AUCKLAND SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS INC. | Issue 710 | April 2025

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Inside this issue

Presidents Report

Hello everyone

At the last general meeting, we had a wonderful visit from the Onehunga High School and Lynfield
College Robotics teams. Steve has done a wonderful writeup about them later on, so I will let him explain all the cool stuff they did!

At the next general meeting coming up, Bruce Cooper is going to be giving us a talk about locomotive painting. It'll be an excellent eye-opener for anyone who hasn't yet gotten round to painting their locomotives and I'm sure he'll be sharing plenty of tips and tricks for getting that award winning quality!

Earlier this month, we had a visit from Worksafe. Not to worry - we haven't done anything wrong! Worksafe has two teams - the investigation team and the proactive team. The investigation team show up when something goes wrong and the proactive team works with various organisations to ensure that they are up to scratch for their procedures and policies, as well as helping to show if there is anything that needs to be changed with regard to the current laws. The proactive team has been visiting many places over the years and we just so happened to be next on their list. Dave and I carried out a thorough inspection with them and they were actually quite surprised and pleased with how well we had been adhering to the rules! I'd like to personally thank everyone that has been involved in helping with keeping the railway running—from ensuring that public trains are able to run safely, all the way to helping ensure that the rail lines are clear of debris, and even everyone who fills out the paperwork. Here's looking forward to many more years of perfect running!

Thanks

Philip Dowdeswell

ASME President

This Month's Calendar

Tuesday, April 1st	07:30pm	General Meeting (Clubhouse)
Tuesday, April 8th	07:30pm	Workshop Night
Tuesday, April 15th	07:30pm	Committee Meeting

TRAIN ROSTER

Date	Electric Driver	Electric Driver	Steam Driver	Train Controller	Station / Guard	Station / Guard	Extra / Person
6-Apr-25	M Moore	M Plant	Voluntary	S Meikle	R Souter*	K Ryan	
13-Apr-25	R Reichardt	B Matchett	Voluntary	G Wills	R Crook*	S Watson	
20-Apr-25	P Dowdeswell	C Whitiskie	Voluntary	B Aickin	A Van Zon*	R Shearer	T Mcdonald
27-Apr-25	I Ashley	M Vickers	Voluntary	T Lawrence	M Luxton*	T Schaw	M Schaw
4-May-25	M Moore	R Reichardt	Voluntary	G Wills	R Souter*	S Watson	
11-May-25	D Housley	R Shearer	Voluntary	P Dowdeswell	R Crook*	K Ryan	
18-May-25	M Vickers	C Whitiskie	Voluntary	S Meikle	M Luxton*	B Matchett	T Mcdonald
25-May-25	I Ashley	A Van Zon	Voluntary	T Lawrence	B Aickin*	S Heath	

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.

CLUB NOTICES

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.

Workshop Night

Upcoming workshop night—April 8th

Unlocking the mysteries of boring on the lathe.

Dave Housley's session on single point boring on the lathe should be incredibly insightful, especially for those looking to perfect their surface finish techniques. If you have any specific questions or challenges you're hoping to address, then this workshop is for you.

Robotics Teams

We had the privilege of hosting the Onehunga High and Lynfield College Robotics teams as the entertainment for our March General Meeting. The teams, along with some parents, enjoyed rides on the train set and toured the club's facilities, including the workshop, before the meeting.

It was decided to give the students time to demonstrate their robots and provide explanations before the club's regular business meeting. The Onehunga team, consisting of 14-year-olds in their first year of robotics, gave a demonstration that was a bit chaotic, partly due to the club's slippery floor. However, their enthusiasm and teamwork were commendable, promising much for the future.

The Lynfield team, made up of two 17-year-olds with several years of experience in robotics, delivered a slick presentation. Their robot performed very well, showcasing the benefits of their experience.

ASME is proud to sponsor the Onehunga robotics team, and we look forward to watching this young team progress and grow over the next few years.

Steve Watson

Rocol RTD Cutting Fluid

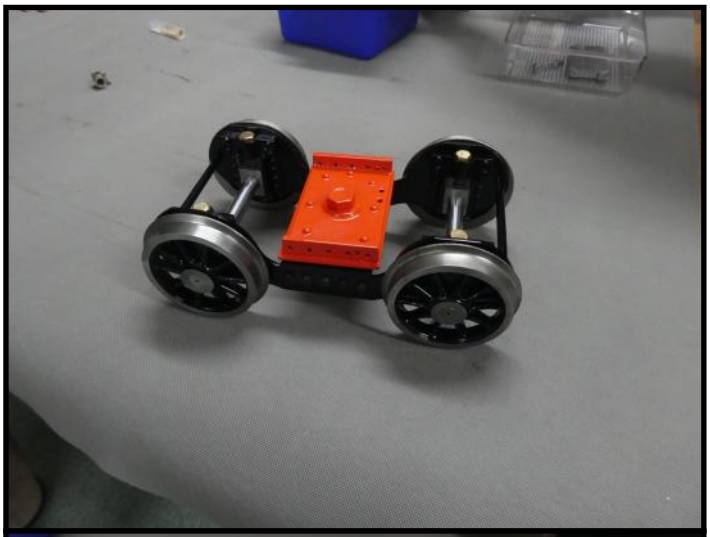
I would like to share my experience using Rocol RTD cutting fluid.

The other day I had the need to part of some mild steel stock plate so I used a carbide 6mm diameter carbide slot drill at a depth of 0.5D and about 250mm/min feed and 2000 rpm in successive cuts.
The operation was carried out utilizing Rocol RTD cutting fluid as a lubricant, admitted the process gave of a bit of smoke maybe from the hot chips produced I could have used an air blast as an alternative. Having finished the operations I cleaned down my mill and retired for the night. In the morning when I went into my workshop I find that on my ER collet chuck in the mill was coated with a deposit very much like acid etching which took quite an effort to remove. I have experienced it before on a lathe when the deposit was on the forward facing surfaces of the jaws and wet and dry removed those. So the moral is to beware and not to get this fluid hot and smoking, it is brilliant for slower tools such as hand taps and helps with smaller diameter drills.

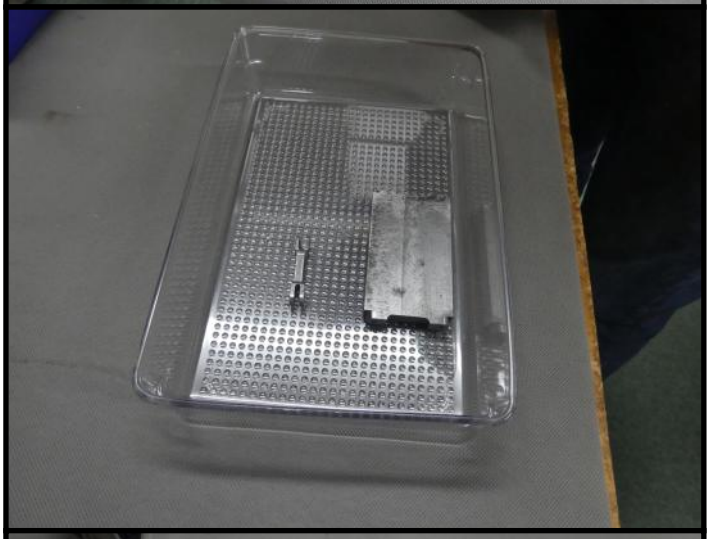
I also use a fluid called Buttercut it can smell a little 'reesty" but leaves no corrosive residue. On reflection when I enlarged the photo it can be seen that there is a thumb print on the body whether my oils on my hand had contributed to this reaction I don't know but it is only an observation

Dave Housley

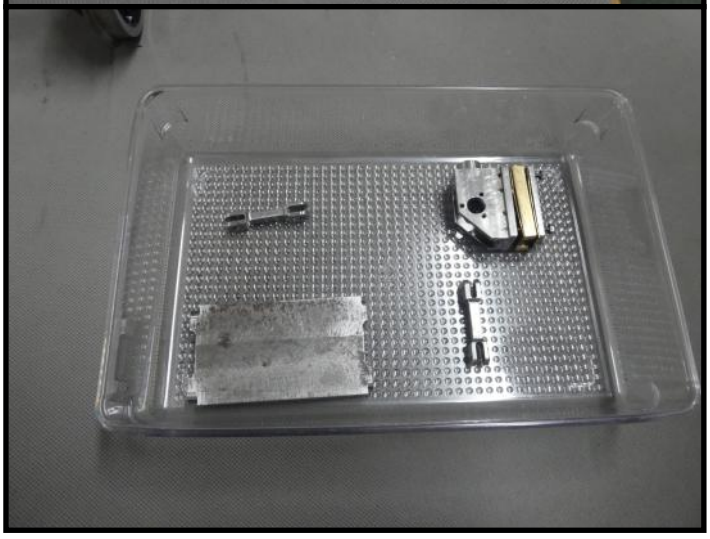
Bits & Pieces



Bruce cooper displayed his bogie for his Maid of Kent that he is refurbishing. He had painted the spokes black and in an afterthought considered maybe they should be Brunswick Green but is hesitant as he doesn't want to damage wheels extracting them from the axles.



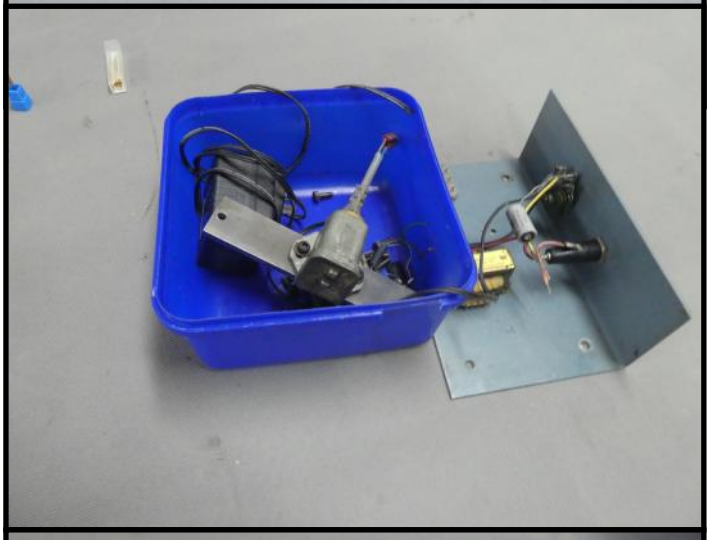
Dave Housley put his crosshead assembly on the table for his 0-6-0 Beejax the main body of the crosshead was cut from solid rather than fabricated also presented were the union links for the same loco.



Bits & Pieces

Mike Jack showed off his right angle gearbox that has minute threads 1.2mm diameter in it these were not tapped but screw cut on his CNC using a thread milling programme. Not to take it away from the gear box he also displayed the thread milling cutter used to create the threads it is roughly 0.6mm in diameter with the thread profile machined on it.

Our horologist David Wilson brought in his grass hopper escapement clock he built the escapement to pattern but experimented and developed his own escapement where the detail is amazing. He also designed his unique pendulum for it.



The box of wiring and bits was the contribution from Murray Hollis. They are parts to his rev counter out of his Boxford Lathe he is unsure on how to fix it. If anyone knows please get in touch with Murray or failing that if anyone can offer an alternative solution.