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# CONROD NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 25 ISSUE 12



DECEMBER 2014

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## PRESIDENTS REPORT

Well fellow Members another year is about to end, one that has seen changes in and around the club, the most significant of these has to be of course the kitchen upgrade and staircase alterations. The stairs were an immediate success obviously with the way in which they eased the access to the upper lounge area for all of us. Since we recommenced our picnic and parties season all who have used our premises and services in the past have remarked on the lovely state of the kitchen and how bright and new it all looks and how easy it is to work in that new environment. All the compliments that have been received obviously please all who were involved with both projects from the moment of their conception, planning through to completion.

A very successful project for the year Scale Railway section have continued their work on the conversion of the HO/OO layout to be able to feature DC and DCC control and general improvements around both that layout and the N-Gauge layout.

The Boat Group continues to flourish with a number of new models completed this year. Boat group night s are exceptionally good value with first class demonstrations of various modelling techniques, brain storming session for those facing problems and of course a bit of light hearted banter.

Tethered cars are still continuing their renaissance with new models in process and the setting up of a regular running group. If the weather is favourable on any one day in a weekend the members have a ring around and set up a meet.

The outside raised multi-gauge track has seen the development of an electronics signalling system to assist drivers at a couple of blind spots around the track.

More on this inside this month's Conrod.

Wishing you all a truly enjoyable Christmas.

**Regards Brian**

## SOCIETY MEETINGS

**GENERAL MEETING** Second Monday of the Month  
7.30 pm

**COMMITTEE** Last Monday of the month 7.30pm

## CLUB OFFICIALS

### PATRONS

Robert Storm  
Graham Batts  
Chris Staynes

### PRESIDENT

Brian McCurdy 4898936  
[brirae@xtra.co.nz](mailto:brirae@xtra.co.nz)

### SECRETARY

Michael O'Cain 488 2075  
[mikeocain@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mikeocain@xtra.co.nz)

### TREASURER

Colin Nicholls 454-5432  
[colinn@clear.net.nz](mailto:colinn@clear.net.nz)

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Selwyn Bennett	4557305
Andrew Douglas	4767311
Colin Downing	4542528
Michael Forrest V.P.	4551642
Henry Goosselink	4883284
John Knight	4766312
Stewart Robertson	0211480683
Terry Smith	4545697
Jon Winton I.P.P	4542950
Murray Wright	4894218

### BOILER INSPECTORS

Donald Ross	453 4002
Allan Stevens	455 8665

### AUDITOR

Natalie Tham  
Price Waterhouse Coopers

### LIBRARIAN

Brian Niven [bniven@maths.otago.ac.nz](mailto:bniven@maths.otago.ac.nz)

### BOOKINGS OFFICER

[terry.45.smith@gmail.com](mailto:terry.45.smith@gmail.com)

### HON SOLICITOR

T.Whitcombe [todd@ond.co.nz](mailto:todd@ond.co.nz)

### EDITOR

Brian McCurdy 4898936  
[brirae@xtra.co.nz](mailto:brirae@xtra.co.nz)

## SCALE RAILWAY

At our last meeting night, Selwyn Bennett reported that John Knight was progressing well, and it was good to see him and his wife at our club dinner. We were very pleased to hear that Hamish Tyson is engaged and wish him and his fiancée all the best for their future.

Festival week was discussed and it was noted that the portable N scale layout is unlikely to be ready by then. Some discussion was held re obtaining a suitable track cleaning car for the OO/HO layout, to facilitate track cleaning in awkward to get at places in the tunnel systems. Most of these clean only the rail tops (same effect as using rubbers), but this doesn't get at the gunge that accumulates on the inside running edges of the rails and point frogs.

Lachlan Clark has been thinking about how to put interior lights in his fleet of BR coaches. He showed us some LED lights purchased from Jaycar. These come in a strip of 6 or 12, and on a 9 volt battery are quite bright, so will need some modification before fitting into the coaches. Current could be picked up separately on each coach, or small connectors between coaches could be used with a single 9v battery. The latter has the advantage that the lighting system is independent of the track voltage system. We await developments with interest.

Murray Gibb reported on the DCC conversion work: The main lines and the two main yards are now operational on DCC, and have been trialled by some members over the last two Tuesday meeting nights. Some work is still required on the sawmill line, port line and the small yard off blue main on the top left hand end of the layout. In the meantime, please make sure the two DC controllers for these areas are unplugged before switching the layout to DCC operation.

## OPERATION OF DCC ON THE OO/HO LAYOUT

There are some precautions to be taken before switching from DC to DCC.

First, check that the track sections of all DC locos standing on the layout are turned off, or remove the locos from the layout. One way to check that is to turn the layout on, then try the four DC controllers to see if anything moves! If all is clear, switch to DCC on using the main switch (red handle) on the main control desk panel. Indicator lights on all panels will change from yellow to blue. You also need to turn on the N scale layout using the ON/OFF key switch at the far end of that layout. (Leave the DC/DCC switch on that layout in the position that it is currently set to). The N scale layout must be turned on since we are using the same control receiver for both layouts. This receiver has its signal wired to the power pack on the OO/HO layout. Use the MRC hand pieces from the N gauge railway, put your DCC gear on the track, and enjoy!

**AND A WARNING** don't leave any trains parked up in tunnels if you are not running the layout. Someone may not realise they are there, and switch the layout to DCC with the result that your DC loco motors may fry on the AC signal of the DCC system.

Overload bulbs for each main line and both yards are located on the control desk in the "glasshouse". They will show brightly under short circuit conditions, but may glow dimly when under moderate load.

I hope you will all have an enjoyable Xmas : maybe Santa will bring some goodies.

*By Brian Niven  
For Scale Railway Group*

### GROUP GET TOGETHERS

**Boat Group** Wednesday Following the General Meeting 7.30pm

**Engineering** Third Monday 7.30pm

**Scale Railway** Each Tuesday 7.30pm

**Thursday Toilers** 9.30 am to 4pm Weekly

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## TETHERED CARS



**Murray Wright** has made, with the assistance of Chris and Mel Kennedy, some extensive modifications to his model Maserati with he has been running since August. (Pictured above)

Some of these changes were in the rear wheel design and tyre configuration.

Modifications were also made to the flywheel and drive gear mechanisms.

For those members who may not know, Murray fitted a 3.5 cc radio controlled race car engine to his model. This engine is slightly larger in overall, size than those fitted to other member's cars. Hence the need for some of the modifications.

The fuel tank also was repositioned due to fuel starvation problems, and strengthening of the tethering point on the chassis was necessary due to some unforeseen cracking issues.

Murray is now keenly awaiting another running day to see how his model will perform

*Editor*

**NEXT MEETING**

**MONDAY**

**DECEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> 2014**

**7.30pm**

## Festival-Week 2015

Another meeting of the planning-committee has been held, and various details such as signage and sponsorship were discussed and moved forward. There are however two main areas of concern – the shop and (the perennial one) staffing, especially for the outside railway.

Are there any volunteers to run the shop on the five full days? Please contact me ASAP. A roster-sheet will go up following the next meeting, to be held just after *Conrod* is published, and steam-loco drivers in particular are encouraged to offer their services and their machines. Remember that all members benefit from a successful Festival-Week, whatever their own modelling-interest, so let's work together for the good of the Society as a whole, as we all belong to the one club.

***Michael Forrest, Convener***

## A MEERY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL



**PEPPER ALIAS THE SUPERVISOR**



## Engineering Group News

For those who don't know Dave McBride has stepped down from group leader of the engineering group. I would like to thank Dave for his time as group leader. Andrew Douglas has taken over for the next three months to help out and give the group time to pick a new leader.

Well it's that time again where Christmas is around the corner and the picnics are in full swing. If you can help out with the picnics that would be great check the list or phone Terry if you can help out.

At last there is some great news. With the help of Craig MacDonell, Ken Da Rin has completed the signals for the multi gage train track. We are hoping to have a demonstration on how it works at the December monthly meeting for all members. The signals will need to be used when there are four or more trains on the track at one time.

With Festival Week around the corner it's time to start dusting off your models getting ready for the show. I notice in last month's Conrod it was stated there would be only three trains on the track at once. I think there may have been some miss communication somewhere. At this stage we will try and run with at least 4-5 trains at the same time if not more. With the signals working, all the blind spots on the track should be taken care of.

The last group meeting will be bits on the table a roundup of the year on projects you've been working on. With it being the last meeting of the year there will be some snacks and drink at the end of the meeting. All welcome.

**By Andrew Douglas**  
**Group Leader**



Ken stands proudly beside the green light for his signals



Drivers view of the new signal



The micro switch activated by the locomotive



The "no go" signal

Date			Crew	Time	# Attn	Contact Ph	Contact Name
Nov	Sat	29	3	1.00 - 3.00	60	454 2528	Lodge St Patrick - Colin Downing
Nov	Sun	30	5	11.00 - 3.00	100 +	4796715	Delta Xmas Party - Matt Nesbit
Dec	Mon	1	TT	9.30 - 11.30	30 - 50	456 3213	Dunedin Community Child Care - Tracy Cross
Dec	Tues	2	TT	4 to 6 pm	100	021 866620	Paws - Stu Hayes
Dec	Wed	3	TT	9.30 - 11.30	30 - 50	456 3213	Dunedin Community Child Care - Tracy Cross
Dec	Wed	10	TT	10am - 12	30	4709377	Vera Hayward Centre Jo Deker
Dec	Thu	11	TT	9.45 - 11.45	40	4550038	Bayfield Kindergarten - Rae Shureutt
Dec	Fri	12	TT	10 am - 12	100	4772944	Wild Things - Jan
Dec	Sat	13		11am - 1pm	20	4777253	Sasha Dolby
Dec	Sun	14	6	11am to 2 pm	80	4743300	DCC Social Club Kids Xmas Party
Dec	Wed	17		4.30 - 6.30pm	100	277139897	Mosgiel Central Kindergarten - Sheena Dalwood

Crew	Day Controller		Member 2		Member 3	
<b>1</b>	Brian McCurdy	4898936	Murray Wright	4894218	John Knight	4766312
<b>2</b>	Selwyn Bennett	4557305	Brian Niven	4554491	Bill King	4881518
<b>3</b>	Dave McBride	4761922	Colin Downing	4542528	Jim Woods	4761369
<b>4</b>	Michael Forrest	4551642	Henry Goosselink	4883284	Mark Hughes	4552870
<b>5</b>	John McDonell	4878457	Craig McDonell	4878457	Ron Johnston	4556623
<b>6</b>	Chris Kennedy	4667372	Lachlan Clark	4763663	Greg French	4543634
<b>7</b>	Mike O'Cain	4882075	Stewart Robertson	211480683	Colin Nicholls	4545432
<b>8</b>	Gary Douglas	4767311	Bruce Milne	4544471	Kevin Gamble	4554547
<b>9</b>	Terry Smith	4545697	Brian Wolff	4727749	Allan McGregor	4767666
<b>10</b>	Gordon Rusbatch	4544800	Ken Da Rin	4555850	Bevan Robertson	4894783
<b>11</b>	Jon Winton	4542950	Lance Wild	4728603	Gordon Duell	4883663
<b>12</b>	Donald Ross	4534002	Keith Murphy	4731740	Hamish Tyson	4732116

## BOAT GROUP REPORT

Boat Group Report 12/11/14

There were 16 members present for our meeting on Wed 12th Nov and after a brief review of the month gone by, we went straight into the practical demonstration on fibre-glassing **Murray Wright's** hull in the process.

**Gordon Duell** had prepared the hull and as Murray had already fitted the prop and rudder shafts into the hull, Gordon had already glassed the stern part in order to save time.

The preferred method is to glass the hull before fitting the rudders and prop shafts and thrusters. As Murray had forgotten to bring his superglue, Gordon used a small piece of masking tape to hold the cloth in place. Another useful tip was the use of a Linbide scraper to smooth any laps, rather than using a sanding block.

After measuring and mixing the resin and hardener, (ratio 4:1) in an ice cream container, the resin was applied to the cloth by dabbing with a cheap 30 mm brush. Tools and brush can be cleaned with methylated spirits when using Epoxy resin then washed with soap and water. The whole process was most informative. Next month Gordon will demonstrate how to use micro balloons mixed with resin as filler.

### Bits on the Table

We then moved onto Bits on the Table with

**Gary Douglas** having made two laminated bars to fit onto the deck of his latest model of a tug. He had used PVA for the adhesive and panel pins to follow the curved shape.

**Henry Gooselink** had made a small electrified drill using a small 24 volt motor ex computer fitted to a micro chuck for drilling in very confined spaces. He had also finished the America's Cup Yacht redoing the sheeting, etc, fitting a new lead weight to the keel and making and fitting a metal rudder to replace the rather flexible plastic rudder and bushing the shaft.

**Kevin Gamble** has all but finished his paddle steamer along the lines of the Glyn Guest free-plan published in the June 2014 issue of Model Boats.

It is powered by a geared motor with a 50:1 reduction. The vessel and crew looked great!

**Ron Johnston** had purchased a very nice prop made in the Netherlands for his African River Boat Cost-a-lot.

**Murray Vince** had made a steering quadrant and a set of pulleys for Brian Nunn's boat.

**Brian McCurdy** took a couple of minutes to thank all the members who had offered advice on how to repair the cracked hull on his model of the Littorina and described the method he used and the tools he had to make to reach up inside the hull.

**Henry Gooselink – Group leader.**



Gordon's demo on fibre glassing



Members have an opportunity to get hands on

*Cont page 7*

## FISHING STORIES ARE BULL

Yes I'm pretty sure that we have all heard all the various types of fishing stories from our mates and friends that we know, or believe to be, a whole lot of bull.

You know the type of thing; the 8lber that got away, the one that was almost landed but broke away at the finish, the one you stalked along the bank only to have it disappear in the last few seconds, the monster that was hooked but broke off before it was sighted there is an absolute plethora of fishing stories. Some we may have even contributed to our selves. That's right; all bull as we say.

This storey is about one of our members who shall not remain nameless and his contribution to the bull style fishing story.

It starts when said member parks his car in the usual paddock where he goes fishing along the Taieri River and sets out for a pleasant evening's fish.

However upon his return to his car, after having had his full of the fishing thing, he finds it completely surround by some frisky young bulls that were exercising their ardour on his car. That's right folks, licking it, rubbing it, scratching against it and one young fellow keenly trying to jump onto it. Yet others were using it a depository for what is expelled from the rear end of such beasts.

As I am sure you will realise this left the vehicle owner with a problem or two.

Firstly how to extract the car from the paddock and clean it up. Then tend to the various bits of dints and scratches and broken mirrors that the young beasts had caused.

Armed only with a very expensive fly rod which he wasn't prepared to wield as a weapon he was reduced to trying to spook them off with grumpy noises and jumping up and down, waving arms a legs in the air. This only appeared to enrage the young fellows who responded with equally grumpy sounds and hoof stomping.

This left him with the last remaining option of clearing the fence and waiting them out.

We have Kevin Gamble to thank for this story, who I am happy to say, was able to see the funny side of it all and was able to have a bit of a laugh about it.

Yep real life Bull Story that one

*Editor*



Kevin Gamble presents his model to the meeting



Another view of Kevin's fine model



Henry's America's Cup yacht

FOLD 1 HERE-----

# Conrod

**DECEMBER 2014 CONROD**

FOLD 2 HERE-----

**OTAGO MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY  
P.O.BOX 2163  
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