

Central Otago Model News

Newsletter of IPMS Central Otago Model Society Inc

February 2019

President's Report

Isn't the year zooming by! Here we are presenting our second newsletter for the year already. I guess we should all take that as a hint to buckle down to our model making - no procrastinating - 'get her done'!

At our first club meeting of the year it was great to see a busy and vibrant hall with members working hard on a wide range of projects. It was also great to see the support parents gave to their kids as they evolved with their model interests - be they model train or plastic model focused. My own activity had me with a magnifying headset turned to full magnification and an array of dental instruments to hand - but that is for another story.

The big activity for the COMS is our forthcoming Cromwell Model Train Show at Otago Anniversary Day weekend 23 - 24 March. We have again got the use of the Cromwell Bowling Club with its light and airy indoor bowling stadium. Activity now is focussing on planning new display signs, organising funding grants and getting those invites out to exhibitors. All those actions are progressing well and the show will have a good mix of layouts, traders and a bring and buy table. If anyone has model items they want to move on, this is the ideal opportunity. Club members should be rattling around in the bottom of boxes looking for at least five items each to get onto that table.

As a part of a discussion about different train shows and how they ran operations, Aussie member Dave told me he was going to the Epping Club Train Show - the second biggest, but highest quality train show in Australia. So somewhere in a blur of Cromwell Train Show activities I seem to have put my hand up to go to Sydney with him in June so I can sweep floors and wash dishes (and perhaps perform some N-psychotherapy) with the Epping team. Lets see what results from that wee jaunt.

Best wishes for 2019 and I hope to see many of you at train shows and IPMS activities during the year.

Rex Johnson

Upcoming Diary Dates

Feb 10 w/shop - com house
Feb 17 w/shop - scout hall
Feb 22-24 Wings over Wairarapa
Mar 9-10 ChCh Free-mo weekend
Mar 10 w/shop - com house
Mar 17 w/shop - scout hall
Mar 23-24 Cromwell Train Show
Apr 14 w/shop - com house
Apr 20-21 Wheels over Wanaka
Apr 21 w/shop - scout hall
Apr 30 Arts and Crafts AGM
May 11-12 Dunedin train show
May 12 w/shop - com house
May 18 Have a Go day at Community House
May 19 w/shop - scout hall
Jun 8-10 Epping Model Railway Exhibition
Jun 9 w/shop - com house
Jun 16 w/shop - scout hall
Jul 13-14 Timaru train show
Jul 14 w/shop - com house
Jul 21 w/shop - scout hall
Aug 11 w/shop - com house
Aug 18 w/shop - scout hall
Sept 7-8 IPMS Nationals ChCh air force museum
Sept 8 w/shop - com house
Sept 15 w/shop - scout hall
Sept 21-22 Blossom Festival
Oct 5-6 Christchurch train show
Oct 13 w/shop - com house
Oct 20 w/shop - scout hall
Oct 26-27 Invercargill train show
Nov 17 w/shop - scout hall
Dec 8 w/shop - com house
Dec 15 w/shop - scout hall
Dec 25 Santa delivers more trains and models

Next Meeting

Simon is going to continue the discussion about our club layout. We are wanting to focus on new and replacement modules. Be there—3pm 10 Feb

Update from Steve

A really big THANK YOU to those who have replied to my email regarding your details. There have been lots of corrections to the list and once I have checked all members I will get out an updated list - Thanks.

A small request to those members who use Facebook. Would you please **like our page** (Central Otago Model Society) and invite your **friends to do the same**. This will help get our message out further and maybe get more people to come to our shows and hopefully more members - Thanks.

All members are allowed to attend the Arts and Crafts meetings so, to allow more people to know what goes on behind the scenes in running this group which provides us with funding for some of our activities, we are looking for someone who could step up and be a representative on the community trust. This is so we can have a voice with the running of the community house and how that effects our club. If anyone would be interested in this role please contact me - Steve Hills 0272218148 - Thanks.

N-Brain/Heart Surgery

Our first COMS meeting of the year involved me in about two hours of open-brain and heart surgery on a Graham Farish N Gauge loco that had stopped running. What had previously run somewhat roughly now wouldn't go at all. With the lid off and all the bits dismantled and spread around a tabletop, the core of the issue was revealed. The problem resulted from over-lubrication of the bogies with a relatively heavy grease. At some time the grease had picked up grains of sand from ballast and wedged them into the teeth of the tiny cogs in both of the locos three-axle bogies. The result was that the plastic cogs had split and would stall the wheel-drives at various rotation points of the cogs.

The loco looked OK externally, and its heart (motor) ran well but internally there were definite signs of previous maintenance and missing bits. For the bogies I thoroughly cleaned the heavy grease out of them, using a squirt of CRC 2-26 to help. Then, with the owners approval, I started to remove idler cogs from between axle sets until the bogies would run smoothly on a test track. We got down to having one axle driving on one bogie and two axles driving on the other. At that stage we had to pull the plug on the operation to conduct a club meeting.

Later at home I found that removing the idlers was quite a good move as it meant there was still ample power pickup via the wheels for good

steady running. Two other issues that were identified were lack of a phosphor-bronze pickup for power at one corner of the chassis, and lack of a screw holding down one corner of the lighting circuit board. As I didn't have suitable items to replace them I left the loco with just three power feed points, but had to solder a wire to the lighting board and clamp it under a chassis bracket to get power to the motor.

Running the loco around my test track showed it ran very smoothly in either direction, with no rough cog-splitting noises. The only catch was that the loco now ran as a 'B' unit with its front light showing backwards and its rear light forward. Back to the workbench (dining room table), rip off the lid, unscrew/unclip the light board, separate the chassis halves, flip the motor over top to bottom, stuff it all back together again and watch a successful 'A' Unit run around the test track.

The take-home lesson would be about lubrication and cleanliness of your track. Too much grease is your enemy, particularly if your loco has tiny gears. Also, when setting up your layout at a train show, take the time to vacuum the track before even running a test loco. Things that HO/OO modelers get away with may not be the case for N Gauge enthusiasts.

Lobotomist Rex
N-Psychosurgeon

Community House Workshop

Sunday 10th Feb 1-3

New and Replacement Modules

Discussion Meeting 3-4

Committee Meeting 4-5

... and ...

Scout Hall Workshop

Sunday 17th Feb 1-5