

Number 627

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# The MICROMETER

AUCKLAND SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS INCORPORATED

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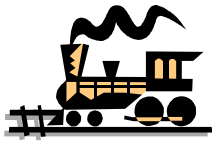
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REGISTERED NEW ZEALAND PUBLICATION

## Great Dorset Steam Fair 24th Aug 2017

Grant Anderson (on holiday in the UK) visited the Great Dorset Steam Fair today and sent this photo. He says there are at least 200 traction and road steam engines at the fair and has so far spent about 11 hours there and is going back for more tomorrow.....





# Train Roster

Date	Electric Driver	Electric Driver	Steam Driver	Train Controller	Station / Guard	Station / Guard
3-Sep-17	M Moore	P Moy	Voluntary	<b><u>S Meikle</u></b>	<b>P Jones*</b>	
10-Sep-17	R Reichardt	A Shirley	Voluntary	<b><u>T Robinson</u></b>	<b>K Ryan*</b>	B Matchett
17-Sep-17	P Woodford	I Ashley	Voluntary	<b><u>D Russell</u></b>	<b>M Luxton*</b>	D Beecher
24-Sep-17	A Bailey	G Beazley	Voluntary	<b><u>G Wills</u></b>	<b>J Service*</b>	M Vickers
1-Oct-17	M Granger	M Hollis	Voluntary	<b><u>G Anderson</u></b>	<b>B Cooper*</b>	R Copeland
8-Oct-17	D Housley	M Plant	Voluntary	<b><u>B Aickin</u></b>	<b>R Crook*</b>	P Jones
15-Oct-17	J Lankow	D Moffat	Voluntary	<b><u>P Dowdeswell</u></b>	<b>M Luxton*</b>	B Matchett
22-Oct-17	M Moore	P Moy	Voluntary	<b><u>D Black</u></b>	<b>J Service*</b>	D Beecher
29-Oct-17	R Reichardt	P Woodford	Voluntary	<b><u>T Lawrence</u></b>	<b>R Stratton*</b>	M Vickers

## **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.

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## **SEPTEMBER CALENDAR**

**Tuesday September 5th, 7.30pm** - General Meeting , ASME clubrooms.

Special General Meeting to discuss and vote on the proposed purchase of the Waipuna Water Ski Club building, as announced in the August Micrometer.

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

## **Coming up:**

**Tuesday October 3rd** - The annual ASME club auction. Bring your unwanted stuff to sell. There will be more items from Jim Greasley's workshop also.

**Friday December 8th** - ASME Christmas dinner at Remuera Club. Mark this date on your calendar/diary now (if you haven't already)!. Details to follow.

# Editorial

Despite the winter weather we have been experiencing lately, we have had some quite successful Sunday running. In the last four months, only one Sunday run has been cancelled due to the weather, with only a couple of others affected to a lesser degree.

Now that the EC loco has new batteries fitted and with new chargers purchased for both locos, Sunday running has become virtually trouble-free. Drivers have been experiencing much improved performance from the EC: it feels like it is going faster than before, but in actual fact it is the torque that has improved resulting in better acceleration while the top speed is back up to where it was - a safely regulated 10kph or so.

Recently, the committee have been giving some thought to openly acknowledging the contributions that have been made to the club by past members, some of them of quite considerable value.

This has been triggered to a certain extent by the passing of Jim Greasley, whose work can be seen in many areas. The suggestion has been made to honour Jim by naming the Trestle Bridge after him and mounting a suitable plaque on the bridgework to denote the connection.

Other members who have been suggested for similar acknowledgment are Wally Carrick and Warren Green, both of whom donated workshop equipment to ASME. If our proposed basement workshop comes to fruition it has been suggested that it could be named after one or both of these gentlemen.

The committee would welcome any more suggestions along these lines.

Following the success of last year's Christmas dinner at the Remuera Club, David Black, with the Committee's approval, booked the venue for this year's event, which will be held on Friday 8th December. We must now turn our attention to working out things like cost per head, also numbers attending, not to mention the all-important matter of obtaining the menu from the caterers and distributing this to members. These things will need to be sorted out in the coming weeks, but mark the date in your diary now!

John Lankow.

Editor



Barclay saddle-tank engine 1893 - Havelock Museum, Marlborough

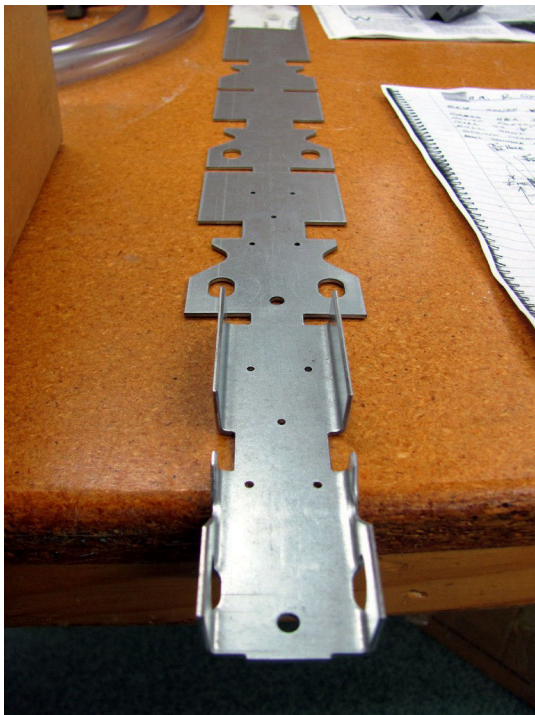


# Bits and Pieces 1st August 2017

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



Quite a collection of parts this month from Mike Jack: some moulds for creating investment waxes and samples of finished castings, also a dome for a 5" Duchess and some assembled frame stretchers from the laser cut steel sheets previously shown at the club.



Peter Woodford brought in this excellent sample of progressive sheet metal tooling workmanship. The long strip of material starts on a roll and passes through multiple stages of die cutting and folding till eventually being cut off as a finished part. Thanks to F&P, shame we are losing these skills and jobs to overseas in the name of efficiency.



Greville Wills has been helping his son try to fix his washing machine after breaking his small cheap puller trying to get the machine apart. They then made a better homemade version, however all was in vain as the very corroded parts completely crumbled to pieces.

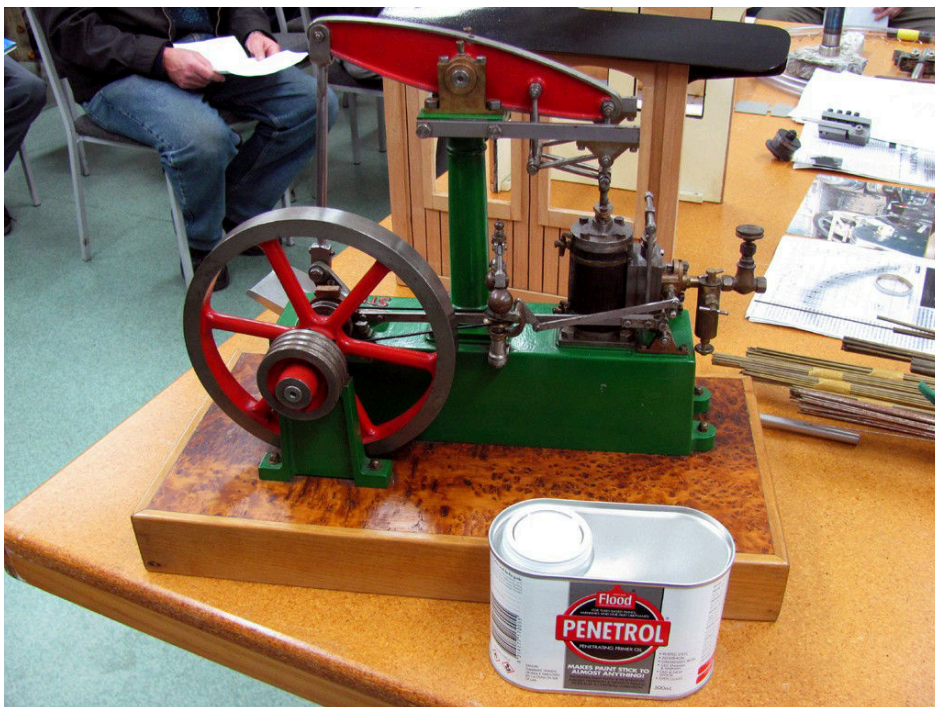




This shovel is for Greg Burrows' Foden steam truck. Greg commented on how hard it is to find a suitable wooden handle like a large file handle.

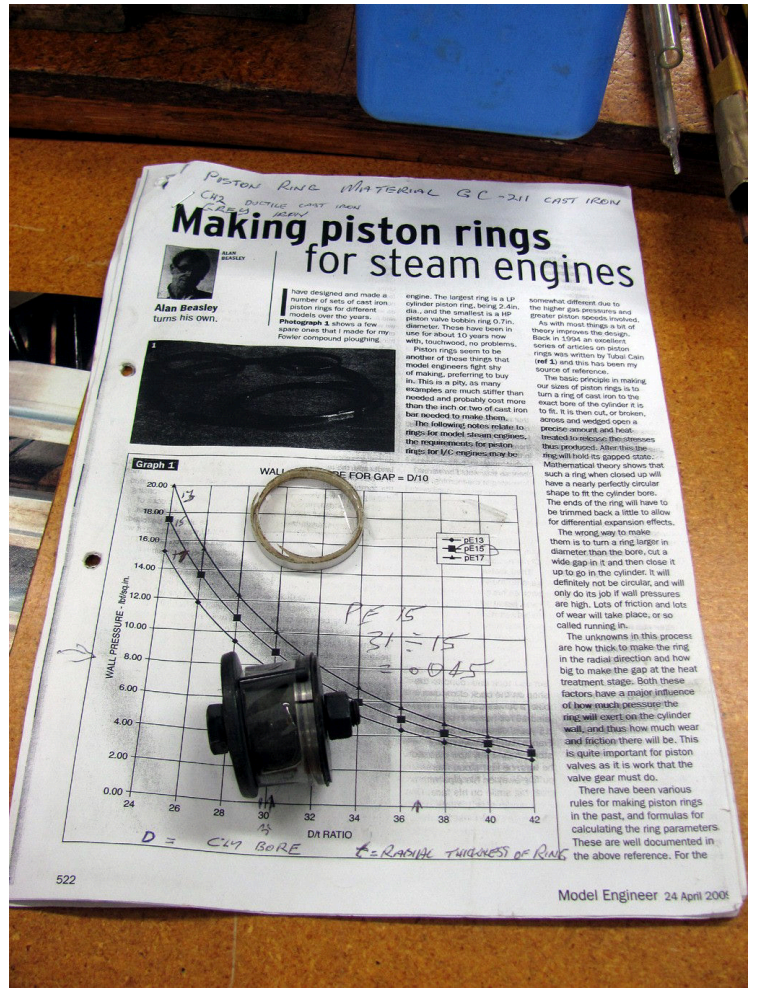
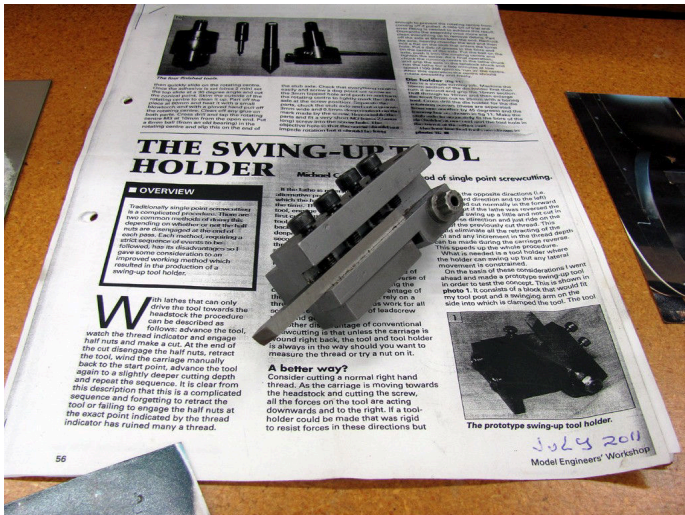
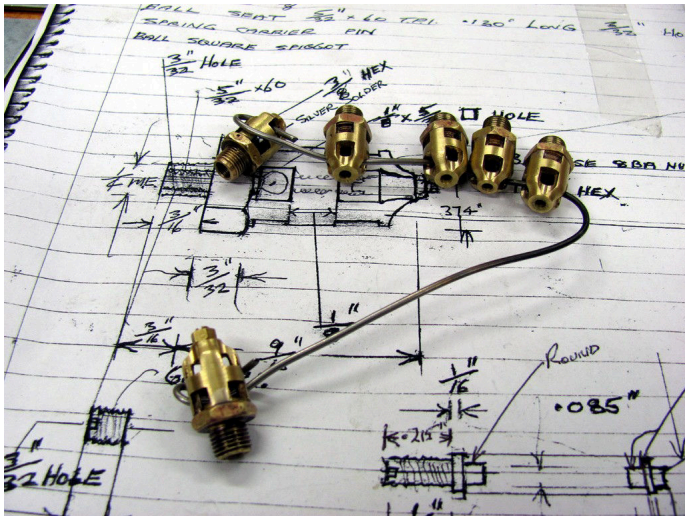


A fine cab for a Phantom 7-1/4" locomotive is being built by visitor Bill Parker, the sheet metal structure has been lined to the exterior with scale Kauri planking. Ron Copeland was able to recommend a suitable finishing method.



Ron has also been busy refurbishing one of the late Peter Fisher's stationary engines, Peter left this engine to the club and it will be a welcome addition to the permanent display cabinet. Ron uses the product Penetrol shown in the foreground to protect the metal parts and to finish the wooden parts.





After a recent breakdown of his 5" King locomotive Mike Banks brought in some parts that he is making to rectify the problem. It all started when an inside cylinder front cover blew off while running hard hauling passengers at the track. A pin had sheared off on the connection between the piston rod and the cross head. Mike decided to make some proper scale relief valves for the cylinders: this led to making a flip up tool holder to assist in cutting the 60tpi threads required for this job. While the loco was undergoing this repair Mike also decided to replace the PTFE piston rings with cast iron rings. This was fully researched before starting, to ensure the rings were made correctly.



Lastly was my own item for the night in the form of an O.S. model aero engine from the early '80s.

I have restored it to running order after I rediscovered it in the garage attic along with some others needing the same attention. The engines were stuck solid with hardened castor oil and dirt from their last flights (and crashes). After some "Googleing" I found the best way to soften and dissolve the old gunk was to cook the motors on low in a crock pot containing straight automotive anti-freeze. It works quite well.





## The MICROMETER visits Weka Pass Railway



A428. WPR has the only A-class currently operating.



Made by A&G Price - recently closed after 149 years.



Powering through the pass - photoshoot material.



Keen photographers brave the chilly breeze.



Turning the engine in a biting cold southerly wind.



A quick peek inside the cab window.

