



Piston'n'Prop.

Newsletter

Marlborough Associated Modellers Society Inc.
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If Clubs or members currently receiving this Newsletter by mail could receive it by email please let me know carlmcmillan@ihug.co.nz

August 2017

Committee Meeting notes for June / July

The winter months have seen a slow down in growth of plants, grass and weeds around the Park but we have still been able to proceed with different maintenance tasks. The Boating Section members have made great progress with extending the boat shed and we hope this will provide the additional storage space that was needed. Thanks to Colin Grocott and Allan Fairweather for their efforts. The ex-NZR ticket box from Picton has been relocated to the flying site and is being repaired by Malcolm Maxwell. We hope this will be a satisfactory

replacement for the caravan which was stolen. At least it will be harder for anyone to remove. Work on installation of the container for loco storage is progressing with one section of concrete flooring being poured. Various sections of the ground level track have been lifted, new slippers fitted, and the track re-aligned.

Train running has been average with a number of wet days and few passengers visiting the Park. We haven't had the extremes of weather that other parts of the country have had, so that is something to be grateful for.

We welcome new members Evan Teale (aero), Patrick Robinson (engineering), Jim Acott (engineering) and Mark Smith (Aero) and wish them well in their time with MAMS.

Nigel Wood
Secretary

Steam Section Meeting notes for June 20th.

A good meeting for a Winter's evening with discussion on various topics and proposals for future projects dealing with raised and ground level track installations.

Mark Taylor has been practising TIG welding of copper for boilers and the test pieces look very promising with good penetration, uniform weld and no porosity. He has been experimenting with different oxygen / helium gas mixtures and amperage to prevent porosity. Seam welds get good penetration but butt welds are a bit more difficult. He is constructing an oiler for his loco using ratchet drive.

Nigel has been making new axle boxes and horn stays for his Simplex which was commenced some years ago but put to one side as other projects and life got in the way.

Running days have been okay recently but indifferent weather has affected public participation.

Win Holdaway presented a draft proposal for reconfiguring the ground level and raised tracks to enable combined train running operations at the current raised track station. This has been under discussion for a while so Win put the proposal on paper to enable comment and planning to proceed. The raised track through the station would be shifted west 1.5metres and a bypass added to permit continuous running if desired while other trains were loading/unloading at the station. The ground level track would have a turn-out by the truss bridge and be

routed to go through the station for passenger loading/unloading and then on around the clubrooms to rejoin the existing track opposite the shops. Locomotive loading and trolley storage facilities would be included in the alterations. Many points were discussed but overall there were favourable comments.

The evening finished at 9.20pm

Steam Section meeting July 18th.

Another cool winter's evening meeting with projects on the table for discussion.



Brent Coburn had the boiler for a 2" Burrell Traction Engine which is due a retest. This was built in Auckland in the 1960's by Les Fitts (ASME) and Brent has it ex-Rotorua. He is overhauling the machine at the same time.



Mark Taylor had boiler parts for the 5" gauge Speedy locos he is building.

Jim Acott is planning on making 5" gauge Aspinall 27 and is gathering drawings for making the parts.

Patrick Robinson is currently assisting family members with the refit of a 50 foot fishing vessel at Picton which will be re-named 'Serenity'.

Nigel has completed fabricating the coupling rods for Simplex and is now at the stage where wheels turn without binding - where it should have been thirty years ago. Next stage is machining the cylinder blocks and steam chests.

More discussion about proposed project and trolley storage for club passenger trolleys. This is a reasonably immediate requirement as the trolleys are getting a bit battered from being stored and manhandle in the current arrangement. Working drawings would be required to enable the to go ahead. There was discussion about modifying the existing loco storage racks to enable the club loco to be accessed more easily.

The evening finished at 9.30pm.

Nigel

Message from satisfied visitor

My name is Lorna and my family live in Collingwood. We come and see the model trains every time we're over in Blenheim. I have a few pictures and was wondering if you would like them to use in your newsletter or other places?

My son is 2.5years old and absolutely loves the rides. He goes on about it for a couple days later, he's an absolute fan.





Mason is 2 and a half and absolutely loves the trains so much he had to go on both the steam and diesel train. Every time we head over to Blenheim we stop in at the miniature trains, everyone is so lovely and it's such a great way to spend the afternoon. We will be coming back for years to come.
(Thanks Lorna for the photo's and the kind comments, we appreciate the feedback and are glad Mason enjoys the rides. Editor)

Boating Report (No report).

Flying section report

We welcome new members Evan Teale and Mark Smith to the flying section and wish them well in their time with MAMS.

I have not heard any more from the Police about our stolen caravan. The ex NZ Rail ticket box is now on site at the airfield as a replacement for the caravan, thanks to Mark and Nigel and anyone else involved with that. Malcolm has replaced the rotten wood around the windows and fitted wall corner mouldings that were missing. Rex removed the damaged floor covering, the floorboards underneath look pretty sound. Trev Faulkner has donated a first aid kit to be kept in the ticket box for use at the field, please try not to injure yourselves but if something does happen there is a Kit there. I have been meaning to get a couple of posts to sit the shed on but have not done so yet. I was also thinking of removing the bench, draw and cupboard to allow more storage space.

If any members have any ideas on maximising the usefulness of the shed please let me know.



When I contacted the council and got permission to relocate the ticket box (Shed) to the airfield I also asked about setting up a shelter, like a shade sail with four posts, which they were okay with. If anyone has and preference for the design or location of this, or how to achieve it at minimum cost, please let me know. If anyone wants to look after this job also please let me know.

We will be into daylight saving before the next newsletter is out and we will again be looking at continuing with slope soaring over the spring and summer daylight saving period. I will let members know the details nearer the time. Last season all the flying was done at Meadowbank, I have not contacted them yet but hopefully we will continue as previously. Slope soaring is an interesting and occasionally challenging aspect of our hobby, depending on the weather it can be very sedate or very exciting. Almost any type of glider or electric glider can be used depending on weather/wind conditions, anyway it is something to think about for the future. Flying at Tuamarina has been pretty good lately with periods of settled weather and calm clear days, and a good number of members getting out even in the cold to make the most of it. Good to see the new members getting out flying. My Saito powered Katana that was in the last newsletter now has many flights on it and is going well, despite being a bit overweight. The Saito has been very reliable so far and sounds good although still pretty noisy. Have fun, fly safely.
Carl M.

NOTE - NZ Model Flier's World is now available for issue at both Blenheim and Picton libraries.

MAMS Membership and Subscription Structure

Ordinary Member (all Sections)	S55.00
Family membership	\$60.00
Junior Member	\$35.00
Country Member (+40km from Blenheim)	\$35.00
Life Member	Nil.

Members may belong to any or all of the following Sections, for one Ordinary Membership fee:

Engineering - Boating - Flying.

*Flying Section members may join **MFNZ** (Recommended) for an **additional** annual fee of: **Senior \$75, Junior \$20, and Family \$80**, paid to MAMS.*

*NOTE: MFNZ Fees must be paid to the club before **31 March**. New members*

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joining after 1 January can be charged a full year fee and they will be recorded as financial members of the 2017/18 year.

For on-line payments members just have to use the club account number, give their name and purpose of payment, i.e. **MAMS subs**, and/or **MFNZ subs**.

SBS Bank Account number is 031355 0512739 00

Subscription Policy: Financial membership shall cease if the required subscription fee has not been paid by the **31st of July**. **Non-financial members are not covered by our insurance policy and therefore cannot operate their models at our designated sites**, and they do not receive a Newsletter.

(**New** members who have joined and paid their Subs from December 2016 onwards are still considered paid up club members for 2017/2018 year)

Those who have paid their subscription since the last AGM may collect their membership card and receipt from a folder on the notice board in the clubroom. Anyone not wishing to renew their membership please let the treasurer, or a committee member, know. If any flying section members are not renewing their membership could they also return their key to the flying field.

Publication dates: 1st week of February, April, June, August, **October**, and December.

Please get any items (Notices, articles, or for sale items etc) for the **October** issue to the editor a few days before the end of **September**.