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### The Editor's Desk

You may have noticed changes to the format of *The Limited*. We have added a header image and a border to each page. These changes are part of a long-term plan to improve the appearance of *The Limited* and to experiment with desktop publishing.

The first major model railway event in Auckland this year is The Britomart Express. This is a one-day NZAMRC Auckland event, February 9 at the North Shore Model Railway Club, 9 Recreation Drive, Birkenhead. The pre-event organisation has been completed. It is now over to you. Our first article below gives all the details for the event.

An event that will be of interest to American modellers in Auckland is the 2019 AMRA convention,

to be held in Tauranga on Queen's Birthday weekend. We contacted the local organizing committee earlier this month and they provided us with an update on the convention. We give the update later in this issue.

As we stated in the previous two issues of *The Limited*, the newsletter is about model railway clubs in Auckland and not a modelling magazine. If you have a club event you would like us to promote, please send us information about the event and we will publish it in the next issue of *The Limited*.

### The Britomart Express

The program for The Britomart Express is

9:00	The venue, the entries for the model competition, and the registration for the layout tour all open.
9:30	Morning tea begins.
9:55	Entries and registration close, morning tea ends.
10:00 – 10:30	Wayne Brindle will give a clinic on NZR modelling.
10:45 – 11:15	Paul Hobbs will give a clinic on American modelling.
11:30 – 12:00	Garry Snow will give a clinic on DCC++ and Arduino.
12:05pm	Prize giving.
1:30pm	Layout tour begins.

The task for the model competition will be to scratchbuild a load for a flatcar. The flatcar will not be judged. The scale can be anything from T to SE. There are many pictures on the internet of loads that would

be suitable. Some possible loads are slabs of marble, pipes and logs with large diameters, and sleepers.

Basic parts do not need to be scratchbuilt. These basic parts include metal, plastic or wood sheet, bar, strip, tube and angle; wire; chain; nuts, bolts, rivets and screws.

If you have any questions about the competition, contact Philip Sharp. His email is at the end of this issue.

The layout tour will consist of five layouts spread over three venues. The layouts are the large S/OO/HO layout and the smaller N scale layout at the Western Districts MRC, a garden layout in Glendene, and the HO and OO layouts at the Auckland Central MRC. We have photographs of the layouts at the Western Districts and Auckland Centre MRCs later in this issue.

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.

If you plan attending the event you will need to register. If you have not already done so, you can register by depositing \$15 in the NZAMRC bank account 02-0688-0138584-00 using internet banking or by sending a cheque for \$15 to J. Kelso, P O Box 301318, Albany, Auckland 0752. Once you have deposited the \$15 or posted the cheque, please send James an email. You can also register and pay \$15 cash on the morning of the convention. If you pay by internet banking, include your first initial, surname and 'AC19'. If you pay by cheque, make it out to the NZAMRC.

Although you can pay the \$15 on the day, we prefer that you pay beforehand so that the caterer for morning tea knows how much food to prepare (the food will include home baking).

We hope to see many of you at the event.

## Abbreviations

Since we like to use abbreviations to conserve space in *The Limited*, we decided to give the abbreviations we like to use. We first list our abbreviations for the model railway organisations that have a presence in Auckland.

ACMRC	Auckland Central Model Railway Club
AGRSI	Auckland Garden Railway Society Inc
AMRC	Auckland Märklin Club
AMRA	American Model Railroaders
AMRC	Auckland Model Railway Club
CoSMRC	City of Sails Model Railway Club
G1MRA	Gauge 1 Model Railway Association
NASG	National Association of S Gaugers
NMRA	National Model Railroaders Association
NSMRC	North Shore Model Railway Club
NZAMRC	New Zealand Association of Model Railway Clubs
NZMRG	New Zealand Model Railway Guild
WDMRC	Western Districts Model Railway Club

In addition, there is the Association of 16mm Narrow Gauge Modellers. This is often referred to informally as the 16mil association.

We also use more generic abbreviations. These include MR for model railway, MRC for model railway club, LOC for local organizing committee, and RR for railroad.

## AMRA 2019

The next bi-ennial convention for American model railroaders in New Zealand will be held at the Tauranga Yacht Club, May 31 to June 3 this year (Queen's birthday weekend). The convention is AMRA 2019 and has the sub-title "Where Rail Meets the Sea"

There will be layout tours, clinics, displays, a Freemo layout at the venue, buy, sell and swap, trade stands, and optional operating sessions. The Port intermodal yard is nextdoor. The registration form and a video trailer on Youtube should be available late January.

The LOC is Bryan Fitzpatrick and Wayne Ruegg. We received email from Bryan on January 11. He said the

LOC was looking for two or three more clinics. Although the LOC is keen for a clinic on 3D printing, they will accept a clinic on most topics. If you would like to give a clinic, please contact either Bryan or Wayne. Their contact details are

Bryan Fitzpatrick, 07 578 8749

[bryan.bayhob@xtra.co.nz](mailto:bryan.bayhob@xtra.co.nz)

Wayne Ruegg, 07 576 3244,

[waycar@kinect.co.nz](mailto:waycar@kinect.co.nz)

[wayneruegg@gmail.com](mailto:wayneruegg@gmail.com)

Bryan also said in the email that The Armitage hotel is offering a special deal of \$139 twin share for accommodation, mention AMRA 2019.

We both plan to attend AMRA 2019 and hope many other American modellers from Auckland will also attend. We enjoyed AMRA 2017, and the 2016 and 2018 mini-AMRA conventions and we expect the same for AMRA 2019.

## NSMRC News

After 18 years in the role, Joe Boardman stepped down December last year as the NSMRC operations coordinator.

Joe oversaw significant changes in the way the club's operating sessions were run. These changes included the introduction of car cards and JMRI based switchlists. Joe will remain an active member of the club. NSMRC president Dave Webley presented Joe with a red envelope at the club's Christmas function on Thursday December 13. Our sources have been unable to establish what was in the envelope.

Philip Sharp has assumed the role of operations coordinator in a temporary capacity. Philip said he did not plan to introduce major changes to the way the operating sessions are run. One change he will make and that has been approved by the NSMRC committee is to invite other Auckland clubs to nominate at most two guest operators for selected NSMRC operating sessions during 2019. The aim of these invitations is to promote the hobby and the club.

## AGRSI News

The AGRSI and the New Zealand branch of the G1MRA held their second joint running meet on Sunday January 13. The two organisations plan to make the meeting an annual event.

There was not a large attendance, possibly because some members of the AGRSI and the G1MRA were still on vacation. Nevertheless, trains were running most of the day and there was plenty of conversation.

There was one mishap that fortunately had a happy ending. The day marked the first public appearance of Bruce's new Isle of Man No 5 Mona live steam locomotive shown below.



During a circuit of the layout the locomotive fell about one metre off a raised track onto a concrete path below. I (Philip) saw the locomotive hit the concrete and instantaneously thought there would be a lot of damage. The only damage was a broken back coupler and very minor scratches. Bruce was running the locomotive several minutes later. The exact cause of the mishap is unknown. The leading explanation is that part of a wagon being pulled by the locomotive caught in the track, causing the locomotive to be pulled sideways.

Note: For those of you who want more information about the Isle of Man locomotives, see the Wikipedia page on the locomotives at

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isle\\_of\\_Man\\_Railway\\_locomotives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Isle_of_Man_Railway_locomotives)

## CoSMRC News

The CoSMRC became a 100% NMRA club on December 12, 2018, the only such club in New Zealand. Being a 100% club entitles the club to some benefits provided by the NMRA.

The club held its first meeting at James Kelso's layout. There was a good turnout, pun intended, including two guests who are American modellers.

James models the Montana Rail Link. The main part of his layout is 20' x 20'. This part has three levels and a helix which when complete will permit trains to enter and exit at three different heights. There is a second helix attached to the 20' x 20' part.

The layout is of a mushroom design, something that is unusual in New Zealand. There is a lot of information, opinions and diagrams about mushroom layouts on the internet. The layout is far from complete and it is possible that the CoSMRC will assist James in completing the layout. The club will definitely be having more meetings at the layout.

If you want to find out more about the CoSMRC, email Philip Sharp. His email is at the end of this issue.

## WDMRC News

The WDMRC's large HO/OO scale layout and its smaller N scale layout will both be on the layout tour for The Britomart Express. Members of the club have been putting a lot of effort into ensuring the two layouts are in good working order. Both layouts are DC. The club is in the process of changing to DCC. The plan is to have a DCC system that uses smartphones and not the standard throttles. Smartphones have the advantage of being a lot cheaper than throttles.

The photographs below show parts of the HO/OO layout. The river in the first photograph has been re-surfaced since the photograph was taken. During the layout tour, club members will be on hand to answer questions about the club and the planned DCC system. The third clinic in the morning of The Britomart Express will include an introduction to what the WDMRC is doing to convert from DC to DCC.



## ACMRC News

The ACMRC's OO and HO layouts will be on the layout tour of The Britomart Express. As is happening with the WDMRC, the ACMRC is putting a lot of effort into ensuring the two layouts are in good working order. The OO layout models Sheffield and can be run as DC or DCC. The HO layout runs DC and is still being developed. Nevertheless, there is a lot to see on the layout including a nine-stall roundhouse, a desert scene and the outline of an elongated helix. The photographs below show parts of the two layouts.

Members of the club will be on hand during the layout tour to answer questions about the club and layouts.



## Calendar of Events

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.

May 31 – June 3, 2019. The 2019 AMRA convention at the Tauranga Yacht Club. See the article in this issue for further information about the convention and the contact details of the LOC.

Please let us know of other MR events of interest to Auckland modellers.

## Contact Details

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Information for future issues of *The Limited* can be sent to James or Philip.

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