



Number 668

June
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The MICROMETER

AUCKLAND SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS INCORPORATED

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-Hidden in plain sight -

ASME's new leaf repository in the Glade turns ugly into elegant!

Editors Notes

June 2021

Welcome to another edition of your newsletter, keeping you up to date with all that is happening with your club.

There is no President's report this month due to technical difficulties, so the Editor stands in, and brings you winter greetings from Mike.

Mike has asked me to acknowledge Allan Stratton for his excellent talk on moulding in the jewellery industry at the May meeting. There is much more to model engineering than just models or engineering. We have often heard from clock and watchmakers and that's not a big leap to jewellery. Moulding is a classic craft well within the skillsets of only a few of our members. We enjoy our outside guests greatly, but its too easy to forget how much we can learn from each other. Who else has a current or perhaps nearly forgotten skill to share with us?

Many of us are old enough to remember the days when people were valued for their practical trade skills and the golden days when we could and did make nearly everything we needed. Sadly for a while we got talked out of that, many of the things we had worked so hard for got categorised as "sunset industries" even food production in rural New Zealand. The value of trade training was diminished, the education industry thought it had become an end itself and ran out of control. And so the trade qualified men who turned their day skills to model engineering grew fewer and older. So here we are – older, but still here—some of us are.

But its all changed. New Zealand is now desperately short of trades people with massive infrastructure projects appearing day by day. The future now looks much more like the past we feared we had lost. The "experts" of 30 years ago did get it terribly wrong—we don't need to tell them—they know now. Many very significant facilities like A&G Price of Thames and the Hillside Railway Workshops were only saved in the nick of time. Many more were brutally lost. But now in Auckland we have the massive CRL project to marvel at and a whole new generation of youngsters who can see where the real future lies. The resurgence of the rail industry is just one part of this—there is a massive new demand in the areas of Civil and Mechanical projects.

Model engineering now has a new source of recruits but there are challenges. Young people have less disposable time and income and more distractions. However the effective and probably continued collapse of the international air travel industry –which was never really sustainable—might bring more us home to the workshop.

Keep warm, keep the machines humming and the chips flying.

Kindest wishes

David Black

Editor, The Micrometer

President Mike is recommending that all members read the MEANZ update sent as a separate attachment. ASME is an active member of MEANZ, members should keep a lookout on the website too <http://www.pnmec.org.nz/meanz.php>, a good place to find other clubs when you are travelling. Just like us, our friends nationwide always welcome visitors.

JUNE CALENDAR

- Tuesday June 1st, 7.30 pm** - General Meeting
Tuesday June 8th 7.30 pm - Workshop Night, ASME clubrooms
Tuesday June 15th, 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
6-Jun-21	R Reichardt	I Ashley	Voluntary	<u>B Aickin</u>	R Crook*	D Beecher
13-Jun-21	P Woodford	M Plant	Voluntary	<u>P Dowdeswell</u>	R Shearer*	L Brown
20-Jun-21	A Bailey	G Beazley	Voluntary	<u>T Lawrence</u>	M Vickers*	R Copeland
27-Jun-21	M Granger	M Hollis	Voluntary	<u>S Meikle</u>	M Luxton*	B Matchett
4-Jul-21	D Housley	J Lankow	Voluntary	<u>T Robinson</u>	K Ryan*	D Beecher
11-Jul-21	M Moore	R Reichardt	Voluntary	<u>D Russell</u>	R Souter*	R Shearer
18-Jul-21	P Woodford	I Ashley	Voluntary	<u>G Wills</u>	A Stratton*	A van Zon
25-Jul-21	A Bailey	M Granger	Voluntary	<u>B Aickin</u>	D Wilson*	M Vickers

NB Auckland is still at Covid Level 1 - So need to abide by those rules.

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.

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

Beejax Patterns

The Beejax (an improved Ajax) was designed by ASME member the late Geth Creagh - originally owned by him but subsequently passed to the club.

They have been found in the ASME basement—contact Mike Banks!

Ben has contacted the club. He has a David Auld model traction steam engine that was given to him by his Grandfather in the late 1980s, it needs what I believe to be a few minor repairs and a new paint job. Ben is hoping that a club member could possibly put him on the right track to getting this done. He has tried a few model stores but have had no luck. Ben stays locally in the Panmure area. Any thoughts, please contact Mike. As with all such enquiries we would welcome Ben along to a meeting to ask his question in person.

President Mike had a call from Jeremy Booth regarding the loco his grandfather, Don, built as an ASME member some years ago when Jeremy was a child. He was keen to track down its whereabouts and to see it running. We understand it has been found and Mike has invited him to attend an ASME meeting.

News from the Saturday Team

Some photos taken by Grant last Saturday. They include a shot of the recently restored seat adjacent to the station, presumably left there by Auckland Council - very nice to have some help and action by them! Also some photos taken after a big mid leaf fall clean up focussed on by 5 members (Allan Stratton, Allan Bailey, Greville Wills, Bruce Matchett and Grant Anderson) at the working bee on Saturday - the grounds all looking spick & span at the end of the day. The photo on the front cover in the glade shows the new "leaf dump" being used to advantage! Allan Stratton also dealt with the wasp nest by the glade and Timothy Robinson was present too, working on other matters.



Telecoms and Information Technology

Spark have advised ASME that copper telephone connections are no longer supported in our area. The clubrooms are connected to an old wire pair dating back to Post Office days. Chorus have been very helpful and agreed to provide an underground fibre connection at no charge. Arrangements are in hand to connect the clubrooms to the internet with a voice over internet telephone line. This means that the clubrooms will have wifi but may involve updating our alarm to work over the internet. This project is being managed by David Black, Timothy Robinson, Greville Wills and Bruce Lawson. There was a delay in gaining Council approval to dig the trench—and a small (ish) fee to go with it! All back on track now though we expect the installation in the second week of June. The clubhouse phone may be a bit erratic for a few days but will return with the same number. There will be a remotely configurable voicemail facility if we want to use it. There will also be WiFi in the clubroom.

The Micrometer

We are short of copy and photographs for the Micrometer, please consider writing and submitting any photographs to editor@asme.org.nz.

Zoom Committee Meetings

Following a successful trial-by necessity during the lockdown the committee has now held 2 meetings using Zoom. This is a useful facility which will be used in the future although will not altogether replace face-to face meetings. The last meeting was F2F (face to face).

Manu Ariku Railway (MAR) is on the Manu Ariki Maori Reservation (marae), situated about 10kms north of Taumarunui on the old Ongarue back road. (a MEANZ member railway) is an approximately 3.5kms railway designed to replicate the Raurimu Spiral and is a great 7.25g miniature railway. Built at the request of the marae elder Mr Phillips in the 1990s, it has been largely inactive since his death (about 2012) as a result of arguments between the family and other beneficiaries (defined as "The beneficiaries of Manu Ariki are "all people of New Zealand, in particular the Māori people" and those people who have an affiliation with MANU ARIKI MARAE."). Naturally anyone with an interest in the railway is a beneficiary.

While the MAR is only a small part of the marae's activities, the MAR Club (of which Dave Giles is Chairman) is extremely keen to see the current inactive situation remedied and the Maori Court has finally decided that this can be best achieved by a change of Trustees (with the intention of those appointed getting the considerable assets up and working again for the benefit of all Beneficiaries).

We await further news.

A short (6min) video of MAR features can be seen on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9O6BdG9tl8>

Jocelyn and Graeme Murray report from their new home...

Shift from 41 Beechdale to Apt 27 Kerikeri Retirement Village, 127 Kerikeri Road.
My phone number is 0210426406 (as we are not having a landline }

Hello to friends

It is now only two days till the packers come to pack ready for the shift North. And the truck will be here between 7-8am Thursday to load out. They will then take everything north, and I have OK'd it with Village to put it straight into the Apt. Mary has offered to be it on site to make sure they put into right rooms. We will either travel up on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning and will stay with Alastair and Mary for a few days so we can get everything set up and unpacked before we move in. Fingers crossed that it all goes as we have planned. The new fridge-freezer and washer and dryer will also be in by then. As you can guess the last 15 days seem to have gone really fast. I am getting to the stage of feeling my brain has trouble remembering my plan for the day! Unfortunately the longer it goes on Graeme has times when he is upset by the whole moving business especially now that Alastair is in the process of shifting Machinery and deciding what tools and materials to have shifted. He was here over the weekend and had a truck with a Hiab to load and unload the biggest of the Plant- Lathes and Mills etc. He is coming down today to take another load, but even so there will a lot of materials that will end up being put in the metal skip. Luckily one of the members from Model Engineers is just here and it sounds as if they will be willing to take some of the materials which will be easier for Graeme to watch. He has kept wanting to load our car too and I have to keep reminding him that he will have easy access to tools and materials with Alastair. His home is only 10 minutes away from the Village. As for me I am in two minds but I have to be realistic now with Graeme's memory becoming much worse. I chose this village partly because they have a full medical and dementia unit on site, so have the trained staff to help patient and family. Also a Village resident will be put on a priority list for medical and dementia care, so if needs be he will only be a short walk across the village.

I guess now I had better finish sorting up the paper work on my desk so that I can pack as much as I can today.

I will let you know how we settle in 'retirement' I suppose I can call it that now we both over 80!! I hope too that any who head up north for holidays that you will be in touch and drop in for a cup of tea and a chat.

Regards from Jocelyn and Graeme Murray

May Bits and Pieces, with Dave Russell

The Bits and Pieces this month were conducted by Murray Lane, Murray is a life member of ASME and has produced an excellent book covering the history of the club from 1926 thru to 2012.

Since Murray was presenting, he covered his own items first. Murray has a love of machine tools and one of his favourites is the Deckel FP1, Universal Precision Milling Machine, Murray has made a new spindle and drawbar for this machine and also some collet chuck Arbor's as shown.

Murray's second item is his labour of love and long running project since the early 90s thru to the present day. The 18-cylinder "Gnome Monosoupape" aero engine based on the highly successful 9-cylinder engine used extensively in WW1, it is believed that only one prototype of this type was built, Murray has reworked and remade many parts during the development of the model. The first photo shows the current crank, rods, and bearings assembly the second shows various developments of the cylinders, heads and rockers.

Next item on the table was my own offering for this month, being the wheel sets from the 5-inch gauge 4-4-0 Maid Of Kent "Dover" built by Peter Swager who unfortunately is no longer with us. The rear set had severe wear on the axle box bearings so have been re-bushed using bronze bushes machined to size. The Axle also had a 1/64" reduction to clean it up.

Murray Grainger picked up this souvenir piece when visiting the Boulder Dam in the USA. It is a section of the original transmission cable that ran from the dam to Los Angeles, the cable has been replaced and now uses aluminium instead of the original copper.

This collection of frame stretchers including the front buffer beam and the complex smokebox saddle and exhaust casting assembly are for the project class 3 locomotive in 5 inch gauge that Mike Jack is designing and producing as an ongoing kit of parts for a number of people building the loco to Mike's design. The stretchers start life as a laser cut steel sheet produced from Mike's CAD file. All the parts fit together like a 3D jigsaw before easy flowing together. The accuracy is such that a small machining margin is left on the parts to allow for final machining in a jig to ensure exact dimensions and angle accuracy.

Mike Banks is currently building this horizontal test boiler. The boiler will be used when testing other boilers and incorporates bronze stays that some questioned. Mike pointed out that they were as per the boiler code.

In OO gauge this turntable is smaller than what we are used to seeing, Bob Aiken is building it for a layout and on the underside it has a worm and wheel arrangement and a long rod so that the turntable can be turned by hand from the side of the layout.

Dave Housley has taken over construction of this 0-4-0 Beejax model and is converting it to the 0-6-0 version as revised by the late Geth Creagh. These are a good strong beginners loco and many of the various variants have been built. The original concept was designed by Geth

