

# The Micrometer

Aerial view of Peterson Reserve with the railway in Stage 2 progress—April 1972

AUCKLAND SOCIETY OF MODEL ENGINEERS INC. | Issue 722 | May 2026

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# Presidents Report

Welcome to the May edition of the Micrometer, particularly to our new members who have joined this year, and especially to those who have come onto the Sunday Running Roster. Your commitment has made my task of making up the roster a bit easier, and I am now able to extend the rotation to about 5 weeks, rather than the 3-4 weeks we have had for a while. Once again, please notify me of your availability/unavailability at the earliest opportunity. The returns to date have also been excellent (Roger, our resident bean counter, is very happy!), with the only blip being the cancellation due to the cyclone, the first I can remember since Covid.

The MEANZ audit was carried out by Rex Toms on April 19th, with a big thank you to Dave Housley for all the prep work he put in to ensure this was a success. We have now applied to Worksafe for our Permit to Operate under the ADR, which will then be submitted to AC for our License to Operate, our current one due to expire around the end of May. All going well we hope to have uninterrupted running going forward.

The committee are looking into the possibility of having a club Fun Run day which will be open to members and their families and to visiting locos which comply with MEANZ standards. These used to be a regular club activity but we haven't had one for a number of years, so I am looking forward to a good turnout once the details have been sorted. We hope to include a BBQ on the day, and if the weather is a bit inclement I am sure we can set up in the basement, but please be sure to turn off the smoke detector alarm! We will keep you informed as we progress this and please let us know if you are able to assist or have any suggestions.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the next GM, especially with the prospect of another fascinating presentation by Michael Cryns.

Mike Moore.

*This Month's Calendar*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Tuesday, May 5th | 07:30pm | General Meeting |
| Tuesday, May 12th | 07:30pm | Workshop Night |
| Tuesday, May 19th | 07:30pm | Committee Meeting (Zoom) |

# TRAIN ROSTER



| Date | Electric Driver | Electric Driver | Steam Driver | Train Controller | Station Master | Station / Guard | Extra Person |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **3-May-26** | R Crook | R Shearer | Voluntary | **B Aickin** | **R Souter*** | P Scott | |
| **10-May-26** | C Whitiskie | T Gil-Goldsbrough | Voluntary | **G Wills** | **K Ryan** | K,J,L Richardson | |
| **17-May-26** | A Van Zon | S Heath | Voluntary | **P Dowdeswell** | **M Vickers** | M Schaw | T Schaw |
| **24-May-26** | I Ashley | R Reichardt | Voluntary | **S Watson** | **M Moore** | J Crellin | |
| **31-May-26** | D Booker | D Housley | Voluntary | **R Shearer** | **M Luxton*** | D Wijekoon | T MacDonald |
| **7-Jun-26** | R Crook | P Scott | Voluntary | **B Aickin** | **R Souter*** | M Watts | |
| **14-Jun-26** | K Richardson | C Whitiskie | Voluntary | **G Wills** | **K Ryan** | J and L Richardson | S Heath |
| **21-Jun-26** | A Van Zon | T Gil-Goldsbrough | Voluntary | **P Dowdeswell** | **M Vickers** | M Schaw | T Schaw |
| **28-Jun-26** | S Heath | R Reichardt | Voluntary | **M Moore** | **S Watson** | J Crellin | |
| 5-Jul-26 | I Ashley | D Booker | Voluntary | D Housley | M Luxton | T MacDonald | |

## 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.

**ASME 2026 Exhibition**

In lieu of a formalized public Exhibition this year, the committee looking into expressions of interest for a smaller showcase on a Tuesday night towards the end of the year where members can bring forth their works to showcase the progress they have made across the year. The cups that are normally distributed at the exhibitions will also be up for grabs.

If you are interested in this, please let the committee know! We would be looking at hosting it in November ahead of the AGM.

**ASME 2026 Auction**

Well we had one auction this year, why not another? Our regularly scheduled ASME Exhibition is normally in October, so we'll be having it again! Time to go through your workshops and scrounge up anything you'd like to put up for auction which will be on the 6th October.

# Auckland Wooden Boat Festival

At the March general meeting, Ron Copeland alerted members to the 2026 Wooden Boats Festival to be held later in the month at the Viaduct Event Centre, Percy Voss Boat Yard and in the Jellicoe Harbour precinct.

Jan & I went along on the Sunday and were surprised how large this Festival was – and how well attended, possibly attracted by free entry. The whole ground floor of the Events Centre and the mezzanine floor, as well as the outside wharf area and Jellicoe Harbour marina area were full of interesting displays.  Also the Percy Voss historic boat building yard was open for inspection.

We were surprised to see a very large display of historic, boat-related equipment and tools by Ron which was attracting a lot of interest. Items in Ron's display included wood working tools, engines, propulsion gear, model boats and boat fittings as well as 3 yachts Ron has built or restored back to pristine condition. On one of his tables was a gearbox/propeller shaft arrangement, locally manufactured years ago, which suited smaller yachts & boats and had variable speed clutches for forward/reverse – quite innovative.




Ron in front of his extensive display of boat related equipment




One of Ron's boats on display

# Auckland Wooden Boat Festival

On the outside wharf area was a selection of all types of wooden boats, including steam powered ones. Our ex member John Olsen's Dancer – a 30' long, narrow but nevertheless substantial vessel was there. When being built in his Glendene home, many of us were privileged to visit his basement on ASME workshop nights to view progress; quite how he and wife Diana managed to turn the hull over inside there still amazes me. The steam tug, William C Daldy was tied up to the wharf and open for viewing by visitors too.

On Jellicoe Harbour, many craft were on display, tied up to an extensive array of floating pontoons, which allowed visitors to get close up to the larger wooden craft on display – and in some cases be welcomed aboard for a look around.

The historic Percy Voss boat yard (now part of the Maritime Museum) was also open but required a short walk over to Hamer St. On show were displays showcasing the history and skills of wooden boat building – also carvers with at work.

As always today, You Tube has videos available if you are interested to see more. One you may find worth viewing is at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0_FOpH4FX8&t=509s

Grant Anderson – 25 March 2026.




Ron with two of his dingeys - the one on the right was originally built in 1880

# Workshop Night

Workshop Night Report – Attendance was light this month, with just three members making it along. It was still an enjoyable evening, but as always the discussion (and learning) is even better when more of us can attend. After a cup of tea and putting the world's problems right, we got down to business.



Mike Jack brought in his loco frame and accessories to show the work he's been doing to fit the handbrake shaft. The mounting proved to be a bit of a challenge, as the shaft needed to turn freely while still having the right amount of resistance. After drilling, reaming and boring—plus a little judicious tweaking with a spanner—Mike achieved the desired result.



Jack also showed a few other features he's been working on, including the drag bar's square towing eye, which needed to be silver soldered in place.

As part of his move into a new workshop (and the arrival of Mike Banks' Bridgeport mill), Steve Watson decided to make milling jobs more efficient by keeping his most-used cutters and tooling close at hand. Using a piece of 5 mm mild-steel plate, he designed and made a custom tool mount. It took a surprising amount of time to drill and bore 64 holes (25–35 mm) using a boring head—amazing how many sins are covered up with a couple of coats of paint!

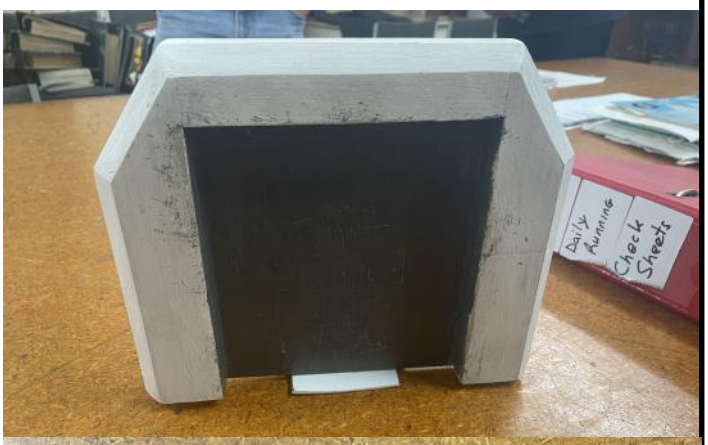


The plate mounts on an existing arm that can swivel out of the way when not in use. So far it's proving to be a very practical addition, with room left for even more tooling.



# Bits and Pieces

Bob has made the front mould for his electric Heisler. There's a few hammer marks on the plate but the progress is excellent and we look forward to the next progress update he gives us!




Dave has constructed the rod and crank for the ASME Bjax locomotive. He used some roller bearings instead of bronze bushes because he ran out of bushes! Dave was fortunate enough to find some other parts that needed from a shop in Christchurch and recommends that other scale model engineers in the area give them a look up.



Mike Jack has completed work on a 3"1/2 gauge Bullied Pacific West Country Class Rebuilt design and is now making prototype parts for a future owner in the UK. This is the Tender Buffer which has recently been cast and machined by using a 3D printed mould to speed up the process. He's also made the tender axle boxes using the same process.



Jack has been working on a paper crafted Millenium Falcon for the past year. It's completely made of paper and PVA glue. He had a friend hack the school printer so that the parts could be printed properly on A3 size after he previously made an A4 version. The quality is truly stunning and not properly represented by this photo!

