



The Limited

August, 2019

A newsletter for the model railway clubs in Auckland.

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Editor's Desk

If someone asked you how many members your club has, the obvious answer is the number of official members. While correct, this number can give the wrong impression about the club. There are three other numbers I find as meaningful.



1. The number of members who regularly volunteer for public activities such as open days and train shows. If you need on average six members for each activity and the same six people volunteer each time, the club could will have what I call volunteer burnout. If this occurs the number of activities per

year will need to be reduced or more volunteers found.

2. The number of people who are prepared to serve as a club officer or on the club committee. If the number of positions exceeds the number of people prepared to stand, either positions will go unfilled or people will fill two positions. You may find people serve for many years and this will almost always hinder the club's success.

3. The number of people who regularly attend club meetings. If, for example, just one-quarter of the members regularly attend, the club's officers, particularly the president, should find out why the remaining three-quarters are not attending and change the meetings as appropriate.

On this last point, one possible change is to introduce sales tables, the idea being to take advantage of the common human desire to get a bargain. Sales tables should not be every meeting, otherwise they will become routine. Maybe once every third meeting. And some items could be free to encourage attendance.

Since there was no issue of *The Limited* in July, this issue contains news from July and August.

Calendar of Events

September 14 – 15. A pop-up train show in the Kelston Shopping Centre near Countdown, 10am to at least 4pm both days. Hosted by the Western Districts MRC. Gold coin admission.

September 22. Auckland Modelling Day, Scout Hall, Recreation Drive, Birkenhead, 10am – 4pm. Open to all prototypes and modellers.

October 20. Auckland Modelling Day, see above.

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. Hosted by the Auckland Märklin Club.

November 22. Auckland Modelling Day, see above.

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

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

Pop-up Show in September

The Western Districts MRC announced very recently that they will be holding a Pop-up Show in the Kelston Shopping Centre, September 14 and 15. The show is intended as a community activity. The show will also raise funds for the WDMRC.

As you may have inferred from the term “Pop-up”, the show is intended to be small and that can be organized quickly. This contrasts noticeably with the last year’s Out West Model Expo which had over 20 layouts and took more than a year to organize.

So far, the confirmed layouts for the Pop-up Show are a large OO Welsh layout, an American HO layout and a Thomas layout.

Out West Model Expo

The Auckland Märklin Club (AMC) is hosting the second annual Out West Model Expo on November 9 and 10. The venue is the Te Atatu Peninsula Community Centre, the same venue as last year. Around 1100 people attended the Expo in 2018 and the AMC expects a similar number this year.

As of a few days ago, the AMC had asked all Auckland clubs and some individuals if they were interested in having a layout or a display table at the show. If you have not been contacted and you would like to have a layout or display table, please

email the AMC vice-president Dennis Whitlock at drwhitl@slingshot.co.nz

Auckland Central MRC

The ACMRC held a collector’s fair in July to raise funds for the club. The fair was very successful. The stalls were at capacity and some late applications for stalls were declined. The hall was full right through to closing time, and to quote Mike Johnston, ACMRC secretary, “Many members of the public were seen leaving with full shopping bags”.

As some of you know, the ACMRC is building a large HO layout on the second floor of its clubrooms. The woodwork on the elongated helix is now finished. When operational, the helix will give access to another 175 metres of track. For comparison, the main line on the North Shore’s Waitemata & Chelsea is 151 metres long.

The building of the HO layout means there is plenty of varied modelling for both new and existing members to participate in.

Auckland Garden Railway Society Inc.

The AGRSI held its August running meet at the home of Andrew Stevens. Andrew, who is possibly better known as a modeller in the smaller scales, has been building a garden layout over the last year.

When finished the layout will consist of a station and small yard along the side of the house, and a large loop, wye and a small yard at the back of the house. The large loop goes around a swimming pool. Andrew may add a wharf to his layout with the pool serving as the ocean.

The layout currently has temporary track made from 3/16” thick aluminium bars and blocks of wood. Andrew and Ken Clough recently designed a code 297 rail that Andrew intends using on his layout. The rail will be extruded commercially from aluminium. Andrew had a sample piece of rail, anodized dark bronze, at the running meet.

The photograph below shows Robert Graham’s battery-powered diesel locomotive pulling a small train around the large loop. The photograph also shows the temporary track and the type of benchwork Andrew is using for the parts of his layout that are above the ground. AGRSI life

member Michael Hilliar is facing the camera.



Auckland MRC

Most monthly meetings of the Auckland Model Railway Club are held in members homes. The August meeting was an exception and was a visit to the Helensville Railway Museum.

A group of museum volunteers was on hand to explain the history of the railway operations at Helensville and the 1:64 layout in the museum. The efforts of these volunteers were greatly appreciated by AMRC members. Malcolm Ross, writing in the August issue of the AMRC's *The Clinker*, said the railway operations were more complex than he thought.

After the tour of the museum, the visitors had lunch at the Ginger Crunch café in the old Helensville railway station.

A very good half-day outing that other clubs might consider (if museum volunteers are available).

City of Sails MRC

The CoSMRC had two meetings in July.

On July 4 the CoSMRC members were guests of the North Shore MRC at the latter's American evening. CoSMRC members supplied a collection of small flags, a DVD on CN's Yellowhead Pass, and two apple pies with whipped cream. The photograph below shows (l-r) Alan Godfery (NSMRC sec), Dave Webley (NSMRC pres) and Paul Hobbs (CoSMRC pres) in earnest discussion. Several NSMRC and CoSMRC members told me they greatly enjoyed the evening. The apple pies and whipped cream received a special mention.



The second CoSMRC meeting in July was at James Kelso's layout. James is partway through building a large triple-deck mushroom HO layout. Each CoSMRC member took a DCC locomotive to the meeting and these were used to test how well the layout handles the load of several locomotives. The main finding was that the voltage drop was more significant than James expected. For example, one of the locos changed direction at random once the voltage drop was sufficient. James is investigating ways to reduce the voltage drop. The CoSMRC could well return in a few months for testing of the improved layout.

CoSMRC members have been active in other ways. Elizabeth Mead and Philip Sharp attended the NMRA's 2019 national convention in Salt Lake City, Utah. While there Elizabeth went on four non-rail tours and attended some clinics. Philip gave three clinics, helped judge the model competition, attended many clinics, and did committee work. The photograph below shows the best of show model in the competition. The modeller took one year to build the model. It scored 123 / 125.



North Shore MRC

For more than five years the NSMRC has been installing a computer-based signalling system for its Waitemata & Chelsea RR.

The work on this project has been going through a quiet period. To move the work along, last month NSMRC president Dave Webley formed a new project team. The members are Joe Boardman, Wayne Brindle, Mark Jackson, Paul Low, Ross Oliver, Sean Rosig and Dave Webley.

The team has assessed the current state of the project and decided on a plan of action. The team will report on its progress at the club's AGM later in the year.

The NSMRC continues to hold open days for the public every two months. The last open day was last weekend. There were 17 visitors, two membership applications forms were handed out, and \$30 raised through gold coin donations.

Western Districts MRC

The WDMRC held its 2019 AGM early August.

Brian and Michael Hill were re-elected president and vice-president respectively. Ray Smith took over as secretary from Mark Thompson. The latter's efforts as secretary were greatly appreciated by the club.

The treasurer's report showed the club's finances were in reasonable shape and the committee recommended the memberships fees for 2019-2020 be that same as those for 2018-2019: family \$60, adult \$45 and junior \$25.

An important matter discussed at the AGM was the future-proofing of the club's two main layouts – a large HO layout and a smaller N scale layout. Both layouts are DC. Since before I joined the WDMRC, club members have discussed converting the layouts to DCC. This year's AGM passed a motion that the two layouts be future-proofed by replacing the wiring with that suitable for DCC. The meeting also discussed a long-term plan for the conversion to DCC. The suggestions included completing the conversion in the next five years, and making the N scale layout dual DC/DCC (the Sheffield layout at the Auckland Central MRC is dual DC/DCC). The HO

layout will be solely DCC because it has many blocks (12), unlike the N scale layout which has just three blocks.

The AGM also approved running rules for the club's layouts.

Auckland 9 mil Group

With good reason, work on Trevor Cheer's layout, particularly the Opuha Wharf, has been going at a modest pace over the last few months. But I did notice one sizeable addition when I visited the layout last week - the tug boat in the photograph below. The tug boat is a joint effort of Paul Bernsten and John Whyte. NZMRG president Lexi Browne is in the background.



Classified Ads

The classified ads in *The Limited* are provided primarily as a service for modellers in Auckland. The editors of *The Limited* do not accept responsibility for the wording of ads and any negotiations associated with them. Each ad should be no more than 50 words.

Tools. Wanted to buy. Secondhand parallel pliers. Philip Sharp, pwsharp101@gmail.com

Contact Details

James Kelso, jameskelso250@gmail.com

Philip Sharp, pwsharp101@gmail.com

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