

THIRD SUNDAY RUNNING DECEMBER

By The Editor



Compared to the previous month's 3rd Sunday running things were a little bit slower, probably because of the warmer weather and the mad Christmas shopping rush but nonetheless it was enjoyable day. Except for a very short period of time first thing, all motive power for the day was steam.

It was good to see an all-steam operation which was popular with the general public.

Some of the children didn't quite know what to make of steam power having only been exposed to Thomas & Co through the TV, etc. Some of the fathers seemed to be very interested and their explanation to their children of how a steam engine works was sometimes quite hilarious.

As an aside: I was down in Auckland a couple of weeks ago at a tramway function at MOTAT. It was a full uniform do and afterward I went for a walk around the grounds and ended up at the steam section in the old pumphouse. Everything was in action and quite a crowd had gathered. I was approached by a family group from Sri Lanka who asked me did I "work here" and what is steam and how does it make this engine turn (referring to the Tangye mill engine just inside the door). "It's so very quiet", they said. Hurrah! One for steam! I did my best to explain the principals of steam power and the expansive qualities of steam, but I don't think they really understood. The family went away quite bewildered and must have thought we had just re-invented the wheel or something.

JANUARY

Well, we're never satisfied!! After a very wet winter in which the art of running trains was well tested we suddenly find that we have so much sun that also makes for hard hot work.

January running day was more of a "museum weather" day in that it wasn't really hot enough to go to the beach because of a lot of cloud and was quite windy. Although Whangarei had 29°.

Passenger loadings were good and we had two steamers and at times two petrol locomotives in action.

We also had a few overseas visitors who included our operation in their itinerary. They all seemed impressed with what we had.

El Presidenté's wife Heather was coerced into driving the BBQ. She really got thrown in at the deep end as it turned out and was a one-woman band. Thanks Heather.

The new outdoor table along with its older neighbour was quite popular and given a lot of use and even the seat opposite the station was used.



CLUB NOTICES

3rd Sunday Running — February 19, 2017
Mid-week Workdays — Mostly Every Wednesday.

Extra Running Days This Month:

NOTHING ADVISED

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

QUIZ — What is it?

See Page 4.



(TRANSLATION)→ DID YOU KNOW?

- ✧ Farting helps reduce high blood pressure and is good for your health.
- ✧ Breastfeeding allows a baby to give germs to mothers so that her immune system can respond and can synthesize antibodies for her baby.
- ✧ Handshakes were originally meant to make sure that the person you were meeting wasn't carrying a concealed weapon. The hand clasp proved that your hand was empty and shaking was meant to dislodge any weapons hiding up the sleeve.
- ✧ The boomslang snake's venom causes you to bleed from every orifice of your body.
- ✧ Women have twice as many pain receptors on their bodies than men. But a much higher pain tolerance.
- ✧ When getting a new car, choose one that is silver. The colour is most visible on the road and is least likely to get into an accident.
- ✧ By law, a pregnant woman can pee anywhere she wants to in Britain, even in a policeman's helmet.
- ✧ Butterflies you get in your stomach when you see someone you like is actually a stress response caused by adrenaline.
- ✧ A small amount of stress helps you to remember things better, but a large amount may hinder your memory.

LIST OF CLUB MEETINGS UNTIL AUGUST 2017

	February	March	April	May	June	July	August
Committee Meetings @ 2 pm	8th	8th	12th	10th	14th	12th	9th
3rd Sunday Running	19th	19th	16th	21st	18th	16th	20th
General Meetings @ 5.30 pm		14th		9th		11th	

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.

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

Librarian — POSITION PRESENTLY VACANT

Boiler Committee — Rodney White, Brian Mould.

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

MEANZ Representative — Roger Reynolds.

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

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).

The Social Aspect of Joining a Club

Working alone in your workshop is a solitary and isolating situation. Belonging to a club and being involved in it brings friendly interaction with a group of like-minded people. Let's face it ... we are mostly a group of older men (some would say "grumpy" old men).

Having the purpose of providing train rides for the public gives focus to the operation. It is also our hobby and we are there for our enjoyment as well as the public's. A chat over a cup of tea with friendly discussion and banter is a good thing. Hmm, is that an argument or a robust debate I hear?

We are all individuals with different strengths, skills and interests. It is the combination that lends the organisation its strength.

Some clubs cater for the whole range of engineering things that cover model boats, aircraft, very small trains, i.e. "O" gauge, "N" gauge, etc, and general engineering other than locomotives.

All of these interests will at some time use the skills gained in other fields during our lifetimes.

Running trains on a Sunday afternoon relies heavily on the goodwill of members to provide the manpower to operate. We don't have rosters. Rosters seem to create an obligation to be there, which removes the voluntary aspect of it all.

It also creates difficulties if someone can't be there and they can't find a substitute. It can also create a sense of imposition in the person who is called in when it is not their turn. So, we operate without rosters. There is no obligation to turn up, but we encourage members to do so. Most active members are there every week. Some members are only occasionally there ... but that's OK too.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN ENGINEER TO BELONG TO A MODEL ENGINEERING CLUB

The Editor

WEDNESDAY WORKDAYS:

By The Editor

Not much in the way of Work Days this last six weeks as most time on said days was taken up with running trains for the public. Some general titivating up for the coming Anniversary Weekend Open Day(s).

The coffers benefitted from these days so all's well that ends well!!



— BREAKING NEWS —

Common Sense is now an endangered species.
Stupidity has taken over the world and unfortunately there is no known cure!!

Other Club's Events:

Manukau Live Steamers: New Zealand Railways Day, February 4th, 2017.

O.M.E.S. Festival Week: Saturday, February 4th to Sunday, February 12th, 2017.

Thames Small Gauge Railway: Open Weekend, March 18th & 19th, 2017.

Palmerston North Model Engineers: Locomotion 2017, March 4th & 5th, 2017.

Great Model Train Show: Cromwell, March 18th and 19th 2017.

ANSWER TO QUIZ ON PAGE 2:

A Combine-Harvester Graveyard.

Landowner John Manners has seen more combine harvesters than any farmer in the country - after hoarding 350 of the machines for parts.

Mr Manners, has amassed the staggering collection of agricultural vehicles so he can break them down and sell on the parts, and his huge haul is now so large it is visible on Google Earth's satellite cameras.

The enterprising farmer, aged 69, runs his business from near Alnwick, Northumberland, having started it when he was hunting for wheels for his digger.

He started his sideline with just one vehicle, an ageing MF 500 combine, but his business has grown with the combines taking up acres of land.

Mr Manners, who has run the farm where he lives with wife Ann, 65, since 1968, said: "It all started when I got a price for new tyres for a digger".

"I found I could buy an old combine for less and get the tyres off that. Then somebody wanted its engine so I sold that".

"A year later at the Highland Show, I was talking to someone from not far away who had two MF 500s and I bought them both".

"The next thing I had about 50 of the things and became more of a business than farming - it's the main business now".

His business, Manners Combine Parts, has now grown into the biggest dismantler of combines in the UK, supplying farmers and trade outlets with used parts.

Most of the combines arrive intact at the farm but are dismantled to order when parts are needed.

The business has even shipped parts as far away as Lithuania, Malaysia, Morocco, Cyprus, New Zealand and Thailand.

Mr Manner's buys the combines and his sons Richard and Fraser are in charge of sales and distribution.

SAIL AMSTERDAM

Every five years millions of people gather in Amsterdam to see a show that is not to be seen in any other place on earth. It is truly an amazing event.

The inaugural edition of SAIL took place in 1975, organised as part of celebrations marking Amsterdam's 700th jubilee. Entitled 'SAIL Amsterdam 700', the event saw ships from all corners of the world invited to moor in Amsterdam. And they were pleased to make the trip!

Over the decades, SAIL has evolved from a celebration for Amsterdam into a celebration for everyone!

The Beating Heart of SAIL Amsterdam

While SAIL Amsterdam has grown into the largest public event in the world, undoubtedly its beating heart remains the Tall Ships, maritime heritage, modern ships, naval vessels and the amazing replicas. In addition to that, visitors can explore the area in and around Amsterdam's IJhaven, experiencing a vivid programme of cultural events and sporting activities.

In 2015, 2.3 million visitors came to visit SAIL Amsterdam 2015.





MORE NEW TROLLEYS

At a Committee Meeting late last year it was decided that the club could do with a further three trolleys to cope with some of the crush-loading that was occurring on the monthly running days. The age of some of our trolleys was also beginning to show as some of them were up to 30 years old.

The desire for new trolleys also showed that machining capability and time from members within the club was a little on the short side so it was suggested that we purchase the bogies ready-made from an Australian firm in Sydney that was offering a pair ready assembled ones for less than \$800. An order for three pairs was placed and they have duly arrived (one can't complain about the service).

One has been unpacked with much anticipation just to see what quality they were. Well we weren't disappointed for they appear to be of very good quality. So now it is up to us to put our wood-butcher's aprons on and seriously think about some body-building.

Note the brake actuating diaphragm and its operating position. It seems a little small but only time will tell whether it will be efficient.

The wheels on these bogies are quite a lot larger than we use on our existing trolleys. They should, in theory, make the ride somewhat smoother (?).

The photo below shows how the brake blocks for the new bogies are cast. It is only a matter of cutting them across the lines and drilling a hole for the holding pin.

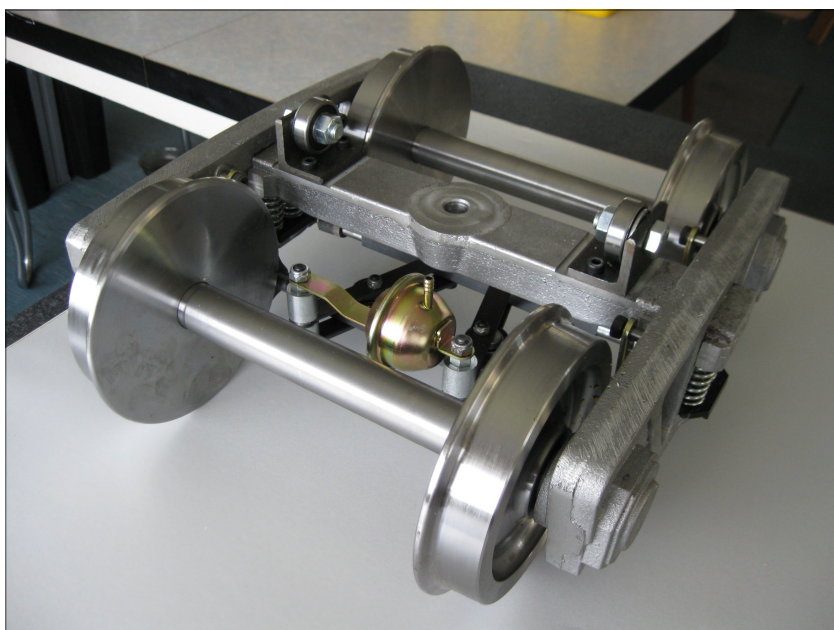
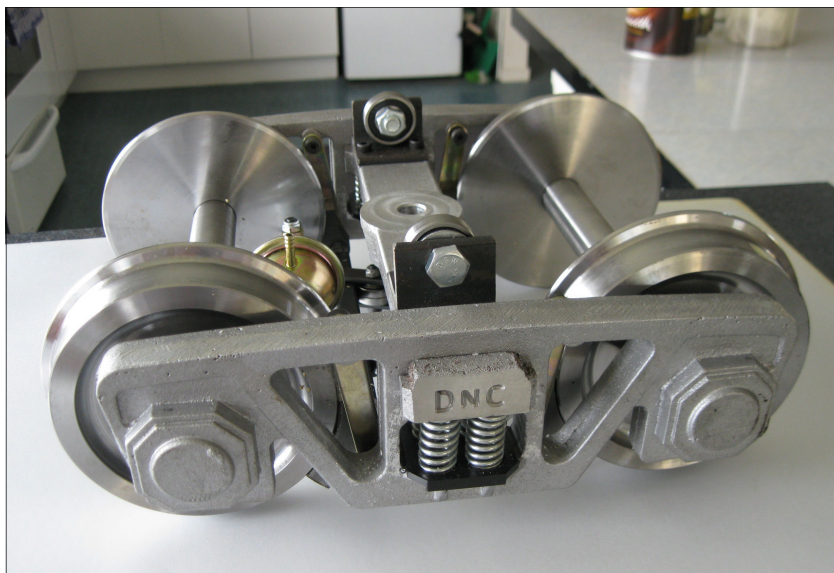
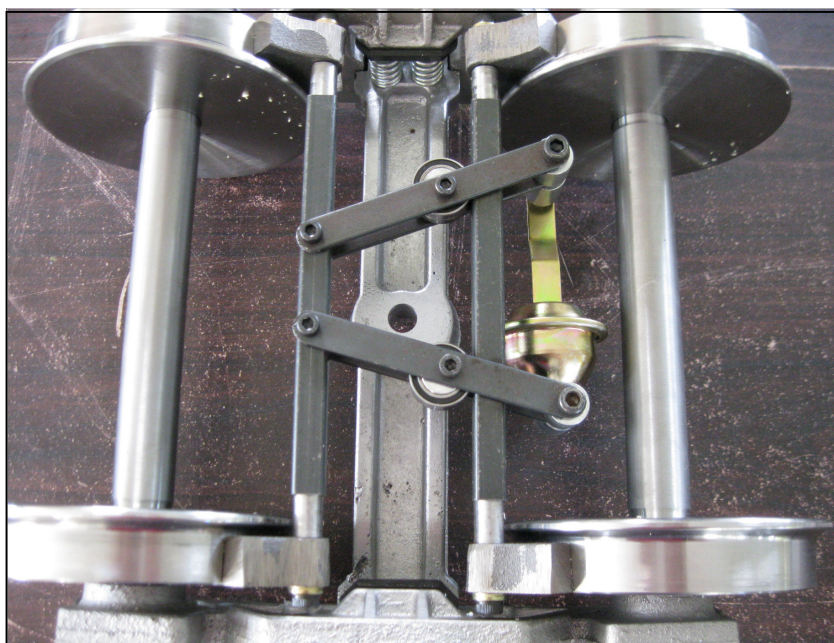


PHOTO BELOW: Note the style of brake application.



We wouldn't worry so much about what other people thought of us if we knew how seldom they did.

General Pics from Around the Site



PHOTOS ABOVE:

1. The new concrete strip at the station. This has helped keep gravel off the public standing area.
2. A new warning sign erected on the signal gantry.
3. Laying the concrete pad for another picnic table. A pity they were a bit short on the concrete.
4. The committee inspecting the clearances (close) on the edge of the new container with 444. [Rodney, Ian, Rankin, John (hiding) and Colin].
- 5, 6, 7. The next three shots show the difference that has been made by giving the large tree fern a severe haircut. It has also allowed the removal of the green gunk that adorned the wall.