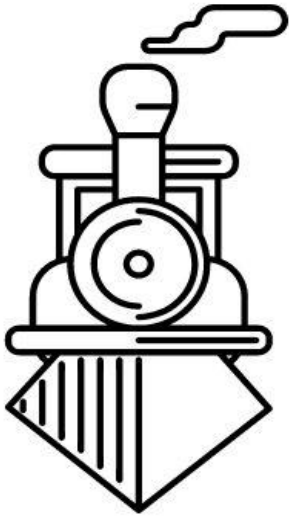


THE GARDEN WHISTLE

NEW ZEALAND LARGE SCALE NEWSLETTER



APRIL 2024



THE GARDEN WHISTLE

NEW ZEALAND LARGE SCALE NEWSLETTER

April 2024

Contents

In This Issue

[35 Coming Events](#)

[36 Advertisers](#)

[37 Club Meetings
& Contacts](#)

This Months Features

[3 Wairarapa Garden Railway Group Meeting](#)

[6 Christchurch Garden Railway Group Meeting](#)

[14 Castletown Live Steam Weekend](#)

[18 Auckland Garden Railway Society Meeting](#)

[24 Riding the Rails Part 1](#)

[28 The British Railway Mark One Carriages 17:
Making and Fitting the Gangways](#)

[Cover photo](#) — Peters Loco doing its last run on the track.

Photo supplied by - Lloyd Dickens.

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 Meeting

Report Warren Stringer, Photos - Lloyd Dickens.

Memorial Running Day on Peter Milburn's Layout

It was another glorious day in the Wairarapa. The forecast Southerly wind did not arrive; the sun was out, and we had nice mild T-shirt weather. In fact we have been very lucky with the weather on our running days all year so far...

Irma and her crew of willing helpers had the garden and the railway looking a treat for us, and everything was set for a pleasant afternoon.

We had an excellent turnout. Most of our local garden railway mob turned up – with their trains – and we all got to run our 'charges' around Peter's generous-sized layout.

Several members of Irma and Peter's family were with us too, and they were running Pete's DCC-powered diesel shunter with a rake of ore wagons. The track was up to its usual standard so operations were –for the most part – smooth and uneventful. The pictures attached show the layout as it stands now, and how the track weaves through and around Irma's garden plants. Yes, where the layout has been built was originally Irma's plant garden – which is why it looks so good. Peter then came along and 'superimposed' his trackwork, the station, bridges etc on the garden.

We were keen to have this memorial running day for Pete's layout as it will soon be dismantled and repurposed as a new garden railway that will be built here in the Wairarapa. So the layout will be reincarnated, and Irma will also get her garden back! – now that is a nice touch of Karma.

Thank you Irma for putting on a lovely show, and a lovely afternoon tea for the crowd of folks who turned up for the day. We all appreciated your hospitality, and the chance to run our trains on the layout for one last time.



Lloyd Dickens Isle of Man Railcar twin set with baggage wagon.

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Over view of Peter Milburns Railway on Memorial run day.



Lloyd Dickens Isle of Man Railcar twin set with baggage wagon.



Peters family taking it all in.



Over view of Peter Milburns Railway on Memorial run day.

Christchurch Garden Railway Group Meeting

Report - Editor, Photos as credited

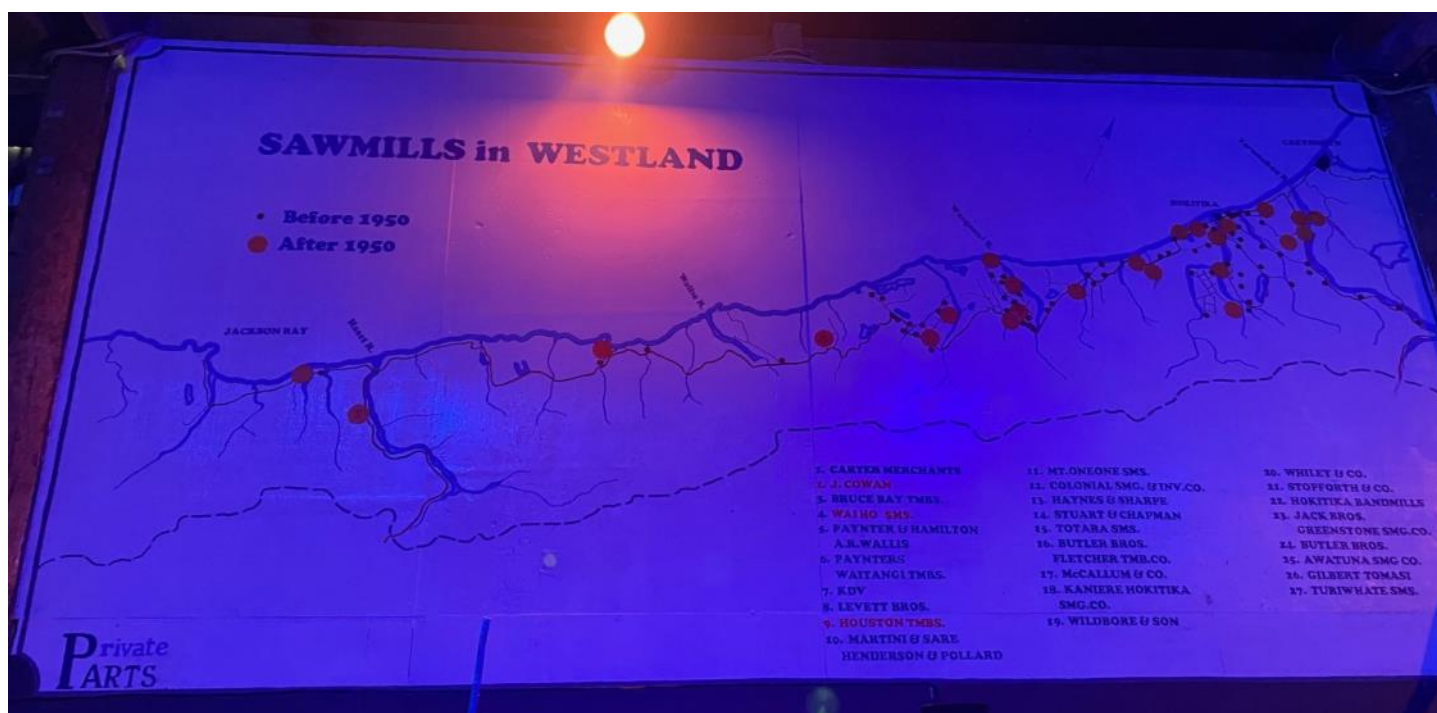
Christchurch Garden Railway Group Meeting

Our March meeting was a trip over the Southern Alps to Hokitika, the weekend started off with a trip to the Westland Industrial Heritage Park which Jim Staton kindly gave us a guided tour of and also members enjoyed taking a ride on the Mudfish Bush Miniature Railway. Saturday evening was a delicious dinner at the local Hokitika Club, Sunday morning Group members met at Jim's and Paula's Home to run trains and chat all things railway. Thank you Paula for the yummy morning tea and also Jim for a great weekend on the Westcoast.



Twin Cylinder Engine that Jim is restoring at the Heritage Park - Photo Editor.

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Part of the interactive display in the large engine shed - Photo Editor.



The workshop at the Heritage Park - Photo Editor.

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Ian, Jim and Paul discussing the Railway - Photo Editor.



An old Shanks Loco Chassis - Photo Editor.



Some of the Relic's as you ride the railway - Photo Editor.



Some of the machinery at the Park - Photo Editor.

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Fox Moth plane on display - Photo Ian Galbraith.



Members enjoying a ride on the Mudfish Bush Railway - Photo Jim Staton.

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Goose #1 - Photo Ian Galbraith.

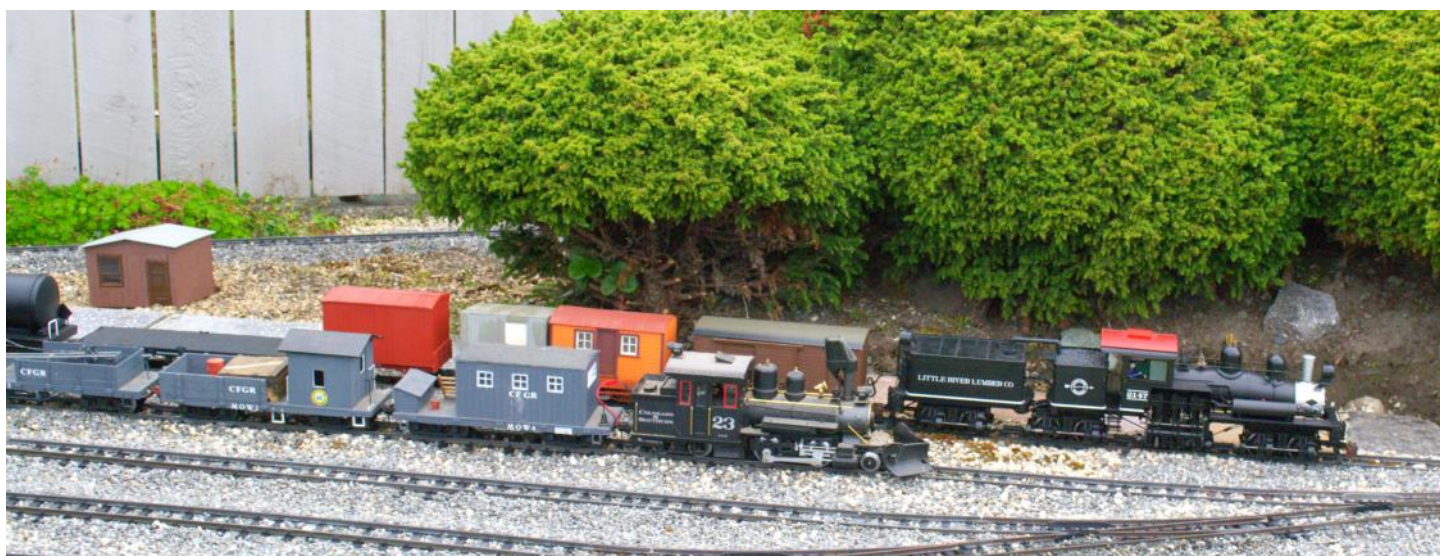


Two Forneys - Photo Ian Galbraith.

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Jim's 3 truck shay with NZR Rolling stock - Photo Editor.



Passing the yard - Photo Ian Galbraith.



Forney work train - Photo Ian Galbraith.



Stefan's NZR collection that he has built - Photo Editor.



Three truck shay - Photo Ian Galbraith.

Castletown Live Steam Weekend

Report and Photos - Lloyd Dickens.

My friends from Wellington attended my Live Steam weekend at the beginning of March.

There was no new locomotives this weekend but plenty of running on Sunday as Saturday was a little wet in the afternoon. Had to happen as it had not rained much up to then or since. So on Saturday John made a two man jigger from 3D printed wheels and a laser cut styrene.

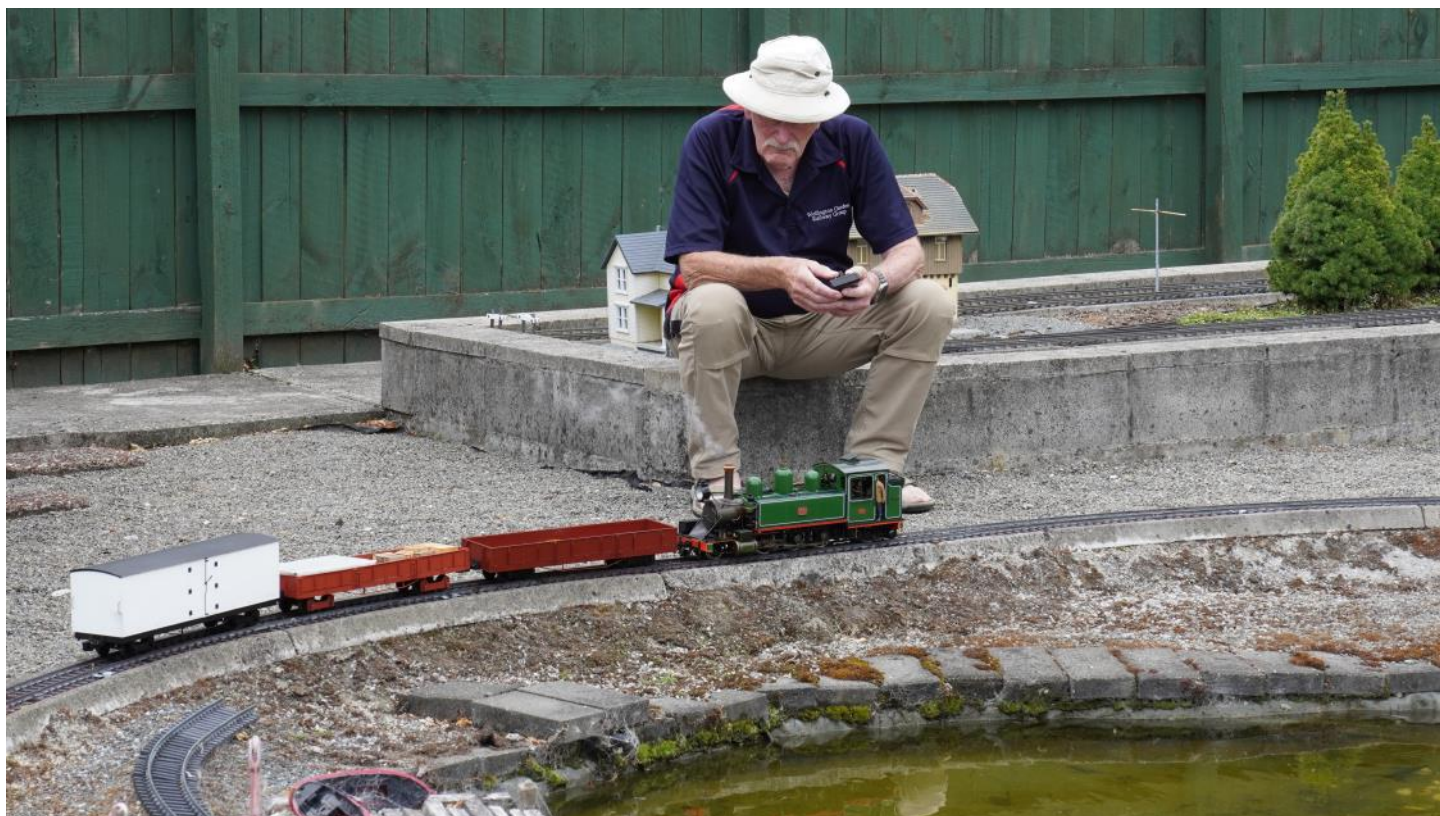
As photos show we had some running on Sunday when the weather was much better. Chris Drowley could not attend as on Sunday he was riding a 50cc scooter from Napier to Wellington. What some people will do to avoid running model trains!



Castletown Live Steam John Seward leaving the setup area.



Castletown Live Steam Phillip Smith and Ian Webb preparing to run.



Castletown Live Steam John Seaward rounding the lake.

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Castletown Live Steam The line up at Union Mills.



Castletown Approaching St Johns Signal Box.



Castletown Live Steam Phillip Smith approaching Coby Station.



Tereina - Deltang DMS2 2.4GHz Radio Control back available

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Contact Chris cdrowley@xtra.co.nz

Auckland Garden Railway Society Meeting

Report and Photos - Robert Graham

Auckland Garden Railway Society March 2024 meeting

Our meeting in March was held at the home of Michael and Donald Brannigan in Beach Haven on Auckland's North Shore. We were blessed with a lovely autumn's day with sunshine and light winds. Michael has built his railway on timber at ground level and the track basically has a large oval with sidings for the town and station areas.

We weren't sure if we could run track powered trains as Michael had been having problems with the track power and unfortunately these problems were repeated on the day. There was a bit of running with track power but most of the running was with battery powered trains..

We had a good turn out of members to our meeting and a number of people brought battery powered trains to run. Michael Hilliar had his Galloping Goose but unfortunately it didn't like some of the twists and dips in the rails with the goose coming to a halt at a couple of points around the line so it was taken off the track. I ran my Accucraft Baguley diesel with a couple of goods wagons. Chris Coles has recently rejoined the Auckland society and he tried running his Bachmann ten wheeler on track power. After trying his ten wheeler Chris switched over to a battery powered train. His battery train started life as a train set from The Warehouse but has been modified and repainted by Chris to give the engine more of a NZR loco look.

We had a lovely afternoon watching the trains and enjoying the sunny day. Thank you to Michael and Donald for hosting our visit and thanks for the afternoon tea.

Our next meeting will be Saturday 6 April at Andy Murrays place 16 Widdison Place, Whangamata. This is about 1.5 km before the

Whangamata township on the right side of SH25 coming in from Waihi, just before the Whangamata Golf course. Turn right into Te Tutu Street and at the first roundabout take the first exit in to Widdison Place. Andy's place is at the end of the cul-de-sac on the right side, look for the old bus in the driveway.

Andy does not have track power so bring live steam or battery powered trains. He is happy to let others use some of his rolling stock, he uses KD couplers and LGB link and pin couplers on his rolling stock but is going to make up some adaptor wagons for LGB hook and loop or Bachmann knuckle couplers.

The track is away from the parking areas so pack your trains and rolling stock (if you bring rolling stock) into boxes so you can carry them to the railway. The track will also be available on Sunday for anyone planning on staying overnight in Whangamata.

Andy is going to light his pizza oven so you can bring your pizza bases and ingredients to make pizzas to cook for lunch. Please bring your own drinks as well.

If you get lost or want to talk to Andy he can be contacted on 027 608 5770.

I'm still looking for people to host meetings this year. 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. If you can host a meeting please let me know by sending me an email to

robert.graham@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or grahamclannz@xtra.co.nz

Robert Graham



Name of Michaels railway.



Chris Coles train.

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The two Michaels watch the Galloping Goose.



Chris Coles train.

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left to right Liz Hilliar, Simon Sharp, Marion Hoskin, Michael Hilliar, Ray Williams, Chas Hoskin, Donald Brannigan, Chris O'Brien and partly obscured is Michael Brannigan.



Robert's Baguley diesel.

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Liz Hilliar, Chas Hoskin and Marion Hoskin.

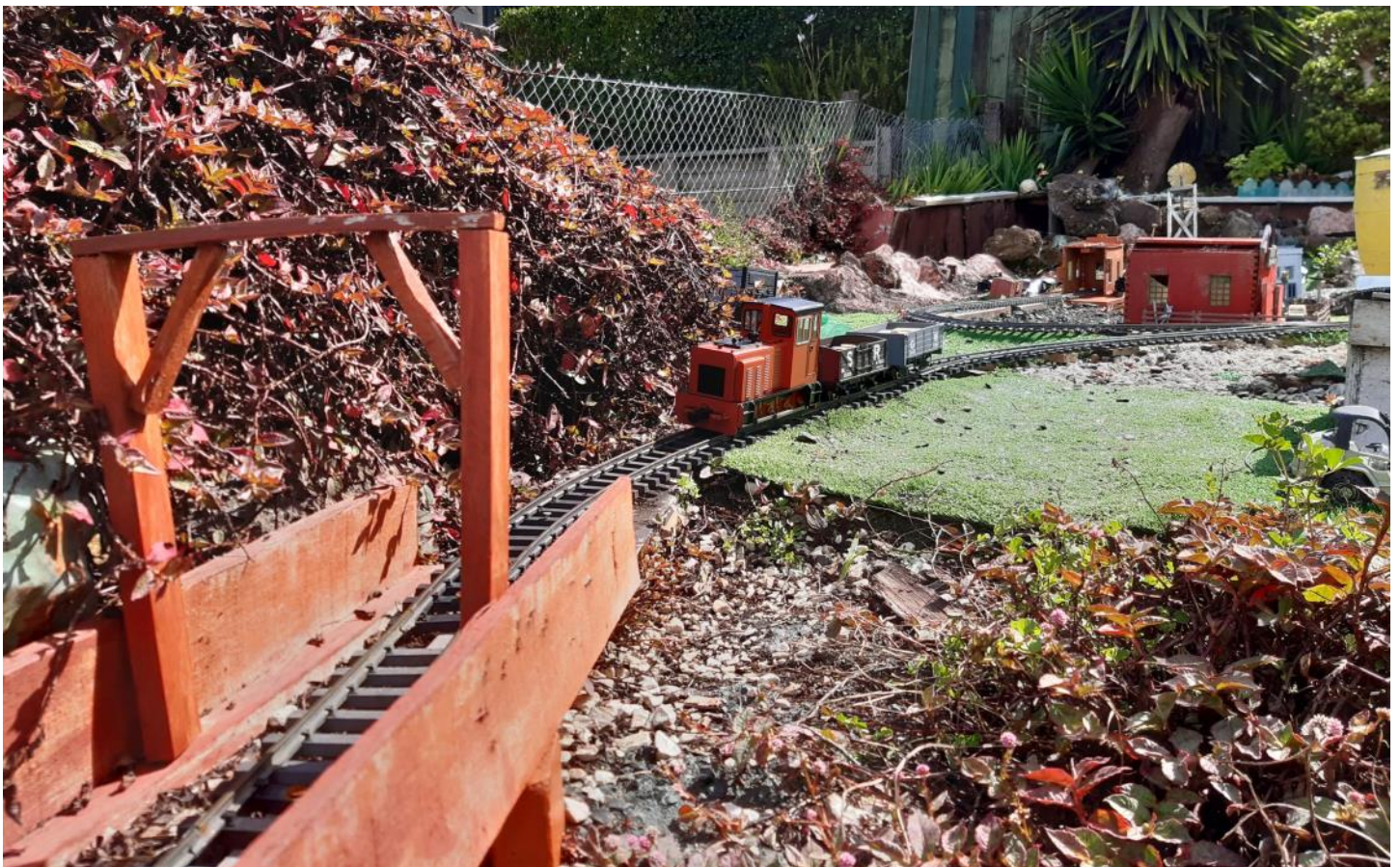


Michael's Galloping Goose.

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Donald Brannigan, Ken Clough, Michael Brannigan and Michael Hilliar.



Robert's Baguley diesel.

Riding the Rails Part 1

Article and Photos - Editor.

While in Gisborne over the Christmas break I was fortunate enough to be able to have a trip on the Gisborne rail bikes, the [Gisborne rail bikes](#) are a world first here in New Zealand.

The Gisborne railway line was part of the Palmerston North - Gisborne Line (PNGL) it was a secondary main line railway in the North Island, Construction on the line began in 1872, but the entire line was not completed until 1942. The line also crosses the runway of Gisborne Airport, one of the world's only railways to cross an airport runway.

The idea of rail bikes came from Geoff Main the owner/operator and originally wanted to operate while the rail line was currently in use by having set days to use, at that time there was normally only one train operating weekly between Napier and Gisborne with 4 wagons behind delivering fertilizer from the Napier plant to the Gisborne store.

It wasn't until 2012 when a slip on the line near Beach Loop caused the railway line to close and Kiwirail decided to abandon the line from Wairoa to Gisborne that the rail bike venture gained traction and officially opened in 2018, the concept is two bikes being connected together by a custom frame riding on top of the rails.

With the rail bikes there are multiple trip options being Waipaoa Bridge trip which is a 12km trip from the outskirts of Gisborne to the Muriwai countryside, Mahia Coastal which is a trip between Mahia and Nuhaka and the trip we did which was the Beach Loop trip being a 32km trip between Muriwai and Beach Loop on electric bikes.

The Beach Loop trip begins in Muriwai near the passing loop that the Gisborne City Vintage Railway (GCVR) ends at, you start by travelling on the flat surrounded by farmland and orchards then into a climb into overgrown trees and scrubs creating natural tunnels to pass through. As you steadily head up the grade you zig zag over bridges that pass over rivers and crossing state highway 2 before you find yourself in hilly forestry terrain, as you near the end you pass through tunnel 26 at 1.5kms in length and then the small tunnel 25 before you end by the Beach Loop section of the line. At beach loop there is time for a snack as the rail bikes are rotated for the return trip also giving you time to take in the views of the coast line 120 metres below and seeing the washout site in the distance which caused the demise of the trains on the line, with the return trip you set off back down the hill hardly needing to pedal as you continue to take in the views of the bush and even seeing wild deer and goats as you make your way back to the starting point and wondering where your afternoon has gone.



Taking off from Muriwai.

Gisborne rail bikes website is: <https://www.railbikes.nz>

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Natural tunnels and one of the bridges crossed.



The 1.5km tunnel that you pass thru.

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View to the ocean from Beach Loop.



View showing the slip from Beach Loop, this has got worse from the original slip.

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Bikes after being turned for return trip.



Heading over the highway and another one of the many bridges crossed.

Tales from the West Highland Railway in New Zealand



British Railway Mark One Carriages 17: Making and Fitting the Gangways



Author: John Boyson



Compressing two gangways together to allow the drawbar locking pin to be inserted (silver bar visible below right coach beside bogie). The resulting compression holds the coaches together in line whilst allowing some flex for curves etc.

1. Introduction

The final significant external area to be tackled was the gangways. These provide a through connection between carriages and also, importantly, take the buffing loads imposed on the train when reversing and/or braking. This latter feature has been replicated on the model to provide a more realistic impression of the typical gliding movement of passenger trains in contrast to the clanking of the more traditional unfitted freight trains of yore. Sadly, a number of model passenger trains quite unrealistically have this latter reaction through hooks and chains or other forms of coupling.

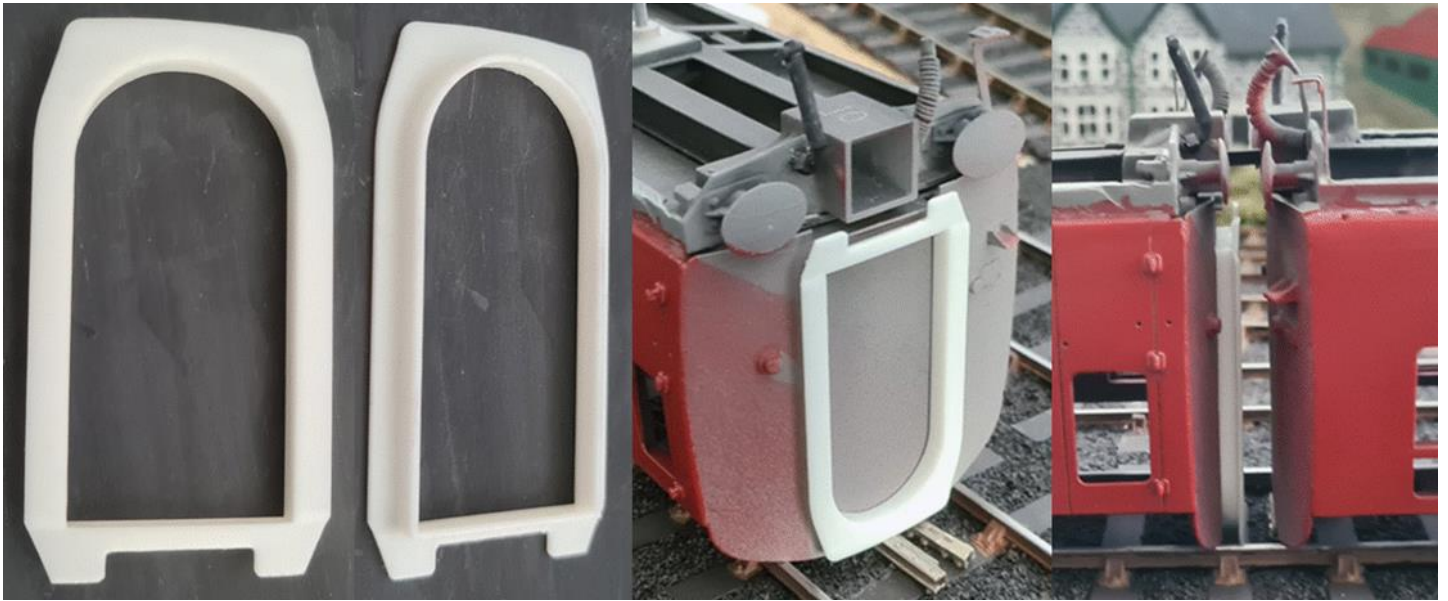
2. Fabricating the Gangways

2.1 Design and Printing

Artwork was designed for these and the results were printed after the usual trial piece.

These items were fabricated from bits of scrap brass in my many left-over boxes, and glued into place with araldite.

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From right to left:

1. *Front face of the gangway end plate*
2. *Reverse face with insteps for concertina sides and canvas (cloth) roof covering.*
3. *Test mounted on end of carriage to check fit.*
4. *Test mounted with second carriage coupled (upside down!) to check gap between the two carriages. There is about 2-3mm extra clearance allowing for a second gangway end which should allow for some side play for corners etc.*

The concertina springing should provide a small degree of natural compression between the two gangways to force them together against the rigid draw bar connecting the two carriages.

2.2 Adding tail lamp brackets

As previously described, these came in two variants:

- Body mounted bracket (already covered in part 16) and
- gangway mounted bracket

The mounting of the gangway brackets also came with two variations:

- Same height mountings
- Stepped height mountings

N.B. the body mounted brackets were always at the same height.

These items were fabricated from bits of scrap brass in my many left-over boxes, and glued into place with araldite.



Batch of gangway mounted tail lamp brackets and the various mounting positions

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2.3 Flexible Side Walls

These were formed from a heavy-duty black paper cut to size. This was folded concertina fashion into four bellows sections (i.e., 8 elements each 3mm wide and seven folds). These were glued onto the rear of the face plate flange



Steps in folding concertina from left to right:

1. create a fold using rule underneath and 3mm square bar on top to ensure a straight fold,
2. rotate rule to 90 degrees to generate half fold.
3. Complete fold back on itself by hand.
4. Completed concertina with seven folds.

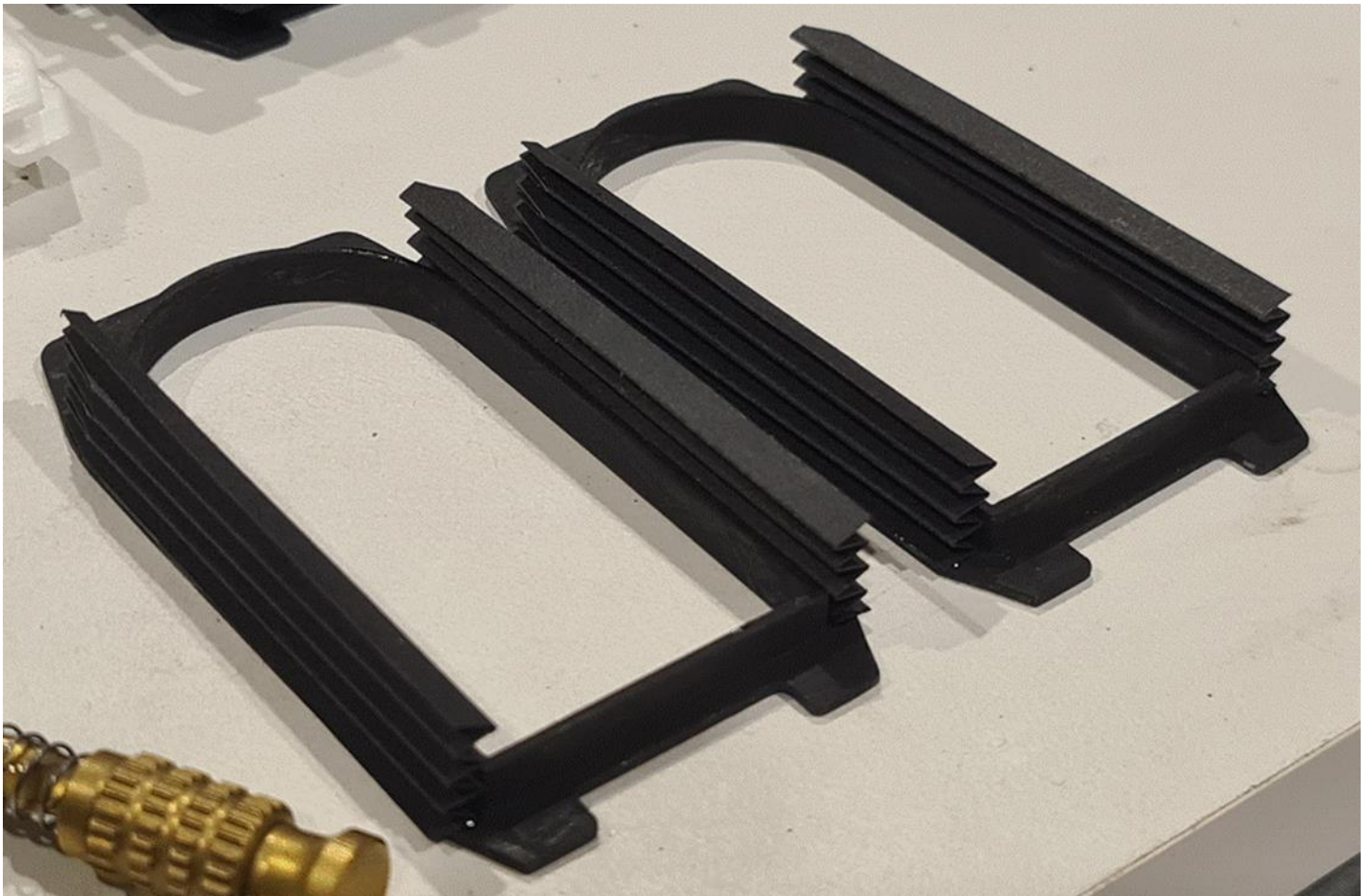
Repeat 32 times!



Finishing concertinas by cutting off excess paper on left and trimming top edge to match gangway profile



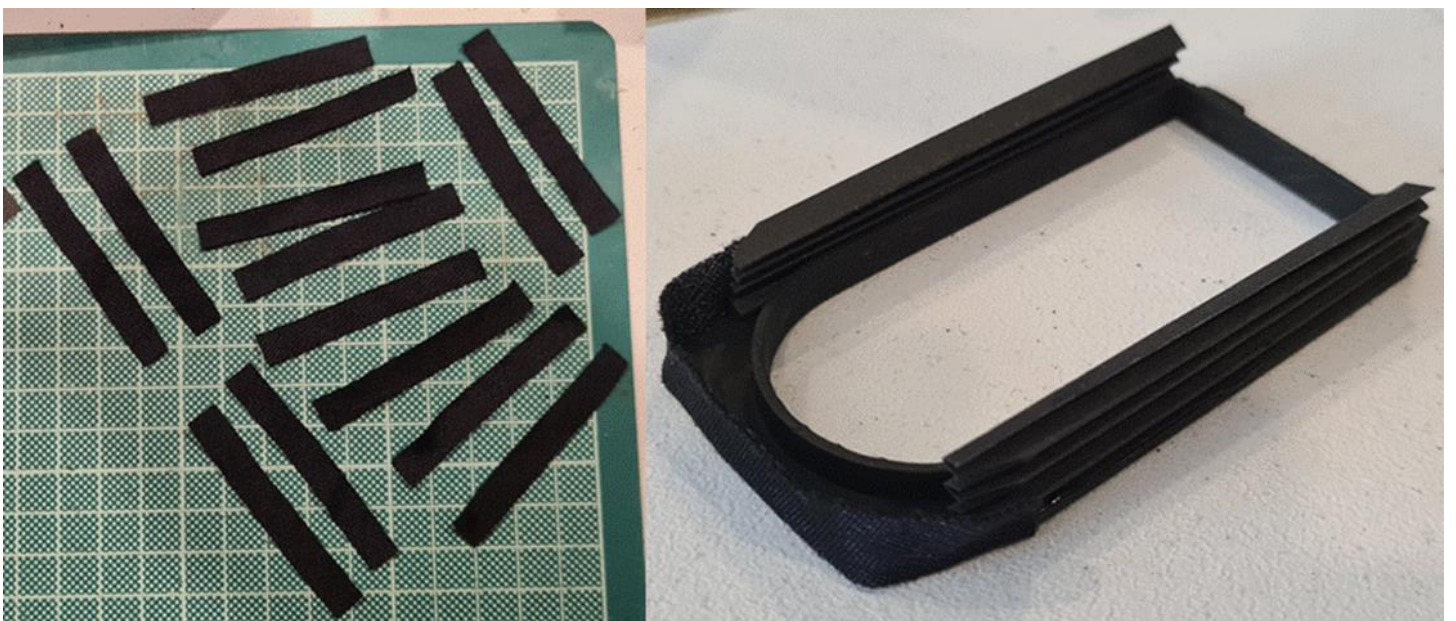
A batch of completed concertinas on the left and on the right, a batch of gangways with concertinas glued on and being held in place whilst the glue sets. Araldite was the glue of choice for this (what else!).



A pair of completed gangways with concertina bellows fitted.

2.4 Roof curtain

This was fabricated from a black sheet of elastic fabric cut into suitable strips. These were glued onto the top of the gangway face plate rim.



Canvas roof strips cut out on the left and fitted to a gangway on the right

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3 Fitting the Gangway Connections

With the gangways fabricated, they were then fitted to their parent coach bodies by gluing the last element of the flexible side walls to the coach body ensuring that the gangway was square and central.



The 3 in 1 machine coming into use again as a dangler whilst the gangways are glued to the carriage ends and, on the right, an attached gangway. Note how the end plate protrudes well beyond the retracted buffers.

4. Conclusion



Two gangways mated with the drawbar locking pin being pushed home to complete the coupling under the gangways.

With the gangways fitted, the external parts of the coaches were now largely complete and it was time to move onto the window glazing.



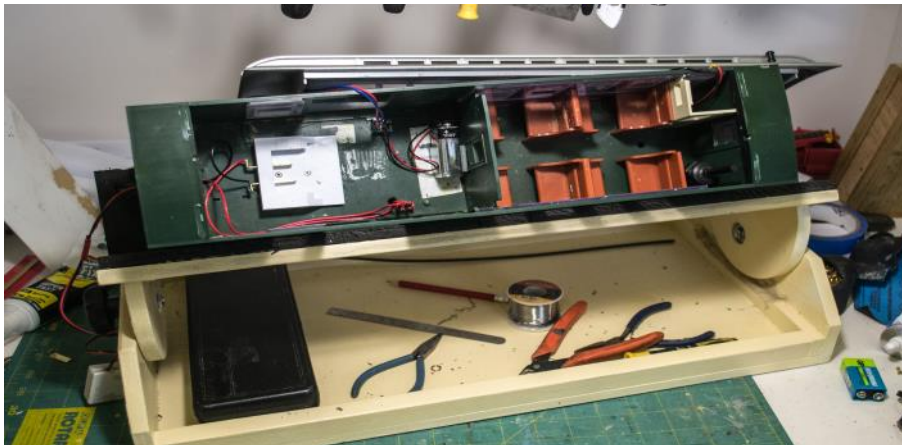
A SK second corridor with glazing fitted to one side.

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.

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**15TH NZ GARDEN RAILWAY CONVENTION
CHRISTCHURCH GARDEN RAILWAY GROUP
WAITANGI WEEKEND FEBUARY 6TH, 7TH & 8TH 2026**



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LGB Loco OBB 21962 / 22962 or Similar

Contact Craig

youngbrenda88@gmail.com

NEXT ISSUE PREVIEW

Riding the Rails Part: 2

By Iain Collingwood



**The British Railway Mark One
Carriages 18: Interiors 1: Glazing
and Some Touch Ups**

By John Boyson, Pokeno

COMING EVENTS

April 6-7 2024
 April 13-14 2024
 April 26-28 2024
 April 27-28 2024
 May 4-5 2024
 May 4-5 2024
 May 5 2024
 May 18 2024
 May 30-2 2024
 June 1-2 2024
 July 6-7 2024
 August 10-15 2024
 August 23-25 2024
 October 12-13 2024
 November 16-17 2024
 June 18-21 2025
 February 5-7 2026

Model Train Show, Bulls
 Model Railway Exhibition, Hamilton
 2024 National Convention NZAMRC
 Northeast Large Scale Train Show, West Springfield MA USA
 Dunedin Model Train Show, Mosgiel
 Hobby & Craft Expo, Levin
 Christchurch Toy and Hobby Fair
 Giant Model Train Sale , Christchurch
 Midwest Garden Railroad Gathering, USA
 Hastings Model Train Show
 Ashburton's Model Train Show, Tinwald
 West Coast Regional Meet, San Diego, California USA
 Southern Regional Garden Railroad Get-Together, USA
 The Big Train Show, Christchurch
 RailEx, Lower Hutt
 40th Garden Railway Convention, Sacramento CA, USA
 15th NZ Garden Railway Convention, Christchurch

Do you know of an event?
 Contact the Editor to include in the next
 Garden Whistle newsletter
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 January/February 2024 • 2024 #1 • www.GRNews.org

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in a Bachmann Shay

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www.GRNews.org
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 the current issue.](#)

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JUNE 18 - 21ST 2025

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2024 West Coast Regional Meet
August 10th – 15th
San Diego, California

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Club Meeting	Club Contact
<p>April 6th (Saturday)</p> <p>Andy Murrays</p> <p>16 Widdison Place, Whangamata</p>	<p>Auckland:</p> <p>Auckland Garden Railway Society Inc</p> <p>Club Contact:</p> <p>Email: grahamclannz@xtra.co.nz Robert Graham, Ph: 09 600 2157</p>
<p>Running Days/Meetings cancelled until further notice</p>	<p>Waikato:</p> <p>GROW: Garden Railway Operators of Waikato.</p> <p>Club Contact:</p> <p>Email: sandnlipsey@gmail.com</p> <p>Stefan Lipsey, PO Box 612, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton, 3240, Ph: 07 859 3650</p>
<p>April 14th (Sunday) 1pm</p> <p>Wayne Haste</p> <p>Titoki Railway 21 William Donald Drive Masterton</p>	<p>Wairarapa:</p> <p>Wairarapa Garden Railway Group.</p> <p>Club Contact:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Club Contact:</p> <p>Email: bilthompson@xtra.co.nz Coordinator: Brent Thompson, 6 Bodmin Terrace, Camborne, Ph: 022 619 4006</p>
<p>April 21st (Sunday) 1pm</p> <p>Mel and Claire Sanders</p> <p>19 Tuawera Terrace Clifton Hill, Sumner</p> <p>(DCC Available)</p>	<p>Christchurch:</p> <p>Christchurch Garden Railway Group:</p> <p>Club Contact:</p> <p>Email: 2days61@gmail.com Secretary: David Day, 61 Carnarvon Street, Linwood, Christchurch. Ph: 03 981 4424 President: Bill Stanley, Ph: 027 282 4244</p>



All Aboard 2024

April 26 -28, 2024

Corban Estate Arts Centre, West Auckland

Newsletter 1

The 2024 national convention for the New Zealand Association of Model Railway Clubs will be held April 26 - 28, 2024, at the Corban Estate Arts Centre. The centre is in the heart of West Auckland on the historic grounds of the former Corban Estate Winery. The convention is being hosted by the Western Districts and City of Sails model railway clubs and is intended for modellers of all prototypes.

The convention will have layout tours, clinics, AGMs, SIG meetings, a convention dinner and the NZAMRC model competition. There will also be a modelling challenge sponsored by the Australasian Region of the National Model Railroaders Association and at least one operating session.

The local organising committee looks forward to meeting you at the convention.