



The Limited

July, 2020

A newsletter for the model railway clubs in Auckland.

Contents

Editor's Desk	1
Calendar of Events	2
AMRA 2021	2
Auckland 9 mil Group	2
Auckland Garden Railway Society Inc	2
Auckland Märklin Club	3
Auckland NZR Modelling Day	3
Auckland MRC	3
City of Sails MRC	4
North Shore MRC	5
Western Districts MRC	5
N Scale Weekend	5
Lionel Layouts? Solved	5
T Scale Locomotive on One Euro Coin	5
Contact Details	5
Subscribe or unsubscribe	5

Editor's Desk

The Auckland Märklin Club announced early June that existing members would receive free membership this year. The club decided this because of the effects of Covid-19 and as a recognition of the large effort members had put into running recent train shows. The club will use reserves to pay its costs over the year. Fortunately, its costs are low. I was surprised by the announcement and happy to save \$75. I then wondered what the AMC might gain



and if other Auckland clubs could gain from reducing their annual membership fees.

One gain is member loyalty. People are more likely to remain a member if they know their efforts on behalf of the club are appreciated. Another gain is that some members would appreciate an extra \$75.

The Auckland Garden Railway Club Inc and the Auckland MRC have annual membership fees of \$25 and \$20 respectively. If either of these clubs refunded their entire fee, most members of the club would not gain a lot financially. They might however appreciate the gesture. The AMRC does pay for a Christmas meal for its members and their partners (just one partner per member).

The next club on my list is the Western Districts MRC. Unlike the AMC, AGRSI and AMRC, the WDMRC has a clubroom with two fixed layouts. Much of the annual subscription of \$45 along with any profit from fund raising goes towards maintaining the clubroom and a major re-construction of the HO layout. The club could refund part of the subscription but could they make the refund big enough to be significant without slowing down the re-construction of the HO layout?

The two remaining clubs on my list are the Auckland Central MRC and North Shore MRC at \$120 and \$185 respectively.

The ACMRC is constructing two large layouts, one of which is nearing completion. The ACMRC could slow construction for one year and refund part of the annual fee. However, if construction was slowed, members would have less incentive to attend the club and the membership could decrease.

NSMRC's fee is higher than the other clubs because it has higher costs. If the NSMRC was to refund some of this year's fee, we would again have the trade-off between the size of the refund and the extent to which reserves are used.

Calendar of Events

I believe the following will go ahead. I recommend you check closer to the time.

16 Aug. Auckland NZR modelling day, 10am – 4pm, Scout Hall, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead. *All modellers welcome*. Free entry.

5 & 6 Sep. The inaugural N scale modellers weekend, 10am – late, Mt Albert. Kenneth Carlyon and the Independent American Model Railroaders of Auckland. See separate article.

20 Sep. Auckland NZR modelling day. See above.

25-28 Sep. FreeMo weekend, Paeroa. Steve Waugh, gnrailfan@gmail.com

10-11 Oct. Train Show, Hamilton Gardens, 10am – 4pm both days. \$6 (adult), \$3 (child), \$15 (family). Hamilton Model Railroaders.

18 Oct. Auckland NZR modelling day. See above.

23-26 Oct. 9 mil 50th Weekend, St Andrew's Hall, Market Street, Hastings. Basic fee is \$80, includes some meals. Overnight security is planned. Paul Berntsen bernieofthebay@xtra.co.nz

8 Nov. Collectors Toy and Model Fair, 10am – 1pm, Mt Eden War Memorial Hall, 487 Dominion Rd, Balmoral, Auckland. Entry \$6 (adults), \$0 (child).

6-8 Nov. 2020 mini AMRA, Glenfield Club, 211 Peacocks Road, Hamilton. John Hart theharts.raglan@xtra.co.nz

AMRA 2021



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

You can email me your email address if you are not on the email list for AMRA 2021 and I will pass it on to the organizers. My email address is on page 5.

Auckland 9 mil Group

The monthly meeting of the Auckland 9 mil Group is the furthest I get out of Auckland's urban sprawl for club meetings in Auckland, yet it takes me just 25 minutes to get there. A luxury.

I attended the June meeting but missed the July meeting because of a family medical emergency. The June meeting was the first since the end of the lockdown and there was a good attendance, eight in all. This is the largest number of people I have seen at a meeting.

There was some running of trains but much of the meeting was spent chatting and catching up on what had happened over the last three months.

Auckland Garden Railway Society Inc

The AGRSI had its first meeting after the lockdown late July.

The meeting was at the Simon Sharp's (no relation). Simon normally hosts a meeting each year and the meeting is almost invariably in the middle of winter because the layout is inside. The layout is in a smallish room and shows that you do not need a lot of space to have a G scale layout if you are prepared to accept reasonably tight curves.

Like most AGRSI meetings, the meet at Simon's was a running meet. Each year there is usually at least one member who brings a locomotive along to see if it can negotiate the curves on Simon's layout. Members also come along to view Simon's 3D printing creations. Simon has been doing 3D



printing at home for a few years and has created many items for his layout. He is the person in the club to ask questions about 3D printing.

Over the last 12 months, Simon has been building an outside layout on his deck. The photograph above, courtesy Michael Hilliar, shows the incomplete layout. As with Simon's indoor layout, the outdoor layout is not large for G scale.

Auckland Märklin Club

The AMC held its first monthly meeting post lockdown early June at the president's (Barry McCullough) home. There was a very good attendance of members and five visitors, some of whom were keen to join.

When I arrived, Barry was running seven trains on automation on his layout, the most I had seen. Each train stopped once each loop. The automation software and hardware worked well. There was the occasional derailment, sometimes followed by a rear-ending 15 to 20 seconds later.



Partway through the meeting Barry announced that Murray Freestone, pictured left, had won the club's photo competition held over the lockdown.

Barry confirmed that the club would not be hosting the Whangaparaoa and Te Atatu train shows. Hosting was a lot of work and the gains to the club were unpredictable. Other announcements were the one-year free membership for existing members, and that the club had received no word on its application to rent part of the old Massey Library. Little surprise there.

The visitors were invited to introduce themselves. All took the opportunity to do so. Then it was back to the supper, the wine and talking.

The July meeting was at Reg Tyson's place. Reg has a dedicated train shed at the back of his section.

This shed contains a HO layout, a workshop and plenty of space for memorabilia.

As with the June meeting, the July meeting was a mix of socializing and the discussion of club matters. One club matter was that the president Barry McCullough had contacted a charity that raised money for children with heart problems, and said the AMC would build the charity a layout that could be sold to raise money. Barry asked the members to think of possible themes for the layout over the following week or so and to see what scenic material they could donate.

Auckland NZR Modelling Day

The monthly Auckland NZR modelling days resumed last month. Although most modellers who attend these days are NZR modellers, these days are intended for all model railroaders.

I attended part of the June day. There were 14 people when I left, higher than normal. It was good to catch up with people and to see that we had all made it through the previous months unscathed.

Kudos to the organizers who had a sign-in sheet. Given the tables, power cables and other items have to be set up and put away every single modelling day, it would have been easy to forget the sheet.

Incidentally, and as Kevin Miles from the North Shore MRC explained to me, it takes just a few minutes to create a QR tracing code. This will need laminating – print shops will do this for a small fee. I encourage any club that does not have a QR code to get one. It will save time in the long run.

Auckland MRC

Bernie Engleback and his wife Ruth hosted the July AMRC meeting at their home. Bernie is one of two AMC nonagenarians, the other being Gerald Yates.

The Englebacks live on a life-style block in a house they built. The house and property have many distinctive features include sculptures, fountains, and native plants. There is also an excellent view over part of the Albany Valley. I spent more time examining the nooks and crannies of the property than the two layouts (three actually, I found a third layout in an outbuilding).

As is traditional with the AMC, the meeting ended with a very good afternoon tea. There was also a group photograph, see below. Bernie is on the far



right, Ruth is in the centre, and Gerald is to Ruth's left. As you might have inferred from the photograph, the AMRC is the oldest Auckland club. I received the photograph from Ray Flint. I believe the photograph was taken by Elizabeth Mead.

City of Sails MRC

The CoSMRC's June meeting was at the layout of James Kelso. James is building a triple-deck HO mushroom layout that has two helixes and covers over 400 square feet (I have used imperial units since the CoSMRC is an NMRA club). James models the Montana Rail Link in the 1990s. The MRL was formed 1987 and still exists. It is a privately held Class II railroad with over 900 miles of track.

When the CoSMRC was last at James', some parts of the track were not getting enough power, resulting in locomotives acting funnily such as changing direction spontaneously. James has since improved the wiring, added boosters, and completed more of the layout.

Each of us ran a train or locomotive around the layout. These operations were mostly successful, although at one point James could be seen hastily soldering extra feeders to a track in a helix.

The CoSMRC had two activities in July. We were invited to the American night run by the North Shore MRC. This was early July and six CoSMRC members attended, increasing the attendance at the American night by about 50%. The majority of the CoSMRC members divided their time between the layout upstairs and the lounge downstairs. At one point there were 15 trains on the layout. This caused significant congestion - the NSMRC rarely

has more than nine trains on the layout for its operating sessions.

The photograph below shows CoSMRC member Craig Mayall switching at Southport.



One of the highlights of the evening was the pie CoSMRC member Elizabeth Mead made. The pie was cinnamon and sultana apple and made with rich homemade short pastry and topped with cream. Two CoSMRC members had a second slice.

The second July meeting was a film evening at the president's house. We watched the 1975 film *Breakheart Pass*. This is set in the Sierra Nevada, California in the late 19th century. The film used the Camas Prairie Railroad, a short line in Northern Idaho. The star of the film was the GW Railway 2-8-0 Consolidation #75, built 1907 by Baldwin.

Although the film was a box office disappointment, the CoSMRC members enjoyed it, their enjoyment helped by the continual supply of food.

Individual members of the CoSMRC were involved with other American modelling activities in June and July. Paul Hobbs and Mike Hill each gave two clinics at virtual conventions. Paul, James Kelso and Philip Sharp attended the inaugural zoom meeting of Division 5 of the NMRA's Australasian Region. This meeting was organized by Kel Sherson, the Wellington based superintendent for Division 5, and was very enjoyable. The next meeting will be held near the end of August.

North Shore MRC

June 4th was British running night and about one dozen people were at the club, including at least one new member and one person who is joining the club. Not everyone was doing things British but everyone was enjoying themselves.

In keeping with the evening's theme, there was severe congestion at the British station of Amberley. Harrison Miles was concerned about the congestion. I said it added to the evening.

Peter Munro brought four DVDs along and asked me to select a DVD to play. I did but could not play it then as two modellers were discussing the construction of an NZR signal and did not want to be interrupted by the DVD sound. Given it was a British night, I admired their dedication. Peter and I arranged to play the DVD during supper.

While driving to the club, I wondered what traditional British fare would be for supper. Black pudding, small meat pies with mushy peas, fish 'n chips? This year it was Devonshire scones.

Four weeks later, the NSMRC held its American Running Night. The City of Sails MRC was invited and provided a good turnout. This evening is reported upon in the section for the City of Sails MRC.

Western Districts MRC

The WDMRC continues to put a lot of effort into having the re-construction of its HO layout completed for the AMRA convention in Auckland, Queen's Birthday weekend 2021.

Mike Hill has been acting president of the WDMRC since his father Brian Hill died earlier this year. The WDMRC has its AGM on August 3. Mike is an obvious candidate for the position of president.

N Scale Weekend

Long-time N scale modeller Kenneth Carlyon with help from other members of the Independent American Model Railroaders of Auckland is hosting the inaugural Auckland N scale weekend. This will be September 5 & 6 in Mt Albert.

I applaud this initiative for two reasons.

The cancellation of the Whangaparaoa and Te Atatu train shows this year has left a hole in the Auckland calendar of events modellers might attend. The N scale weekend will help plug this hole. I will certainly be attending because of that.

The second reason is that there are essentially no scale-specific events in Auckland and more generally in New Zealand. Hence the event is likely to fill a need. You might argue that the event is too specialized to attract a large attendance. While a large attendance is desirable it is not essential to have a good convention. In addition, overseas experience has shown that scale-specific events can have large attendances.

I have appended a copy of the registration at the end of this issue. You can also find information and discussions about the event on Facebook. You can attend the event for just one day.

Lionel Layouts? Solved

In the last issue I asked if there were any Lionel layouts in Auckland. Kenneth Carlyon provided me with information on two such layouts. Thank you, Kenneth.

T Scale Locomotive on One Euro Coin



T-Pionier / CC BY (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0>)

Contact Details

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Philip Sharp, pwsharp101@gmail.com

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The first N scale modellers weekend in Auckland 5th and 6th September

Hosted by Independent American Model Railroader of Auckland

At #2 Newcastle Terrace Mt Albert 10:00am to late

Meet other New Zealand N scale modeler to share ideas and support each other's ideas and work

Bring along project that you are working on or just bring something to run

Also available programming track for DCC loco's
Micro Trains coupler fitting and for sell

Tables and power outlets will be provided feel free to bring refreshments and food

For out of town modellers there are some accommodation nearby

Mount Albert Motor Lodge 4min away

Mount Albert Motor Inn 6min away

Avondale Motor Park 4 min away

Avondale Motor Inn 8min away

Or camp out in our lounge or backyard.

Contact Kenneth with any questions on

Email kennethwcarlyon@gmail.com

Registration

Name

Email

Phone

DC / DCC

Registration due by 28-8-20