The Otago Model Engineering Society
Celebrating 80 Years of Modelling

Club Dates

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A move is being made to reclaim the traditional club running-day on the last Sunday afternoon of each month, in order to increase camaraderie and bonding among OMES Members. Last Sunday, the first of the “new-look” running-days, the weather was not exactly encouraging of outdoor activity but the planned afternoon get-together went ahead with about a dozen participants and was a great success. Sausages and scones were eaten and the odd beer drunk and everyone went home happy. This is in effect a revival of the “Noggin and Natter” gatherings of earlier club days, which haven’t happened for years. Weather permitting, of course, there will be trains on the track, boats on the pond, and maybe even cars in the enclosure. Come along and check it out, rain, hail or shine! Next month’s last Sunday could be extra-special as it is proposed to hold 2 auctions of engineering items, from Charlie Crossan and the late OMES Member Russell Douglas.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Lion Foundation the Society is now in a position to buy an automated defibrillator as we decided last July to do. The required transfer from the proceeds of Festival-Week to the Special-Projects account has been made so it’s all go.

Jim Woods attended the May Committee-Meeting to present the first complete version of the Health-&-Safety manual, the end of a long, involved and collaborative effort for the benefit of the President (in law, the “owner” of the club!), the Committee and the Society. Many thanks to all who contributed, especially Mike O’Cain and Gary Douglas who did the basics, and other H&S committees. We are awaiting the auditors giving us a date for the biennial MEANZ ADR audit.

Elsewhere in this issue can be found the list of bookings to use the club’s facilities and the roster to assist with this. It is intended to hold another Day-Controller training-day in September, which will hopefully lead to another 2 teams on the roster in time for the busy season. Watch out for your chance to be a part of all this.

The speaker at the next General Meeting will be our Co-Patron Robert Storm, continuing his history of railway turntables, this time concentrating on NZ ones.
And PLEASE can we have some Bits on the Table, showing everybody what we’ve been up to (in the modelling line!). Finally, a request to ensure all lights are off when you leave the premises (except the security-lights!), to help keep the subs down. Thanks.

Editor’s Desk - Lachlan Clark

Queen’s Birthday weekend already! This year certainly is ticking by. Over the long weekend I am back in Dunedin and today I managed a visit to the club. The cracker summer and surprisingly good autumn has meant a lot has been done around the place since my last visit in February and I must say everything is looking very tidy.

I have had a few requests to add people outside of the club to the newsletter emailing list. I am happy to do this and if you know anyone who wishes to receive Conrod please get them to email me at conrod.omes@gmail.com. This email will go out one week after it is sent to members.
From the Internet

Technology is changing the hobby of model engineering with CAD computer generated drawing becoming common place in many home workshops, along side milling machines and lathes. FlatWorks is a company using modern technology to design and produce flat-pack Go-Karts. The kits follow a similar principle to the furniture you can buy at The Warehouse, that is everything is included in the box and only minimal tools and skills are required for assembly.

They can be assembled in 5 hours and all the bits needed come in three boxes. The finished product measures 101 X 58 X 142mm with the majority of the bits being made from 19mm Baltic Birch plywood. Top speed in in the region of 40km/h. Source: Helpytips.

Nelson - Save the Pond

The Nelson society have a bit of a challenge ahead of them. They are hoping to seal the bottom of their two acre boat pond to decrease the sludge and weed which currently builds up. They have been given till December to raise half of the estimated $1.2 million cost or else risk having the pond filled in. For more information see their facebook page https://www.facebook.com/modellerspond/?fref=ts

Gilling Mainline Rally

The Rydale Society of Modellers have once again hosted their Main Line rally where scale train movements are run in 5” gauge. These photos below are from a video by LMS4767 on youtube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQ0ERj7TQU1). Well worth checking out this video and LMS4767’s other videos.
We again had 13 members present at our May meeting and started with notices, followed with bits on the table and workshop.

**Notices**

Medical update on Robin Watkin. With the continuing improvement of his health following changes to his medication we may see Robin back at the midweek boating sessions.

Talking about boating, the midweek boating group had two very good sessions on the pond since our last meeting, with the most recent on last Saturday in near perfect conditions. Some of the boaties also took the opportunity over our 80th anniversary weekend to do some evening boating.

The "Otago Boat and Outdoor Show" will this year be held in early October. It had to be cancelled last year at short notice as the organiser of the event was admitted to hospital. In previous years we have had a pond approx 6m x 6m and 0.3 deep plus a display area for models. Gary Douglas will liaise with the organiser and will have further information nearer the event.

Keith Murphy mentioned at the March meeting that we are invited to the Otago Maritime Societies meeting in September and have a look through their museum and for OMES members to bring some models of NZ ships. Again we will have more information before September.

**Bits on the Table**

Keith Murphy had made up a twin motor setup using two car window wiper motors. This assembly will be fitted to his model as one complete unit to link with his prop shafts in the "Hanseatic" model. He had also made a holding device to shape and finish 22 lifeboats. He also had made a sling from a carpet square and fabric webbing sown to it giving two handles as a sling for transporting his models. (Photo below)

Gary Douglas has almost finished the refurbishment of his fishing boat model and is waiting for some paint to come from Christchurch to complete the task.

*Continues over.....*
John Anderson had purchased a set of three very small diamond impregnated files from "HDC Flow Technology" as he needed a narrow file for putting some slots in fibreglass board. I personally have found this firm to be most helpful and obliging.

Kevin Gamble had finished the tug "Aorangi". This model was started in 1985 by Brian McCurdy's brother and it had been sitting unfinished in Brian's workshop. The finished model looks great. (Photos below)

Murray Vince has fibre glassed the exterior of his double ended ferry "Stockholm Storm" and had the inside a coating of resin for waterproofing. This model is at a scale of 1:32. (Photo below)

Ian Marsh has his jet boat ready for painting. It is to a 1/4 scale of his 15ft boat including reverse bucket and trim. He did have some fun fitting in all the controls for the petrol motor and jet unit. The latter is a modified OMES unit that was made by the members for the clubs jet boat project some years ago. (Photo below)
Bruce Milne, in conjunction with Hamish Tyson, had imported two Footy yacht kitsets by "Polska" at a very reasonable cost of $35 NZ each. They came with a traditional rig. Bruce had also purchased some universal motor prop shaft couplings. (Photo below)

Ron Johnston is working on his airboat that Stuart had imported for him. As there are now quite a number of these craft Stuart may have to organise some races of organised chaos, we'll see.

Kevin Gamble has almost finished the hull of his model of the "Golden Age" ferry. This vessel was one of the first ferries used on the Otago harbour.

Henry has fitted a new motor in his destroyer and found that it cut out at anything over 3/4 throttle going forward so will next change the speed controller to see if that fixes the problem. He had also cut and fitted shorter stays to his solar panels to change the angle of the panels from summer to winter setting. The result is a substantial gain in watts generated by the panels.

Stuart Reid delighted Murray Vince (our pond caretaker) by bringing along his latest creation, a motorised duck with full RC control (minus flapping wings). Fortunately it doesn't leave the mess natural ducks do. He had made a very neat job of fitting all the required items into the body. Stuart is also in the process of re-rigging his model yacht.

Lance Wild had been given a laser cut model by "Ugears". This is a modelling kit of an electric tram on rails which is a press together fit with some tooth picks in essential places, no glue or nails required. It is powered with a rubber band working on a large number of gears inside the boxcar. The whole model is laser cut from 2.5mm ply.

Stuart Reid is in the process of re-rigging his model yacht.

Next Meeting
For our next meeting we will have bits on the table so bring results of all your hard labour along.
The last engineering group meeting was a bitterly cold night with driving rain but eleven members still turned out and there were three apologies.

It was reported that the replacement of cross ties had been completed and the traverser at the electric shed was away getting sandblasted. The next track maintenance projects will involve some track levelling, station point maintenance and painting of metal work around the track.

It was noted that Bevan Roberston’s ‘Schools’ locomotive had received its boiler certificate and should be added to the club records.

It seems that a number of members are retrieving long forgotten about, half completed models, with a view to finishing them. Mel Kennedy is the latest, displaying frames and some boiler parts for an O gauge locomotive called ‘Molyette’ designed by LBSC in 1943. Mel started this about 35 years ago.

Geoff French brought along a ratchet wheel for a lubricator and 5” gauge coupling hooks and chain for his rail motor locomotive.

Murray Wright had on display his new tethered car built by Wayne Burns of Brisbane and capable of speeds of up to 199kmph with a Rossi motor running at 43,000 rpm.

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**Engineering Group - Russell Clark**

Drawings for Mel’s project. Photo: Russell Clark

Frame and boiler tube for Mel’s project. Photo: Russell Clark

Murray’s Tether Car. Photo: Russell Clark
Des Burrow had the boiler test kit he has made for the club and this will be placed in a new box along with the pressure test gauges.

Four, possibly five members have put their hands up to build die filing machines suitable for the home workshop and an initial planning meeting has already taken place.

The slightly shortened meeting was rounded off with a drone flying exhibition in the hall by Chris Kennedy with one of his FPB racing quads - very impressive flying skills indeed!
I’m pleased to report that Murray Gibb has offered to be our group leader, with Stuart Robertson representing the group on committee. Thanks, Murray and Stuart!

John Knight brought along a single crossover he had built in P4 to replace the scissors crossover on his “Abbotsdale” layout which was shown at our train show last year. He has tightened up the movement, and used a single Chinese-sourced mini servo fitted with two micro switches and two diodes as a point motor (see ConRod Oct 2015). It runs happily on 2 ‘AA’ batteries. He also related recently buying two NWSL HO gearboxes at a good price to use in P4 locos he is building, but found that the axle diameter size was incorrect, so spent the next day making a brass collet to hold the gear wheel for drilling and reaming to fit a new axle. Such is life sometimes!

It’s good to see Barry Stoddart at meetings again and improving in health. He showed us two Bachmann Spectrum steam outline locos he had purchased, with 2-10-2 and 4-4-0 wheel arrangements. The 4-4-0 is a model of a Baldwin loco in Great Northern colours, which he has converted back to DC, having removed the decoder. Three 4 wheel log wagons completes an attractive consist.
Brian Niven displayed four EP 45rpm sound recordings of English trains (c. mid 1960’s) purchased at a recent club book sale. A little bit retro in these days of DVDs and on-line material, but interesting historical items – and, yes, I do have a turntable to play them on!

Murray Gibb rounded up the night with a Hornby A4 “Dominion of New Zealand” loco in OO scale purchased quite some time ago – mainly because of the name? He gave us a little history on this class to go with the model.

A search of the website http://www.hornbyguide.com for ‘A4’ gives a list of the 47 Hornby A4’s produced over the years. Of course the most famous of these is ‘Mallard’, as the holder of the world speed record for steam locomotives. Six full size A4 locos have been preserved.

**Notice Board**

**Auction**
There will be a auction on the last Sunday of June at our running day. As well as the auction there will also be afternoon tea so bring plenty of pocket money

Items include

- Small lathe
- Ryobi mouse sander and case
- Digital Tachometer in a case
- Small paint spray gun
- Box of mill bits
- Box of soldering bolts 3/8 drive socket set
- Box of sundry bits and pieces
- Block of punches
- Zyliss wood working bench mounted vice
- Box of thread taps
- Box of lathe pieces
- Various lengths of small steel rod
- Box of small metal pieces
- Petrol weed eater
- Box of various spray cans and brushes
- Sundry other bits Bandsaw and blades

- Dremel and attachments and dental burrs
- Small boat trolley
- 2X Dial indicators
- Screwdriver set with rack
- Drills and needle files
- Box eziflo and brazing fluxes and rods
- Tin of eyelets and punch
- Small box of various sockets
- 2x tubs of electrical pieces
- 2x 8in trolley wheels
- Box of punches
- Box of F clamps
- Box of Nic Nacs
- Electric drill stand
- Transformer
- Small Box of futaba servos and fittings
For Sale
I have 20 litres of polishing oil for locos etc. $8.50 per litre. Own container required.
Colin Downing 4542528.

Member Projects

Chris Kennedy has been working on the boiler for ‘Evening Star’. This has included a larger fire door hole and further bushes for water feeds and sight classes. Photos Mel and Chris Kennedy.
It is up to the Day Controller to phone the other 3 men of his team and ensure they will be available for the function. The Day Controller is also the go-to person to liaise as necessary with the hirer/party organiser, and should meet them as soon as they arrive onsite and see if they’re OK about everything.

Kevin rang every Member of the Society so this represents a lot of work on his part. Already 2 others have offered to be “Spare Members”, i.e. people who don’t want to be on the roster but are prepared to stand in if anyone can’t do a particular duty. As Kevin says, this is a living document so it too will be a regular feature from now on. It is intended to hold a Day-Controller training-day again in September and if this results in more day controllers there could possibly be more teams to spread the load.

As each booking is received and confirmed it will be allocated to the next team on the roster. If you are unavailable to take your turn it is up to you to find a substitute, either by swapping with someone else or by arranging for a ‘spare Member’ to take your place. Please then inform the Day Controller so he knows whom to expect on the day. As I am now handling the bookings I shall inform and remind the Day Controller.
Health and Safety
Report
Source

Sender:
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