

The Limited

Issue 2

A newsletter for Auckland's Model Railway Clubs

December, 2018

Contents

The Editor's Desk.....	1
The Britomart Express.....	1
Out West Model Expo.....	2
Free-mo Weekend.....	2
Spotlight: Western Districts MRC.....	3
British Modelling News.....	4
North Shore MRC News.....	5
Calendar of Events.....	6
Contact Details.....	6
Remove or Add to the List.....	6

The Editor's Desk

The feedback we received about the first issue of *The Limited* was gratifying. The feedback shows the newsletter can play a role in supporting, promoting and providing services for the hobby in Auckland. The content and form of *The Limited* will undoubtedly evolve but the general goals of supporting, promoting and providing services will remain.

One service we will provide is a calendar of regional, national, and possibly overseas events. There are two reasons for the calendar. The obvious is to make individual modellers aware of upcoming events. The other reason is to make clubs aware of upcoming events. The calendar will enable clubs to schedule their non-regular events such as open days so they do not clash with regional or national events.

After some deliberations we have decided to be flexible in our use of the word club in *The Limited*. By a club, we will mean any group of modellers who meet to run trains and talk about model railways.

We hope you have a good time over the festive season. Our next issue will be in the second half of January.

The Britomart Express

Many of you would have received the first update sheet for the 2019 NZAMRC Auckland convention to be held on February 9 at the North Shore MRC. The convention's name is The Britomart Express. If you did not receive the sheet, email us and we will email you a copy.

The main points from the update sheet are:

We have speakers for two of the three clinics. Wayne Brindle of the North Shore and Auckland MRCs will talk on NZR modelling, and Paul Hobbs will talk on American modelling. As yet, we do not have a speaker for the clinic on British modelling. Does anyone wish to give the clinic?

Two layouts on the layout tour have been confirmed.

The modelling competition has just one category and that is to scratchbuild a load for a flatcar. The flatcar is not judged. There are many examples of scratchbuild loads on the internet.

There will be space available at the venue for model railway organisations and the organizers of model railway events to have a small promotional display. The space for each organisation or event will be four square feet. If you want to have a display please contact James Kelso by January 31, 2019. The Auckland Garden Railway Society has already said they will have a display.

The registration fee is \$15. Although this can be paid on the day, we prefer that you pay beforehand so that the caterer for morning tea know how much food to prepare (the food will include home baking). The

update sheet has the details on how to pay the registration fee.

We hope to see you at the convention.

Out West Model Expo

The Auckland Märklin Club (AMC) held the inaugural Out West Model Expo at the Te Atatu Community Centre November 17 and 18. The expo was originally intended to have a wide selection of models but in the end, it was essentially a train show. The AMC's goals in holding the expo were to promote the hobby, and to raise money for their club.

Philip Wrigley, the president of the AMC, estimated over 1100 people attended the expo. The exact number is unknown because many people were in family groups. Eleven hundred people is a good result for an inaugural event and the AMC can fairly claim they promoted the hobby. They also made a profit. The AMC was sufficiently pleased with how well the expo went that they have already booked the venue for next year for November 9 and 10.

There were 17 layouts at the expo. These included layouts from the following clubs: Auckland Garden Railway Society, Auckland Märklin Club, Greater Waikato Railway Modellers Club, Independent American Model Railroaders of Auckland, Modellers of Mt Albert, New Zealand Hornby Railway Collectors Group, and the Waitakere Modular Railway Group / Western Districts MRC.

The North Shore MRC did not have a layout but one of its members had a small N-scale layout at the expo.

Our Facebook page, search for "Auckland Model Railway Clubs" on Facebook, has a good collection of photographs of the layouts, locomotives and rolling stock at the expo. The Facebook page for the Auckland Märklin Club has an even bigger collection of photographs and a two minute 35 second video of the expo.

Free-mo Weekend

The Pacific Extension Free-mo group is a group of modellers from Auckland, Tauranga and Cambridge

who build and use Free-mo modules. They had a weekend get-together November 10 and 11 at the Paeroa War Memorial Hall. We visited on Saturday morning and were impressed by the layout, particularly its size and speed of assembly.

A Free-mo module can be any length and can be made up of more than one section. The Free-mo standard governs the end of a module and the basic track configuration. There is a Free-mo standard for single and double tracks. Both standards are less restrictive than any other module standards we know about.

Five people started assembling the layout at Paeroa at 1pm on the Friday (November 9) and by 6:30pm trains were running. More modules were added on Saturday morning. The first photograph on the next page, taken from the AMRA New Zealand Facebook page, shows the layout. The size of the layout can be gauged from the 12 inches to the foot people in the left side of the photograph. The layout as set up at Paeroa had two reversing circles, one on the right of the photograph and the other at the end furthest from the photographer, as well as a long peninsula going right to left, and a small peninsula, not clearly visible in the photograph, on the left. This small peninsula had the transfer table shown in the second photograph on the next page.

There are more photographs of the layout on our Facebook page ("Auckland Model Railway Clubs") and the AMRA New Zealand Facebook page.

The Pacific Extension Free-mo groups plans to have a layout on display at the 2019 AMRA convention in Tauranga. The exact configuration of the layout at the convention will depend on the space available.

As you can see from the first photograph below, few modules are scenicked. Between now and the AMRA convention, the Free-mo group plans to scenick many of the modules.

For those of you interested in finding out more about the Free-mo standard, it is available on-line at

<http://www.free-mo.org/standard>



The room has three layouts. By far the largest is a HO scale layout that goes three-quarter of the way around the room. This layout has a mix of scenery depicting different countries. Some parts of the layout have two levels. There is a small segment of dual gauge HO/HOn3 track. There are tentative plans to build a small extension to this segment of track using as diorama donated to the club.

The next layout down in size is a long, U-shaped N scale layout along one wall. This also has two levels.

The third layout, known affectionately as The Coffin, is not immediately noticeable when you wander around the room. It is a small N scale layout that is stored vertically in a shallow cupboard when not in use. The layout swings down into place like the old fashion ironing boards. This layout is primarily for the junior members of the club.

One major project the WDMRC is working on is converting the HO layout from DC to DCC. Instead of using a traditional system based on Digitrax, NCE or MRC, the club plans to use a system based on Arduinos, raspberry pi and smart phones. I will follow this project closely.

The club has a Facebook page, search for “Western Districts Model Railway Club” (who would have guessed?). The page is maintained by Michael Hill who is the club’s vice-president. Michael will soon be creating a website for the club.

The club is perhaps best known for Model X. This is an annual three-day event held over Queen’s Birthday weekend and has been running for many years. This year’s edition was cancelled because the club was unable to attract enough exhibitors to cover the cost of hiring the venue, a cost that had increased significantly since last year. The club plans to hold Model X next year.

The clubrooms are downstairs at 103 Glen Road Ranui. The first two Monday evenings of each month are for train running. The other Monday evenings are for working on the layouts, although some train running occurs on these nights. Anyone is welcome to visit and run their HO or N train in a non-timetabled

Spotlight: Western Districts MRC

The following was written by Philip.

We visited the Western Districts Model Railway Club (WDMRC) the evening of November 5. This was my first visit to the club; James was a member many years ago.

The club was formed in 1974 by a small group of people keen to promote interest in the hobby and to share resources. Promoting and sharing resources are just as important now as they were 44 years ago.

Of the club layouts in Auckland, I am most familiar with North Shore’s Waitemata & Chelsea (W&C) layout and I instinctively compare other club layouts to the W&C. The WDMRC layout room is noticeably larger than North Shore’s and most aisles are a lot wider. The increased width would all but eliminate operators bumping into one another during an operating session.

dc session. If you are interested in finding out more about the club or visiting, contact the club secretary Mark at markandmoira@maxnet.co.nz

British Modelling News

In the previous issue, we asked people to contact us if they were interested in establishing a network for British modellers in Auckland. We were surprised how many British modellers there are in Auckland.

Peter Milner from the AMRC emailed us about the Welsh railway he is modelling. There are photographs of this layout at the end of this article. Chris Cameron from the NZHRCA said he has 32 Auckland modellers on his distribution list. We knew there were British modellers at the ACMRC but did not know there were British modellers at the WDMRC.

One suggestion we received was to use *The Limited* as the medium to communicate with British modellers in Auckland. *The Limited* will certainly have news and articles about British modelling but *The Limited* is intended for all clubs.

We believe there is merit in having an electronic newsletter for British modelling in Auckland. The American Central Model Railroaders in Wellington have a newsletter called *The Highball*. The last we heard *The Highball* has over 200 subscribers. The Auckland Garden Railway Society has *The AGRSI Express* that goes out to the 30 plus members of the society. The City of Sails MRC being formed will likely have its own electronic newsletter.

An electronic newsletter need not be long, three pages is sufficient, and the newsletter need not be published frequently, every two months is sufficient. Having six three-page issues each year will generate a lot more communication than zero pages.

The word-processing for a newsletter need not be time consuming. The goal of an electronic newsletter is not to produce a publication that has a high-quality appearance, but to produce a publication that provides information, keeps people up to date and promotes a particular aspect of the hobby, in this case British modelling in Auckland, all in a timely manner.

About half of this issue of *The Limited* was typed into MS Word on a smartphone while one of us was commuting to and from work.

If someone or a small group of people would like to start publishing a newsletter for British modelling in Auckland, we can provide advice. As we noted above, producing an electronic newsletter need not be time-consuming.

An electronic newsletter is not the only way to promote British modelling in Auckland. Another possibility is to give clinics on British modelling at local clubs and conventions. A specific example of this is a clinic at next year's The Britomart Express (see earlier in this issue). As yet we do not have anyone to give the clinic on British modelling.

We end this article with three photographs of Peter Milner's in-progress layout. Peter is a member of the Auckland MRC and sent us the photographs shortly after he received the first issue of *The Limited*.

Peter's layout is based on the British Rail Cambrian Railway in Caersws, mid-Wales, circa 1957. The layout is end-to-end with fiddle yards at both ends and the end of a branchline to the mining village at Van. The Caersws station survived the Beeching cuts and is still in use as an unstaffed station with a ticket machine. The branchline to Van closed in 1940, twenty years after the mine in Van closed. There are Wikipedia pages on the station and the branchline. Peter has more work to do on the wiring and the scenery.





North Shore MRC News

Elections

The club held its annual elections at its AGM on November 8. Dave Webley was elected president and Mark Jackson vice-president. Alan Godfery and Gordon Lumsden retained their positions as secretary and treasurer respectively. Most of the 2017-2018 committee stood for re-election. The new committee is Wally Holmes, Bruce Jones, Philip Sharp, Dave Webster, and Mark Webster.

Annual Competition

The club held its annual competition late October. The winners and place getters were announced at the club's AGM on November 8. The results are below. Some categories have a novice, intermediate and senior division. Not all categories and divisions had entries.

PULLERS

1. Michael Brannigan. Challenger.
2. Frank Fordham. FP45.
3. Harrison Miles. SD90MAC

CREEPERS

- 1st. Frank Fordham. FP45

SHUNTING

1. Gordon Lumsden.
2. Martin Harvey.
3. Harrison Miles.

LOCOMOTIVES

Novice

1. Gordon Lumsden. LNER C15.
2. Glen Metcalf. NZR KA945.
3. Michael Brannigan. NZR Railcar

ROLLING STOCK

Novice

1. Glen Metcalf. NZR Class J.
2. Michael Brannigan. Freight wagons.

Intermediate

1. Ross Oliver. NZR UK8671.
2. Ross Oliver. NZR ETC32.

Senior

1. Mike Lough. NZR 40-ton Craven Crane.

LINESIDE STRUCTURES

1. Owen Munro. Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Station.
2. Owen Munro. Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Station canopy.
3. Michael Brannigan. Gang hut.

MODULE

Senior

1. John McNair. British wharf scene.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Novice

1. Karen Cox. Colour photograph on layout
2. Karen Cox. Colour photograph on layout
3. Alexander Cox. B & W photograph on layout

BRITISH TROPHY: Gordon Lumsden

NZR TROPHY: Ross Oliver

USA TROPHY: Owen Munro

PRESIDENT'S TROPHY: Mike Lough

Active Ageing Expo

Don Burn and Wally Holmes represented the club at the Active Ageing Expo which was held in Takapuna on November 16.

Don and Wally set up a small display and answered questions from the public.

Open Day

The club will have an open day on Sunday December 9 from 10am to 3pm. There will be trains running and club members will be on hand to answer questions. Entrance is free. The main aim of the day is to attract new members to the club.

Although the open day is intended primarily for members of the public, anyone can attend.

Calendar of Events

Please let us know of other events.

Jan 11-13. The Tauranga Model Railway Club's annual show. This will be at the Mount Maunganui College Hall. Email rob.thomson@kinect.co.nz.

Jan 19-21. The 12th New Zealand Garden Railway Convention in the Wairarapa and Wellington. Email Chris Drowley at cdrowley@xtra.co.nz

February 9. The NZAMRC Auckland area one-day convention described earlier. This event will be held at the North Shore Model Railway Club, 9 Recreation Dr, Birkenhead.

April 27 – 28, 2019. The Te Awamutu Train Show, Te Awamutu Events Centre, Te Awamutu. The show will be hosted by the Hamilton Model Railroaders.

Contact Details

The Limited is produced by

James Kelso, jameskelso250@gmail.com

Philip Sharp, pwsharp101@gmail.com

Remove or Add to the List

If any club or person would like to be removed or added to the distribution list please email us.



A postcard image of trams on lower Queen Street, Auckland, 1919. The image is in the public domain.