

South Island Representative's Report – BGM January 2025.

Unfortunately I am unable to attend Steam and Steel due to it being the busiest time of year in my day job with Dunedin Railways All of our team is required to meet our train running program for cruise ship charters, domestic charters and services for local tourists at this time of year.

It is great to see the clubs in the South Island are in good heart with some reasonably major projects being undertaken recently which include:

- Major boundary fence replacement, pond cleaning and replacement of the decorative entrance gate at Southland Society of Model Engineers.
- Structural repairs and a new staircase on the historic ex NZR Gore signal box which serves as clubrooms for Gore Model Engineering Club, and a revitalisation of the club, including several new members after involving the local community in events.
- Development of a 45mm Garden Railway at Otago Miniature Road which extends their ability to cater for those who model in the smallest outdoor scales.
- Track extension and replacement and major building refurbishment work at Nelson Society of Modellers.
- Track extension at Canterbury Society of Model Engineers Halswell.

South Island clubs continue to offer a great range of events which cater for all facets of the hobby. Judging by reports on social media and from those who have attended, these been well supported by local members and fellow model engineers travelling from other clubs. It should also be noted two South Island Model Engineering Societies celebrated their 90th Anniversaries in 2024, The South Canterbury Society of Model Engineers in Timaru and Southland Society of Model Engineers in Invercargill.

As you are all aware over the past two years MEANZ has done considerable work refining our processes and systems, with the aim of us providing assurance to our safety regulator that we continue to be safe amusement device operators by using the expertise of member clubs. I would like to thank all the South Island representatives, and wider membership, for their assistance with this including attending online meetings, reviewing documents, and providing feedback and advice. It is my view that it is important we retain the ability to use our collective expertise to manage safety in our operations, as the model engineering community has the best knowledge and understanding of the context of our operation to do this.

Lastly, I would like to thank the South Island Field Audit Team Peter Anderson, Ian Fanshawe, Graham Head, Duncan Robbie, Noel Wilson, Rob Wilson and of course our Lead Auditor Alan Malaquin, for their continued work providing assurance we are meeting the standards required.

Donald Ross

South Island MEANZ Representative