

over the hill, you pick up speed' but the rate at which the year has passed is ridiculous. We have much to be thankful for in spite of all that is happening in the world around us and I sincerely trust that each one of you will be able to enjoy the festive season with family and friends.

Club activities have taken place after a fashion because of the variabilities in weather affecting model flying and yacht sailing or the lack thereof, and Level 2 affecting how much we can interact with members of the community in the likes of giving train rides. Government regulations and changes to Covid Levels and the forthcoming Traffic Light system with the use of masks, sanitisers, personal separation and vaccination obliges each of us to be aware of others and how our behaviour will affect them. Much of our activity is in the open air but we still need to respect each other particularly with the use of masks if required. We have been fortunate in Blenheim that there has not been community transmission of infection but this is likely to occur at some stage and we don't want our members becoming sick or passing on infection to others.

Longer daylight hours and warmer temperatures have enabled more to be done outdoors with work on the track project progressing and to making inroads into grounds maintenance. The track project has advanced as shown in photos and the property is generally looking very tidy so our thanks go to all who have taken part in different ways.



The Summer weather will mean we have to do more watering of plantings. Thanks to Bryan and Ron for upgrading the irrigation system and timer and Bryan for the new shrubs that have been planted.

After much work behind the scenes by Ron Perkinson we are now registered under the Amusement Devices Regulations and have District Council permission to operate our miniature railway. This is a big step forward for us as a Society but it comes with added responsibilities for each member involved in operating

locomotives and giving train rides for the public. There is paperwork and records to be maintained as well as the safety aspects of our operations to be observed.

Our annual Model of the Year meeting is planned for Tuesday 14th December at 7.30pm in the clubrooms and members are encouraged to attend. This is one of the few times during the year when we can meet together for fellowship and to view models and projects that have been completed during the year or are still under way. I have been encouraged in past years to see the amount and quality of work that has been put into making amazing models of boats, planes and trains. So plan to come along, bring a snack for supper, and enjoy the time together.

The Committee and I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your involvement during the year and to wish each of you and your families a very happy Christmas and New Year in spite of the pandemic.

Nigel Wood
Secretary / Treasurer

Engineering Section Mtg 19th October

John Bolton (Section Captain) advised that we had received a grant from Pelorus Trust towards the cost of purchasing electrical components for the track project. We had also received a very generous donation from a club member which will be put towards project costs as well.

We had applied to Marlborough District Council for a permit to operate under Amusement Device Regulations and John advised that the Society had received this 2 year permit.

The project is progressing with boxing being set up to pour the curved section at the south end of the station. Originally the intention was for the existing curved beam to be reused and moved 1.5 metres west but has been found to be too weak.



Jim Acott has been busy producing bits for the tender suspension on his Aspinall locomotive and had brought these plus several formed plate and other components for the boiler.



Nigel had been making piston rings for Simplex which involved fabricating a holding fixture. An interesting exercise.

Lawrence Brehaut had questions about the boilers and stays and blow-down valve locations as per the boiler code.



John Bolton had one of the completed bogies for his 3 1/2" gauge NZR Ab loco tender and was working on the second bogies plus the brake system.

Engineering Section Mtg 16th November

John Bolton advised of the Council Children's Christmas Party to be held on Sunday 28th Nov from 10am to 3pm and the need for locos and helpers.



Ron Perkinson has been working on controls for the new track points, showing the completed control panels and giving a brief on how they will operate including operation of the by-pass and safety features that have been incorporated.

There was general discussion on project progress and costs.

Nigel has been making Simplex cylinders rear covers and learning more about using the milling machine to shape the gland bosses c/w slide bar mounting surfaces.



Russell Gifford, an early member of the club from the 1950's, was visiting and gave a very interesting talk on his interest and research in farms and buildings around NZ C1870's. He has made scale models of farm buildings to show what things would have been like 120 years ago and showed a scale model of a typical dunny he had scratch-built. He is also interested in making silver jewellery and showed samples of his work.



John Bolton showed the assembled tender for his NZR Ab loco which he had bolted together for the first time, finding a few challenges along the way because some components were obstructing access for fastening other parts. It looks good but he would like to finish the tender before starting on the locomotive.
(Nigel)

Progress on raised and ground level tracks

The engineering section presented a plan to bring the ground level track through the raised track station as we were finding it difficult to operate and still have manpower to manage both stations. The plan proposed to run the ground level track through the station on the current raised track position and shift the raised track sideways.



A raised bypass track of the station was also included in the plan.

The new points to operate the bypass will be electric powered with a signal system.

It was proposed to keep the current raised and ground tracks in operation during construction of the new sections and connect them to the old track system minimising closed track time.



Construction of the repositioned pillars and concrete beams for the raised track and the new bypass track started early this year and is almost ready for connection to the current rail system. Mean time work on the raised track points is continuing, and replacement concrete floor and fencing in the station are underway

Well attended working bees have been held on Wednesday and Saturday mornings since the start of the project but it was considered a two year project before starting. While only a very small club we have been very fortunate to have some members with previous work experience to direct and make this project a pleasure to work on.

Sadly Patrick Robinson who was a very keen participant of the project passed away recently and we miss his experience and friendship.

(John Bolton)

Boating Section

Just a reminder that Model of the Year is on Dec 14th at the club-rooms.
Our next Section meeting is this Thursday Dec 1st, 7.30 at the clubrooms.



At our last section meeting, John had this new model he is working on. Up to his usual standard, working doors and hatches. It's a model of a boat he built in his younger days as a boat builder which is still in service today.



Colin brought this static model that he is working on, a lot of work done with a lot more to do.

Philip

Flying section report.

The model of the year meeting is on is the club rooms at Brayshaw Park at 7:30pm Tuesday 14th December, if you have built any models during the year it is a good opportunity to show them off, or just turn up for a social evening and see what others have done.

Slope soaring sessions are continuing on Wednesday evenings, the last couple of weeks have been pretty good. Anyone interested we meet at the car park off Rifle Range place at 5:30pm, then we head to the flying site from there.

I have purchased a Porta-Loo for the MAMS airfield and hope to get it out to the airfield in the next day or two. It is an old one from Hire-pool but flasher than the ones we have had previously.

I hope everyone has a good summer and Christmas this year and manage to get some good flying sessions in.

Have fun, fly safely.

(Carl M)

The Soaring Scene

Despite being continuously frustrated by weather that hasn't best suited our type of flying, the usual group of grey haired grandfathers have continued their soaring activities as the competition year draws to a close There have been some nice Marlborough Spring days this past month, but not many, and not on the weekends, which is when we must fly the NDC events. The result is that November passed without giving us a flyable competition day, this weekend being typical, windy on Saturday and raining on Sunday. Nothing we can do about that of course, but as I get older I do find it's becoming increasingly difficult to keep saying "Ah well, there's always next year".

As it happens the recent weather won't have hurt our overall standing in NDC as the Model Flying NZ competition committee decided that for the purposes of final positions the competition would be completed as things stood at the end of August. This was because the Auckland clubs were unable to compete while they were in lockdown. The results will be announced at the Nationals so we have a while to wait before we can see how we have done. Individually several of us have been competitive this year and I think MAMS will also be in contention for a place in the club championship once again, although I expect we will be well behind the Christchurch club, with their soaring group scores bolstered by numerous vintage and free flight competitors..

There is of course a lot of glider flying done outside the competition arena and MAMS members can frequently be found soaring on any day when the weather

looks suitable, and particularly on Wednesday mornings. During the daylight saving period Wednesday evenings are given over to slope soaring at Meadowbank and the last couple of weeks have provided great conditions for this activity, unfortunately only enjoyed by three people each week. A few more bodies on the hill would be great to see so if you are interested we meet at the Rifle Range Carpark at 5:30 each Wednesday. It's only a short drive, and worth doing for the views over the town even if you are just an interested observer.



The Soaring Group of Model Flying NZ are keen to get more people flying gliders and they are promoting a fun competition in December to encourage any currently active R/C pilots to have a go. This is restricted to Radians or similar 2 metre models and can be flown on any day in December. We will definitely be flying in this with dates yet to be decided (we'll be checking the forecasts for a suitable day) so if anyone out there is interested feel free to drop me a line <mailto:rex.ashwell@xtra.co.nz> and I'll keep you in the loop. Rules are simple, a Radian of Phoenix model would be ideal and there will be plenty of help available from the regulars, so get in touch and come and have a go.

Lockdowns and Covid restrictions have limited our members involvement in meetings at other venues this year but Garry Morgan is off to try his hand against the best in the country at an F5J competition in Timaru next weekend. Garry has been working away at developing his own design over the last three years, I think he's up to the Mk 8 now, and the latest version is a credit to his design and construction skills. We wish him luck down South - there will be tough competition.

Rex

For Sale

Any members who want a battery for flight-line charging: Used 12 Volt, Deep Cycle batteries are available for \$10 each, from Access Mobility (next to Medlab, on Maxwell Rd). Ask for Lloyd.

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 \$95 Junior \$30, and Family \$100, paid to MAMS.***

*NOTE: MFNZ Fees must be paid to the club before **31 March**. NEW members joining after 1st October only have to pay half fees, however existing members renewing late, will still need to pay for a full year. Carl McMillan is the MAMS MFNZ Contact person regarding any MFNZ membership issues.*

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 **31st 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.

(**New** members who have joined and paid their Subs from December 2020 onwards are still considered paid up club members for 2021/2022 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: 1st 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**.