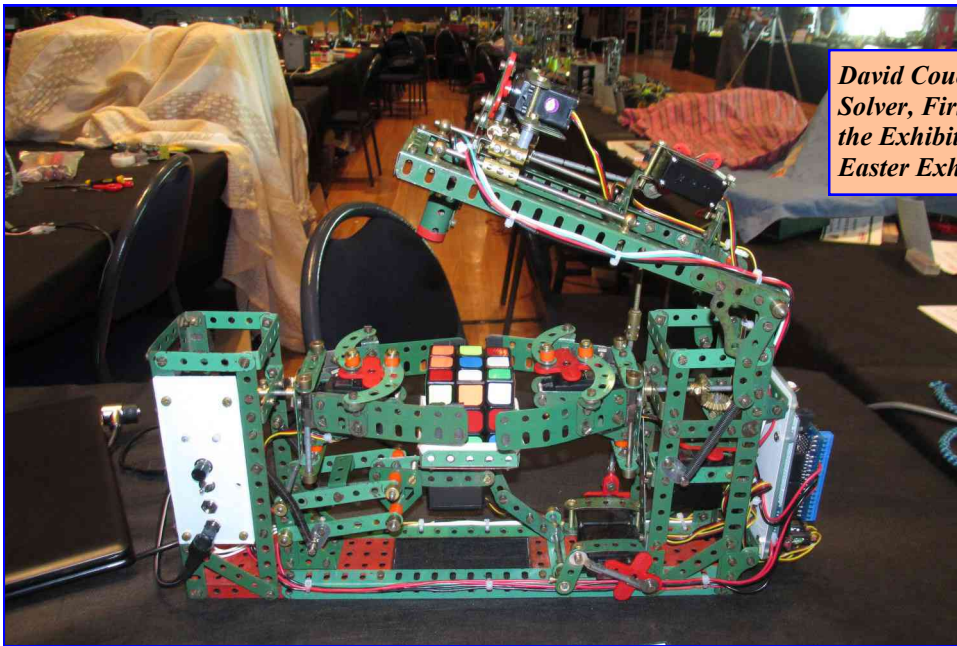




NZEMM MAGAZINE

Volume 39, No. 2

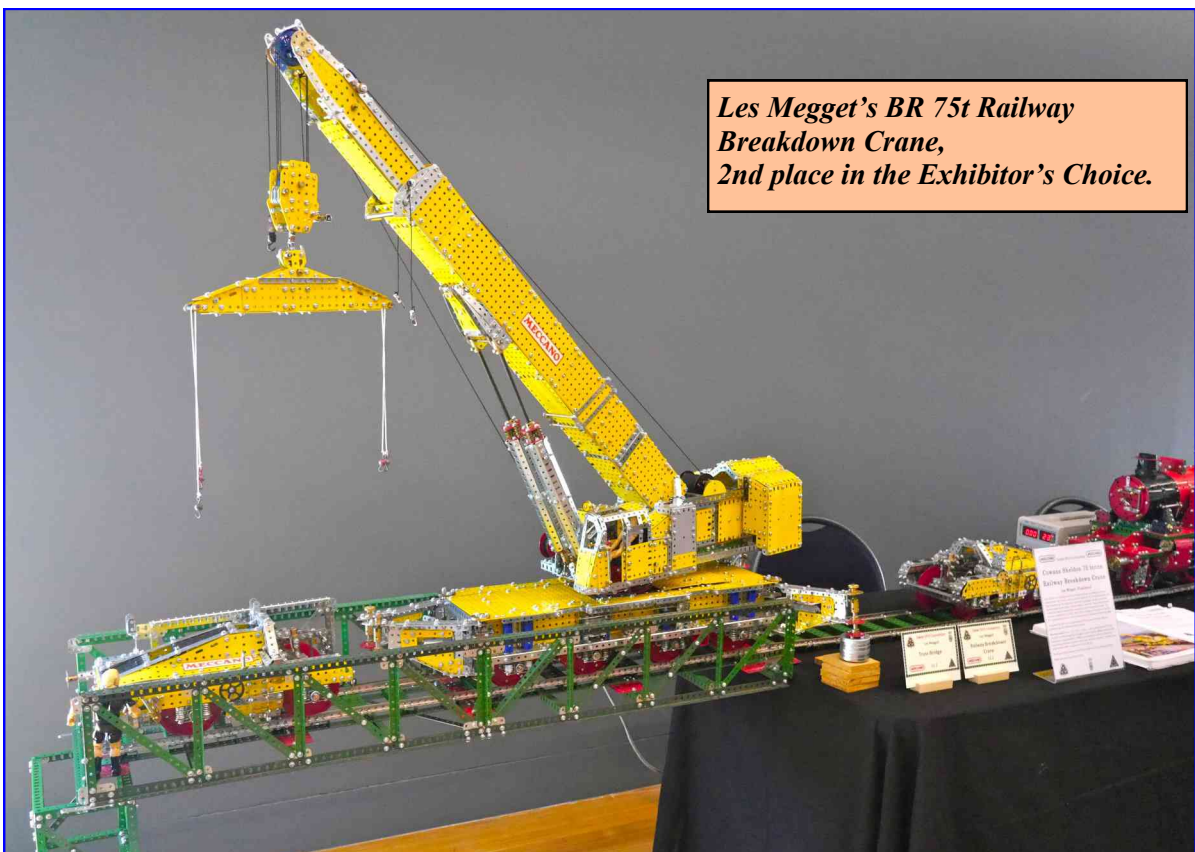
May 2015



David Couch's Rubik's Cube Solver, First Prize winner in the Exhibitor's Choice at the Easter Exhibition.

In this issue:

- *Te Papa Exhibition write-up and photos.*
- *Meccano Lift*
- *AMG and MWT Meeting reports*
- *Exhibition Model Building Table*
- *Gary's eBay pages.*



Les Megget's BR 75t Railway Breakdown Crane, 2nd place in the Exhibitor's Choice.

Published by The New Zealand Federation of Meccano Modellers

Volume 38, No. 3

NZ Federation of Meccano Modellers Magazine

Editor: Les Megget
231 Opaheke Road, RD4
Papakura 2584
Phone: 09 299 6668
Email: l.s.megget@slingshot.co.nz

Proof Reader: Bruce Geange
4 Winchester St., Palmerston North 4412
Email: a.b.geange@inspire.net.nz

The NZFMM Magazine is published four times a year in February, May, August and November. The publisher is the NZ Federation of Meccano Modellers. The purpose of the magazine is to publish articles and photographs about Meccano and Meccano models, to report the meetings of New Zealand Meccano Clubs, to print letters expressing the views of Meccano modellers, to keep members informed of future events and to print advertisements of Meccano related things. The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the editor or of the Federation.

Subscriptions run from April to March & are payable annually in March. If the subscription has not been paid by the 30th of April, the 1st edition of the new subscription year [May] will not be released.

Subscriptions may be paid by personal cheque [in most currencies] or by Bank Draft payable to "NZFMM Magazine Account". Please mail to Peter Hancock, P O Box 39 085, Howick, Auckland, 2145, New Zealand. Please enclose with your payment your 'full name, address & telephone number & if available email address'. Subscriptions can be made by 'Electronic Funds Transfer' from your bank account to the **NZFMM Magazine Bank Account: # 02-0136-0166165-000**. Ensure that you enter in the "Particulars" section your *initials or first name*: "Code" section, your *family name*: & "Reference" section, '2015-2016 sub'. Please send an email to peter@augustus.co.nz confirming your electronic payment & include in the body of the email your first Name & family name & where possible, telephone number.

2015/2016 subscription rates:
Within New Zealand: Hard copy mailed: NZ\$36;
Electronic pdf copy NZ\$10.

Overseas: Hard copy mailed: AU\$38; CAN\$38;
USA\$33; GB£22; EU€28.

Overseas: Electronic pdf: AU\$10; CAN\$9;
USA\$8; GB£5; EU€7.

New Zealander's paying for overseas subscribers in NZ\$: Hard copy only mailed O/seas: NZ\$43.

All subscription/delivery enquiries should be directed to Peter Hancock @ peter@augustus.co.nz, P O Box 39 085, Howick, Auckland 2145, New Zealand; or telephone +064 (9) 535 5355.

NZFMM Website:

The address is <http://www.nzfmm.co.nz> or <http://nzfmm.co.nz> The joint web masters are William Irwin and Gary Higgins. They can be contacted at webmaster@nzfmm.co.nz on NZFMM website matters.

EDITORIAL

The excellent Easter Exhibition at Te Papa has been and gone and this issue has my personal description of the Meccano Expo (as Te Papa called it) and many images of models displayed there. I attempted to include at least one model from each of the exhibitors, of which there were over 50. I had over 900 photos to work from, taken by Gary Higgins, over the 4 days of display. There was a full range of models on display from the small to the huge, from the simple to the complex with computer control. Clocks and cranes seemed to predominate though. I'm calling it an Exhibition because that is what it was, certainly not a Convention as we remember many past 2-yearly events.

You may have seen an article in a recent *NZ Listener* (May 2-8) about Rick Ellis the new Chief Executive of Te Papa. It states that the visitors to Te Papa over this Easter were up 10,000 on last Easter at 30,000. Now we know why that was don't we; a free Meccano Exhibition. The article makes it clear that Corporate shows are needed to bring in the cash to help cover the \$12M loss of the previous director. I can read between the lines that the WMC were very fortunate in not having to pay for the exhibition venue and how lucky the public were in not having to pay an entry fee. Very well done Stan Baker and the team.

Talking of Gary Higgins, he has kindly offered to write a regular EBay auction page about interesting Meccano and Hornby related items he has recently looked at. His first page is included in this issue.

At the General Meeting I asked the assembled exhibitors for articles about their models, lives, etc. for future issues. Immediately after the Expo Bryan and Nancy Jones responded with an article each, which are included within. I have also decided to give the book prize, earlier donated by Neil Pluck, to Bryan for his article about his complex Meccano lift model, see p18.

The *Meccanoid* robots were a fantastic success with the children and their parents at the Exhibition and these should be available locally this September. Stan Baker details how you can order these robots, at a reduced price, on page 24. My grandchildren would love these robots which means I might have to buy 2!

LM

Contents

NZFMM Exhibition write up	3-4
Convention Prize winning models	5
Models displayed at the Exhibition	6-17
A Meccano Lift	18-19
Gary's eBay column	20-21
Convention Model Building Table	21
AMG February Meeting Report	22-23
New Meccano sets being released this year	24
MWT Meeting Report	25-26
Comments about the Peoples' Choice voting	26
Exhibitors at Te Papa Exhibition	28

The NZFMM Exhibition, Te Papa Museum, Wellington, Easter 2015

by Les Megget

This year's Exhibition had taken a lot of planning by **Stan Baker** and his WMC team over the last 2 years. **John Stark and David Couch**, in Nelson, looked after the registrations, table set up and Convention information mail-outs.

Stan had early on called for "large models" and he certainly got that from me. In fact we needed 2 cars to get to Wellington, one for all my Meccano models and the other for Shirley and some clothes.

Our plan was to drop off said models at Te Papa on Easter Thursday afternoon when Stan would be marking out the table positions in the Visa Platinum Gallery on the 4th floor. This was accomplished and the models were moved upstairs for night storage. Stan had completed his table corner marking and the tables were in their cages ready for positioning the next morning. The cleaners were due in at 5am on Good Friday and thus the tables were not to be taken out of their cages till 8am. However these plans were scotched by 3 exhibitors, who should remain nameless, who somehow got themselves into the Gallery after the rest of us left for home. They found themselves locked in after 6pm but thanks to mobile phones were able to contact Stan who got security to let them out. However during the time waiting to be released they set out all the tables, not the plan at all! No way were they going to put the tables back in their cages. The cleaners arrived early morning and moved the tables to suit their floor polisher but also removed many of Stan's carefully measured sticky tape corners where the table rows were to go!

I arrived at the venue at about 8:30am on Good Friday to find the Gallery a hive of activity with most of the table cloths fitted (thanks to AMG and CMC for lending their table cloths) and some models being set up. The Museum opens at 10am but we were given till 11am to set up, before the public were allowed in. I believe there was a queue waiting at the doors prior to 11am.

Some of the 53 exhibitors had not arrived but they drifted in during the day and set up their models in front of an ever changing group of spectators. The visitors were plentiful and continuous over the 4 exhibition days with the Museum reporting 32,216

visitors over the Easter holidays with probably about 27,000 visiting the *Meccano Expo*, as it was called by Te Papa.

Elephanta, the NZ Meccano distributors had set up a large display with the recently announced models and their boxes. This included both Meccanoid robots who were in constant work over the 4 days. As you came up the stairs to the Visa Gallery you were greeted by the larger Meccanoid. There was always a large crowd of mainly parents and children being demonstrated to by *Elephanta* staff. The Meccanoid robots were a resounding success and many wanted to know when they were to be available here and their cost.

On the Saturday and Sunday Stan had arm-twisted 4 of us to give public addresses in the Soundings Theatre which seats 328. Unfortunately the crowds did not flock to these talks with about 20 being present for my talk on "Meccano & Structures". Many of the exhibitors were tied up with the crowd upstairs so it wasn't surprising that the audiences were small. The first talk was given by **Prof. Brenda and Robert Vale** (Victoria University of Wellington). Their topic was about the influence of children's toys on architecture. I was second up with **Gary Higgins** following me talking about the evolution of Meccano from *Mechanics Made Easy* through to the demise of Binns Road in the 1970s. Gary did a great job of covering this 80 odd years with many slides of sets produced over that time. The final talk was given the Brand Manager of Meccano in NZ, **Jason Curry** who gave an illustrated address about the future direction of Meccano following its purchase by *Spin Master* in 2013. His talk concluded with the large Meccanoid joining him on stage and going through some of its acts. These talks were recorded and will be available on DVD in the near future.

After the doors were shut at 6pm on the Saturday we moved a few chairs around and had the biennial General Meeting under the chair of NZFMM President **Neil Pluck**. There were no contentious issues and the meeting was over in about 15 minutes.

Stan then announced the prize winners, from votes provided by the exhibitors of their top 6 models. Unfortunately only 15 people had found the time to record their votes from the over 50 exhibitors present. Maybe it would be better to let the voting continue till the last morning and announce the winners late that afternoon, a la Skegex.

The winners were:

1st David Couch with his Rubik's Cube Solver,
2nd Les Megget, Railway Breakdown Crane,
3rd John Freer, Road Grader.

The Club Trophy was won by the **Christchurch Meccano Club** with **MWT** being a close second. Generous prizes to the value of \$500, \$300 and \$200 in Meccano sets were offered by *Elephanta* for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places, respectively.

The Public Choice winner was announced late on the last day, Easter Monday. Each visitor was given a form to fill in with their personal model choice. Thus there were thousands of forms to collate, a job that appeared to take most of Monday. The winner with over 800 votes was the ever-dancing, ever-singing *Mama Mia* by **Bob & Ann Prescott**. Second was **Max George** with his *Tricky Track* and **Graeme Jost** (Australia) with his horizontal *French Knitting Machine* was third.

The Exhibition dinner was held at a nearby Chinese Restaurant after the General Meeting and seemed to be enjoyed by all who attended. The promise of English fare (if required) didn't eventuate and a small number of exhibitors with dietary restrictions ate elsewhere. The Chinese dishes just kept arriving and Shirley and I were full up before the desserts appeared!

The children's Meccano building table was organized and run by **Nancy Jones**, using 800 small sets donated by *Elephanta*. The children were allowed to take their set home if a reasonable job of assembling it had been accomplished. The demand was so great that the number of sets available on any day was restricted. By lunchtime on the Monday the sets had run out. Nancy and her team of helpers, mainly partners of exhibitors, had a very busy few hours on all 4 days.

Te Papa had provided a breakout room for cups of tea and coffee, refreshments and for a rest (sleep) away from the maddening crowd. It was well used over the duration.

Some exhibitors had left on Sunday evening and a few more departed during Monday, so there were a few spaces without models but the crowd didn't seem to mind. In fact several people mentioned that it was a pity the display wasn't continuing for the rest of the school holidays! If that had occurred there would have been a lot of very fatigued (or dead) exhibitors, as it was 4 days (a Te Papa requirement) were probably one too many for most.

The final clear out went very well with the floor a clear space again within an hour of the Museum closing. The biggest hassle was getting the models down the lift to the entry dock for removal from the premises. Everyone was out of the place by about 8pm but Stan collected bits of his huge Eiffel Tower the next day.

The Te Papa staff were at all times very helpful and a small reduction was offered in the two Museum's cafes, food being prohibited in the Gallery.

There were a huge range of Meccano models on show (see a sample in this issue). Clocks were a particular favourite outnumbering the cranes by about 2 to 1. There were 4 or 5 Eiffel Tower models with one large one (**Peter Hancock**) in the entrance hall with a ticking clock (**Jeremy Sowerbutts**) to entice the public up the stairs to level 4.

Overseas exhibitors included:

John Pond (Cornwall, UK),
Murray & Jo Tullet (Mt. Colah, NSW, Aust.)
Graeme & Mary Jost (Melbourne, Australia),
Ross & Laurel Smith (Perth, Aust),
Malcolm & June Booker (Belrose, Aust),
Chris Johnson & Winnie Southcott (Newtown, NSW, Aust),
Bill & Annette Hassett (Adelong, NSW, Aust.)

The Hornby Train group had a large 0-gauge layout on show with many locos and rolling stock, many of which I hadn't seen for real before. The display of tinplate accessories was also excellent, as was the range of boxed train sets on display.

My thanks to Stan, the WMC members and the Nelsonians for organizing a very enjoyable Exhibition/Convention. The Convention in 2017 will be organized by CMC and will probably be in Christchurch but Nelson was also mentioned.



David Couch receives the Exhibitor's Shield from Stan Baker. The winning Rubik's Cube Solver is behind them.



3rd Place in the Exhibitor's Choice: John Freer's Road Grader.



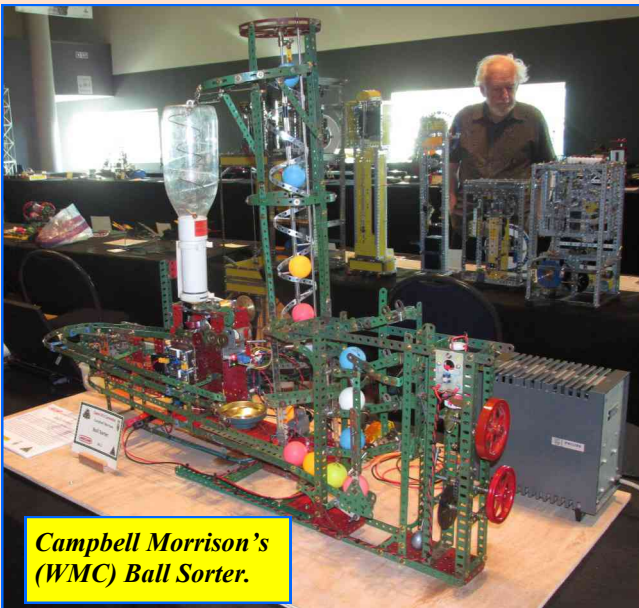
An oldie but a goodie: Bob and Anne Prescott's "Mama Mia", Peoples Choice Winner at the Te Papa Expo. Image from Elephanta's website.

From the Te Papa Expo



Bryan Jones: 4-storey lift. Note the large electronic control box.

Stan Baker's Eiffel Tower, the biggest at the Exhibition.



Campbell Morrison's (WMC) Ball Sorter.



High Ramage: "Balls Up"



David Littlefair (CMC): American Car.



Crocodile by Hugh Aston (CMC); note those teeth.



Some of the Cranes at the Exhibition

NZFMM President, Neil Pluck's large Linkbelt mobile crane and dump truck.



Robin Rye's Dockyard scene.



Part of Simon Moody's Sodor Line (Thomas and Friends) railway scene.

Alan Bensley adjusts his Tower Luffing Crane.



Stationary Hay Baler by Bruce Geange.



David Wall's Vertical Steam Engine.



Chris Johnson's Velocipede.



Andrew Simpson and his (Pirate) Radio Hauraki Ship.

International Exhibitors



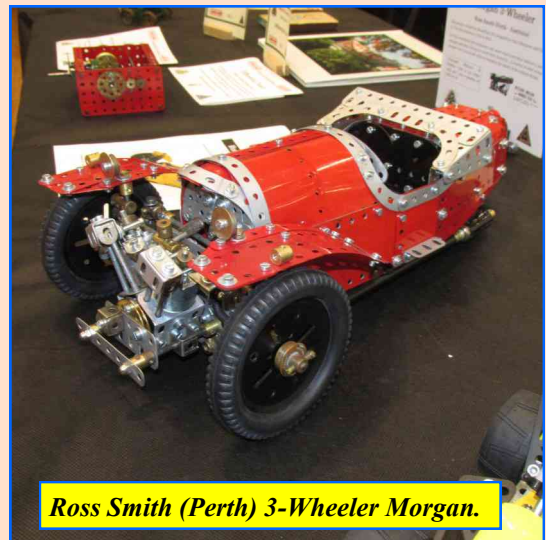
Mary Jost (Australia) and her Butterflies.



Murray Tulett's Dutch Windmill.



Graham Jost with his Horizontal FKM, 3rd place in the Peoples' Choice.



Ross Smith (Perth) 3-Wheeler Morgan.

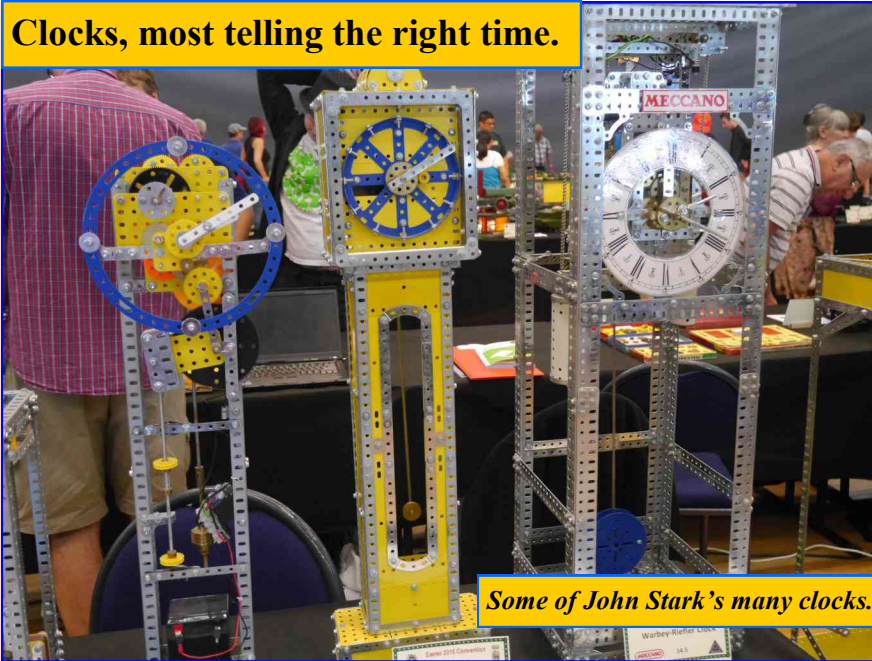


Murray Tulett's Safari Car.



John Pond (UK) with a variety of small models.

Clocks, most telling the right time.



Some of John Stark's many clocks.



Richard Feltham's Grandfather Clock.



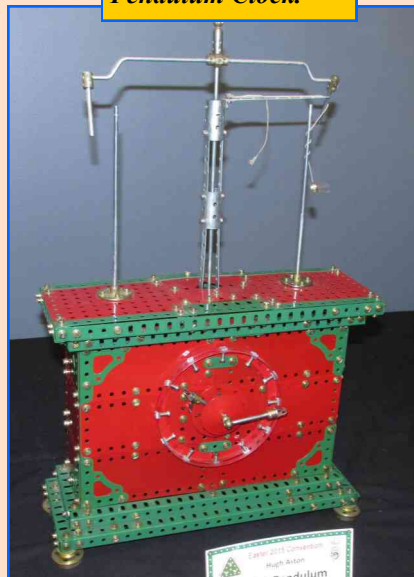
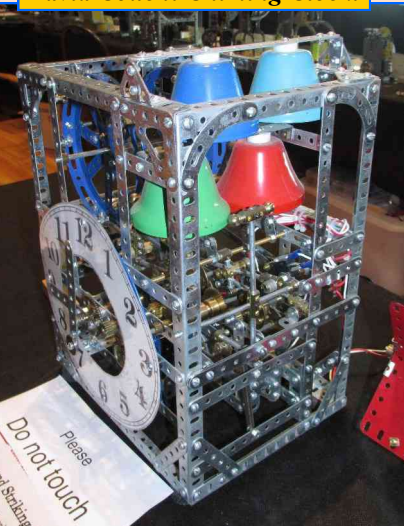
Lou Nichols: Skeleton Clock.



David Wall adjusts his Congreve Rolling Ball Clock.

Hugh Aston's Flying Pendulum Clock.

David Couch: Chiming Clock.



Jeremy Sowerbutts' Arnfield clock.

Locomotives



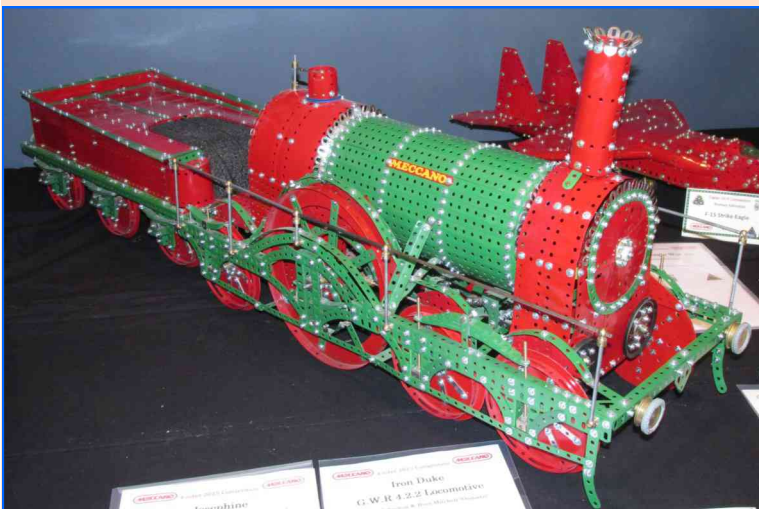
David Shand and his Shay loco.



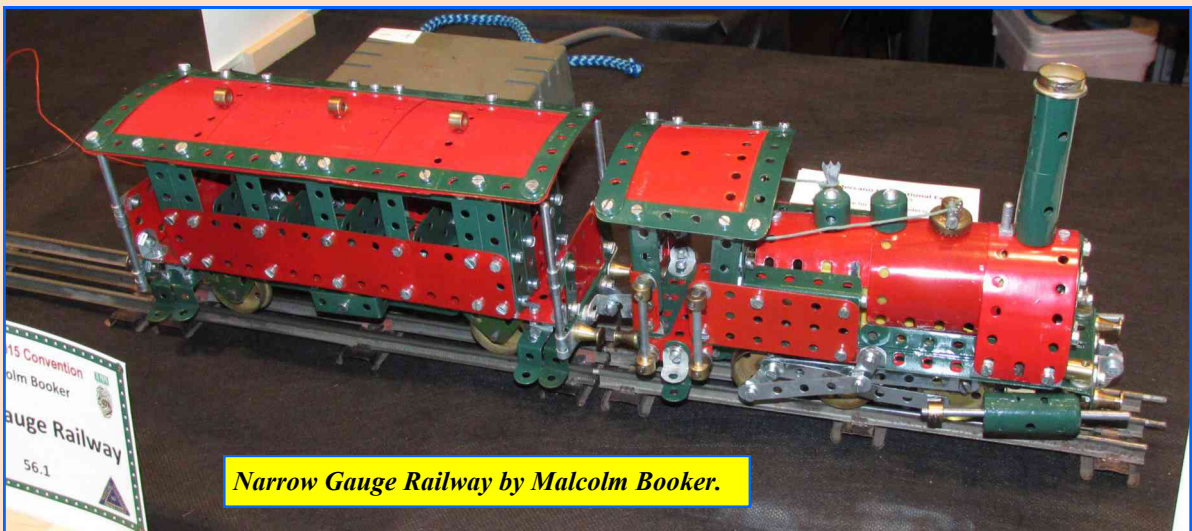
Neil Pluck's NZR Loco.



Les Megget's LMS 2-6-2T



Ross Mitchell & Ronan Johnston: "Iron Duke" loco (left) & "Josephine" (above).



Narrow Gauge Railway by Malcolm Booker.

Bridges on show



About half of Max George's Forth Bridge incorporated into the Hornby 0-Gauge layout.



Keith McCallum and his Transporter Bridge.



Max George's Tricky Track; 2nd place in Peoples' Choice.

Some Vehicles seen at Te Papa



Nelson Turvey (Hamilton) displayed this part-Meccano Freightliner Quad Axle Transporter.



Chris Morton's Revolving Car Chassis.



John Hamlin's Hansom Cab.



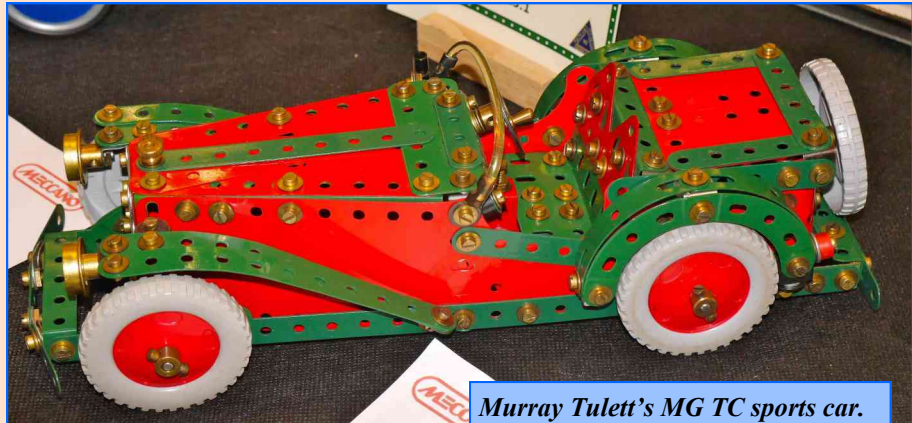
Some of Donald McKenzie's Army Models.



Barry McKey's Dealers Motor Chassis.



Graeme O'Neill's carpark filled with Evolution RC models.



Murray Tulett's MG TC sports car.



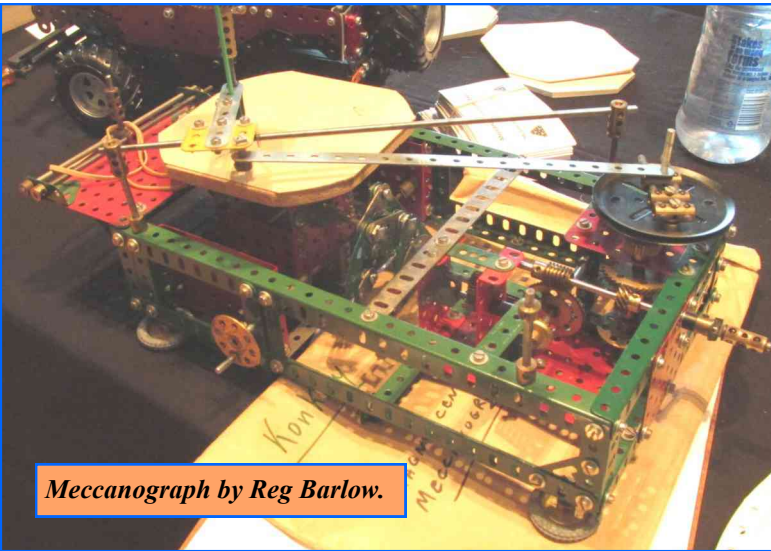
Chris Rickard's "Meals on Wheels" Ball Roller.



Large Ferris Wheel by Daryl Anderson.



David Barnard's King Ghidorah dragon, initially only available in Japan.



Meccanograph by Reg Barlow.



Ronan Johnston's F15 Jet Fighter.

David Couch demonstrated his Arduino controlled Kumihimo Braider.



The 2 new Meccanoid robots.

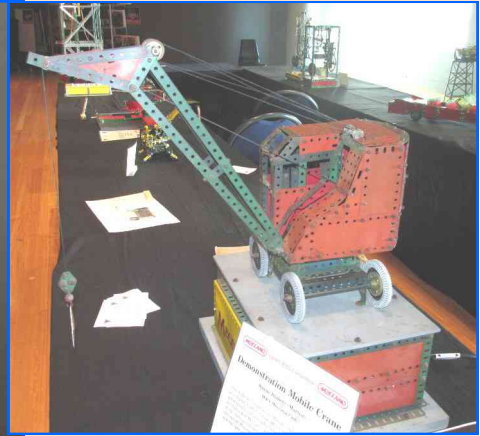


Stan Baker and his De Swaat Draad.

Peter Satterthaite's (CMC) "Church of the Good Shepherd". Original 1935 church is on the shores of Lake Tekapo, Central Otago in the South Island.

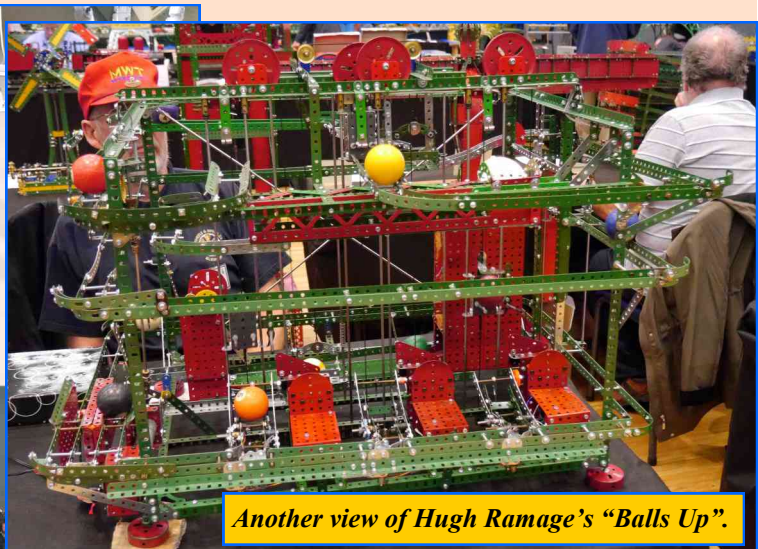


Paul Vodanovich's Railway breakdown crane.

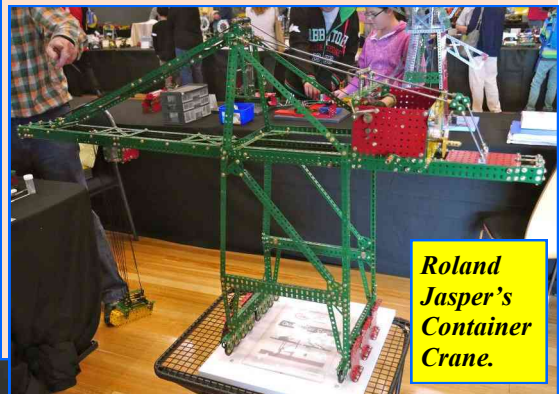


Wayne Blakley's Dealers Mobile crane (in original condition).

Simon Moody's "Cranky the Crane", all part of his railway diorama. Susan in charge.

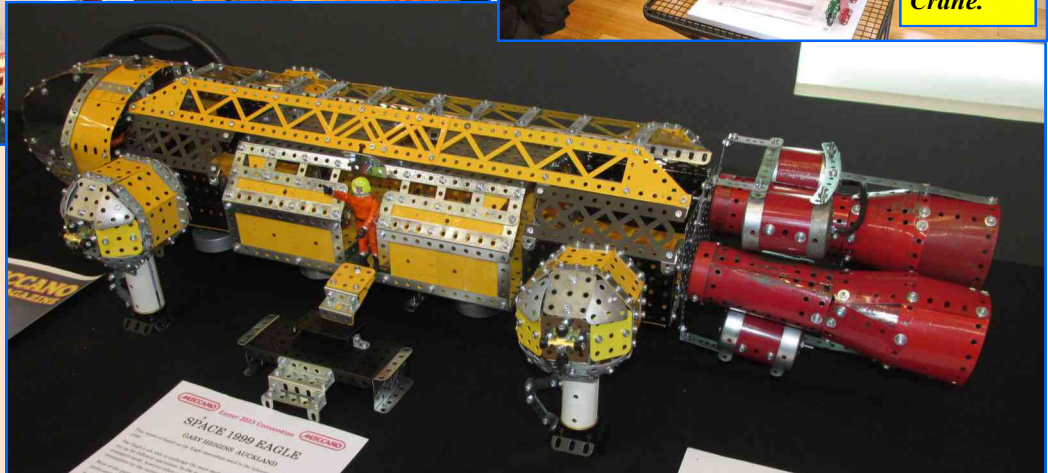


Another view of Hugh Ramage's "Balls Up".



Roland Jasper's Container Crane.

Gary Higgins Space 1999 Eagle 2.

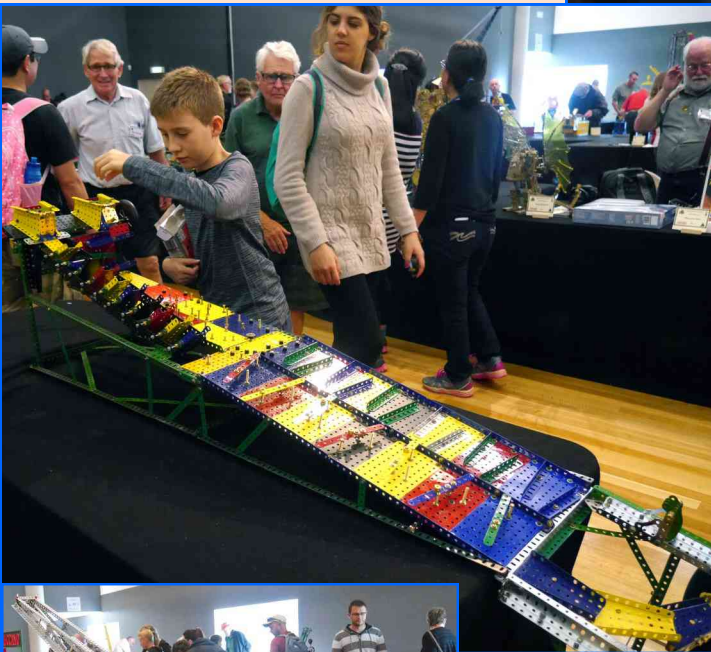




The Simpson's Self Portrait by Robin Rye.



Peter Hancock's Space Centre.

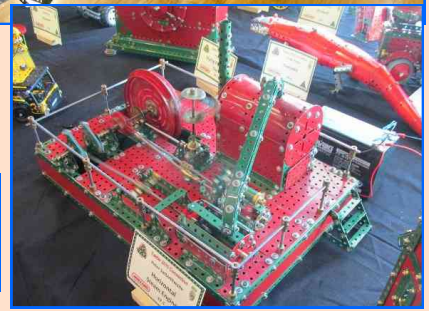


Stan Baker's "Ball Race" was a great success with the children. Two balls are released together at the top and the kids had to pick the winner. Designed so that both balls would finish at about the same time.



John Freer's Drag Line Excavator.

Peter Satterthaite's Horizontal Steam Engine.



A MECCANO LIFT

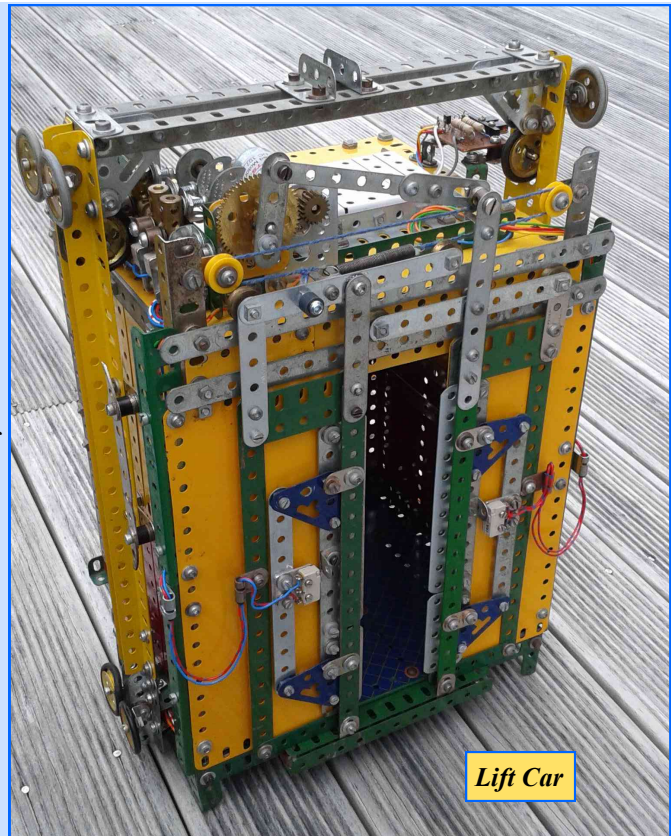
by Bryan Jones

When it was announced that the 2015 Convention was to be held at Te Papa, Wellington, I decided that an appropriate model for this city would be a lift, or elevator. About 35 years ago while on a training course at a technical institute I borrowed a book from its library. It was about lift construction, and it had enough photos, drawings and a control circuit to get me enthused about reproducing this in Meccano. The time had arrived, so with a bit of research visiting buildings with glass-sided lifts, some hours on YouTube looking through lift service videos, and plenty of trial-and-error construction time later, the model was created. It was a popular exhibit at the Convention, from the youngest button-pushers to technical discussions with at least four people working in the lift industry.

Initial research showed that lifts are not a commonly published model. The most well-known examples would be the Eiffel Tower and the Freight Warehouse, both of which simply treat lifts as a box that goes up and down endlessly. I wanted to create something a bit more realistic, with the ability to be sent to floors at random, and with working doors running in the proper sequence. The late Don Blakeborough built one, apparently of three floors and automatic in operation, but this was long before I joined the MWT Meccano Club so I never saw it.

The model began with the construction of the car. I wanted to incorporate working safety edges and the doors had to be large enough to work reliably without jamming. A Meccparts motor operates one door through a crank and linkage, and the other door tracks it using a string and pulley arrangement. Early on I found that the doors had to be hung on widely spaced rollers or else, being long and narrow, they tended to tilt and jam. My answer was to use a track for each door, one above the other, with the rollers interleaved. The whole assembly had to be kept as thin as possible to avoid later problems with clearances in the lift shaft.

The shaft for the door operator crank also carries three “snail” cams. These operate micro switches, which detect the “doors fully open” and “doors closed” positions, plus a third which disables the safety edges when the doors are almost shut (otherwise when they hit together, you would have endless door re-opens...)



Lift Car

The lift car has internal details such as a blue and gold plated floor, LED lighting, and a handrail. Other features are the guide wheels on the car frame, a long cam on one side for operating the lift shaft-mounted limit switches at the extremes of travel, and on the other side, an electronic photo interrupter which produces pulses from cardboard vanes set up in the lift shaft. These pulses are used by the controller to count the floors, and to stop the car level with the floor.



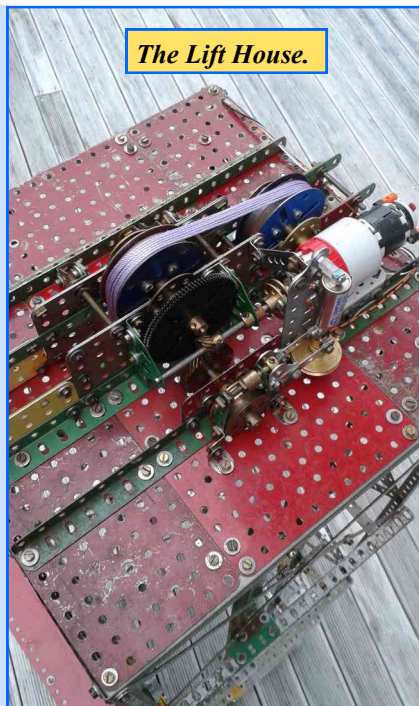
The completed Lift.

Having satisfactorily built a car, I started on the lift shaft. This is a conventional open tower of girders, diagonally braced on three sides and plated on the fourth “public” side. I decided on five floors as this gave enough to justify the complexity of the control system, without becoming too high for the lounge. The finished model stands 2.4 metres high on its baseboard, and has a dividing point almost halfway up from the bottom of the shaft so that it can be transported. The doors use the same pattern of construction as the car. They are passive, being opened by a plastic spacer roller on the car doors which engages with a narrow strip ramp on the floor doors. Fishing weights keep the doors shut when the car is not present. I considered a door lock/retiring cam mechanism such as is fitted to the real thing, but it was all too hard in the small space available!

Fitting the car into the shaft required a lot of adjustments, as the car had to travel smoothly on its guide rails, and close enough to the lift doors to allow the engaging cam to work, but not so close that various bolt heads collided. During the construction, bolts were placed so that they were staggered, and slotted holes in parts were used wherever it was anticipated that adjustment would be required.

The lift house had to be solidly constructed as it supports a total of 7 kg of car and counterweight. The counterweight balances the car weight, so the lift motor just provides traction for the support ropes. A Richards motor with six speed gearbox drives a helical gear set followed by a 5:1 reduction to the traction pulley. A commercial solenoid was used to release the gravity-operated clasp brake which is fitted to the first stage of the gear train. Six ropes made from builder’s line were fitted, each one being tensioned by adjustment of nuts on one inch bolts on the counterweight.

The model was brought to life by incorporating the sequence and timing power of a Programmable Logic Controller (PLC). I had access to one which became redundant from a real-life machine which I helped rebuild a few years ago. I reprogrammed it and built it into a Meccano “engine” which may well become the basis for future model control. A circuit board of relays provides



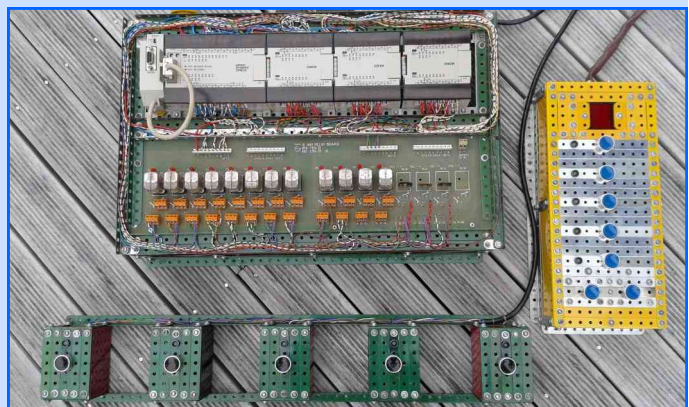
the interface between the 24 volt PLC and the 6 volt Meccano motors. I built boxes of buttons to represent the floor call buttons and the car panel, with door open/close buttons and a display to show which floor the car was at.

The PLC is programmed from a laptop which runs software from the PLC manufacturer. If I had built the control system from relays it would have required about 120 relays and 9 timers to get the number of switching contacts required. It turned out that the diagram I was following (from the library book) had several mistakes and omissions in it, so I was pleased that I could solve the problems quickly by re-

programming, rather than spending ages with a soldering iron rewiring relays. As it was, there were still a couple of bugs which we found ways around during the Convention. The model didn’t quite perform flawlessly (floorlessly?) (Ed. There were five floors not less!), but apart from an early door jam, and the software bug, was otherwise very reliable and survived 4 days of almost continuous operation.



Lift Controller



Gary's eBay Column

Welcome to my New eBay column, I have decided to forgo the Bit's and Pieces column and have found that an EBAY write up is more my style. The only drawback of researching such a column is you see lots of nice things you want to buy so I must be strong and get on, (hide the credit card).

First up is a Meccano accessory set from the late 1920s. The box is mainly intact with the contents Dark red and Green of the period. The box label is the harder to find "two boys fixing a car tyre" shown in red and green. The parts were a little rusty and this sold for \$88.00 NZD.

A nice example of the Meccano guild small triangular badge in blue and white enamel fetched \$60.74 NZD.

Meccano 1921 electrical set original outer box and small boxes in good condition, reels present but missing central card with wires and special screw ended short rods, buy now at \$892.00 NZD, not sold and relisted.

Meccano clockwork motor No1 (non reversing) in Dark red, late 1920s with key and boxed in good condition with a *Wisemans NZ* label on box. Sold for \$87.73 NZD.

1929 Meccano steam engine in original condition but no box or manual. Sold for \$770 NZD.



AC Gilbert erector 12½ Erector set (one of the largest made) appears mostly complete with manual, tin decal is damaged, sold for \$273.00 NZD.

Early 1950s 8A accessory set 100% complete with manual, however the box needs repair. All in red and green Meccano, sold for \$395.00 NZD.

A 1925 original USA Meccano set, looks to be about a No 3 set manual and parts in good condition. Two nice parts boxes but main set box needs repair. Included is a USA Meccano magazine (rare) sold for \$84.71 NZD.

Rare Meccano Aeroplane Constructor set no 1A still strung in original box. In near mint condition sold for \$302.18 NZD.

Of course for a real bargain look out for the set 8 of 1950 vintage not used and still strung in original box, the seller wants only \$12,853.10 NZD as a buy now on this so be quick I'm sure it will still be



there.

A Meccano vintage aero set 0 from the late 30s in camouflage finish. Some struts missing and the folded end of one wing broken off fetched \$153.04



NZD, which is not bad for a sought after aircraft.

A No7 set from the “M” series Meccano sets of the 50s. These sets had a double lift out plastic tray for the parts. Appears to be intact along with 3 manuals and a parts list. Described as used but in good condition. This set sold for \$151.62 NZD.

A nice selection of small parts, some difficult to obtain funnel part 138 with steam pipe, crane grab part 150, pointer and train coupling. This little lot went for a mere \$19.40 NZD.

A Meccano 1962 set No 5 “M” series with plastic tray. This set is mint, unused and was given to a boy who kept it in the family loft. Sold for \$409.59NZD.

First vintage electric motor with exposed coil and cut out side plate, all original, not sold at buy now of \$149.85.



2015 Convention- Model Building Table

by Nancy Jones

“Would you be available to look after children making Meccano models at Te Papa over four days?” I was asked. “Yes, certainly” I replied.

“Look after the parents...” I thought. I was right! The children were no trouble (bar a few sour faces – I soon fixed this – and tears from those too young to make and KEEP a model).

One young boy sat and worked well for at least half an hour. “He’s never done that before” said a parent. Left alone, the bigger children (10 years+) made a big impression on the building of a model, with the occasional “third hand” from an adult.

Many parents just read the instructions out and encouraged their child with “Look”, “Pick up”, “Now where does it fit?” etc. It was very encouraging to see all ethnicities and ages of Dad, Grandad and Mums assisting their young.

One adult took 20 minutes to make his model. This was a good experience for him as he was at Massey University studying ways of learning.

A very big thank you to all who helped each day. It was exhausting but very rewarding.





Auckland Meccano Guild Meeting

14th February
2015

Reporter & Photos: Gary Higgins

The meeting was held at the home of **Peter and Jan Hancock** in Howick.

Peter Hancock presented a Seaplane from the *Tintin* series in yellow and silver Meccano, A Quad-bike from the new Evolution series and a tow truck from the same series.

Henry Porter had built a large locomotive of CNR 2-10-4 class which was a very nice model in Meccano red-green livery. He also had made up an experimental aircraft based on a photograph, a mounted tracked howitzer and a small tricycle.

Gerald Hart had made up an excellent model of a mechanical digger also in red-green Meccano and taken from a Meccano model plan.

Mike Stuart had brought along his newly completed bogey wheels for the crocodile locomotive he has been building. He demonstrated an ingenious method of constructing the wheels with correct wheel flanges. The wheels looked very neat and fit for purpose.

William Irwin had brought along his usual selection of other club magazines as well as an interesting selection of obsolete loom and railway associated Meccano parts, most of which are very difficult to obtain.

Anthony Caldwell had built up an interesting model from the 50 model set ex the manual, not quite sure what it does but as is the case with all the 50 model projects no name is given to the device so it is left to the builder to figure out what it does and what it might be. Perhaps we could have a prize for those who guess its intended purpose.

Les Megget is currently building an 1950s Atkinson tractor body with all working parts as per the original. These models always amaze people when they see the detail that Les has crammed into a small chassis.

David Wall had constructed a very clever little robot made from the 40 or 50 model sets which spins about with a life of its own. His clever use of eyes on springs from the *Mechanoids* set added a more menacing look to the figure.

David Glengay had brought along a magic motor driving heavy haulage Kenworth truck and trailer complete with die-cast bulldozer and roller. It is surprising how well the small motor drives the model, given the correct gearing down via worm drives.

Gary Higgins brought along a few unusual sets he had collected, a USA Erector Capitol set in a tin box in nice condition, a few missing parts but these can be replaced, a Meccano jigsaw maker from which Gary had produced a complete jigsaw and which works a treat. And a boxed *Tronico* excavator which is on the to-do list. One correction from the previous magazine, Gary is a Quarantine Officer, not a Customs Officer, they work together at the border but the jobs are a little different.

Graham Wrightson had brought one of the newer, light blue radio controlled car series complete with flashing lights and a boom box where you can plug in a musical device with a selection of music. There is music included with the device but it is a little overpowering to those with sensitive ears.

John Denton had made up a beautiful model of a *Tronico* tractor. The model was not powered but certainly looked the part. *Tronico* are a German firm producing, mainly agricultural models and they have a vast range, many of which are now becoming available in New Zealand. They are of course available from overseas sources via the internet. They use a square hole system instead of the conventional round hole but once the screw is in place they look quite presentable. The parts are similar to the Meccano X-series or *Trix*. Some of the larger models are motorized.

Peter Hancock reminded users to get their subs in for the continuation of the Magazine and Les asked for contributions of articles to ensure the Magazine's future. This appears to have been an issue even far back in the early issues (see Peter's article from the archives).

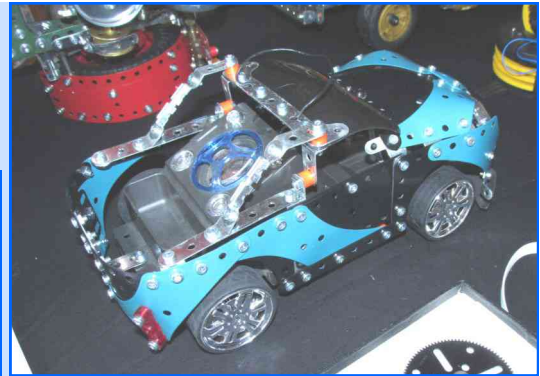
Discussions also took place on the up and coming Convention in Wellington and about Model-X on Queens Birthday weekend in Henderson.

The meeting closed with an excellent afternoon tea provided by the ladies of the Meccano Guild to whom we give many thanks.

AMG February Meeting Models
More photos were on p28 of the February 2015 issue. (Photos by Gary & Les)



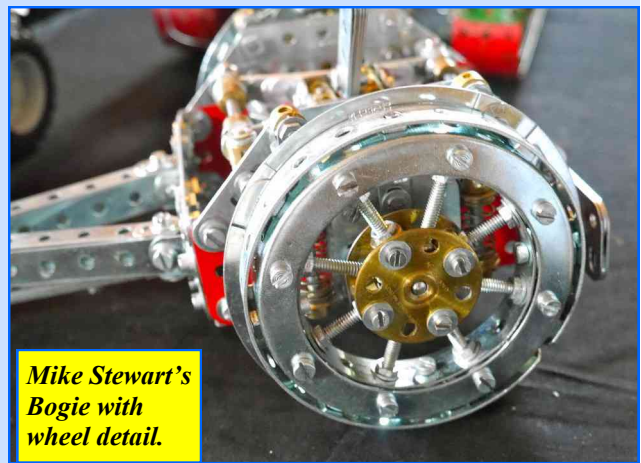
Anthony Caldwell's 50 Model set model.



Graham Wrightson's RC car with music.



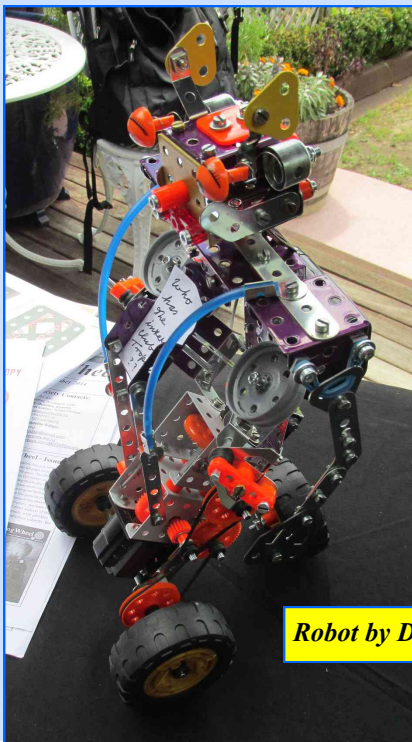
Gary's Tronico Tractor.



Mike Stewart's Bogie with wheel detail.

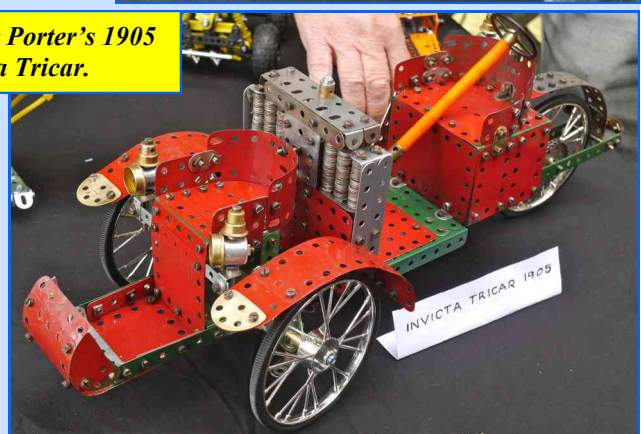


Peter Hancock's Evolution Quad Bike.



Robot by David Wall.

Henry Porter's 1905 Invicta Tricar.



INVICTA TRICAR 1905

New Meccano Sets being released this Year

From Stan Baker:

As discussed at the Te Papa Convention the NZ distributors of Meccano have kindly offered a temporary dealership status to the Wellington Club such that NZFMM members can purchase the new models including the Meccanoid Robot sets due to arrive in NZ later this year. This offer is part of a move to a much closer relationship between the Meccano distributors and the NZFMM, which I am confident will be to the benefit of both parties.

The offer is confidential to the Meccano fraternity and should not be discussed with others, particularly retailers. Auckland, Wellington, MWT and Christchurch club officials have been sent copies of the pricing and you can get details from your own club officials. Others can contact me at nzmeccanoman@gmail.com for the pricing. For those outside the Wellington area. Postage costs will be additional at cost which will vary greatly with the box sizes, which are still not known.

This is a great opportunity to buy Meccano for the grandkids (or maybe your partner) for Christmas as well as providing these new sets with the great new robotic control features for yourself. The new sets availability and the approximate delivery to NZ dates are as follows

Impulse sets: *Available September*

M4822 1 model starter Set

Multi-model sets :

M4805 New 3 model set *Available June*

M4807 New 5 model set *Available June*

M4809 New 10 model set, *Available June*

M6302 New 15 model set, *Available Sept*

M4852 New 20 model set, *Available Sept*

M6397 New 25 Model Set, *Available Sept*

Elite Sets: *All Available Sept*

M4811 Off road

M4820 Race RC

M4816 Helicopter

M4885 Formula 1

Signature Series :

M4828 Tower Bridge, *Available June*

M4902 Empire State Building, *Available Sept*

M4900 Eiffel Tower, *Available Sept*

M4905 "Set 10" Tower Crane,

Available Sept

Meccanoid Sets: *All Available Sept*

M4907 Meccanoid G15, *Available Sept*

M4909 Large Meccanoid G15KS, *Available Sept*

Construction Series: *All Available Sept*

M4794 New Easy Toolbox

M4796 New Advanced Toolbox

M4802 New 150 parts bucket

More details of each set can be found at <http://www.elephanta.co.nz/index.php?page=Meccano>

Members wanting to purchase need to place their orders with **Max George** max.george@paradise.net.nz (Secretary of the Wellington club) and make payment by the **26th of June**. Payment can be by cheque made out to the Wellington Meccano club or by direct transfer to the Wellington club bank account, details of which are on the price details described above.

Availability of NZMecc Motors

As many NZ enthusiasts are aware stocks of some of the speed and size combinations of these motors were becoming exhausted earlier this year and the initial supplier was reluctant to manufacture new stocks in quantities under a thousand up. Following purchases at Te Papa and my recent visit to the annual Sydney Exhibition the only remaining good stock of motors and mounts is for the 40rpm small motor. There are still stocks of some speeds of the Type 2 and 3 motor but no mounts for those.

The good news is that a new supplier has been found and new motor stocks are already starting to arrive including some new options as follows:

- The small motor will be available in a new variant, the same thickness and width but with a longer motor fitted. This will increase the power by 50% or more of these motors,
- Some slower speed models of the medium sized motor will be available with a shorter motor still with great torque for Meccano applications at the low speeds,
- Based on feedback from users the new stocks will have a slightly longer shaft length.

The issue at the moment is the mounts for both the medium and large motors. At the time of writing we are still investigating a number of options for the manufacture of these including the possibility of new smaller mounts for the small motor. The new motors will be only slightly more expensive based on the lower production runs but I should have new pricing including mounts within a month. Please contact me for details in July. In the meantime there are still good stocks of the 40 rpm small motor with mounts available at the old prices.

MWT MEETING REPORT for 14th February 2015

Article by Robin Rye, photos by Bruce Geange

Viv Alexander: Tren is Spanish for train and a Hornby train set for that market was on show. The trees were missing from the carton but the wooden tunnel was there. That particular tunnel was never sold as a separate part. Lovely French produced sets 7 and 7a displayed nicely from the mid 1950s era. Also, a Royal Meccano tin and contents from 1911.

Richard Feltham: Produced an escapement for a grandfather clock he is working on. His Model Challenge entry was a Hogwarts Magical Supplies Box. Everyone was alarmed at the apparent sight of a bomb about to detonate inside!

Hugh Ramage: Has progressed with his Volkswagen chassis with the outline of a body. Some thought it looked more like a Citroen 2CV. The rear suspension ably demonstrated why the Beetle was prone to tipping over. A Meccano like set called *Nuts and Bolts* of a crawler crane.

Chris Morton: Recent auction purchase of a "Cuisiniere O' Gato". It is a child's cooking oven produced by *Meccano Triang France* under licence to *Kenner USA*. A 100 watt light bulb within produced the cooking heat. Model Challenge effort by Chris was a mythical device so obscure no-one could determine what it was!

Paul Vodanovich: Via Jim Mayes a marine engine using both homemade and commercially available components to look somewhat like Meccano. A Chinese Meccano like set of a military tank. Recent Warehouse special prices saw Paul buy Evolution Quad and Bike sets. His Model Challenge entry was 3 different dinosaur models.

Wayne Blakely: Displayed the current Evolution helicopter. The model was made by Chris Morton during the recent "Man Show". The difficulties of construction were detailed. Dinky Supertoy 975 Ruston Bucyrus Excavator or face shovel completed Wayne's display.

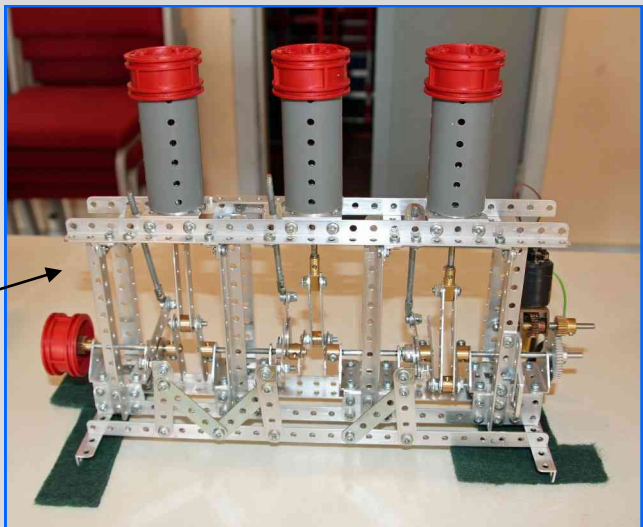
Stan Baker: Brought along parts of his Convention models. The first were 2 parts of a fast and slow marble race model and the other was part of the lift mechanism for his Eiffel Tower involving stepper motors with cogged belting for repeatability with Arduino board control.

Bruce Geange: Featured in the current ISM magazine in the "Meet The Meccanoman" feature and the reporting of his Golden Spanner Award achievement. His 1939 Leyland fire engine model is now finished with paint and his Farmall F-12 tractor has gained some clever inter-row cultivator attachments.

Tom Pittams: Like Paul took advantage of special pricing and purchased Evolution sets. Main assembly problem noted with the bike was one of front wheel clearance.

Robin Rye: Model Challenge effort was a portrait of "The Simpsons" family. Though unfinished, Homer was complete as he qualifies for any description and fulfilled all the rules of the challenge.

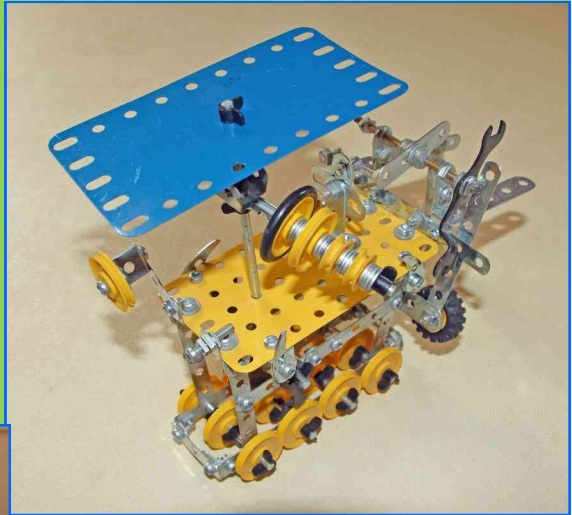
Model Challenge: The judge awarded **Chris Morton** as the winner and therefore the setter of the next challenge.



Viv Alexander's French 7 and 7a Sets .



Chris's recent auction purchase.



(Above) Mythical device by Chris Morton. Any ideas as to what it is?

Comments about the Peoples' Choice voting at the Te Papa Expo from Stan Baker

Just as the Exhibitors vote was probably skewed by the fact that only about 25% of exhibitors voted the public choice was definitely affected by

- The total public votes returned was less than 20% of the estimated visitors
- With the crowds attending and no reception desk at the entrance, voting slips were widely distrusted around the show instead of being restricted to one per visitor, The voting forms clearly stated though that "My choice of best model is -----".
- Notwithstanding this wording some exhibitors mistakenly believed that the public could vote for more than one model and should consider their vote(s) more of an indication of "like" and encouraged the public to "like" their model accordingly even if they had previously voted. On the other hand other exhibitors proactively advised the public that they could not vote a second time,

With that serious qualification to the validity of votes:

- First and second place for Bob's "Mama Mia" and Max's "Tricky Track" were quite clear cut.
- Some way behind those two Graham's Horizontal Knitting Machine, Stan's Marble race, John's knitting machine, David's Rubik Cube solver, and Chris's Meals on Wheels were all within about 1% with Graham's Knitting machine just in front for third place.
- Behind these 7 models there was a few % gap back to an even larger group of over 20 models, all close together within a percentage or two between them.



New Meccano sets due out later this year.

New Zealand Club Diary 2015

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 8 August** at Neil Carey's, 23 Eaton Road, Hillsborough, 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 13 June** 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 July 3rd** at Stan Baker's, 7 Oceanview Tce., Tirohanga, Lower Hutt.

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

Tauranga: Barry McKey, Tel. (07) 576-1623

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 2015 issue of NZFMM Magazine should be sent to Les Megget before the 10th August 2015.

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.

Replica Meccano and Compatible Parts

- Fast Delivery – By far the most extensive range of new parts in the region. Over 4000 different parts ex stock.
- NZ & Australia Distributor for **Ashok Banerjee Parts**
- Very competitive prices and no minimum purchases.
- Payment to Australia or NZ bank account in or via PayPal.
- Will dispatch by courier or mail to anywhere in the world.
- Increasingly diversifying into Meccano associated items including:-
- Range or powerful small super efficient motors.
- Digital tachometers.
- 6 channel radio control systems with servos and speed controllers to suit the motor range.
- Parts fitted with miniature roller bearings.
- Bowden Cables. Ashtray tyres.
- Variable Power supplies.
- Wireless remote switches (on off and forward reverse).
- Rechargeable Batteries and holders for 5x AA batteries (6 volt).

If you need a new Meccano related item, chances are that others will too, so ask.

Money back guarantee if not satisfied.

Price list in PDF, Excel or by printed copy (30 pages) .

Contact Stan Baker shb@ihug.co.nz

Phone +64 4 566 7150 Evenings or +64 21 421 750
mobile

John Denton

On the 19th May 2015 long-time AMG member John Denton passed away after a short illness. John had what seemed to be hundreds of built-up models, many of which were hauled out for every Model-X Exhibition held each Queen's Birthday weekend at Henderson, Auckland. For Model-X he used to dress up in a fancy waistcoat and bowler hat. His models covered the full range. He is already sorely missed. LM

Many of the Exhibitors and partners at the Easter Exhibition



Rear, Left to Right: David Barnard, Gary Higgins, David Shand, David Couch, John Stark, John Jordan, William Irwin, John Pond, Peter Hancock (obscured), Winnie Southcott, Andrew Simpson, Chris Johnson, Joan Booker, Murray Tulett, Malcolm Booker, Ross Smith, Max George, Reg Barlow, Robin Rye, Keith McCallum, Campbell Morrison, Rose & Daryl Anderson, Julie Hunt, Richard Feltham, Graham Jost, Bryan Jones, Ronan Johnston;
Seated: Bruce Geange, Wayne Blakely, Barry McKey, Les Megget, David Wall, Lou Nichols, Simon & Susan Moody, Stan Baker, Neil Pluck, Bob Prescott, Roland Jaspers, Mary Jost, Nancy Jones, Paul Vodanovich;
In front: Chris Morton, John Freer, Grace Pluck.



A general view of the Exhibition at Te Papa, photo: Stan Baker.

