

# 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 696

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

December 2023

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Mike Banks 020 4001 8366 and Mike Orange 021 137 3464

REGISTERED NEW ZEALAND PUBLICATION



A new donation to the club, this old traction engine still runs as smoothly as the day it was made.

## President's Report December 2023

Hello everyone

A year on and we have managed to come out the better for it! I am proud to announce that the loop line to the station from the engine shed has been installed by Mike Banks and his team, and this should make getting steam locomotives on and off the track significantly easier.

The next step in the plan will be to install points ahead of the shed so that operators are able to come off the track onto the loop line. This should make things easier for steamers that need to relax for an extra minute or two while doing regular maintenance on their locomotive.

This does however, unfortunately come with some unfortunate news. Dave Russell, a well known member of our club passed away on the 30th November unexpectedly. His obituary is posted further in this newsletter. Dave made some significant contributions to the club during his time here and he will be missed by everyone. Among his recent contributions was the writeups to the Micrometer Bits and Pieces section.

Finally, our AGM will be held on the 5th December. This is our most important meeting of the year where nominations for the committee will take place. David Black has chosen to retire as editor for the Micrometer after his many years of service. Although I am happy to take over in the meantime, I believe this would be a service better handled by another who is willing to take on the opportunity.

Finally, membership continues to be a problem for us—although we have gained several members this year, we have also lost many due to retirements and passing. I will be presenting some options to the club at the AGM regarding this.

Thanks

Philip Dowdeswell

Remember to watch the ASME Website. [www.asme.org.nz](http://www.asme.org.nz)

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

When you are travelling, just like us, our friends nationwide always welcome visitors.

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### **THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR**

<b>Tuesday, December 5th</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	- General Meeting, (Clubhouse)
<b>Tuesday, November 12th</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	- Workshop Night, (Clubhouse)
<b>Tuesday, November 19th</b>	<b>7.30 pm</b>	-Committee Meeting, (Clubhouse)



# Train Roster

## ASME

## DUTY ROSTER

Date	Electric Driver	Electric Driver	Steam Driver	Train Controller	Station / Guard	Station / Guard
3-Dec-23	M Vickers	B Matchett	Voluntary	<u>P Dowdeswell</u>	R Souter*	A Tolstykh
10-Dec-23	A Bailey	C Whitisie	Voluntary	<u>T Lawrence</u>	A van Zon*	S Watson
17-Dec-23	I Ashley	D Housley	Voluntary	<u>S Meikle</u>	R Shearer*	C Billiau
24-Dec-23	-----	Xmas / New Year Break - No Roster in Operation -----				
31-Dec-23	-----	Xmas / New Year Break - No Roster in Operation -----				
7-Jan-24	J Lankow	B Matchett	Voluntary	<u>G Wills</u>	R Crook*	H Dando
14-Jan-24	M Moore	R Shearer	Voluntary	<u>D Housley</u>	M Luxton*	B Matchett
21-Jan-24	R Reichardt	M Plant	Voluntary	<u>B Aickin</u>	K Ryan*	S Watson
28-Jan-24	I Ashley	M Vickers	Voluntary	<u>P Dowdeswell</u>	R Souter*	C Billiau
4-Feb-24	J Lankow	C Whitisie	Voluntary	<u>T Lawrence</u>	M Vickers*	H Dando
11-Feb-24	M Moore	R Reichardt	Voluntary	<u>S Meikle</u>	R Crook*	B Leung
18-Feb-24	I Ashley	B Matchett	Voluntary	<u>G Wills</u>	M Luxton*	C Whitisie
25-Feb-24	R Shearer	A Van Zon	Voluntary	<u>B Aickin</u>	R Souter*	B Matchett

### 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

## **Notice of ASME AGM**

The next ASME AGM is on the 5th December. If there are any nominations for committee members, please let us know!

## **Model Engineering Journals**

ASME has an extensive range of Model Engineering Journals (ME and MEW) in the library, managed by Mark Luxton. The collection goes back to the first editions. However as new copies arrive binding takes a while, so the latest may not available for a while.

If you would like to read the latest edition they are free to borrow electronically from Auckland Public Libraries. The easiest way to borrow them is using the LIBBY app. If you are a member of the Auckland Library System (anywhere in the SuperCity), this gives free access to an ME and MEW e-sub. If you encounter difficulties take your device (an iPad is ideal) into any Auckland Library Branch.

Please let the editor know if you have been using this service successfully, or have encountered any difficulties.

## **Beejax Castings**

One of our new members – Stephen Watson needs a new project.

He is just finishing a Stationary Steam engine.

He maybe interested building a loco.

Does anyone have any of the Geth Creagh castings for the Bjax loco?

Please contact Greville or the secretary (Dave)

**Obituary**  
**David "Dave" George Russell**  
**25/03/1959—29/11/2023**



It is with great sadness that Helen (Dave's Partner) informed us of Dave's Passing Yesterday afternoon. He was a very valuable member of the club – contributing in many ways.

He joined the club in November 1985.

Went on the Roster for driving the Club Loco – April 1999.

Swapped to the Steam Roster end of May 2006.

He was Editor of the Micrometer from Dec 2007 through July 2010.

He was also Secretary March 2010 through Nov 2012

(concurrent with Ed above Mar to July)

Helped at many Working Bees (Install of Girder Bridge Nov 2006 & many more projects)

He also wrote up the "Bits & Pieces" articles for the Micrometer for many years.

This is a very brief comment on some of the contributions he made to the club.

He will be very much missed by us all

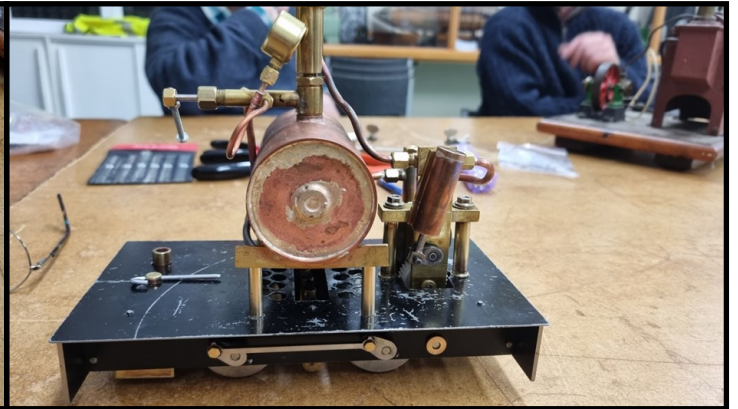
David's funeral will be at 12:30pm, Monday 4th December at Morrisons 220 Universal Drive in Henderson.

*Greville Wills*

## Workshop Night with Dave Housley



An array of jewelers tools purchase while his wife wasn't looking brought in by Murry Hollis he reckons that they will prove invaluable for those intricate bits in model making. The red handled pliers are particularly interesting with jaws shaped for making pendant lops and chain work, having male and female integral jaws



Also from Murry his garden gauge loco which has been steamed with a degree of difficulty which he will address but runs freely on air.



An old timer static engine and boiler by Basset lowke of circa 1912 ith a No1 Tangye mill engine with boiler integral feed pump. Fire by meths in a tray from under the smoke stack. This was bought in a sale by Roger Shearer.



Cameron Billieau showed components for an oscillating engine he is making from scratch and by scratch also means no drawings just go ahead and make it. All parts have been made on the lathe as he has no mill as yet. Next month we shall be in the basement workshop and going over the parts of the lathe and their purposes and techniques applied to the lathe also discussion on tooling.

## The loop track is now established



John Lankow gets to tests the new loop line in readiness for the weekend run . Thanks to Mike Banks and a few unsung heroes who put in a lot of time and effort of early and long hours!

## For Sale—Make an offer



2m long 7 & ¼ Inch Gauge, ground level Trolley  
Has a hand operated brake on the front bogie



Smaller 7 & ¼ Inch Gauge, ground level Trolley – 1.14m long  
Has hand operated brake working on both bogies

Contact: Greville Wills – (09) 411 5092 or email [gandj@actrix.co.nz](mailto:gandj@actrix.co.nz)

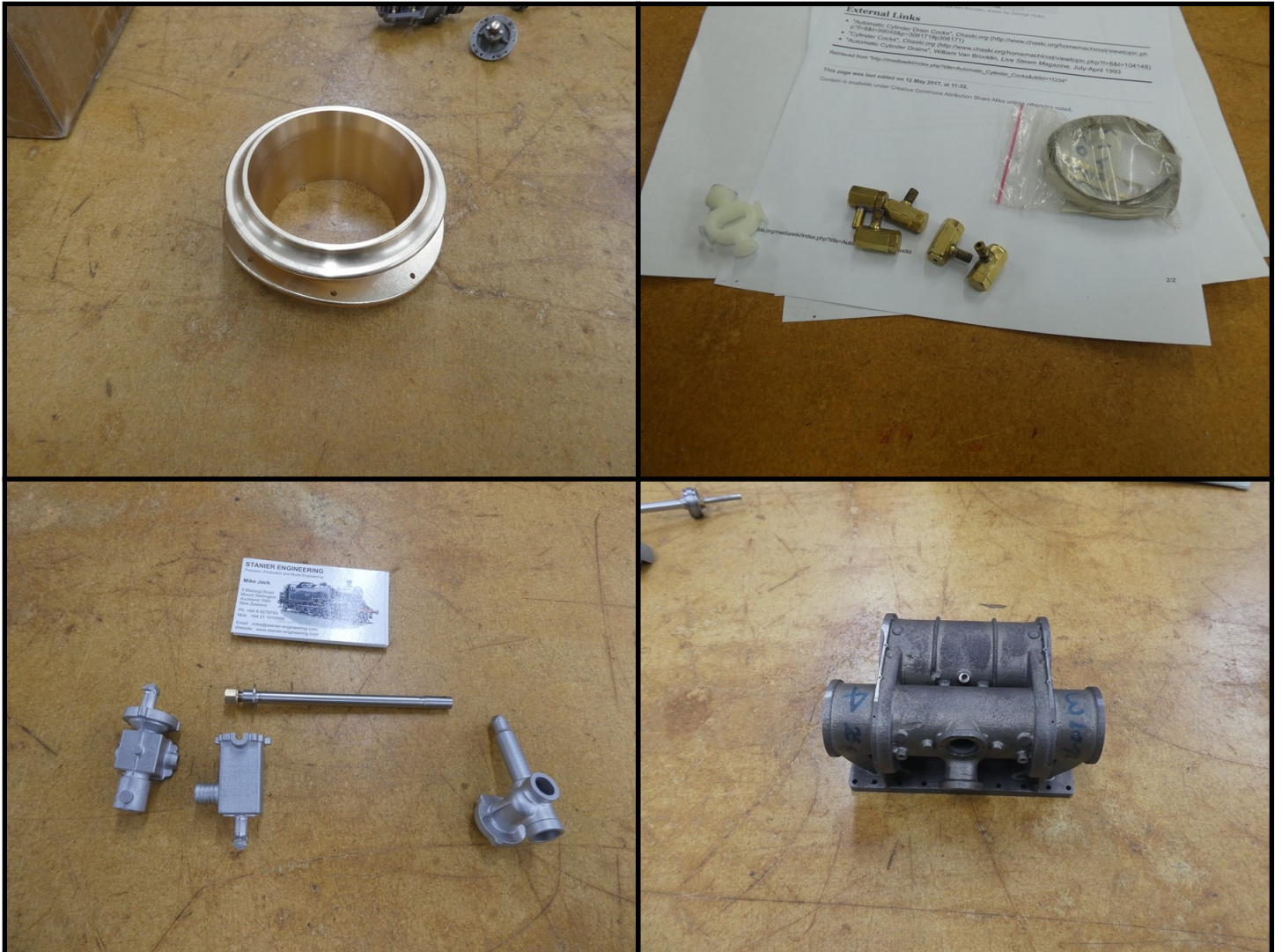


## ASME Bits and Pieces



Bosco has recently acquired some garden gauge locomotives from an estate sale that run on spirits. Despite some initial issues with testing one, he is keen to get them all restored to a working state. Although the exterior condition is in disrepair, the internals look quite good and with a bit of work, they should all be workable again!

# ASME Bits and Pieces

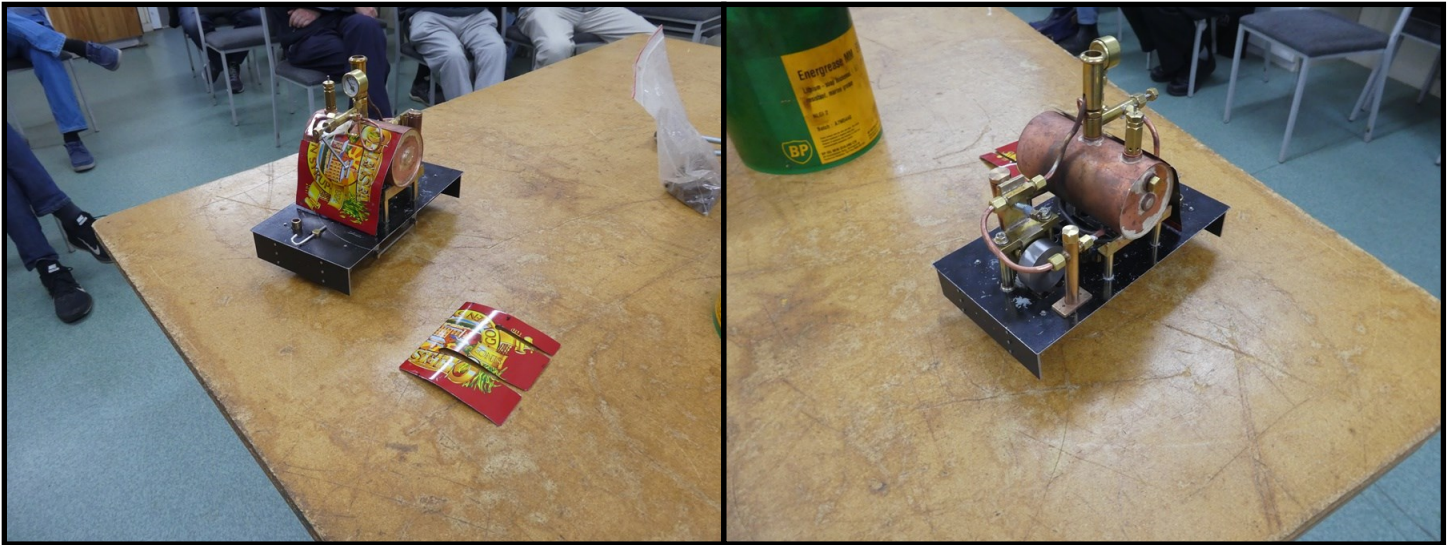


Mike Jack has brought in a funnel for a 7 ¼ Bullied Pacific Merchant Navy Locomotive that he has purchased from a person in the UK who made some modifications to their version, downscaled from the full version.

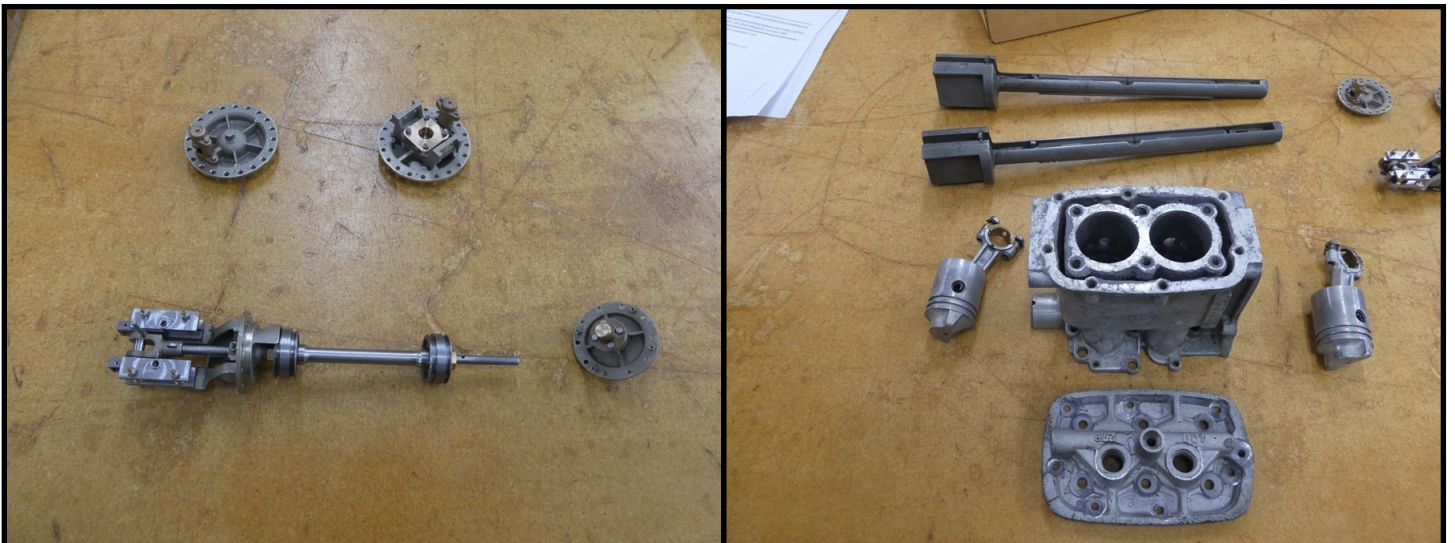
He has also continued to make modifications to the cylinders for his Black 5 locomotive and has tested them under some extensive controlled temperature changes.

Mike has also built a pressure valve that is designed to send the steam out of the side as opposed to the top.

## ASME Bits and Pieces



Murray has brought in a G gauge Jig Locomotive which is running excellently under compressed air but has some issues with steam, so it needs some adjustment!



Ian has brought in a Johnson 1939 2-horse engine housing for a Ranger dinghy. A unique item where the conrods had broken and new welds needed to be made. It is rated for 3000psi but he doesn't believe that it would even come close to that level safely. It takes about 24 hours to cure properly after being repaired and he has made some head gasgits out of stainless steel but had some difficulties as they don't "punch" properly when made. But after some work on the drill press he has managed to make it work.

## ASME Bits and Pieces



Greville has been visiting a physio for a few weeks and they gave him a few exercises to do with a dumbbell. As he didn't have one available, he made one!

## ASME Bits and Pieces



Bob Aicken has continued to work on the chassis and bogies of his Heisler locomotive, and although he likens his work to a country blacksmith in comparison to other engineers, it is still an excellent start! Bob is considering alternative methods of powering it instead of steam. He is considering using a petrol engine or batteries. It is all constant work in progress, as all model engineering is!