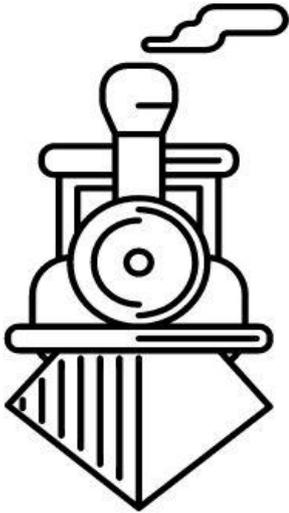


THE GARDEN WHISTLE

NEW ZEALAND LARGE SCALE NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2022



THE GARDEN WHISTLE

NEW ZEALAND LARGE SCALE NEWSLETTER

April 2022

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[Cover photo](#) — Karl Arnesen's Ten Wheeler on the trestle.

Photo supplied by — Editor.

The **Garden Whistle** is published monthly by the Christchurch Garden Railway Group and features news from various Large scale Groups in New Zealand.

Each club is a separate identity and the contact details may be found in club contacts.

Contributions of articles and/or photos are always welcome. Photos should be sent as separate jpg attachments.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor, Executive, or members of the Christchurch Garden Railway Group

Editor: Iain Collingwood, Email: gw.editor@outlook.com

Wairarapa Garden Railway Group March Meeting

Article and Photos Lloyd Dickens

Wairarapa Garden Railway Group March Running Day

A visit to Dean Ellicock's European Railway.

With our other running day for the month cancelled due to Covid it was pleasing this one went ahead. The workers in the group were on daily RAT's and the oldies being careful it was decided to go ahead. Our normal visitors from Wellington were not present due to Covid and there particular circumstances. The turnout therefore was small.

Deans railway is elevated and has one main town with another settlement with signal box and a station. This is common with several of our railways. It represents a town with railway coming in but only from one end. This is of course normal for garden railways and they usually represent a circuit or two.

The luscious growth hides parts of the track making for a more realistic layout. This is the last run on this railway in its present form as Dean is building an indoor railway and the buildings will be going inside.

With just four of us running there was little competition for track time. Dan Hughes had his work train pulled by a Mallet which he has gone to a lot of trouble to rust up as one would see on a not very well maintained railway.

Dean Ellicock had his new East German 2-10-2 750mm gauge LGB locomotive running. It was on DCC with a great sound system. Murray Clarke also had his Mallet pulled train but run on batteries, I ran my Isle of Man Railcar twinset.

A great afternoon tea was served. In what is barmy weather we all had a great time.

P.S. One of our number tested positive on Monday morning!

Lloyd Dickens

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Christine Collett and Dean Ellicock.



Twin bridges with Murray Clarkes Mallet in foreground and Lloyds Railcar on rear bridge.



Lloyd Dickens Isle of Man Railcar twinset.

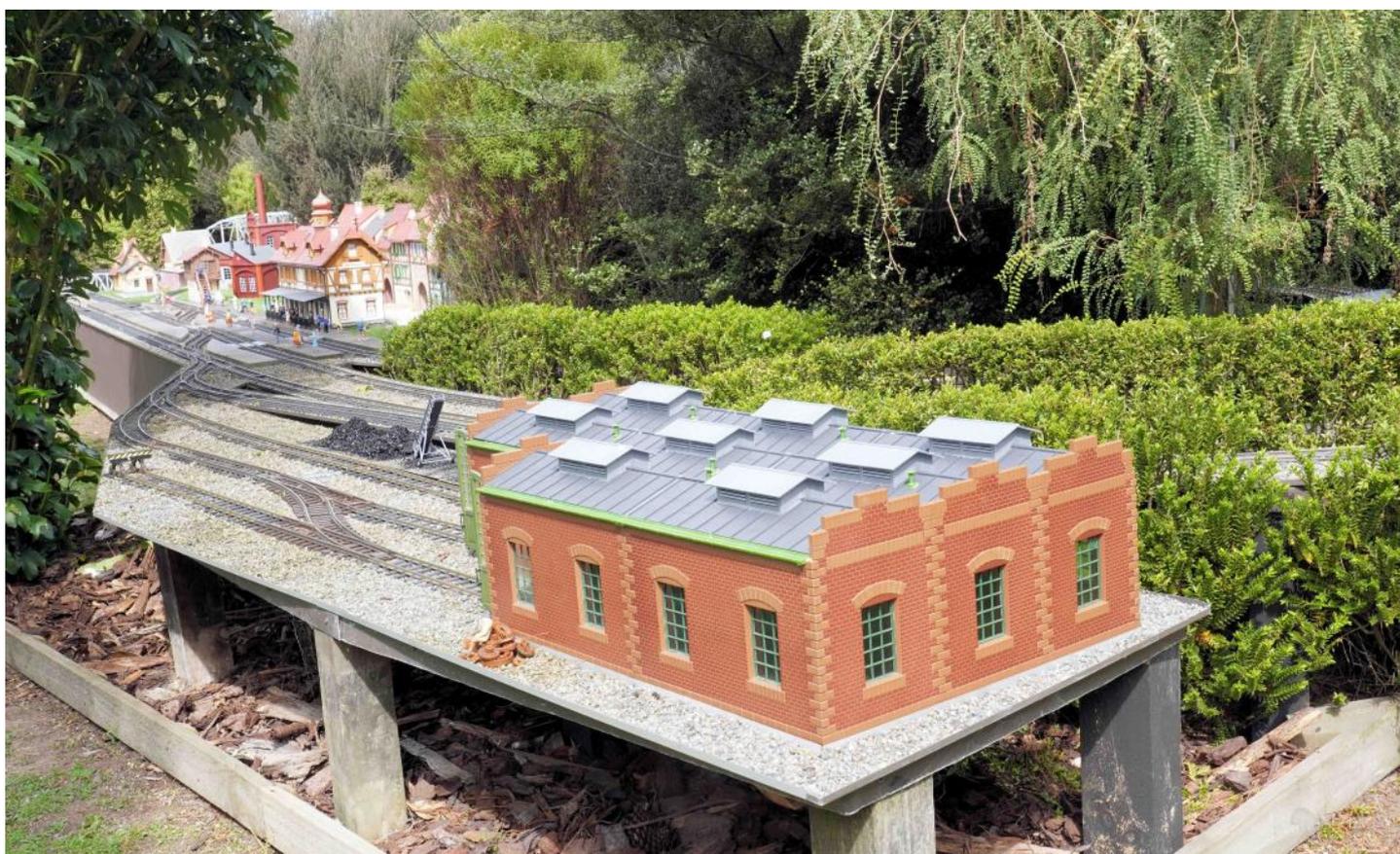


Murray and Brendon Clarke.

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The town and Dans work train.



The Loco sheds with town in background.

Auckland Garden Railway Society March Meetings

Report and Photos - Robert Graham

Yes you read the title correctly this month, the Auckland Society had two running meetings both of which were to farewell garden railways that are being decommissioned as their owners are leaving Auckland.

Our first meeting was at Derek Cooper's railway in New Windsor. Derek is a well known live steam operator and he had a railway that looped around his garage/parking area and then ran up the side of the house to a balloon loop with a return line back to the garage area. Derek only ran live steam or battery powered locos and he did not use track power so there was no electrical problems to worry about such as short circuits from the return loop.

It has been a couple of years since I have had the privilege of running a train on Derek's railway so I enjoyed seeing the changes he had made with areas of landscaping beside the track and the use of track signals to show if the track was clear for a train. The signaling system was particularly useful for around the garage where one cannot see if another train is coming.

The signals are a coloured light signal powered by a 12 volt circuit and using reed switches triggered by a magnet mounted under the loco to change the lights. Derek has 3d printed the signal heads which house the coloured LED's. Perhaps our editor can convince him to write an article to better tell us how he built and operates his system.

Derek ran a couple of his live steamers, Hugh Keal ran his Roundhouse Billy (built from a kit) with a train of 3d printed wagons and I ran my Mamod Steam tram loco and wagons. John Reinecke had his Roundhouse Fowler which he has modified to match a South African prototype and Michael Hilliar ran his Accucraft Galloping Goose and then later ran his Roundhouse loco that he has modified into the Bagnall 0-4-0 ST Sybil with a train of modified and repainted LGB hopper wagons.

We all enjoyed running our trains on Derek's railway and it will be sadly missed from the Auckland garden Railway scene. Chris O'Brien has taken a short video which can be found on You Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H8dXTQe-DA>. On behalf of the Auckland Society I would like to thank Derek and Pauline for hosting our visits and we wish you all the best for your move.

Our second visit involved a bit more travel with a trip out south to visit Greg Burrows railway at Waiuku. Greg's place is not far from the Glenbrook Vintage Railway but that will have to be a visit for another day. Greg has built his railway into a landscaped garden area above a retaining wall beside his garage/workshop. There is a main yard with 3 tracks for preparing trains for the main line plus a through line. The line has two tunnels, a couple of bridges and a connecting line which allows one to reverse the running direction. Greg has built a bridge which connects the line to a shed where the trains are stabled. As with Derek Coopers line Greg uses battery or live steam.

Greg's house is for sale and a clip of the house and the all important railway can be seen at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebEcmzp64TU>. Perhaps I should say that Greg's railway is for sale and if you buy the railway a free house comes with it.

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Despite the longer than normal distance to get to the group meeting we still had a good turnout. Michael Hilliar had his Galloping Goose, live steam Sybil and a 2-8-0 Consolidation which he has built from an LGB Mogul with a train of passenger wagons. Chris O'Brien ran a train and John Stephenson ran his live steam Roundhouse Linda. I ran my Mamod Steam tram for a bit then swapped over to my Accucraft Baguley diesel and train of goods wagons. The day was quite windy but Greg's railway was sufficiently sheltered that the wind didn't cause any problems for the live steamers.

Greg's partner Janet made us a wonderful afternoon tea which we all enjoyed and there was still lots left over at the end so I think Greg probably had cake for the rest of the week. As well as running trains we also got a look at Greg workshop where he has some larger scale (3.5" and 5" gauge) live steamers. Some are operational and others are works in progress. Just shows that one can never have too many trains.

All too soon it was time to pack up and head back home. Thank you Greg and Janet we had a lovely time and we wish you all the best for the house sale and shift.

Last month I mentioned that Simon Sharps partner Carol Bould has been fighting a long term illness and I regret to report that Carol's health has deteriorated and she is now at home with Simon as her full time carer. I'm sure that you will join with me in passing on our best wishes to Carol and Simon. If you wish to visit please ring and check with Simon first.

I would like to once again ask if there is anyone in the Auckland Society who can host a meeting this year or a layout visit at the convention please contact me. I can be contacted on 021 529 015 or 09 836 0900 or send an email to me at robert.graham@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or grahamclannz@xtra.co.nz. The meeting doesn't have to be purely garden railways we are interested in other railway activities so could visit an indoor model railway in a smaller scale or maybe we could have a film evening at your man cave, we are open to suggestions. Perhaps you would like help building your railway? Let us know and we can plan a working bee.

I would like to repeat my thanks to Derek and Pauline and to Greg and Janet. We had a wonderful time and will miss your garden railways. All the best for your moves. Stay safe everyone.

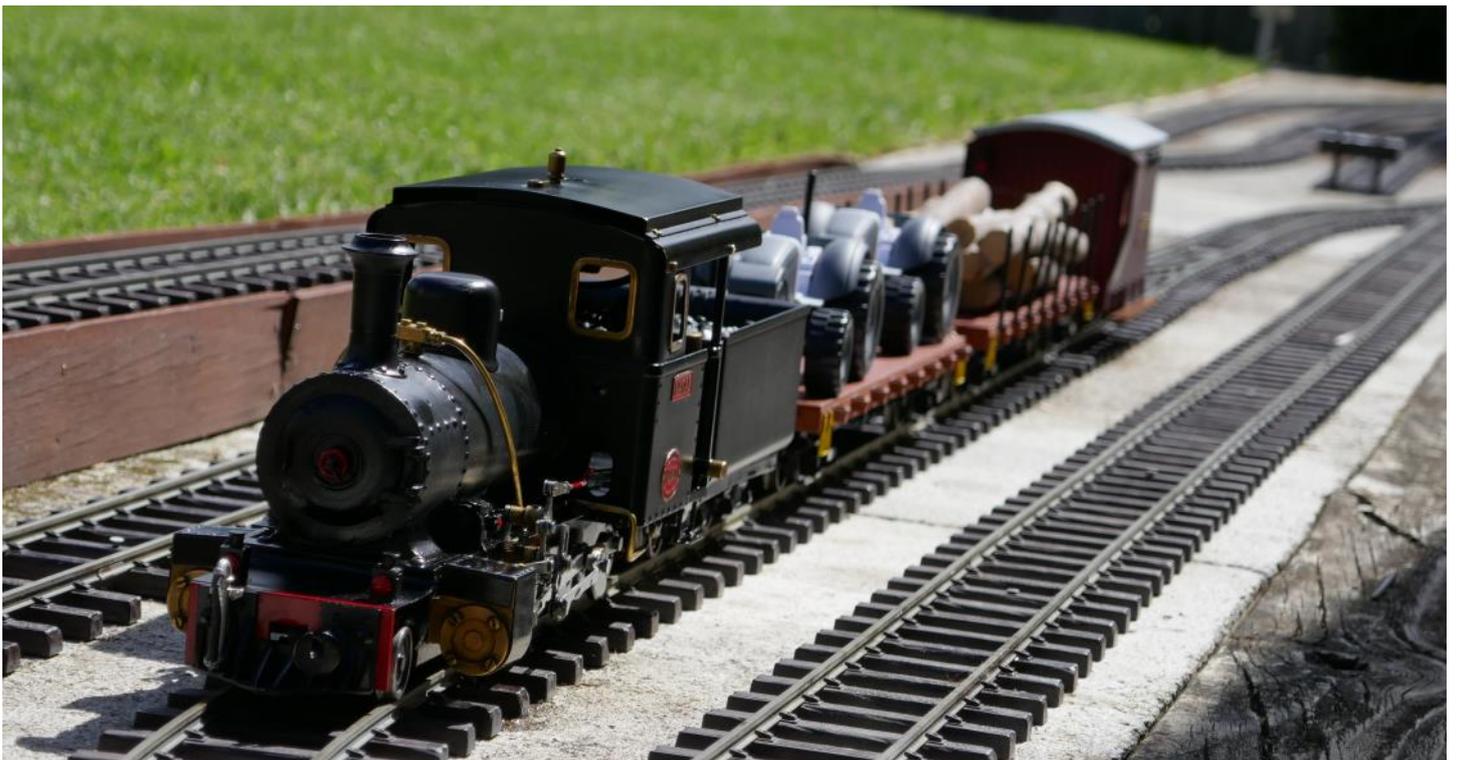
Robert Graham



Michael Hilliar's Accucraft Galloping Goose #7 - Battery power with remote control.



Hugh Keal's Roundhouse Billy at Derek Coopers railway.

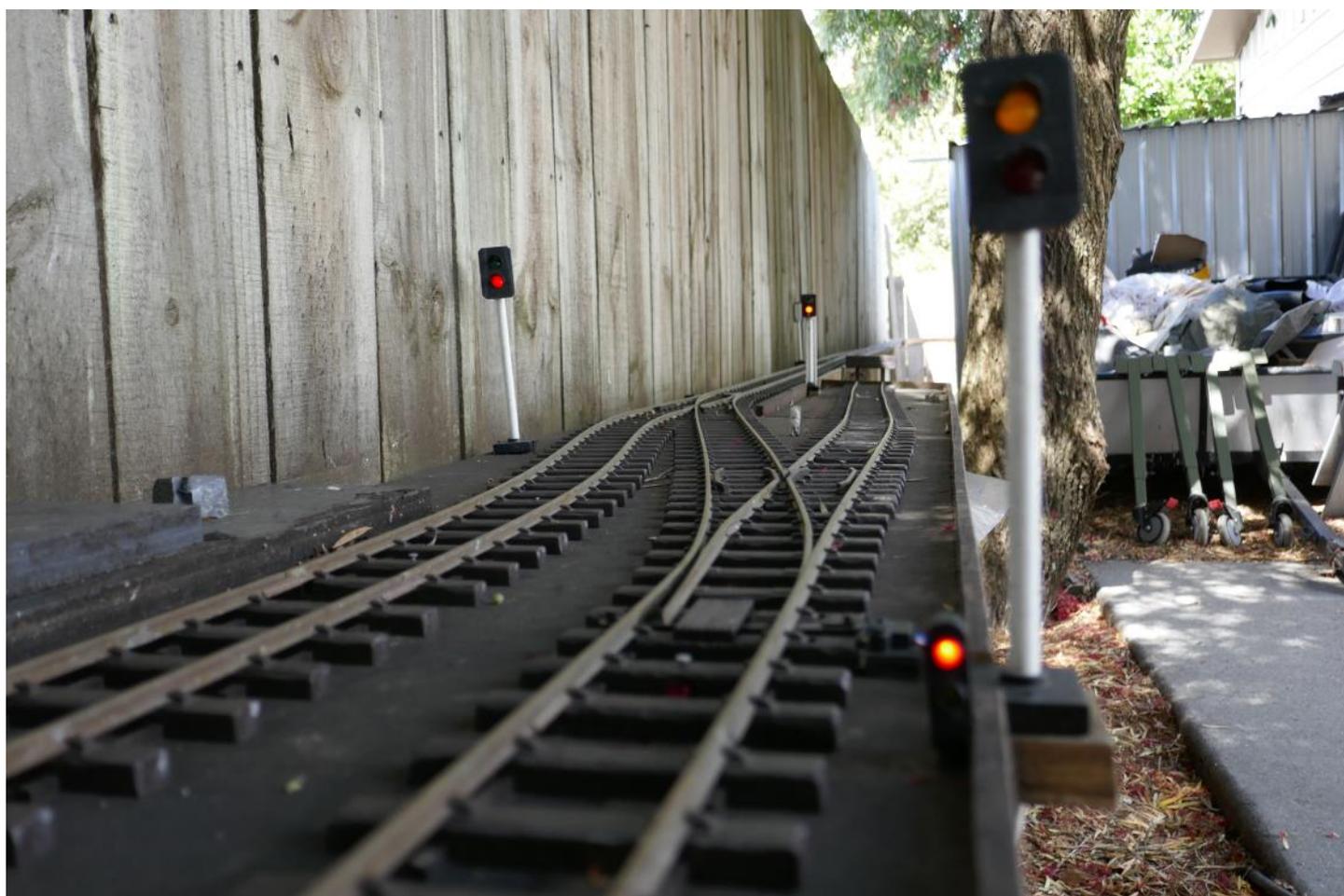


John Reineckes Folwer.

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Mamod steam train with train. The Mamod is battery powered with sound and it has Fossworks remote control.



Signals on Derek's railway.



Hugh running his train past a steam up area behind the garage.



Greg's Accucraft Shay.

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Michael Hilliar Consolidation passing Greg's Bachmann ten wheeler.



Robert Graham's Accucraft Baguley which has been converted to battery power with RCS remote control

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Goose number 7 having a run on Greg's track.



Looking down to the yard area. Visible are John Stephenson preparing Linda, John's daughter, Donald Brannigan, Chris O'Brien and his daughter.

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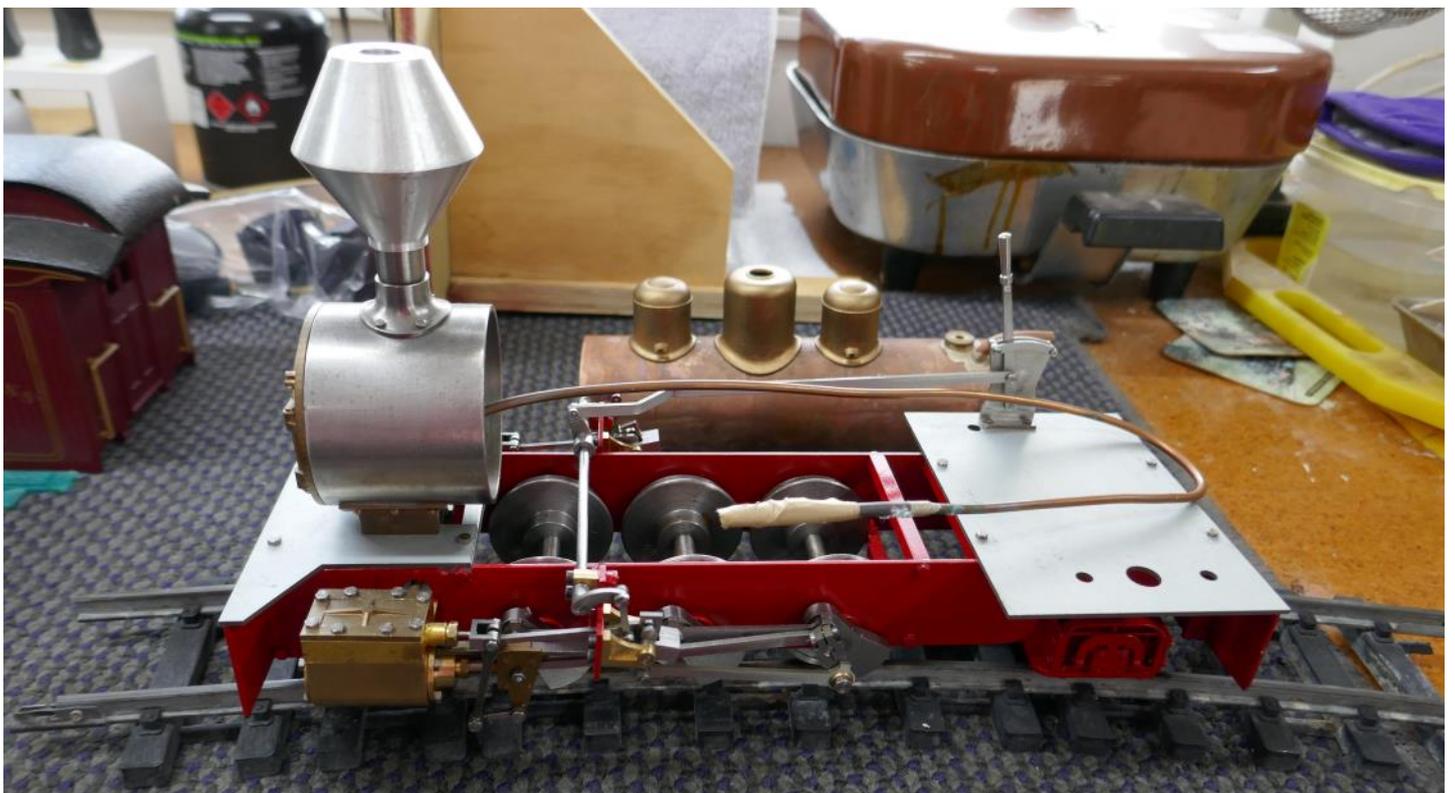
Michael Brannigan with his Stationary engine which he has repaired.



Trains in the Yard.

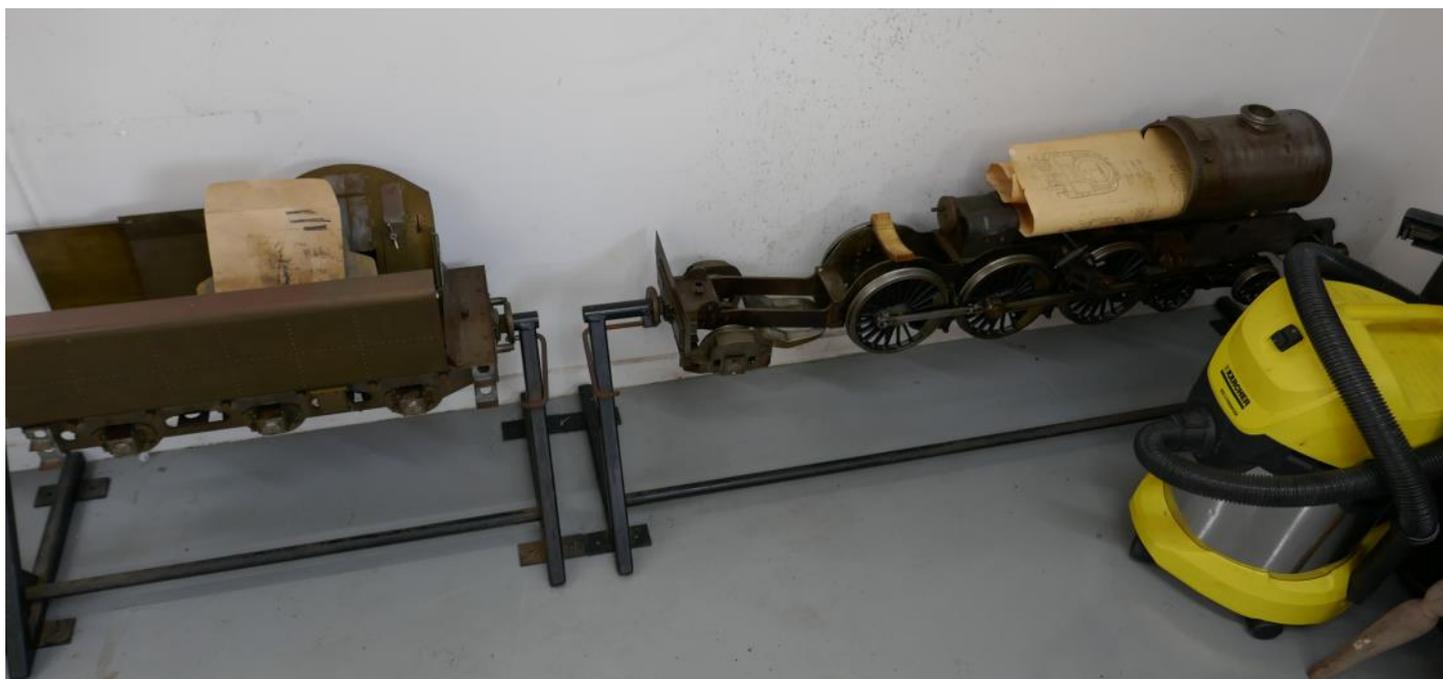


John Stephenson's Roundhouse Linda crossing a bridge. The bridge is built from plastic card and 3d printed detail.

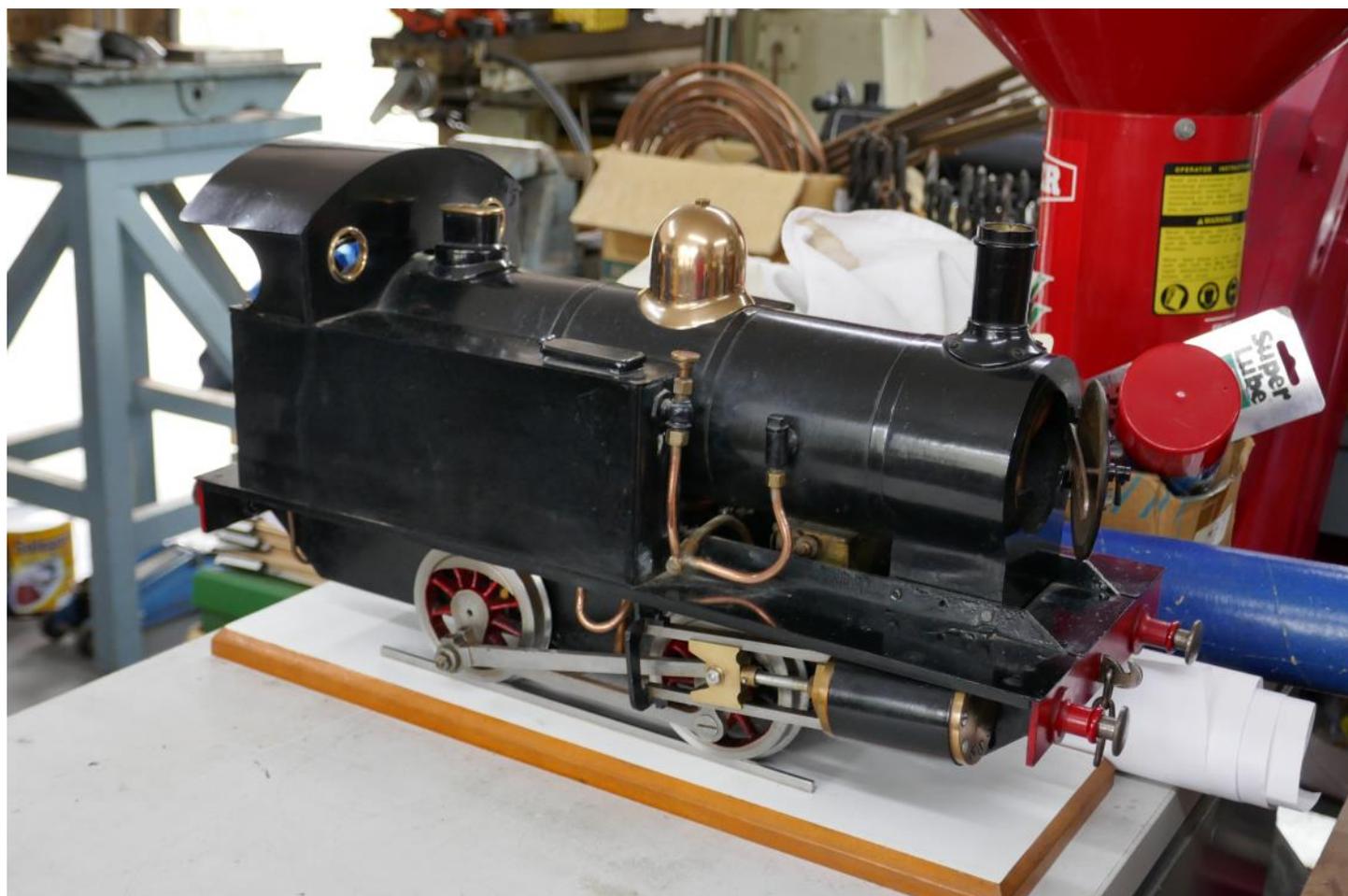


45mm gauge Bundaberg loco project.

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5" Britannia project.



3.5' gauge 0-4-0.



Above - 3.5" gauge CN loco.

Below - The Waiuku Branch Line shed, end of the line. You can just see the bridge that connects it to the railway at the top left corner of the photo.



Auckland Group April Twilight Meeting.

The Auckland Group meeting for April will be the post daylight saving twilight meeting. The meeting is from 4 pm onwards on Saturday 9 April at the Waitakere Light Railway 14 Milwaukee Place, Glendene. You are welcome to stay on after the train running and we can share some pizzas from the local pizza parlor. We will have track power plus you can run your live steamers or battery locos but as it is a twilight session for the best effects bring a train with lights.

Robert Graham

Christchurch Garden Railway Group Meeting

Report - Editor, Photos Editor or as credited

Christchurch Garden Railway Group March Running Day

This month's meeting was something new for the group, which was to hold two layout visits in one day. First Layout was Kabita's and Dave's Collins Creek Branch Railroad which was the first group running day for this layout, Kabita and Dave have done a lot of work since the convention visit and the scenery work has commenced. Trains ran all morning while members enjoyed morning tea and chatting to each other, at 12.30pm it was time to head off to the next layout being Bill and Margret's Pirfic Railroad to have lunch and then begin running trains for the afternoon. While the group was having afternoon tea and chatting about the success and enjoyment of the day it was raised to potentially have a double visit next monthwatch this space!

Thanks to all who made it a wonderful day.



Kabita Whale's K27 Locomotive.



Oliver Hamer's on the controls.



Douglas Wall's Rogers.



Bruce Verey's locomotive passing the Carter station.



Kabita Whale and Graeme Moar carry out track inspection.

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Karl Arnesen's ten wheeler passing thru the township.



Andrew Wilson's Passenger service crossing the Trestle.



Bruce Verey's White Pass freight train.



Kabita Whale's K27 Waiting in the passing loop.



Locomotive change on the passenger service.



Andrew Wilson's train waiting for clearance at Carter Station.

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Full yard at the new Sante Fe Station.



Ian Galbraith's work train stopped at Piric Station.

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Passenger service leaving the Lincoln station.



Karl Arnesen's passenger train passing thru the Santa Fe station.

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Andrew shouted "STOP", before the crash - Photo and caption—Kabita Whale.



Signalman was placed on report after this incident.



Inspecting after reopening the track.

Christchurch Group April / May Meeting.

April running day times & venues have changed. The date is still the same but it will now be as follows.

Sunday April 24th, meet at Ian & Ann's home at 10.30am for morning tea, lunch & run trains.

Lunch will be kindly provided by the hosts, which will include homemade vegetable soup, cheese rollup's & assorted savouries, with tea coffee included.

Or if you prefer you can bring your own lunch.

Then on to Noel's home at 1.30pm for afternoon tea & of course run some more trains.

If the Sunday is wet we will move it to the Monday April 25th (Anzac Day) all going well.

Both layouts will be battery power at this stage.

Ian & Ann's address is 3 Church St, Rangiora.

Noel's address is 10 Tutton Mews, also Rangiora.

Lets all hope for another awesome day with friends & great weather.

A.G.M. will be at Rod Benders Club rooms, Waterloo Rd, Hei Hei May 1st at 1-30pm

May running day will be at Karl's home, 460a marine Parade, South Brighton. on the 15th May at 1.30pm again subject to weather.

David Day

Glenfinnan Viaduct [Part 7]

John Boyson, Pokeno



This article has been prepared for joint publication in the Garden Whistle and G1MRA NZ newsletter.
Photos and plans provided by the author except where stated.

Landscaping

The next job, following completion of construction works, was a massive tidy up and landscaping to restore the garden around the piers. The east support box had been used as a dump for all the clean fill and construction detritus from the viaduct build. A half cubic metre of topsoil then completed the filling of all the bays to a level just below the pier bases. A further quarter cube did the same job at the west end. However I wanted a rockery at this end to build up the ground levels in tiers to match the piers bases. A search on Google and consequent visit to a landscape yard sourced some 100-300mm bluestone gabion rock which I paid for half a cube. The yard owner who came out with me to view the material took up my suggestion that I hand fill the trailer. His parting words were: “just take whatever you need”. Whilst time consuming, this allowed me to pick out the plums and leave the debris for someone else. It also lessened the potential for damage to the trailer had the load simply been dropped in. 153 stones later and having checked the trailer for bounce (yes there was still some) we left for home. It couldn't have been too heavy since the trailer was as steady as a rock with no hunting (normally a sign things are a little overloaded!): *was that a pun just then??!!*



The east support box filled with topsoil.



The first of the rocks installed around the western piers with weed mat underneath ready for more plants and the pebbles. Some of the existing cyclamens have been replanted between the piers.

A visit to a garden centre, with Priscilla, procured some more cyclamens and succulents (the latter for the drier east box). These were duly planted as the ground levels were raised with the rocks arranged to tidy the whole thing up.

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The additional cyclamen in place ready for planting

The final landscaping job was to replace the pebbles under the whole structure. Lines of these were glued into place along various nib walls and the top of the support box to stop them from rolling off from those areas. Weed stop mat was also laid underneath the whole area as before to stop the pebbles from sinking into the ground.



Cyclamen planted and a line of pebbles being laid on a bead of sealant to form a border for the pebbles that will cover the ground shortly. Laying these out by hand, whilst time consuming, was quite therapeutic strangely!



The finished rockery at the west end of the viaduct. The last spot plaster patches are evident.



Weed mat and rocks laid out over the central section.

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Landscaping finished with the pebbles reinstated. Succulents have been planted in the east box, being a drier area. The patio and retaining walls have also been cleaned up following this in readiness for tracklaying.

Laying the Track

Laying the track was always going to be a highlight of the project. However this was followed by more tedium of ballasting and rail painting. I did ease this by doing the rail chairs inside in the evenings before the track was laid thus reducing the amount of work to be done outside.



Painting the rail chairs using a mix of roofing paint test pot paints.



Fabricating the aluminium check plate to cross the gap at the east end.



Tracklaying started.

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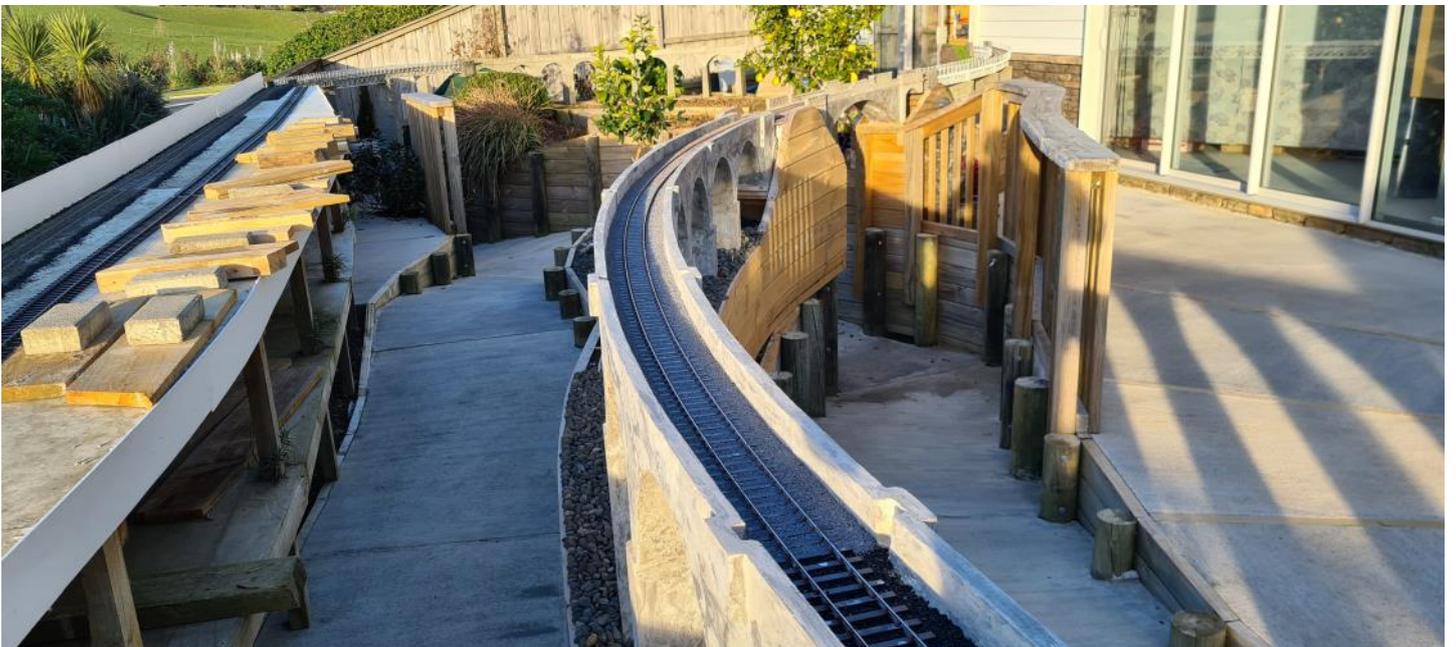
And closing in on the west end.



Checking clearances with J B Earle. This is the largest piece of stock I have along with the L and M carriages. If they fit everything else will. They did!



Under layer of coarse ballast started..



Fine scale top coat of ballast following on

Given the time of year and my experiences with PVA glue needing time to cure before it is exposed to wet weather, I created a long tarpaulin to cover the top of the viaduct whilst the glue was hardening. This seems to have been 95% effective with just a few areas where water got in and caused damage.



The protecting tarpaulin in place and well weighed down. This was made up of the cheapest lightweight sheet available from Mitre 10 cut into strips about 350mm wide.



Starting the rail painting with the etch primer.



Add photos of top coat and finished viaduct.

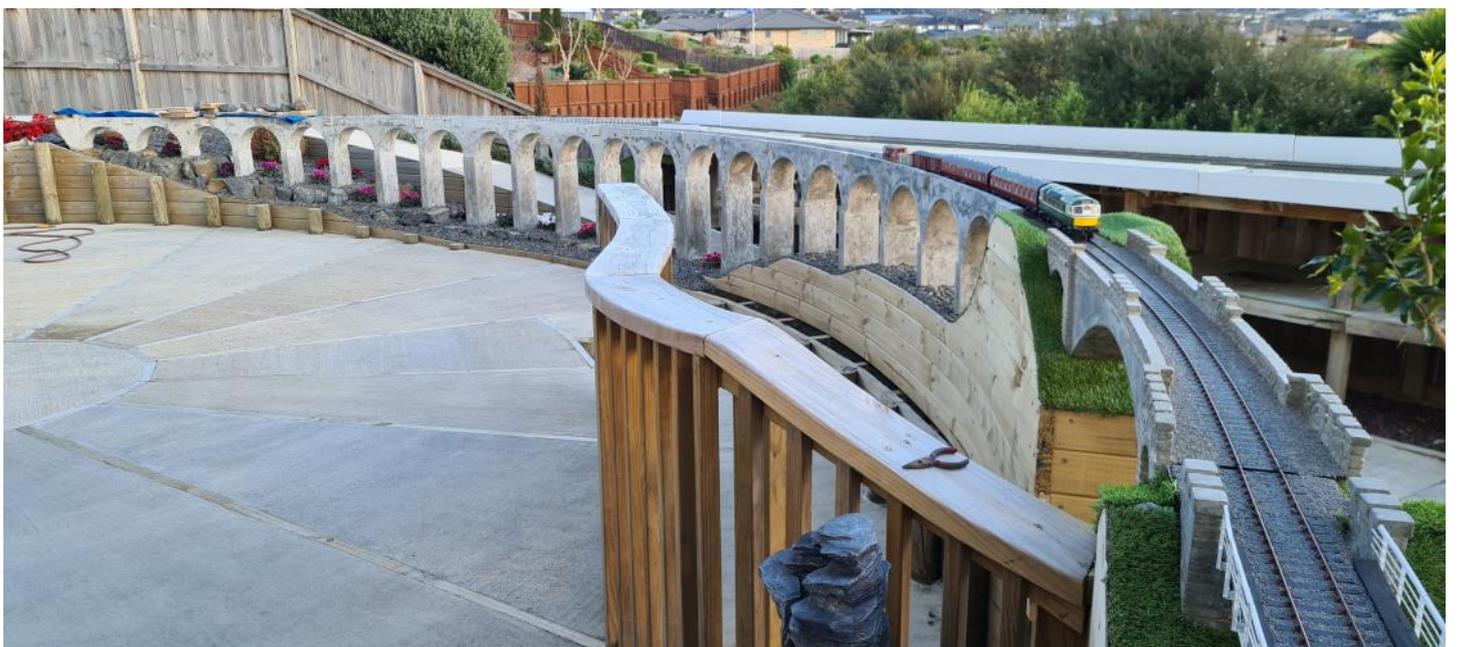


The last job of all was to cover the east abutment area with artificial grass cut to size..

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Conclusion

This project, which took about five months to complete, has been a bit of an adventure and marks the culmination of the main outdoor loop construction. There remains a four metre gap to fill to complete it which will take another couple of months. Thus by year end (2021) I should have a complete loop at last. It has only taken six years from when we moved in to reach this point!



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From the workbench

Photos and article - Brian Allison

If you have an Aristocraft turnout which has 'gone lazy' (aka that weak spring has rusted/broken) and your point blades no longer held tightly against the stock rails, then this 'gadget' I made might be the answer. Simply bent from .9mm brass rod, this gadget is inserted through the holes in the tie bar and neighboring sleepers to hold the point blades in position. Simply pull out the gadget and use on the other side of the turnout depending in the route you choose. See pics attached.

Brian Allison



COMING EVENTS

March 5 2022
 April 15-18 2022
 May 7-8 2022
 June 3-4 2022
 June 20-25 2022
 July 9-10 2022
 July 16-17 2022
 October 2022
 October 2022
 November 2022
 2023
 July 3-9 2023

Postponed until April The Big Model Train Sale, Christchurch
Postponed until October NZAMRC Convention, Christchurch
 Dunedin Model Train Show, Dunedin
 Hastings Model Railway Club's Train Show (Havelock North)
 37th Garden Railway Convention, Denver, CO, USA
 Ashburton Model Train Show, Ashburton
 Starlight Hobby Expo, Taupo
 The BIG Model Train Show, Christchurch
 Great Little Train Show, Invercargill
 Rail X 2022, Lower Hutt
 NZ Garden Railway Convention, Auckland
 38th Garden Railway Convention, Santa Clara CA, USA

Do you know of an event?
 Contact the Editor to include in the next
 Garden Whistle newsletter
gw.editor@outlook.com

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Club Meeting	Club Contact
<p>April 9th (Sunday) 4pm</p> <p>post daylight saving twilight meeting. The Waitakere Light Railway 14 Milwaukee Place, Glendene.</p> <p>track power plus you can run your live steamers or battery locos.</p> <p>See page 17 for more information.</p>	<p>Auckland</p> <p>Auckland Garden Railway Society Inc Club Contact: Email: gardenrailauckland@gmail.com Philip Sharp, Ph: 09 600 2157</p>
<p>Running Days/Meetings cancelled until further notice</p>	<p>Waikato:</p> <p>GROW: Garden Railway Operators of Waikato. Club Contact: Email: sandnlipsey@gmail.com Stefan Lipsey, PO Box 612, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton, 3240, Ph: 07 859 3650</p>
<p>April 17th (Sunday) starting 1pm</p> <p>Wayne Haste 21 William Donald Drive Masterton.</p>	<p>Wairarapa:</p> <p>Wairarapa Garden Railway Group. Club Contact: Email: Lloyd.dickens@wise.net.nz C/- Lloyd Dickens, 55 Titoki Street, Masterton. Ph: 06 370 3790.</p>
<p>April TBA:</p>	<p>Wellington:</p> <p>Wellington Garden Railway Group. Club Contact: Email: bilthompson@xtra.co.nz Coordinator: Brent Thompson, 6 Bodmin Terrace, Camborne, Ph: 022 619 4006</p>
<p>April 24th (Sunday) 10.30am - 1.30pm Ian & Ann's Culcreuch Fold Railway 3 Church Street, Rangiora No Track power, Battery or Live steam only.</p> <p>April 24th (Sunday) 1.30pm Noel & Denise's Tadbroke Railway 10 Tutton Mews, Rangiora Track power available.</p> <p>See Page 27 for more information.</p>	<p>Christchurch:</p> <p>Christchurch Garden Railway Group: Club Contact: Email: 2days61@gmail.com Secretary: David Day, 61 Carnarvon Street, Linwood, Christchurch. Ph: 03 981 4424 President: Andrew Wilson, Ph: 021 273 3047</p>

CLASSIFIEDS

Attached photos of several items that a local guy has for sale. Items look in used but reasonable condition. Some wear evident on wheels but a quick inspection reveals no missing/broken parts. Loco not yet tested but I will do so. Any enquiries to tootoot.co.nz, shop@tootoot.co.nz or 03 217 0572 and we will put enquirer in touch with seller.

Geoff



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NEXT ISSUE PREVIEW



“And the trains went round
and round”

By John Boyson, Pokeno