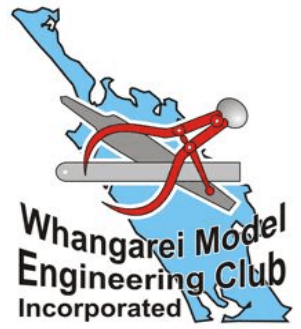

Northern Views



Issue No. 338

August 2020

Clubrooms and Running Track at Whangarei Heritage Park SH14 Maunu

Website: www.wmec.org.nz



Club Notices

Running day 3rd Sunday - August 16, 2020, 10 am - 3 pm

Mid-week Workdays - Generally Every Wednesday, 10 am - 3 pm

Extra running days - None advised this month

From the Editor

The Covid delayed AGM was held at the clubrooms after July's 3rd Sunday running.

Our new President is Lloyd Cross. Rodney's outgoing Presidents Report from the AGM is included.

Unfortunately the weather decided not to cooperate for the Social/Steam up, a new date will hopefully be set.

3rd Sunday Running

A shorter than usual running day, with an early finish to allow everything to be packed up in advance of the AGM.

The customers came in a steady trickle allowing 444 and the Santa Fe to cope with the passenger numbers.

Wednesday work days

With July having school holidays we were running on 8th and 15th, this impacted the ability to do much maintenance. The 444 still appears to be leaking some oil despite having the rocker covers resealed, after consulting one of the Briggs and Stratton agents in town, it has been suggested that it could be a head gasket problem, further investigation is needed.

Tony had been experimenting with a method of spot sleeper replacement without the need to cut and lift full panels of track. He managed to change 5 or 6 sleepers between trains, although the new wood for the sleepers is a little thicker than the old sleepers which necessitates a little scraping of the ballast to get them in without lifting the existing sleepers.

2020 AGM President's Report

Changes to the procedures involved with the Running Approval meant that the club had to have its biannual audit and application completed early. This was successful, thanks to all concerned.

The Christmas lunch at Flames Restaurant was well attended with no adverse comments.

Completion of the folding shade sail over the steam up bay has been well received. The quoted price went over due to one of the new posts being centred directly above an old rail support from the previous layout.

Ian Mison resigned his position as Newsletter Editor. We thank him for his hard work over the years. Chris Birkett was "press ganged" into taking over the position but would appreciate input and contributions from members.

The Anniversary weekend was quieter than usual. It was "beach weather" so possibly some of our usual riders went elsewhere. Thanks to Heather and Lloyd for keeping us fed and watered. A donation of \$800 was made to the Kerikeri Steam Trust to pay importation fees associated with their purchase of a Sissons Compound Engine from the USA.

The 'Santa Fe' suffered a transmission failure after many years service. We were able to locate the last new unit in NZ, \$4000 later it was back on the track. Plans are underway to make it easier to drive.

The club survived lockdown with no problems, our fixed costs are low, so the accounts did not suffer. The undisturbed rabbits did serious tunnelling into the bank by the viaduct, they have been evicted.

With regard to the station canopy, there may be some light at the end of the tunnel. Most builders approached by the club cried off saying too small, too hard, and all sorts of excuses. It is looking like Total Span are prepared to help. We will find out in due course.

Thanks to all our members for their input over the past year.

Finally gravity is present, at least 2 of our members have required medical attention after being sucked down by this force.

A few thoughts from our new President

Hi members this is your reluctant president due to the fact no one else wanted the job and the bulk of the members present have already given their time in the past to fill this position. I have a lot to learn as to what happens behind the scenes that we take for granted. so are open to any suggestions to help the club run in a good manner. I would like to thank members for their efforts during the last year. As I see it, the following are a list of tasks that are the basic needs for the club and at some stage would like to see a member undertake to take control of such.

1. Keep the club rooms clean and tidy i.e. toilets, towels, rubbish etc, however we all should do our bit to keep the place tidy.
2. Workshop organisation and maintenance of club locos and rolling stock.
3. Track maintenance and steam up bay.
4. Signals and operation of equipment.
- 5 Gardening, hedge and track side foliage trimming and planting of any new trees or shrubs.

The personnel in charge would create a list of jobs and if necessary, request other members to help as required and maybe indicate what is required on the black board so as it can be ticked off when job done. That way people can indicate they are available to help the person responsible for that task if they have no other jobs.

Some of our members are already filling these roles but I see no reason why others could not work with the person in charge to learn and or assist, so to be able to take over if and when necessary .

Other things that need further thought and discussion at the club meetings.

Working bees, maybe have them on a weekend for those members that are working during the week? If members still are happy for Wednesday, we could cut back to once a fortnight and weekend ones similar? It has been suggested that the first Saturday or Sunday of the month would suit some members?

Some method of notification for cancellation of running due to bad weather etc possibly using the club website and FaceBook?

Lunch time break, do we halt running between 1200 and 1230pm for lunch break if there are no relief drivers?

Running hours, perhaps from 10am till 2pm for steam and 2 30 pm for diesels, this would allow us to be loaded and gone by 3 pm?

At some stage as a club we could benefit from the development of documentation for the various areas detailing how the tasks are carried out and any technical information for that particular area. This will enable procedures to be developed to allow members to take over a role and have the information to hand to be capable of doing such. This could also include ticket selling and weed control .

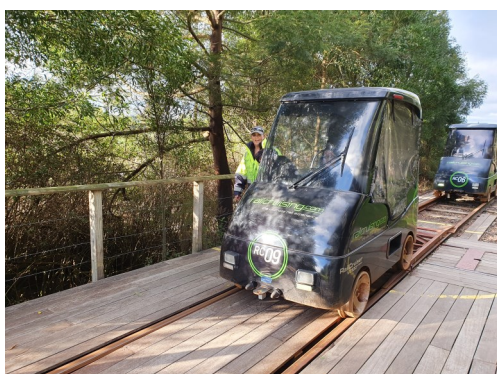
We have a quote to supply a single carport for shelter to be placed at the entrance to the station .This will have a back on it and seating .

Rankin is to contact a builder for expression of interest to erect this .

Regards Lloyd Cross

Rail Cruising

Asi recently had a trip to Rotorua and found that although the Rotorua branch line had been mothballed for some years now there is rail activity on the branch in the form of rail cruising using buggies converted to run on rails. They run over a 9.5km section from Mamaku to Tarukenga and back. He took the following photos <https://railcruising.com/>



On further investigation it appears that there are several more rail cart operations in the North Island on the Stratford–Okahukura Line <https://www.forgottenworldadventures.co.nz/routes-and-trails/?type=2> , another at Awakeri at the End of the East Coast Main Trunk Line <https://www.awakerirail.co.nz/> and finally closer to home on the Dargaville Branch <https://www.portdargavillecruises.co.nz/>

LIST OF MAIN CLUB OFFICERS

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