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The MICROMETER

AUCKLAND SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS INCORPORATED

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REGISTERED NEW ZEALAND PUBLICATION



The paddle steamer belongs to Tom Allingham from Waihi who contacted the President to see if I knew anyone who could help repair the boiler. The model is based on the Devonport Harbour Ferry, Britannia, which he and his late grandfather were building over the course of many years.

Mike Banks was able to do the job in very short time and to his usual high standard. Unfortunately, Tom's grandfather passed away at the New Year, but the model has a great deal of sentimental value to Tom, and he was very appreciative of Mike's efforts.

President's Report

January 2021

Hi,

Welcome to the new year and I hope you have all enjoyed the festive season. Over the break quite a bit of work has taken place around the track, and while several of us spent a lot of time assisting, the real credit must go to Tony Lawrence and Timothy Robinson who did all the really hard work to ensure that it all went smoothly.

The Pedestrian Bridge has had new steel beams fitted and the bolts have been replaced with stainless ones. This work means that the bridge is now stiffer and stronger so there is no further need for the capacity restriction signs. The underpass abutments have been enlarged and reinforced and the new steel plate fitted. Temporary wooden safety structures are in place and these will be replaced when the retaining walls are built when the opportunity arises.

The She-oak at the top of the track was removed by AC contractors, who unfortunately managed to damage the track in the process. This has been repaired satisfactorily, although the damaged concrete underneath will need to be replaced in the future. All this meant that we had to delay the scheduled start of Sunday Running until 17th January but the turnout from the public ensured that we had a good start to the year, unlike the unfortunate American Magic Team!

As usual, the first meeting for the year will be in the first week of February, and this year we will be conducting a club auction largely involving items donated by Ralph Moffatt, as a result of clearing out his late father's house. We are hoping for a good turnout of members and some dodgy weather to guarantee enough carparks!

I look forward to seeing you there and seeing what you have been building and learning since last year.

Cheers,

Mike Moore.

FEBRUARY CALENDAR

- Tuesday February 2nd, 7.30 pm** - General Meeting, ASME clubrooms
- Tuesday February 9th 7.30 pm** - Workshop Night, ASME clubrooms.
- Tuesday February 16th, 7.30 pm** - Committee meeting, ASME clubrooms.



Train Roster

ASME

DUTY ROSTER

	Date	Electric Driver	Electric Driver	Steam Driver	Train Controller	Station / Guard	Station / Guard
	7-Feb-21	A Bailey	M Granger	Voluntary	<u>G Anderson</u>	A Stratton*	R Stratton
	14-Feb-21	M Hollis	D Housley	Voluntary	<u>D Russell</u>	P Tomkies*	D Beecher
	21-Feb-21	J Lankow	M Moore	Voluntary	<u>G Wills</u>	D Wilson*	K Ryan
	28-Feb-21	R Reichardt	A Shirley	Voluntary	<u>P Dowdeswell</u>	R Crook*	M Vickers
11:00 am	7-Mar-21	I Ashley	G Beazley	Voluntary	<u>S Meikle</u>	M Luxton*	B Matchett
1:00 pm	7-Mar-21	M Granger	M Hollis	Voluntary	<u>T Lawrence</u>	K Ryan*	D Beecher
	14-Mar-21	D Housley	J Lankow	Voluntary	<u>T Robinson</u>	R Souter*	R Shearer
	21-Mar-21	M Moore	R Reichardt	Voluntary	<u>G Anderson</u>	A Stratton*	R Stratton
	28-Mar-21	A Shirley	I Ashley	Voluntary	<u>D Russell</u>	M Vickers*	A van Zon

Note: There is a double roster for the Panmure Basin Festival Day on the 7th March 11:00am to 2:00pm and 1:00pm to 4:00pm. (This gives an over-lap of 1 hour so members can have a lunch break)

Bold and Underlined Name = **Train Controller**, i.e. the person in overall control of all operations for the day

Bold with Asterisk* Name = **Stationmaster**, i.e. the person responsible for activities in the station area and for the day's takings.

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. It is the responsibility of the person who initiated the swap to do this.** Also advise Bob Aickin who is keeping track of the number of duties each of us perform during the year.

The details of the swap should be noted in the Run Book.

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.

Club Notices

Help Wanted

Greville has been busy converting A&G Price 5" gauge trolleys to run on our 7-1/4" gauge track and has now finished the second one. But there are still 2 more to do, and he would like some assistance with these.

The job is quite involved, but Greville has produced all the parts required in the form of a kit, along with a comprehensive set of instructions, to make the job as easy as possible. If any member can help with this work, please contact Greville.

Missing Magazines

Please do see if you can provide a copy – only then we can get the full volumes bound.

Model Engineer – Vol 216 No 4529, 4530; Vol 218 4562; Vol 222 4609; Vol 224 No 4636.

Model Engineer Workshop – No 240 April 2016

Live Steam – Vol 51 No 1, 2, 3 (2017)

The Australian Model Engineering magazine has had to cease publication.

A message from the publisher.

The growth of the digital world and in particular social media has finally taken its toll, and like many other magazines AME has now fallen victim.

Firstly, and most importantly, all of us involved with AME thank you most sincerely for the many years of support you have shown to your magazine. Over the last 33 years you have shared with us and your fellow model engineers your times of fun and sadness and thousands of interesting articles. It has been a great ride.

To quote Gerardus, one of the founders of AME, *“Mark Whittaker, Walter Shellshear and myself started the magazine with the idea of bringing the model engineer fraternity together, to share ideas and to let our readers know what was happening in the model engineering world: I think the objective of the magazine has been fulfilled. The magazine has delivered model projects that beginners can construct: Blowfly (thank you Barry), Bunyip (thank you Ian), Edwin (thank you Brian), ‘422’ (thank you team) plus many other projects for modellers to build including Phantom, Bonza, Hurricane and currently Wombat. There have been hints and tips to help in our modelling and we had advertisers advising us of materials which are available in Australia. Then we have the reliable authors who, issue after issue, open up the steam world to us such as Steam Chest (thank you Dave Harper), Club Round Up and the many other authors who share their ideas. AME has been a well-received magazine, but the reason for its creation is now being taken over by Social Media. As one example; a long time AME subscriber constructed a couple of NSWGR goods wagons and they look great. He said to me that he is putting a story and some photos of them onto Facebook!!!”*

Now that publication of the magazine has ceased, we will, over the next few months, be winding up the Company. We are doing our very best to minimize any inconvenience to you, and therefore you will need to **note the following arrangements:**

Subscription refunds: Beginning on January 4th we will be **automatically refunding** the unused portion of all your subscriptions. If you paid by card it will be refunded to that card, if you paid by cheque or money order we will send you a cheque. We ask you to bank those cheques promptly because the bank account will be closed at the end of February. **You don't need to do anything except advise us if your card details have changed** since you last paid your subscription.

Wombat – E & J Winter have been our exclusive stockist of all Wombat items since the project began. They will be operating a subscription list and continuing to provide this service as well as the ongoing articles and drawings, so Wombat builders will not miss out. Details at ejwinter.com.au

AME Retail - Once again, E & J Winter have stepped in and will continue to supply the following items:

422 Manual and castings

Blowfly Manual

Model Injector book

Golden Arrow.

Back Issues of AME (from January 29)

AMBSC Boiler Codes – E & J Winter, SMEX and Model Engineering Supplies already stock these.

AME Website - The AME website will continue to operate until January 29th so tell your friends who did not renew their subscriptions in time to receive this issue that they can still obtain it through the **Back Issues** page, along with any other Back Issues. After January 29 you will be able to purchase Back Issues from

E & J Winter. We have a small stock of **magazine binders** and once they are gone there will be no more.

All contact with AME from now on is to be via the administration office at ame@grapevine.com.au or phone **0407 925 784**.

Once again, thank you for all your support and we wish you many years of happy modelling.

David Proctor

Managing Director

On behalf of the Board of Directors.

Strengthening of the Pedestrian Bridge Main Span

Timothy Robinson worked on making up the 5 new pressed steel channels with brackets and having these galvsnised during the latter part of 2020. They were inserted into the bridge without the need to remove any decking on 20 December, Sunday running for that day having been cancelled for the purpose. Photos show the new beams on Tim's truck, team preparing to put them in place on 20/12/20 and the completed job (with services attached after a further few subsequent days work).



Repairs to Subway to Station

A small team led by Tony Lawrence then moved onto major repairs to the pedestrian subway bridge adjacent to the station. Over a number of days after Xmas, the team dismantled the old bridge, enabling substantial boxing to be installed so the abutment concrete strengthening could be poured in situ by a further working bee on 9th January. A replacement galvanised steel plate was added to these rebuilt abutments. The lower photo shows the panel in place.



Damage from felling of She-Oak tree by Auckland Council Contractor (Treescape) on 8 Jan 2021

In early January, the Auckland Council undertook the removal of a large SheOak tree above the long tunnel entrance. ASME had requested this approx 2 years ago after repeated branch falls, some across the track and in one instance during Sunday running. Unfortunately, their contractor Treescape didn't quite get right the felling of the significant main trunk, with the result it hit the trackwork, bending the steel and cracking the concrete base. A small team of ASME volunteers did a temporary repair to enable running to recommence once the track is reopened after the subway work is finished.



The Hydroflex project at the University of Birmingham

(Sounds like Model Engineering)

Beginning life as a student-led project into a narrow-gauge hydrogen-powered locomotive to contribute to UK decarbonisation goals, the HydroFLEX project has developed with a tight deadline of just nine months to convert an old Thameslink electric train into a hydrogen-powered one.

The working demo train made its public debut in June 2019 at Rail Live when more than 500 people journeyed on HydroFLEX, including the Chairman and Chief Executive of Network Rail, the Secretary of State for Transport and the Shadow Transport Secretary and international media.

With the working demonstrator train, the University secured £350,000 funding from Innovate UK and the Department for Transport's First of a Kind competition, for mainline testing, which took place in September 2020.

There are plans to start putting HydroFLEX into production in response to customer demand.

Alex Burrows, Director of the Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE), says: "The whole project team is absolutely thrilled to have won this award. This is fantastic recognition of the partnership we developed and the approach we took of establishing a diverse team from the University and Porterbrook. The HydroFLEX project has been a real career highlight for everyone involved and this award is hugely pleasing in recognising the efforts of everyone on the team."

Stuart Hillmansen, Reader in Railway Traction Systems and HydroFLEX lead at the University of Birmingham, says: "We are delighted that the pioneering research work on Hydrogen Fuel Cell Trains at BCRRE has been translated into a real world application which can deliver real benefits in terms of decarbonisation and air quality. We are honoured to win this award. It has been an amazing team effort, with all our partners and we are looking forward to the next stage where we roll out this hydrogen fuel cell technology to the wider rail industry and play our part in the industry's decarbonisation plan" Alongside this, Mary Grant, CEO of Porterbrook*, said: "We are delighted that our University of Birmingham partners have won the Guardian's Business Collaboration Award for our pioneering hydrogen train, HydroFLEX (November 2020). The work we have done together has been ground-breaking in terms of zero-emissions transport. At Porterbrook we take our responsibility for de-carbonising the railways very seriously and this award only bolsters our motivation to keep innovating."

**Porterbrook is a British rolling stock company established in April 1994 as part of the privatisation of British Rail.*