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# The MICROMETER

AUCKLAND SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS INCORPORATED

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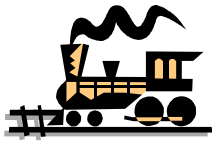
REGISTERED NEW ZEALAND PUBLICATION

## The Less Mess Monster?

You'd better beleaf it!  
See Committee Comments,  
page 3.

(Photo: Grant Anderson)





# Train Roster

Date	Electric Driver	Electric Driver	Steam Driver	Train Controller	Station / Guard	Station / Guard	
3-Jun-18	D Housley	J Lankow	Voluntary	<b><u>P Dowdeswell</u></b>	<b>R Souter*</b>	M Vickers	
10-Jun-18	D Moffat	M Moore	Voluntary	<b><u>T Lawrence</u></b>	<b>A Stratton*</b>	D Beecher	
17-Jun-18	P Moy	R Reichardt	Voluntary	<b><u>S Meikle</u></b>	<b>R Stratton*</b>	D Vaughan	
24-Jun-18	A Shirley	P Woodford	Voluntary	<b><u>T Robinson</u></b>	<b>P Tomkies*</b>	S Shirley	
1-Jul-18	I Ashley	A Bailey	Voluntary	<b><u>G Anderson</u></b>	<b>R Crook*</b>	M Vickers	
8-Jul-18	G Beazley	M Granger	Voluntary	<b><u>D Russell</u></b>	<b>R Copeland*</b>	D Beecher	
15-Jul-18	M Hollis	D Housley	Voluntary	<b><u>G Wills</u></b>	<b>P Jones*</b>	D Vaughan	
22-Jul-18	J Lankow	D Moffat	Voluntary	<b><u>B Aickin</u></b>	<b>M Luxton*</b>	S Wilson	
29-Jul-18	M Moore	P Moy	Voluntary	<b><u>P Dowdeswell</u></b>	<b>B Matchett*</b>	R Souter	

**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. **Note: the Train Controllers for both affected days must be informed of the swap in advance.**

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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## **JUNE CALENDAR**

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

**Tuesday June 19th, 7.30pm** - Committee Meeting, ASME clubrooms

### **Coming Up:**

- Manukau Live Steamers open weekend June 2-4 (Queen's Birthday weekend)
- Taupo Hobby Expo, July 14-15. See page 8.
- Nelson Society of Modellers open weekend October 20-22 (Labour weekend). See page 7.

## Committee Comments

A belated thanks to Don Moffat for straightening out the front panel and making a new roof panel for the Club's Dsa loco earlier in the year. Timothy is still working on the controller to see if that is what is causing the intermittent power problem which kept the loco from being used at the March PBF event.

Heavy leaf falls this autumn have needed clearing away (as usual) and thanks to the leaf sucker machine, this has been completed with a minimum of physical effort. The design is still a work in progress, with a brush head at the back of the vac head being recently fitted and together with removal of the cross-tubes on sections of track that suffer heavy leaf falls have helped the unit's effectiveness. Perhaps we should have a competition to give this unit a suitable name? Maybe "Loch Ness Monster" would be fitting – see photo in last month's Micrometer!

The latest job at the track has been to finish the steps to the access track. Over the past few weeks Tony Lawrence and Timothy Robinson have completed the boxing for the internal stairs and an adjacent small piece of path to make access much safer. They completed the job on Saturday 26th May with the help of Grant Anderson, Greville Wills, Mike Moore, Mike Banks, Dave Housley, Allan Stratton and John Lankow. This despite the concrete truck arriving nearly an hour and a half earlier than originally intended! Thanks to Tony and Tim and the many hands who were required to move the concrete in small-ish barrowloads from outside the clubhouse up and over the pedestrian bridge to where it was needed.



Manukau Live Steamers kindly made available about 10 bags of small peanut sized "char" from the Bacchus Marsh mine in Australia which they had brought in some years ago but found to be too small for most of the larger steamers they operate. A trial with two of our members' 5" gauge locos has found that while it readily creates a good fire for producing steam, it really needs to be mixed with larger "beans or nuts" to ensure an adequate air flow: or be fired on a little & often basis, which can be a bit tricky when running on Sundays. Nevertheless we are most grateful to MLS for donating the char as it will be much more suited to ASME's smaller steam locos.

The required annual reports and returns for the Club year ended 30 September 2017 were filed on time to the Charities Commission and the Auckland Council – these reports are quite extensive and take some time to put together – thanks to Greville Wills and Grant Anderson for completing these important administration tasks. If you want to view the Charities Commission Report, look for it in the members section on the Club website.

A booking has been made for the Club's 2018 Christmas Dinner at the Remuera Club on Friday 23rd November. While this is a little earlier than we would have preferred, it was the latest date available at the time of booking. So mark this date in your diary/calendar now so you can be there!

The General Manager has recently sent a letter to members involved in Sunday running to request that the safety message, given before trains depart Waipuna Junction, be kept short and to the point. In particular, we do not want to alarm or frighten passengers unnecessarily about general potential hazards or consequential effects, only those matters we are required to notify as a condition of ASME's amusement device registration.

Bruce Cooper has made a suggestion, supported by the committee, that a list of suppliers of services for model engineering be available to members on our website. So would members who have experienced good service from a suitable supplier, please send details to [info@asme.org.nz](mailto:info@asme.org.nz) and a list will be drawn up and put in the members section of the ASME website. Details to include should contain the firm's name and address, web address if known, nature of goods purchased from this supplier, etc.





## **Bits and Pieces 1st April 2018**

Presented by Mike Banks, report and photos by Dave Russell



Firstly tonight were some non-driving wheels off **Grant Anderson's** "Phantom" locomotive. The wheel treads had been showing some wear and "faceting flat spots". Grant is shrink fitting new hard steel tyres on the machined down cast iron wheels. The faceting is a bit of a mystery as the phenomenon has been noticed on quite a few (high mileage) locomotives. Nobody has been able to come up with a definitive reason, why model loco wheels take on these flats. Various suggestions have been put forward such as chilled hard spots between the spokes (debunked as flats do not line up evenly with spokes), rubbing (or dragging) on radiuses around the track (possibly, but some individually floating wheels still have the problem). Any advice from around the clubs / world would be appreciated. Are the flats actually a problem, as the locomotives seem to perform without noticeable problems?



**Murray Hollis** brought in this pump from the solar hot water heating on his house. The pump motor had a stainless steel shielded (enclosed) armature. Due to bearing wear the armature had come into contact with the shield, wearing a hole in it. Water entered, motor shorted out. After making enquiries, replacement parts were deemed uneconomical so a replacement pump was purchased.

**Mike Jack** has been making these small machine vices for quite a number of years now and has gradually perfected and refined the manufacture process to produce an extremely high-quality vice. Sold by agents in the UK, they are a favourite purchase at many Model Engineering exhibitions. This photo shows one of the latest batch, castings to the left with jigs & tooling to the right.







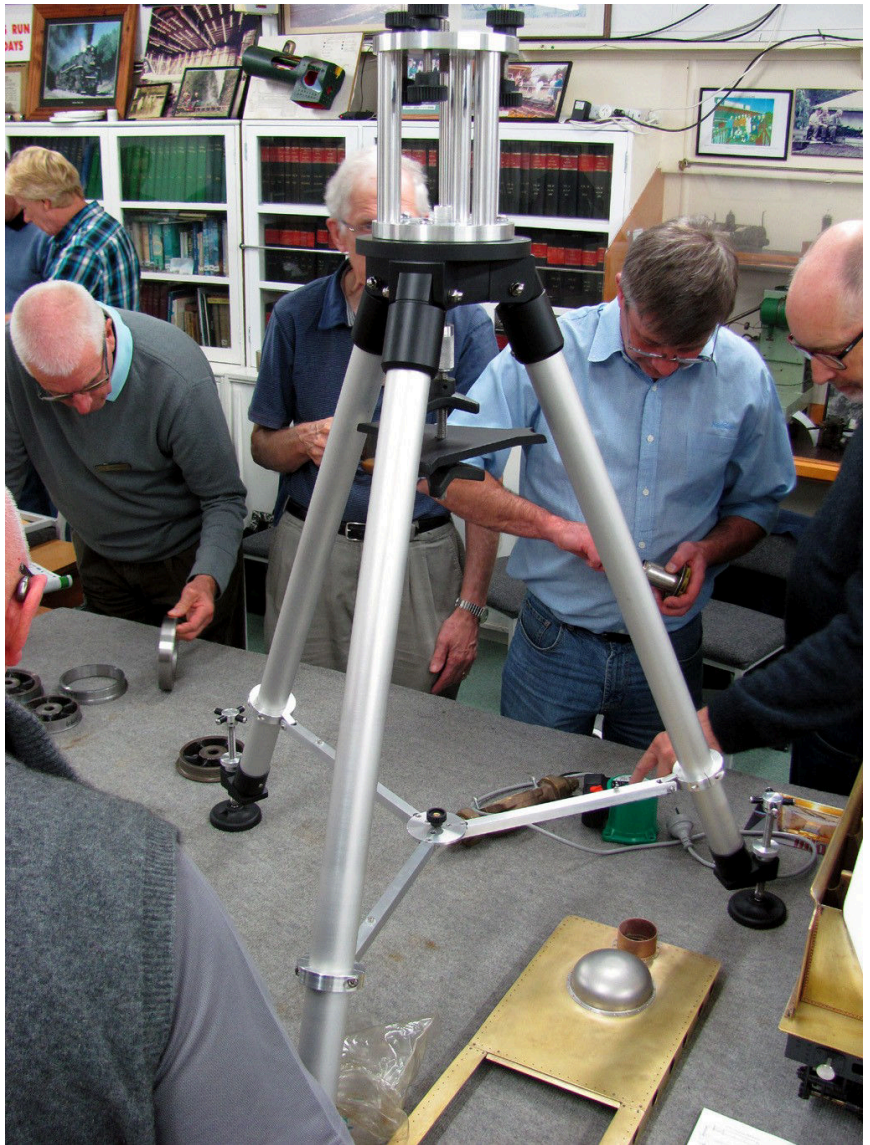
With the amount of client jobs that Mike Jack is undertaking these days (now that he is full time in his own workshop) he can easily justify the cost of a Tapmatic, this attachment will screw a tap into a hole and then reverse on its own, ready to move onto the next hole. If I believe what I see on YouTube the device is self-centring also.

This tender is the final major part of **Mike Banks's** fine scale 5" GWR King locomotive. After a lifetime as an aircraft engineer he has lost track of how many rivets he has fitted and finished in the traditional manner. So far Mike has spent 500 hours on the tender: all riveting is real (not soldered in place). There was quite a discussion on riveting in general inspired by Mike's work.





**Graham Beazley** has been busy producing this very solid tripod designed for a “Go To” type astronomical telescope and mount weighing about 14kg. Graham explained how the mount was the bit that steered the telescope to the selected target and kept it in the scope’s view as everything (earth, solar system, galaxies) moved about our sky view. Graham says these days you can dial up a target on the iPad and connect to the mount via Bluetooth and hey presto the mount steers the telescope to the target. Amazing!



The last item tonight was something none of us want to experience but does happen once in a while. Stage is set, to finish machining a large piece or casting, and that small tap breaks in the second to last hole. New member **Les Brown** brought in his problem piece for advice on what to do: a voice speaks up “give it to Greg and he can spark erode it out”! It’s amazing what can be done today.





# Nelson Society of Modellers 60th Anniversary & Open Weekend. October 20th-22nd



NSM are celebrating our 60th Anniversary this coming Labour Weekend, so all members & visitors from other clubs are cordinally invited to come along & celebrate with us. We aim on having plenty of fun, so make sure you bring plenty with you.

If you are coming along with a Steam Loco, please ensure you bring a current boiler certificate & a valid drivers license.

We have 2 1/2, 3 1/2, 5 & 7 1/4 gauge tracks on our raised track & 7 1/4 on ground track.

for registrations, please email Collin Batt at [colsrailway@gmail.com](mailto:colsrailway@gmail.com), ph 0212424777. Or Reece Cobb, ph 0278697756 [rhyscobb@gmail.com](mailto:rhyscobb@gmail.com)

If you have any specific dietary requirements, please advise Collin when registering.

**Saturday 20th** - Private run for members & visitors from 10AM-4pm, followed by a barbecue dinner. A night run open to the public will follow from 6.30PM-9.00PM.

**Sunday 21st** - 11AM-4pm open to public running, followed by a catered dinner. (TBA)

**Monday 22nd** - 1-4pm open to Public running.

The clubrooms & sheds will be open earlier than the times above, so if you want to help set up & have some fun on your trains earlier then you are most welcome.





# EXPO NEWS



News and information for visitors and exhibitors at the

## 23<sup>RD</sup> TAUPO HOBBY EXPO

Issue # 1

May 2018

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 Newsletter is distributed to past and present exhibitors, as well as those on 'THE SIGNAL' mailing list, with further editions in June and July. If you know of any one else who might be interested, please pass on a copy to them or send me their contact details.



The Hobby Expo is an annual event, now in its 23rd year, and is organised by the Taupo Model Railway Club, and supported by Peter Smith, owner of the Starlight Cinema Centre in central Taupo. 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.

This year's exhibition will be held on Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th 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.

Once again the Expo features some exciting model railways from around the North island, as well as the craft, hobbies and trade stands, many making their first appearance at the event. There are also 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.

**Over 40 participants have already booked their place at this year's Expo, but if you would like to take part or have yet to confirm your reservation, please contact show coordinator Mike Litloff on 07 376 7038, 0212016032 or at boomickel@outlook.co.nz.**

*(Two further pages of this Newsletter, containing mainly Hobby Expo-related advertising are available from the Editor on request)*