

THIRD SUNDAY RUNNING

The Gods did not smile on us this day. In Ngunguru the morning was great but I could see heaps of grey clouds and a rainbow over Whangarei and I thought to myself I did this could be a bad day — and it was.

During the drive into Whangarei I was thinking that maybe I shouldn't get any snags but there was a bit of a clearing in the weather so snags and bread were purchased.

(Whata mistaka to maka — with apologies to "Allo Allo").

It was so miserable when I arrived at the site that it was decided not to open the BBQ at all. Which was a good decision as the first ridees did not put in an appearance until about 11 o'clock.

So now we have a freezer full of snags and four loaves of bread for use next time. Club members who did put in an appearance grabbed about a dozen sausages and grilled them in the oven.

We only had one loco out on the track and this sufficed. A group of un-booked birthday celebrants turned up mid-afternoon for a ride and this helped boost takings for the day.

It would seem that the new drains alongside the track at the bottom of the driveway are working, although there was no extremely heavy rain to completely prove otherwise. No doubt it will be proved before very long.



Dogs come home when called but cats are like answerphones — they take your message and get back to you.

CLUB BADGES

**PLEASE WEAR YOUR CLUB BADGE WHILE ON THE CLUB'S PROPERTY
AS IT IDENTIFIES WHO YOU ARE**

MOST OF YOU HAVE ONE, BUT IF YOU DON'T THEN PLEASE SEE THE
SECRETARY (BRUNO) OR PRESIDENT (BRIAN) AND WE WILL SEE WHAT
HAS TO BE DONE

CLUB NOTICES

3rd Sunday Running — October 16, 2016

Mid-week Workdays — Mostly Every Wednesday.

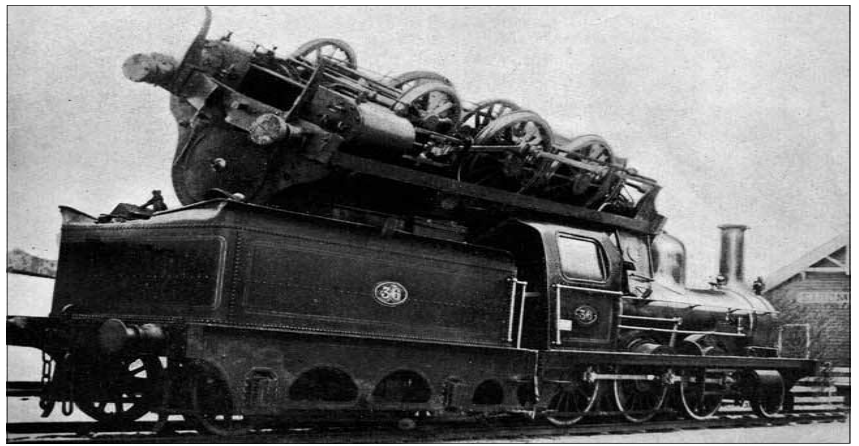
Extra Running Days This Month:

SEE PAGE 3

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

QUIZ — What happened?

For answer see Page 4.



— AT VERY LONG LAST! —

After a long gestation period of about 21 years Rankin has finally launched his “new engine”. According to him it goes like a rocket and the hill on our system seemed not to exist. Below are a couple of pictures showing the locomotive.

Hopefully I will be able to coax a bit of a narrative from Rankin of the loco's construction over the years. It is rumoured that he is already looking at plans of another loco to build. Maybe it's true because he was seen looking at plans for a “Bunyip” — an Aussie cane loco.



A FURTHER
TWO
PICTURES OF
RANKIN'S NEW
LOCO ARE
ON THE
NEXT PAGE



ERRATUM

In last month's “Northern Views” the duration of our financial year was published as July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

This was wrong and should be **May 1, 2016 to April 30, 2017.**

LIST OF MAIN CLUB OFFICERS

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OTHER OFFICIAL POSITIONS

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Librarian — Neville Hewinson. Telephone (09) 433 5653.

Boiler Committee — Rodney White, Brian Mould.

Safety Committee — John Wright, Colin Smith, Rodney White.

MEANZ Representative — Roger Reynolds.

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

Club Telephone: (09) 438 9520 (Available Work and Running Days Only).

EXTRA RUNNING DAYS THIS MONTH

YOUR HELP WILL BE APPRECIATED

WE HAVE THREE EXTRA DAYS OF RUNNING IN OCTOBER

THEY ARE:-

Sunday, October 2nd, Saturday, October 15th Sunday, October 30th

With our normal 3rd Sunday running that makes four days altogether.

WEDNESDAY WORKDAYS:

By The Editor

7/9/2016: As usual there was the hard-core in attendance and the day was cloudy with one shower in the afternoon. A group was busy finishing off the drainage work at the base of the driveway approach to the main line a short distance from the station. This included adding an extra section of open top plastic drain way to take all the water into an existing drain. Some backfilling will be needed along the edges of the new concrete. Your truly is still busy painting the inside of the "Snak Shak" and I can report that there is now a small light at the end of the tunnel (woopee).

14/9/2016: This being the second Wednesday of the month is also the committee meeting day. The day itself was brilliantly fine and work continued on both the container approach roads and the inside painting of the "Snak Shak". A frame has been made up for making concrete slabs for placing between the loading platforms at the station although it might be a continuous strip instead.

21/9/2016: There was no workday today as there was an Annual Meeting in the early evening.



Other Club's Events:

Havelock North Live Steamers: Open Weekend, October 21-24, 2016.

New Plymouth Model Engineers: Open Weekend, October 22-24, 2016.

ANSWER TO QUIZ ON PAGE 2:

Boiler Explosion

One locomotive landed on top of the other after a boiler explosion in a locomotive parked on an adjacent line. It must have been quite a bang because the weight of the locomotive thrown would have to be in the region of 50 tons. (A guess on my part — Ed).

Given the number of steam locomotives built over the years it would appear that the ratio of explosions is pretty low but those that did put on quite a show.



THE BOWERY

Often associated with slums, pleasure palaces and gangs, etc, but in it's earliest days was quite a respectable area in which to live.

As New York continued to grow it became the street of respectability and elegance and well-heeled and famous people moved their residences there. It also was home to some of the most elegant theatres.

The Bowery was also home to one of America's earliest street gangs "The Bowery Boys".

It is the oldest and longest thoroughfare on Manhattan Island at 1 mile and as the photo shows carried several forms of public transport from elevated steam railways to cable trams up to four wide in the street. The above photo shows three sets of tram rails in the foreground which in the distance increases to four.

From 1878 to 1955 the Third Avenue El ran above the Bowery thus making the outer edges of the street quite dark. This was the era that the moneyed-up rich and the shysters basically did what they wanted and there were some awful scams that sucked the money from the masses.

As is well-known railways were built all over the country. A big percentage of them with very little capital which spelled their doom. The same applied to tramways in the cities and up to three different gauges were used and almost the entire roadway was covered in tram tracks.

There is a tunnel under the Bowery once intended for use by proposed, but never built, New York City Subway services including the Second Avenue Subway.

After the First World War pressure for a name change came about, but came to nothing. And from 1940 to 1970 the Bowery was New York's "Skid Row".



The Concrete Gang in Operation

It was all hands to the pump as the weather had that "I'm goin' to ruin your day" look.

With the concrete driveway down to the track finished it had been decided that we had better do something with the water coming down the hill. The poor excuse for a drain that he been there for yonks and collected a huge amount of gravel after every downpour was ripped out and a new plastic one installed.

This was extended to include the bottom of the existing concrete path up to the bones and artefacts department.



... and the Container nears Completion

Poor old Tony is left to his own devices when the workforce decided it was better to play with concrete. As the photos show the trackwork into the container is 99% complete and Tony is testing the portable "bridge" into the container and there was no problems with the device.

Further packing of the tracks is required and the spreading of proper ballast over the whole area will follow. Some work will still have to be done on the No1 road approach where it is very close to the edge of the embankment.

This area of track was chosen as a "test bed" for using screws instead of nails to fasten the rail to the sleepers as is the case with the rest of the club's track. They seem to pull down easier when being put in place. Nails seem to work their way loose too easily.

It is proposed to put a 2-tier stacking system of some sort inside the container that will cover two roads (still on the drawing board). I am not sure what will eventuate from the idea but it's got to be good in creating more storage space for the future.



IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO:—

Whangarei Model Engineering Club Inc,
P.O. Box 10233, Te Mai, Whangarei 0143.

