

Model Engineering Association of New Zealand Incorporated.

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MEANZ UPDATE March 2023.

Presidents Report March 2023.

It has been some time since my last message to the members of MEANZ. The National Convention was held in Christchurch (CANMOD) and was by all accounts, from visitors and locals alike, a success. I was very pleased to meet many members from clubs the length of both islands and discuss the future for our collective hobby. The next Convention has been provisionally awarded to Maidstone in the Hutt Valley and the Executive await (at the time of writing) a formal presentation and acceptance of what will be a first for a long time, a National Convention, being held in other than the "usual venues." Observations from CANMOD included some attendees expressing surprise at having to fill out each day, an inspection sheet of their loco and consist.

Our national membership is made up of people from all facets and inclinations in life, all who share a common love of things mechanical usually but not exclusively in the form of a locomotive of some design. A lesson here for us all to learn, is that we

should all be far more considerate of others, but also, we all must realize and accept, that there are standards of behaviour, which in most cases is simply adhering to rules and conventions that we must all abide by. These rules and conditions allow us, and the general public who provide the financial ability to grow and enhance our hobby, as safe and enjoyable an environment as we can possibly make it.

Your Executive is working diligently in the background, updating all of the documentation that we currently operate with. The rules (MOP's) are being re-written such that all aspects within the MOP's will be specified as being required or not, rather than the should or shall of the past.

One item of clarification is the use of Safety Chains. In previous versions of the MEANZ MOP's (2006 and 2014) the instruction ranged from nothing to shall have safety chains between all components of a consist. The 2018 version has the use of safety chains mandated in Locomotives 3.2 and Carriages 6.1. The latest updated version will continue with this mandated requirement for safety chains between all components of a consist.

Also, all the essential record keeping sheets that all clubs are required to fill out on an

operating day basis, are being standardised in content and form. This will allow our Safety Auditors to view similar documentation at all clubs and to provide Standard Forms to all clubs.

This brings me to explain a decision made by the MEANZ Executive to take over the role of Head, Lead Auditor. This step was taken after due consideration and advice due to the Role of the Executive Committee possibly changing under the regime of the new Amusement Device Regulations currently being drafted. The Executive could become more “in charge” rather than being the avenue or conduit of information and advice between affected parties such as MBIE, WorksafeNZ and the MEANZ membership.

At the Auditors Meeting at CANMOD, Dave Giles, the person who had led us so admirably as Chief Lead Auditor, a role that he selflessly assumed at the beginning of the MEANZ Safety Audit system, and worked hard over many years to maintain the required integrity of, was asked to stand down to allow his role to be taken up by the MEANZ Vice President, Lester Watchorn. As a measure of the man, Dave accepted this change of responsibility with exceptional grace in his characteristic manner and was warmly applauded and thanked for his years of service by both the Executive and all the Safety Auditors in attendance.

Other things we are working on as an Executive are:

- Do clubs need guidance on maximum age of child rider that requires an adult accompanying – feedback from clubs is asked.

- The new MEANZ Website is coming along.
- Maximum Speeds: WorksafeNZ will question any request to increase a club’s maximum allowable speed limit. While the Regulations allow a maximum of 15kph, this is completely dependent on many conditions such as gradients, curve radius, wagon stability etc. 10kph as a maximum should suit all clubs with speed restrictions lower than this being set by individual clubs for situations such as: stations, proximity to patrons in open parks, curve radii, etc.

I trust that all members of MEANZ continue to enjoy our wonderful hobby of building and operating miniature railways plus all the other activities individual clubs engage in.

Rob Wilson
MEANZ President.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are now due to MEANZ for the 2022-23 year for \$60. An Invoice has been emailed out to clubs and all have paid now bar three.

MEANZ Webpage.

The MEANZ Webpage is now a stand alone Webpage. This is now not hosted with any other club. Sean Heenan is Webmaster at this stage so he is in charge with any changes.

<https://meanz.org.nz/>

Awards CANMOD January 2023

The most popular 7 ¼ inch is Phantom 36

5 inch NZR Super Q owned by Brent Coburn.

3 1/2 inch Evening Star. Chris Kennedy.

Best new Phantom Loco is Bob Wines with Lanielle.

Best Steam loco was Andrew Sullivan with his Shay.

Best Electric was Tony Winter with his NZRDX.

The Les Moore Winner was Palmerston North.



(Thanks for the use of this picture)

The Best Vintage awarded to Rex Walker.

The best non steam loco is Heather and Noel Wilson with their "Lil Critter"

Best paint scheme is Alex Hunter.

The Best effort was Howard Shears with his boat.

Young enthusiasts award is M Hunter.



(Thank you for the use of this pic)
Chris Morton receives the prestigious Les Moore Challenge from the Christchurch Model and Experimental Engineers President Alex Cowdell

First overseas registration is Jim Nolan.

First New Zealand Registration is Jeff Harrison.

Canterbury award Andrew Sullivan

Best Vintage Rex Walker

Heather Wilson

MEANZ Secretary/Treasurer March 2023