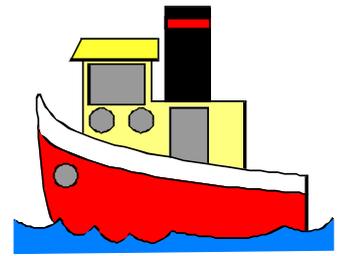




# Wheels and Floats



News letter No. 327 July/Aug 2013

## TAURANGA MODEL MARINE AND ENGINEERING CLUB

The Secretary  
c/o 3 Waipuna Grove,  
Tauranga 3112  
Palmerville Station Phone 07 578 7293

Rail Track Memorial Park  
Open to Public weather permitting.  
Sundays 10.00am to 4.00pm  
Website. [www.taurangaminiaturerailway.org.nz](http://www.taurangaminiaturerailway.org.nz)  
or [www.tmmec.org.nz](http://www.tmmec.org.nz)

### NOTICE OF MEETING

The next general meeting will be on  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Aug at 7pm,  
At Palmerville Station

Patron: Noel Pope  
President: Peter Jones (07) 543 2528  
Vice President: Ron Salisbury (07) 577 9403  
Secretary: Owen Bennett (07) 544 9807  
Treasurer: Clive Goodley (07) 5722959  
Editor: Clive Goodley (07) 5722959  
goodley@clear.net.nz

Committee: Warren Belk, Bruce Harvey,  
John Stent, Bruce McKerras  
Peter Lindsay. John Nicol.  
Boiler Committee: Peter Jones, Paul Newton,  
Bob Batchelor. Bruce McKerras  
Safety Committee Warren Karlsson, Bruce Harvey  
Lloyd Breckon. Pete Lindsay

Next Committee Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> July

#### Conveners:

Workshop: Ron Salisbury, Bruce McKerras  
Track: Bruce Harvey  
Marine: Warren Belk, Ken Fox  
Librarian: John Nicol  
Rolling Stock: Clive Goodley  
Small Metals Store: Owen Bennett  
Website by: Murray de Lues

### Operators July August 2013

14-07-13 B. Harvey  
21-07-13 P. Jones  
28-07-13 W.Karlsson  
04-08-13 P. Lindsay  
11-08-13 B. McKerras  
18-08-13 R. Salisbury  
25-08-13 O. Bennett  
01-09-13 B. Kincaid  
08-09-13 E. Evans  
15-09-13 C. Goodley

### Presidents Points

Greeting members.

A reminder that next Saturday morning is our monthly working B starting 8.30am, plan is to work on the viaduct. The height of the piles will be set and the bolsters installed, it is planned also to have a look at tidying up the Palmerville loft which should be a challenge. Look forward to seeing those that can make it on Saturday.

The decision to introduce Eftpos to our club has been made and in a couple of weeks this will be in place.

The request by our public for Eftpos has increased, the closest available service is at Mini Putt and although they have been quite helpful to the public looking for money to ride our trains, the question to us has been, " when are we going to provide the service".

The suppliers of Eftpos ensure us it will make us money not cost us money, we certainly look forward to a positive result.

The system will be used for purchasing services not for cash out and there will not be a credit facility to refund money. Also there will not be available for credit card transactions. It will be used for concession cards only. A training day will be set up on a Tuesday morning once the usual set up process has been completed.

A reminder to those of you building locomotives or any other prime mover or item of rolling stock that you intend to run on our track to haul passengers, it must be registered in our rolling stock register before the item is run. A standard 100x150 photo is required and all the relative details entered on the register sheet. This is a requirement by MEANZ and must be complied with.

Finally, Bruce Harvey has offered his hospitality at the next playday, which is Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> July. You are invited to run your 5" gauge engine on his private track at 18 Youngston Road Omokaroa, contact Bruce Harvey or Bruce McKerras for further details.

Happy modelling  
Peter Jones

From the Committee Meeting.

Tuesday General Meetings are not as well attended lately as has been the custom, members should take a Tuesday evening out and see what goes on, especially if you are making something. There is a fount of knowledge in the club and you may find some of it useful. You may have solved some problem which helps some-one else, so forget the tele and enjoy some lively company. If you are not making something then go along and find out what others are doing. There are usually club projects that are waiting for members to help out.

A TIG attachment for the club welder has been approved for purchase. Training sessions will be held for this, I don't know what is involved, so watch this space.

Pete Lindsay has spent several weeks rebuilding the bogies of Black Magic after persistent derailing at the crossover points. Pete wanted to minute his thanks to those who helped him, he deserves the club's thanks too.

Pete is also interested in doing tests of fixed wheelset bogies as against free wheeling wheelset bogies. We played around last Tuesday, but a more scientific test will be carried out soon.

### **Playday 15<sup>th</sup> June**

**Working Bs** to be a regular event on the second Sunday of the month to catch up on work left undone as efforts were concentrated on new works.

### **Hawkes Bay 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> Oct Open Weekend**

### **Kapiti Miniature Railway open the new track on their Open Weekend 28<sup>th</sup> 29 September**

#### **EVE'S SIDE OF THE STORY**

After three weeks in the Garden of Eden, God came to visit Eve. 'So, how is everything going?' inquired God. 'It is all so beautiful, God,' she replied. 'The sunrises and sunsets are breathtaking, the smells, the sights, everything is wonderful, but I have just one problem. It's these breasts you have given me. The middle one pushes the other two out and I am constantly knocking them with my arms, catching them on branches and snagging them on bushes. They're a real pain.' And Eve went on to tell God that since many other parts of her body came in pairs, such as her limbs, eyes, ears, etc. She felt that having only two breasts might leave her body more 'symmetrically balanced'.

'That's a fair point,' replied God, 'but it was my first shot at this, you know. I gave the animals six breasts, so I figured that you needed only half of those, but I see that you are right. I will fix it up right away.' And God reached down, removed the middle breast and tossed it into the bushes

Three weeks passed and God once again visited Eve in the Garden of Eden. 'Well, Eve, how is my favourite creation?'

'Just fantastic,' she replied, 'But for one oversight. You see, all the animals are paired off. The ewe has a ram and the cow has her bull. All the animals have a mate except me. I feel so alone.'

God thought for a moment and said, 'You know, Eve, you are right. How could I have overlooked this? You do need a mate and I will immediately create a man from a part of you. Let's see...where did I put that useless Tit?'

**Now doesn't THAT make more sense than all that stuff about the rib?**

Roy Robinson brought his trencher to the park for cable laying from the station to number one tunnel, (the big one). Roy and his machine did a great job, of course there were others doing ancillary jobs, such as making holes under the concrete, all hard work. Below, Caulston Landon checks out the support properties of a shovel while Murray de Lues looks for worms in the newly turned soil.



Roy prefers riding a trencher to a mobility scooter

Being in good health, means dying a little more slowly

If aliens are so smart, how come they abduct the dumbest people?

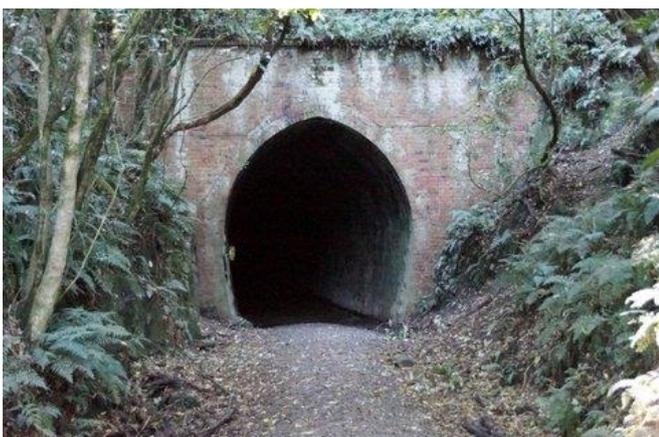
My ancestors didn't fight to the top of the food chain, just for me to be a vegetarian.

I may be going to hell, but at least my friends are

already there

*A man pleased with his new fly swat, claimed he killed five flies in two minutes. Three were males and two females. How could he tell that? Easy peasy, three were on a beer can and two on the telephone.*

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**Where is the southernmost rail tunnel in NZ, according to John Heald?**

## THE RAIL TRAIL COMES TO FRUITION

The Otago Rail Trail has always been on our "bucket list" so to speak. But how to do it? We had heard it was difficult to book the 3 or 4 day cycling adventure, being very popular. We also did not want to book and get bad weather. So we decided to drive down to Alexandria, find a motel and venture forth the 8ks to the Clyde "Trail Journeys" depot to see what was on offer. The complex is very big with hundreds of bikes in a large store plus excellent customer contact area.

We were told the sky was the limit, one could pick out any section and complete it at will with a drop off and pick up included. The continuous trip with ongoing accommodation was dependant on room vacancies. With this in mind we decided to base the adventure on day trips to coincide with dry weather and less windy days. Looking at the trail map we worked out that the first run would be from a place called Auripo to Clyde, a distance of about 57ks. Most of this run was downhill, a must for us pensioners. The distance was daunting but we were told people in their 80's accomplish this run with ease!!!!

The forecast was good for the next day so we booked our hire bikes plus one set of panniers and turned up at 8.30AM for a briefing on puncture repairs and safety before heading out with the luggage van and trailer load of bikes. This van lifts and puts down travellers luggage as they negotiate the trail day by day, using nightly hotel accommodation in either direction.

Each bike has a speedo and distance counter so that one could calculate how well we were doing and gauge a time for arrival back at Clyde. We said our goodbyes to our van driver at about 10am and headed off to our first port of call the Poolburn Gorge and Viaduct. Here we calculated that we were averaging 18kph with ease and felt confident all would be OK except for our backsides.

As the day went by we came upon the Tiger Hill which was the only real uphill climb before entering Chatto Creek Hotel where we had lunch and a gorgeous wine.

We left Chatto Creek at about 1.00pm having a nice easy ride back to Clyde arriving about 4.00pm. However if one wants to extend the travel time there is provision at the cycle depot for an outside hours bike lock up, a number code is supplied for the gate lock.

We then had a rest day before doing a section from Ranfurley to Hyde using a bike hire company at Ranfurley, a 30k ride and again we picked a down hill run and a good day for weather. Same story, dropped off with bikes and picked up from the Hyde Hotel at a predetermined time in the afternoon.

We were told that at the last Easter break an estimated number of bikes on the trail were 2000!!!!. From the number of cafes and upgraded hotels, tourists and money are now flowing into an area that badly needed it. Hopefully we will return to complete the trail next time we are down south.

The next few days were very windy and we backed off from riding and as we found out later many cyclists were taken off the trail due to high winds. Unfortunately the weather did not give way for the perfect conditions to complete the trail. So left Otago and took off to Invercargill where we looked into the modernised Hayes Hardware store to view the many vintage motorbikes and cars plus the many Bert Munro mementoes, well worth a visit.

As the weather improved we moved on to the Catlins where it was interesting to look for evidence of the old Catlins branch line and the most southerly rail tunnel in New Zealand. You can walk the tunnel with ease having only a five minute walk from the main road. It was also interesting to see some railway buildings still standing and some in good condition.

John Heald and Robin Shirley

### Cahoots

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

I may have been in Continent, and I don't remember what country I was in. It's an age thing.

Life is too short for negative drama & petty things. So laugh insanely, love truly and forgive quickly! From one unstable person to another... I hope everyone is happy in your head - we're all doing pretty good in mine!

## **Sewing Machine Development**

Elias Howe was born in Massachusetts in 1819, early in his adult life he had thought about making sewing easier for those whose days were spent sewing. His father was an unsuccessful farmer, who also had some small mills, he too had succeeded in nothing he undertook. Howe led the typical life of a New England country boy, attending school in winter and working about the farm until the age of sixteen. Hearing of the high wages and interesting work in Lowell, that growing town on the Merrimac River, he went there in 1835 and found employment; but two years later, he left Lowell and went to work in a machine shop in Cambridge.

Elias Howe then moved to Boston, and worked in the machine shop of Ari Davis, a maker and repairer of fine machinery. This is where Elias Howe, as a young mechanic first heard of sewing machines and began to puzzle over the problem.

## **First Sewing Machines**

Before Elias Howe's time, many inventors had attempted to make sewing machines and some had just fallen short of success. Thomas Saint, an Englishman, had patented one fifty years earlier; and about this very time a Frenchman named Thimmonier was working eighty sewing machines making army uniforms. The tailors of Paris, fearing loss of business, broke into his workroom and destroyed the machines. Thimmonier tried again, but his machine never came into general use.

Several patents had been issued on sewing machines in the United States, but without any practical result. An inventor named Walter Hunt had discovered the principle of the lock-stitch and had built a machine, but lost interest and abandoned his invention, just as success was in sight. Elias Howe probably knew nothing of any of these inventors. There is no evidence that he had ever seen their work.

## **Elias Howe Begins Inventing**

The idea of a mechanical sewing machine obsessed Elias Howe. However, Howe was married and had children, and his wages were only nine dollars a week. Howe found support from an old schoolmate, George Fisher agreed to support Howe's family and furnish him with five hundred dollars for materials and tools. The attic in Fisher's house in Cambridge was converted into a workroom for Howe.

Howe's first efforts were failures, until the idea of the lock-stitch came to him. Previously all sewing machines (except [William Hunt's](#)) had used the chainstitch, which wasted thread and easily unraveled. The two threads of the lockstitch cross in the materials joined together, and the lines of stitches show the same on both sides. The chainstitch is a crochet or knitting stitch, while the lockstitch is a weaving stitch. Elias Howe had been working at night and was on his way home, gloomy and despondent, when this idea dawned on his mind, probably rising out of his experience in the cotton mill. The shuttle would be driven back and forth as in a loom, as he had seen it thousands of times, and passed through a loop of thread which the curved needle would throw out on the other side of the cloth; and the cloth would be fastened to the machine vertically by pins. A curved arm would ply the needle with the motion of a pick-axe. A handle attached to the fly-wheel would furnish the power.

## **Commercial Failure**

Elias Howe made a machine which, crude as it was, sewed more rapidly than five of the swiftest needle workers, but apparently his machine was too expensive, it could sew only a straight seam, and easily got out of order. The needle workers were opposed, as they have generally been, to any sort of labor-saving machinery that might cost them their jobs, and there was no clothing manufacturer willing to buy even one machine at the price Howe asked, three hundred dollars.

## **Elias Howe's 1846 Patent**

Elias Howe's second sewing machine design was an improvement on his first. It was more compact and smoother running. George Fisher took Elias Howe and his prototype to the patent office in Washington, paying all the expenses, and a patent was issued to the inventor on September, 1846. The second machine also failed to find buyers, George Fisher had invested about two thousand dollars which seemed gone forever, and could not, or would not, invest more. Elias Howe returned temporarily to his father's farm to wait for better times.

Elias Howe had sent one of his brothers to London with a sewing machine to see if any sales could be found there, and in due time an encouraging report came to the destitute inventor. A corset maker named Thomas had paid two hundred and fifty pounds for the English rights and promised to pay a royalty of three pounds on each machine sold. Moreover, Thomas invited the inventor to London to construct a machine especially for making corsets. Elias Howe went to London and later sent for his family. But after working eight months on small wages, he was as badly off as ever, for, though he had produced the desired machine, he quarrelled with Thomas and their relations came to an end.

An acquaintance, Charles Inglis, advanced Elias Howe a little money while he worked on another model. This enabled Elias Howe to send his family home to America, and then, by selling his last model and pawning his patent rights, he raised enough money to take passage himself in the steamer in 1848, accompanied by Inglis, who came to try his fortune in the United States. Elias Howe landed in New York with a few cents in his pocket and immediately found work. But his wife was dying from the hardships she had suffered, due to stark poverty. At her funeral, Elias Howe wore borrowed clothes, for his only suit was the one he wore in the shop.

The 1834 eye pointed needle sewing machine of [Walter Hunt](#) was later re-invented by [Elias Howe](#) and patented by him in 1846. Each sewing machine (Walter Hunt's and Elias Howe's) had a curved eye pointed needle that passed the thread through the fabric in an arc motion; and on the other side of the fabric a loop was created; and a second thread carried by a shuttle running back and forth on a track passed through the loop creating a lockstitch.

Elias Howe's design was copied by Isaac Singer and others, leading to extensive patent litigation. However, a court battle in the 1850s conclusively gave Elias Howe the patent rights to the eye pointed needle. The court case was brought by Elias Howe against Isaac Merritt Singer, the largest manufacturer of sewing machines for patent infringement. In his defence, Isaac Singer attempted to invalidate Howe's patent, to show that the invention was already some 20 years old and that Howe should not have been able to claim the royalties from anyone using his designs that Singer had been forced to pay. Since Walter Hunt had abandoned his sewing machine and had not filed for a patent, Elias Howe's patent was upheld by a court decision in 1854. Isaac Singer's machine was also somewhat different from Howe's. Its needle moved up and down, rather than sideways, and it was powered by a treadle rather than a hand crank. However, it used the same lockstitch process and a similar needle. Elias Howe died in 1867, the year his patent expired.

### **Other Historical Moments in the History of the Sewing Machine**

On June 2, 1857, James Gibbs patented the first chain-stitch single-thread sewing machine.

#### **Zig-zag Stitch Machine**

Helen Augusta Blanchard of Portland, Maine (1840-1922) patented the first zig-zag stitch machine in 1873. The zig-zag stitch better seals the edges of a seam, making a garment sturdier. Helen Blanchard also patented 28 other inventions including a hat-sewing machine, surgical needles, and other improvements to sewing machines.

#### **Electricity**

The first mechanical sewing machines were used in garment factory production lines. It was not until 1889 that a sewing machine for use in the home was designed and marketed. By 1905, the electrically-powered sewing machine was in wide use.

This article was intended to be about Merritt Singer, although he did make improvements, sewing machines were well on the way when he became involved. Several of his contemporaries and later historians were scathing of his business practices.

**APHORISM: A SHORT, POINTED SENTENCE THAT EXPRESSES A WISE OR CLEVER OBSERVATION OR A GENERAL TRUTH.**

- 1. The nicest thing about the future is . . . that it always starts tomorrow.*
- 2. Money will buy a fine dog, but only kindness will make him wag his tail.*
- 3. If you don't have a sense of humour, you probably don't have any sense at all.*
- 4. Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs.*
- 5. A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.*
- 6. How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?*
- 7. Business conventions are important. . .because they demonstrate how many people a company can operate without.*
- 8. Why is it that at class reunions you feel younger than everyone else looks?*
- 9. Scratch a cat . . . and you will have a permanent job.*

10. No one has more driving ambition than the teenage boy who wants to buy a car.
  11. There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.
  12. There are worse things than getting a call for a wrong number at 4 a.m. - like, it could be the right number.
  13. No one ever says "It's only a game" when their team is winning.
  14. I've reached the age where 'happy hour' is a nap.
  15. Be careful about reading the fine print. . . . there's no way you're going to like it.
  16. The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
  17. Do you realize that, in about 40 years, we'll have thousands of old ladies running around with tattoos?  
(And rap music will be the Golden Oldies!)
  18. Money can't buy happiness -- but somehow it's more comfortable to cry in a Cadillac than in a Yugo.
  19. After 60, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you're probably dead.
  20. Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind . . . and the ones that mind don't matter.
  21. Life isn't tied with a bow . . . . . but it's still a gift.
- and REMEMBER.... "POLITICIANS AND DIAPERS SHOULD BE CHANGED OFTEN AND FOR THE SAME REASON". -



Lloyd in charge of the cable drum.  
There was a good turnout of workers that day, and just as well, for there were a variety of jobs that needed doing, not only on the cable laying.



A forestry engine on Vancouver Island

### Smarty Pants

- To write with a broken pencil is pointless.  
 When fish are in schools, the sometimes take debate.  
 A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.  
 The professor discovered her theory on earthquakes was on shaky ground.  
 The batteries were given out free of charge.  
 A dentist and a manicurist married, they fought tooth and nail.  
 A will is a dead giveaway.  
 If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed  
 With her marriage, she got a new name and a new dress.  
 You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.  
 Local Area Network in Australia. The LAN down under.  
 A boiled egg is hard to beat.  
 When you've seen one shopping centre, you've seen a mall.  
 Police were called to a day care centre where a three year old was resisting a rest.  
 The poor chap's whole left side was cut off, he's all right now.  
 A bicycle can't stand alone, it is two tired.  
 In a democracy, it's your vote that counts. In feudalism, it's your Count that votes.

When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.  
A chap who fell into an upholstery machine is fully recovered.  
He had a photographic memory which was never developed.  
Those who get too big for their breeches will be exposed in the end.  
When she first saw strands of gray hair she thought she'd dye.  
Acupuncture. A jab well done.

## Boating News



One Metre Sailing. The Americas cup is about to kick off and it will be hopefully exciting watching these flying cats race. Oh to be in my twenties again. However time has raced by and I am a One Metre sailor, enjoying the challenge of making my yachts sail well. Wet days and little wind have once again tested the sailors who have made the effort to come and race. Our next big event is the Bay Champs with only 10 weeks to go for this. We are hoping for a good number of sailors coming to compete. Cheers, Ken Fox

At right. In the Catlins

