

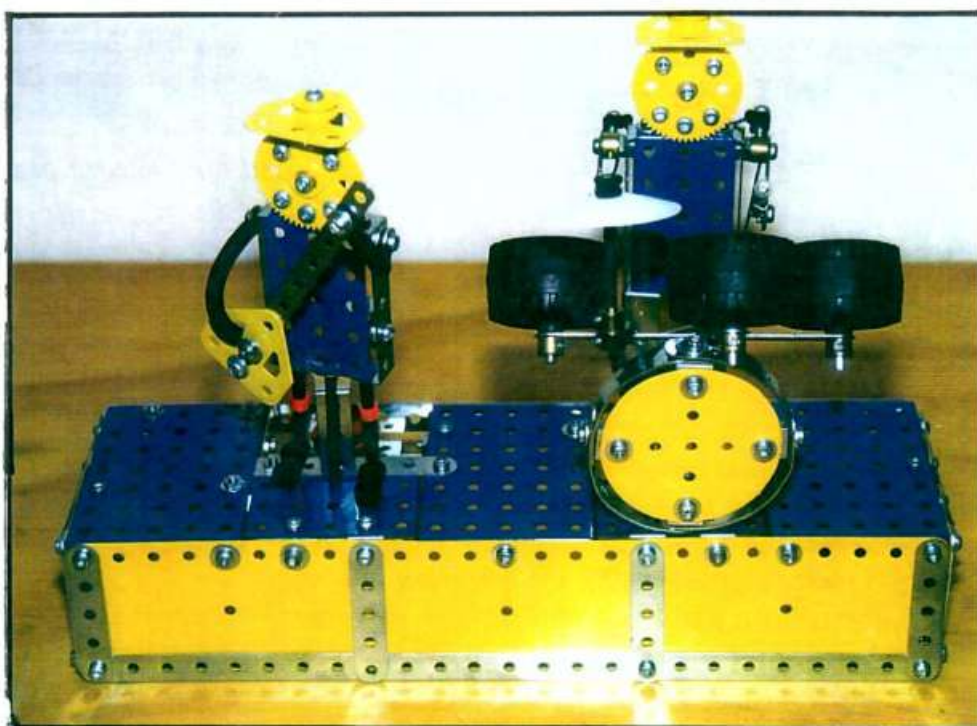


NZFMM Magazine

Volume 23 Issue 3

JUNE 1999

Motivation
Enjoyment
Comradeship
Cooperation
Achievements
New members
Originality



**NZ FEDERATION OF
MECCANO MODELERS**

PRESIDENT:

Lou Nichols

© EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Don Flowers

90 Holborn Drive

Stokes Valley

Lower Hutt

Phone 04-563-8008

e-mail

flowers@ihug.co.nz

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Two musicians,

Made by Bob Prescott.

EDITORIAL

Welcome to this issue of the magazine, a good lot of items on the convention and a selection of photo's for you. I hope that those of you who went to Auckland convention enjoyed yourselves, and are now thinking about the model you will be bringing to the Wellington convention in 2001.

On a sadder note many of you will have heard that Keith Cameron and Bert Love have both passed away recently.

Also of note is that Meccano SA has been sold to a French/American Investment Co, no doubt a good purchase for them in that they get a company with metal fabrication and plastic injection moulding abilities, we will have to await their development of the Meccano system.

N.Z MECCANO CONTACT PERSONS

AUCKLAND	David Wall	09-478-6825
WAIKATO	Don McClelland	07-847-4503
HAWKES BAY	Trevor Adam	06-836-6827
MANAWATU	Bruce Geange	06-357-0566
WANGANUI	Tom Pittims	06-345-6788
WELLINGTON	Simon Moody	04-528-3032
WELLINGTON	Lou Nichols	04-383-6173
CHRISTCHURCH	Graeme O'Neill	03-322-7456

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CONVENTION 1999 – MODEL REPORT

From Lloyd Spackman

I think that I have mentioned all the 36 (including junior) exhibitors but may have missed some of the approximately 140 models. If so, my apologies, and please send the editor details of your special model which I missed.

Starting left of the entrance I found:

Wayne Blakely: junior Meccano models of a helicopter on a landing pad, digger, dump truck and grader. The bright colours made this an attractive display. Also a model of the Bluebird land speed record holder in blue/gold hatched plates with gold edging and red cockpit. A very effective colour scheme. Also a 2 train mini railway, village and aircraft all inside a flanged ring, modified from Roger le Rolland's well known model.

Bert Blalely: A red/black/nickel Baltic tank locomotive, about 100 cm long, running smoothly on it's stand. A very neat model of this loco.

Don Blakeborough: A Wharf scene with a gantry crane unloading logs from flatbed wagons with a shunting loco and a "Little Mac" tractor unit and low loader for log transport. Also a small X series lorry mounted crane.

William Irwin: showman's traction engine with all wheels taped across for width. Front wheels were double spoked ones. A motor cycle and sidecar with thin white tyres and a south seeking chariot.

Jonathan, Nolan and Rowan Ovenden: Digger, go cart and windmill. George's grandson's show much promise as junior modellers. Jonathan was awarded a meritorious.

George Ovenden: Showman's traction engine with a nice looking black and gold canopy, his flyboats still running after many displays (this was their last).

Brian Hickson: Titan Blocksetter in dark red/green, looking low and powerful. 160 cm long jib, overall height 60 cm. The original crane was built about

1900. Brian received a highly commended award.

Bruce Haines: A selection of his partly "coloursteel" models, several small French set models, an excavator, and a large dockside coaling crane. Bruce's models are getting bigger and better.

Bob McCracken: A demonstration model of a 6 wheel drive vehicle chassis and engine, all open, so it was easy for visitors to see how the works "worked". It included two very neat universal couplings which looked like Marklin.

John Ince: His yellow/nickel model of Captain Cook's Endeavour looked great and deserved it's award. Close inspection revealed a complete hull below the waterline, the model being supported at the waterline. Also his loco and tender running to and fro on a wooden track, a red/green ferris wheel, meccanograph and spirograph, wind powered land yacht (the wach). Also a full size arm crutch. If padded at the top this could be easily used by a disabled person. Once again the versatility of Meccano was shown.

David Wall: A single cylinder gas engine already described in AMC news, a 3 wheel airboat, USS Enterprise and a Shuttle (these two both in SteelTec). Then, running around an O gauge oval 3 rail track David had a realistic railway jigger and two locomotives, a 4-4-2 Atlantic and a 4-6-2 tank loco. And we must not forget his models of lively teddy bears in their conveyances, a great attraction for young children.

Bruce Geange: The Tararua Wind Power Generator with it's blades turning slowly and steadily took my eye at once. It was very realistic. Also a D4 crawler tractor towing a grader and a Garrett under type steam wagon with a 3 way tipper. Plus replicas of a No1 Meccano aeroplane and an O gauge Hornby 2711 loco.

Neil Carey: Another of his large models, this time of an Auckland Transport Board 1930 Class double

truck tramcar. Neil's detail included seating, windows, destination signs, trolley poles, driver and lady conductor. It received a well deserved meritorious award.

Alister Tong: A bridge with Dinky toys moving around continuously on an oval slot on the bridge roadway. Regrettably, Alister was not there to tell us how it was done. I hope he will write and tell us more about this intriguing model.

Lou Nichols: Three 1930 vintage racing cars in hatched blue/gold, a light rail Swiss electric locomotive running on a track, revolving aircraft. Also a red/green dock and warehouse (hand operated lift) with a clockwork motor crane loading a yellow cargo ship alongside the dock.

John Hansen: Automated table tennis ball colliery complex. The lifts at each end, and other movements, were controlled by microswitches. An interesting model to watch. John said it was not difficult to build from Jack Partridge's description of Bob Robson's earlier model in CQ March 1997.

Mike Geary: A nice looking red/green Sopworth Camel biplane and three Army set models, a 25 pdr field gun and it's limber and a Dragon tractor to pull it.

Tony Ercolana: Tony has been Meccano modelling for only a couple of years and this was his first large model of an impressive crawler mounted working crane in tidy red/green with a 150 cm jib. The crawler used 11/2" flat girders for the track plates. Also a tip truck and a land yacht. Tony deserved his commended prize.

Kegan Wrightson: Had built a small aeroplane which won him a highly commended junior prize.

Graeme Wrightson: An ariel ropeway leading to a high up door frame top. Driven by a standard PDU it needed little attention except for reversing the motor when the cabin reached either end. Graeme also had his two cranes on show.

Don Wilson: One of our most accomplished Meccano modellers, Don chose this time a smaller model. It was a realistic and detailed model of a Leon Bollee tricar dated 1896. Older visitors, in particular, spent a lot of time studying and discussing Don's model.

Lloyd Spackman: A new model of Locomotion No1 from MM July 1978. I had previously built it for our 1987 convention but this year's version was somewhat modified. It ran well from a PDU set at 60:1 with the initial drive of double rubber bands. I also showed a tiny loco based on an MO motor and a collection series biplane.

Then in the inner circle of exhibitors I found;

Bruce Neilson: His hands on models including a mecanograph, Samson, a gearing demonstration model, and several smaller models from the modern French series sets.

Robin Rye: A junior Meccano windmill, a colour mixer rotating disc, Burrell showman's engine and another Samson. However Robin had two main models;

- 1) a 3 metre long cargo liner in red/green. The hull and deck plates, though not restored, were in good condition. It was being serviced by Chris Morton's dockside coaler through lifting hatches (p/n198) and had a full set of ship cranes.
- 2) Robin's other big model was a pontoon mounted yellow/nickel level luffing crane. The 51/2" x 21/2" flexible plates around the hull were light grey and came from Gin Grey's collection.

David Barnard: was busy taking photos but also displayed a selection of light green powder coated strips and girders. Also space and army models and a small tugboat.

Bob Prescott: Robbie the robot was a hit with the children. Standing a metre tall and based on Set 10 leaflet No27, Robbie had in his chest a tape player speaking welcoming messages. Some parts for his head were from recent Space sets. Robbie gained a well deserved highly commended.

Chris Morton: A group of junior Meccano models plus a neat tractor unit and low loader and two small car models from modern French parts.

Don Malcolm: A P51D Mustang fighter plane, a big one which drew a lot of admiring looks. It had supports at each end of the wings, retractable main and tail wheels, red blinking gun ports in the wings. A spinning propeller added to the realism. It gained a well deserved meritorious award.

Paulette Morton: Concentrated on aircraft models with a group of Meccano metal models. There were a stealth bomber (evolution 6), two helicopters, one a twin rotor, a set 5 biplane, another plane from evolution 5 and a swing wing bomber.

Don McClelland: Showed us another big cargo ship. This one from a 1937 set 10. Also a blue/yellow steam loco on a partly built bridge and two helicopters. In addition, Don had dealer models of Rocket, various gear drives mounted on a board and a 1953 set 9 loco and tender.

Barry Babbage: A trial wind powered vehicle and a formula 1 Lotus49 racing car in yellow blue and white. That was a very nice looking model.

Daryl Anderson: His favourite scene really had no competition when it came to judging the most outstanding exhibition model award. His fairground included a ghost train in an appropriately painted black building, dodgems, double slide, octopus, double carousel, hoop - la, darts, shooting gallery, pluck a duck (whatever that was?) and other attractions.

They were all enhanced by flashing lights and fair-ground music. Even the entrance was a work of (Meccano) art. The surrounding fence (braced girders) measured about 6" x 11". Congratulations Daryl on a great display.

Simon Moody: Needed a very long space for his 7 metre line on which ran a pair of modern European style tramcars. There was a passing loop in the centre of the layout. It was a most interesting model and a change from Simon's previous (very) large crane models. However Simon we do miss your cranes.

General notes:

In the room with Simon's tramcars we had a large and comprehensive historical display with old sets, parts and other items contributed by Don Wilson, William Irwin, Don Blakeborough and others. Outstanding was a completely chrome plated set 10 in a 4 drawer cabinet, and I mean completely chromed. This one has an interesting history which someone who knows it really has to tell for our magazine. There were also two model railway layouts (Hornby of course) being run by members of the Auckland Hornby Railway Club. In the middle of the room was a large platform on which children could run the modern French battery powered cars. And there were more modern and old models displayed around the room which is separate from the auditorium. Someone asked me if there was a theme in the exhibition. Looking at the great variety of models I had to say no. the only theme was the extraordinary versatility and endless possibilities of making just about any kind of model with Meccano, old and new.

CONVENTION 99

From Peter Hancock

How time flies? "Convention 99" is now a memory.

The members of the Auckland Meccano Club and organising committee have great memories of the event and we all hope that those who participated in this great event have happy memories as well.

Here are some of details of what happened at the Pakuranga Community Centre beginning on Easter Fri-

day 2nd of April.

The convention organising committee met at the venue reasonably early in the morning and with the help of Gordon who was the venue custodian for the weekend, began to set up in readiness for the first modellers and supporters who began to arrive from around 11.30am onwards that morning.

The main model display area was set up in the Cen-

tres octagonal auditorium which required a different lay out from the usual square/oblong type hall type area that we are used to. This octagonal shape turned out to be both a blessing and a problem as we were to find out as the day wore on.

The committee finally assembled some fifty eight trestle tables (the original plan called for fifty) in the auditorium area after we determined on the Friday evening that our original lay out plan which we had established had been stretched as many modellers had taken our word and brought more models than we had recorded.

Our sincere thanks go to all those who waited patiently with good humour as committee members rearranged and squeezed more display space in, which did cause some concerns as it was found that some models had to be rearranged several times before we got it right.

This was the problem we encountered and it did make it quite late on the Friday evening before the whole display began to settle down.

When the final layout was completed early Saturday morning prior to the doors being opened to the public, the overall model display supplied by the forty, yes 40 modellers attending really looked a treat and we received many enthusiastic comments from the public during the open display periods on the Saturday and Sunday.

A special display area had been set up in an adjacent function room and it was here that we set up the "Meccano Museum" and our thanks go to all those who brought along materials and contributed to this excellent display of older and more exotic Meccano parts, sets and models.

There were a number of people who contributed to this fine presentation but our special thanks go to Don Wilson who brought his many refurbished/restored sets and allowed us to put them where the public could really appreciate them. This extensive display enabled people to see how Meccano had evolved over the years. We noted that Don was called away quite often from the main auditorium to speak to people who required further information about this special display.

Don Blakeborough displayed a portion of his collection of "Other Systems" which included sets from

some rather exotic places.

A special display of models which included a "Showman's Engine" had been selected by Judith Bond from her late husband Lindsay's collection and brought by the Morton's to the event and took pride of place in this display area.

The Auckland Hornby Train Club set up a large working display in one corner of this function room and there was always helpful staff on hand to ensure that the public curiosity was satisfied.

Simon Moody had brought his 7.2 metre long tram track with its two modern European type trams which were set up along one wall in this room. Simon is still developing this extensive model and many of the public stopped to watch him at work.

A low stage area was set up in the middle of the room and young and not so young came to play with the various battery powered model cars that were available for "hands on" experience. Organisers were kept busy making emergency repairs and replacing batteries as they were required.

A Meccano Shop was set up in the foyer of the centre along side a variety of Meccano display materials from various decades. Several large models including Robin Rye's "Eiffel Tower" graced this area which linked the two display centres.

The Meccano Shop did a roaring trade with most of the stock being sold by mid afternoon on the Saturday. When the shop was closed on the Sunday afternoon, only three small sets remained unsold. A special vote of thanks goes to Mattel (NZ) Limited who made the sets on sale at "Convention 99" available to the Auckland Meccano Club at a very special price. Mattel's also made a number of dealer models that they own available for display at the event.

The weather over the Easter weekend started out rather dull and overcast on the Friday but improved so that on the Saturday and Sunday which were the public days, there was not a cloud to be seen, so generally people stayed out doors and we believe that many went to the beach. Even so, we had in excess of 1500 paying public review the show.

A special vote of thanks must go to the Auckland Committee members wives who provided food and drinks at regular intervals to keep all those involved

in the show fuelled up and at peak performance throughout the three days.

Of course there is always the entrance door to be watched, money taken, tickets to be issued and brochures handed out. Special thanks goes to Joyce Blakeborough who spent most of her time at the event along with support from the Auckland Committee Ladies carrying out this necessary task.

The Convention "Silent Auction" drew a number of lots for members to study and bid on. The successful bidders were advised of their purchases during the Convention Dinner and money was seen to change hands next day as booty was claimed.

The Convention Dinner was held in a private room at the Waipuna Convention Centre and Hotel, Mt Wellington on the Saturday evening.

The dinner was well patronised with fifty three enthusiasts attended this excellent event. It was a very social evening and many friendships were renewed.

After guests had partaken of an excellent meal, the group settled down to deal with a little business. First on the agenda was the Biennial Meeting of the "New Zealand Federation of Meccano Modellers". This was followed by the announcement of the individual modellers prizes that had been selected by a combination of public and members voting.

The formal meeting was opened with the various messages of good wishes from those who had sent apologies.

This was followed by a remembrance of those modellers and members who are no longer with us both locally and overseas.

President David Wall presented his report on the various activities and passed comments on matters that had occurred since the last meeting held at Feilding during the 1997 Easter Convention.

David then put a motion to the meeting that in future the maximum term that a President of the NZFMM should remain in office for should be limited to four (4) years being two convention periods. The motion was agreed by the meeting and is now adopted.

David then advised that a nomination had been received from the Wellington Meccano Club by the Convention Secretary nominating Lou Nichols as a candidate for President. The Secretary advised the

meeting that the nomination received met the standard meeting protocols. There being no further nominations, David Wall declared Lou Nichols President for the period 1999 through Easter 2003 and congratulated Lou on his new position.

David Wall then announced to those gathered that a very special prize being a numbered Centennial Crane set valued at \$2,200.00 is to be gifted by Mattel (NZ) Limited to the Auckland Meccano Club to further promote and stimulate modelling here in New Zealand. When Mattel first advised the Auckland Meccano Club President and Secretary of this wonderful gesture, Mattel expected the Auckland Meccano Club to use this set as the main prize for "Convention 99".

After discussion with the Club, Mattel readily agreed with us that as it is such a magnificent prize that we would hold it over for the 100 year celebrations to be held in the Wellington region in the year 2001. It was agreed that we would announce the challenge at this "Convention 99" and specify an outline of the rules that all models produced to enter this special competition will need to abide by.

David Wall went on to advise some basic parameters and rules that will apply to all models that are entered and advised that detailed rules and judging criteria will be circulated in the next available NZFMM magazine.

Lou Nichols then gave his introductory speech as new President. During this speech Lou detailed the plans and proposed format of "Convention 2001" that the Wellington Meccano Club have begun working on. The most important point noted is that the format is likely to include one day for set up, one day for modellers only to present their models and one day for public viewing rather than the two as has been the norm in the past. Further information will be released in due course by the Wellington Meccano Club.

With the closure of the meeting and the Presidency formally changing hands, the evening moved on to reveal what every one had been waiting for, who had won prizes?

Prizes were various Meccano sets of course. The prizes were presented by Elizabeth Wall amongst a good deal of revelry and many photos were taken to record the event.

The list of prize winners follows.

Junior Section.

Meritorious:-	<i>Keagan Wrightson</i>	Model Aeroplane
Highly Commended:-	<i>Jonathan Ovenden</i>	Mechanical Digger
Commended:-	<i>Sean Babbage</i>	Model Car.

Senior Section.

Meritorious:-	<i>Neil Carey</i>	Auckland Tram.
	<i>John Hansen</i>	Table tennis ball Colliery Complex
	<i>Donald Malcolm</i>	Mustang Aircraft
Highly Commended:-	<i>Brian Hickson</i>	Block Setter Crane
	<i>Bob Prescott</i>	Ronnie the Robot
	<i>Lloyd Spackman</i>	Locomotion Number 1
Commended:-	<i>Tony Ercolana</i>	Caterpillar Crane
	<i>John Ince</i>	The Ship Endeavour.
	<i>Robin Rye</i>	Cargo Ship and loading complex

Most Outstanding Exhibition Model:-

Daryl Anderson Fairground Complex

Senior Trophy:- *Daryl Anderson* Fairground Complex

Bruce Baxter Trophy *Daryl Anderson* Fairground Complex

Junior Trophy Jonathan Ovenden Mechanical Digger

The "NZ Federation Meccano Modellers Trophy" was won by the MWT Meccano Club.

The Convention wound up on the Sunday afternoon after a good deal of fellowship. The organising committee wishes to extend a great vote of thanks to all who attended, those who worked with us to see that the show opened on time to the Public and to all those who helped us to clean up after the event. We were able to wind everything up by 6.00pm on the Sunday. Special thanks from the committee must surely go to the ladies who worked tirelessly behind scenes to ensure the smooth running of the event.

The Auckland Meccano Club has held a review meeting to finalise the event and listed the good and not so good points noted during the weekend. These factors will be noted for next time. We are pleased to advise that we broke even financially which was the committees target.

AUCKLAND MECCANO CLUB

From Lloyd Spackman

Our May meeting was mainly taken up with Club business and (in the aftermath of convention?) there were few models to see.

Chris Sullivan's lorry mounted extending jib crane from an evolution 6 set. Two motors drove the lorry and the winding drum. The lifting and lowering and the jib extension were manual. It would be interesting to try to motorise these functions as well. Also, his young son, Gerardo, bought along his small crane.

David Wall had his "Cat on the Mat" watching over proceedings.

We welcomed new member Frank Price from Manurewa,

David congratulated Peter Hancock on his successful orchestration of our convention and his remarks were endorsed by loud applause.

Graeme Wrightson was appointed Hon. Treasurer in place of Lloyd Spackman. Although public attendance at the convention was lower than we hoped for, advertising costs were less than budget and the club came out with a small surplus, a financial state-

ment will be published in the next magazine.

William Irwin advised us of the news on the Internet that Keith Cameron and Bert Love had both passed away recently. They will be greatly missed by all Meccano enthusiasts but they both leave behind a splendid lasting legacy in their considerable writings about our hobby. William also advocated us all joining the ISM.

News has also come via the Internet that Meccano SA has been sold to a French/ American investment group. M Dominique Duvauchelle has resigned and the new president is M Patrick Camus, Meccano toys (UK) says the sale will safeguard Calais and enable investment in new products.

Over afternoon tea there was much informal discussion on these and other meccano topics. Also a good deal of buying and selling including of the few sets left over from the convention and still for sale. Rosters for manning our display at Model X '99 on Queen's Birthday Weekend were settled, so now all we want is plenty of models.

WELLINGTON MECCANO CLUB

From Bryan Jones

10 members gathered at St. Lukes, Wadestown, for our April meeting. Simon Moody and Lou Nichols, having attended the NZFMM Convention in Auckland, filled most of the evening with a report on the event and a discussion on points of organization which we needed to address in our own planning for Convention 2001.

Lou Nichols had photographed many of the models at the convention, and he had the resulting prints on display. The following selection of models were also to be seen:

Don Flowers produced an epicyclic gearbox with four forward speeds and one reverse, built around Part 180 Gear Rings. Set up as a demonstration, one had to stop each stage manually to see the effect of the different gear ratios, but it served as a good example of the working principle.

Mike Highley brought his model of a Motor Coach from a 1970's No 6 Manual.

Brian Peterson had a half-track army truck, modelled in Army Multikit green parts, and with working plastic tracks.

Simon and Lou made several observations in their

verbal report about the Convention, particularly on the details which they felt significantly helped or hindered the organization of the weekend. It was very pleasing to see a number of new faces exhibiting this year, and there was special mention made of the supporters group; the partners and others behind the scenes who provided all the catering for morning and afternoon teas. There had been some problems with allocation of space during the set-up, and with the style of judging to be used, and these points were noted for our further consideration.

A list of some of the jobs that would need to be done for our Convention was announced, and members were invited (and later individually approached) to consider taking on the responsibility for each task. There were further thoughts on advertising, and some support activities such as the inclusion of displays by owners of Dinky Toys and Hornby railways.

We congratulated Lou on becoming the new Federation President. Also, as the April meeting is when we usually hold our AGM, a brief report was presented by the club president.

CHRISTCHURCH MECCANO CLUB SEFTON DISPLAY

From Ian Torrens

This was the third year that the CMC has put on a display at the Sefton Domain for the Kowhai Athletic Sports Club Gala day. It was a very sunny day, warm and no wind. The display was attended by Graeme O'Neill, Cameron McFarlane, Doug King and Ian Torrens. A total of 34 models were on display being placed on two large trestle tables and the back of Doug King's truck.

Doug and Cameron arrived early and when Ian arrived at 9.45, things were almost completely set up. By 10.15 everything was in order and the crowds were building up viewing the various stands. Highlights of our display were Graeme's Ferris Wheel, a combination of Plastic and Metal Meccano. Also Doug's Baltic Tank Loco which was running for most of the day and created a good deal of interest.

Ian's Meccanograph (SML13 1928) was kept busy churning out quite a few designs by both children and adults.

A good deal of interest was taken in Cameron's Solar K'Nex rack which had three solar panels on it (6V) driving a K'Nex Windmill at a good pace. This could be controlled by shading one of the solar panels. Outstanding interest was taken in Cameron's sun cap, this had a small solar panel on the top which drove a small fan mounted on the peak of the cap and blew a cooling wind over the face and forehead. Worked well and looked good.

Models on display were;

By Graeme O'Neill, seven plastic Meccano models being the ferris wheel, helicopter's, planes and trucks. Graeme had his enlarged Harley Davidson Steeltec/ Meccano motorcycle plus the miniature traction engine and also the Epicyclic Gear Ring demonstration unit.

Doug King bought along the Centenary crane and his 4 - 6 - 4 Baltic Loco.

Cameron McFarlane showed 12 models which were, the space station and rocket planes, an excavator on a rotating stand and also Concolly's Intermittant motion model.

All the above made a colourful and interesting display which for most of the day had eight or more people examining the models, regaling us with tales of yore and asking many questions.

Other areas of the Gala show were, a very interesting display of radio controlled model aeroplanes, various farm tractors, irrigation pumps and old fashioned farm equipment. There was a working hay bailer driven by a tractor and a number of stands selling goods such as clothing, plants, pottery, jewellery wooden letterboxes and bird boxes etc. There were amusement stands as well as Go Cart rides etc. Also showing was sheep shearing, horse racing, highland dancing, children's beauty contest and much more. Altogether a well organised and well presented Gala, we packed up at 4.00pm which ended a very enjoyable day.

Meccano Magazines for sale:

Jan to Dec 1960, good condition \$30 the lot or \$3 each

Jan 54, May 54, Feb 55, July 55, Dec 55, fair condition \$2 each

Pre-war Nov 32, Jan 35, July 35, Sept 35, Aug 36, Dec 36, Jan 37, Aug 37, Nov 37,
good to fair condition \$10 each

Contact: William Irwin, 6A Tyne Road, Milford, Auckland 1309, tel 09-4100748

CHRISTCHURCH MECCANO CLUB

From Ian Torrens

The meeting held on 9th April replaced our usual meeting which was to have been held on Good Friday. It was lovely and warm during the day, but by evening, very cold and wet and a blustery southerly buster came along, so on with the heaters in the clubrooms and enjoy the warmth and our meeting. However only eight members came along bringing three display items.

Doug King brought along a box of Trix with two manuals which were of great interest. I remember having a set of Trix myself. Doug offered it for sale and it went very quickly indeed. Very nice to see Trix again, bought back a lot of memories.

John Hamlyn, showed us a large book titled "Heavy Equipment, World's Largest Machinery". This shows trucks, loaders, cranes etc, a good book for prototypes. John is modelling a dockside crane and showed us the roller bearing. The spider had 32 x 1/2" pulleys for the rollers and was 7 1/2" diameter, the top and bottom flange's were from a record player. Looked and worked real good so will look forward to seeing the rest of the model. John also showed a 1" pulley which did not have a brass boss, about 1915, interesting.

Graeme and Kingsley were unable to attend and were certainly missed, however Peter King filled in admirably by giving a very interesting talk on the military. He passed on some of his experiences and knowledge of weapons, this was quite outstanding and gave an impression of the military, not usually thought of.

As it was still a miserable night outside, we decided to have an early evening and closed up at about

9.15pm

For the meeting of 7th May there were 14 members present with apologies from Peter Gibson who was unwell. There were 5 models on display.

David Lang showed us his test model of a creeper track, this used 17 door hinges 2 1/2" wide. These are bolted by the centre hole of the hinge to form the track and had a collar underneath on each bolt, these ran in a guide on the main wheel axles keeping everything nicely in line. The model was 15" long 14" wide and 4" high.

Cameron McFarlane brought along a small K.Nex set with leaflet and manual illustrating about 26 models to be constructed, quite interesting.

Ian Torrens displayed the Magazine Mascot from the rear cover of NZFMM April 99, cute, but I wonder what part No25b is meant to represent.

Neil Pluck presented us with his model of a traction engine as SML 22. This looked and went very well being 11" high 8" wide and 15" long. He also had a table lamp, an unusual model. This used a 240v bulb and the shade was 14" diameter x 9" high, the base was in the form of a cylinder and measured 8" dia x 9 1/2" high, a very interesting model showing an ingenious use of Meccano parts.

Mr and Mrs Pluck were still absent and we heard with great regret of Mrs Pluck's very serious illness. The meeting continued with general discussions on many and varied subjects after which the evening concluded at 10.00pm.

FOR SALE

Special Instruction Leaflets, original folded in three and in brown envelopes. Stamped "NZI Coy" Chief agent in Manawatu For Meccano and Hornby Trains.

No 4 giant Blocksetting Crane
No 5 Traveling Bucket dredger
No 7 Platform Scales
No 8 Roundabout

No 9 Bagatelle Table
No 15 Baltic tank loco
No 17 Planing Machine
No 27 Giant dragline - (damaged).
No 29 Hammerhead Crane
No 34 Three Engine Biplane

Would prefer to sell as one lot, Offers?
Don Flowers
Ph (04) 5638-008

MWT

From Bruce N and Bruce G

Daryl Anderson - The Ghost Train fairground model with an explanation of the inner workings. A lot of rack strips were rolled to form the wavy track which then provided traction and guided the train. A PDU running on 6 to 1 lasted in excess of 8 hours on one set of batteries. The train driver had a magnetic head and a set of hair made from small pins which stood up on end with terror and rearranged itself when the train passed under a second magnet. With the new colours being introduced into Meccano, Daryl was able to clad his building in suitable ghostly black plates.

From set 0040 Michael Anderson had built the submersible and new parts such as small fans, lock nuts etc. were pointed out.

Don Blakeborough - The new sets 0050 Race car, 0020 Buggy and a motorbike had been assembled which led to a discussion on the lack of adaptability and amount of plastic parts in the new sets

Bert Blakely - Magic Motor Tricyclist from a Meccano magazine

Ben Fletcher - Practised his skills by assembling a Motorbike during the evening.

Don Flowers - A 4 forward speed and reverse epicyclic gearbox to be incorporated into a future model.

Bruce Geange - Magic Motor Three Wheel Cart with working steering. Magic Motor John Deere 'G' Tractor with the motor in the correct place geared down to drive the back wheels. Simulated steering column and flywheel to give the model a close resemblance to the prototype (Photo). The D4 tractor had been amended to carry a front blade.

John Hansen - Magic Motor Hen and Chickens from CQ 3/96. On behalf of daughter Sarah came the Magic Motor Horse and Cart from the 1950 Set 3 manual

John Ince - Magic Motor Driving Propeller display. "The Wacht" propeller driven yacht. Meccanograph from MM 1967. A comparison of the cost of parts required to build the Giant Blocksetter crane of 1929 compared to 1954

Donald Malcolm - Hornby Company badge. 1926 manual. 1929 Geared Roller Bearing (GRB) in re-nickelled splendour.

Simon Moody - Motors from video recorders mounted into old E15R electric motor frames.

Chris Morton - Magic Motor Tractor from 1958 1A manual.

Paulette Morton - Magic Motor Autogyro converted from an Evolution 3 design.

Bruce Neilson - Magic Motor Chair-o-Plane (Photo). Magic Motor Ferris Wheel.

Lou Nichols - Magic Motor Model Locomotive from the 1938 set 9 Dockyard scene. 10 propeller blades including left and right hand from the 1920's.

Bob Prescott - Two Magic Motors to energise the Drummer and Guitarist Duo (a Nigel Pope model off the Internet) (Photo). A South Seeking Chariot. A Norm Le Croix E15R replica motor.

Robin Rye - Three Magic Motors to provide the three movements required in the Super Model Vertical Log Saw. One to drive the blades, one to send the log forward and one to send the log back. The manuals from the A, B, C sets to show the origin of the red Meccano fabric. Meccano track and chain compared to Stokys. Model Plan 95 Loadall started with the extending jib on display.

Mike Stoodley - A 30" long Front Face Shovel Excavator built to maximise scale and realism. The 3.5" wide track answers the problem of large scale crawler track and sprockets and is derived from commercial conveyer belt plates. (Available from Engineering Plastics Ltd, 42 Bennett St, Palmerston North at \$1.40 per plate). Mike also found a source of supply of braided cord at Mitre 10 Hardware store.

Paul Vodanovich - Magic Motor Sewing machine from 1955 Set 4 manual (Photo). Lorry and Trailer from 1950 set 8. Saloon car from 1954 set 4 manual. A 3 roller set using wooden rollers.

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION FOR THE MECCANO CONVENTION 2001

From Simon Moody

When Easter Weekend 2001, Friday
13 to Sunday 15 April
Venue Upper Hutt Civic Centre

Schedule

Friday Set up and receive early arrivals.

Saturday Morning Finish setting up and receive later arrivals.

Saturday Modellers, supporters and families day incorporating judging of models by modellers(see later paragraph)
Federation Meeting
Prizegiving
Meal (smorgasbord at licences premises)

Sunday Display open to public.
Public voting for Bruce Baxter Memorial Trophy. Close and tidy up.
Farewells and/or meal for those so inclined at Upper Hutt Cosmopolitan Club or similar.

Categories of models

All models and displays welcome. For those that wish to enter into competition – models to be displayed for the first time at a convention

1. **Senior:** 16 years and over
2. **Junior:** 15 years and under (for 1 & 2 Meccano to be used as much as possible with the normal allowances for motor, wheels & replicas etc as has been acceptable in the past)
3. **Wind powered vehicle:** as advertised for the Auckland Convention 1999. This was deferred to 2001 due to the short period between the announcement and the convention. Fur-

ther details to be advised.

3. **Mattel Competition:** model comprising Binns Rd and Calais Meccano parts only. All genuine colours and parts refurbished to those colours only. This competition has been arranged by the Auckland Club and Mattel and will be judged by them. The prize is a centenary crane set valued at \$2200 (This to be confirmed and criteria finalised)

4. **Bruce Baxter Memorial Trophy:** Open to all models (including reshowings) judged by public choice on Sunday.

The basic formula for conventions has evolved over a number of years and is a good base for this Centenary of Meccano Convention. The major deviation is Saturday, being modellers day only. At our May 1998 meeting when we had our first serious discussion on the 2001 convention we decided to do this.

We felt that as modellers and club members, Meccano was our hobby and that the convention should be for **our** enjoyment. A complete day for ourselves would allow a more relaxed examination of all models, more socialisation between all modellers and families. With a constant stream of public for the full two days, it is difficult to leave your model not operating and unsupervised whilst off visiting other parts of the display and chatting.

The Wellington Club felt that as long as we covered our costs through existing club funds, registrations, fund raising from now and whatever patronage we got on Sunday, we would be happy.

Our aim is to have a relaxing and enjoyable weekend indulging in our hobby.

Others, and I do not wish to be frazzled wrecks on Sunday night thinking, "I'm glad that's over" just for the sake of several members of the public.

We have a good team formed for all facets of the convention and welcome volunteers for duties yet to arise. It should be a worthwhile event. Details will be advertised as they need to be disseminated.

COMMING EVENTS

MEETING ADDRESS:

WMC:

ST LUKES CHURCH HALL
55 PITT STREET
WADESTOWN

MWT:

ST LUKES CHURCH HALL
CORNFOOT ST
WANGANUI

CMC:

ST JOHNS HALL
FERRY ROAD
WOOLSTON

June 1999

4th – CMC - St Johns Hall

July 1999

2nd – CMC – St Johns Hall

2nd – WMC – St Lukes Hall

August 1999

6th – WMC – St Lukes Hall

6th – CMC – St Johns Hall

7th – MWT – St Lukes Hall

The subject for this meeting is Pt No19A, spoked wheels, please label or mount your specimen's) to prevent confusion.

14th – AMC – Neil Carey's (2.00pm)
23 Eaton Road
Hillsborough

November 1999

13th – AMC – George Ovenden's
19 Richards Ave

REPLICA PARTS SUPPLIERS

SIMON MOODY
BLUE MOUNTAINS ROAD
UPPER HUTT

BRASS PARTS

BRUCE GEANGE
4 WINCHESTER ST
PALMERSTON NORTH

NARROW STRIPS
STRIP PLATES

PETER KING
P.O. BOX 2753
CHRISTCHURCH

HELICAL GEARS

ASHOK BANERJEE
P O BOX 4149
NAVRANGPURA
AHMEDABAD – 380 009
INDIA

GEARS
BRASS PARTS
PLATES
STRIPS AND GIRDERS

DO YOU HAVE A MECCANO SAWBENCH???

If so please contact Bruce Geange for a hand's on viewing, so that accurate measurement's and drawings can be made.

Thanks.

Bruce Geange
4 Winchester Street
Palmerston North
Ph (06) 355 – 0566

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