



# *Model Engineering Association of New Zealand Incorporated.*

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## **MEANZ UPDATE February, 2025 (No 4.)**

### **Presidents Report**

Firstly, I would like to thank the team who have been on the executive during the previous couple of years – it has not been an easy time with many challenges thrown and dealt with. It has been appreciated and has placed this executive in a solid position to continue to move the hobby forward.

To those joining this year, welcome and thank you for your time and input – this year is potentially going to continue to throw up further challenges and I am sure that between us we will be able to work our way through them.

Having recently attended the Hamilton convention I note that there are several issues to be worked through within the hobby, and this is going to fall to us as a group to begin to gently guide the membership towards a new understanding of the importance of being aware of the rules, and the importance of adhering to them. In some instances, this will work, I suspect in some we may need an altered approach, and for one or two we may need to develop a different plan ... however time will tell.

That all being said, welcome, and thank you for choosing to help guide the hobby.

### **1. The MEANZ Biannual General Meeting 2025.**

The Biannual General Meeting (BGM) was held at 9am on the Saturday morning the 11th of January 2025 at the Distinction Hotel, 100 Garnett Avenue, Te Rapa, Hamilton. The results of the voting for the executive are as below:

## **President: Alex Cowdell.**

(Canterbury Society of Model & Experimental Engineers.)

Phone number: 0274770707

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Many, many ... many moons ago my dad took me to a meeting at a home in Tauranga. The owner, guy by the name of Les Moore, talked about building a railway along with lots of other people there. I can't remember how I found out about the meeting but from there they agreed to start running a model train at Memorial Park. Every Sunday we would erect the tent, lay the portable track, and run a train



Soon we had enough in the bank to build a raised track and then we were on the map. We could even have visiting locomotives which back then was very exciting. As I grew up I remained very involved in the club and we grew steadily – even

progressing to a ground level track. I owe much of my drive in the hobby to those early members who took me under their wing and helped mentor me. Recently I returned to Tauranga with my son and we ran our Fa steam locomotive there – it was a magic and emotional experience returning and I must thank the Tauranga members so very much for their hospitality – they



truly reflected the best aspects of this hobby on that day.

Life continued and I moved to Dunedin for a number of years for work, joined OMES and enjoyed the hobby in the south, then moved to Christchurch and joined CSMEE for a short time, prior to heading to Auckland and spending time as a member of ASMEE. Flick forward a couple of years and work commitments dictated I return to the South Island, based in Christchurch.

I re-joined CSMEE and have been a member there since. I have served on the executive and spent time as President, stepping down last year. I am currently Loco foreman for CSMEE. I own a specialist trucking business and run a staff of 10 throughout the country. Sonia and I have 3 daughters, one son, several dogs, and an eclectic collection of “stuff” scattered in numerous sheds, just waiting for the day the project is going to be finished.

## **Vice President: Lester Watchorn.**

(New Plymouth Society of Model and Experimental. Engineers Inc.)

Phone number: 027 4267060

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I am from New Plymouth area, I left the region for 5 years for study and work. We moved back to New Plymouth 13 years ago for a job in pressure equipment engineering. I have always enjoyed models and engineering and when our three girls were young we would frequent the HME and NPSMEE clubs for train rides. For the last three years I have helped out on the MEANZ Executive and enjoy watching our hobby around the country. There are so many neat models out there.

Other than model engineering, I also enjoy all things radio control and vintage machinery. I have a few (6.5 – don't tell my wife) old tractors. I think I suffer from a limitation that most men have, not enough shed space, I definitely cannot fit all the tractors, trains, planes and machine tools at home in the double garage.

My current personal projects of priority are restoring a Massey Ferguson 65 tractor and rebuilding the motion gear in one of my locos

## North Island Rep: Rex Toms.

(Manukau Live Steamers.)

Phone number: 027 2345051

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I started model engineering in the mid-1970s. I am a member of Manukau Live Steamers. My first engine was finished in 1979 and that was a 5 inch "Y" Class. Over the years I have built another seven engines. I was involved in building the Palmerston North Track and was one of the early members of Palmerston North.

I am now building a loco called a Mogul. I also have a four inch Burrell traction engine which I am building. I have also been a MEANZ auditor for many years.



## **South Island Rep: Nigel Gibbs.**

(Nelson Society of Modellers. Inc.)

Phone number: 027 4347760

Email: nigelg440@outlook.com

My Name is Nigel Gibbs

I am a self-employed farmer on our family farm which has been in the family since the 1840's. I do bailage and hay contracting, and one of my other interests is stage theatre set design and construction.

I got into Model Engineering when I joined the Nelson club in 1996. I built my 1st locomotive, a 24v electric locomotive based on the German Intercity Express (ICE) train before the 2000 convention held in Blenheim. I have built several since including a DFT loco for the club.



I was heavily involved in the building of the ground level track in Nelson, calling on many associates to help with as many jobs as possible to help the club.

When the club decided to add 5 inch to the GL track, we removed 1 rail and added 2. I bought new rail for the club and took away the uplifted rail with the idea that I might build a railway at home sometime.

In 2020, there was an event that had everyone stuck at home, and that was when I decided to start my track at home and "Oak Tree Railway" was born.

## **Secretary/Treasurer: Heather Wilson**

(Otago Miniature Road and Rail Society.)

Email: [meanz.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:meanz.secretary@gmail.com)

Phone: 034543324

My name is Heather Wilson and I have been involved with Model Engineering together with my husband Noel for many years and have visited many clubs around the country.

I was fascinated with the operation of steam locos from an early age and learned how to drive these. I regularly drive at our club the Otago Miniature Road and Rail Society that is situated at Wal's Funland in Mosgiel.



I have a solid background in the running of Clubs and Incorporated Societies and knowledge of Rules and paper work that Model Engineering clubs must run under. I am a keen photographer and run Facebook pages for several organisations.

## **2. Subscription**

Club Subscriptions are now due to MEANZ for the 2025-26 year for \$60. An Invoice has been emailed out to clubs. Thanks to the many clubs who have already paid.

### **3. Amusement Device Applications.**

There are several clubs that are needing a new Amusement Device Certification this year. It is up to clubs to check when their old certificate expires. Please check your club certificate to see if your A.D. Certificate is due this year for renewal. Worksafe have started sending me reminders, so I will forward onto the clubs when they do. It is up to the club to arrange a MEANZ auditor and if you get in touch, I can send the present list of auditors. Once your club is audited and the auditor is happy you have passed, then they will send your audit to a Lead auditor for moderation. When the audit moderation is passed, you can then send to [meanz.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:meanz.secretary@gmail.com) the required information. The form 1, the form 2a, a good pic of your club station with locos in and the required lists of loco and trolleys in your club is required. The club has to pay the \$34.50 with the clubs AD number as reference to the WorkSafe bank account. Do not send the money to the MEANZ bank account. I will send the application to WorkSafe and they apparently have a team meeting to discuss and then when approved, they will send out your club Amusement Device Certificate. Please get all members to read the rules on this. There is a MEANZ form "How to apply for your Amusement Device Certificate" and I am happy to send this out to clubs.

Heather (Secretary/Treasurer)

### **4. Contact Information for Clubs.**

If your President, MEANZ representative or club secretary change please let Heather, the MEANZ secretary know. If we don't know the new details of your club's executive voted or co-opted in, any information sent out will most likely go to the wrong email addresses that we have on the MEANZ data base and the club may not get the information updates.



## 5. Christchurch Convention January 2026.

Christchurch will host a convention in January 2026. Thursday the 8<sup>th</sup> will be registration day. 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> running days. Ashburton may be able to run the 12<sup>th</sup> and also have boats, traction engines etc. This is for smaller up to 5 inch locos. More information to be released on this as details are worked out.



## 6. Event Calendar.

If all clubs could email the date of their special events or open weekends to [meanz.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:meanz.secretary@gmail.com) we will put a calendar list on the website of all club events. This may be a handy resource for clubs planning events to avoid too many conflicting dates, and for members wishing to visit other clubs.

