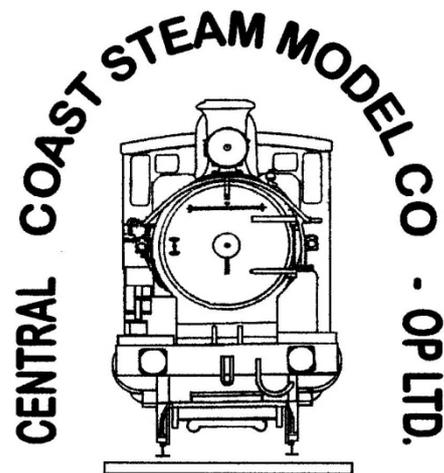


SHORT NORTH



Journal of the Central Coast Steam, Model Co-Op

September 2010 Edition



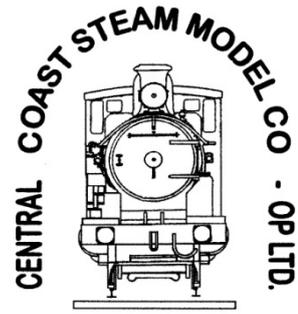
Central Coast Steam, Model Co-Op Ltd.

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Ken Howells

Child Protection: Sam Hawkins

Driver Licensing Register: Mick Farrell

Locomotive & Carriage Register: Ken Howells

Greg Rowland

Mechanical Inspections: Ken Howells

Greg Rowland

Newsletter Publication: Sam Hawkins

Signalling: Project Managers: **Area A:** Ivan Burns

Area B: Leal Brack

Training Facilitators: Noel Richards

Lindsay Brack

Keith Lewis

Club Locomotives: 71/4" Steamer Greg Rowland

Club Carriages: Fred Pryde

Public Running Day: 1st Saturday of Every Month - 11am to 4pm

Members Play Day: 2nd Saturday of Every Month

Members Meeting: Last Thursday of Every Month (except December) 7:30pm

Grounds Maintenance Days: Last Thursday and Saturday of Each Month
and as required.

Front Cover: 5" Locomotive 3298 being driven by John Rickard.

From the President's Desk

Now that the Birthday Run is behind us, it's time to get some serious work done on infrastructure around the grounds. Attention is going to be paid to the following sections: 7 ¼" - bottom of Party Loop, the climb after Mick's Triangle and the whole of the Dish area. We will let you know of the dates when this work will be happening so that we can get as much help as possible in forming up the concrete and then re-laying the tracks.

Please note the calendar on page 6 of this edition. There are a number of Additional Function dates coming up, on different days of the week. All members are asked to come and assist if available. The funds raised from these functions will go towards our new club 5" Locomotive.

Speaking of our new locomotive - The Board of Directors has commissioned Shane Mallitt to construct a new locomotive in 5" gauge. The picture is shown here. It will be a petrol motor driving a hydrostatic transmission, identical to Ken Howell's Green Locomotive. The cost is \$7000. The Board has paid a deposit for the locomotive and delivery is expected by the end of the year.



Leal Brack conducted his first test of the new signalling system for Signal Area B on the Birthday Run. From all reports everything worked as anticipated. Drivers are asked to be aware that the signals for departing Narara Junction Station are cleared when the signaller is ready for a train to enter the section - taking into account what trains are already on approach from Helstan Circle Station so that trains don't bank up at the level crossing. Please be ready to depart when given the green signal. Steam Locomotive drivers, please advise the Station Manager if you require time to build up steam so that the signallers can be made aware of the delay and re-route other trains accordingly.

The building plans for Signal Box B are well under way. The Peninsular Men's Shed have commenced building the structure. More information to follow.

Mick Farrell and Peter Holt have been busy getting the bottom steam-up bay works happening. The construction of a traverser is well under way. The long-term plans are to have an exit track constructed to meet the current main line in the vicinity of the McDonalds Bridge so that locomotives can exit the bottom steam-up bay without impacting on the main line at the Party Crossing.

Secretary's Inbox



This time of year sees the Secretary's Desk start to get busier with the lead-up to the AGM.

I've spent considerable time over the

past several months in forming and executing a plan to assist as many members as possible to maintain their membership of the Cooperative and to have voting and nomination rights for the AGM.

I am pleased to report that the trial was a success, with all members identified as being able to benefit from the initiative, taking the opportunity to do so and returning their membership to Active.

It is with disappointment that I also advise members that as a result of this extra initiative that it is appropriate that the Board also comply with the requirements of Section 19(ii) of the Rules of the Cooperative and cancel the membership of those whose membership has been "inactive" for 2 years. The rules are written as such that the Board is obliged to cancel the memberships. There is no discretion written into the rules. This decision has been taken so that there is a consistency in the application of rules for all members. It is also appropriate to remember why we have an active membership provision written into our club rules – to encourage participation of members in maintaining and improving the facilities and to encourage members to be part of the goings on. Let's face it, 2-2 & 2 in 12 months is not difficult to achieve. If

you're not making that low benchmark, then why should the club pay affiliation fees for a member who doesn't turn up? I would like to point out that the 2 memberships that have been cancelled are not as a result of the "meeting" component.

I have recently completed an audit of Locomotive Driver Licence Records. It came about after my own driver licence card started to fall apart even though I rarely keep it in my wallet. What I was able to do was design and complete a new drivers licence for all members who hold the qualification, which is the same size as a credit card, in a laminated pouch. The new licence carries all the same information as the previous licence, including name, class & category of qualification, it's just more durable & robust. These licence cards are being distributed at the moment. If you haven't received yours, please come and see me.

I need to remind all members when signing on of the purpose that the column marked "Purpose for Visit" serves. It is not there to check-up on or keep tabs on what members are doing. That is your business. It is only for the purposes of compiling the "Active Membership Tally." What it has achieved is to allow members who attend the grounds on days other than the designated Grounds Maintenance Days, and perform work, have this effort counted if required. Please refrain from making other comments which may be construed as insulting as these are official club records that may also be used for insurance purposes should you have an incident.



A photo submitted by John Mills from the club in the UK.

An inspiring picture of a member not letting a little thing like having no hands get in the way of fully participating in club activities.

Calendar of Events

Here is the calendar of events for the remainder of 2010. Items change and are added to periodically. An up-to-date calendar is displayed on the club noticeboard in the Club Meeting Room. Please check this periodically for dates that you may wish to attend or assist with.



Day	Date	Occasion	Times
Saturday	04/09/2010	Public Running Day	11:00 - 16:00
Saturday	11/09/2010	Members Play Day	10:00 - 18:00
Saturday	18/09/2010	Run Day - Yarran Early Intervention	TBA
Saturday	25/09/2010	Grounds Maintenance Day	10:00 - 16:00
Thursday	30/09/2010	Grounds Maintenance Day	10:00 - 16:00
Thursday	30/09/2010	Board Meeting	10:00 - 12:00
Thursday	30/09/2010	Club AGM	19:30 -
Saturday	02/10/2010	Public Running Day	11:00 - 16:00
Saturday	09/10/2010	Members Play Day	10:00 - 18:00
Thursday	20/10/2010	Grounds Maintenance Day	10:00 - 16:00
Thursday	27/10/2010	Grounds Maintenance Day	10:00 - 16:00
Thursday	27/10/2010	Board Meeting	10:00 - 12:00
Thursday	27/10/2010	Club Meeting	19:30 -
Saturday	30/10/2010	Grounds Maintenance Day	10:00 - 16:00
Thursday	04/11/2010	Grounds Maintenance Day	10:00 - 16:00
Saturday	06/11/2010	Public Running Day	11:00 - 16:00
Saturday	13/11/2010	Members Play Day	10:00 - 18:00
Thursday	25/11/2010	Grounds Maintenance Day	10:00 - 16:00
Thursday	25/11/2010	Board Meeting	10:00 - 12:00
Thursday	25/11/2010	Club Meeting	19:30 -
Saturday	27/11/2010	Grounds Maintenance Day	10:00 - 16:00
Thursday	02/12/2010	Grounds Maintenance Day	10:00 - 16:00
Saturday	04/12/2010	Public Running Day	11:00 - 16:00
Wednesday	08/12/2010	Run Day – Gosford Playgroups	11:00 - 14:00
Saturday	11/12/2010	Members Play Day	10:00 - 18:00
Thursday	23/12/2010	Grounds Maintenance Day	10:00 - 16:00
Thursday	30/12/2010	Grounds Maintenance Day	10:00 - 16:00
Saturday	01/01/2011	Public Running Day	11:00 - 16:00

News In General

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

You may recall in the previous edition of Short North that a trial was to be undertaken of holding 2 supplementary club meetings on Saturday 10th July and Saturday 14th August, to enable members who are unable to attend the Thursday evening meetings maintain their “active” membership in accordance with the club rules. It has been one of my intentions since coming onto the Board of Directors, to have



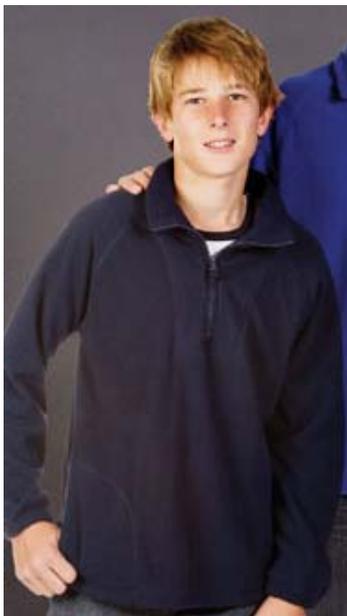
our club move in the direction of being “inclusive” rather than “exclusive”. As such, I am pleased to be able to inform you all that the trial has been a success with all members identified as being able to benefit from the initiative, taking advantage of the opportunity and returning their membership status to “active” in accordance with the rules. This trial was done with the blessing of Keith Lewis, who was the driving force behind the previous push to change the rules. Owing to the success of this trial, a decision has been taken by the Board of Directors not to pursue the previously proposed changes to the Active Membership Rule as the proposed changes that were sought are now not necessary with this simple workaround within the existing rules.



A decision has also been taken by the Board of Directors to have the Supplementary Meetings as a permanent fixture on the annual calendar. These meetings will be held on the Play Day Saturday's (2nd Saturday of the month) in June, July and August 2011. This will provide members who are not able to make evening meetings with the opportunity of attending at least 2 meetings thereby “meeting” their requirements for membership.

CLUB MEMBER UNIFORMS:

Orders are currently being taken from members who wish to purchase club uniform. The items on offer this time around are a Cotton Polo Shirt, Chambray Shirt and a Polarfleece Jacket.



Polarfleece Jacket Sample

The order form is available from the Club Meeting Room on the table under the notice board. Samples of the clothing are available there also.

All orders need to be given to Norm Browne or Sam Hawkins, along with payment, before Saturday 11th September.



Polo Shirt Sample



Chambray Shirt Sample



Report on Club Birthday Run



The club Birthday Run was held on the weekend of Saturday 7TH and Sunday 8th August at the club grounds.

The Saturday saw our grounds open to the public with displays from the Hunter Valley Farm Machinery club, Ann Brack Gallery and Central Coast Leagues Club Camera Club adding to the atmosphere of the model trains. The day was well patronised by members of the public and there were a number of visiting members and locomotives from affiliate societies.

Our thanks must go out to Fred Pryde and Robyn Nutter, along with Ann Brack, Peter Crowhurst and John Crowhurst for organising the displays for the Saturday.

The weather was sunny and warm for our visitors who enjoyed the day which had a carnival atmosphere.

Ann Brack and Peter Crowhurst kindly donated a portrait and print from their works which was raffled off on the day. A total of \$86 was raised and donated by the Club to the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service.

The Sunday saw a relaxed atmosphere at the grounds with members and their families and guests enjoying a relaxing day playing trains.

I'm sure everyone's compliments go to our own "Masterchef" Leon Van Duuren who whipped up his usual top quality BBQ for the hungry members and visitors.



PHOTOS FROM THE BIRTHDAY RUN DAY



Corny Corner

A very wealthy foreign student is attending university in Germany. He sends his father an email:

Dear Dad. Berlin is wonderful, people are nice and I really like it here, but Dad, I am a bit ashamed to arrive at my college with my pure-gold Ferrari 599GTB when all my teachers and many fellow students travel by train.

Your son, Nasser.

The next day an email arrives:

My Dear Loving Son. Twenty Million US Dollars has been deposited into your account. Please stop embarrassing us. Go and get yourself a train too.

Love Your Dad



...30 YEARS ON

Sam Hawkins

A few years ago I was visiting my now 87 year old grandmother in Mittagong and saw my late grandfather's slide collection in a box, collecting dust in a cupboard. My mind cast back to decades past on occasions when the extended family would get together on Christmas Day and after lunch we would select (at random I'm sure) several boxes of slides to view on the old projector with a sheet put up on the wall. It gave my grandmother great pleasure to reminisce about times gone by with my late grandfather, my father and uncle, and to again see the places that they had travelled to all around Australia and New Zealand.

Being the technological nerd that I am I immediately thought of the slide scanning technology that I'd seen being used to convert old slides to digital images because having a grandmother that has everything she needs, she's impossible to buy gifts for at Christmas and birthdays, so you can't ever pass up an opportunity like this one.

With the numerous boxes of slides safely stuffed in my bag without her knowing, I was off home with a plan in mind. I spoke to my uncle, Stuart, her eldest son who is her first call for assistance and told him of my plans so that if she rang him in a flap over the slides being missing he could think of some story to placate her.

Anyhow, 967 slides later, and several weeks of late nights later, I finally had the collection of slides digitised and on a DVD. I sent the first copy of the disc to my father for him to test – he's so technologically inept that if he

could work it anyone could. Anyway he was blown away by seeing his father's photo's again for the first time in years, and was more impressed by not having to drag the projector and sheet out to view them.

Christmas day was upon us and the afternoon was spent, after eating way too much food, sitting all together again, looking through all of my late grandfather's slides and getting the running commentary with each slide from my grandmother who was tickled pink at her gift from all of her grandchildren.

The most notable find for me while undertaking the mammoth task of digitising each individual slide, a process which takes about 3-4 minutes per photo, was to find a set of photos of myself in 1981, aged about 3 years old. I'm riding the train at Bronte Beach with my late grandfather and cousins, big smile on my face. I can see where my own boys get their enthusiasm for riding the model trains. Some might say boys never grow up – they just grow older.

So recently when I was driving through the Eastern Beaches area on a Sunday afternoon with my family, I decided that I just had to return to Bronte Beach to see if the little trains were still there.

To my amazement, the little train was still running around the 12" tracks at the beach – and upon speaking to the owner, it's the same locomotive and carriages, just with a few superficial body changes.



AROUND THE GROUNDS



TRACKSIDE NEWS

NEW 5" / 7¼" SEPARATION POINTS: New separation points have been installed between the McDonalds Bridge and Bottom Crossing. Like many of the other 7¼" drivers, I have noticed how smooth this is now. Thanks to Leal Brack & Greg Rowland.

NEW 7¼" SIDINGS: A new siding has been laid and installed along the straight on approach to the "A" Signal Box. At this stage it has been installed only as a temporary siding to accommodate the large number of visiting locomotives that attended the Club Birthday Weekend. The siding is planned to be extended to link up with

the existing tracks that lead from the top steam up bay. The current points to the steam up bay will be removed and to enter the steam up bay locomotives will need to cross onto the siding first. This change to the layout is to enable easier movement of locomotives out of the top steam-up bay, onto the new siding, then when there are no trains approaching the section, the entering train will be able to cross onto the main line via the new points. The structure will be made permanent once the concrete is laid.

GROUND MAINTENANCE

TREE LOPPING

Trees around the grounds have been trimmed and thinned back by John Crowhurst and his dedicated team of workers on the July Grounds Maintenance Days. The mulch was spread inside the 5" top loop near the 5" carriage shed.



Someone's put graffiti on Nightmare, Greg!