. Nearly fifty exhibitors have already booked their space, promoting hobbies ranging from vehicle restoration, model trains, boats, planes and road vehicles, through to a variety of arts and handicrafts.

Catering is once again provided by the Taupo Cosmopolitan Club Leisure Marchers, with their range of homemade sandwiches, cakes and pastries.

*Show Manager **Mike Litolff** is on holiday for the next week, but he does still have a few spaces available, so if you do have a model, hobby or business that you would like to promote, you can contact me - grahampeacock@xtra.co.nz or phone 07 378 9722 for further information.*



Malcolm Flowers Insurances

Taupo Winter Festival

Another great reason to visit Taupo in Winter.

*Starting on Thursday 13 July, and continuing over the same weekend as the Hobby Expo, the **Taupo Winter Festival** features a range of activities and entertainment designed to brighten up your winter break. Many events are free, including the popular 'Ebbett Taupo Ice Slide' and the 'Unison Light Trail', along with a host of more formal entertainment including live music and dining, film shows, art displays and many more.*

*Full details of the **Taupo Winter Festival**, including an event programme and booking arrangements can be found at -*

www.taupowinterfestival.co.nz

***Why not bring the whole family to Taupo
for a long weekend of fun and entertainment.***