



The Limited

October, 2019

A newsletter for the model railway clubs in Auckland.

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Editor's Desk

A fire burning for 10 minutes can gut a clubroom. What procedures does your club have for preventing and handling a fire in the clubroom?



A fire extinguisher is an obvious piece of equipment to have but it needs to be checked regularly. The indicator on the extinguisher at a club I visited was showing green, suggesting the extinguisher was sufficiently charged. Nevertheless, the club decided to buy a new extinguisher because the existing extinguisher was 15 years old and there was no guarantee the indicator was working correctly.

Another club I visited had several large items stacked against the emergency exit. If there had been an emergency, the items could have been quickly removed. Even so, the delay caused by having to move the items could have caused panic, particularly if the fire occurred during an open day and the public was present.

I was once expected to give a lecture in 100 seat lecture room with the emergency exit blocked by four seats. I moved the seats before starting the lecture.

Is the club's emergency exit adequately signposted? This too is particularly important when the public is present.

If your club has an insurance policy for the clubrooms, how long has it been since the policy was checked to see what is covered and what the club's obligations are? Policies often change and I think they should be checked each year.

Has your club ever had a fire drill? Where I work, we typically have two fire drills a year. That is a lot of repetition over 27 years. The drills were worth it because several times they exposed faults in the procedures and equipment at the time.

Calendar of Events

November 2. Trip on a coal-powered tug boat, 1:45 – 5:15pm, tickets \$45, W.C. Dalby Preservation Soc, see <https://daldy.co.nz/> for further information.

November 7 – 10. Pokaka Cultural Convocation, Taylor Memorial Lodge, State Highway 4, Pokaka. Email nzrmodelling@yahoo.co.nz for information or look at the Facebook page.

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, 10am – 4pm, Birkenhead Scout Hall, Recreation Drive, open to all prototypes and modellers. \$0.

December 7 – 8. SkillWise MRC's Free-Mo HO American modular model railroading weekend, SkillWise, 344 Manchester Street, Christchurch. Email Stan Agar at Stan.Agar@skillwise.org.nz ASAP if you plan attending.

December 15. Open day at the Carlyons, 2 Newcastle Tce, Mt Albert, 10am - 4pm. See their HO and N scale American layouts, and buy from a sales table. Email Kenneth Carlyon for further details at kennethwcarlyon@gmail.com

January 9 – 13, 2020. The 2020 Steam N' Steel, a model engineering convention in Hamilton. Day passes available. Hamilton Model Engineers.

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

Philip Wrigley

Philip Wrigley, immediate past-president of the AMC, died early October after a long illness.

I believe I first met Phil as he was often called at the 2018 NZAMRC convention. The European modellers held a SIG meeting and I attended as convention chair. I found Phil was a strong advocate of European modellers. He and another meeting attendee told me the NZAMRC needed to do more for European modellers if they wanted greater involvement by European modellers.

This comment remained with me. Shortly after the convention, I visited the AMC's temporary clubrooms in Silverdale. Six months later I joined the AMC. This was just before the 2018 Out West Model Expo the AMC hosted. I discovered Phil was the driving force behind the Expo and that he had

worked tirelessly for over a year to make the Expo the success it was.

Phil stepped down as AMC president this February after a three-year tenure. In recognition of the outstanding work Phil had done for the club, he was awarded the newly introduced AMC award for services above and beyond the call of duty.

The photograph below shows Phil, second from the camera, at the North Shore MRC participating in an operating session March this year.



Back Issues

The back issues of *The Limited* are now available on the NZMRG website. Type the keywords *nzmrg the limited issue 6* into your favourite search engine and the first hit should be the webpage with the issues. I thank Alan Curtis, NZMRG treasurer, for providing this service free of charge.

Registration is Open

Registration for the NZAMRC's 2020 Rails from the Rubble Convention opened mid-October. Many of you will have received a copy of the registration form by email. The form has since been updated. This updated version is available on the Rails from Rubble website at <http://www.modelrailcon.co.nz/>.

Auckland Garden Railway Society Inc

The AGRSI held its 2019 AGM earlier this month. In an effort to get a good attendance at the AGM, it was followed by a running session on the Waitakere Light Railway owned by Robert Graham.

The AGM lasted about 25 minutes. Robert Graham was re-elected president. Hugh Keal and John

Reinecke, partly because they believed it was important to have new blood on the committee, stepped down. Tim Auld and David Skinner were elected in their place. Michael Hilliar and David Graham were re-elected to the committee.

There was less train running than I expected. People spent most of the time after the AGM socializing and partaking in the fine afternoon tea. The photograph below shows Michael Hilliar's live steam Garratt pulling a short train.



Auckland Märklin Club

The AMC has continued working on two major projects over the last month.

The first project was finalizing the organisation of the Out-West Model Expo at the Te Atatu Community Centre, November 9 and 10, 10am to 4:30pm both days. The list of layouts and floor plan has been finalized, and changes to the running of the show have been made so that the difficulties of last year's augural show should not reoccur.

The Te Atatu Community Centre will be open 2pm on Friday November 8. This early opening will enable layout owners to get to the centre and start setting up before the rush hour. The centre will open approximately 9am on Saturday and Sunday for people to set up for the 10am start each day.

The second major project is drafting the club's submission to rent the old Massey Library. The deadline for submissions was November 4. This deadline has been extended to November 18.

Seven organisations have said they will make a submission. The library has 900 square metres of

floor space. This is more than the AMC needs for the time being and the AMC will likely make a joint submission with another submitter for shared use.

Auckland MRC

The club's October meeting was at Ray Flint's OO layout. The layout is mostly freelanced British, uses DCC, and is complete except for some scenery.

I was puzzled by the DCC control because every other British layout I have seen in Auckland is DC. The explanation was simple. Ray started building the layout a little over two years ago and DCC was the obvious choice for him. The layout is around 10 square metres. Building that in a little over two years shows the opportunities retirement affords.

Ray used metal as well as wood for the benchwork. The resulting benchwork is sturdy. This undoubtedly contributed to the reliable trackwork. There were no derailments in 45 minutes of running, something difficult to achieve when people are watching. The photograph below shows the West Coast Express powering past a village at night. The lighting for each building is produced by one small LED.



City of Sails MRC

The CoSMRC held its October meeting at the home of Elizabeth Mead and Philip Sharp.

In a break from tradition, the club held supper at the start of the meeting rather than at the end. While having supper Paul Hobbs showed Mike and Joshua Hill books that contained plans for the tracks around a coaling tower. Mike and Joshua were in need of this information for a layout they are working on.

Then it was downstairs to Philip's near empty train room (Philip's prototype is the branchline from Flaxa to Owen Sound in Southern Ontario during the 1880s and 1890s). Members of the CoSMRC made suggestions on how to build the benchwork to make the best use of the space for a one-deck layout. The benchwork has to work around the entrance door, another door, a work area, a small kitchen and a largish closet.

Philip has since drawn plans for the benchwork and track.

Auckland Nine Mil Group

John Whyte has now finished the house and vegetable garden, see the photograph below (Colin



Zeff thought the corn needed watering). On the right edge of the photograph to the right of the sheep there is incomplete terrain. This will be the last piece of terrain added to the layout.

North Shore MRC

Michael Brannigan gave a clinic on weathering. Although weathering is one of the more common topics for a clinic in New Zealand, Michael was able to give some distinctive insight. The photograph below shows Michael partway through his clinic.



Next month, sixteen year-old Harrison (Harry) Miles assumes the role of the club's Operations Coordinator. Harry's main task will be to organize the roster for each session of switchlist and scheduled running. This involves emailing or phoning club members to let them know the details of a session, asking if they want to operate in the session, and if so, what position they would like. Once he has all the replies he thinks he will get, Harry will assign operators positions. Operators do not necessarily get the position they ask for.

On the night, Harry will need to handle late cancellations or extra operators being available. He will also give the briefing before each session.

Harry will be ably supported by club stalwarts Joe Boardman (life member), Don Burn, and Owen Munro. These three set up the wagons, cars and locomotives before the start of each session and help put these items away at the end of the session.

James and I wish Harry an enjoyable time as Operations Coordinator.

Clash of Dates

One goal James and I have is to reduce the number of clashes between model railway events in the upper North Island through publicizing the events in *The Limited*. We think it is important to avoid clashes because there are few such events.

Coming up there are four events during the weekend of November 9 and 10. There is the Out West Model Expo, Pokaka 35, the Mt Eden Collectors Fair, and a two-day Free-Mo running session.

We hope we can reduce the number of clashes in November next year.

Contact Details

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