

MEANZ Presidents Report 2018

One of the reasons for the establishment of the Model Engineering Association of New Zealand, if not the only reason, was to be able to enter into dialogue with the then Department of Labour concerning how the miniature railway element of our hobby fitted into the Amusement Device Regulations, or not, as we saw it.

As you should all be aware, there is currently a review of the Amusement Device Regulations being undertaken by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, hence we are to enter into dialogue again with our NZ Government Regulatory Authority over our fit within any possible future revised regulations governing Amusement Rides. To this end a series of meetings have been held with a view to the formation of an industry group of Amusement Device Owners to provide feedback etc. on the proposed regulations. At this point I'd like to thank Mike Orange and Dave Giles for attending these meetings on behalf of the hobby. What constitutes an Amusement Device now encompasses a somewhat diverse range of activities, no longer just movable fairground type rides and I feel that there is some common ground in that I wonder how some of these activities are able to be registered under the current regulations; some accommodation must have been made!

In the course of preparing a submission on our relationship with Amusement Device Regulations I had cause to revisit the work that one of our previous executives (Colin, Peter, Jock and John) had undertaken in having the Amusement Device Regulations amended back in 2011 so that our Hobby Club Miniature Railways could be better accommodated within the regulations. Stonewalling is a term that comes to mind when reviewing our past dealings with our Regulatory Authorities over our concerns with registering as an Amusement Device. The lesson being that the opportunity to have input into a review of Government Regulation doesn't happen too often and that we have to ensure that we get a sufficient level of involvement in the process to get it right without having to seek recourse via a sympathetic Minister of Parliament.

Our current safety systems and registration process may well come under some scrutiny by other vested interests in the wider Amusement Device industry and we may well have to defend our processes which is why we have to as a hobby, actively review our own safety processes and documentation to ensure that best practice is established and maintained. Hence the current review of the MEANZ Manual of Operating Procedures.

On that note I would like to thank all of our member clubs for keeping faith in our safety processes by having safety audits carried out on their facilities club processes.

Finally, a big thanks to your secretary/treasurer Heather Wilson, North and South Island Representatives Bill Krippner and Rob Wilson.

Richard Lockett

MEANZ President