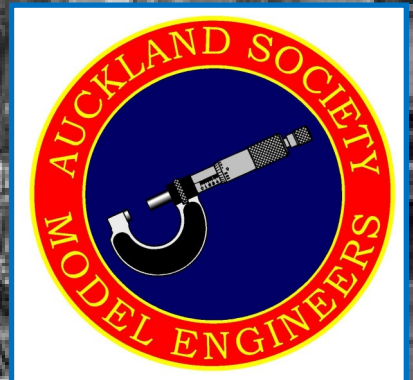


The Micrometer



The New Zealand Railway Workshops during their peak

AUCKLAND SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS INC. | Issue 718 | December 2025

Contacts

Mailing Address:

PO Box 14570, Panmure, Auckland 1741, New Zealand

Club House: Peterson Reserve, Mt Wellington, Auckland 1060

Tel: 09 570 5286

President Philip Dowdeswell

021 296 5196

E-mail Address:

president@asme.org.nz

Secretary Dave Housley

09 576 3923

E-Mail Address:

info@asme.org.nz

Editor Philip Dowdeswell

021 296 5196

E-mail Address:

editor@asme.org.nz

Boiler Mike Banks

021 139 4554

Inspector

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Presidents Report

Hello everyone

We have made it to the end of the year!

This year has been a great one for us. Our membership numbers are up, people have been working on some exciting projects that I love seeing the progress of, and our passenger rate at the Sunday railway opening is much higher thanks to social media influences.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the AGM this coming Tuesday. Remember that we need sufficient members to meet the Quorum requirements, otherwise we may as well all go home and try again the following month. It's important we all turn out to get the appropriate voting completed. In addition, we'd really like some more people on the committee to help run the society so if you are feeling up to it, please ask for a nomination form!

Thanks

Philip Dowdeswell

ASME President

This Month's Calendar

Tuesday, December 2nd	07:30pm	Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, December 9th	07:30pm	Workshop Night
Tuesday, December 16th	07:30pm	Committee Meeting (Clubhouse)

TRAIN ROSTER



Date	Electric Driver	Electric Driver	Steam Driver	Train Controller	Station / Guard	Station / Guard	Extra Person
7-Dec-25	T.Gil-	R.Reichardt	Voluntary	<u>B Aickin</u>	R Souter*	B Maroc	
14-Dec-25	I Ashley	A van Zon	Voluntary	<u>G Wills</u>	S Watson	T MacDonald	Richardsons
21-Dec-25	D Housley	R Shearer	Voluntary	<u>P Dowdeswell</u>	M Vickers	M&T Schaw	M Watts
28-Dec-25	----- Xmas / New Year Break - No Roster in Operation -----						
4-Jan-26	----- Xmas / New Year Break - No Roster in Operation -----						
11-Jan-26	M Moore	R Crook	Voluntary	<u>T Lawrence</u>	M Luxton*	D Booker	J Crellin
18-Jan-26	T Gil-Goldsboro	C Whitiske	Voluntary	<u>B Aickin</u>	K Ryan*	S Heath	D Wijekoon
25-Jan-26	I Ashley	R Reichardt	Voluntary	<u>G Wills</u>	R Souter*	B Maroc	
1-Feb-26	D Housley	A van Zon	Voluntary	<u>P Dowdeswell</u>	M Vickers	T MacDonald	
8-Feb-26	R Crook	S Watson	Voluntary	<u>R Shearer</u>	M Luxton*	M&T Schaw	
15-Feb-26	C Whitiskie	M Moore	Voluntary	<u>T Lawrence</u>	K Ryan	D Booker	
22-Feb-26	R Reichardt	I Ashley	Voluntary	<u>B Aickin</u>	R Souter*	S Heath	
1-Mar-26	P Dowdeswell	A van Zon	Voluntary	<u>G Wills</u>	D Housley	B Maroc	

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 be 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.

Exhibition Winners

In November, the Auckland Society of Model Engineers hosted its 2025 exhibition.

We had many fantastic exhibitions on display which impressed the judges. The committee decided to withhold posting about it in the November newsletter as we wanted to announce the winners at the following week Luncheon. However, we are most pleased to officially announce the winners in the December Micrometer now:

Jack and Ethel Hocking Cup

Bruce Cooper: Dover locomotive

Kresta Cup

Steve Watson: Gear and Pinions

ASME Shield

Mike Banks: Tool and Cutter Grinder

Committee Cup

Matthew Schaw: Air Engine

Peter Baker Memorial Trophy

Ron Copeland: Waitere

Les Fitt Memorial Award

Dave Housley: Steam Water Feed Pump

Jackson Cup

Dave Watt: WF870 Locomotive

Frank Roberts Cup

Dave Watt: WF870 Locomotive

Beginners Medallion

Toby MacDonald: Tender for Holy War Locomotive

Highly Commended Certificate

Mike Jack: Tooling for Class 3 Locomotive

Steven Watson: Beejax Chassis

Artem Smolcich: Hypoid Gear and Pinion & supplemental 3D Printing

ASME 2025 Exhibition Photos



ASME 2025 Exhibition Photos



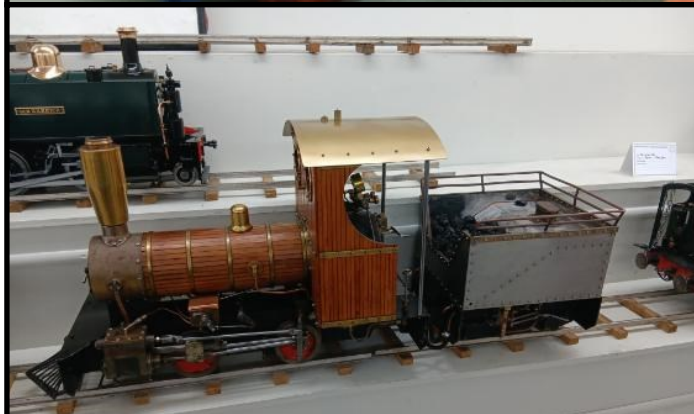
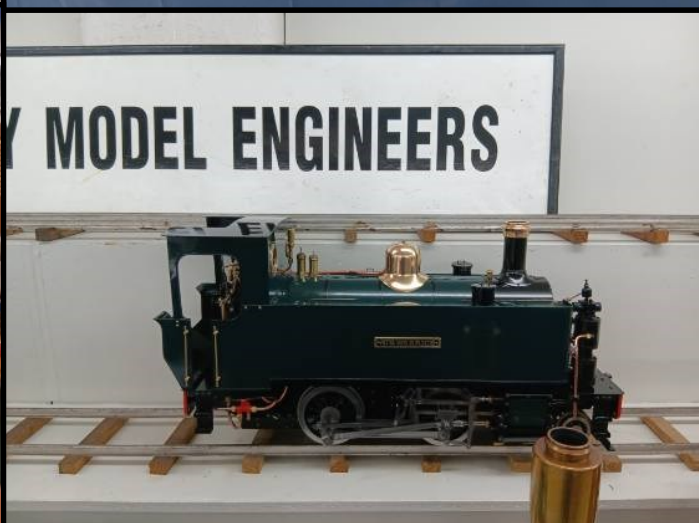
ASME 2025 Exhibition Photos



ASME 2025 Exhibition Photos



ASME 2025 Exhibition Photos



ASME 2025 Exhibition Photos



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Auckland Society of Model Engineers is to host it's Annual General Meeting on December 2nd at 7:30pm at the Clubhouse at the Peterson Reserve.

In addition to the regular recurring items on the agenda, there are two additional items of special note to be discussed and voted on:

1. The ratification of the Special General Meeting that occurred on 2nd September 2025 whereupon the quorum of members voted to accept the new rules presented to them by the committee which updates the ASME Rules and brings it into accord with the Incorporated Societies Act 2025.
2. To update the ASME Operating Code and make a change to rule 9.0:
 - Original Rule: *Members or affiliates who wish to partake in the running on the railway, performing and driving locomotives with fare paying passengers, will need to obtain an ASME or MEANZ affiliated club issued License. The minimum age for an ASME driver license is 15. Provided a current New Zealand Motor Vehicle Drivers License is held there are no further medical requirements. If a Drivers License is not held or is revoked a medical assessment may be required.*
 - Updated Rule: *Members or affiliates who wish to partake in the running on the railway, performing and driving locomotives with fare paying passengers, will need to obtain an ASME or MEANZ affiliated club issued License. The minimum age for an ASME driver license is 12. An ASME licensed driver must also obtain a valid, legal eye test. This can occur either with an Optometrists Report, a valid legal New Zealand Drivers License, or another suitable legal report.*

2025 Annual ASME Donation

The 2025 Donations to other Charities was decided by the Committee (Meeting 18-11-25)

to be split into two projects, both well known to ASME, in areas of common interest and particularly reflecting considerable progress in both cases. ASME has previously contributed to both projects, Climax 1650 in 2017 & GVR in 2020.

Firstly, a grant of \$500 has been made to the Glenbrook Vintage Railway towards the construction of a new boiler for JA class locomotive 1250. The new boiler has been designed, the design is currently being verified and tenders have been called with considerable expressions of interest from New Zealand industry. It is likely that a tender will be awarded before the end of this year. ASMEs contribution of \$500 provides half of the \$1000 which has recently been spent on sandblasting the existing smoke box so that this can be re-used on the new boiler. The GVR will be extending an invitation to ASME members in the New Year to attend the Railway on a running day and to inspect progress on the boiler in the presence of the engineers involved.



Secondly a grant of \$500 has been made to the Climax 1650 Trust preservation Trust who have now completed restoration of the locomotive to running order, moved it to permanent shelter at the bush Tramway club at Pukemiro where the locomotive is now regularly steamed and run on the Railway.

At stage, many original components have been used, some requiring restoration. The ASME grant will be used to restore one of 2 injectors which are being sent to a specialist company in England.

Committee member David Black supported these grants but stood aside for the decision-making because he is a trustee of both the GVR and the climax Trust. There will be an engineers day out hosted by the group at Pukemiro next year for ASME members, after the fire season is over.

David Black M.D.

WORKSHOP NIGHT

November's Workshop Night was a lively and well attended gathering, with familiar faces joined by the welcome addition of two new members making their debut.

After the round-table discussions and a well earned cup of tea, members joined forces to rearrange machinery in the workshop. The highlight was positioning the newly arrived ML7 Myford lathe, complete with every conceivable attachment. Generously donated by David Black, this lathe is a significant and welcome addition to the club's facilities, promising exciting opportunities for future projects.

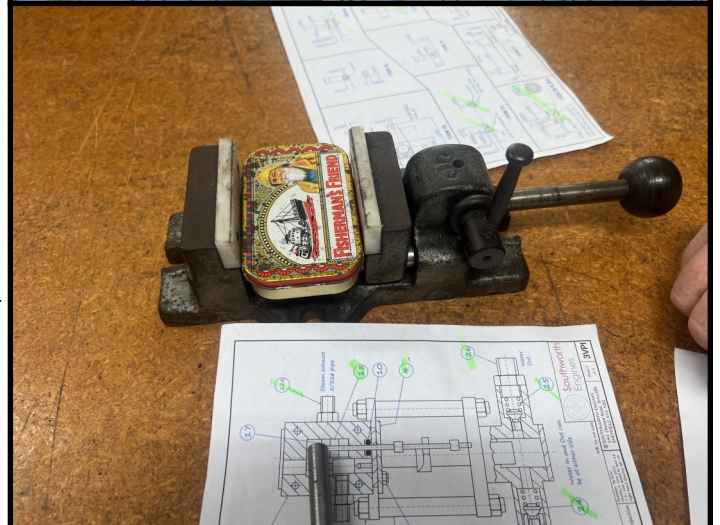
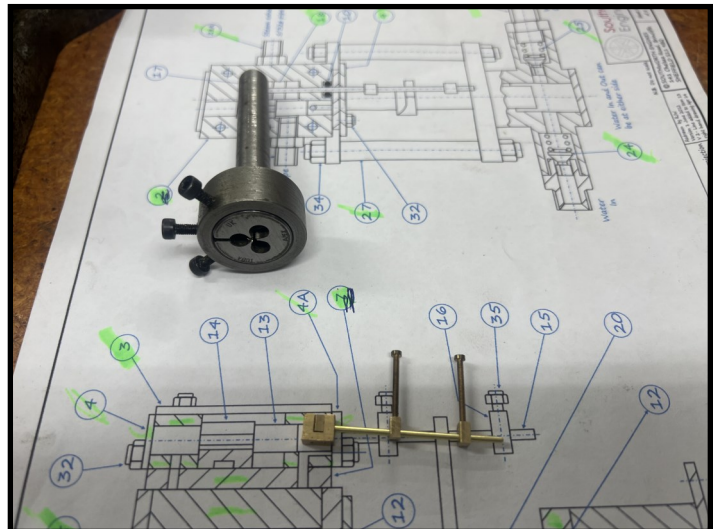
Welcoming New Members

- Dani Wilekoon shared his enthusiasm for military models and outlined some of the projects he hopes to construct.
- Josh Cellin, a machine engineering apprentice, expressed his interest in expanding his expertise into model engineering.

Their participation brought fresh energy and motivation to the group, helping shape the club's workshop into a well rounded and dynamic environment.

Project Highlights

- Mike Jack presented cylinder liners from his ongoing locomotive project. He explained the process in detail, including the custom work holding tools he designed to ensure accuracy and repeatability. His demonstration featured the use of a 1mm endmill to cut vents on his CNC mill—an impressive example of precision engineering.
- Dave Housley showcased further progress on his miniature steam pump. He brought along the connecting rod and attachments linking the steam cylinder to the water pump. Dave also shared a fascinating antique: a small lever action vice with soft jaws. Its quick closing mechanism made it ideal for handling small parts efficiently.



Bits & Pieces

Bob has brought in an OO Bachmann BR 4575 which is the basis of the locomotives that Mike Jack has recently been working on for clients in England.



Bruce brought in the remains of a Springbok that be bought at an auction. It came with a tender that was almost unsalvageable. Rather than trying to restore it, he's instead taken the chassis which was in the most useable condition and refabricated it to be similar to the 12t coal trucks that were used on the railways during the steam era in the United Kingdom.



The two OO gauge 12t trucks that he brought in were used as references for construction. The new truck has been properly riveted and unlike the original wagons that used a wooden body, he has instead made it out of copper so that it is a bit stronger.

The buffers came from a locomotive at a third auction that was almost entirely unsalvageable, save for the buffers themselves!



Mike Jack has brought in the pistons that he has continued to work on for his clients in the UK. On the left is a 3D printed version of the piston which is used to make the casting and on the right is the finished casting itself! By making the 3D print as a mould for the foundry, this significantly cuts down on his costs and fabrication time, giving him a serious edge in construction time.

