

*The President, Secretary and Committee
of the
Whangarei Model Engineering Club
Wish You and Your Families a*

Merry Christmas

And a
Happy New Year



CLUB NOTICES

3rd Sunday Running — December 18, 2016 & January 15, 2017
Mid-week Workdays — Mostly Every Wednesday.

Extra Running Days Over Holiday Period

SEE PAGE THREE

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

QUIZ — What is it and where?

For answer see Page 4.



Third Sunday Running

By
The Editor



It was one of those “is it going to be a good day or isn’t it?”

Patronage was a bit patchy to start but by late morning it was up to expectations.

Motive power was in the shape of two club member’s steamers and the club’s petrol engines and there was even a goodly attendance of club members to run the show. Our Dargaville member came in to run the “sausage sizzle” and to bake a batch of her legendary scones.

The “Snak Shak” was officially used for the first time and has proved to be very satisfactory. The hotplate was re-arranged because of the wind that was blowing but it’s positioning right at the disembarking area is proving a good selling point. Anything that even remotely looked like a sausage was cooked and sold.

We had a visitor(s) from both Auckland and Kawakawa and I think they were quite impressed with our circuit.

THIS ISSUE OF *NORTHERN* *VIEWS* COVERS DECEMBER AND JANUARY

LIST OF MAIN CLUB OFFICERS

President: Brian Mould. Telephone (09) 434 6188. E-mail; thewrinkles@clear.net.nz

Vice President: Rankin Kennedy. Telephone (09) 430 8328. E-mail; jenandrakin@gmail.com

Secretary: Bruno Petersen. Telephone (09) 438 7600. E-mail; brunopetersen@xtra.co.nz

Treasurer: Herb Smith. Telephone (09) 438 1214. E-mail; hsnhrz@orcon.net.nz

OTHER OFFICIAL POSITIONS

Committee Members — Rodney White, Colin Smith, Ian Mison, Neville Hewinson.

Newsletter Editor — Ian Mison. Telephone (09) 434 3125. E-mail; julianm@xtra.co.nz

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.

Charters and Bookings — Rodney White. Telephone (09) 436 1185.

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

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

WEDNESDAY WORKDAYS:

By The Editor

By and large the Wednesday Workdays have been very successful since their inception a few years ago and continue to be so.

The WWD crew recently installed a new loud speaker system which was purchased to advise customers to keep themselves within the confines of the carriages, etc. Also a stand-up sign has been made advising the correct footwear that should be worn when riding the trains.

Concrete is being laid between the fence and the rails of Road 1. This is being done piecemeal using portable boxing and the president's concrete mixer. It certainly makes for easier ticket checking, and I believe will be extended.

The present ballast storage area is difficult to use and it has been suggested that a ballast bin be constructed on the side of the goods shed as this would allow easier access to stored ballast to be loaded more or less straight into the hopper wagon and or trailer as required.

A general tidy-up around the grounds was undertaken recently and it sure makes things a bit more pleasing to the eye.

Finishing touches to the "Snak Shak" were done and it is now open for business.

Our big "ferocious" watch dog Grommet disgraced himself recently when he went AWOL somewhere down the bottom near the goods shed. He returned later smelling something terrible ... whatever he rolled in had obviously been a long time dead.



SILLY SEASON CHARTERS:

Friday, 2 December. School Parties (2). One 10 am — 11 am **AND** another at 5.30 pm — 7.30 pm.

Saturday, 3 December. N.Z. Refining Co Christmas Party. 10 am — 2 pm. (steam requested).

Friday, 9 December. Private Party. (2 trains).

Friday, 16 December. R. S. Consultants. 4 pm — 5 pm.

Saturday, 17 December. Northpower. 10 am — 2 pm. (busy for sure).

THERE WILL BE MORE FOR SURE

There is still just on 3 weeks till Christmas and possible groups seeking to visit will wake up at the last minute.

ADDITIONS WILL BE POSTED ON BOARD IN CLUBROOM

If you can help out then please give Rodney a ring on 09 4361185 or contact him on e-mail at [<rtw@slingshot.co.nz>](mailto:rtw@slingshot.co.nz)

EXTRA BODS REQUIRED—

There are all sorts of jobs to be done over December/January. They range from driving, platform duties and being general dogsbodies.

It has been suggested that a roster of some sort devised to man the BBQ and sell sausages — wouldn't you just like to work in the new Snak Shak?

LIST OF CLUB MEETINGS UNTIL MAY 2017

	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Committee Meetings @ 2 pm	14th	11th	8th	8th	12th	10th	14th
3rd Sunday Running	18th	15th	19th	19th	16th	21st	18th
General Meetings @ 6 pm	6th		7th		4th		6th
School Holidays	14th & 28th Dec and each Wednesday thru January						

ANSWER TO QUIZ ON PAGE 2

The Old and the New Ulla Viaducts in Spain

When it opened in 2012, the Viaducto Ulla was the tallest high speed railway bridge in the world at 384 feet (117 metres). Measuring 2067 feet (630 metres) from end to end, the long viaduct crosses the Ulla with a central catenary arch span of 551 feet (168 metres) that looks modern and yet still retains the classic lines of an older arch bridge. The design choice may not have been entirely coincidental as the new structure is less than a 1000 feet (305 metres) from Spain's highest conventional railway bridge, the 276 foot (84 metre) high Gundián bridge. Built in 1948, the older arch crosses the Ulla between two cliffs in a storybook setting that would be perfect for any artist looking to paint a bridge scene.

The Rio Ulla bridge is one of several tall high speed rail bridges on the line between Santiago de Compostela and Ourense. Not far from the Ulla crossing is the Viaducto del Sáramo which rises about 262 feet (80 metres). The Viaducto de Covas is 295 feet (90 metres) high while the O Eixo is at least 279 feet (85 metres) high. Just six miles (10 kms) northwest of Ourense is the 328 foot (100 metre) high crossing of the deep Barbantiño Gully 3858 feet (1176 metres) wide. Just downstream of the Barbantiño rail bridge is the new Viaducto de Barbantiño AG-53 Autostrada bridge with three huge spans of 607 feet (185 metres).

The original Ponte Ulla or Gundián bridge is still Spain's highest conventional railway bridge even though several high speed railway bridges are now higher.



PHOTOS ABOVE:

Top Left: At long last the finished "Snak Shak" with the Hon Secretary stealing the limelight.

Top Right: Adding to the picnic table areas with John and Bruno doing the concreting work. This is something that is urgently needed in the area.

Left: Our latest member. Wilma has been a great help with the loading and ticket collection.

Bottom Left: "I'm a lonely little petunia in an onion patch ..."

Bottom Right: Like a scene out of one of those TV medical shows. The patient surrounded by doctors!



A FUTURE THAT IS . . .

In 1998, Kodak had 170,000 employees and sold 85% of all photographic paper worldwide. Within just a few years, their business model disappeared and they went bankrupt. What happened to Kodak will happen in a lot of industries in the next 10 years — and most people won't see it coming. Did you think in 1998 that three years later you would never take pictures on film again?

Yet digital cameras were invented in 1975. The first ones only had 10,000 pixels, but followed Moore's law. So as with all exponential technologies, it was a disappointment for a long time, before it became way superior and got mainstream in only a few short years. It will now happen with Artificial Intelligence, health, autonomous and electric cars, education, 3D printing, agriculture and jobs. Welcome to the 4th Industrial Revolution. Welcome to the Exponential Age.

Software will disrupt most traditional industries in the next 5-10 years.

Uber is just a software tool, they don't own any cars, and are now the biggest taxi company in the world.

Airbnb is now the biggest hotel company in the world, although they don't own any properties.

Artificial Intelligence: Computers become exponentially better in understanding the world. This year, a computer beat the best Go player in the world, 10 years earlier than expected.

In the US, young lawyers already don't get jobs. Because of IBM Watson, you can get legal advice (so far for more or less basic stuff) within seconds, with 90% accuracy compared with 70% accuracy when done by humans.

So if you study law, stop immediately. There will be 90% less lawyers in the future, only specialists will remain.

Watson already helps nurses diagnosing cancer, four times more accurate than human nurses. *Facebook* now has a pattern recognition software that can recognize faces better than humans. In 2030, computers will become more intelligent than humans.

Autonomous cars: In 2018 the first self-driving cars will appear for the public. Around 2020, the complete industry will start to be disrupted. You don't want to own a car anymore. You will call a car with your phone, it will show up at your location and drive you to your destination. You will not need to park it, you only pay for the driven distance and can be productive while driving. Our kids will never get a driver's licence and will never own a car.

It will change the cities, because we will need 90-95% less cars for that. We can transform former parking spaces into parks. 1.2 million people die each year in car accidents worldwide. We now have one accident every 60,000 miles (100,000 km), with autonomous driving that will drop to one accident in six million miles (10 million km). That will save a million lives each year.

Most car companies will probably become bankrupt. Traditional car companies try the evolutionary approach and just build a better car, while tech companies (Tesla, Apple, Google) do the revolutionary approach and build a computer on wheels.

Many engineers from Volkswagen and Audi are completely terrified of Tesla.

Insurance companies will have massive trouble because without accidents, the insurance will become 100 times cheaper. Their car insurance business model will disappear.

Real estate will change. Because if you can work while you commute, people will move further away to live in a more beautiful neighbourhood.

Electric cars will become mainstream about 2020. Cities will be less noisy because all new cars will run on electricity. Electricity will become incredibly cheap and clean. Solar production has been on an exponential curve for 30 years, but you can now see the burgeoning impact.

Last year, more solar energy was installed worldwide than fossil. Energy companies are desperately trying to limit access to the grid to prevent competition from home solar installations, but that can't last. Technology will take care of that strategy.

With cheap electricity comes cheap and abundant water. Desalination of salt water now only needs 2kWh per cubic metre (@ 0.25 cents). We don't have scarce water in most places, we only have scarce drinking water. Imagine what will be possible if anyone can have as much clean water as they want, for nearly no cost.

Health: The Tricorder X price will be announced this year. There are companies who will build a medical device (called the "Tricorder", a device from Star Trek) that works with your phone, which takes your retina scan, your blood sample when you breath into it.

It then analyses 54 biomarkers that will identify nearly any disease. It will be cheap, so in a few years everyone on this planet will have access to world class medical analysis, nearly for free. Goodbye, medical establishment as we know it.

3D printing: The price of the cheapest 3D printer came down from \$18,000 to \$400 within 10 years. In the same time, it became 100 times faster. All major shoe companies have already started 3D printing shoes.

Some spare airplane parts are already 3D printed in remote airports. The space station now has a printer that eliminates the need for the large amount of spare parts they used to have in the past.

At the end of this year, new smart phones will have 3D scanning possibilities. You can then 3D scan your feet and print your perfect shoe at home.

In China, they have already 3D printed and built a complete 6-storey office building. By 2027, 10% of everything that's being produced will be 3D printed.

Business opportunities: If you think of a niche you want to go in, ask yourself: "In the future, do you think we will have that?" And if the answer is yes, how can you make that happen sooner?

If it doesn't work with your phone, forget the idea. And any idea designed for success in the 20th century is doomed to failure in the 21st century. ►

IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO:—

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

