



# Piston'n'Prop.

Newsletter

**Marlborough Associated Modellers Society Inc.**  
**Brayshaw Park, 8 Arthur Baker Place, Blenheim 7201**

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If Clubs or members currently receiving this Newsletter by mail could receive it by email please let me know [carlmcmillan@ihug.co.nz](mailto:carlmcmillan@ihug.co.nz)

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**December 2015**

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**Note:- The annual Model of The Year meeting is planned for Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December in the clubrooms at 7.30pm.**

Remember heritage day is coming up, 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016.

**Committee Meeting notes for October / November**

\_\_\_\_\_ Summer has come on the scene earlier than expected and we are now faced with total fire bans as a result of the lack of rain combined with very strong winds that has dried everything out. Growth around the Park has slowed down but there is a great fire hazard and members are requested to take great care in their modelling activities. Routine maintenance tasks have taken place and it was also good to get the boating pond drained and cleaned. The drain repairs were very effective and the water level lowered more quickly than expected, but that was okay. The build up of algae on the pond was very hard to remove and if anyone knows of a satisfactory product we could use to keep the pond water clean - please would they let us know. We are limited by our resource consent as to what can be released into the river bed when draining the pond and as a result the water gets very murky. A subsequent leak has been fixed.

The matter of signage at the front of the Park is still being addressed by the Park Administrators but appears to have stalled somewhat.

The raised track project is also stalled as we are waiting for dirt to become available for placing around the pillars and for forming embankments. The track supporting pillars have all been poured as have a number of the beams and piers required. We appreciate the continuing efforts of those members who are working in the background to carry out these tasks.

We welcome James Lohead to membership in the Flying Section and Barrie Doublesin as a Country Member in the Engineering Section.

Members are reminded that the Model of the Year evening on Tuesday 8th December at 7.30pm in the Clubrooms. Last year we had a good turn out of members and a lovely display of models. It is a great opportunity to see what has been produced in different areas of the club as well as a good social occasion and a chance to celebrate the year's activities. Please plan to be there and mark the date on your calendars.

As this will be the last newsletter for the year I would like to wish each of you a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year and all that lies ahead. We expect the holiday season will be hot and dry but trust that you will have an enjoyable and refreshing time with family and friends and have safe journeying if you travel over the period. Thank you for your participation in club activities over the past year and for the times of fellowship that have been shared.

Nigel Wood

Secretary

## **Steam Section Meeting notes for October 20th.**

8 members attended this meeting and a pleasant evening was enjoyed.

The raised track extension project is showing visual progress with all the concrete pillars now poured. A small but keen team is involved in pouring the track support beams and supporting piers and a quantity of each of these have been completed. Now what is needed is fill to form the embankments. We will have access to a front-end loader for shifting dirt when needed. Lawrence Brehaut had priced 50 metres of 200 x 25 boxing for pouring curved sections of track beams in-situ.

The last Sunday afternoon running session was cut short because of the risks posed by the high winds. Not many people about.

The ground level track is in generally good condition with one area of track to be lifted slightly adjacent to the odour pit.

Peter Holdaway has been making replacement fittings for a friend's steam Lorry boiler and showed a bronze valve body he had to file 9/16" hex flats on because his mill is set up for another project. It has been an exercise in patience.

Ken McIntyre had adapted an old anglepoise lamp to form an adjustable 'third hand' by mounting a spring clamp in place of the lamp.

This has been very useful in holding small parts to work on.

Bill Ward showed some of the pottery pieces he has made and described the processes used. He had several figurines formed by slip casting in moulds and which had been painted and fired after drying, plus a large pot made by coiling ropes of clay to form the desired shape. He had to learn many techniques over the years but pottery has been an interest along with model engineering.

Nigel

### **Boating Report**

Pond cleaning has been done, many thanks to the boaties and committee members who helped with this job. It was with relief that the drain worked very well, so well we had to put the plug back in to retain some water! The algae seems to be sticking to the bottom of the pond more making it harder to remove, we may look at cleaning it twice a year to prevent too much algae build-up.



(picture of pond drain)

We discovered a few leaks in the harbour area after we cleaned it, on the side and lately in the bottom. This may be due to the recent quakes we have been having. Both seem to be plugged for now. Thanks to those who helped with this.

Starlets are being built in great numbers, potentially we could have 15 on the pond at one time. This will not only be an amazing spectacle but will also test our knowledge of the rules and our vocal chords. Hopefully it won't stress any friendships. Dave Mathieson has had his one sailing and Kerry Campbell has his one ready to go. My one is progressing slowly but hopefully as the busyness eases I will have more time to spend on it.



(picture of Kerrys boat)

Most yachts now seem to have wind vanes fitted, these are proving to be quite an asset and it's surprising to see the many different wind directions being indicated on the pond.

Small simple things can make big changes. I was disappointed to see my yacht performing badly a few weeks ago, finishing at the back of the field in all races. It wouldn't penetrate into the wind and was slow down wind. It was when I had it on the stand at the end of the day and looking at the mast I saw it was raked forward quite a bit. I moved it to an upright position and waited for the next day's sailing. It seemed to be back to it's normal speed and going a lot quicker. I'm not sure what a raked forward mast does but it sure isn't helpful.

Model of the Year is coming up, come along and join in. Bring a model you have been working on, it's good to see what is being or has been built.

Philip

## Flying Report

The Model of the Year evening on Tuesday 8th December at 7.30pm in the Clubrooms at Brayshaw Park, if anyone has been building anything this year bring it along and show everyone or just come to see what other members have been making and chat about modelling. Bring a plate if you wish.

We welcome James Lohead to membership in the Flying Section

Slope soaring is on again on Wednesday evenings, anyone interested in coming along be at the Car-park of Rifle Range place at the western end of the Wither hills walkway at 5:30pm. So far only a few of us have been flying, the weather has not been great but hopefully will improve from now on. Rex from BMAC met with Robert Hutchinson and council staff about access to the Wither Hills Farm Park so we can slope soar at the Weld street site, they are not totally opposed to this but there would be conditions we would need to satisfy, I will let you know if there are any developments.

One Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> November I think, Neil and Ross were flying at Tuamarina and they had a chat with a digger driver at the Gravel area next to the airfield. He said he had noticed the deep wheel ruts in the gateway and offered to fill them with gravel, which he did (as can be seen in the next photo). A kind offer very much appreciated. Then on the following Sunday I arrived at the field to find that some useless idiot had driven over our gate (as can be seen in the same photo) totally wrecking it, then proceeding to shunt the club caravan a metre or two from its usual spot. Totally senseless act. The Caravan was repositioned and the Gate replaced, thanks to those that helped with that.



Newly laid gravel in the Gateway, and wrecked Gate 3 days later.



Damaged Caravan

Heritage Day at Brayshaw park is on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, MAMS flying section is usually asked to provide a few members to man the gates there and collect money. If anyone is willing to help out please let me know, it will only be for one hour if at all.

Rex Ashwell from BMAC has been organising the NDC events for the two local flying clubs, if anyone wishes to join in(or help out with timing etc) please let me know and I will put you in touch with him.

Weekend flyers have not been very active lately, the winds have been putting most off I suppose. I have flown the last couple of weekends but it has been windy and a bit of a challenge at times. Hopefully the winds will ease from now on and more people can enjoy the flying over summer.

The field and surrounding area are very dry and will be a serious fire risk so please take care out there. LiPo batteries seem to be a particle risk, but whatever you fly or do out at the field bare in mind the fire danger over summer. We have containers of water at the caravan but it might be worth considering carrying a fire extinguisher in your vehicles anyway, I don't think it is worth the club trying to provide an extinguisher on site. If there is a fire dial 111 immediately and call the Fire Brigade.

Be careful, be safe, have fun.

Carl M.

## **For Sale:**

7 1/4" G Phantom Southern Belle. New Boiler Cert. Locomotive in excellent running order. 3 NZR style carriages, 7 seaters. Storage/work stands for Eng & Tender. Deteriorating health only reason for sale.

Further details:- Ken McIntyre 03 5783346, 15 Solway Drive, Witherlea, Blenheim.

NOTE - NZ Model Flier's World is now available for issue at both Blenheim and Picton libraries.

## **MAMS Membership and Subscription Structure**

Ordinary Member (all Sections)	S55.00
Family membership	\$60.00
Junior Member	\$35.00
Country Member (+40km from Blenheim)	\$35.00
Life Member	Nil.

Members may belong to any or all of the following Sections, for one Ordinary Membership fee:

Engineering - Boating - Flying.

*Flying Section members may join **MFNZ** (Recommended) for an **additional annual fee of: Senior \$70, Junior \$20, and Family \$75, paid to MAMS.***

*NOTE: MFNZ Fees fall due on the 1st April each year and must be paid by the club before **1st July**, (if you could please pay to MAMS by the end of May to give me time to get the money to MFNZ in June it would be helpful). **NEW** members joining MFNZ after November 1st only have to pay half fees, however existing members renewing late, will still need to pay for a full year.*

For on-line payments members just have to use the club account number, give their name and purpose of payment, i.e. **MAMS subs**, and/or **MFNZ subs**.

SBS Bank Account number is 031355 0512739 00

**Subscription Policy:** Financial membership shall cease if the required subscription fee has not been paid by the **31<sup>st</sup> of July**. **Non-financial members are not covered by our insurance policy and therefore cannot operate their models at our designated sites**, and they do not receive a Newsletter.

If members intend to resign from MAMS, or not renew their subscription, could they please let the treasurer or a committee member know.

(**New** members who have joined and paid their Subs from December 2014 onwards are still considered paid up club members for 2015/2016 year)

Those who have paid their subscription since the last AGM may collect their membership card and receipt from a folder on the notice board in the clubroom.

Anyone not wishing to renew their membership please let the treasurer, or a committee member, know. If any flying section members are not renewing their membership could they also return their key to the flying field.

Publication dates: 1<sup>st</sup> week of **February**, April, June, August, October, and December.

Please get any items (Notices, articles, or for sale items etc) for the **February** issue to the editor a few days before the end of **January**.