

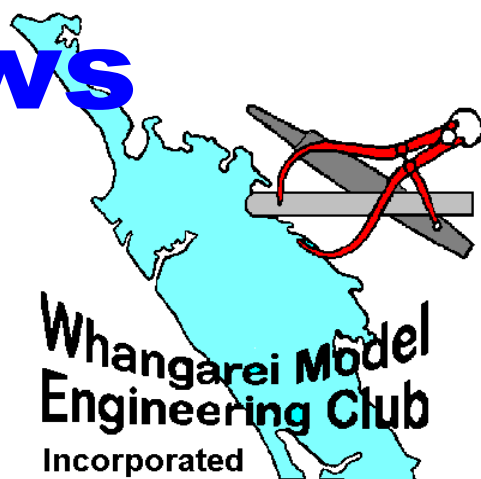
Northern Views

ISSUE No 245 February 2012

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

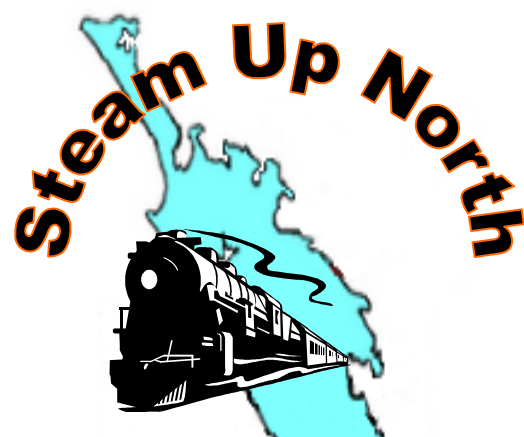
Phone (09) 438 9520 (Available Running Days Only)

WEBSITE: wmec.org.nz



WHAT A SUCCESS!!

A BIG THANK YOU TO
ALL THOSE INVOLVED
IN THE ORGANISATION
OF THE 2012 CONVENTION



A SPECIAL THANK YOU ALSO TO THE BUSINESS
COMMUNITY OF WHANGAREI FOR THE SPECIAL RATES
OFFERED TO US FOR THE CONVENTION

PLEASE NOTE!!

GENERAL MEETINGS ARE NOW HELD ON THE FOURTH THURSDAY OF MONTH

CLUB HAPPENINGS

Next General Meeting: Thursday, February 23, 2012.

Clubrooms, Western Hills, 5.30 pm

3rd Sunday Running — February 19, 2012.

Mid-week Workdays: Mostly Every Wednesday.

Extra Running Days This Month:

NONE ADVISED

THESE WORK IN WITH
MUSEUM "LIVE" DAYS AND
OTHER EVENTS

January General Meeting: (NOT OFFICIAL MINUTES)

There were 12 members at the meeting.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed. The Treasurer read the Balance Sheet and remarked that the balance was healthy. The report was also passed.

Roger Reynolds, Convenor of the 2012 Convention, gave the meeting a run down on the proceedings and he congratulated all those involved in the organisation of it. Roger also said he had received e-mails from other clubs congratulating us for putting on such a good show.

Discussion was held on the possible purchase of a new "diesel" engine for the club in view of the problems associated with the Santa Fe. It was suggested that we leave any decisions until after the Anniversary Weekend run, then withdraw Santa Fe and have a really good look at the vibration problems. A brand new engine is also one option.

The club has five serviceable trolleys plus a few spare trucks.

The ratio of adults to children at private hirings was discussed and in view of recent antics by some children it was decided that there should be one adult per trolley — no exceptions. Even if it meant some of the adults had to ride more than once. We don't run a babysitting service.

MORE GOINGS ON AT THE CONVENTION

Contest for most popular locomotive.

5" Gauge. Brett Coburn, Blenheim, won the MBM Most Popular Locomotive with his NZR "Q" class.

7½" Gauge. Bill Krippner, Manukau, won the MBM Most Popular Locomotive with his NZR "Ab" class.

John Romanes' "crocodile" won the Colin Burleigh Trophy for the best non-steam locomotive.

OTHER AWARDS:-

The Australian Model Engineers first effort award was won by Lex Mooney for his 3-truck "Shay".

The Canterbury Trophy was won by John Heald, Tauranga, with his locomotive "Darjeeling".

The Ikon Cup was won by Owen Bennett, Tauranga, with his green "Phantom".

The Les Moore Challenge:

The Les More Challenge this year was a machine that would operate on 100 psi of compressed air contained in a 1-litre coke bottle.

This was won by the Palmerston North Club with a lightweight low friction air powered locomotive that astounded all by nearly returning to the launch point. Our club entry came fourth.

LIST OF CLUB OFFICERS

Patron: His Worship the Mayor of Whangarei, Morris Cutforth.

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

Vice-President: Roger Reynolds. Phone 438 7911. E-mail rlr@xtra.co.nz

Secretary: Position Vacant. Contact the President.

Treasurer: Herb Smith. Phone (09) 438 1214. E-mail; hsnhrz@kol.co.nz

Club Postal Address: Whangarei Model Engineering Club, P.O. Box 10233, Te Mai, Whangarei 0143

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



Wednesday Workdays



In the run-up to the International Convention there was so much going on that the reporting of specific happenings was not possible.

Most of the regular attendees were on site every day for a week before the convention doing last minutes things that inevitably get pushed aside as not immediately needed earlier in the year. A common cry was . . . what about the "hoodacky for the thingamajig" (momentary silence) then #*~//!<>"&%". (words not repeatable in this highly salubrious magazine).

New member Graham McDonald has been a dab hand with the paint brush and has given all the fences and the steam-up bay pump house a touch of white paint. His gardening skills are also appreciated.

A new chart detailing the operation of levers in the signal box has been produced.

Despite much tearing of hair in the end it came out alright on the day.

Some pics of pre-conference activities.



Water tower for Goods Shed arrives.



Bob Smith looking for wires (worms).



Crossing lights being installed.



Rock work (not our doing).



Someone's idea of a joke.



Last minute adjustments to brakes.

FURTHER PHOTOGRAPHIC GEMS ON PAGE 4

THAT TABLE: It turns out that the hexagonal table in question in the last NV was donated to the club by member

Lloyd Cross' son. It was apparently surplus to his requirements and has now been painted and repositioned to a concrete slab on the mound overlooking the departure point at the station.



General Pics from Around the Site



PHOTOS ABOVE:

1. A brand-new sign. Something that lacked for years.
2. The basement's actually clean and clear. How long will it stay that way?
3. A long overdue coat of paint for the pump-house.
4. Full speed ahead on the Goods Shed. Note turnout installation is in place. Traverser is inside building.
5. Roger R swinging a pick to lay water pipe to tower.
6. Ray Dalton resting after his labours installing the much needed second set of steps in steam-up bay.
7. Signs and still more signs. That's only half of them.

STEAM UP NORTH CONVENTION

By The President of the W.M.E.C.



We can now catch our breath and look back on what turned out to be a very successful event. Considering that one of the public running days was so wet that there was no running at all and that another was marred by semi continuous rain it was surprising that we received so much public support. But thankfully we saw many visitors dressed for the wet enjoying a ride and marvelling at the locomotives on show.

Success was to a large degree due to the organisation and preparation that went on in the months, weeks and days before the convention, and credit for this must go to Roger who did a super job as convener. The actual groundwork in preparing for the day was done by the team who regularly met on Wednesdays to get the track into as sound a condition as possible.

We are also indebted to the Kiwi North board and staff for the maximum co-operation and help in all respects in the planning and setting up beforehand.

One of the aims of this convention was to allow time for attendees to catch up with friends rather than spend the whole time on the track and the rain certainly helped in this respect. The ladies providing hot drinks in the gazebo and in the clubrooms had plenty of customers doing just that.

A big "thank you" must go to the Manukau Club members who once again supported us so well. The attendance of so many other model engineers, some of whom travelled considerable distances to join us at the track and who brought their engines to display and entertain the public was of course the crucial factor in determining the success of the week.

I would like to thank everyone in the club and their partners who participated in the event for putting in the work to make the convention go so well. From the registrations, the ticket sales, the museum display, the track and public control, the emergency repairs, the unloading and loading in the steam-up bay, the organisation and running of the Les Moore Challenge and the many other tasks, it was all only achieved by the serious attention of you all.

And last but not least a big thank you must go to the members of the Mana Ariki Marae for the superb security job they did over the period of the convention. In that role they kept thousands of dollars worth of machinery safe and were always ready to lend a hand wherever required. The weather was nasty but they were ever present doing their job. They were well presented and looked very professional.

Colin Smith, President.

After Convention Ramble:

Dave and Lynn Giles organised a southern "Ramble" which took in a visit to Mainline Steam in Auckland, a run at MLS, a trip on the Driving Creek Railway, a late afternoon run at the Thames track, and a tour of the A & G Price workshops, a ride on the new Rail Cruisers at Mamaku.

Then on to Havelock North for a steam-up at Keirunga Park. Next day saw a run on the Mana Ariki Railroad at Taumarunui. Then on Monday to the Hamilton track and Norm Taylor's railway at Patamahoe for the final fling before dispersing to prepare for various flights back home..





STEAM UP NORTH CONVENTION 2012 HAS BEEN AND GONE

I would like to give a big thank you to all the local members, country members, and visitors who helped to make the convention a great success, it was a team effort. With the station crew handling over 3050 passengers young and old, signal box crew, road and pedestrian crossing safety flag people, the members manning the static display, steam-up bay and yard crew, registration helpers, ticket sellers, the ladies with their drinks and biscuits that just kept coming, the helper for the night drinks and meals. We have received many positive comments about the convention, well done and thank you all.



Thanks must go to all the members who have help at the weekly working bees over the last few years, getting everything ready for this event, well done.

We had 200 registered members, partners and children attending: 3 from USA, 1 from Canada, 5 from the UK, and 20 from Australia with the balance from all around NZ. The total number of running locomotives was 47, not a bad effort for WMEC I must say.

The Friday, when most of the locomotives were on the track was equal in number of riders to the Sunday when it was showery and less trains were running. The passengers just kept coming. This also helped to make the event a great one.



With the Saturday being rained out many visitors went out to the Maungatapere Vintage Machinery Museum and appeared to have a good time (*at least it was dry*).

Thanks must go to Barry Glover for presenting our president, Colin Smith, with the gum boot award, thanks Barry.

Roger Reynolds,
Convener, 2012 International Convention.



Other Club's Events:

Kapiti Model Engineers: Open Weekend, 18-19 February 2012.

Palmerston Nth Model Engineers Society: Locomotion 2012, 4-5 March 2012.

Mana Ariki Marae: Taumarunui, Open Weekend, 10-11 March 2012.

Steam Traction Society: Great Manawatu Steam Fair (Maewa), 24-25 March 2012.

Havelock North Live Steamers: Open Weekend, Keirunga Park, 6-9 April 2012.



Pictures from the International Convention (1)



PHOTOS ABOVE:

1. Many hands make tent go up. (Apologies to Confucius).
2. Much coming and going in the yard.
3. A bit of muscle power here.
4. Thumbs up from the Signal Box.
5. Darjeeling Railway locomotive from Tauranga.
6. The "Big Railway". A different scene here than on the previous Friday when you couldn't see the platform for people.
7. The Pohutukawa trees in Whangarei were at their best this year! This one on the museum boundary.

Pictures from the International Convention (2)



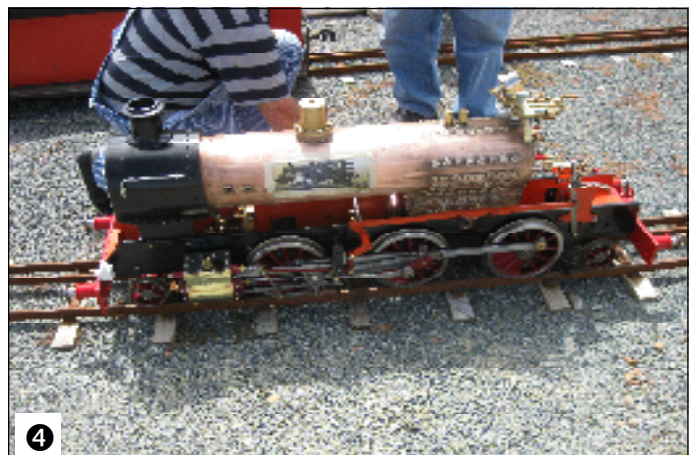
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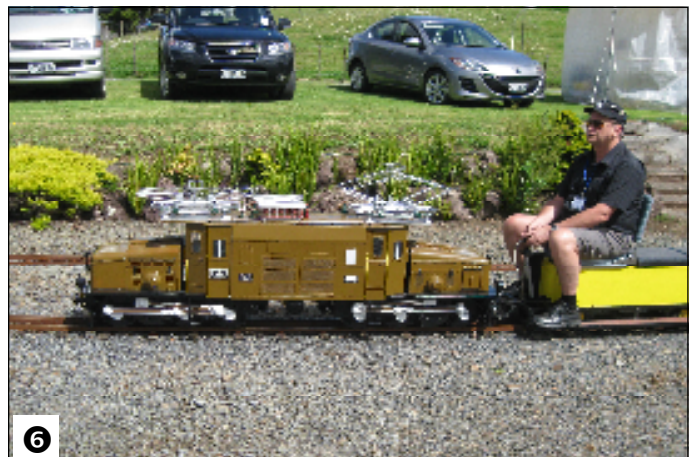
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PHOTOS ABOVE:

1. Friday morning "rush hour" at the steam-up bay.
2. Looking toward the station from the turntable.
Where are we going to put all these locos?
3. Enough talk . . . get on with it!
4. Jim Mcleam's work in progress.
5. Gauge 1 display.
6. "Crocodillus". A superb model of a Swiss Railways electric locomotive commonly called crocodiles because of their curious drive train.
7. "Rambling Rose" the smallest steam entry.

Pictures from the International Convention (3)



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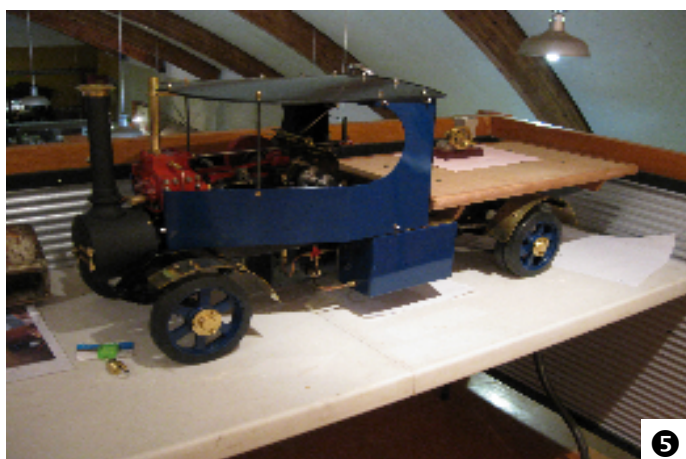
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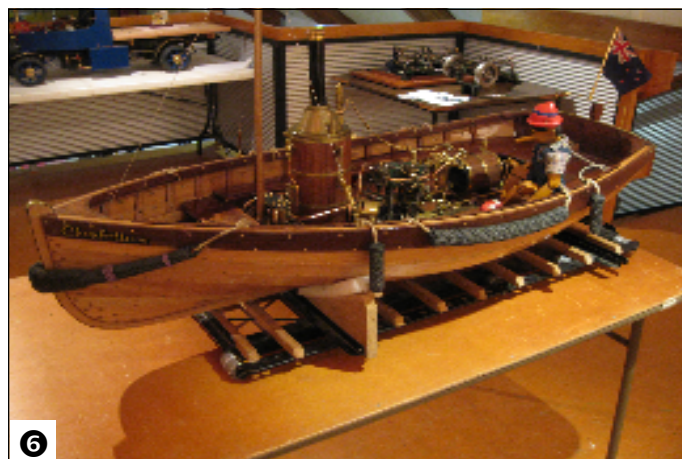
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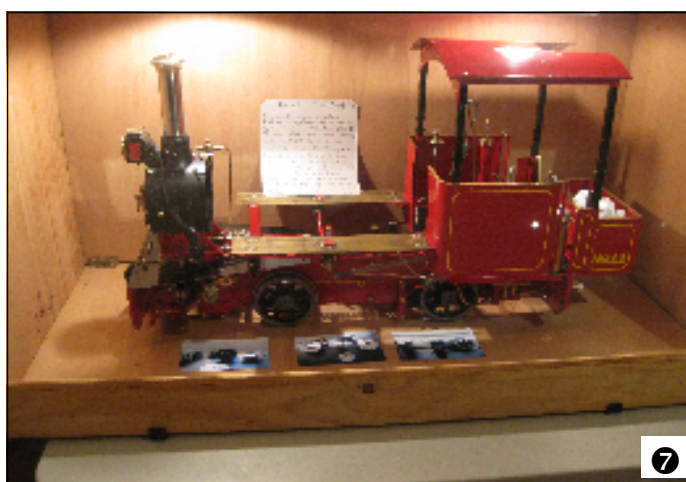
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PHOTOS ABOVE:

1. Still more locos arrive. Refreshment tent in back ground has a great view of the proceedings.
2. View overlooking Western Hills station and showing an overall view of the site.
3. The loadings were exceptionally heavy.
4. Member Ray Dalton's casting operation showing the intricate patterns required.
5. Rodney White's kitset model steam lorry.
6. Model steam boat at the static display.
7. Work in progress. An experimental turbine loco.