



# Piston'n'Prop.

Newsletter

**Marlborough Associated Modellers Society Inc.**  
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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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**February 2016**

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## Committee Meeting notes for December / January

The holiday break is well and truly past and presently we are enjoying a very welcome respite from the high temperatures and dry conditions. The recent rain is probably not sufficient to reduce the total fire ban but is much appreciated anyway. After a busy year we finished club activities with the Model of the Year evening before the Christmas / New Year break and have since been preparing for the annual Heritage Day events to celebrate the national Waitangi Day. This is our main fund-raising event of the year and helps pay for grounds maintenance,

repairs, projects and incidental expenses not covered by subscriptions.

It is normally a full-on day with lots of people visiting the Park and taking part in the different activities happening. We will be offering train rides, model yachts and boats operating on the pond and static displays of models in the clubrooms and barbecued sausages for sale. Customarily we have had hot, fine weather for the day but the climate has been a bit topsy turvy of late and what we will get will be anybody's guess. We hope it will be fine and that people will enjoy themselves. We encourage as many members as possible to attend and help in running trains and operating boats because numbers able to help are a bit thin on the ground at present.

The total fire ban means we are unable to operate steam locos for train running and will be limited to operating diesel locos for train rides. Volunteers to help with train operations in particular will be very welcome. We have invited members from Nelson and Christchurch model engineering clubs to join with us for the day and it is a good opportunity to share our facilities with them. Morning and afternoon teas are provided for members and the day will finish with a pot-luck meal by the clubrooms around 5.30 - 6pm. Members and their families are invited to attend this very pleasant part of the day and are requested to bring a salad and a dessert to share. BYO drinks if desired. The club will provide BBQ sausages and soft drinks.

The raised track project is progressing now that fill has become available for placing around the pillars and for forming embankments. Placing boxing for pouring the beams around the curved sections of the track can now begin.

**The Model of the Year evening** on Tuesday 8th December had a good turn out of members and a lovely display of models. It was 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. Unfortunately there were no aircraft on display and a limited input from the Engineering section but the Boating Section members had been very busy during the year as can be seen. The results are:



Boats: Graham Vercoe had completed building a freescale model of a Thames sailing barge from a photograph. Of balsa construction with single channel r/c and sails reasonably well with a plug-in keel. Looks very realistic.



John Henson had several clinker built dinghys on display and gave a description of building them on moulds and as full-size ones were built. Very intricate and lovely to look at.



Dave Mathieson had a completed freelance design Cray fishing boat on display. He inherited the basic hull and constructed the details from many odd bits and pieces obtained from various sources. The craft looks very realistic and sails well.



Colin Grocott had completed a model tug from a Spanish kitset and was very pleased with the result. Plank on frame construction and a pleasure to make and look at.

Winner – John Henson with his clinker built dinghys.



Engineering: Ken McIntyre had three different size Ringbom Stirling-cycle hot-air engines on display – 2 were operating and the third was under construction. There are no internal connections and the engines are designed to operate over a heat source such as hot water or a light bulb. Construction is lightweight and the pistons are made of pure carbon as no lubrication is possible so very careful machining to close tolerances is required. Fascinating to watch engines in operation. Winner – Ken McIntyre with his Ringbom engines.  
Overall Winner – Ken McIntyre with his Ringbom engines.

Nigel Wood  
Secretary

### **Steam Section Meeting notes for December 15th.**

A quieter evening with 6 members but a pleasant time was enjoyed to finish off the year.

The raised track extension project is showing more progress with piles of hard fill

being delivered by local companies. Once the embankments are formed at the north end of the track, boxing can be constructed to pour the curved beam sections in situ.



The previous Sunday afternoon running session was cancelled because of inclement weather.



Mark Taylor showed a specially shaped drawbar for his ground level 7 1/4" passenger trolley. He also had the frames for a 5" gauge Speedy which will be his next project. Discussion on the relative merits of different axle box bearings - plain bearings, needle rollers or split bush bearings. The frames had been cut by high

pressure water cutters and this led on to discussion of hazards associated with use of high speed and high pressure machines.



Ken McIntyre donated five CB radios to the club to be used on the ground level track for advising of problems when trains were not in view at the northern end of the property. These were received with thanks. Ken is making a smaller model of a Ringbom Stirling cycle hot air engine as a companion to the two larger engines

### **Section meeting notes for January 19th**

A good start to the year with 9 members present.

Ken McIntyre had his small Ringbom engine operating. It needed a water jacket around the head to provide degree of cooling and prevent overheating. A temperature differential is required for operation. His next project is a different sort of Stirling engine.

Rex Handley had disposed of parts for a small lathe And Ken offered these to anyone who would like an interesting project in completing the lathe. Enquiries to Ken.

Heritage Day will have a static display of models in the clubrooms and Ken will be in the clubrooms on Friday evening 5th Feb for people to drop off models for display. A club member will be camping in the ground overnight which will provide a degree of security. Otherwise, models could be left in the clubrooms early on the Saturday morning before proceedings commenced.

Mark Taylor has been trying to arrange a meeting with the Fire Officer to discuss the situation regarding total fire ban exemptions.

He showed the needle roller bearings obtained from RS for his Speedy axle boxes. He would prefer double sealed bearings but these are quite expensive. It was considered that felt washers would prevent the ingress of contaminants into the bearings in service.



Mark unpacked a heavy box containing wheel and cylinder castings for his Speedy and cylinder castings for Ron's Springbok. Very nice castings from the UK. Ron Perkinson had problems with corrosion in the side water tanks for his PV Baker (made from zincalume or similar) and which needed replacing. He showed the parts he is preparing for fabricating new side tanks.

Mark reported on various aspects of the recent Tauranga Expo.

Peter Holdaway showed photos from the archives of stages in the development of our area of Brayshaw Park over the years.



More fill has been delivered and, thanks to Mark on TC Nicholls for the loan of a digger, much was accomplished in shifting dirt on Saturday 16 Jan. Formation of the embankment is progressing well.

Nigel

## Boating Report

There has been some good days boating recently, the 'Starlet' yacht fleet is growing and we had seven Starlets on the pond recently which was very good to see and was a blaze of colour. All boats seem to be similar in performance with the main advantage being either your experience as a skipper or catching that lucky gust of breeze that no one else gets.



With five other Starlets being built and one returning, it will be a good size fleet when all are together on the pond. Sadly Jamie has had to retire from boating but his boat has been bought by a club member so no doubt we will see it on the pond soon. I have three pictures of



action on the pond, one of all seven Starlets on the pond, one is of my newly finished Starlet 'Afrayed Knot' and one of John Henson's new Starlet, this a work of art and the finish is up to John usual high standard.

### **Scale Electric.**

There are plans to start a Scale Electric day every Wednesday at 1.30pm till you've had enough. This day is intended for any scale electric boats and is not intended for yachts or fast electric. It is open to everyone, Graeme Vercoe is the organiser for this so contact Graeme for more info.

The pond is still open to any club members boat on a normal 'running day' afternoon and all you have to do is let others know that you would like to have some pond time.

### **Vines Village.**

There is an opportunity for boating at the Vines Village pond on Feb 14<sup>th</sup> from 10am till 5pm. If you are able, just go at your pleasure.

### **Boat Section Meeting.**

Thurs 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 7.30pm at the club rooms. Bring along your Starlet so we can compare and see what the differences and similarities are. Any other topic you want to talk about and we will talk about Heritage Day as well.

### **Heritage Day.**

This is the main fund-raising activity for the Club and we all need to make it as successful as possible. We need as many hands for this as we can so if you can spare some time, come and join in. The day starts around 8.30am with erecting the tent and getting things sorted. If you have models you are happy to have on display please bring them either on Fri night and leave them in the club rooms or early Sat morning and we will set them up in the tent. We will be hiring the pond yachts during the day and rotating the activities on the pond. Job sharing is the order of the day so be prepared to help out when it's needed. A BBQ will be shared at the end of the day.

Philip.

### **Flying Report**

Heritage day is Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February at Brayshaw park. It is the biggest fundraising day for MAMS. All the societies in the park participate and open to the public. There will be display areas at MAMS Clubrooms and a Marquee by the boat pond to display models. It would be nice to have a few different model aircraft on display. If you have a model to display please get it in place between 8:30 and 10am please(when the park opens to the public). It would also be good to have a few members present to help watch the displays and answer questions from the public. The engineering section could also use a volunteer or two to help out with the public at the train stations, loading and unloading passengers etc. We have also been asked to provide people to man the gate and assist carpark duties for a

period of an hour during the day. If anyone can help please let me know (email [carlmcmillan@ihug.co.nz](mailto:carlmcmillan@ihug.co.nz) or phone 5780716).

Slope soaring has been going well, we had 5 flyers last Wednesday and nice flying conditions, although overcast and cool for this time of year. It was a good fun evening with a variety of planes flying. Nice to see Raz flying his scale T-31M motor glider on the slope.

I have been asked to remind members to take care on the road to and from the Tuamarina flying field, especially going over the stop bank nearest the airfield. The road is very narrow there and we share the road with logging trucks, farm vehicles, dog walkers etc. Be careful and be safe, and have a good time at the field.

A couple of local flyers are trying to get FPV Quadcopter racing(aka Rotorcross) going locally. If anyone is interested let me know(or talk to Laurence at Roselands hobby corner). For more info about FPV Quad racing look at <http://modelflyingnz.org/interest/FPV.html> on the Model Flying NZ website (some good videos to watch to). This sport has really taken off around the world, and is gaining popularity in NZ with a race competition series introduced last year.

Model Flying NZ also has a summary of the latest model aircraft flying rules on the website under latest news at the moment <http://modelflyingnz.org/index.htm> aimed at new drone operators but applicable to all RC model flyers.

Flying has been going well at Tuamarina, the airfield is surprisingly green for this time of year. The weather has been changeable but there have been many flyable days.

Have fun, Fly safely.

Carl M.

### **For Sale:**

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)	\$55.00
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 2015 onwards are still considered paid up club members for 2016/2017 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 **April** issue to the editor a few days before the end of **March**.