

# The Matarawa Halt

Volume 25, Issue 5

May 2006

## Meeting dates

Meetings held at Matarawa Hall.

4 May 2006  
18 May 2006

Hall open from 7:30pm.

Committee Meeting  
14 May 2006

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## Activities

### Twenty-fifth Anniversary Celebrations.

The Wairarapa Railway Modellers Inc 25th Celebrations will take place on 5-6 August 2006. All past and present members, supporters and families are welcome to attend.

#### Programme

Saturday 5 August 2006

10.00am at Clubrooms for registration, morning tea and a natter with running on the club's layouts.  
12 noon Lunch at clubrooms  
1.00pm -5.00pm Layout Tour  
6.30pm for 7.00pm Dinner at Masterton Golf Club, Lansdowne, with after Dinner Speaker  
(Bar facilities will be available at the Golf Club on a user pays basis)

Sunday 6 August 2006

10.00am at clubrooms for morning tea and farewells  
Registration cost \$35.00 (Includes Lunch & Dinner on Saturday)

### Hastings Model Railway Club

The Hastings Model Railway Club is holding it's 50th anniversary celebrations on 20-21 May 2006. Members of the Wairarapa Railway Modellers Inc have been invited to attend.

To register, contact: Birthday Committee Secretary. Errol Hantz, 15 Corwen Place, Hastings, Hawkes Bay. Phone (06)8784873 E-mail. emhantz@xtra.co.nz

Registration cost is \$35.00 per person and covers all activities including lunch and dinner on the Saturday.

Deadline for articles, notes, For sale etc for inclusion in the June 2006 issue of The Matarawa Halt is 25 May 2006.

Opinions expressed in The Matarawa Halt are not necessarily those of the Wairarapa Railway Modellers Inc

## What's on the workbench?

**John Robinson:** Progress here in Tawa on Hannah & Michelle's Railway was a bit slower than hoped over summer, but at 4.30pm on February 28th we ran our first train on the permanently laid track much to the everyone's delight. The railway took about a year to plan and two months of ground work to get to the present state. There is still lots to be done as you can see in the pictures by the two principle Directors are very pleased with Dad's efforts.

The autumn weather has been a bit savage, but passing loops at what will be the two stations have now been laid, including on/off switches wired in for isolating, and of course some very satisfying train running has taken place. There are a few gremlins being sorted out, such as waterproof on/off switches that are not completely waterproof and improvements to Aristo-craft wide radius turnouts. The Aristo-craft turnouts I have improved by removing the frog plastic casing,

trimming the bottom off it by about 0.5-1mm and reinstalling so the top is level with the brass rails and also deepening the flangeway by about 1-1.5mm to better suit the large LGB flanges. It's easier and quicker than it sounds, I'll provide some notes & pics on this at a later date once my modifications have been proved in service.

Briefly H&M's railway has a single main line 48m long looping through existing trees and shrubs using Aristo-craft track laid on a prepared basecourse base with paving block bedding sand as ballast. Maximum grade is 2% (1 in 50) with a minimum radius of 4', but mostly 5' and 8' curves. I'm using a Crest/Aristo-craft Basic Train Engineer controller with power to it supplied by a switchable power supply from JayCar Electronics intended for laptop computer mains power supply. It seems to be functioning fine for my needs at present but the railway is being wired for long term DCC control. The bedding

sand used is a crushed "sharp" sand with a maximum particle size of 5mm (PAP5), and a grading envelope which includes fine particles (dust) which should in theory wash down with rain and lock into the voids and bind it all together nicely and not hopefully end up in loco mechanisms. Buildings, bridges etc and smaller plantings are to follow. It will hopefully have a NZ flavour but most importantly be a pleasant place to sit, watch trains and enjoy the odd refreshment, lights to be install for night running. Leaves, falling apples and bird poop will always be an ongoing maintenance item, but that I guess is nothing new to anyone with a garden railway underneath trees, except perhaps the apples!

**Peter Milburn:** Wayne Haste's layout has been reassembled and circuit of track completed. Irma has repaired scenery where layout was cut to enable relocation. Abutments to the Viaduct have been widened to allow larger



Progress on the H & M Railway in Tawa.



Photos: John Robinson



## Visit to Tokomaru Steam Museum

On Sunday 4 June 2006 the club will be running a bus through to Tokomaru to visit the Steam Museum and then in to Palmerston North for a ride on the Esplanade Railway, Ten Pin Bowling or Mini Putt and an evening meal.

This outing is open to all club members and families. We have a 45 seat bus booked and to date 31 have confirmed their intention to participate.

Total cost per person (based on the 31 confirmed) is \$50.00 which includes the bus trip, entry to Tokomaru Steam Museum, ride on the Esplanade Railway, your choice of Ten Pin Bowling or Mini Putt and an evening meal.

The evening meal is a set menu at Expressions Café & Bar, part of the Ten Pin Bowling, Mini Putt complex.

We have to confirm numbers for the evening meal before the end of May and pay for the number advised. Peter Milburn is accepting pre payment for the trip on club nights during May

If we fill the bus the costs will be lower. Friends and family are welcome to join members, with members taking precedence.

The bus will leave from Tranzit, Queen Street, Masterton at 10.00am.

rolling stock and locos to pass without fouling. Point motors have been installed to main line points and connected to Digitrax stationary decoders for operation. Extra loop and yard track laying in progress. 3 Yc ballast wagon kits and 2nd hand Di loco purchased at convention. Loco to have decoder installed in it shortly.

**Grant Morrell:** Another month and much more modelling, YES I do have a job and a big lawn to mow, but April was kind to me as I took my Military Long Leave which has given me the month to play at home and get all those tasks done - well nearly all, others pop up as the days pass. Styrene and scenic texture is well under way and so is the Carterton Station profile, 2 more locos were fitted with decoders, these included my little Tr which consumed a lot of time doing being so small. I have now included a return loop up by the phosphate plant and to make it work I purchased a PM42. This little unit also made my 2 sections work better when there is that short - most

common occurrence is putting locos on the track after some maintenance. Some more track wiring and connecting points to the station boards were also done.

The convention at Easter came and went with little fuss and little of it, only stayed for Fri and Sat, lucky for the weather being nice too.

I did buy some items, more on that in my next update for the 'Halt'.

I had all the NZR Westies group from Auckland come over on Sunday (public open day) of the convention weekend to see the layout, they were all pretty awed by it and it's operation to date. After a play of trains, some good discussions / ideas, afternoon tea on the deck and a stroll round the gardens, they departed back to Palmerston North for the Convention dinner. After that group discussion, their ideas were put to work over the last weeks of April with the start of the main terminus area with the laying of the yard and

station profile also positioning the engine shed, turntable, works compound and goods shed in the right place, its slowly coming together. My biggest danger I have now is going to the room to work on it and end up running trains instead, and nothing getting done. I now write a list of things I want to work on and take it with me, I think its working - yea....

Tip - Hand run your wagons on a bit of clean track, if the ride is not smooth then you have dirty wheels which is a sure for derailments - I clean mine with a gem blade and rolling the wheel set between my fingers - quick and easy. (A better method is to use a cotton bud and IPA. There is no chance of scratching the wheel surface)



Photo: Grant Morrell

# FEILDING 2006 Competition Results

<u>Name</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Class</u>
Alec Fenton	Gold	DH Loco	Locomotive
Trevor Corrin	Gold	WA217	Locomotive
Neil Ward	Silver	JB1213	Locomotive
Barry Fitzgerald	Silver	TR Shunting Tractor	Locomotive
Vern McCracken	Silver	K922	Locomotive
Ken Cousins	Silver	DFT7282	Locomotive
Pete Van Grinsven	Silver	WW571	Locomotive
Vern McCracken	Bronze	Price E	Locomotive
David Weedon	Bronze	DA Mk1	Locomotive
Robin Knight	Bronze	X442	Locomotive
Pete Van Grinsven	Bronze	DSC459	Locomotive
Robin Knight		Clayton D	Locomotive
Robin Knight	Withdrawn	EB Battery Locomotive	Locomotive

<u>Name</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Class</u>
David Weedon	Silver	Standard Railcar	Self Propelled
Robin Knight	Bronze	McEwan Pratt Railcar	Self Propelled
Robin Knight	Bronze	D & 60' Passenger Car	Self Propelled

<u>Name</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Class</u>
Peter Ross	Silver	KC Box Wagon	Freight Rolling Stock
Neil Ward	Silver	30' Z 309	Freight Rolling Stock
Robin Knight	Bronze	50' Van	Freight Rolling Stock
Robin Knight	Bronze	Drovers Van	Freight Rolling Stock

<u>Name</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Class</u>
Neil Ward	Silver	F186 Guards Van	Passenger Rolling Stock

<u>Name</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Class</u>
Trevor Corrin	Silver	Fell Brake Van	Non Revenue Rolling Stock
Gregor McNeil	Bronze	US Wagon	Non Revenue Rolling Stock

<u>Name</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Class</u>
Peter Ross	Gold	NZR Signal Box	Structures
Keith Collins	Gold	12000 Gallon Water Vat	Structures
Keith Collins	Gold	6000 Gallon Water Vat	Structures
Barry Fitzgerald	Gold	Water Vat	Structures
Peter Ross	Silver	NZR Workmans Hut	Structures

<u>Name</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Class</u>
Gary Gloag/John Tidball	Bronze	Manawatu Gorge Accident 1946	Scenes

<u>Name</u>	<u>Award</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Class</u>
Peter Ross	Gold	Bob Allen's 9mm Layout (Photo)	Photographs
Peter Ross	Gold	One Track Mind Layout (Photo)	Photographs



Robin Knight's 1:64 scale McEwan Pratt Railcar  
Photo: A Nony Mous ©NZAMRC



Alec Fenton's 1:64 scale DH Locomotive  
Photo: A Nony Mous ©NZAMRC

## Letters to the Editor

### April Matarawa Halt

I do like the April fools gag... wonder how many will bite?  
Sean Galbraith

### April Matarawa Halt

I received the Matarawa Newsletter yesterday and as usual found it interesting to read, even though some of the members I now don't know or can't put a face to. - Old age!!!

I was quite surprised to see the bit about the proposal to change the club's name. I know that I am now a country member and so am not up to date with the feelings and general opinions of the club members.

However, for my opinions. I realise that there has been an increasing interest in garden railways at the club and this interest should be catered for. Nevertheless, interests of members who do not have a garden railway or may not be interested in this aspect, I hope are not going to be ignored. I feel strongly that the club should continue to foster interest of all aspects of scale, indoor or outdoor railways and whatever

proptotype. Giving the club a name of garden railways I feel could quite well put prospective members, and possibly present members off and could lose you members.

And what is wrong with the name Wairarapa Railway Modellers? The club has built up an enviable reputation as one of the most go-ahead and progressive clubs in the country. Enthusiasts know the Wairarapa Modellers. Who, they will ask are the Matarawa Garden Railway Modellers? Where on earth is Matarawa?

I won't be able to attend your AGM, but please put forward my views to the Committee and members.

I had hoped to attend the Convention next week, but this has not turned out to be possible. However we will try and plan ahead to come down for the 25th celebrations in August.

Fred Lee

### April Matarawa Halt

Like your G-Scale name scare tactics!

Ian Lewis

### April Matarawa Halt

Club name change all OK with me provided meeting to ratify new name, amend constitution etc is held on [April 1 2007 & before 12 noon on that day](#). That way all club members can have the time they require to prepare their various for or against submissions.

John Hey

(The "Club name change" printed in the April Issue of the Matarawa Halt was meant as an April Fools joke. In addition to the above letters advice has been received that a large number of members took exception to the joke.

Model Railroader, Continental Modeller and other publications generally have an "April" joke. Even Lotus Cars this year announced on 1 April the introduction of a Lotus "Load Lugga" SUV powered by a pull start Briggs and Stratton tuned diesel engine. The parcel tray had a carrying capacity of 5Kg and the tow bar had a towing capacity of 10Kg.

Vauxhall announced an Accelerator limiter, AP-RIL, for their high performance car which limited the acceleration rate of the vehicle. This sold for £104.06.

To those members who were offended by the "Joke" I offer my sincere apologies. Ed)



Peter Ross's Prize Winning 1:64 scale NZR Signal Box

Photo: A Nony Mous ©NZAMRC

## The Tararua Steam Train Excursion

Unfortunately there will be no trip in 2006 either by Mainline Steam or Steam Incorporated. Mainline Steam hope to run it again next year.

In October Steam Incorporated will be running a tour if the South Island to mark the Centenary of the Dunedin Railway Station (1906-2006). This will be steam hauled by locomotive JA1271. The tour leaves Picton on 14 October visiting Christchurch, Arthurs Pass, Dunedin & Invercargill before returning to Picton on 27 October.

For Details contact: Steam Incorporated, P O Box 4 Paekakariki.

Information supplied by Sam Holden

# Hastings Model Railway Club

## 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations

### Newsletter # 5

*For some time now the guard has been hanging out of his window frantically shouting out orders to his crew, waving his lantern and fearing that the train might become a runaway, another of us in the crew has been offering up a silent prayer while the other two are attempting to shunt, keep an eye on the points and shuffle the papers and keep it all on track and bring it to a gentle halt at the wayside halt at the Community Centre.*

*I have the greatest faith in the two!*

**The programme has been finalised now and we wish to emphasise the coupling together of all passengers and staff at the Havelock North Community Centre at 11am on Saturday 20 May, 2006.**

#### **The Programme:**

On arrival we will issue you all with your tickets, name tags and a folder of relevant details to get you through the weekend. Lunch will follow and then you will be shunted into loading consists for the layout tours. A copy of the weekend's programme should be accompanying this newsletter.

Those people who have paid

their weekend costs have been issued with a receipt and if you are an out of town person you should have received a map and a brochure about the motel. The map has the Community Centre marked on it.

Layout builders are still buying timber by the minivan load to make benchwork, wire by the spool to connect track and accessories, and ground foam by the bagful to create scenery. Busy little workshop men!

Let me give you a small taste of one such layout you are likely to encounter as itemised in the notes provided by Bob Heron -

#### **Bakewell to Buxton**

*The layout is set in 1906 on the Midland Railway main line from London to Manchester. The trackwork is 18.83 mm gauge, C&L flexible track on plastic sleepers, turnouts are hand made to Protofour standards. The total main line circuit is a scale 1 mile and 20 chains long.*

*Figures used on platforms and in the yards are mostly Airfix in origin with minor modifications and period dress painting. Additional period figures are whitemetal by various manufacturers.*

*The valley scene to the right as you enter represents Blackwell Mill in Chee Dale in the heart of the limestone area of the Derbyshire Peak District. The cottages were for the signalmen who operated the boxes at the three junctions in Chee Dale.*

*Bakewell Station is laid out to*

*full prototype dimensions in 4 millimetre scale. Buildings, bridges and other structures are all scratch built.*

*Fences are jig-built from balsa, dry-stone walls and cliff faces are cast in plaster from my own moulds. Trees are built around dried flower stalks from Nandina (Sacred Bamboo).*

#### **Sounds appetising**



I know that it's Märklin- but it's classical and is evidence of high quality German engineering!

#### **Funding:**

We have an attractive raffle on sale and it will be drawn on the birthday weekend. Alan Harris has donated a complete train set and for only \$2 it could be yours. If you haven't got a ticket, or five, then get one, or five, on the Saturday and you could make a little grand-daughter very happy. It might even make the wife happy! Save it as a surprise for Christmas - she'll really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

We have tried to assist our overall costs by catering with a sausage sizzle/hamburger/drink and cake stall and we were sort of successful. We showed a profit of \$138 at Keirunga and \$62 at Greenmeadows. Thanks to all who assisted. The weather didn't help on either day - far too hot for cooked food at Keirunga and far too wet and soggy at Greenmeadows. However the

Asian with the Mr Whippy stand did roaring business at Keirunga.

We have had donations of \$84 from some of our club members which is generous; but we were declined any of the lottery type funding as our two applications weren't approved. This was most disappointing as it was going to cover the cost of the booklet.

However, Russell, the cunning shunter, has come up with a devious plan and we intend to publish the historical booklet without diminishing the quality. It will just mean a bit more work by us and some fine organisation and craftwork.

### Static Display:

Herb Petterson has been assigned the task of arranging a display of static models of varying types from club members who have beavered away, been collecting or purchasing. These will be on show on the Saturday at the Community Centre and should prove to be varied, ogled over, compared, measured, rivets counted and will be interesting to look at. He has phoned and spoken to many and the response has been most heartening. If you are supporting this we would like to standardise a format of notes for information. Contact Herb,



phone 877 7468, and arrange the notes and we will type them up. Also we would like to get the comprehensive list of displayers permanently recorded in the booklet for historical reasons. Therefore we will need some action on this aspect as soon as.

### The Guest Speaker:

Our Guest Speaker has been confirmed and he is Euan McQueen from Wellington. He has had a varied career based mainly around the railways and is at present Chairman of the Rail Heritage Trust of NZ and is heavily involved with Wellington Regional Council. His background, as you can see, is impeccable and he will prove to be a good contact to develop for the future.

He is a family man, is writing books about transport and works a garden – I think that there is room for a ‘garden railway’ there Euan - and reading within his railway library. His topic he will address us with is “Modelling & Heritage (with some digressions)”.

### General Notes:

- The MC will be the inimitable David Low with his wit and accent.
- At this stage we have in excess of 50 people who will be attending the dinner.
- The Club has been a reverend lot in the past as we have had two ministers of the church as members; but things have deteriorated in later years and now we have several school teachers.

## Timetable



Saturday	
10.30am	Setting up of static displays in the Community Centre Herb Petterson & Terry Hamilton-Jenkins
11.00am	Registrations and Introductions Distribution of Folders – The Committee
12.00noon	Luncheon Finger Food Tea & Coffee
1.30pm	Layout Tours – Bob Heron
6.30pm	Pre Dinner Drinks at the Community Centre
7.30pm	Welcome Speech – President of the Club David Smith Cutting the Cake – Life Members Ian Malloch, Ian Macphee, Russell Smith & David Low Photographs
7.45pm	Grace Rev Graeme Brown Celebration Dinner
9.15pm	Guest Speaker Euan McQueen Master of Ceremonies David Low
Sunday	
9.00am	Meet at Community Centre
9.15am	Layout Tours continue Bob Heron
12.30pm	Tours end at the Keirunga Railway Ride the Garden Railway
Hastings Model Railway Club 50th Birthday Celebrations	

### Committee

<b>President</b>	<i>Jim McIntyre</i>	<i>06 379 9141</i>
<b>Imm Past Pres</b>	<i>Phil Dittmer</i>	<i>021 1472731</i>
<b>Secretary</b>	<i>Ian C Galbraith</i>	<i>06 377 3603</i>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<i>Peter Milburn</i>	<i>06 370 3983</i>
<b>Committee</b>	<i>Clinton Buller</i>	<i>06 379 6969</i>
	<i>Brendon Clarke</i>	<i>06 377 2330</i>
	<i>Peter Murray</i>	<i>06 378 0186</i>
<b>Newsletter Assistant</b>		<i>Peter Murray</i>

### Supper Roster

4 May 2006	John Briasco	Peter Cameron
18 May 2006	John Needham	Carole Needham

If you are unable to provide supper on your rostered night, either swap with another member or contact Ian Galbraith

There is no telephone at the clubrooms, but a cell phone, 021 2646945 is usually on hand.

### Coming Events

20-21 May 2006	Hasting MRC 50th Anniversary Celebrations	Havelock North
4 June 2006	Trip to Tokomaru Steam Museum	
3-5 June 2006	Tauranga Model Expo	Bethlehem College Events Centre
3-5 June 2006	Model X Show	
	West Wave Recreation Centre	Henderson
8-9 July 2006	Hobby Expo 2006	Taupo
15-16 July 2006	Palmerston North RAIL X	Palmerston North
<b>5-6 August 2006</b>	<b>WRM 25 Anniversary</b>	<b>Carterton</b>
30 Sept-1 Oct 2006	Wellington Rail-Ex	LH Town Hall & Horticultural Hall
Easter 2008	Convention 2008	Registration of interest forms available at the Clubrooms

#### Wairarapa Railway Modellers Inc

c/- Ian C Galbraith  
Culcreuch  
F/n 41 Skeets Rd,  
RD8  
MASTERTON  
peninsok@xtra.co.nz

Phone: +64 6 377 3603

We're on the net  
[www.Geocities.Com/wairarapa.geo/](http://www.Geocities.Com/wairarapa.geo/)

#### For Sale

The club has for sale 6 x N scale modules from the estate of the late Trevor Grantham.

These consist of 4 corner modules and 2 straight modules. They are fitted with track, turnouts and some scenery.

Offers to Peter Milburn Ph 370 3983

#### For Sale

Five foot twin fluorescent light fittings. (No Tubes) \$25.00 each

Contact Peter Milburn Ph: 370 3983

#### MODEL-WAI 2007

July 2007 should be the date for Model-Wai 2007. In view of the costs involved in bringing layouts to Masterton for Model-Wai 2005, we need to seriously look at the feasibility of running another Model-Wai.

Last year, due to poor door takings we were not able to fully cover the transport costs of visiting layouts.

Other clubs are obviously suffering from the same problem as we received only a portion of our expenses incurred when displaying our layout at Porirua.

A full discussion on whether or not to run another Model-Wai will be held on Thursday night.