

# Northern Views

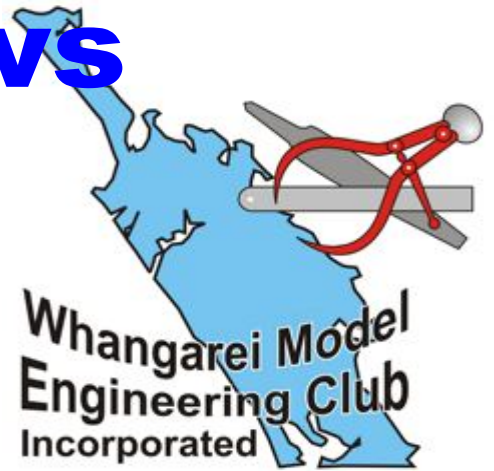
**ISSUE No 236 ... March 2011**

**Clubrooms and Running Track at Heritage Park,  
SH14, Maunu, Whangarei.**

Phone (09) 438 9520 (Available Running Days Only)

**WEBSITE:** [wmec.org.nz](http://wmec.org.nz)

**Whangarei Model  
Engineering Club  
Incorporated**



## U.K. Visitor

Over the Anniversary Weekend meet we were paid a visit by Martin Sams who is a member of the Lancaster & Morecambe Model Engineering Society in England.

Martin (at right) is touring N.Z. and came to us from Auckland with Dave Giles and drove one of Dave's locos most of the week-end.

He said he thoroughly enjoyed his visit and he thanked us for the great hospitality we had shown him.

I think he might have been a bit jealous of our system, the weather and general way of life in N.Z.



## REQUEST!! REQUEST!!

Are there any members of the club building models of anything except locomotives. If there is then could you perhaps let me have an update and/or photos of your project for publishing in coming issues of Northern Views

## **CLUB HAPPENINGS**

**Next General Meeting: Thursday, March 10, 2011.**

**In the Clubrooms, Western Hills, 6 pm**

**(COFFEE AND/OR TEA AND YOUR OWN EATS, ETC, FROM 5.30)**

**3rd Sunday Running — March 20, 2011.**

**Mid-week Workdays: Mostly Every Wednesday.**

**(MIGHT PAY TO CHECK WITH COLIN OR LEX FIRST)**

**Extra Running Days This Month:**

**NONE ADVISED**

**(THESE WORK IN WITH THE MUSEUM "LIVE DAYS" AND OTHER EVENTS)**



## Length of Line

Over the past few years there has been many guesstimates of the length of our track — and every one was different. So to put an end to rumour I borrowed a contractor's "wheelie thing" that measures distance and went for a walk around the route.

Once back to base the figures were tallied and are as follows:

Length of ride line (twice round mountain):	886 metres
Rest of track (sidings) etc: .....	555 metres
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1441 metres</b>

The pharmacist walks into his store to find a guy leaning heavily against a wall.

He asks his blonde assistant, "What's with that guy over there by the wall?"

The blonde assistant responds, "Well, he came in here this morning to get something for his cough. I couldn't find the cough syrup, so I gave him an entire bottle of laxative."

The pharmacist yells, "You idiot! You can't treat a cough with a laxative!"

The blonde assistant responds, "Of course you can! Look at him, he's afraid to cough"

## Newsletters Received . . .

<b>Title</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>Dated</b>
Conrod	Otago Model Engineering Society	February 2011
Expansion Link	E.B.O.P. Society of Model Engineers (Inc)	January, February 2011
Leading Points	Hamilton Model Engineers	January 2011
Model Torque	Thames Small Gauge Railway Society (Inc)	Summer 2011
	Hawkes Bay Model Engineering Society (Inc)	January, February 2011
	Nelson Society of Modellers (Inc)	January 2011
Piston 'n' Prop	Marlborough Associated Modellers Society (Inc)	February 2011
Pukemiro Junction	Bush Tramway Club (Inc)	January 2011
Southern Rails & Sails	Southland Society of Model Engineers (Inc)	February/March 2011
Steamers and Dreamers	Manukau Live Steamers (Inc)	January 2011
The Dam Tram News	Waitakere Tramline Society (Inc)	January, February 2011
The Generator	Palmerston North Model Engineering Club (Inc)	January, February 2011
The Micrometer	Auckland Society of Model Engineers (Inc)	February 2011
Wheels and Floats	Tauranga Model Marine & Engineering Club	February/March 2011
Whistle & Anchor	South Canterbury Model Engineers Society (Inc)	February 2011

THESE MAGAZINES ARE AVAILABLE TO READ IN THE CLUBROOMS FOR APPROXIMATELY 1 MONTH

## LIST OF CLUB OFFICERS

**President:** Colin Smith. Phone (09) 438 7861; e-mail; brencols@xtra.co.nz

**Secretary:** Dave Evans. Phone (09) 437 7250; Fax (09) 437 7192; e-mail: dave.whangarei@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Position vacant at present

**Club Postal Address:** Whangarei Model Engineering Club, P.O. Box 1574, Whangarei 0110

**Newsletter Editor:** Ian Mison (09) 434 3125; Fax 434 3126; e-mail julianm@xtra.co.nz





5th - 9th January  
2012



The track is located 4km from SH1 and SH14 intersection at Maunu Road, Whangarei.

Progress in the preparation toward this major event for our club is well under way. The rebuilding of the tracks around the “mountain” is completed and the steam-up bays are nearing completion. The new traverser is now working very well.

We ask all those interested in attending this event to enter their details on our website [www.wmec.org.nz](http://www.wmec.org.nz) and pre-register. This will mean you will be kept informed on all upcoming details.



Come and have fun at the SUN. The Whangarei Model Engineering Club will be hosting the MEANZ International Convention 2012 at their Miniature Railway, Heritage Park, Maunu, Whangarei.



Website: [www.wmec.org.nz](http://www.wmec.org.nz)

Convenor's Mobile Phone 027 4857 495

Convenor's email [rlr@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rlr@xtra.co.nz)





## Mayoral Visit

On Anniversary Weekend Monday we had a visit from the Mayor and Mayoress of Whangarei, Maurice and Gillian Cutforth. They were attending the opening of the new Kiwi House at the main museum and on their way back stopped for a closer inspection of our operation.

Picture (top left) show the couple with our President Colin Smith. And the second shot shows Colin taking them for a trip around the circuit behind Lex's Shay. Also on board is our Vice-President Roger Reynolds. By all reports they were amazed by our operation. The Mayor apparently said: "I knew there was a railway of some sort here . . . but I had no idea it was so large".

## Wednesday Workdays

All of the recent heavy downpours have shown up some weaknesses in the disposal of stormwater on the site. The rain on Jan 28th ended up going through the basement after the drain in front of the door filled up with stones. Scouring of one end of the platform has also occurred. This has necessitated the digging of a new stormwater drain to take all of this water, thankfully some foresight when the track was originally constructed saw us able to use a pipe that was buried then for just this purpose. Also installed were three grated sumps to take some of the water that will no doubt accumulate on the flat surfaces. The water that pours down the hill toward to basement has been re-routed via a steel pipe



Modifications to the traverser have been effected. Although it worked well over the Anniversary Day weekend some improvements were found to be necessary. Originally it ran on two angled tracks with a corresponding groove in the wheels. This system made it quite hard to move along so it was decided to replace one side with a flat track and leave the other side to do the guiding and to relieve the angled groove in the wheels to reduce friction. The other hydraulic valve arrived and has been installed, and by all accounts has solved the problem of droop. It's now painted all over in blue (looks very smart).

A special vote of thanks should go to Lex Mooney for the time and effort he has put in on the traverser project. I am informed that he has spent almost every day since Christmas either at the club or at home making up this and that to get things operational for the big weekend.

The weedspray train has been around the track again in an effort to keep the dreaded weeds at bay.

Last Wednesday (2/3/11) it was "all hands to the pump" to re-align part of the main line when leaving the mountain circuit. It involved moving a whole section of track sideways to take out a dogleg that existed and to make room for a track to the turntable and possibly a storage siding as well.



# New Rack and Pinion Locomotives Made in India



The first of the four new oil-fired steam locomotives meant for the Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) is expected to roll out from the Golden Rock Railway Workshop during February.

Manufacture of the new steam loco is currently apace at the workshop with 80 per cent of the work already completed. The 'X' class metre gauge locomotives have been provided with pinions to operate on the Rack and Pinion system that is in vogue in the hilly NMR section that has been declared as a World Heritage Railway system by the UNESCO.

With eight coupled and two pony wheels arrangement, the new loco has two high pressure and two low pressure cylinders. Though no major changes have been made to loco design and other aspects, minor changes have been incorporated in the manufacture of the new engine, say workshop authorities.

Weighing nearly 50 tonnes, the engine has been provided with pilot and primary burners with separate tanks to hold about 850 litres of diesel and 2,250 litres of furnace oil. The exterior portion of the engine will be given a coat of polyurethane painting to give it an aesthetic look. The hauling capacity of the engine will be 97.6 tonnes and it can run at a speed of 30 km an hour on plains and 15km per hour on gradient.

The Railway Board had entrusted the over 80-year-old Golden Rock Railway Workshop, which is engaged in a slew of activities, including periodic overhaul of diesel locomotives, with the task of manufacturing four new oil-fired steam locos for the NMR at a total cost of Rs. 40 crore.

This is the first time that the workshop has embarked on the task of manufacturing oil-fired metre gauge steam locomotives, a senior workshop official said.

The new engines in a phased manner will replace the existing locomotives, that were manufactured in Switzerland, which are at present being operated between Mettupalayam and Coonoor covering a distance of 28 kilometres. From Coonoor to Udhagamandalam (18 km), the train is hauled by a diesel locomotive. The second new steam engine is expected to roll out from the workshop in June, the authorities added.



## SOME BEHIND THE SCENE WORKERS

← Mo and Claire Evans tending to needs of the tummy.

Neville and Jacqui Hewinson → busy selling tickets to ride.

Both groups worked really hard on Anniversary W/End. Records were broken all round.





# General Pictures of Anniversary Weekend (1)



## PHOTOS ABOVE:

- 1 Mike Orange (MLS) gets steam up in his new loco. Tony and Roger R look on.
- 2 Vincent Dirk trying out Dave Giles' phantom
- 3 Blue People. Rodney, Brenda, Colin, Lex & Dave. There were a few more lurking in background.
- 4 Learning young! Katie Dirk gets to take E<sup>c</sup>9 for a gallop under dad's watchful eye.
- 5 Bob Wines (MLS) also with his new loco.
- 6 Two of the many forms of "Phantom".
- 7 The nearly finished good shed.





# General Pictures of Anniversary Weekend (2)



## PHOTOS ABOVE:

- 1 The bottom loop showing the colour light signals.
- 2 In the clubrooms for a break and a cuppa.
- 3 The most-travelled visitor. John Harman at the controls of "Shirley". John's wife Robyn got top billing in the "Northern Advocate".
- 4 Jimmy McLean and "Wee Jock" about to depart on another trip around the circuit.
- 5 All tucked away for the night
- 6 K<sup>A</sup>971 giving the new traverser a weight test.
- 7 Getting steam up on Anniversary Day.