

The Whistle Blower -

News of the Canberra Society of Model and Experimental Engineers March 2013

President Peter Hateley 62547229 Secretary Greg Peters 0412 179899. Email: csmee@grapevine.com.au

Website: www.canberramodelengineers.org.au

What's been Going On

CMR WORK ACTIVITIES

Work has progressed steadily throughout the month.

Mowing has not been a problem during February. With the rains towards the end of February the grass will again become a problem. The new mower is performing well and will help to keep the grass in check.

Volunteers are still needed to help with the mowing, so if you are interested, please come along to the Wednesday work days.

Work to replace the single phase cable from the boundary to the signal box was completed on Wednesday 13th February. Our trusty electrical people have been hard at work completing the electrical work in readiness for the final inspection.

The steel clad doors for the toilet and signal box were delivered on Wednesday 27th February. The two doors for the toilets have been installed and it is hoped to complete the signal box doors shortly.

Work on the signal box is progressing with the remaining window fitted and the eaves completed. The front and rear walls are now complete leaving the end wall facing the 5" track and the wall facing the 7 ¼" track to have the door fitted and cladding completed.



Eaves completed



Signal Box waiting the fitting of the door

The second 5" track bridge has been installed and the track supports have been welded to the bridge structures. Work has commenced on the abutments to the bridges. Once the abutments are completed then the preparation of the roadbed can commence.

Work is continuing on track layout. The 7 ¼" loop from the station has been marked out. Work can now start on the preparation of the base for the track

The mowing roster at KMR remains a problem with many of the available members who are able to perform the task decreasing every month. The February clean-up was performed by the Committee however this is not the answer. If your name appears on the roster for the clean-up at KMR, please make an effort to attend. It only takes a couple of hours and if there are enough members who participate then it is possibly once a year

MONTHLY MEETING

The February Member's meeting saw another average turnout for the meeting. There were 16 members in attendance with no visitors and 2 apologies for the night.

The meeting was opened by the president who gave a summary of the progress at CMR and the problems being experienced at KMR.

Bits and pieces for the night were provided by the following people:

- Patrick Kennedy bought along a 2 cylinder compound steam engine built by the students at Goulburn TAFE..
- Chris Grallelis brought along a sign he has been working on and some more simplex castings.
- Geoff Ross donated two wall plates to the club.

COMING EVENTS

Monthly meeting 21st March 2013

There will be a DVD of the San Francisco tram system.

MONTHLY RUNNING DAYS

February saw the return of the wet weather for both running days. The mid month run was dogged with a fierce storm the evening before the running day. We were also up against the Annual Multi-Cultural Fair which was on all weekend.

The end of month run was also dogged by bad weather. The forecast was for rain and storms on the day.

There were 6 parties booked in for the day however the chance of walk in passengers was doubtful due to the day clashing with The Canberra show. One party cancelled before the weekend which left five parties for the day.

Bunyip handled most of the traffic for the day with one of the Club's locomotives in reserve. All was going well until the heavens opened up around 1:00 PM. The downpour lasted approximately 30 to 45 minutes. After some time to allow the track to dry it was back to running as usual.

The rain deterred most of the parties who left after the rain eased however a couple of the parties braved the wet and remained to the end.



Bunyip waiting for the weather to ease.

Before public running commenced after the rains, the party girl (Lilly) from one of the parties was given a chance to see what it is like to drive a locomotive. Bunyip was the chosen locomotive and Ian Smith the instructor.



Events Calendar 2012

Attached to the Whistleblower is a printable calendar for those of you, like me who cannot remember what is going on from one week to the next.

KMR CLEAN UP ROSTER

March 30th 2013

David Foote	6292 3778 (Team Leader)
Lachlan Foote	6292 3778
Chris Grallelis	6231 5981
Paul Gugger	6281 5981

April 27th 2013

Peter Hateley	6254 7229 (Team Leader)
Eric Hines	6258 0329
John Jervis	6281 0028
Patrick Kennedy	4829 0396

If you cannot attend your designated place in the clean up roster, please find another member to take your place. Do not leave it up to the other members on the roster.

BOILER MATTERS

One boiler was tested during the month. The boiler belongs to Eric Hines traction engine. No problems were found and the boiler passed with flying colors.



Eric Hines Traction engine.

MONEY MATTERS

February has proved to be another struggle to maintain our position. Income from the mid month run was good, just under \$1,000, while the weather and the Canberra Show badly affected us at the end of the month with just over \$1,000 taken. To accompany the lower than expected income, we had an additional cost in the form of a large ad in the Babies of 2012 supplement in the Canberra Times, so our result for the month was a small loss instead of a small profit.

Overall for the year we are still ahead of our budget, due largely to the excellent running days we had in the latter part of 2012. As long as we don't experience too many more low income running days, we should still finish the year in a sound position.

COMMITTEE REPORT

The delayed February committee meeting held on Monday 11th February saw all members present except the Treasurer who was on holidays.

Party bookings for March stand at 2 parties/65 people for the 10th March and 4 parties/110 people for the 31st March.

There were no new applications for membership this month.

The Training day is still scheduled for 17th March.

New BBQ's for KMR have been constructed and are ready to be put into use.

Two responses were received from the email sent out about the HO model railway layout for CMR, one for and one against. The committee felt that the proposal for the layout would be put on hold until more important tasks are completed.

Quotes have been received for the repairs to, John Nicolson's Kubota tractor.

The committee raised the question on the availability and number of 5" riding cars.

David Foote forwarded a proposal for fund raising for CMR. The proposal is to sell sleepers through a "Buy a Sleeper campaign".

The committee has received quotes for earthworks at CMR. The quotes are \$100.00 per hour and \$110.00 per hour. The committee agreed to an initial hire of 2 days @ \$2000.0 to commence spreading the heaps of fill and to get the steaming bay levelled in preparation. If time permits work on the track bed and 5" bridges will also be scheduled.

February Play Day

About 15 people turned out to enjoy the first Fun Run for 2013 (the January Fun Run Day was cancelled due to the extreme heat and fire danger). John Oliver arrived with his '12' class only to find that he had left the grate for his loco at home. Thus a delayed lighting-up of the loco ensued while John went home to get the grate - not a 'grate' start to the day for Mr Oliver... Greg Peters was on 'repair the boom gate' duties, to fix a non-working motor. The ants, which made their home in the control box, were not too happy with the disturbance to their nest.

Gerardus and Melanie brought along their 7¼" gauge Queensland Railway C17 No 966 for a run which was only spoilt by derailing all loco wheels on the turnout next to 'Cameron's Corner' seat. Otherwise, the loco ran superbly!

Len Tate unloaded his little 'Planet' loco complete with riding truck. We are still wondering what the hand water pump mounted on the side of the riding truck is used for. Someone suggested that it was for use as a fire pump should the loco catch fire! Any other suggestions are most welcome.

Everyone abandoned the steaming bays to inspect Eric Hine's new traction engine: a model of a "Tasker & Sons - Little Giant" called 'Cherry' which was being unloaded. A very nice engine indeed and it performed very well outside the gate.

John and Wal Cameron brought along their little LNER Tram loco which Wal had constructed. It ran very well and they both enjoyed the day running the little tram.

By this time, John Oliver returned with the grate for his loco and before long steam was oozing from the safety valves and then it was out on the track for some fun.

Also turning up was Paul Gugger with his Stirling Single locomotive although it took him some time to bring out his own locomotive as a certain 7-1/4" loco took all of his attention. Paul certainly enjoyed driving the C17 and deliberately ran slowly to listen to the exhaust beats. It took a very big lever to prise him from the seat.... He then returned to the steaming bays to fire up the Stirling Single.

While all this was going on, Greg Peters, being watched over by Geoff Ross, worked on the boom gate as trains steamed by. Ian Smith with the help of Colin Fuller supervised the day's event, which was very enjoyable indeed.

There were a couple of hopeful members of the public who turned up to have a ride but they were informed that it was a private run and to come back on a Public Running Day. So ended another most enjoyable members' running day. See you in March...



Tasker & Sons - Little Giant owned by Eric Hines



John driving Wally's tram



Len Tate unloading his loco



The C17 on the steaming bay

THE SAWYER SAGA

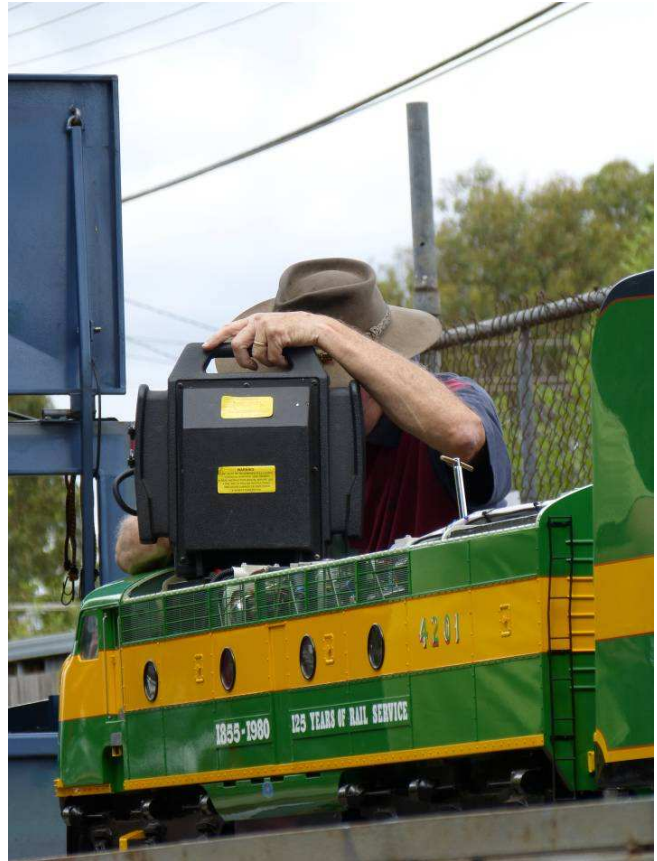
Lloyd Sawyer has finally reached the running stage with his 71/4" gauge NSW Railways 42 Class Diesel when he arrived late at the KMR on Thursday 21 February 2013 for the diesel to undergo trials. Not bad for a loco commenced some 20 or is it 30 years ago. Lloyd didn't seem to know nor care.

The loco has been on show before at the Home and Building Exhibition at the Epic Centre some few years ago but Lloyd says it took quite some time to match the running in with the various controls on board. Ask Lloyd about the intricacies that had to be overcome. Dare not show details of the control panel, as readers would be blown away.

The following images show Lloyd in sharp action getting the traverser unlocked, then to the loco shed – thought it didn't need char or water but there you go - and, unbolting the unit from his trailer.

After an unsuccessful first try that didn't seem to have much grunt – battery is old was heard to be said. Lloyd checked all the connections and brought in the heavy tanks to assist. Not quite a

violent eruption but the engine certainly burst into life with that extra juice and it was left to run for a while to warm up.



The final image shows a very contented Lloyd after a few laps of the track. So watch out you 5 inch gaugers as it looks like Lloyd now means business. Spare cars are now needed for him to get used to hauling passengers.



It will be interesting to see how well the 42 performs with 12 or fourteen cars loaded with passengers behind the drawbar. Isn't that what Bunyip achieved some time ago?

Member offered a Four Year Scholarship at the ACT Academy of Sport



Brendan in his ACTAS uniform

Brendan Hill, a long time junior member of the Society, recently received an offer of a four-year Scholarship in Hockey from the ACT Academy of Sport. It is part of the Hockey Australia High Performance network. Each State and Territory is part of this network and each has their own institution, eg: ACTAS (ACT Academy of Sport), NSWIS (NSW Institute of Sport) etc. The aim is to produce national and international athletes to play for Australia.

Brendan is on a probationary period until the end of March at which time ACTAS will advise him whether or not he has been granted a full scholarship. The Scholarship period will last however long as he continues to perform at a high level.

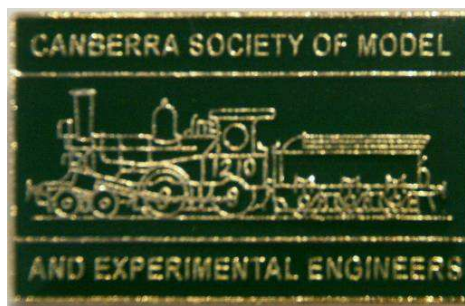
Training is 6 times a week consisting of two Gym Sessions, three Field sessions as a group and one personal session. Only 6 Male and 6 Female Athletes form that part of ACTAS. The uniform is provided by ACTAS and costs nothing. If he were to buy the uniform and sessions it would cost at least \$700.

ACTAS sometimes provide funding for national championship costs, as deemed worthy by the head coach but Brendan must perform at the highest level when competing at national championships. ACTAS provides assistance with school work etc. and they also provide a doctor, physiotherapist, psychiatrist, nutritionist, sports scientists, etc. Expectations are that he shows up to every training session and provides consistent and improved outcomes from those sessions.

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

Don't forget Club running day on the first Sunday of each month. All welcome. Please come along and join in.

-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-



Club badges are now available from the Canteen on running days or by requesting then through the secretary by email or letter. Cost is \$5.00 each

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

The club has received a generous donation of an Akai 7" digital photo frame. The photo frame will be raffled off at time yet to be decided by the committee. Tickets will be available at the members meeting in February. The price for tickets is yet to be decided.

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

March End of Month public running day is on 31st March. As this is Easter Sunday, could you please let John Oliver or the Secretary know if you will NOT be able to attend.

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0

DONT FORGET

There will be a training day at KMR on 17th March. Come along and enjoy a sausage sizzle while you get acquainted with the operation of KMR and the equipment.

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0