

Number 608

December
2015

The MICROMETER

AUCKLAND SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS INCORPORATED

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REGISTERED NEW ZEALAND PUBLICATION

Portable Engine

Sited in front of the Golden Bay Machinery and Settlers' Museum near Collingwood, this engine is in working condition, but now draws its steam from a central boiler within the museum building.





Train Roster

| Date | Electric Driver | Electric Driver | Steam Driver | Train Controller | Station / Guard | Station / Guard | Station / Guard | Station / Guard |
|-----------|--|-----------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 6-Dec-15 | M Plant | I Ashley | Voluntary | <u>T Lawrence</u> | M Richardson | K Ryan* | A Shirley | R Street |
| 13-Dec-15 | A Bailey | G Beazley | Voluntary | D Black | R Stratton* | A Stratton | G Taylor | D Addis |
| 20-Dec-15 | D Booth | B Cotton | Voluntary | S Meikle | P Tomkies | R Copeland | R Crook* | J Burnett |
| 27-Dec-15 | ----- Xmas / New Year Break - No Roster in Operation - Voluntary if you wish ----- | | | | | | | |
| 3-Jan-16 | ----- Xmas / New Year Break - No Roster in Operation - Voluntary if you wish ----- | | | | | | | |
| 10-Jan-16 | P Dowdeswell | M Granger | Voluntary | <u>T Robinson</u> | G Healy | P Jones | M Luxton* | H Martin |
| 17-Jan-16 | M Hollis | D Housley | Voluntary | <u>G Anderson</u> | C Mitchell | G Murray* | A Pritchard | |
| 24-Jan-16 | J Lankow | D Moffat | Voluntary | <u>D Russell</u> | M Richardson | K Ryan* | A Shirley | R Street |
| 31-Jan-16 | M Moore | P Moy | Voluntary | G Wills | R Stratton* | A Stratton | G Taylor | |
| 7-Feb-16 | R Reichardt | P Woodford | Voluntary | <u>T Lawrence</u> | P Tomkies | R Copeland | R Crook* | D Addis |
| 14-Feb-16 | B Aickin | I Ashley | Voluntary | D Black | J Davies | G Healy | P Jones* | J Burnett |
| 21-Feb-16 | A Bailey | G Beazley | Voluntary | S Meikle | M Luxton* | C Mitchell | H Martin | |
| 28-Feb-16 | D Booth | B Cotton | Voluntary | <u>T Robinson</u> | G Murray* | A Pritchard | M Richardson | |

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 Asterisk* 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.

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.

DECEMBER CALENDAR

Tuesday December 1st, 7.30pm - Annual General Meeting , ASME clubrooms.

Saturday December 12th, 6pm - Annual dinner and prize-giving at the clubrooms. Please note: if you wish to attend the dinner, please contact Greville, either at the AGM or by email asap. The caterers need to know the numbers attending by Dec 2nd. Your prompt payment (\$20 per head) is also requested. Direct payment can be made to ASME's account 02 0223 0078104 00. Put something like "Xmasdinner" and your name in the reference fields.

Tuesday December 15th, 7.30pm - Committee Meeting.

President's Report

Our stand at the Big Boys Toys event at Green Lane could hardly have been more successful. We had an excellent showing, both of exhibits and more than enough members to man the stand on all three days. There were several "live" exhibits particularly Mike Banks running his locomotive chassis on compressed air which created a lot of interest. The event was notable for having been particularly well organised and run and so our gratitude goes to Jude and the team from the Shed magazine for making this possible for us. We were fortunate in being given a position immediately inside the main entrance door and more than one of the other exhibitors commented that our stand attracted people in and created the beginning of a flow around the other excellent stands. Many of these exhibitors were showing products of undoubted interest to model engineers and several of them have agreed to visit our club meetings next year.

Coming up in December we have two important events for ASME. Our annual Christmas dinner returns to be held at the club rooms starting at 6 p.m. on Saturday the 12th. This has been a popular and successful event, combined with our prize-giving, for many years, but had to be sacrificed last year because of the load on our workforce at a critical step in the track and trolley project. Now the tradition returns, we will catch up with the prize-giving and I anticipate a great evening. Wives and partners are of course particularly welcome at this event: we have a professional caterer to help all of the club members step back from work and relax. We do however need a fairly accurate idea of numbers well ahead so please try to make your bookings at the AGM. The price reflects a subsidy by the club which has been traditional for many years.

In the previous week, on Tuesday, December 1 we have our AGM.. Members will hear that the club is in a sound and stable position but that our main challenges relate to encouraging enough people to reliably commit to and attend Sunday running. There are, of course, some inherent difficulties with trying to enforce rules relating to activities that are in reality our hobbies in discretionary leisure time. Nevertheless, the problem can become very pressing when a few members are confronted with a large crowd and not enough staff to run the railway properly. It could be argued that this is telling us that our members don't want to spend their Sundays at Waipuna and so perhaps we should cut down the number of running days, which is certainly one of the options inevitably on the table. In my view that should be a last resort as the club has run every Sunday for many years and much of our community and council support may depend on the assurance that this is to remain. The committee have been discussing these problems at every meeting this year and have scoped various alternatives, almost all of which have at one time or another been tried before. It is notable that track receipts provide the majority of club funding, exceeding subscriptions many-fold. The committee have reconsidered the idea of graduated membership fees, as used by other clubs, and as a first step towards this have recommended a substantial rise in the basic membership fee with remissions for participation in revenue-earning activities. This will be put to the December meeting with the proviso that it does not become effective for a while so further options can be refined. This will be in the form of a proposal to increase the membership fees and subject to a vote at the AGM. Discussion at this point will be welcome. Please don't think that this approach is something that the committee wants to "push through". It is a matter for the whole membership to consider but it is important to understand that there seems to be no "do-nothing-option".

I take this opportunity to send Season's Greetings to all readers of the Micrometer, which returns in February next year.

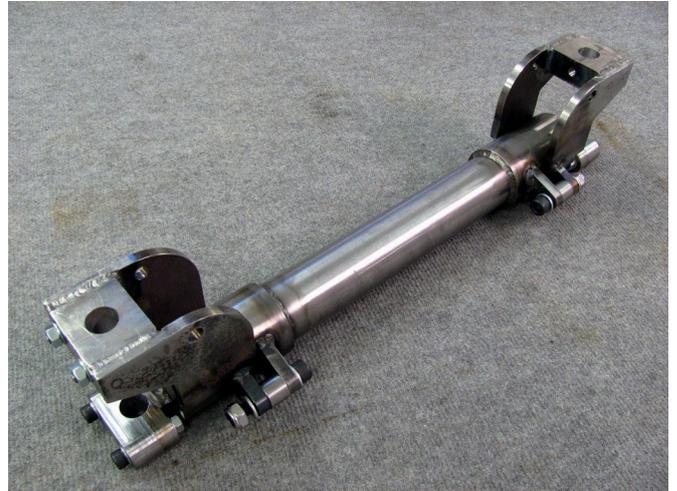
David Black
President

Bits and Pieces November 3rd 2015

Conducted by Mike Jack, with photos and report by Dave Russell.

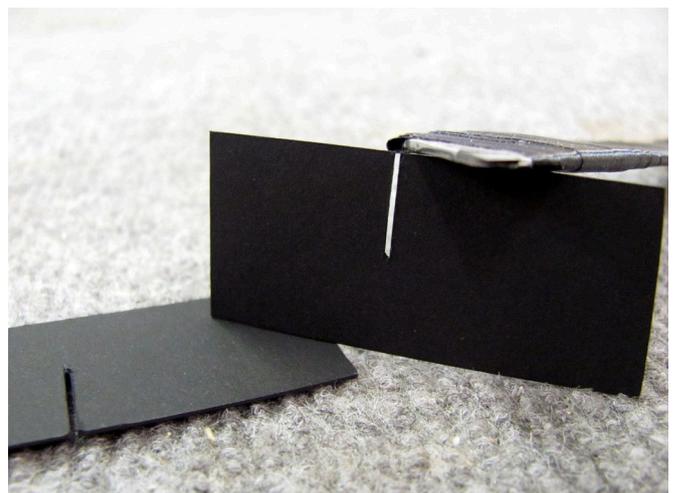
It was good to see Mike Jack at the meeting as he has just arrived back from a trip to the UK.

The first item that Mike discussed was the front axle for Greg Burrows's Foden Steam Truck. The front suspension consists of a transverse leaf spring that sits on top of the axle. Greg had the king pin holes bored ready for the stub axles and pins. We look forward to seeing more parts for the truck as it progresses.



Greg had also brought along a 3 metre long 7mm diameter endoscope camera with built in light, it comes with a 90 degree mirror. The unit was designed to plug into an Android phone but Greg's was too old to run the app. Others are available that plug into a standard USB. Coming from China they cost little and ship free. This is an ideal tool for inspecting inside boilers and it is waterproof also.

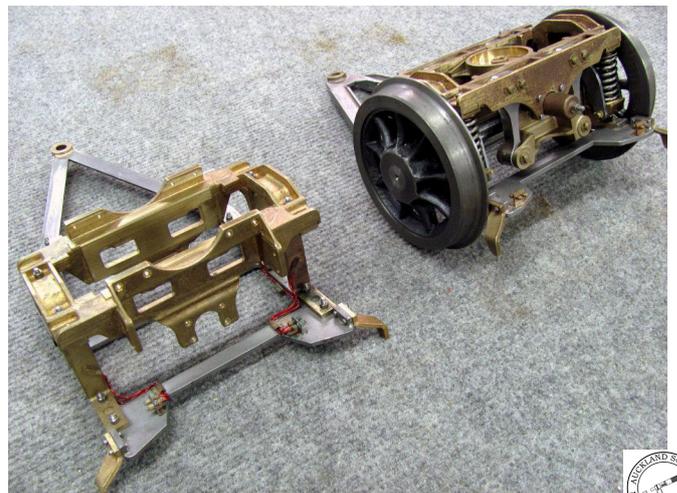
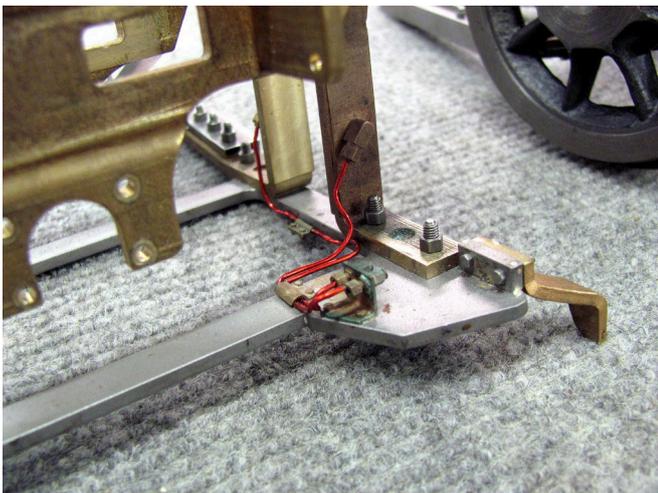
I brought in some cardboard baffles that I am working on to make a light proof grid for an Arduino project. The problem was to cut some slots just under 1.0mm wide so that they could slot together without pushing the card out of shape. This was solved by taping together two 0.8mm snap off craft knife blades and using them to cut the slot (works well).





Greville Wills has been making additions to his 7-1/4" gauge trolley in the way of some brackets that will hold an Ice Cream container full of coal.

Mike then went on to describe some of his marvellous work in the form of pony trucks for his BR class 3MT locomotive project in 5" gauge. The model is very close to exact scale and a bonus for many of us is the fact that many of the parts are interchangeable with other standard BR classes. Mike's Coupling Rods and lost wax castings are becoming well known here and overseas for their high quality and fine scale.



Track and Trolley Update

Last month we showed you the improvements to the area outside the dogbox/engine shed and near the station entrance by way of excavations and creation of new concrete pads. Grant has since found a couple of relevant pictures lurking in his camera which show the trimming of the bank which preceded the above works.



Tony skilfully operates the digger to scratch away some tuff and win a wee bit more space for the engine shed line, while Bob & Allan watch from a safe distance behind the digger. These two had the job of taking away and disposing of the spoil dug out.

John is the safety man for the digger (*it was a difficult job, but someone had to do it*), while Mike on the jackhammer chips and Peter clears away tuff from the bank under the bridge. Timothy checks the important distances.



Big Boys Toys

ASME's participation in the Big Boys Toys exhibition in The Shed pavilion at the ASB showgrounds was rated as a huge success. Here are some photos of the diverse range of exhibits, taken by a wandering Micrometer editor... (Apologies for the poor picture quality in some of these).





