



CLUB CONTACTS:

Club Patron:

Mr Keith Whiteley

President:

John Howie – 3287459

Vice President:

John Hamilton – 3382497

Secretary:

Russell Gifford – 3773432

Treasurer:

Mike James – 3834985

Loco Foreman:

Rob Wilson – 9604305

Commodore:

Dean Farrow - 3396319

From the President's desk:

The end of the year is fast approaching! Who said we had finished with earthquakes? I hope you did not get any more damage and that Santa called and left some goodies, although there aren't many chimneys left for him to come down!

Thanks to the members who turned up for the Andrews Crescent working bee. A large tree muncher and Phil Rich got the job done.

The last general meeting for the year went off well at the new clubrooms with about 50-60 members and families enjoying a BBQ. Well folks, if I don't see you at Sunday's picnic – **Happy New Year!**

December 2011 Edition

Loco Foreman (and Part-Time Tour Bus Driver): MELBOURNE: PART TWO

We were all thrilled to see the former Dobwells (UK) Big Boy. However, it did not cover itself in glory, losing its water twice, having two tubes replaced and bouncing over the point-work. The test driver could not stoke the loco whilst in motion due to the length of

From the November Committee Meeting:

Matters Arising: All trolley advertising now sold. Thanks to all who assisted in the Ice Train repairs, it ran well over Show Weekend and has now been running for 5 years.

Loco Foreman: Road crossing bells and lights have been installed and tested and Neale Craighead has fitted new industrial grade switches. Alan Barlow has almost completed pedestrian crossing lights at the station.

Show Weekend: A great success in spite of the weather. Thanks to all who participated including Jock for the model display. There is significant maintenance work required on the track in the 'wooded area' and also the raised track. Thanks to Jimmy Rooney (Timaru) for his effort put into the raised track.

MEANZ: The Letter of Interpretation is nearing acceptance. It is expected it will be endorsed at the meeting in Whangarei, a new MEANZ executive will also be elected.

Halswell GLT: The veranda frames will be installed after Christmas. A timer has been fitted to the heater circuit. Expected completion is March 2012. Members are reminded to keep clubrooms clean.

Membership: Welcome Brian Avery (Palmerston North).

General Business: Heavy passenger demand on Sunday of Show Weekend presented some issues. Discussion on reducing queue lengths includes use of four passenger cars per train and a longer concreted platform. A nomination procedure is to be followed for Life Memberships to allow the important reflection time preceding decisions. Two nominated maintenance days per year are needed for maintenance of locos and rolling stock. Neale Craighead offered to take responsibility for loco maintenance. Marjory Orwin is to administer the details of Loco Drivers Licences. Graeme Chisnall is intending to begin the planning process for Canmod 2. Rob Wilson forwarded an inquiry for five-inch bogies. The availability of a steam loco for use by junior members was queried. Club history suggests there is real difficulty in reliably dealing with the ongoing maintenance and care of such a loco.

the shovel required and having the coalbunker near the back of the tender. The loco had a voracious appetite for coal. Steam aficionados observed that the Big Boy appeared to struggle to get along, perhaps due to the small diameter steam passages to the cylinders through hoses. We were particularly interested in the loading and unloading at the station, as it processes 100,000 people per annum at \$3 per ride! Their trains had up to six carriages which could carry a maximum of five people, a guard who could operate the brakes from the rear of the train (something we could look at) and radios for communication with the signal staff. The guard blew their whistle and showed a green flag to confirm the green light signal. It took five station staff to load trains and three to operate the 80-lever fully-interlocked signal box. The station staff weren't particularly friendly, a lot of shouting and herding was observed. Sometimes trains were loaded on a secondary platform opposite the main platform and the public had to be herded across the tracks - we observed a near miss. All station announcements were pre-recorded – good idea. The Saturday night meal was \$20 per head for a meal ticket, the meal was wholesome but not worth \$20! The reason for the celebration was the 50th anniversary of the Diamond Valley Railway. Unfortunately, no real attention or ceremony was paid to this milestone apart from a decorated wagon. The railway seemed to overwhelm the club, being too big, complicated and hard for it to be "fun"! For a rail enthusiast who wished to drive his loco to prototypical standards with signalling, various destinations, fully operational signalling etc, this place would have been close to heaven. Unfortunately, once the public turned up, it all became very difficult. A casual discussion with a member who was a little forthcoming, on their daily records and paperwork, is that they had none! The club are well known in Australian Model Engineering circles for "doing their own thing" – this was certainly observed. A visit to another club (Tullamarine) revealed that all "troublemakers" appear to end up at DVR. We were treated to a tour of the workshops and round their 1.5km 7¼" track. We visited "Puffing Billy" in the Dandenong Ranges for a guided tour of the engine shop with many locos in various states of repair and refurbishment.

In summary, there were a lot of things to admire about the facilities, methodology and variety at the DVR but I believe most of the touring group were left with a feeling that our CSME facility is much easier to operate, has a far friendlier environment, is better organised for special occasions and is simply a better place to be!



DOCK SIDE



Commodore's Corner

The fine Sunday of Show Weekend encouraged a good display of boats. The visiting boaties were welcomed.

The weed problem has 'resurfaced.' The Club has approved expenditure to apply Diquat.

Dean is planning a steam theme for a 'Boat Night' in the New Year.



REMINDER: SUBS

Subs	Full Price
Town	\$100.00
Associate	\$ 70.00
Retired	\$ 100.00
Junior	\$ 25.00
Family	\$105.00

Subs can be paid:

Online:

Westpac

31703:0032951=00.

Cheque:

CSMEE PO Box 33294

Upcoming Events

1st January -

2012 Club Day Picnic

BYO picnic lunch

11am - 3pm

15th January -

Normal Sunday

running. 1pm - 4pm

17th January - 2012

General Meeting

Andrews Crescent

7.30pm

24th January -

Committee Meeting

7.30pm

Facebook: Check out the CSMEE Facebook page: www.facebook.com/halswelltrains



Just For a Laugh

A couple of nights ago, I was out for a few drinks with some friends and had a few too many. Knowing full well I may have been slightly over the limit, I did something I've never done before... I took a bus home. I arrived home safely and without incident, which was a real surprise, as I have never driven a bus before and I'm not sure where I got it from!

Show Weekend Photos Courtesy of Heather Wilson

CLUB PICNIC

Our annual Club Day Picnic is on Sunday 1st January 2012 between 11am and 3pm. Bring your own lunch and drink - you can use the club BBQ. All families and friends are welcome. Feel free to run your trains or relax in the sun. If the public turns up for train rides that's ok too - normal price - *John Howie*



Meeting Nights

Meetings are on Tuesdays, 7.30pm, at the clubrooms in Andrews Crescent.

1st Tuesday: General Meeting, guest speaker

2nd Tuesday: Boat meeting

3rd Tuesday: Nod and Natter night

4th Tuesday: Committee Meeting

Most Saturdays are working party days at Halswell.
Ring John Hamilton 338 2497

Any suggestions, comments or items for inclusion in the bulletin can be sent directly to thatwhillslot6@kinect.co.nz