



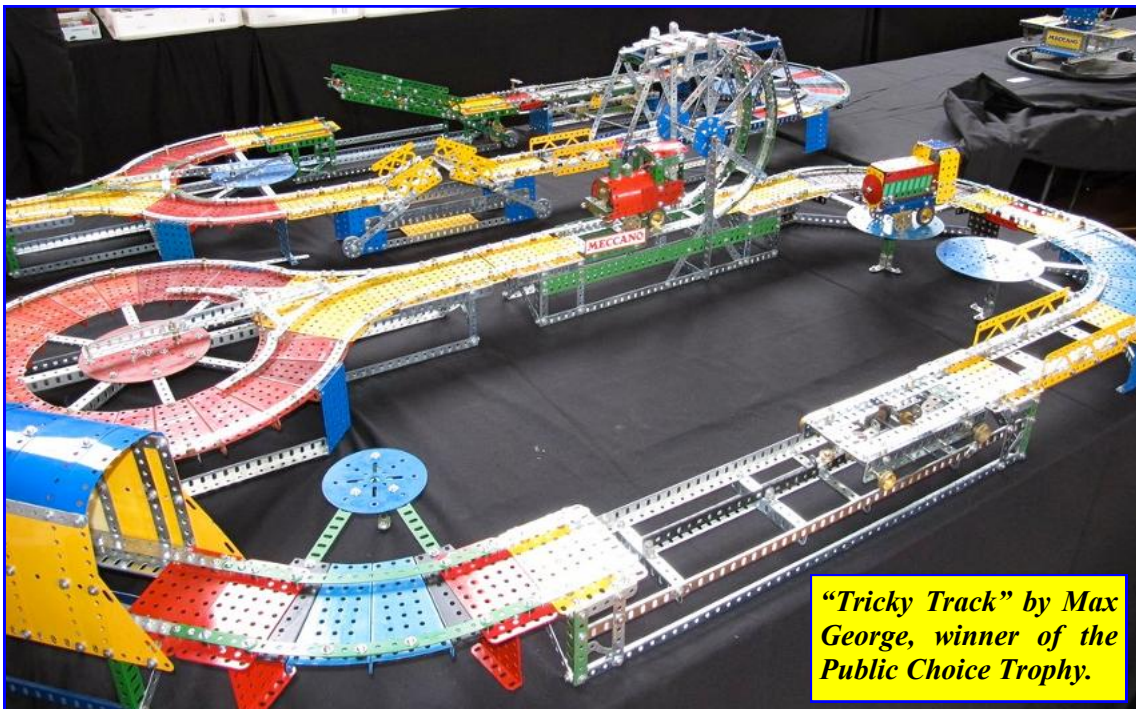
NZFMM MAGAZINE

Volume 37 No. 2

May 2013



Neil Carey's Senior Prize winning NZR Class WW loco at the 2013 Pukekohe.



"Tricky Track" by Max George, winner of the Public Choice Trophy.

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Letters are welcome and may be sent by post or by email. The author's name and address must be supplied. Publication of letters will be at the editor's discretion.

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A Great Convention

As I write this a month after the Pukekohe Convention I've had time to contemplate the whole event. In my view it was a very successful Convention with over 30 exhibitors and a huge variety of models on display. There was plenty of time to talk to other like minded people on the Friday and Saturday, while the one public display day on Easter Sunday was about the right mix in my view. We had sufficient people through (over 800) to help cover the hall rental and we actually have signed up several new subscribers to the Magazine, who were spectators that day. I think we did a good job promoting Meccano to the south Auckland folk and the Pukekohe shop (*Love to Learn*) had hundreds of entries to win a Meccano set, as well as putting on a modern Meccano display in the shop.

In this first full-colour issue I've attempted to show at least one model displayed by every exhibitor, my apologies if I've left someone out. Gary Higgins took hundreds of photos over Easter and I've downloaded most of the images in this issue from his *Flickr* website.

The next Convention, hopefully in 2015, will be in the Wellington district and organised by the Wellington Meccano Club. Simon Moody is to organise another weekend Taupo event, *March Madness*, probably in late summer next year.

The offer of a pdf version of this Magazine over the last year has been taken up well with about 6% of the subscribers deciding to take the pdf version rather than the hard copy. Many of these have been overseas members. Another 7% have subscribed to both pdf and hard copy versions. We have had enough new members to make up for those switching to the pdf.

As you will read in the notes about the General Meeting (p18) held during the Convention **Neil Pluck** (CMC) has become the new NZFMM President. I would like to thank **Peter Hancock**, who stood down as President after 4 years in the post. Peter's contribution to the NZFMM and our hobby is much appreciated.

LM

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2013 EASTER CONVENTION

by Les Megget

Organising the 2013 Easter Convention started soon after the AMG said they would “do” the next Convention at the previous one in Palmerston North (2011). A small committee comprising **Peter Hancock, David Wall** and myself met several times but Peter did much of the organizing (the hard work). David and I spent much time building models to exhibit (fun work).

We got the message early on that the out of towners (non-JAFAs) didn't want to travel any further north than the Bombay Hills because of the notorious traffic congestion on the city's motorways. A good idea as it happened because the Southern Motorway was nose-to-tail much of Good Friday. Peter suggested the Pukekohe Town Hall and we trundled out to look it over about a year out from the Convention. It was a large open space with plenty of head room and lots of natural light. There was the smaller Concert theatre next door for cups of tea, lunch and fellowship and the parking and access to the hall couldn't be better. Peter then booked the hall and paid for it; a sum much less that we would have paid in central Auckland.

The registration forms were fairly slow coming in but once they reached 20 near the end of February we knew we had a viable show. The decision had been made much earlier to have only Easter Sunday as being open to the public, a decision most of the AMG members were happy with. The insurance costs, organising the door staff, cash security, etc. all need to be considered when deciding how many public days there will be.

Peter spent about \$1,000 on advertising the public day locally and I helped with a poster drop in Pukekohe 10 days before Easter. The small adverts (and editorial) in the local Franklin papers certainly got the message across as we had over 800 visitors through the doors on the Sunday.

Peter spent many happy hours (not) setting out the table floor plan on two A1 sheets (taped together) to get the best advantage of the available hall space. **Elizabeth Wall** cut and hemmed the miles of black tablecloths we have to a more manageable length and by the time I got there about 10am on Good Friday the tables and cloths were all set up awaiting the models.

Modelers and their models drifted in during the day until at 5pm the hall was looking really good with only a few spaces empty awaiting the late comers. The Meccanwomen, namely **Elizabeth, Jan Hancock and Shirley Megget** had spent the previous few days making litres of soup to feed the hungry arrivals, it being a public holiday when most of the shops are closed by law.

When I arrived early on Saturday the hall was a buzz with exhibitors talking to each other and making sure their models were doing their thing. **Daryl Anderson** had arrived and was attempting to set up his huge Hammerhead Crane with the help of about 4 others. They eventually got the jib on top of the 10ft high tower and it was soon slewing back and forth under its own control.

We didn't have the planned walk around the models but there was plenty of time for exhibitors to catch up with everyone else and talk Meccano amongst other things. I found it to be a really nice relaxed day, except for the motor transplant I had to do on my crane's main hoist.

Peter had organized a professional photographer to video the show and talk to many exhibitors about their personal Meccano history and their models. The DVD was produced over night and was available on the Sunday. It is truly an excellent report on the Convention and well worth the \$15 (\$20 including p & p in NZ) if you haven't already got a copy.

There was a bit of a rush around 2pm as the final votes were handed in by the exhibitors ranking the best 5 models on show. Unfortunately there were no juniors exhibiting so the Junior trophy went un-awarded this year.

At 6pm the hall was “shut” and we all converged on the Concert Chamber for the obligatory group photograph and then the General Meeting. Outgoing President Peter Hancock announced **Neil Pluck** (President of the Canterbury Meccano Club) as the new NZFMM President. Then the awards were announced before dinner by Peter, namely

Senior Trophy: **Neil Carey** (NZR Class WW tank loco),

2nd **Les Megget** (Liebherr City Mobile Crane),

3rd = **Mike Stuart** (Fantasy Factory),

3rd = **Les Megget** (MAN 6x4 truck with Palfinger Crane),

Commended: **Daryl Anderson** (Hammerhead Crane).

The **Club Trophy** was easily won by the **AMG**, which made AMG President **David Wall** a very, very happy man. The **MWT** were 2nd with **WMC** in third.

The buffet meal was excellent with a Meccano-related after dinner quiz to keep our brains awake. This was won by **Mike Stuart** with 24 out of 28 questions correct. He was later seen dividing up the parts from the winner's Meccano set prize amongst his table mates, who I'm guessing just may have helped him with some of the answers!

After dinner Peter announced that yours truly had recently been awarded the **2012 ISM Michael Adler Founders Prize** for his Liebherr Compact Mobile Crane. Peter read out the email I had received from Adrian Williams, the Award Committee Secretary, telling me of the award.

We all toddled off to our beds fairly early knowing we had a busy day ahead of us, leaving **Peter, John Jordan and Simon Moody** to sleep on site as security. Simon had a major problem with his neck/shoulder during the night (trying to sleep on a lilo) but luckily next day he seemed much better.

Sunday dawned clear and fine, as it has in Auckland for nearly 3 months and we opened the doors at 9am to a queue of patrons patiently waiting (I think) to get in. There was a constant stream of mainly families through till closing at 3:30pm. Peter had organized the 10 Meccano building stations on the stage and the parents and children kept the instructors, **Robbie Neilson** and several others, busy all day. The stage had been used for parts sales and the silent auctions over the previous 2 days.



Children's building table, Robbie Neilson (in blue shirt) instructing.

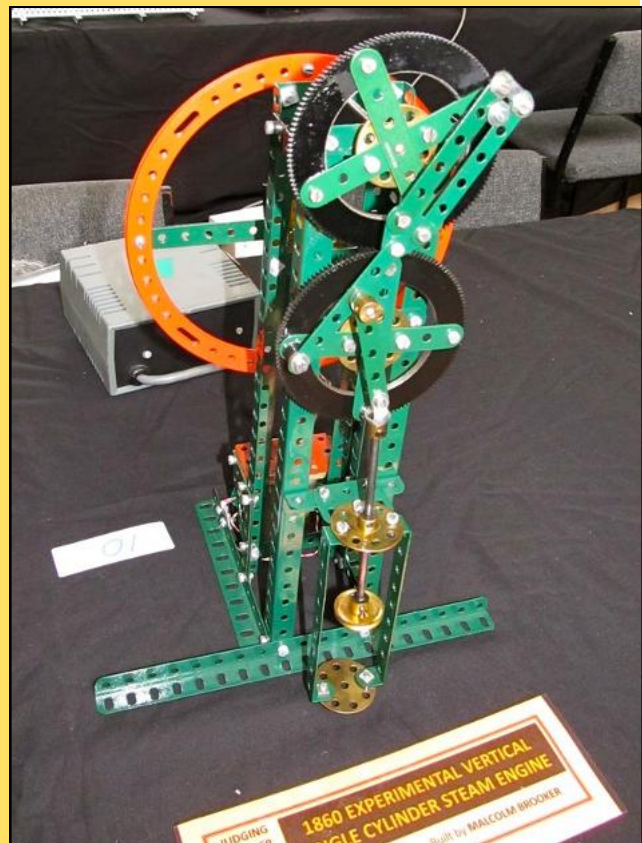
About 3:30pm Peter announced and awarded the **Bruce Baxter Memorial Trophy** winner for the public's choice to **Max George** for his Tricky

Track, which had fascinated the children all day. **Les Megget** and **David Wall** were second equal in the public choice voting.

At closing time the dismantling of models, tables and displays began. It is surprising how quickly a large display can disappear leaving a very empty hall. Goodbyes were said after vans and cars were loaded and many happy (I hope) Meccanomen and their partners went back from whence they had come.

The models on show covered the whole range of Meccano models in every colour scheme produced over the intervening 112 years. This issue shows a large number of the models exhibited by the 30+ registered modelers present.

Personally I thought it the best of the 5 Conventions/Exhibitions I have attended but I'm biased, and my special thanks go to **Peter Hancock** and **Elizabeth Wall** who did much of the unseen but totally necessary organizing.

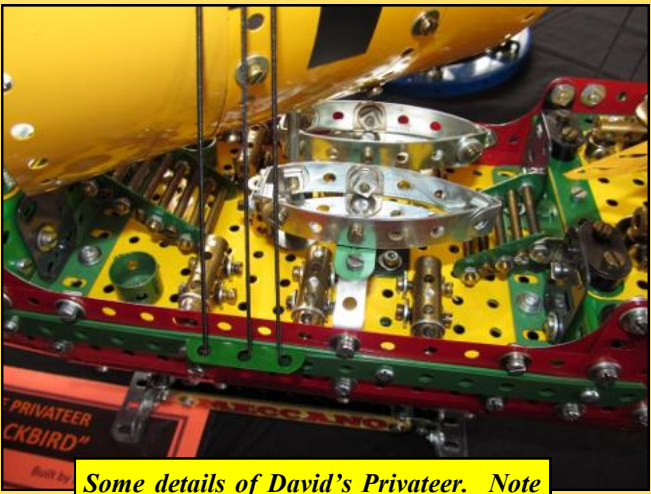


Australian (Sydney) exhibitor Malcolm Booker displayed this 1860 Experimental Vertical Single Cylinder Steam Engine. It ran faultlessly over the weekend.



Transporter Bridge by Don McClelland, from the 1937 Set 10 instructions.

David Wall's Privateer, a model with lots of detail.



Some details of David's Privateer. Note use of Couplings as canons, very neat.



Assortment of Rick Vine's models.

This French Knitting Machine by Stan Baker only knitted "virtual" stitches all Convention! Obviously it was still under development.





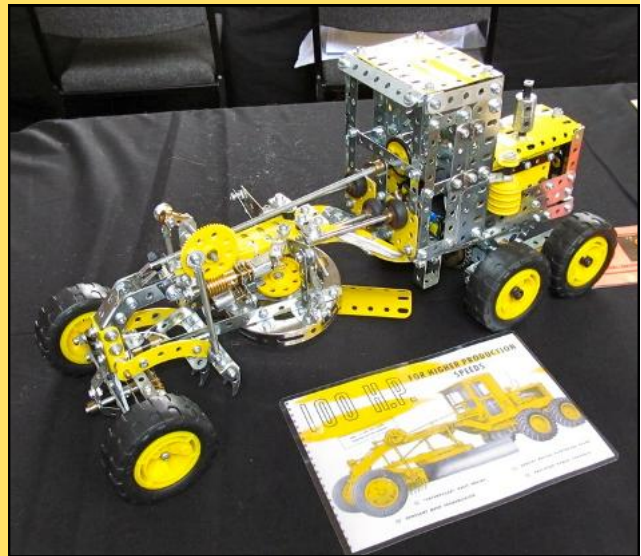
Lou Nichols



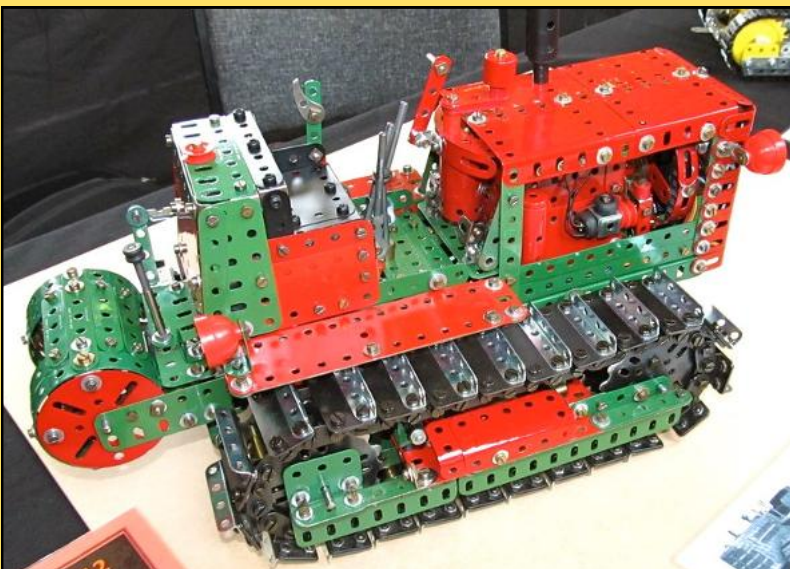
Doug Harris has this Meccano Microscope for sale.



Part of Richard Sealey's display.



Bruce Geange's Cat. Grader.



International Tractor by Bruce Geange.



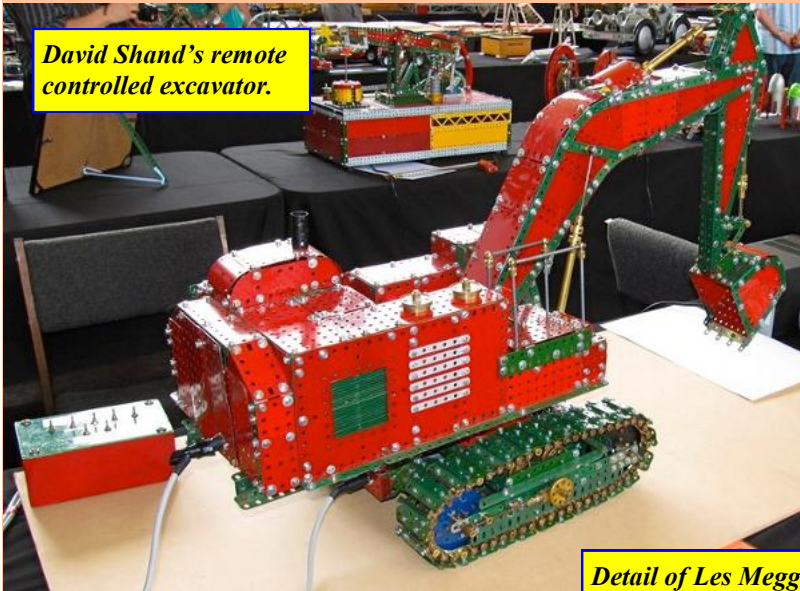
Robin Rye's Army Truck.



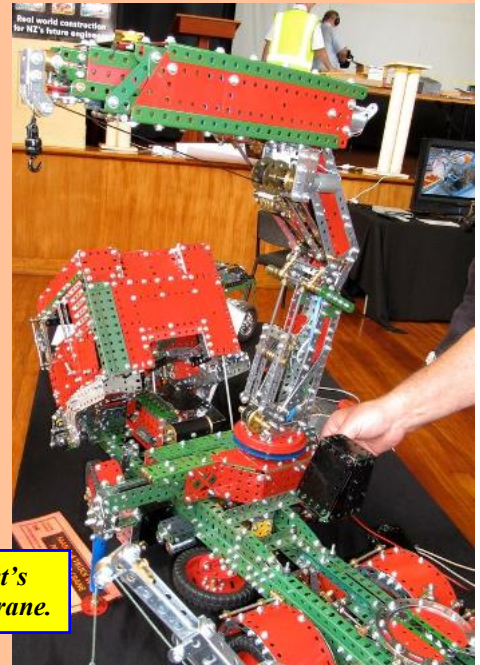
Cranes by Graeme Wrightson.



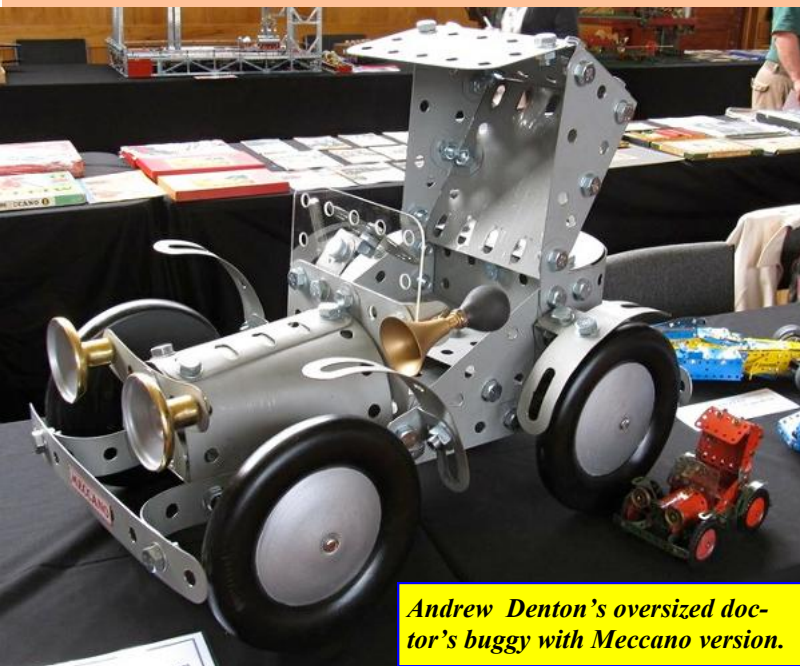
Tower Crane by Bob Prescott.



David Shand's remote controlled excavator.



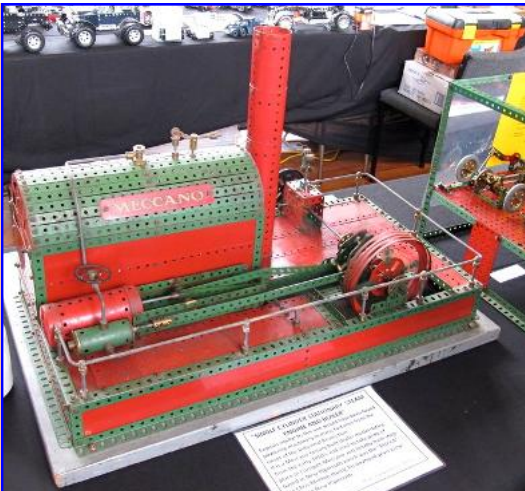
Detail of Les Megget's Palfinger knuckle crane.



Andrew Denton's oversized doctor's buggy with Meccano version.



Wayne Blakely's Windmill.



Ex Factory made Dealers Display model from New Plymouth Meccano & Hornby Train shop. Displayed by Chris Morton.



John Freer: Guess how it is powered.



John Denton



Hugh Ramage's French Knitter actually knitting.



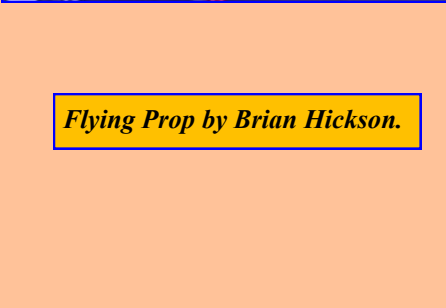
Henry Porter's central portion of a huge bucket wheel excavator.



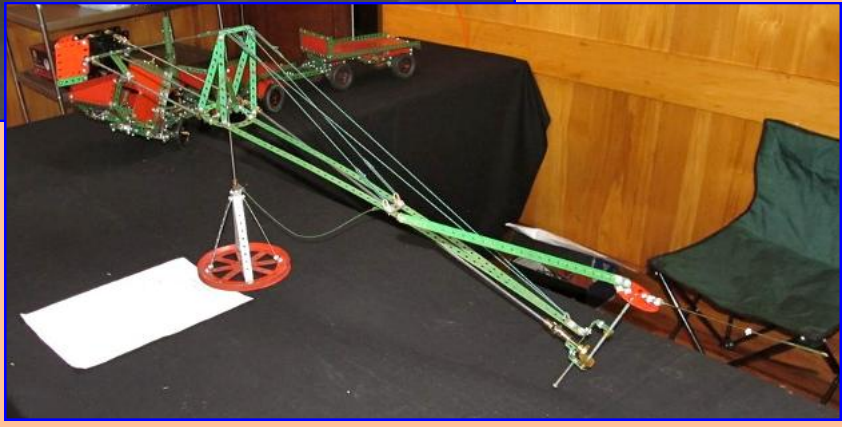
Part of the Hornby 0-gauge railway display.



Gary Higgins display of modern set models, from a Rabbid toilet to noisy RC cars.



Flying Prop by Brian Hickson.



Trevor Adam's Lion Locomotive.



Simon Moody's Truck & trailer.



Wayne Blakely's parts for sale.



**Historical Display
by Gary Higgins.**



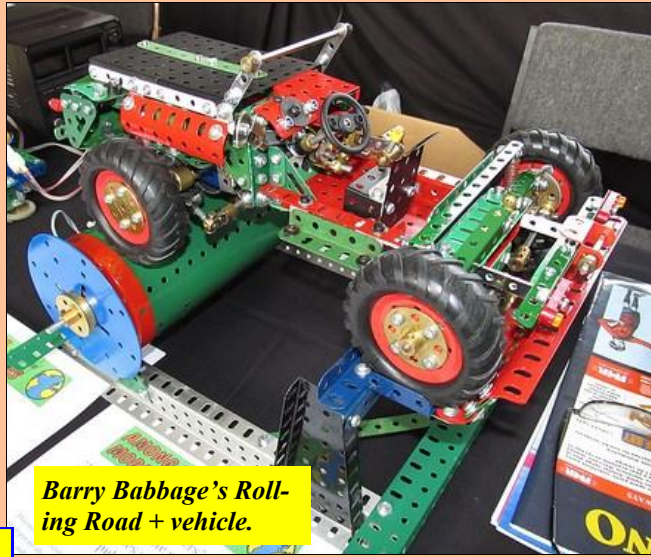
Mogel truck for sale.



Constructor Aeroplanes by Richard Sealey.



**David Shand's
Baltic locomotive.**

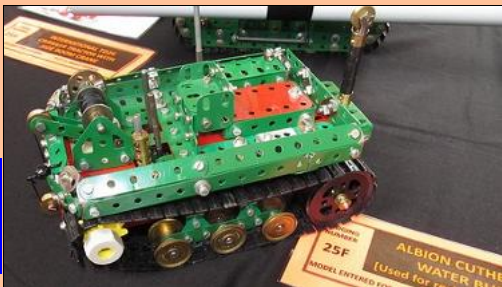


**Barry Babbage's Roll-
ing Road + vehicle.**



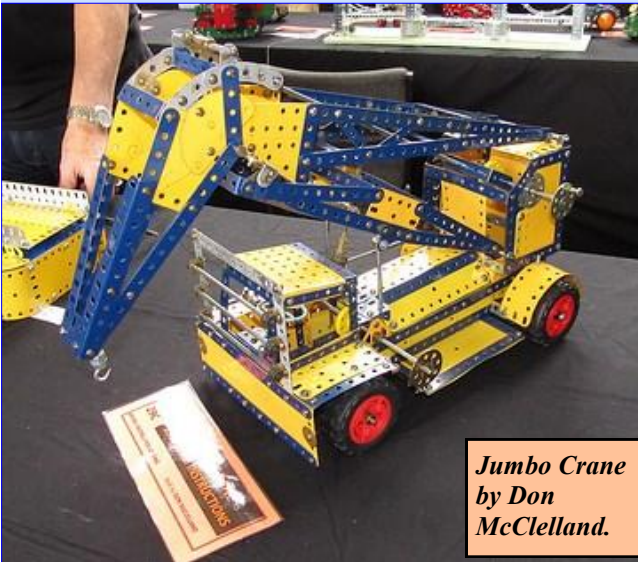
**Henry Porter:
Quayside loading
crane and geared
trolley for a crane.**

**Bruce Geange's Albion
Cuthbertson Water Buffalo
for reclaiming swamp land.**

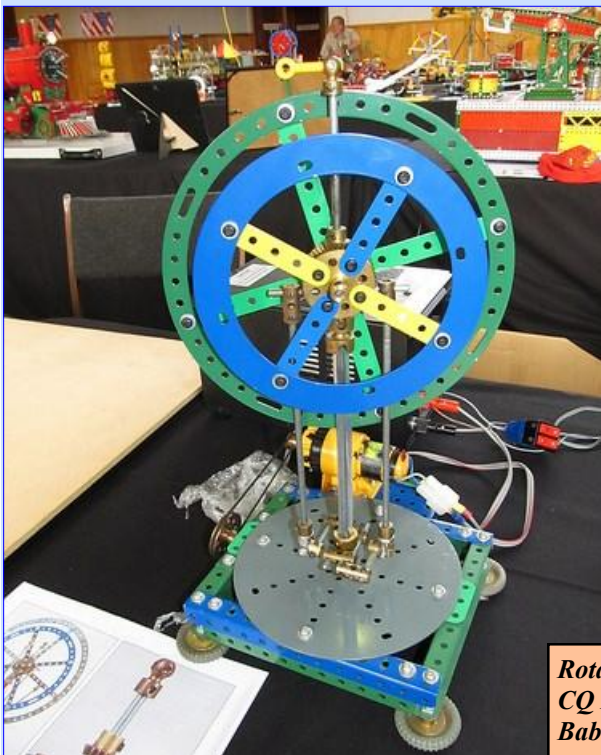




David Barnard's Spykee.



*Jumbo Crane
by Don
McClelland.*



*Rotational Model from
CQ Magazine by Barry
Babbage.*



1916 Meccano USA Set 3x displayed by Gary Higgins.



*Display of Meccano Miniatures
by Lou Nichols.*



Auckland Meccano Guild Meeting

9th February 2013

Reporter & Photos: Gary Higgins

The meeting took place at Peter Hancock's residence in Howick.

Gerald Hart had a very nicely modelled Garratt Steam engine from a South African model plan by Peter Matthews.

David Wall had an electronic synchronous clock which was finished in silver and red with a blue trim to the clock face. It runs very quietly.



David Wall's clock

George Ovenden had completed a model of a 100 ton heavy haulage truck and trailer to carry Scammell 100 ton trucks. This was based on a model of a Yesteryear prototype. George tells me they did 4 miles per gallon; at that rate you could watch the petrol gauge go down.

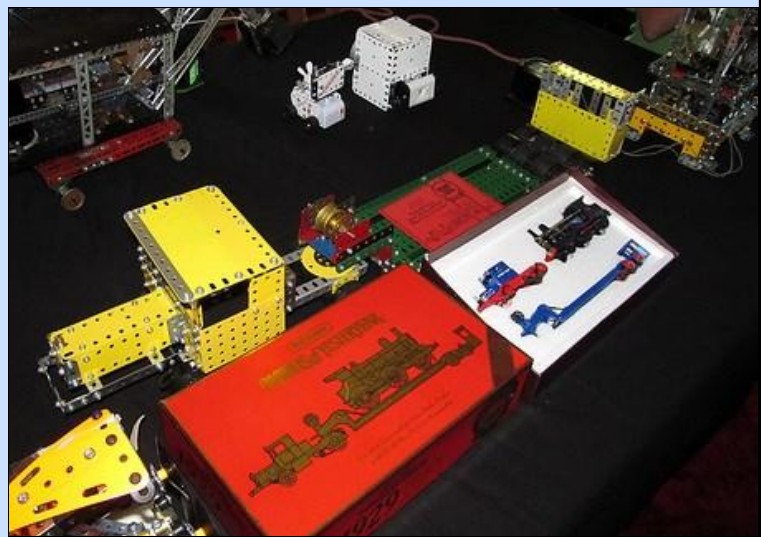
Rick Vine had made up a space explorer from the 4840 *Mission the Universe* set. This is an unusual set as it contains the only Meccano threaded boss gear part no 927c, which enables the landing gear to retract. Rick also had a mini Trix mobile crane.

Mike Stuart had his 3 speed automatic gearbox on display which uses inertia by weights to change the gears as the motor speeds up.

William Irwin had brought along his usual array of magazines from various countries.

Gary Higgins has been delving into other systems and had brought an excavator from a 1920s *Erector* set (USA), as well as a no 2 *Primus Engineering* outfit. He did bring a couple of the latest Meccano models the *Rabbit's* set, a racing toilet and time washing machine.

Les had been working on his *MAN* chassis with *Palfinger* knuckle crane (the big one) but had a miniature version on display and had also made up the *Rabbit's* time washing machine which required some extra tweaks to get it working well.



George Ovenden's Scammell 100 ton truck.



Gerald Hart's Garratt Steam locomotive.

Henry Porter had made a model up of conveyor buckets on a travelling bucket dredge and had been able to solve the problem of how to get the buckets to hang correctly underneath.

He had a swing bridge on a pontoon base, a heavy duty roller bearing which was very effective using small grooved wheels similar in size to the *Electikit* bush wheels, very effective when supporting a load. He had made up a 3 stage rocket using *Dan Dare* parts and Meccano and a British Centurion tank with remote control steering and complete with gun elevation and turret swivelling. Henry also had a small heavy haulage trailer and truck and a realistic half-track truck.



Henry Porter's Centurion Tank.

We had a new member **Basil Pinhey**, who we welcomed to the Guild and we hope he gets as much enjoyment out of it as we do.

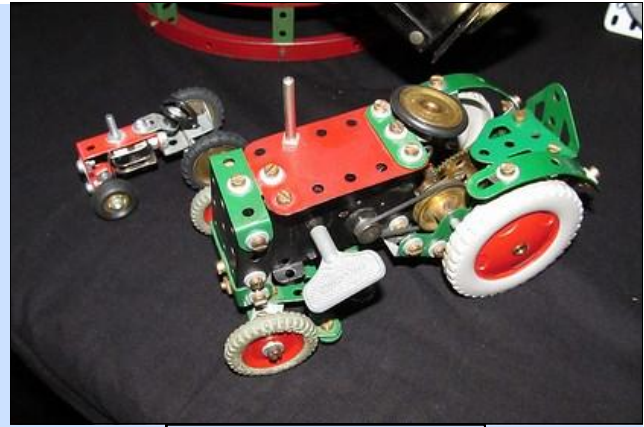
Graeme Mills had brought along two small tractors but very realistically constructed, one of which was powered by a Magic motor.

Anthony Caldwell had a very well modelled buggy made with an *Evolution* set.

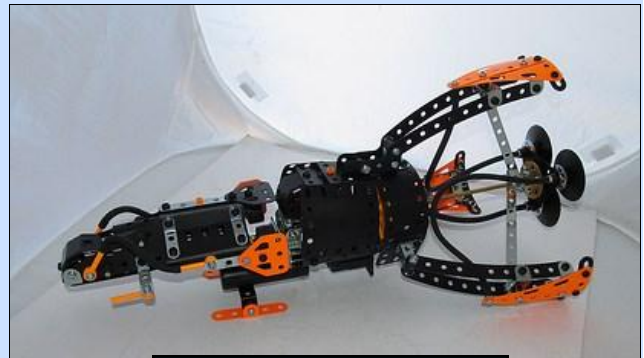
Others present were **Richard Sealey**, **Bob Cook**, **John Denton** and **Peter Hancock**.

Peter gave us all an update on the Convention at Pukekohe, which promises to be one of the best ever and some discussion was made re the Model-X show later in the year.

The afternoon was topped off by an excellent afternoon tea courtesy of the ladies.



Tractors by Graeme Mills.



Rick Vine's Space Explorer.



Anthony Caldwell's buggy.



Gary's Erector Excavator.

The other Convention prize winning models



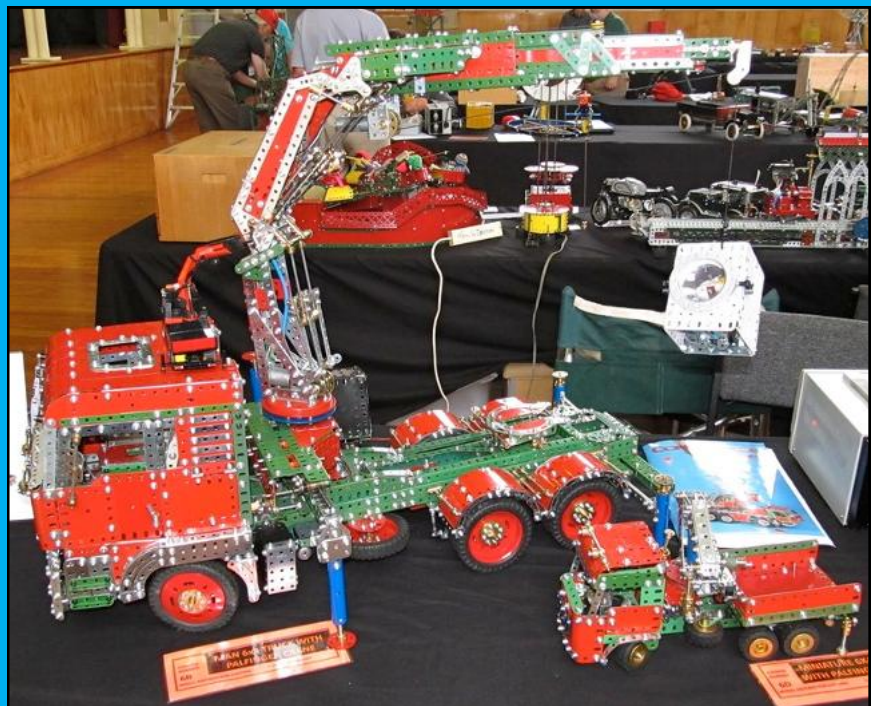
Les Megget "adjusting" something in his Liebherr Compact Mobile Crane, 2nd Senior Prize.



Mike Stuart and his Fantasy Factory, 3rd equal.

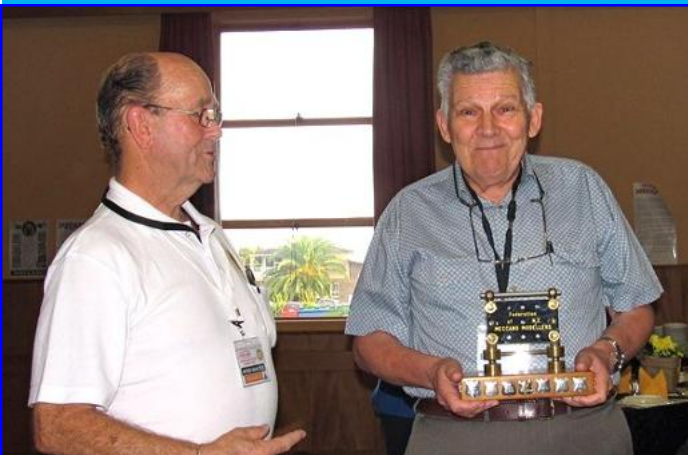
MAN 6x4 Truck with Palfinger Crane fitted by Les Megget, 3rd equal. Crane lifting Rabbid's washing machine with Rabbid still at home!

Front right is the "junior" model of the same truck and crane.





Daryl Anderson's huge Hammerhead Crane, Commended Prize.



David Wall (AMG President) receives the Club Trophy from Peter Hancock. Note look of glee on David's face!



An obviously happy Neil Carey receiving the Senior Trophy & certificate from Peter.

Meccano in 1930 and 1931

Max George obtained the following from a fellow tramper Jill Goodwin, whose father was involved with Meccano in 1930 – 1931.

My father, Burton Wallace Collins, was born in 1916, so he was 14-15 during these two years of busy Meccano activity.

He had started keeping a diary in 1929, (with only a little bit of Meccano activity in that year) and continued the diary for many years. I have extracted from these two years, only the Meccano activity, although it was tempting to leave in a lot of detail about bikes, carts, the canoe, Father's car, school, work, books read, and family life. They lived up on The Spur, near Redcliffs, Sumner, Christchurch. There were three boys: Clifford, Burton (my father) and Noel (also 'Bull'), and one girl, Ruth.

I didn't include the many entries where there was just the single word 'Meccano', meaning they had spent some time with it. I only included those entries where he had something to say about Meccano.

The list under 'Memoranda', 1930, must be a list of all the models Burton and Noel made that year.

1930

MEMORANDA

Meccano models –

Meccangaroo, Bird Trap, Vertical Steam engine, Steam lorry, Gear-box, Farm Tractor, Electric Truck, Tractor, Aeroplane, Racing Car, Collapsible Table, Motor chassis, Acrobat, Scenic Railway, two internal expanding brakes, and tanks, speed reducer, tapper keys, Penny in the slot machine, differential Ackerman steering, two or three little models, trolleys, A rare motorcar, epicyclic gear box, Meccano, Motor chassis, front wheel drive, electric overhead locomotive, Austin Series, Tank, Motor Car, Cross Bow, Heathcote Bridge,

Tank, Steam winch, Friction Grip Tongs, Truck, Wireless set, Tractor, Magic box, Gear change, Telfer [?] line.

5-Jan Sunday: Made Meccano Models before and after dinner. Noel made a bird trap, and I made the "Meccangaroo" and a horizontal oscillating type steam engine. It looked very neat. The "Meccangaroo" waddled down a sloping board.

11-Jan Saturday: Undid Meccano and helped Noel make a steam lorry (Model 3.51 in manual) with gear box, Ackerman steering gear, and imitation laminated springs, lights and bumper-bars, using Meccano 6 volt electric motor. Did this before dinner and until tea-time as well as after tea a while. The lorry looks very realistic but it would not work from the motor.

12-Jan Sunday: Finished Meccano model of lorry before dinner. After dinner did a little Meccano then went for bathe. When I came home Noel had got the model to work quite well with the motor.

13-Jan Monday: Went down to chalet and played with Meccano. Made a Farm Tractor and did a bit to the steam lorry. The tractor had the clock-work motor in it and looked all right. It went along well. Meccano 2-3. Went down to township to do messages. Got Meccano from John Thomson. Took minute book to Derek Hall. Did some broadsiding in cart on sand and in shingle on Esplanade.

14-Jan Tuesday: Meccano in chalet all morning. Made Farm tractor etc. It was very wet and cold all day. The lower rain-water tank inlet must be blocked for it does not fill up much. After lunch we (Noel and I) went to township in cart.

15-Jan Wednesday: Breakfast then Meccano all morning. Made a folding-up table and a racing motor car, both from Manual but slightly different.

After dinner for an hour Meccano also. Had broken axle of cart yesterday so took it off to get a new one about 2.30.

26-Jan Sunday: Undid the Meccano Models we had made up. Made a chassis with Ackermann steering gear.

27-Jan Monday: After breakfast, Noel and I did Meccano in chalet. Made a motor chassis with electric motor in it and springs that really worked. Got messages etc. in township in cart. Bent front axle and can't get it off to straighten it.

29-Jan Wednesday: Meccano after breakfast. Tried to put differential gear in the chassis.

11-Feb Tuesday: Read Meccano Magazine January No. ? after tea. It was very interesting.

5-Apr Saturday: Meccano Club meeting at 7. I am secretary, Noel Treasurer. Meetings once a month.

6-Apr Sunday: Meccano and trains all morning, sand papered rails and got electric engine to work! Trains after Bible Class.

24-May Saturday: Father bought us 12/- worth of Meccano parts for us to be able to build the Meccano Motor Chassis (Article in M.M.) which we had looked over yesterday. Started making it - 8.30 after tea. Bed 9.

25-May Sunday: Rose 7.30. Meccano Motor Chassis.

7-Jun Saturday: Meccano Club at Derek Hall's. Competition and Noel demonstrated the chassis. It went very well.

15-Jun Sunday: Meccano till dinner time. Got our wireless set going perfectly. It is wired as the Meccano Wireless Set shown in a Meccano Mag. I heard the Ven Archdeacon York preach at the Cathedral as well as other things. Very clear. Bed 8.45.

21-Jun Saturday: In the afternoon we tried to get the Wireless to go for the Test Match at Dunedin, but only got a few murmurings from 3YA we think, not 3ZC.

Meccano Club at 7. Only Derek Hall came. Had not a bad time in Chalet. Bed 9.30.

22-Jun Sunday: Meccano. Undid the chassis and Noel started making a "front wheel drive" that he finished just before tea. It worked quite well. Tried to get the wireless going but could not.

29-Jun Sunday: Meccano. Electric Loco with overhead pick up. It goes fairly well.

19-Jul Saturday: Meccano Club. Only Derek Hall came. Meccano.

20-Jul Sunday: Meccano. I went on with a model "Baby Austin" Noel started.

3-Aug Sunday: Meccano in morning. Clifford and I wrote a letter to Models Ltd, Auckland agents for Meccano Ltd, about our electric loco, which has been going badly. We are going to send it up for repairs.

9-Aug Saturday: At 11 Noel and I went on our bicycles round to Heathcote to make drawings of the bridge. We got back in time for dinner at 1pm. The drawings were to make a Meccano model of it at our next Meccano Club night.

16-Aug Saturday: Meccano Club at Duff's at night. Clifford came. Made a model of Heathcote Bridge. We got first place. Clifford brought us home in the car.

18-Aug Monday: Went on with the Meccano Wireless Set Noel and I are making for a competition of the Wireless Club at school.

30-Aug Saturday: Meccano Club here. New members.

4-Sep Thursday: Meccano a little. Noel has made a Traction Engine with Clockwork Motor that pulls him along on a Meccano platform!

It was shown in the Meccano Magazine.

13-Sep Saturday: Fixed up layout in Chalet for electric loco, which we have got back from Auckland. It goes very well now.

Meccano Club at Johnsons Custom Str. Annual Feed.

Coleridge still falling. All street lights out in Sumner.

27-Sep Saturday: Meccano Club. Trains most of the time. The electric loco is going stunner.

11-Oct Saturday: Meccano Club at Booths'. Saw their wireless set. Heard: Wellington, Dunedin, Christchurch, Sydney, Brisbane and others!

1931

08-Apr Wednesday: Got letters and certificates of affiliation for Sumner Meccano Club.

26-Apr Sunday: Meccano in afternoon. Made a truck.

MEMORANDA for May

Meccano Club. I am Leader, Bull Treasurer. Borth[?] Secretary, Father Pres. On May 2 we had 12 present. It is a fair crowd for the Chalet. It is going well now.

02-May Saturday: Meccano Club. More new members about 15 altogether. Derek Hall rode down from town.

09-May Saturday: Meccano Club at 7. Good attendance. 15 members.

23-May Saturday: Cleared up Chalet. Car in afternoon. Meccano Club at 7. Competition that I got up. J. Booth 1st.

06-Jun Saturday: Messages etc. Car. Meccano Club 7 - 9.30. Lectures and trains. Bed 10.30.

13-Jun Saturday: Jobs, etc. Car in afternoon. Meccano for Competition on 19th. M.C.

18-Jun Thursday: Mr Lewis manager of Models Ltd, Meccano Agents for N.Z. is coming to our M.C. meeting tomorrow at 7 o'clock.

19-Jun Friday: Meccano Club meeting at night. Mr Lewis came and gave 10/- in prizes for an Aero-plane Competition. Noel won it. Meeting went well. Bed 12 o'clock.

20-Jun Saturday: Thought about the M.C.'s having an exhibition at our place. It might be possible.

04-Jul Saturday: Meccano. Made a Safety Safe with Combination Dials etc. Works quite well.

11-Jul Saturday: Meccano Club at night. Good attendance. About 16.

25-Jul Saturday: Meccano Club at Mrs Brown's Scarborough. Good.

08-Aug Saturday: Meccano Club at our place. Nothing special. Bed 11.

19-Aug Wednesday: Grays have promised to lend us a model for the Meccano Club.

22-Aug Saturday: Meccano Club - the model we borrowed from Gray's.

24-Aug Monday: Sumner Meccano Club was invited with the Christchurch one to Visit Linwood Loco Depot. Interesting. 11 from Sumner. 13 from town.

MEMORANDA for September

4-Sep Friday: Meccano anniversary meeting at 7pm, feed etc.

19-Sep Saturday: Mr Archbold gave us a talk at the Meccano Club.

13-Oct Tuesday: Noel has sent his list of Meccano parts for his prize to Auckland.

17-Oct Saturday: Mr Handisides is to give a talk at the Meccano Club meeting tonight.

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2013 NZFMM BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING

Fifty two people attended the meeting [thirty three NZFMM members and twenty one family and friends] which was held in the Concert Chamber of the Pukekohe Town Hall adjacent to the 2013 Convention venue, which began at 6:15pm on Saturday 30th April 2013.

David Wall, President of the Auckland Meccano Guild hosting the NZFMM 2013 Convention and Exhibition, warmly welcomed everyone to this special weekend and the dinner to follow. David commented on how pleased he was to see the high level of enjoyment, participation and fellowship being enjoyed by all in attendance. David went on to thank **Peter Hancock** who had led the convention team responsible for this event.

David passed the management of the business section of the meeting over to outgoing NZFMM President Peter Hancock to chair.

Apologies were received by the meeting from:

Selwyn Bluett (MWT) who sent his best wishes to all attending;

John Hanson in Australia, sent his best wishes and said he was sadly missing his NZ friends;

Tom Pittams (MWT) had planned to be in attendance but did not feel up to the long trip;

Mike Howse (CMC) had planned to attend but was unable to do so for personal reasons;

Richard Sealey (AMG) who had been on site but had to return home for family reasons.

It was noted that **Ross Mitchell** who has been experiencing health problems is improving and Stan Baker will take the best wishes of this meeting back to him.

It is with sadness that we note that our great friend and fellow Meccanoman, **Lloyd Spackman** has had to dispose of his Meccano recently as he is now in hospital care. All in attendance at the meeting send their warm regards to Lloyd and Peter will arrange for a letter and copy of the Convention video to be sent to him.

In Memory: The meeting took time to remember the sad loss of two special friends, colleague's and senior Meccanoman who were both honoured Life Members of the NZFMM and who have passed away since our last meeting held in Palmerston North in 2011. **Bruce Neilson** passed away in July 2011 and during October 2012 we said farewell to

Don Blakeborough, a founder member of our beloved NZFMM and recipient of the Golden Spanner Award.

President Elect: In accordance with the existing NZFMM Rules, the Presidents/Chairpersons of the four New Zealand wide Clubs/Guild being; AMG [Auckland Meccano Guild], MWT [Manawatu, Wanganui and Taranaki Meccano Club], WMC [Wellington Meccano Club] and CMC [Christchurch Meccano Club] are the only four[4] persons who vote for a new NZFMM President. In accordance with this procedure the meeting was advised that from the close of this meeting, **Neil Pluck**, President of CMC Meccano Club will assume the role of President of the NZFMM for the next period. It was noted that this is the first time ever that a member of our southernmost Meccano club will fill the role of NZFMM President. The meeting wished Neil well in his new role as President.

Constitution and Rules of NZFMM: After considerable thought and consultation it has been agreed by all four Meccano Groups that the existing "Rules" of the NZFMM as they stand should continue without change and that no further action is taken with the draft constitution and rules that have been under consideration over the past several years. The members in attendance signified their general agreement with this action. Peter Hancock advised the meeting that although there had been some legal advice sort during the period of consultation and review that the NZFMM has not incurred any legal costs.

Treasurers Report: Treasurer **Bob Prescott** noted that the end of the financial year for the NZFMM would take place the next day so he was not in a position to provide a definitive statement on the accounts at this meeting. He assured the meeting that finances were on track and that a copy of the year end accounts will be published in the May edition of the NZFMM magazine.

Peter thanked Bob for his on-going time and effort as NZFMM Treasurer and for keeping the membership role in order as well as his efforts in looking for ways to increase membership numbers. Bob reported that with the introduction of the electronic PDF subscription system that there had been a relatively small number of magazine subscribers stop their hardcopy in favour of the electronic version and overall there has been a positive increase in both hardcopy and PDF copy subscription sales in the past year.

Peter is managing the distribution of the PDF version of the magazine and apologised to those subscribers who had experienced glitches and delays in receiving their PDF copies during the year. All valued subscribers who experience a problem or want to enquire where their copy is should email Peter at peter@augustus.co.nz. Peter went on to report that he has been communicating with other Meccano Clubs internationally with the objective of operating a PDF exchange system of Meccano magazines. There has been a positive reaction to the idea. Obviously individual local Meccano groups receiving exchange copies of magazines will only display them on a computer or print one copy which can be viewed at club meetings so as not to damage existing subscriptions memberships of any of the clubs involved. New Zealand groups who are interested in participating should contact Peter for further information.

Cheque Signatories: NZFMM currently pays magazine related expenses by cheque which must be validated by two signatures. There are three NZFMM signatories appointed at any one time as a precaution to ensure that in the event that one signatory is not available that payments are made in a timely manner. Lloyd Spackman is currently one of these signatories. Lloyd has asked to be relieved of this responsibility. Bob asked that the following motion be moved: "That the NZFMM cheque signatories' documentation for and with the bank be revised by removing Lloyd's signature and that Mr **Reg Barlow's** signature and authority be added. That the prescribed documentation provided by the bank be completed and that this meeting authorise Bob Prescott and Peter Hancock to sign said documents." Motion was moved by Paulette Morton, seconded by Les Megget and approved by the meeting.

Magazine Report: Editor **Les Megget** advised that he was pleased with the way the magazine was developing. It is planned that the magazine will continue to be issued four times annually and contain twenty eight pages. As funds permit the magazine will move to full colour. Obviously the number of pages in each edition is dependent on contributions and photos from everyone! Les advised that if sufficient materials are not forthcoming for each edition he will "shoulder tap" for contributions.

Les stated that the May edition will be in full colour and contain a wide representation of photos of the proceedings from this Convention. Les then thanked the magazines "Chief Proof-Reader" **Bruce**

Geange. Bruce's help is invaluable. Bruce is also responsible for the packaging and posting of all hardcopies of the magazine.

Peter thanked Les on behalf of all NZFMM members and subscribers to our worthy magazine for his dedication in providing members with a very high quality magazine, which is held in high regard by "Meccano persons" Internationally.

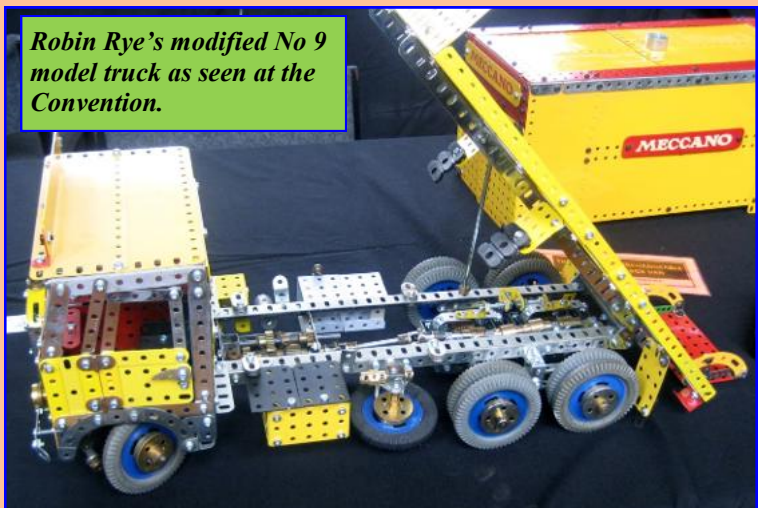
Future Conventions/Exhibitions: The meeting agreed without dissent with the principal that in future each Meccano Group who takes up the responsibility to mount and run "biennial national events" will be at liberty to determine the "makeup" of the occasion and apportion the time to be allocated for member's convention and/or public exhibition. It will be the responsibility of the hosting group on each occasion to ensure that members are notified through the magazine the details of the event they are planning in reasonable time to enable individuals to make an informed decision as to whether they will participate or not. This motion was moved by David Wall and seconded by **Neil Carey**.

Next Convention/Exhibition Venue: Stan Baker President of the Wellington Meccano Club said that they are keen to host the 2015 event. WMC are working on a plan and will advise members of the details of the 2015 event as soon as practically possible.

March Madness 2014: Simon Moody gave advance notice of a Meccano-persons event to be held in Taupo during March 2014. Further details of this event and model challenge will be provided in the May edition of the magazine.

Peter then thanked members for their support during his term as President of this very special body of people. He wished Neil Pluck well as he takes up the presidency. The meeting closed at 6.40pm.

Robin Rye's modified No 9 model truck as seen at the Convention.



Christchurch Meccano Club

Est. 1929

January 2013 Quarterly Report

Mike Howse

The period November 2012 through to January 2013 has been relatively quiet period the Meccano front for most members of the CMC; however two significant events come to mind.

The club has lost one of its long serving members and previous Treasurer **Doug King** who passed away in January; Doug is survived by his wife Audrey.

The other event was when CMC members **Neil and Grace Pluck, Hugh and Sandra Aston and Roland Jaspers** went down to Oamaru in support of local Oamaru Meccano stalwart **Ross Mitchell** and his group of very talented young model builders from the local *Weston School Modeling Club* to a Meccano Display held in conjunction with the local Oamaru Heritage weekend.

Whilst the actual facility in which the display was held was "average", to say the least, a very good turnout by the general public made for a very enjoyable weekend.

At our December Christmas meeting the winners of the monthly model building competition were announced by President **Neil Pluck**, prizes were for the winners of each section. Points for models are awarded at each monthly Club meeting and accumulate to the December meeting.

Seniors:

1st prize
2nd prize
3rd prize

John Hamlyn
David Littlefair
Hugh Aston

Novices:

1st prize
2nd prize
3rd prize (equal)

Nathan Littlefair
Joy McFarland
Sam and Alex Littlefair

All winners were presented with Meccano Set prizes.

At the February meeting Club members are considering either holding or participating in a number of displays in the 2013/2014 years. The Clubs Exhibition Committee will be bringing recommendations

back to Club members in March 2013. Ideas up for consideration are; Woolston School Fair in late February, representation at the NZFMM Convention in Auckland over Easter 2013, participation in the annual, and very popular, Model Train Display later in 2013 and perhaps the CMC holding of a bigger display over Easter 2014.



Novice winner Nathan Littlefair receives his cup and prize from President Neil Pluck.

We are continuing to get prospective new members attending our meetings; at the December and February meetings we have had two prospective new members in attendance.



John Hamlyn receives his Senior Cup and prizes.



Alf & Raelene Turner and Joffre Marshall at meeting.

MWT MECCANO CLUB – REPORT for MEETING on 9 FEBRUARY 2013

By Lou Nichols - Photos by Bruce Geange

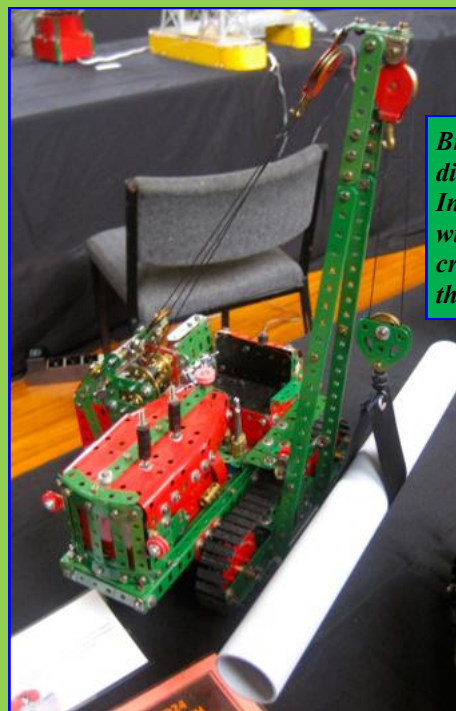
A beautiful sunny summers day greeted members to our first meeting for 2013 and a good attendance made for a worthwhile afternoon. Readers of this column will know that MWT members are inveterate collectors of all things Meccano and today was no exception with **Viv Alexander** starting the day off with a non-constructional sports car in blue and white complete with original box from October 1935. A full description and colour options of this car are given in Vol.6 of the Cavendish series, page 144. Viv also has a very interesting Meccano Magazine of December 1934 which has been inserted front and back with four extra pages so that it becomes an exclusive Canadian version.



Chris Morton brought along his auction successes, namely a *Hornby Dublo* train set with original box. Meccano parts finished in the not very usual colour of grey, with the paint still in very good order, the parts being a digger bucket, boiler and sleeve pieces, triple pulley and two pieces of the roller bearing. His third offering was a good range of parts including once again in good order wheels, plates and strips in maroon and dark green.

Paul Vodanovich has a good collection of vintage Meccano which he re-furbishes and had with him a three hole nickel strip with 1 1/2" imprinted into it, there doesn't appear too many parts that have the size imprinted on them. His modern contribution was a very good looking racing car in orange/silver format from set No. 6550. It ran very well on its electric motor.

Daryl Anderson had with him a watch this space assembly, the start of a Tower Crane that will be four metres high and destined for the Convention at Easter. It will look very smart in green livery. Daryl, whilst he was in Malaysia recently, purchased as collector's items two small modern alternative construction outfits. *Eitech* from Germany, a Meccano like metal set and *Nanoblock*, more of a Lego like set in plastic which told us it was designed in Japan and made in China.



Bruce's T 24 diesel crawler by International with pipe laying crane as seen at the Convention.



Hugh Ramage has been working on Knitting Machines recently and we saw Mks.1, 2 and 3 in action. All fully working and each one with a slightly different mechanism to achieve the knitted skein. Ticking away nicely was Hugh's version of a Nuremberg clock in red/green and powered by a No.1 clockwork motor. This model won 2nd Prize at the 2012 Egmont A. & P. Show in the Leisure, Pleasure and Treasures division. Hugh is up to a challenge and brought along his Brick Lifting Device powered only by a No.1 clockwork motor. It has to be seen to be believed.



Hugh Ramage's Brick Lifting device powered by a No. 1 clockwork motor.

Lou Nichols brought along his nearly finished Beam Engine by Mike Cotterill that featured in the NMMG Constructor Projects Book 2. Enough of the model was finished that demonstrated the very good appearance it will have when complete.

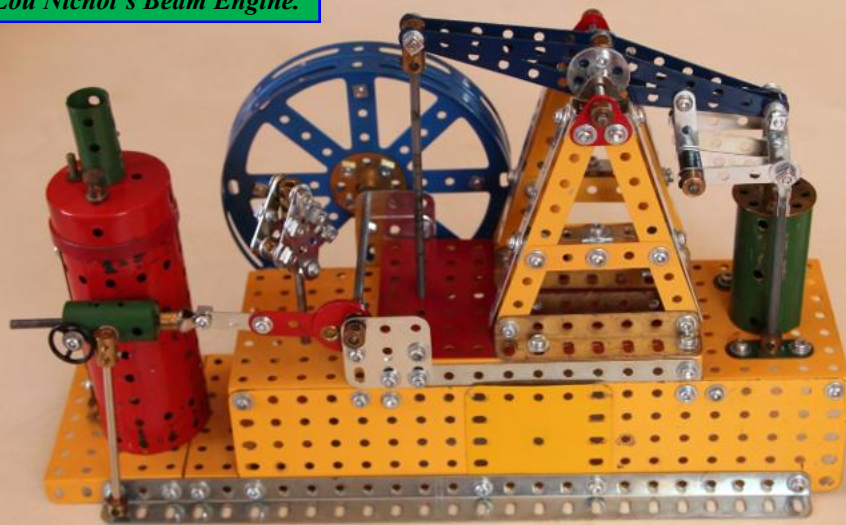
To finish, **Bob Prescott and Wayne Blakely** had with them newer parts and sets that have been added to the Meccano range. Bob showed C371, a new type right angled brace girder, C372, a larger integrated spring and C369, a right angled plate. All these parts are contained in set 7550. Wayne had the three sets from the Tin Tin Range, namely the 0551, 4 x 4 Jeep, 0552, the Seaplane and 0553, the Galleon. If you are into war models, then the



new models, named *Gears of War Range* should appeal. All are finished in dark grey and lots of plastic with a minimum of construction is the order of the day. The sets featured are 0450, *Battle Set – Locust v. Delta Squad*, 5450, *Armadillo – Twin Gun Platform*, 6450, *Centaur Mobile Gun* and 8450, *King Raven Helicopter*.

Bruce Geange always manages to fit lots into a very compact space in his very detailed working models. Today his contribution was a T.24 Diesel Crawler Tractor by International Harvester in red/green with the additions of a Crane Jib on one side for pipe laying and on the other side the provision of a counter-weight. The model has five miniature six volt motors. Bruce also indulges in Model Engineering and today we saw his *Sterling Hot Air Engine*. The engine does run on hot air when fired up and running. Each end of the engine, (cylinder) alternatively becomes hot and cold and runs at 1,100 rpm.

Lou Nichol's Beam Engine.



All in all, a diverse and interesting range of contributions for our first meeting of the year.

Did you know that the latest spanners shipped with modern sets are all individually dated, forget about string, collect spanners, (**Robin Rye**).

From the 1929 Meccano magazine Mr. C.S. Helps writes "In 1913 I was on a job that was a heavy strain on my mental equipment. I started to show signs of collapse so I went to a doctor. After a lot of questions he prescribed a set of Meccano, to be played with for two hours daily! It worked and I have never really given it up."

Spanner was a buzz recently with lots of discussions on making a Meccano model of the French knitting machine or rats tails they were common when I was a boy using a cotton reel with 4 nails at the top to knit the threads the rat's tail appearing as if by magic from the base.

Now Meccanomen are doing it in style by using knitting hooks and a Meccano mechanism to take the tedium out of making them (rats tails).

Two machines were present at the latest Meccano Convention in Pukekohe and both showed a great degree of inventiveness.

David Couch from Nelson invented the first machine in 2012.

Hugh Ramage from Wanganui invented a much faster machine which was on display at the convention along with that of **Stan Baker**.

Also on Spanner recently was the discovery of a 1931 no 2 display cabinet in Auckland NZ as pictured in the Meccano flyers from that era.

It would be fair to say that as far as we know; no others have yet been located making this cabinet really special.

For those who want a tantalizing glimpse check out:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/meccanohig/sets/72157633279709656/>

(Ed. Gary's image of the cabinet below).



We will be posting an article on the finding later in the NZFMM Magazine with any updates since the find.

I was looking in the NZFMM Magazine from February 1994 and developed a sense of déjà vu. There on the front page was our very own **Neil Carey** with a black and white picture of a Challenger type 3985 Union Pacific locomotive, for which he won the award for



the most outstanding model the Senior Modeller's trophy (exhibitor's choice). As you who were at the Auckland Convention know he has done it again with his NZR WW tank locomotive. Well done Neil.

In the book *Cape to Cairo Railway* by George Tabor, in describing progress on the Railway line from Beira on the Mozambique coast to Umtali in Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) in 1893 he says:

"The railway was an amazingly successful 2 feet gauge miniature line, almost thrown together like a giant Meccano set on the rough and ready earthworks."

Incidentally this line was the longest 2 foot narrow gauge line ever built at 200 miles. It was later converted to the broader 3ft 6in gauge.

**N.Z. FEDERATION OF MECCANO MODELLERS
Income and Expenses - April 2012 to March 2013**

2011/12		2012/13
3937.23	Cash Book Balance March 1, 2012	4562.88
INCOME		
3322.00	Subscriptions N.Z.	3152.00
805.20	Subscriptions, Australia	688.50
753.71	Subscriptions, Rest of World	549.13
35.34	Subscriptions in advance	52.00
7.00	Back copies & casuals	10.00
46.00	Donations	91.00
<hr/>		<hr/>
<u>4969.25</u>		<u>4542.63</u>
8906.48		9105.51
EXPENSES		
3046.82	Printing 4 Issues	2364.40
10.76	Printing back copies	-----
27.60	Printing Subs. list	-----
39.22	Printing Subs. Renewal forms	-----
34.50	Printing Feb. folly model	-----
1104.70	Postage	1276.60
80.00	Plastic Wrapping	40.00
-----	Envelopes	-----
<hr/>	Labels	<u>30.72</u>
<u>4343.60</u>		<u>3711.72</u>
4562.88	Cash Book Balance March 1, 2013	5393.79
Bank Reconciliation		
	Cash Book Balance March 1, 2013	5393.79
	plus 13/14 Subs paid since 1/3/13	<u>2861.52</u>
	Bank Balance April 8 th , 2013	<u>\$8255.31</u>

Note: Last year's surplus helped us to keep the same subscription rates for this year.

Bob Prescott
NZFMM Treasurer

The next **March Madness** will be held in Taupo on Saturday March 8th
2014. Pencil in the date into your diary NOW.
Simon Moody is organising the "Meccano Challenge" and full
instructions will be included in the August issue.

MWT MEETING REPORT for 13th APRIL 2013

Article by Daryl Anderson, photos by Bruce Geange

Twenty members and a visitor gathered for our normal monthly meeting at St. Luke's in Wanganui. In the absence of **Lou Nichols** our regular scribe, this report is by Secretary **Daryl Anderson** and photos by **Bruce Geange**.

The model theme was 'Meccano used in a non model application' This means where you have used Meccano to repair something, a jig in the workshop or make something that is not a model.

Paul Vodanovich proudly showed a recent purchase, the number 10 outfit recently advertised for sale in this Magazine. He also showed the development of making corner gusset plates from other parts and how they were drilled in a lathe. Another recent purchase was a 5 model set at 30% discount from Farmers. Paul's model for today's theme was where he had used Meccano to repair a ukulele. He gave us a good but very brief tune!



Robin Rye had made a derrick modification to his Taupo challenge truck to make it into a brick lifter. Using a powerful electric motor it made short work of lifting the brick from the floor. When questioned that it is meant to be lifted by clockwork motor, Robin hooked the up to a clockwork motor which was then attached to the brick to lift it. Rules are written to be interpreted in many ways....

Richard Feltham couldn't attend the last meeting so also brought his brick lifter. He calculated the number of Newton's needed to lift it and produced a splendid machine using 4 clockwork motors together driving the gear train and it did indeed lift the brick on one wind.

Daryl Anderson had two models for this meeting's theme, a back massager copying a wooden version purchased overseas. This used 16 multipurpose gears and those who tried were satisfied. The other model was a photo of a yeast agitator he made for his son-in-law for home brewing.

Daryl's back massager.



John Ince displayed a fine 1926 number 3 set for sale at \$240.

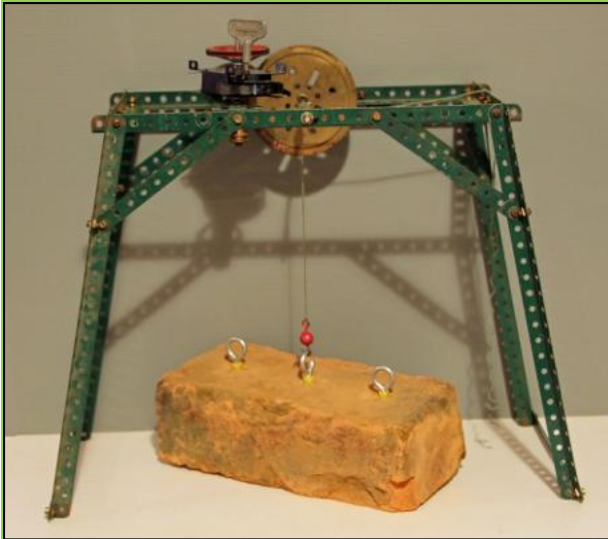
Stan Baker showed us his latest bits for sale including a nice radio control system with powerful servos, rubber rings and high capacity batteries.

Hugh Ramage showed a strip roller he recently made as in the past when he needed to roll strips went and borrowed one from another member.



*Robin shows how to lift a brick using a clockwork motor, not!
What's holding the front of the truck down Robin, another clockwork motor?*

Contrary to popular opinion, **Chris Morton** can make models and after taking the brick home after the last meeting produced a great model that lifted the brick using only a magic motor. We calculated the gear reduction at approx 1:800 and after a few winds to take up the slack it did indeed lift the brick. Well done Mort.



Graham Hawtree showed a recent purchase we all would like to own, a rather nice Number 10 outfit that looked unused and was believed to be owned by the late Bert Love. Nice to see two 10 sets in the hall on the same day.

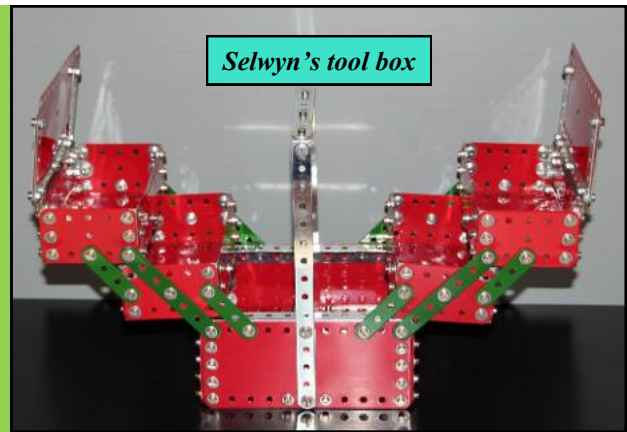
Bruce Geange showed us a model in more detail he had at the Convention, a splendid International T6. Powered by 4 models all remote controlled. When Bruce removed the covers we could see the fine details inside.

Selwyn Bluett's model to the theme was a great little tool box with cantilevered trays. A great way to use up 6 of p/n 52.

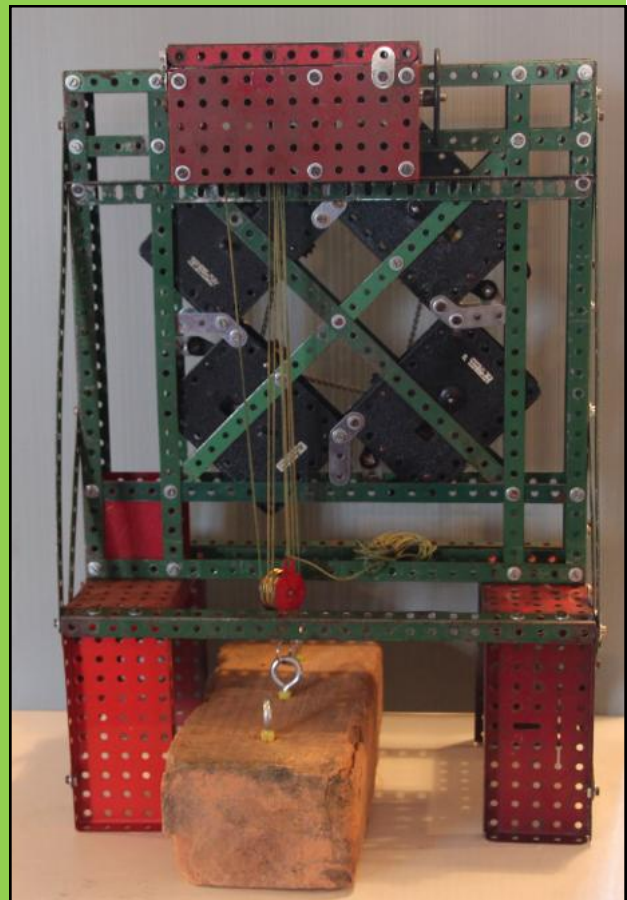
John Freer's contribution was a horizontal steam he proudly displayed at the Convention. This features a hidden scotch yoke drive.

It was great to have the model tour so members could show the intricacies of their models, sadly this didn't happen in Auckland.

The successful meeting concluded with our usual fish and chip supper. Next meeting will be in May, a fellowship meeting in the Manawatu.

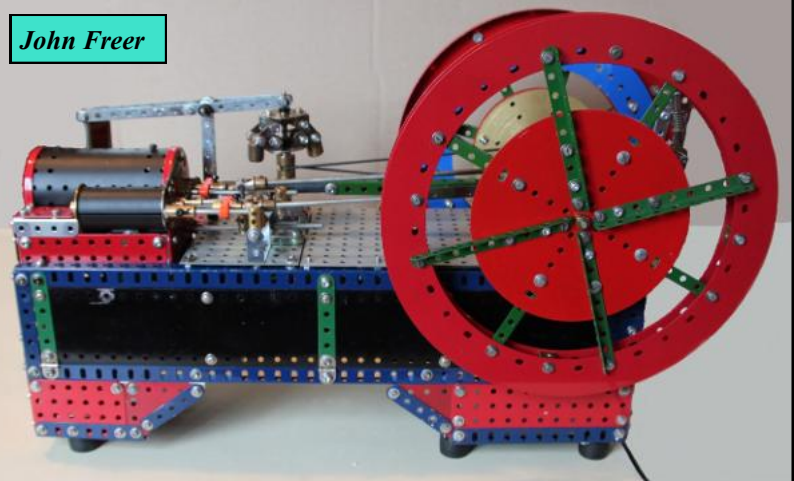


Selwyn's tool box



Richard Feltham's 4 clockwork motor job.

John Freer



New Zealand Club Diary 2013

Auckland Meccano Guild

President: David Wall, Tel. (09) 426 1965

Secretary: Peter Hancock, Tel. (09) 535 5355

Meetings at 2pm on second Saturday every third month. The next meeting will be held on **Saturday 10th August** at Neil Carey's, 23 Eaton Road, starting at 2pm.

MWT Meccano Club

Chairman: Chris Morton

Vice Chairman: Robin Rye

Secretary: Daryl Anderson, Tel. (06) 278 7666

Meetings at 2pm. Next meeting: **Saturday June 8th** at St. Luke's Church Hall, Corner Cornfoot and Manuka Streets, Wanganui.

Wellington Meccano Club

President: Stan Baker, Tel. (04) 566 7150

Secretary: Max George, Tel. (04) 232 4200

Contact: Lou Nichols, tel. (04) 297 1515

Meeting at 7:30pm on first Friday every second month. Next meeting: **Friday ??**

Christchurch Meccano Club

President: Neil Pluck, Tel. (03) 389 8134

Secretary: Roland Jaspers, Tel. (03) 358 1357

Meetings at 7:30pm on first Friday every month (except January) at Papanui RSA Club, 55 Bellvue Ave or No. 1 Harewood Road, Christchurch.

Additional Meccano Contacts

Hamilton: Don McClelland, Tel. (07) 843 4198

Hawera: Daryl Anderson, Tel. (06) 278 7666

Kapiti Coast: Bob Prescott, Tel. (04) 905 2963

Napier: Trevor Adam, Tel. (06) 843 4837

Palmerston North: Bruce Geange, Tel. (06) 357 0566

Nelson: John Stark, Tel. (03) 545 1025

Articles, etc. for the August 2013 issue of NZFMM Magazine should be sent to Les Megget before the 1st August 2013.

Back Numbers: NZFMM Magazines from April 2001 are available. Please contact Bruce Geange.

Buy, Sell, Auction & Exchange

Advertisements in this section are free.

First insertion will be printed in full.

Subsequent identical insertions (max. 1) may be abbreviated to fit space available.

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Phone +64 4 566 7150 Evenings or +64 21 421 750
mobile
PO Box 25 444 Wellington



Exhibitors and their Partners at the 2013 NZFMM Convention at Pukekohe.



Back Row: Graeme Mills, Mike Stuart, Brian Hickson, John Jordan, Peter Hancock (Past President), Graeme Humphries.

Second Row, Rear: Daryl Anderson, Graeme Wrightson, Robin Rye, John Freer, Barry Babbage, David Shand, Trevor Adam, Neil Pluck (new President), Doug Harris, Gary Higgins.

Second Row, Front: Shirley Megget, Paulette Morton, Eileen Carey, ????, Rose Jacobson, Anne Prescott, Bob Prescott, Neil Carey, Malcolm Booker, Joan Booker, Elizabeth Wall, Janine Wrightson, Colleen Shand, Shirley Hickson, ????, Shirley Nichols.

Front Row: David Barnard, Don McClelland, Wayne Blakely, Bruce Geange, Simon Moody, David Wall, Stan Baker, Les Megget, Max George, Lou Nichols, Chris Morton.



The public were enchanted with Max George's Tricky Track, the Public Choice winner.