

Third Sunday Running



It just so happened that last month's Running Day was in the middle of Labour Day Weekend and the thought that passed my mind a few weeks earlier ... Oo No ... Labour Weekend is usually wet and miserable.

But happily on a large scale our northern weather did exactly the opposite. The whole weekend was fine and quite warm. Our usual dispenser of cylindrical meat-bags rang in sick, so that left yours truly to drive the BBQ. I wasn't feeling all that crash hot after my recent encounter with a bug that is going around, but I figured that I could survive — silly me ... I had to close the stand early as there was no one else available to run the show. The snags sold well up until I threw the towel in. But I think part of the problem was dehydration more than anything else (it was hot in the "Snak Shak") and on my own admission I did not drink enough water to keep things normal.

We had four locos in business (two steam and two P/E) and they performed very well.

There were customers waiting on the platform when I arrived at about 9.30 am, and it never really stopped until mid-afternoon.

Our latest recruit to join our ranks, Chris Birkett, is from England. He has taken up a job at the Marsden Point Oil Refinery as an instrumentation technician. With his interest in model engineering and experience in driving on such systems we ended up *"throwing him to the lions"* in as much that he already knew most things relevant to driving miniature locomotives. I think he enjoyed himself though.

He has two (?) steam models which will no doubt eventually grace our tracks.

We had a charter late in October which I cannot report on as there wasn't enough time to put in a plug for any volunteers wishing to help out.

**THE NEXT ISSUE WILL COVER
DECEMBER AND JANUARY**

Sorry Chris, but a gremlin got in the works of the photo from last week.

CLUB NOTICES

3rd Sunday Running — November 18th, 10 am till 3 pm.

Mid-week Workdays — Mostly Every Wednesday, 10 am — 3 pm.

Extra Running Days This Month:

SEE INSIDE

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



Over the years we have had trouble with the very slow filling of the cistern in the men's toilet through being connected to a gravity tank in the roof and over the years attempts have been made to rectify things — short of re-plumbing the place.

Things became annoying earlier this year so it was decided that we should take the bull by the horns and connect things to the pressure line, and that wasn't as easy as it sounds. So by the time you read this everything should be right.

The work gang have also reconstructed the trap points to the west of the main steam-up bay. The original which was installed last year was not a great success in that if a loco ran away and hit the huge chunk of steel that was in place, there would be more damage to the engine than if it had fallen down the adjacent bank.

It was decided that trap-points should be installed instead to end up in a pile of gravel which in theory would be softer than steel.

[As an aside: This is similar to what most New Zealand tramways had at the end of the line at a terminus that might have been on a slight slope where a hole was dug and filled with softer material and sealed over to allow motor vehicles to cross safely. This was known as a tram-trap].

Here's hoping that it never has to be used.



The points mechanism is of the spring-back type which is set for the gravel heap. If you want to go straight ahead a pin has to be pulled to disengage the spring and allow a train to proceed on to the main line. LH picture shows Brian doing some final adjustment and on RH picture still has the gravel heap to be installed

Views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the editor or of the Whangarei Model Engineering Club

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Christmas Luncheon

FLAMES RESTAURANT

Onerahi Hotel

This year we are holding our
Christmas Luncheon at Flames
Restaurant, Onerahi, on

Saturday, December 15

at 1 pm.

CASH BAR OPERATING

Those wishing to attend **MUST** notify the Editor
by e-mail (julianm@xtra.co.nz)
or telephone (434-3125) by **DECEMBER 6th**

(FOR CATERING PURPOSES)

Other Club's Events:

Tauranga: Open Weekend. November 10 — 11th.

Christchurch: Open Weekend. November 16 — 18th.

2019

Palmerston North: "Locomotion". Saturday, January 26th, 2019.

Maidstone (Hutt Valley): 23-24 February, 2019

High Tea at the small engine shop



As had been suggested in the past, a morning tea was organised for all the Club members and all other clubs at Heritage Park, on a Wednesday, which is a normal working bee day for most of the clubs, to get together to socialise.

The first one was arranged last month by the Stationary Engine Club.

A goodly number from the various clubs enjoyed a cup of tea or coffee and a jolly good natter.

The next one is on Wednesday, 24/10/18, in the clubrooms of the Whangarei Radio Club.

BOOKINGS FOR FUNCTIONS AT THE CLUB

The “Silly Season” is now upon us!!!

Bookings are coming in for events to be held at our railway and we will need extra people to run these operations.

Those already in are:-

Educare: Friday, November 23, 9.45 am – 12.45 pm.

NZ Refining Social Club: Saturday, December 1,
10 am - 2 pm

(BOTH OF THE ABOVE ARE EXPECTED TO BE BUSY)

**THERE ARE BOUND TO BE QUITE A FEW MORE (BASED
ON LAST YEAR),
SO KEEP AN EYE ON THE NOTICE BOARD**



The About Time project **A unique Rolling Ball Clock**

TO BE AN EXCITING NEW TOURIST ATTRACTION FOR WHANGAREI!

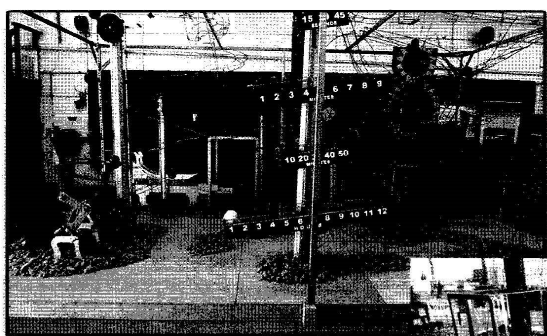
A 6m x 4m x 2.5m high, special glass enclosed, kinetic Ball Clock sculpture, to be situated in the Whangarei Town Basin adjacent to the Clapham's Clocks Museum.

OPEN DAYS LAST SAT. OF EVERY MONTH, 10am-1pm

To see the full size working prototype of this amazing invention in action!

Built to enable testing and costing for the final State of The art version.

Featuring massive gear wheels, a chain lift, "Pedal-man", loop the loop, Newton's Cradle, vertical drop, figure of eight, dual race, a lifting bridge, a carved Pou simulation and more!



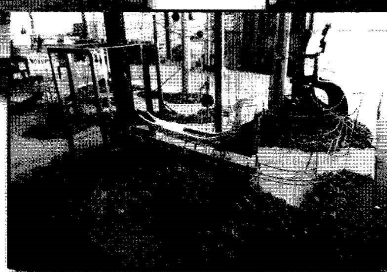
The working model

Our location is in
Reyburn House Lane,
in a WDC workshop
50 meters past the
Crossfit Gym. See our
main sign on the
front of the building
and a road sign
with red flags.

DON'T MISS IT!

Tell a friend they can

go on **GOOGLE**, type **WHANGAREI BALL CLOCK** - see videos and press articles...



For a group
visit phone
4343889
or
4338409



**Don't miss
Pedal-man!**

A simplified computer image
of the **FINAL** clock in its planned
FUTURE location beside
Clapham's Clock Museum



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