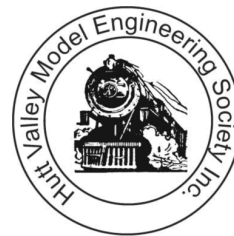


Blast Pipe



Newsletter of The Hutt Valley Model Engineering Society and
The Maidstone Model Engineering Society

November 2026

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Notice of Meetings

Hutt Valley MES

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 4th November at 7.45 pm at the clubrooms in Petone. James will be presenting on his book "A Cure for Boredom".

HVMES Notes

The October meeting was lightly attended, with 9 members present. Despite the lower attendance, it was an interesting night.

Claude started with a handful of notices. RailEx was discussed. Any members able to help should provide names to Claude, along with any models available for display. As in previous years, full tables really help show off the club.

The group discussed selling drinks at the station on running days. No firm conclusion was reached.

Claude showed an interesting video from Ikon Engineering about a train they had built to operate inside the Auckland Harbour Bridge.

Pete had CNC-machined track gauges in aluminium to three different standards. This showed the variability across countries.



Lachlan spoke about the progress he had made with his easy to build locomotive. Two afternoons were spent at DGT's turning the axles and pressing on the wheels. The model is now ready for wiring and other tweaks. The

drive chain was discussed, including methods for splitting and joining it. Lachlan had the radio control handpiece and demonstrated how to set up the channels as 2-way, 3-way, or momentary switches. Discussion then turned to the best way to secure the sprockets to the axles.

Dave Turner presented an Acme 1 ¼" tap. He explained he bought it at an auction house in Canada for \$20 with no real need or purpose, later to find it was exactly what he needed to fix his Bridgeport milling machine. His employer then learnt of this and contracted him to repair six more machines.



MMES Notes

The Carr family held a remembrance function to celebrate Peter Carr's life on Oct 10. Cecilia, Brian, and Dean attended from MMES.

MMES life Member Bob Begbie and his wife, Beryl, are now living at Riverleigh Rest Home in Lower Hutt.

MMES will be running trains on the track on the 8th and 22nd of November, weather permitting. All visiting engines are welcome to attend.

Brian has been working on the Critter locomotive and has rewired the engine's on/off switch to the cab. This means you can shut off the engine from the cab controls rather than the on/off switch mounted on the engine.



Cake at Peter Carr's remembrance function combining his hobbies in amateur radio and railways. Photo: Hawke

This newsletter is only as good as the stories our members share. Workshop projects, track day photos, technical tips, club history, or even a good mishap story if it's model engineering-related- we want to hear about it. Articles don't need to be polished; send through a few photos and a couple of lines, and we'll help pull it together. Send contributions to the Editor, hvmes.sec@outlook.com, by the 20th of each month.

A Cure for Boredom

By James Claridge

Kia Ora members, here's a brief spiel about a book I made for my final degree assignment. I made the photography book "A Cure for Boredom" in response to the rapid rise and integration of artificial intelligence into modern life. I see AI as a threat to creativity, and that inspired the idea of a photobook celebrating people's creative spaces. In the making of this book, I visited workshops belonging to model engineers, Jewellers, wood turners, knife makers and instrument repair spaces. It has been a great joy to see and learn about the creative practices from a wide pool of makers.



James at his university photography exhibition with his parents.



One of the photos from James's book Photo: Claridge

F1 Takes to the Rails

By Ben Calcott

To celebrate the return of the Spanish Grand Prix to Madrid's new MadRing street circuit and highlight access to underground public transit, Oracle Red Bull Racing ran a modified 2012 RB8 Formula 1 car along the Metro de Madrid underground tracks as part of a promotional campaign.

Built in collaboration with Spanish collective Andtonic at the Canillejas workshops, the team swapped the standard wheels and tyres for bespoke, lightweight metal train wheels (weighing 29.8 kg each) with central hubs to fit the underground rails without damaging the car's suspension. You can check out the Red Bull video on [YouTube](#).

Former F1 driver Patrick Friesacher drove the car through the Metro de Madrid network, passing through stations and depots including Estadio Metropolitano, Sacedal, and Chamartín.

This seemed like a good modelling subject, and Kmart had 1:18-scale radio-controlled Formula 1 cars available; while the model was an RB18 rather than the original RB8, it looked like an ideal candidate for conversion to rail use.

The hardest part of the conversion was removing the press-fitted wheels without damaging the model. I designed replacement wheels in Fusion 360 using the IBLS wheel profile and then 3D-printed them in ABS. I trimmed them slightly to ensure the wheels cleared everything on the car, and track trials proved successful.



Red Bull recently mounted rail wheels on an F1 car and drove it around the Madrid metro. Tested on October 4th, this 1:18 scale Kmart car now has 3d printed wheels replicating the real thing. Photo: Calcott

A Visit to Anderson Park Railway

By Andy Henderson



Photo: Henderson

Andy recently visited Anderson Park Railway, home of the Hawke's Bay Model Engineering Society Inc., and enjoyed a warm welcome and a tour of their facilities.

The society has a beautiful railway featuring both 7¼-inch and 5-inch gauge tracks winding through part of the park. The route includes a tunnel, a bridge over water, and attractive planted areas that add variety and interest to the ride.

Andy was particularly impressed by the clubrooms, with their library and displays showcasing the society's interests and history.

A great visit and an opportunity to see another model engineering society's facilities and the work they do to share our hobby with the public.



The Tunnel and bridge at the Hawke's Bay Model Engineering Society Inc. create some interest on the trip around the park. Photos: Henderson

Upcoming Events

With Christmas fast approaching, there's plenty happening at the club and around the region over the next month. Here's a look at what's coming up!

Halloween Run

Not long until our Halloween run this weekend. We're looking forward to the event, and it's getting a decent amount of attention on Facebook. This should be a good event and fundraiser for the club.

Event times:

Setup: From 12:00 pm

Ticket sales: From approximately 4:00 pm, or earlier if we are ready

Event running until: Approximately 8:30 pm

If you're able to help with the event in any way, and you haven't already, please send us an email to let us know what you can bring or how you'd like to help. We'll also need plenty of hands during setup and throughout the event, so please let us know if you're available to help out.

Club night

Wednesday 4th November at 7.45 pm at the clubrooms in Petone. James will be presenting on his book "A Cure for Boredom"

RailEx Model Train Show

RailEx is coming up on 21 & 22 November 2026. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered to help out at the stand or display models. There's still time to help out if you want to get involved.

 Opening hours:

- Saturday 10 am–5 pm
- Sunday 10 am–4 pm

 Admission:

- Adults — \$15
- Children — \$5
- Under 5s — Free
- Family (2 adults + up to 3 children) — \$30



Chatswood Signal Box

By Ben Calcott



The former Chatswood Signal box now located at the bus interchange Photo: Calcott



The lever frame, unfortunately the windows needed a clean but it looks well preserved Photo: Calcott

During a recent work trip, I came across the former Chatswood Signal Box. It used to sit at the end of the platform, but it was removed when work began on the new Chatswood Transport Interchange in 2006.

The Signal Box and its contents were removed, stored, and then reassembled in the Bus Interchange as a reminder of railway traffic control, which was replaced at Chatswood by automatic signalling in 1994.

Sydney has gone in big on transport-oriented development to reduce road congestion and make the city more livable. Amongst the thirty-storey buildings, it was good to see this piece of railway signalling heritage preserved.

Unfortunately, the signal box wasn't illuminated inside the windows were very dirty, so it was hard to get a decent photo of the NSWGR lever frame.