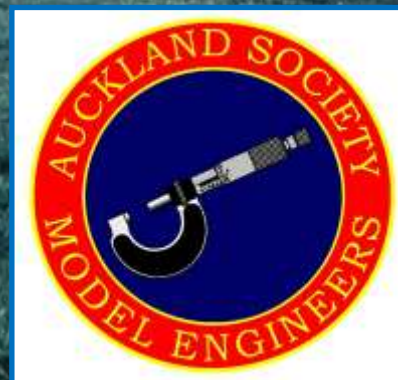


The Micrometer



Every railway starts with the first sleeper... The Peterson Reserve—8th September 1968

AUCKLAND SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS INC. | Issue 720 | March 2026

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Presidents Report

There was a good turnout for the first GM of the year, with a well supported auction on the night. A big thank you to David Black for his generously donated items, and congratulations to Roger Shearer for his efforts organising the lots and running the auction on the night.

Sunday Running has seen some changeable weather but that hasn't put the public off at all. There have been a couple of issues with the electrics but Steve Watson, Roger Shearer and Dave Housley hoped to have everything back up and running by the time you read this. It has been great to see the steamers on the track assisting with the passenger numbers, but it will be a relief to have 2+ electrics available as the weather improves and with the Basin Fun Day coming up.

We are looking to have guest speakers at the GMs in the next few months plus a members auction, so check out this newsletter for dates and details.

I look forward to seeing you all soon,

Mike Moore.

This Month's Calendar

Tuesday, March 3rd	07:30pm	General Meeting
Tuesday, March 10th	07:30pm	Workshop Night
Tuesday, March 17th	07:30pm	Committee Meeting (Zoom)

TRAIN ROSTER



Date	Electric Driver	Electric Driver	Steam Driver	Train Controller	Station / Guard	Station / Guard	Extra / Person
1-Mar-26	P Dowdeswell	A van Zon	Voluntary	<u>G Wills</u>	D Housley	D Maroc	
8-Mar-26 10am - 1230pm	R Crook	D Booker	Voluntary	<u>R Shearer</u>	M Luxton*		
8-Mar-26 1230pm - 4pm	B Leung	M Vickers	Voluntary	<u>M Moore</u>	K Ryan	T MacDonald	T MacDonald
15-Mar-26	S Heath	R Reichardt	Voluntary	<u>B Aickin</u>	R Shearer	T&M Schaw	D Wijekoon
22-Mar-26	I Ashley	C Whitiskie	Voluntary	<u>D Housley</u> ^P	P Dowdeswell	M Watts	
29-Mar-26	D Booker	M Moore	Voluntary	<u>Dowdeswell</u>	M Luxton*	J Crellin	
				<u>R Shearer</u>			
5-Apr-26	Leung	R Crook	Voluntary	<u>G Wills</u>	K Ryan	K,J,L Richardson	K,J,L Richardson
12-Apr-26	S Heath	A Van Zon	Voluntary	<u>B Aickin</u>	A Van Zon*	M Vickers	T&M Schaw
19-Apr-26	I Ashley	R Reichardt	Voluntary	<u>S Watson</u>	P Dowdeswell	T MacDonald	M Schaw
26-Apr-26	D Booker	M Moore	Voluntary	<u>D Housley</u>	M Luxton	M Watts	
3-May-26	R Crook	R Shearer	Voluntary	<u>B Aickin</u>	R Souter	P Scott	

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.

ASME First Aid Kits

A reminder to everyone that ASME retains three first aid kits onsite and a defibrillator.

One first aid kit is kept on the wall upstairs in the clubhouse. So is the defibrillator.

A first aid kit is mounted on the wall inside the engine shed.

The third first aid kit is a pack that is tagged onto the trolley that is taken out for the Sunday running. It's easy to remove and take anywhere as required for providing first aid.

You are always welcome to use anything you need from any of the first aid kits in the event of an incident or accident, but please do let us know so that we can get them restocked!

February Workshop Night

Our February Workshop Night attracted six participants, with a wide variety of projects and technical queries on display. As usual, the evening began with the obligatory cup of tea and a general catch-up on what everyone had been working on, before getting down to business.

Dave Housley kicked things off with his Beejax reversing lever. Dissatisfied with the lever design shown on the plans, Dave produced his own revised version. The modified lever appears to work well and now only requires some fettling before it can be mounted on the frame.

Roger brought along a weedwacker driveshaft that had come apart and sparked a lively discussion. Suggestions ranged from Loctiting the joint through to pinning it with roll pins or dowels. Roger has also been making steady progress on his shaper project. He brought in several pieces of tooling and partly machined components, seeking advice on cutting tool types, cutting angles, and relief angles. The improvements in surface finish are very noticeable, and it's clear that each session sees further refinement in both technique and results.

Bosco, freshly returned from Hong Kong, arrived with a broken bathroom cupboard bracket that he intends to replicate as a workshop project. This led into a discussion about a freeware, code-based CAD program he has discovered, followed by consideration of suitable materials and machining processes to manufacture the replacement bracket.



February Workshop Night

Steve Watson has been particularly busy over the Christmas break, bringing in updates on no fewer than three projects. His Beejax cylinder bores needed some light cleanup, which was carried out using Ray Copland's Sunnen bore honer. This work necessitated the manufacture of new pistons. This time, instead of using a single 3 mm O-ring beneath the PTFE piston ring, Steve opted for two 1.5 mm O-rings, reasoning that two points of contact under the piston ring would provide better piston ring stability than one.

Steve has also been involved with Dave and Roger on the DSC motor replacement project. His contribution was turning the gearbox axles to suit the locomotive. The comparison between the original gearbox axle and the freshly machined version (supplied initially as 25 mm diameter stubs) clearly shows the progress made.

Further advances were reported on Steve's Eagle W3 surface grinder project. Wanting a Z-axis dial that was easier to read and more accurate, Steve undertook a complete redesign. The new dial is larger, with crisper graduations and readings of 5 μm and 10 μm . A major challenge was sourcing a 127-hole dividing plate, which is not commercially available. Enter Mike Jack, who came to the rescue by 3D-printing a 127-hole dividing plate in PLA. Although there were initial doubts about its durability, after several false starts and drilling around 1,500 holes, the printed plate not only survived but shows almost no signs of wear. This looks to be an excellent option for producing dividing plates with unusual hole counts in the future.



February Workshop Night

Mike Jack also shared his ongoing battle with a noisy workshop compressor, which has steadily worsened over time. Mike described the process of gradually, then completely, dismantling the compressor in search of the cause. Along the way, he made several special tools and purchased a rather expensive internal gear puller, as shown in the accompanying photo. Unfortunately, replacing a collapsed bearing and clearing the oil galleries has not yet resolved the issue. We await further developments with interest.

Overall, it was an engaging and productive evening, with plenty of knowledge shared and progress made across a diverse range of projects.



Don Huggins Laithe for Sale

Don Huggins is selling his Myford m10 Lathe. It is currently in good condition and is ideal for learners to start on. It is being sold for \$600 and comes with all of the info regarding m10 lathes.

Don's contact details:

09 26748378

0274957034

exclusiv@slingshot.co.nz



Thames Museum Te Whare Taonga o te Kauaeranga

Corner Pollen & Cochrane streets
Open Monday-Saturday 10am – 1pm
Adults \$5 – children FREE

On display now and until 18th April 2026

The Kingston Flyer

Modelled by Thames Craftsman Colin Robinson
and on loan to the museum thanks to his family.

The **A^B class 4-6-2 locomotive** was manufactured in New Zealand by NZR's Addington Workshops in Christchurch and Thames' A&G Price Ltd.

The **Kingston Flyer, number 795**, was manufactured in Christchurch while **A^B numbers 698 to 717** were manufactured in Thames.



Detail Kingston Flyer

Also on display at the museum and also crafted by Colin Robinson, the **Grahamstown to Tararu Steam Tram**, in operation 1871-1874.

Thames Museum Te Whare Taonga o te Kauaeranga has a wide variety of **locally crafted models** including Ian Thomas's Historic Kōpū Bridge; Ted Egan's gallery of pioneer homes, pubs etc; and Doug Pick's model based on of Te Totara Pā.

Find out more:  [thamesmuseumnz](https://www.facebook.com/thamesmuseumnz)



Detail Steam Tram