



The Limited

September, 2019

A newsletter for the model railway clubs in Auckland.

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Editor's Desk

Over the last few years many clubs that publish a newsletter or magazine for their members have had to decide if they will switch from hardcopy to electronic publication.



With one possible exception, I think clubs should be using electronic publication. Doing so eliminates the time and cost of printing, and frees space in the homes of members. Eliminating the cost of printing would enable the club to reduce its annual membership fees, or provide other services for the same fee.

One objection to electronic publications is that not everyone has access to a computer or smartphone from which to read the publication. True but easily handled because few people do not have a computer or a smartphone. At one club I belong to, the two members without access are mailed a hardcopy of the electronic publication. At another club, a hardcopy of the newsletter for each member without access is left on the club's noticeboard.

The possible exception I referred to above occurs when the main service the club offers its members is the publication. Club members could well be disappointed if a high quality hardcopy publication is replaced by a lower quality electronic publication, even if there is a large reduction in the annual membership fee.

Calendar of Events

October 5 – 6, Model Railway Exhibition, Hamilton Gardens, 10am – 4pm both days. Adults \$6, Child \$3, Family \$15. Hamilton Model Railroaders.

October 20. Auckland Modelling Day, 10am - 4pm, Birkenhead Scout Hall, Recreation Drive, open to all prototypes and modellers. \$0.

November 2. Trip on a coal-powered tug boat, 1:45 – 5:15pm, tickets \$45, W.C. Dalby Preservation Soc.

November 7 – 10. Pokaka Cultural Convocation, Taylor Memorial Lodge, State Highway 4, Pokaka. Email nzrmodelling@yahoo.co.nz for information.

November 9 – 10. The Out West Model Expo, Te Atatu Peninsula Community Centre, 595 Te Atatu Rd. Auckland Märklin Club.

November 10. Mount Eden Collectors Toy and Model Fair, 487 Dominion Rd, Auckland 10am-1pm. \$6, school children free. Auckland Central MRC.

November 22. Auckland Modelling Day, see above.

January 9 – 13, 2020. The 2020 Steam N' Steel, an international model engineering convention in Hamilton. Hamilton Model Engineers.

April 10 – 13, 2020. The NZAMRC National Model Railway Convention, St Andrews College, 347 Papanui road, Christchurch.

Pop-up Show

The Western Districts MRC held a pop-up show in the Kelston Shopping Centre September 14 and 15. The show was primarily a community activity. A secondary aim was to avoid large increases in the club's membership fees by doing fundraising.

There were five layouts. A well-scenicked Welsh OO layout I had not seen, a HO layout, a Thomas layout, a small Australian layout I had not seen, and a small layout where people could run a locomotive. The photograph below shows part of the Welsh layout.



WDMRC demonstrated two leading-edge forms of electronics. The trains on the HO layout were controlled using cellphones, and the turnouts in the staging area of the Welsh layout were controlled using an Arduino-based wi-fi system.

WDMRC encountered one difficulty caused by New Zealand's move towards a cashless society. Some members of the public who attended the show did not have gold coins to pay for the admission.

Out West Model Expo

The Out West Model Expo is November 9 and 10 at the Te Atatu Community Centre, 10am to 4:30pm both days. The Expo is hosted by the Auckland Märklin Club.

Almost all space in the hall has been assigned for layouts and displays. If you would like to have a small layout or a display table on model railways at the Expo, please email the AMC vice-president Dennis Whitlock at drwhitl@slingshot.co.nz

Clubs can use the Expo to promote themselves and they have a lot of flexibility in how they do this. I give some suggestions below

1. Have a club banner by the layout or display table.
2. Have a display board with club photographs.
3. Have a one- or two-page handout about the club.
4. Permit members of the public, particularly younger members, to drive trains.
5. Scavenger Hunt. Have a list of 10 things people have to find on the layout. Offer a small prize.

Auckland Central MRC

The ACMRC held its AGM on September 15. The AGM was over in 75 minutes. Bob Cartwright and Mike Johnston were re-elected president and secretary respectively. The club decided to replace the club's fire extinguisher as it was 15 years old.

The ACMRC will be running its second collectors fair of the year on November 10. These fairs are an important part of the ACMRC's fund raising efforts.

Auckland Garden Railway Society Inc

The AGRSI held its September running meet at the Little Woodside Railway.

The railway is owned by Hugh Keal and is in a picturesque bush setting. Hugh's neighbour gave Hugh permission to extend the railway into the neighbour's property. This enabled Hugh to create an interesting track layout. Even with the extra width, some curves on the layout have a radius of 750mm (29.5 in) which is small for garden railways.

The photograph below shows passengers at the Upper Woodside station basking in the sun. The

control panel in the foreground controls the turnouts at and near the station. The turnouts are powered pneumatically. The air reservoir is under Hugh's house and the turnouts are connected to this by thin, flexible hose.



A highlight of the meeting was seeing a new member run his locomotive for the first time. Two established AGRSI members - Michael Hilliar (life member) and Greg Burrows – helped the new member get the electronics on the locomotive set correctly. The new member called his young family over to watch the inaugural run.

Auckland Märklin Club

The AMC does not have clubrooms. Instead the club rents space in Silverdale to store its layouts. The rented space also has a small meeting room. This room is crowded when there is a good attendance at a meeting, something that is often so.

The AMC sees the above arrangement as undesirable and has been looking to rent a good-sized clubroom for a while. Over the last few months the club has been preparing a submission to rent the old Massey library in Westgate. The library has 900 square metres of floor space which the AMC is looking forward to using.

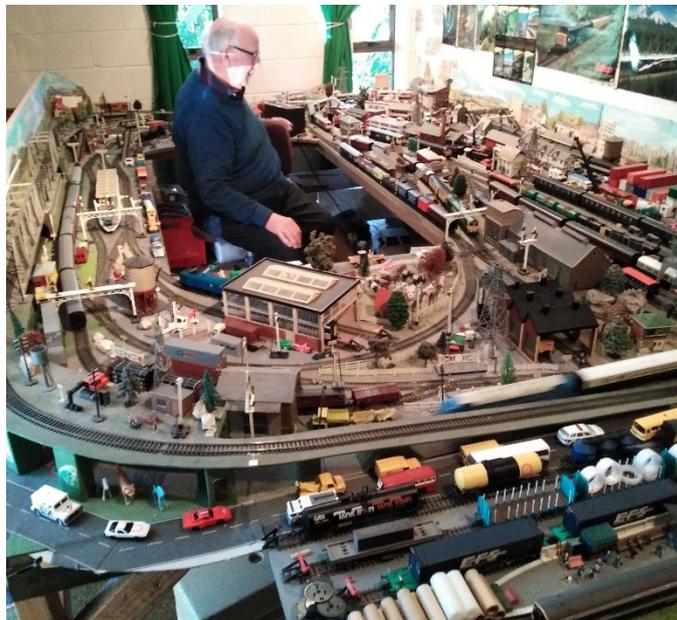
The library will be open to the public on two days early October. AMC members will attend and use the visit to fine-tune the submission.

Auckland MRC

The AMRC held its September meeting at the layout of Des Taylor. Des started in the hobby in 1964 with

an 0-6-0, a few wagons, and some track. He now has a complex 4 m x 2.5 m layout that has been extended four times to reach its current state. Des has around 100 locomotives.

The layout is OO, DC and freelanced British. The photograph below shows most of the layout and Des sitting in the centre (the triangle of light on Des's jaw is sunlight).



The first hour of the AMRC meeting was spent running trains on Des's layout and discussing all manner of things in British modelling and railways.

Then it was afternoon tea and a good discussion about how the club could increase its membership. Roger Woolmer, president of the AMRC, made the interesting point that one of the responsibilities the AMRC has is to ensure the hobby prospers.

Auckland Modelling Day

Possibly because there was fine weather all weekend, the attendance at the latest Auckland Modelling Day was noticeably down on that for the



previous few modelling days. Nevertheless, there was plenty of good modelling being done. The photograph above shows a goods shed and surrounding area Lexi Browne was working on.

City of Sails MRC

The CoSMRC had two meetings over the last month.

Late August, the CoSMRC met at Western Districts MRC to start organizing operating sessions. Even though some CoSMRC members have a working knowledge of JMRI, those present at the meeting decided that car cards would be simpler to use and just as effective as JMRI.

Mid-September, the CoSMRC visited the Auckland Central MRC (ACMRC) to inspect the recently completed benchwork of the elongated helix on the ACMRC's HO layout. Some CoSMRC members also ran trains on the layout.

The helix, see the photograph below, is of an



unusual design. It is approximately 12 metres long and does not feed into an upper deck. Instead, trains go to the top of the helix and return. It is tempting to view the helix as a spiral on a long rectangular mountain. The ACMRC views the helix as a long shelf layout. They plan to have different scenes on different parts of the helix with the scenes merging into one another. There will be one track up, one down, and some spurs and sidings.

North Shore MRC

Late August, a third-year media studies student from the University of Auckland emailed the

NSMRC, the Auckland Garden Railway Society Inc, and possibly other clubs. She was interested in making a three-minute video for an assignment and believed model railways would be a good subject.

The NSMRC thought the video would make excellent promotion material for the club and invited the student to do the filming at the clubrooms. The student made two visits. The first was to get some idea of the layout and what equipment would be required, and the second on September 16 was to do the filming.

Once the student has completed editing the video, she will make a copy available to the NSMRC.

The NSMRC continues to have two operating sessions most months. Some sessions have guest operators from other clubs. At the more recent session, Kevin Porter from the Auckland Central MRC, was the driver of a switchlist train. The photograph below shows Kevin deep in thought at the eastern end of Santel. Wally Holmes is in the background looking for ???



Contact Details

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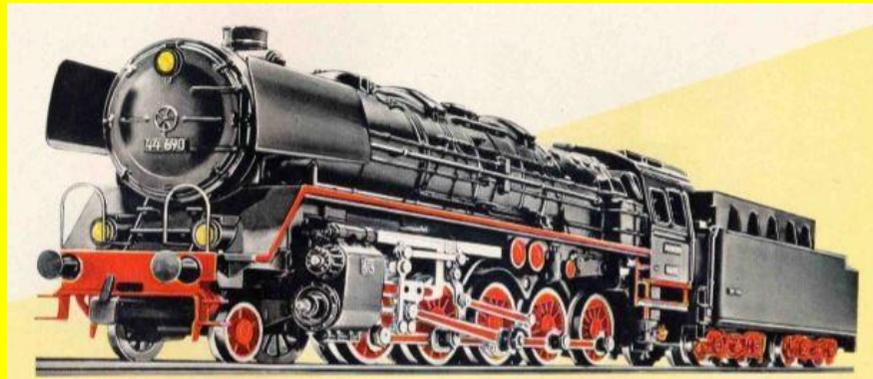
Philip Sharp, pwsharp101@gmail.com

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Out West Model Expo 9 & 10 November

Te Atatu Peninsula Community Centre
595 Te Atatu Road 10 a.m – 4:30 p.m.



Auckland **märklin** Club



www.marklin.org.nz Adults \$8; Children \$4; Family \$16