

# The MICROMETER

AUCKLAND SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS INCORPORATED

PO Box 14570, Panmure, Auckland 1072, NEW ZEALAND

Club House: Peterson Reserve, off Peterson Road, Mt Wellington, Auckland 1060

Number 687

March 2023

Telephone: 09 570 5196 Club Web Site: [www.asme.org.nz](http://www.asme.org.nz)

<b>President</b>	Philip Dowdeswell	021 296 5196
	e-mail address	president@asme.org.nz
<b>Secretary</b>	Dave Housley	09 576 3923
	e-mail address	info@asme.org.nz
<b>Editor</b>	David Black	021 482 345
	e-mail address	editor@asme.org.nz

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**ASME RUNS AT THE PANMURE BASIN FESTIVAL**

## ***President's Report February 2023***

Good day everyone .ASME has survived two direct cyclones this year and I am glad to report that we have not suffered any damage from it aside from a few branches that had to be cleared. Despite both cyclones, the remaining Sunday runnings have gone extremely well and I am once again thankful for everyone who has turned up on time ready for the days running.

The Panmure Basin Day Festival was an amazing success and I would like to everyone who came and helped out. We had four trains running on a continuous cycle and I believe we have showcased ourselves extremely well to the community.

The next General Meeting is on the 7th of March. It would be most ideal for as many people as possible to attend to this meeting as we have two important things to cover. First, we will be finalizing our auction which has already had a fantastic selloff from the last meeting. Secondly, we will be looking to discuss the implementation of the tools, workbenches and lathes within the workshop downstairs and I felt it prudent that due to the significant cost of the investment, this be put to a vote by the members at large. Two votes will be put to the meeting:

The installation of power lines into the workshop space that we have designated for our tooling machines and the approval of the quote for the contractor to install it.

As an alternative to the above only if the first vote fails, we will source one of the committee members to handle the installation themselves. This comes at a reduced cost, but will take significantly longer to complete which may further delay people's abilities to use the equipment we have already purchased. Please remember that voting will only be available to attending members at this general meeting.

We now have a second version of the points system being worked on in the workshop. I am very impressed with the parts that have been made for this model in such a short amount of time and I look forward to seeing how it is improved before we move to implementation – getting these points done is so much closer!

Finally, Mike Moore has been appointed as our new MEANZ representative while Grant Anderson has retired from the position. I'd like to thank Grant for all the work he has done, working with MEANZ to ensure that we continuously maintain our compliance, while still being an enjoyable place for people to work at. I am confident that Mike will be able to effectively represent us going forward.

Best Wishes

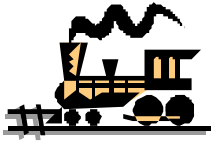
Philip Dowdeswell

Members should keep a lookout on the website too, [www.meanz.org.nz](http://www.meanz.org.nz). It is a good place to find other clubs.

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### **MARCH CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, March 7th 7.30 pm** - General Meeting and Auction, (Clubhouse)  
**Tuesday, March 14th 7.30 pm** - Workshop Night, (Clubhouse)  
**Tuesday, March 21st 7.30 pm** -Committee Meeting,



# Train Roster

Date	Electric Driver	Electric Driver	Steam Driver	Train Controller	Station / Guard	Station / Guard
5-Mar-23	M Moore	R Reichardt	Voluntary	<u>P Dowdeswell</u>	R Crook*	D Beecher
12-Mar-23	I Ashley	B Matchett	Voluntary	<u>D Black</u>	M Luxton*	H Dando
19-Mar-23	M Plant	C Whitisie	Voluntary	<u>T Lawrence</u>	K Ryan*	R Shearer
26-Mar-23	A Bailey	D Housley	Voluntary	<u>S Meikle</u>	R Souter*	A van Zon
2-Apr-23	J Lankow	M Moore	Voluntary	<u>T Robinson</u>	M Vickers*	D Wilson
9-Apr-23	R Reichardt	I Ashley	Voluntary	<u>D Russell</u>	R Shearer*	B Matchett
16-Apr-23	A Bailey	D Housley	Voluntary	<u>G Wills</u>	R Crook*	K Ryan
23-Apr-23	J Lankow	M Moore	Voluntary	<u>B Aickin</u>	M Luxton*	A van Zon
30-Apr-23	M Vickers	C Whitisie	Voluntary	<u>D Black</u>	R Souter*	D Wilson

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

## **KARAKA VINTAGE DAY DEINITELY CANCELLED**

Paul Rhodes from the Fortland Karaka Vintage Day 2023 Organising Committee sends this message; I am writing to advise you that for the second time the Karaka Vintage Day 2023 scheduled to be held in March 2023 had to be cancelled.

Unfortunately, the Auckland Transport Events team is not able to process and issue an event permit by 19 March. They claim they are also going through some change and with the additional relief work from last week's flooding our Parks team have had to prioritise impacted areas. They need at least 8 weeks for all necessary checks to be done.

Every effort has been made by the organising committee and the traffic management provider to try and get Auckland Transport Events team to see if they could fast track the approval process, unfortunately they did not want to deviate from their 8 week time frame.

It is with regret that we had to cancel the event and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support to date. Your contact details have been added to our database so that in the future you will be given the first opportunity to participate.

## **Eulogy by Grant Anderson at Alan Pritchard's Memorial Service, held 15 December 2022.**

Alan Pritchard was a very long term and a valued member of the ASME club having joined way back in May 1974. You will appreciate that is just short of 50 years ago. He was extremely active throughout most of these years; only in the last 5 years did his involvement tail off, i.e. only from about when he became 90 plus years of age. I know the loss of his home workshop when the home in Pakuranga Rd was taken by Auckland Transport about 10 years ago for the Eastern Busway, was a big blow to him. Make no mistake, ASME was a big part of Alan's life and very important to him.

Throughout almost all of his time at ASME, Alan was a regular attendee at monthly general meetings as well as Sunday running where his steam engines were in use to give families & children the pleasure of a miniature train ride. Even after he sold off his these creations, he used to come along and help out as a guard on the trains – frequently making a cuppa for the other members at afternoon tea time. He served on the ASME Committee for 22 continuous years from 1987 to 2008. After retiring from paid employment, he became a regular volunteer in the group that met every week on a Tuesday (hence they were called the Tuesday Club) doing all sort of regular maintenance around the Clubhouse, Railway and grounds at Peterson Reserve. Alan was one of those members who didn't have to be asked to do something – if he saw a job needing to be done, he would get straight on with the work necessary to attend to the matter. Along with his wife Edna, he used to participate in any social function at the Club – on occasions he would provide some light entertainment in the form of a story, joke or even recite "Albert the Lion" from memory!

He enjoyed making many models of all sorts, but most of the time consuming ones were of miniature railway steam engines. These started in 1975 with a tiny LBSC 3 and 1/2" g Tich in 1975, then a Simplex 5" g locomotive, followed by grand 5" g model of an LNER A3 locomotive naturally named Flying Scotsman (even though Alan wasn't Scot, he sure enjoyed driving that engine at speed – I'm sure he would hold the record on our track). Later he acquired a Firefly locomotive from another member and made many attempts to get that loco to perform properly and reliably. I can recall him at the track on Sundays, running for a period until a problem would develop – he would take the loco home, work on it during that following week and return the following Sunday to try to again. Alan was a very cheerful and tenacious sort – he wasn't about to let this sort of thing get the better of him.

Fortunately we have several videos of Alan driving at the track (taken by his family) which have been digitised and shown at our meetings and will help keep this cheerful, jovial character firmly in the minds of members in the future.

As a mark of respect for his commitment to ASME, Alan was awarded Life Membership in 1998.

Our sincere condolences to the family on Alan's passing – he did extremely well and lived a full life by anyone's measure including ASME's.

### **Other notes from the Service**

Alan was born in Liverpool in 1926 to Scottish parents. He started a fitter apprenticeship but in 1944 was conscripted into the British Army and saw service in the last years of the war in Malta and Egypt. After demobbing, he completed his apprenticeship. He moved to NZ in 1952 and settled in Wellington where he met and married Edna. Chasing better jobs he moved frequently (to Levin, Waiouru, Mangakino, Rotorua) before settling in Auckland about 1973 to take up a night shift supervisor's job at Greenlane Hospital, where he stayed 20 years. David was born 1954, then Russell, Peter & Ken followed.

### **ASME Attendees:**

David Housley (and Wendy), John Lankow (and Francis), Grant Anderson (and Jan), Mike Banks, Mike Jack, Gary Farquhar, Reg Reichardt, Dave Russell, Murray Lane.

## **The Pamure Festival**

Despite the weather of previous weekends the Festival proceeded with excellent weather which brought out the crowds. The railway started out at ten o'clock with just one train by ten past ten two trains were required. In the meanwhile Bruce Cooper was steaming his "Kathleen" in readiness to go out on the track. Unfortunately he experienced clack valve trouble which put Kathleen out of action but was on display in the steaming bay. The decision had been made prior to put Grant's Phantom to a rake of trolleys and circulate saving the batteries of the EC. As the queue grew, the station crew worked efficiently to move the customers through to the ride. There wasn't a time when the queue was not spilling out onto the walk way behind the station. It was noticeable that no one complained with having to wait and every one enjoyed themselves. Bruce Cooper added to the novelty by running the club Ajax which despite having teething troubles throughout the day performed admirably. We had two steamers and one electric the whole of the afternoon and with a good turnout of members we managed a record take. Grant can rest easier knowing now Allan Bailey can co-drive to give him a break Allan did a splendid job on the phantom. All in all people have got to know we exist now and have promised to "see you again"

**Dave Housley**



All pictures of the **Panmure Basin Festival**, including the cover, taken and provided by **Dave Housley**

