

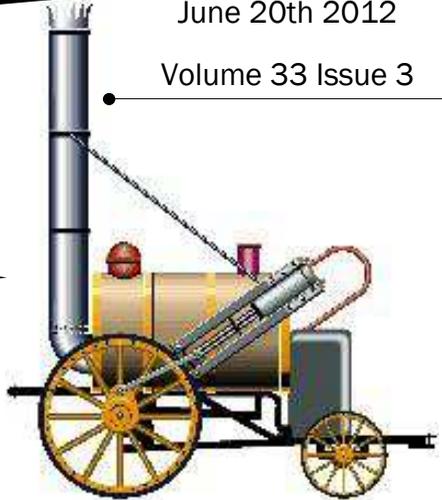
PENFIELD MODEL ENGINEERS SOCIETY

Penfield Model Engineers Society

THE ROCKET

June 20th 2012

Volume 33 Issue 3



Whangarei Steam and ModelClub's Peckett Locomotive "Seymour" with the Whangarei Model Engineering Club Station in the background!

The **ROCKET** is the official journal of the Penfield Model Engineers Society Inc. The views or opinions of Authors of contributions to this magazine are not necessarily those of the Office Bearers, Committee Members or Members of this Society.

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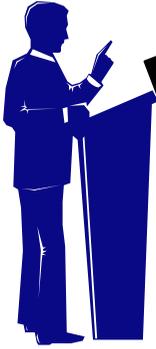
BACK SEAT DRIVER.

At our last Open Day, Barry, (name changed to protect the guilty), after supervising the off loading of his passengers, jumped back in to what he thought was the driving seat only to find out that there were no controls, to drive the loco, any where near his finger tips.

A rather bemused Barry suddenly realised that in his haste to get moving he had piled in to the back seat. Good one Baz.

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Presidents Report



The last four months have been very busy for both the committee and Members getting ready for and during the convention, and then cleaning up afterwards. I would like to thank Lynn for all the hard work that he puts in to make it all work. I would also like to thank all members and especially the canteen ladies for their contribution towards making the Convention the a success that it was.

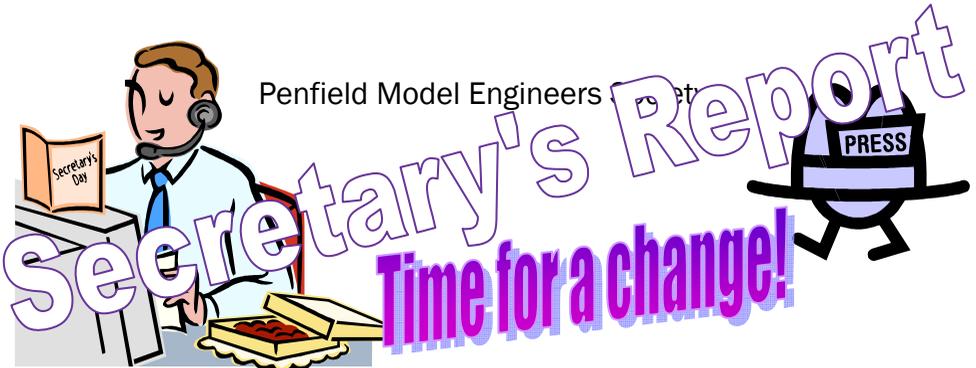
The club room has taken on a different look since the tiles have been laid. The new storage shed has relieved the pressure on storage in the ladies and men's toilets.

I hope a solution can be found at the A.G.M. for the boat pond as we can not afford over \$6000 for water in a 9 month period so we need to come together on this matter and find a solution that suits everyone.

Our open day takings have slipped a little on general admission but picked up on the party side.

Until next time.

Happy Modelling,



Whilst I have enjoyed preparing the Rocket for the past fourteen years, it is now time for a change. Time to allow someone else to bring some new ideas and perhaps a new format to the “Rocket”.

My thanks to all who have contributed to the Rocket during this time. Also thanks to the regular contributors, Wayne with his “Rails in the Garden” segment, Ian with his new from the “Boat Pond”, Co-op with his Penfield Possee news and our more recent volunteer Grant, who has not only volunteered to take on providing the “Penfield Possee” news, but also has put up new web pages for the Speedway.

As Ray has said, the year has started off a little on the slow side, but now that the cooler winter weather is upon us things are hopefully starting to pick up!

I hope that everyone will continue to support the new Editor as you have supported me. It is your magazine and your support is vital to keep it alive and interesting.

Until next time, when you will hear from your new Editor!

Happy and Safe Modelling.⁴

....Lynn

Q. What did the Judge say when the skunk came into the Courtroom?

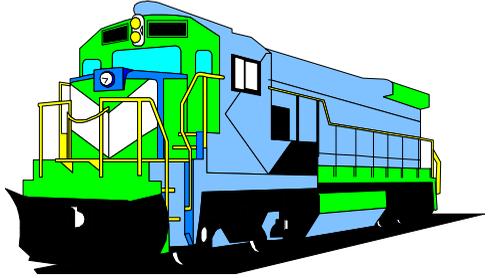
A. "Odour in the Court!"



Penfield Model Engineers Society

Open Day Report

Our first three Saturday evening Twilight Runs for the year were quite well attended, for a Twilight Run, the slightly cooler evening temperature might have had something to



do with it? However our Sunday runs during the Summer saw only an average number of visitors with two or three birthday groups attracting the most visitors. However now that the cooler weather is here the number of visitors is beginning to increase along with the number of party groups.

The May Open Day saw good attendance with seven party groups enjoying themselves and helping to keep seven trains operating with a full load of passengers all afternoon.

Things are about to change in the Ticket office with special entry tickets being issued to all visitors and groups being encouraged to pre purchase tickets to do away with the usual list of names of who is being paid for. Sometimes 6 or 8 lists of names have to be gone through when someone turns up for a birthday party. Hopefully pre paid tickets will alleviate this problem and streamline the admission of visitors through the gate.

Steam Up North 2012

On the Wednesday following New Years Day, Gerry and I headed off to the Land of the Long White Cloud to attend the “2012 Steam Up North Convention at Whangarei”.

Leaving Adelaide on the red eye flight just after 6:00 A.M. we arrived at Tullamarine Airport just as a thunder storm was passing over the Airport. This caused all services at the airport to be shut down. After landing at Tullamarine, the plane was not permitted to dock at the air bridge for some time and then when we finally were able to proceed into the airport, no one knew just when any of the flights would be able to depart. Apart from that the overall flight to Auckland was relatively uneventful, finally down in Auckland about an hour late around 4:00 P.M. Then it was time to pick up our rental car and head off to Whangarei where we arrived around 8:00 P.M.

The next morning we headed out to the club which was only about a 10 minute drive from our Motel to register and check out the Heritage Park where the railway is situated. The railway was relocated there about eleven years ago and the members have been very busy in that time rebuilding it on the side of a hill amid the many other museums that are present in the park. There is also a full size narrow gauge railway that operates passenger trains hauled by either a steam or diesel loco.

Penfield Model Engineers Society

Their pride and joy is Seymour, the Peckett steam locomotive gifted to them by Wilsons (NZ) Portland Cement works in 1977. We were fortunate enough to be able to have a ride behind this loco and see it operate at various times during the Convention.

The Convention was a truly International Event with 24 Australians attending along with visitors from the U.K., Canada and the U.S. Many of the International visitors were regular visitors to N.Z. for the Conventions. Penfield was well represented with Don and Jill Norton as well as Gerry and myself attending.

A quick visit to the Bay of Island Vintage Railway was managed on the Sunday morning.

The after Convention Ramble was something else, (planned by Dave & Lyn Giles) visiting such places as:-

The Mail Lime Steam Depot and the Manulu Live Steamers Auckland.

Next was the the Driving Creek Railway and the Waiau Waterworks on the Coromandel Peninsula, then back to the Thames Small Gauge Railway.

The next day we managed to visit the Gold Fields Railway on the way to Rotorua. The

Mamaku Express Railcruising is a must see for any one visiting Rotorua. Time only allowed quick sightseeing visit to ride the Gondola to the top of Mt Ngongotaha. A spectacular sight all the way to the top.

Next day we were on the road again to Napier visit Lake Taupo to visit the Havelock North Live Steamers.

Next we were off to Mana Ariki where we stayed on site for two nights. What a place to visit with a magnificent track, over three kilometres in length and winding its way up the mountain.

Sadly the next day it was back to Auckland for our return home the following morning. How ever it was another full day with a visit to the Hamilton Model Engineers. After that there was a slight detour to pay a visit to a private Railway of Norm Taylor.

It was a most enjoyable trip with, everyone we met was very friendly and in particular, those with locos made sure that there were always a number of locos for the visitors to drive.

A number of us are already planning to visit CANMOD 2014 hosted by the Canterbury Model and Experimental Engineers near Christchurch on the South Island. I am sure that there will be a few surprises planned for afterwards.



At Whangarei, we see Gerry driving Dave Giles' Shay. with a train full of happy passengers. It's January and notice how green every thing is!

.....Lynn.



The Les Moore Challenge How far will it go with a one litre drink container pumped up to 100 lbs. A very interesting event!

56th Annual AALS Easter Convention Penfield.

Penfield Model Engineers Society

Another successful Convention with some 320 visitors attending including 8 of our friends from New Zealand and 80 members and their families. Many members put in a lot of hard work to make the event a success that it was. Over 80 locos were registered, with a few more turning up during the Convention, their owners forgetting to register their Loco. Hopefully if they brought a steam loco, they sought out a Boiler Inspector to check that their boiler was duly certified to be operated.

On the Saturday evening whilst the AGM was in progress, our resident tour driver, "Gerry" took the ladies and anyone else who was interested on a city light's tour. On Sunday, Gerry was again busy taking visitors for a morning trip to visit the Port Adelaide Museums and in the afternoon the Tramway Museum at St. Kilda. Another tour headed off to Clare for the day to visit one of two wineries.

The Convention was opened by Leesa Vlahos, the member for Taylor at the Thursday Evening Welcome.

On Saturday Mayor Gillian Aldridge welcomed visitors to the Convention before taking a ride on the Official Train that headed the Grand Parade.

The Canteen Members once again worked very hard to keep our visitors fed and watered.

Otherwise it was drive one's train, (someone else's train), take a trip around the track or just stand around have a chat to old friends and generally enjoy oneself!

SPEEDWAY NEWS

I have been putting in some hours on the computer designing a new Penfield Quarterscale Speedway website and by the time this goes to print it should be up and running. I'm sure that Lynn will only be too pleased that he no longer has to maintain the Speedway site, as well as the Society's' site. To access the new website either use the link on the Society's site or Google Penfield Quarterscale Speedway (look for - Google Sites)
Thanks to Lynn and Ian for giving me some advice and tips as this is my first go at website design.

Brian and Pete have been busy looking into a suitable lap timing system and have come up with some cost effective alternatives which look promising. Their efforts are appreciated as the research involved can be very time consuming. Thanks guys.

Earlier this year I compiled a set of racing rules and specifications for each class with the input of other speedway members. Now we have a set of rules and vehicle standards to follow which can only be of benefit to all. They can be viewed on the new website.

Q. What type of shoes do frogs wear?

A. Open "Toad"!

Penfield Model Engineers Society

Congratulations to all the trophy winners for the 2011-2012 overall season points. A big thanks to Michael Fyffe from Team Green for organising the trophies. In the sprintcars there was a battle between Paul and Pete as they were even in points coming into the final meeting. After Paul won the first heat and Pete the second, it was on for the final with Paul coming out on top in the end. Better luck next time Pete.



Sprintcars

1st – Paul Cain, 2nd – Peter Henley, 3rd – Terry Rayner

Speedcars

1st – Paul Cain, 2nd – Peter Henley, 3rd – Grant Muller

Dirt Modifieds

1st – Michael Fyffe, 2nd – Terry Rayner, 3rd – Brenton Meade

Most Improved Junior

Josh Trudgeon

Most Improved Senior

Bryan Meade

Encouragement Award

Isaac Shevchenko

One young racer I wish to mention is Josh Trudgeon who with his new speedcar has displayed a huge improvement in

his racing ability over the last season. He will be one to watch out for in the future. Keep it up Josh.

Penfield Model Engineers Society

Over Easter the speedway section had a demonstration run for the visitors to the 56th A.A.L.S. Convention and even though our numbers were limited we put on a quite a good display. Yours truly added another trophy to the collection for the Best Presented Race Car (Bike) for my Speedway Sidecar. I worked extremely hard on the bike from the early stages with Kim Foreman right through to the current version and I am quite proud of what I have ended up with. News is that Kim, Terry and Mark are going to take on the challenge and each build one.



Recently Michael gave his Baja a run with a new Late Model Sedan body on it and its track presence was awesome. This body may be used in the new class to the speedway being the

Outlaw Dirt Modified Open category.

Penfield Model Engineers Society



Well it's now come to that quieter time of the year and we tend to see the numbers drop off as there is no formal racing during the winter months. For some of us winter is a good opportunity to rug up, grab a hot drink and spend some time in the shed for that race car rebuild in readiness for the approaching summer season. For those who do come out it is a good time of the year to iron out those bugs, play around with car set ups, and of course just having some fun on the track.

Until next time.....



.....*Grant M.*

Rails in the Garden

Penfield Model Engineers Society

Life in the garden can be good, especially when the club is hosting the annual AALS Convention! As another convention has come and gone it is interesting to look back and compare it with the 2007 convention, well there is no comparison!!! The railway has come along in leaps and bounds in the last few years and special effort had been put into the railway for this year's convention, to get in some more tracks for better and more varied operation as well as improve the area appearance with plants and structures, and we succeeded admirably. Very little interest (outside club members) had been shown in the railway at the 2007 Convention, we are pleased to report that an immense amount of interest was shown this past Easter, Barry Glover only brought over Gauge 1 engines so was a regular face with a smile on the railway and many a visitor came over to see him but a huge number of people came for a look as well, our park benches were a popular resting spot for visitors, many of which made themselves quite comfortable and settled for a long stay and chat.

It appears that Gauge 1 is becoming quite popular around the clubs with many either already having a track or contemplating building one, SAS-MEE is one such club who has been in touch with me for information about building a track (perhaps we can make some money for the club with consultancy fees?), so the future for this scale is looking very good, who knows what the next convention will bring, hopefully more live steamers!

An anecdote that came from the weekend was about the mystery of the slipping engine, we have a operating ore loader on the branch line at Lowe yard which actually loads 3mm crushed granite into hoppers, the climb out of the yard is steep and since John had regraded the line prior to the convention my Mogul had been able to haul 10 loaded hoppers up to the mainline, on Saturday it would barely pull 6 hoppers so I had to summon a helper to deliver my load of granite, we were perplexed by this until we realized that one of the AALS attendees was running big trains during the day then running a live steam G1 in the evening, he was dropping oil on the tracks, hence my lack of traction.

The club put up 3 trophies to be presented to the Best Presented Model at the convention, one for the cars, one for the boats and one to the garden railway,

Q. What did one mathematics book say to the other?

!ms!proud fo tol a eav! I A.

congratulations to John Hall for being awarded the “Best Presented Garden Railway Model” with his EGB Uintah Mallet. Penfield Model Engineers Society

Ern Ames is not a club member but registered and attended on Saturday with a live steam Black Five and a nice string of scratch built blood and custard coaches which pleased the English biased visitors, virtually all of the club members put in an appearance and supported the railway over the weekend and I thank you one and all. Mention must also be made of Geoff’s operating Semaphore signal; it would detect the passing of a train and display the correct signal aspect till the section was clear, very nice Geoff.

The open day following the convention was a good day for us as well, we had a full complement of members and the railway was bursting with trains, the oiled grade was still causing problems, to the extent that the John’s had to double head a loaded granite train to get that up the grade. Between John’s “Mallet” and John’s “Shay” there was a lot of wheels pulling that train, it was a bit of history as well, the Uintah Railway was a narrow gauge railway in Utah/Colorado that abounded in very tight curves (66 degrees) and ridiculous steep grades (7.5%), they ran Shays and two “articulated tank locomotives”, (commonly referred to as “Mallett’s” although they were not a true Mallett), so the fella’s were excited to be able to recreate their little bit of history.

Since then I have been finishing some more points for the railway and laying in some more track, of course all of this is overseen and inspected by a certain member who is showing an intense interest in our railway, he shall remain nameless to protect his identity but we refer to him as KH, we think he will be the next convert.

We have set our date for the second Garden Railway Group Invitation Run to be held on the 19th of August, we hope this event will get a bit bigger each year and will become a regular event for the Gauge 1 modellers, we are pretty well ready for this years event already, we still have a bit of track work to finish and we had some ‘lessons learnt’ issues from our first event which should make this that little bit better and easier on everyone.



Wayne, for all the G1GRG and KH

Around the Duck Pond

Hi All!

A lot has happened since I last wrote an article for the Rocket.

The most important event has been the club hosting the A.A.L.S. Convention over the Easter long weekend.

The event was a great success even though the showing of our boats on the Sunday was poorly supported; I heard that those that attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Michael, Tom and I took along a selection of boats. Two of the visitors ran steam powered vessels.

A great deal of interest was shown in our boats, with many visitors coming up to have a chat.

It was a leisurely day and a great time was had talking with our visitors about various aspects of the model trains boats and cars.

Overall, I think everyone benefited from the camaraderie associated with model engineering and I am sure that most left with pleasant memories.

The weather on the morning of the May open day looked doubtful with showers predicted, however after a bit of light drizzle around midday, the sun came out for most of the afternoon.

The boat boys put on a good display, running their boats. I experienced frequent breakdowns and had to retrieve my boat after colliding with one of the pylons and flipping it.

I have been told that Tom is progressing well with a new boat.

He has been building a model of the WW2 motor patrol boat, the PT109 that was commanded by Lieutenant John F Kennedy.

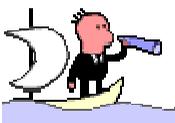
The PT109 was rammed, cut in two and sunk by a Japanese Destroyer off the Solomon Islands; the survivors, one of whom was badly burnt, was helped by Lieutenant Kennedy to get to a nearby island, where the group was later rescued.

Kennedy returned to the U.S. to a hero's welcome and as we all know later became President of the United States.

So much for the history lesson.

Until next Time...

Happy Sailing.



.....Jan



Engineers Society

Above: Visitors running their boats at the Convention.

Right: Ian's Boat after a dunking.

Below: Ian's speedboat took out Best Presented Boat at the Convention.



Q. Do you know what Mary had when she went out to dinner?

A. Everybody knows Mary had a little lamb.....!



Above: Michael's Scale Tug.



Right: Scale boats out on Sunday.

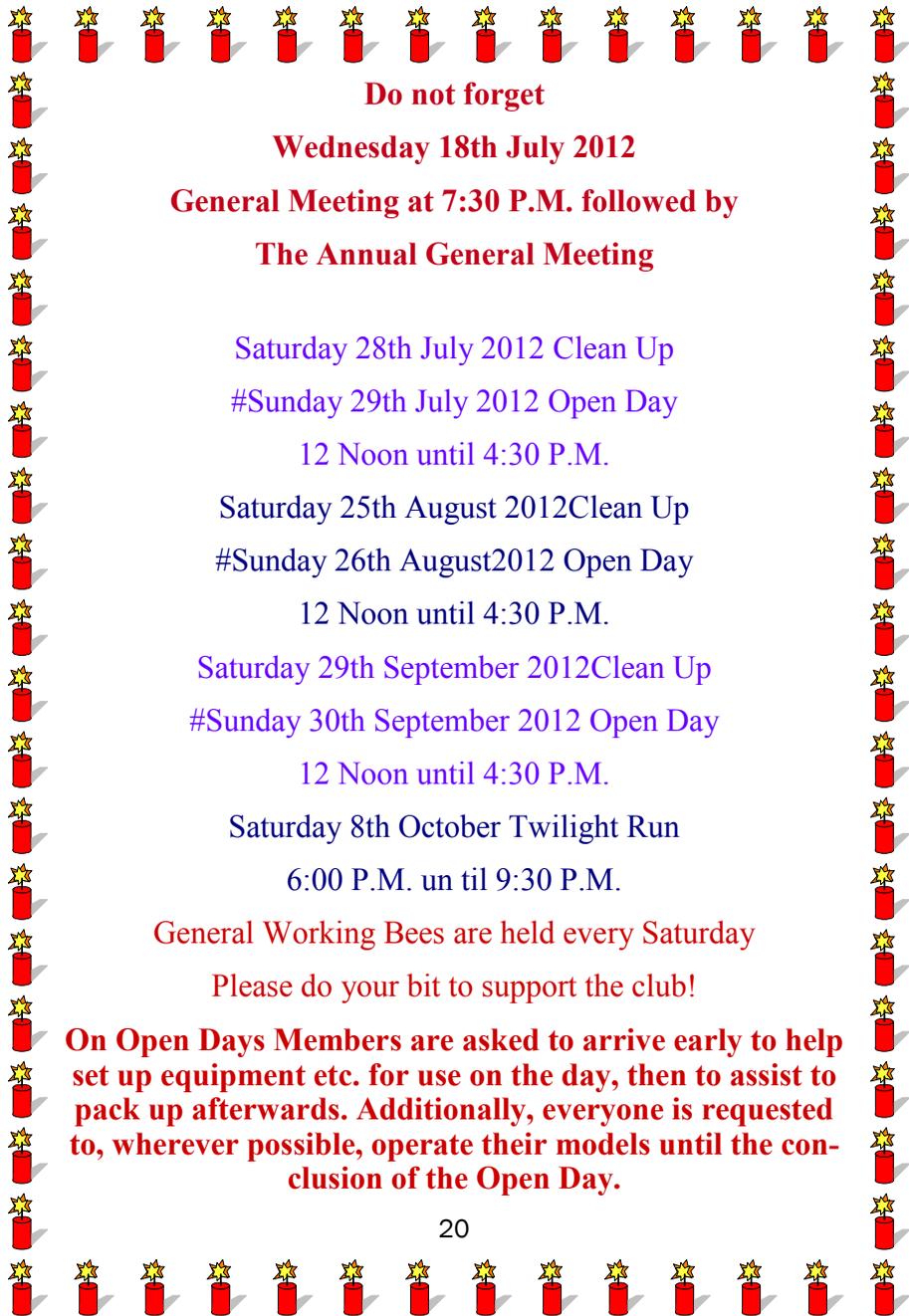


Above: Steam Boat being run at the Convention.



Right: Tom seen working on his Tug.

Club Calendar



Do not forget

Wednesday 18th July 2012

**General Meeting at 7:30 P.M. followed by
The Annual General Meeting**

Saturday 28th July 2012 Clean Up

#Sunday 29th July 2012 Open Day

12 Noon until 4:30 P.M.

Saturday 25th August 2012 Clean Up

#Sunday 26th August 2012 Open Day

12 Noon until 4:30 P.M.

Saturday 29th September 2012 Clean Up

#Sunday 30th September 2012 Open Day

12 Noon until 4:30 P.M.

Saturday 8th October Twilight Run

6:00 P.M. until 9:30 P.M.

General Working Bees are held every Saturday

Please do your bit to support the club!

On Open Days Members are asked to arrive early to help set up equipment etc. for use on the day, then to assist to pack up afterwards. Additionally, everyone is requested to, wherever possible, operate their models until the conclusion of the Open Day.

Q. Why are Dogs like Trees?

A. They both have "Barks" !.....!