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NPSMEE

11 Gilbert Street, New Plymouth

Public Running Sundays 1-4pm

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WELCOME!

Welcome to the next edition of the SWARF newsletter, again coming out too long after the last one! Work and being away have been the main cause of that, but anyway some neat stuff below!



Latest Info

Sunday running has been generally going well, with the new Hydraulic loco doing sterling service proving itself week after week. Ben's DH and the Wab handle the services when this loco doesn't, and these 2 are running well with only occasional 'running repairs' to keep them up to scratch. Our thanks to those who maintain these in service condition. The number of private bookings has dropped of-late with the weather not playing ball sometimes, but the days that are fine see these well-attended.



In January we held our Charity Run, for the benefit of the Taranaki Downsyndrome Society. This day was well received by both the Charity and the NPSMEE. Planning is now underway for another one, to be held once the fine weather arrives again. We are currently taking suggestions for the receiving Charity/Organisation, so if you know of one that would be interested please talk to either Ben or Bruce.



We have been trialing different types of coal, with varied results. We have failed to find one that is suitable for our needs, although we have found 2 that COULD be combined to obtain what we want... This is an on-going issue which we are working to sort out.

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We are investigating options for a replacement sign for the footbridge. The current one is past its use-by date and is starting to look drab. Any ideas for this new sign can be forwarded to a member of committee, or brought up at the upcoming-AGM.

We have also implemented a Warrant check-sheet for those who would like them to present with their loco at other clubs. Please see Bruce for this. These will slowly be implemented at our track as-well...

*****New Faces and Helpers Required*****

Just remember that we run EVERY fine Sunday, so feel free to come down and lend a hand. All roles are available every week, from Station Duties to Driving, so please make time to come down and help YOUR club. With a few of the regular members looking to take trips away or step-back, we are in need of some extra assistance...

WITT Engineering Workshop Visit

Wayne Reid has kindly offered us the opportunity to go and have a look at some of the Engineering and Welding facilities at the WITT complex. The date is the 28th of May, and we will be meeting at the clubrooms at 7:30pm then proceeding from there. Don't miss this opportunity to check out some impressive equipment and talk to like-minded others who play a key-role in training future generations.

Mid Year Dinner

We will be holding another Mid-Year Dinner on June 13th at 6:30pm. The venue will be the Sunworld Chinese Restraunt (All-You-Can-Eat!!!) again, as the members that attended last year's one enjoyed the atmosphere. Make sure you RSVP to Ben by the 10th of June so we have an idea of numbers. Also make sure your 'other-half' (better-half?) is invited too, as it will certainly be a great night out!

*****AGM 2015*****

This years AGM will be held on the 21st of May, 7:30pm at the Clubrooms. We will have 1 position to fill on the Committee, as Martin has decided to take a step back, so there will be at-least one replacement required.



Bens DH Progress - Nearly Finished!!!

Ben's DH has been running reliably for the last 4-months, with only minor alterations.

The biggest one is a change in the Gear Ratios in the bogies (started at 19-teeth, moving at 18+kph!) which is now running 13-teeth sprockets on the motors. This now gives a more reasonable 12kph, and has increased pulling power by heaps. The body was constructed in mid-February with a massive thanks to Grant and Donna Alexander, and was painted over the next few weeks. The whole thing came together at the Palmerston North clubs' Open Weekend in early-March, running approx 30km over the weekend. It has also run at the Keirunga Park Railway for 4-days over Easter, clocking up an estimated 85km.





New Shed Door and Alterations

The committee has opted to engage the services of a contractor to install that new door for the Engine Shed that we purchased last year, so watch this space for news on this new development. Once this is in, we will be having a change around of the interior, including modifying the stack and adding more 'larger-loco' storage space.

A Special Note from a Past Member

Over Ted Barnes funeral week, Graeme Jones got in-touch with me asking to see the trains and have a ride. Graeme has taken the time to write the following about his experience of the NPSMEE... I have taken some license and shorted it abit to fit in nicely :)

First thanks to you and the other members for welcoming me. The society started in 1952 and I think I joined in 1953. I was introduced to it by Perc Fougere and his son Bob. They were both service managers at the big car dealerships. In the society the ones I remember were Gerry Gerrard, George Sutherland, Stan Wolfe and Ted Burberry. Bernard Aris, the artist who painted several pictures on your clubroom walls, was an interesting member. He had worked for the Marconi Company as a ships wireless operator on the liner 'Olympic', the sister ship to the Titanic the same year 1912 that it was lost.

I know that in 1954 the society was still meeting at the Victoria League rooms at the bottom of Carrington Street. I know because I had just met Ted Barnes in 3rd Form and he and I used to take models we made along to meetings at those rooms. He made a

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wooden model of a Canadian wheat carrier ship. I made a wooden submarine inspired, I think, by the visit to the port of a Royal Navy World WW2 submarine .I also built from balsa, a motor torpedo boat and an Air Sea Rescue launch. But Ted and I not being able to attempt live steam were well into Meccano. Jack Corrigan, a member of this society, had Corrigan's book shop which sold Meccano and it was where we got our copies of the Meccano Magazine and the Model Engineer which had in it such writers as L.B.S.C. who would week by week tell how to build various steam locomotives from the small 0-4-0 'Tich' tank engine to big things like the 4-6-2 Pacific 'Britannia'. The society used to have a stand each year at the Winter Show where we had steam engines running on compressed air. One older member whose name escapes me, used to show his collection of hot air Sterling cycle engines all running. I would put in Meccano models my best being an eight wheel English type truck chassis with working steering suspension and 4 speed transmission.

So around 1954 we helped to raise money to build the club rooms by sharing with the Chess Club. A portable straight push-pull track was made and this with a loco (usually Gerry Gerrard's) was taken to school gala days to give kids rides for money. I helped to build the club rooms and I actually designed the logos on the front door windows for both clubs .I was delighted to see that well over 50years they were still in place. In the early days there was just a simple single loop track ,the extra loops came later.

We did have a bit to do with the Hamilton Society and would visit them on long weekends and run on their track which was similar .By 1959 I had moved to Auckland and so rather lost contact for what has been a very long time .

Kind regards
Graeme Jones

Bits to Give Away

We currently have pieces for a 3.5" gauge 'Britannia', please contact Martin on 067535029 and he'll be able to explain what is there.

Well, that's all for now. We hope you have enjoyed this newsletter. Please send any feedback/comments/suggestions to

sewellben3@gmail.com

Until Next Time

New Plymouth Society of Model & Experimental Engineers