



The Limited

January, 2020

A newsletter for the model railway clubs in Auckland.

Contents

Editor's Desk	1
Calendar of Events	1
Two Months To Go	2
AMRA 2021	2
Auckland Garden Railway Society Inc	2
Auckland Märklin Club	3
Auckland MRC	3
City of Sails MRC	3
Western Districts MDC	4
Auckland Nine Mil Group	4
North Shore MRC	4
Contact Details	4
Subscribe or unsubscribe	4

Editor's Desk

Interclub activities (ICAs) can be very beneficial for the hobby, and I think the Auckland region would gain from having more ICAs. They add variety to a club's program, expose club members to new ideas and new ways of modelling (where modelling is used here to include operations and RTR models), and lead to more socializing among modellers. ICAs can also be used to put on larger events for raising the profile of the hobby.



There are many types of ICAs. Possibly the simplest is to invite members of another club to your club one evening for a combination of activities such as

watching a new video and socializing. Last year, the North Shore MRC invited the City of Sails MRC to the NSMRC's American night, and the Manukau Live Steamers invited the Western Districts MRC for a Christmas lunch.

A more difficult form of ICA is inviting several clubs, the increased difficulty occurring because it is more difficult to find a time when most people can attend. Last year, the Auckland Garden Railway Society Inc. invited the New Zealand Gauge 1 and Waikato Garden Railway Groups for a one-day combined running meet on a Saturday.

Another type of ICA is for two or more clubs to hold a half-day or full-day mini-convention. This ICA is more formal than the types above and requires more effort to organize. This extra effort might not be appealing to some clubs.

Other possible ICAs are a joint train show with the effort and profits shared, a crewed display table in a mall, and cheap joint memberships for short periods such as six months.

As I said above, I think the hobby in the Auckland region would gain from having more ICAs.

Calendar of Events

Feb 16. Auckland NZR Modelling Day, Birkenhead Scout Hall, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead. Pete van Grinsven, petevang@xtra.co.nz. All prototypes.

Mar 15. Auckland NZR Modelling Day. See above.

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

April 26 – 27 (not 25 – 26). Morrinsville Model Railway Exhibition, Westpac Events Centre, Ron Ladd Place, Morrinsville, Matamata-Piako, 10am – 4pm both days. Adult \$6, child \$3, family \$15. Hosted by the Hamilton Model Railroaders.

Two Months To Go

The NZAMRC's 2020 Rails from the Rubble is just over two months away. The form for registration is on the website <http://www.modelrailcon.co.nz/>.

AMRA 2021



The next AMRA convention, Queen's birthday weekend 2021, will be based at the Northcote Birkenhead Rugby Union & Sports Club.

The convention will have a similar format to the previous AMRA conventions: a get-together on Friday evening, two full days Saturday and Sunday, and a half-day on Monday.

Mike Tolich chaired the first meeting of the organizing committee on Saturday. Kenneth Carlyon, Mike Hill, James Kelso, Philip Sharp, and Steve Waugh attended the meeting and made good progress. The convention will not be run by a club.

The first electronic newsletter for the convention will be emailed out in the next two months. The default email list for this newsletter will be that for the AMRA 2019 convention. If you want your email address added or removed please email one of the above people on the organizing committee.

Auckland Garden Railway Society Inc

The AGRSI's Christmas function was held at Tim and Rosemary Auld's home and consisted of a running meet followed by a barbecue and socializing. The date of the function had to be moved back one week late in the piece. This new date meant the function clashed with the Christmas function of the New Zealand Gauge 1 Group. There was no reasonable way to avoid this clash. Fortunately, the AGRSI received one complaint only about the clash.

The photograph below, supplied by Brian Millar, shows the Swiss locomotive and two passenger carriages of a new member.



The next photograph shows a culinary delight a member of the AGRSI brought to the function.



The Aulds supplied much of the food and all the non-alcoholic drinks. All the attendees had to provide was meat for the barbecue and alcoholic drinks. I missed the barbecue so I could attend part of the Auckland Märklin Club Christmas function which overlapped with the AGRSI function.

One of the few disadvantages of garden railways compared with the smaller scales is that garden railways are almost always outdoors. In the summer, it can be hot work running trains. This was the case for the AGRSI's January running meet which was held on the Howick Valley Railway.

The HVR is owned by Ray Williams. Whether by accident or design, Ray has a tree near his layout and this provides welcome shade. The photograph below shows about half of the HVR. The tree is in the top left and its shade is being well used by three AGRSI attendees. The train in the foreground, watched by Michael Brannigan, is being pulled by Michael Hilliar's K28.



Auckland Märklin Club

The AMC does not have a clubroom and is keen to get one. Last November, the AMC put in an application to the local body to rent part of the old Massey Library in Westgate. The AMC is still waiting to hear whether their application was successful.

As in 2018, the AMC's 2019 Christmas function was at the president's home. It felt a little strange not to have Phil Wrigley present. Phil died last year and I had known him since before joining the Auckland Märklin Club.

There was a very wide range of food at the function. People who wanted a steak could cook it in an oven in the entertainment area.

The president has a large layout downstairs and naturally some time was spent viewing it. This viewing also gave me a chance to view for the first time the small layout the president and his wife built and that appeared on TV3 in November.

Auckland MRC

The AMRC held its Christmas function at a restaurant mid-December. The AMRC is another club where the members did not have to pay for the meal. The AMRC paid for each member and partner who attended. Judging by the amount of food eaten, a good time was had by all.

For its January meeting, the club visited Barry Moir's layout. The information below on the visit was provided by Ray Flint. I was at the MEANZ convention in Hamilton and was unable to attend the AMRC meeting.

In addition to rail items, Barry likes to have a large variety of non-rail items such as cars, trucks, buses and merry-go-rounds with sound. This gives Barry's layout a distinctive appearance, as shown in the photograph below (supplied by Ray Flint).



In other AMRC news, Malcolm Ross, the editor of the club's newsletter *The Clinker*, remains in hospital. He is now in long-term care. Ray Flint, the club's secretary, has assumed the editorship of *The Clinker* for the time being.

City of Sails MRC

One goal of the CoSMRC is to give clinics on American modelling to other clubs. This happened on Wednesday evening last week when Paul Hobbs, president of the CoSMRC, gave a clinic entitled *Railway Work Equipment* at the Western Districts MRC. Paul will give the clinic at the NMRA's Australasian Regional convention in June and the NMRA's national convention in July. The presentation on Wednesday evening was a test to see if the clinic was the right length. It was within two minutes of the required length.

There were twelve people in the audience including five from the WDMRC who were not members of the CoSMRC and one person who was a member of neither club.

Paul's clinic was followed by three short slide shows by Kenneth Carlyon. This was the first time I had seen Kenneth give a presentation. The slide shows were recent photographs Kenneth had taken of locomotives and trains in the North Island.

Western Districts MDC

After Kenneth Carlyon had finished his slide shows, the CoSMRC members inspected the recent work the WDMRC has done on its main layout. The WDMRC is upgrading its layout and has set the demanding goal of finishing the upgrade in time for the AMRA 2021 convention.

Possibly the most fundamental part of the update is changing the circuitry to Arduino based. Some of this work has been completed. Other planned changes include adding a large turntable and round-house, a canal, tracks and structures.

Auckland Nine Mil Group

I attended the January meeting of this group. For me, the most noticeable piece of new modelling on the layout since November was the engine shed Neville Connew has been building. The photograph in the upper right, courtesy of Neville, shows the engine shed partly complete. Two bays are to be added on the right.

North Shore MRC

In addition to operating sessions in December and January, the NSMRC held two social events over the last two months.



The club had its Christmas function at the Birkenhead RSA. The speeches were few and short, a sign of a good function.

The second social event was a show and tell evening the second week of January. There was a good turn out with half the club attending. No doubt the fact the club was putting on a barbecue helped. An enjoyable time was spent eating, socializing and watching a video of clips of New Zealand railways.

Contact Details

James Kelso, jameskelso250@gmail.com

Philip Sharp, pwsharp101@gmail.com

Subscribe or unsubscribe

The Limited has distribution lists for clubs and

individuals. If any club or person wants to be removed or added to the distribution lists email Philip. Subscribers need not be in Auckland.

The photograph to the left is courtesy of the Auckland Library. What year was the photograph taken?

