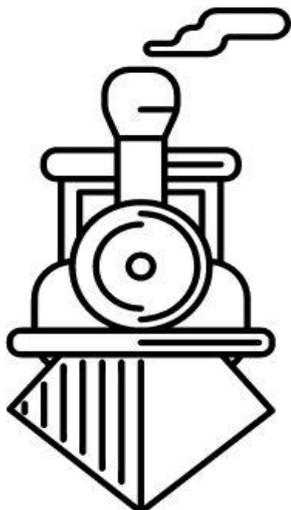


THE GARDEN WHISTLE

NEW ZEALAND LARGE SCALE NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2022



THE GARDEN WHISTLE

NEW ZEALAND LARGE SCALE NEWSLETTER

September 2022

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[Cover photo](#) — Michael Hilliar's Live Steam Roundhouse Sandy River No24 engine and wagons.

Photo supplied by — Michael Hilliar.

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

From the workbench

Photos and article - Ian C Galbraith

PIKO Install #3

A while back PIKO introduced their R/C unit for garden railway locomotives. The system comprises two parts, the receiver for installation in a locomotive and a key fob style remote. The remote provides forward and reverse directions as well as two optional functions.

This installation was in an LGB steam locomotive along with a MyLocoSound card.

Following removal of the locomotive body, and one of the weights it was found that a suitable mount for the receiver was required. This was drawn in Fusion 360 and printed on the Ender 3 3D printer. The track pickups were removed as this was to be a battery conversion as well. With the mount printed it was attached to the centre of the chassis and connected to the motor and light wiring. A suitable speaker mount was required, and again this was drawn and printed. The speaker mount was designed in such a way that the MyLocoSound unit could be integral. The speaker was fitted, and the mount and sound card positioned in the cab area. The mount was fastened in place with double sided foam tape.

As the PIKO remote was only able to provide two functions the wiring for whistle and "All Aboard" were selected. Both the the PIKO and MyLocoSound units are polarity sensitive. The PIKO receiver is supplied with a separate Track/Battery switch board, which was removed for this installation. Although the power supply was battery and the connection between battery car and locomotive was to be provide via polarised JST plug and socket it was prudent to fit a bridge rectifier in the leads to the two units.

The PIKO receiver/remote can be set to one of eight settings via switches in both the remote and receiver. In this instance, they were set to 1. The soundcard was programmed for a European whistle and engine chuff.

The battery car had a 3D printed battery mount fitted and wired. A MAKO brand 2Ah Lithium Ion battery was fitted in the custom holder.

Following testing the locomotive body was refitted and the loco/battery car configuration evaluated.

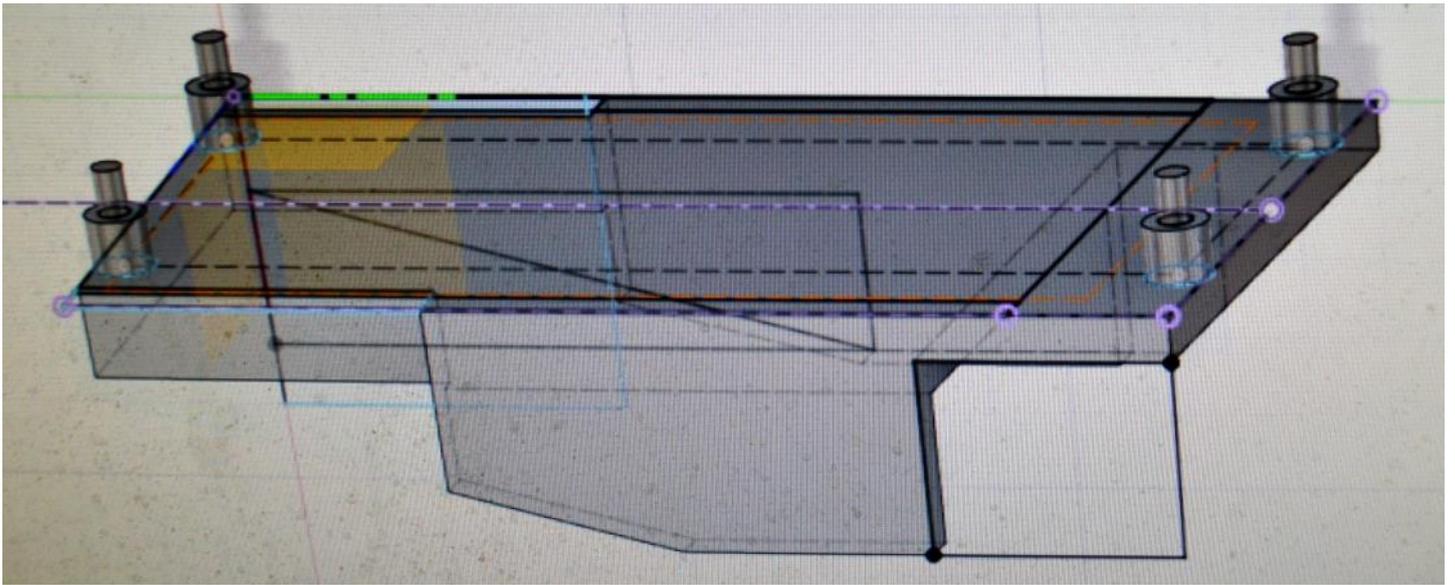
The PIKO 35040R/c set is available from Toottoot, Invercargill, <https://tootoot.co.nz> for \$119.95 plus postage.

MyLocoSound unit available from Culcreuch Fold Garden Railway Model Supplies, CFGRMS@culcreuchfold.org.nz for \$129.00 plus postage

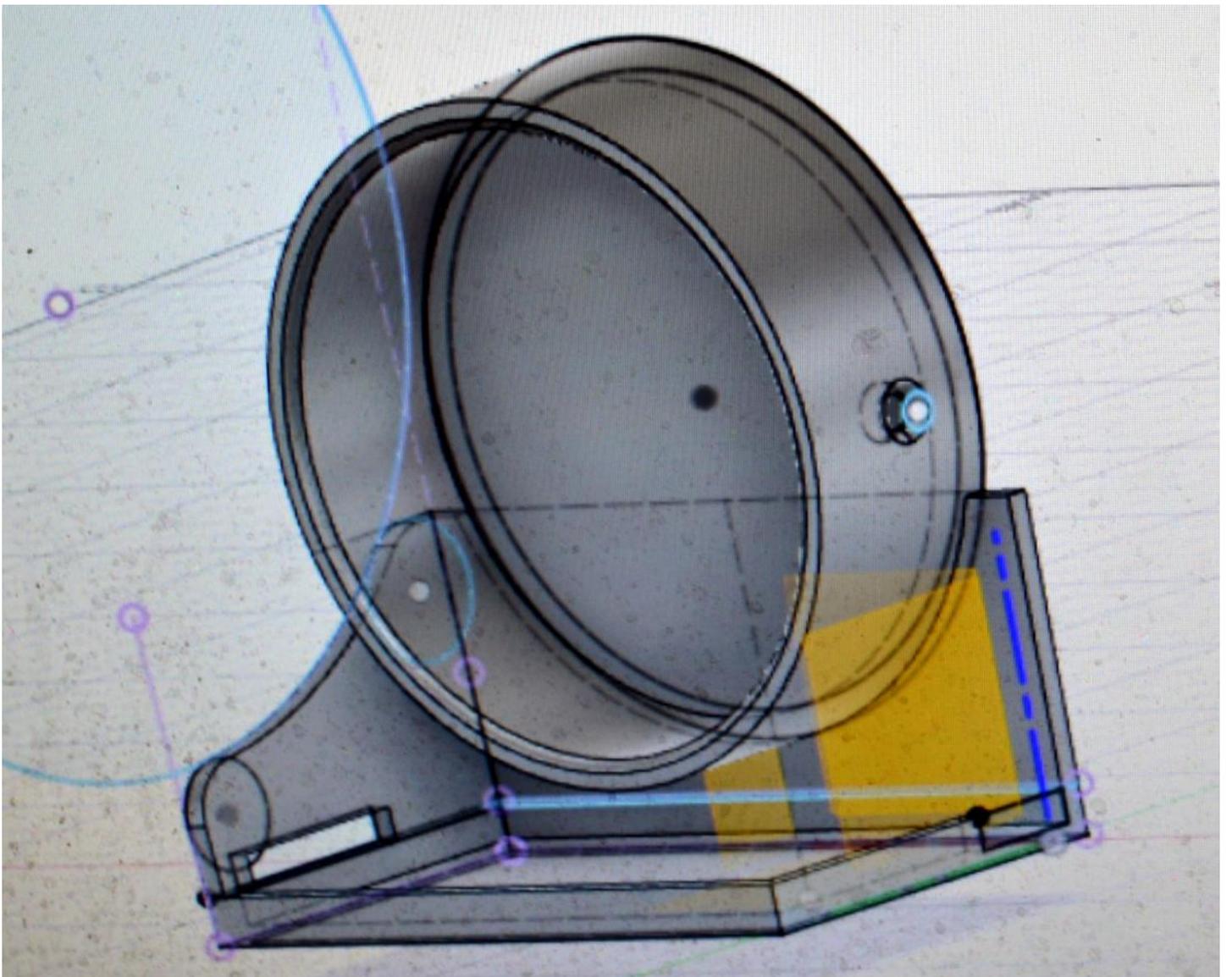
Ian C Galbraith



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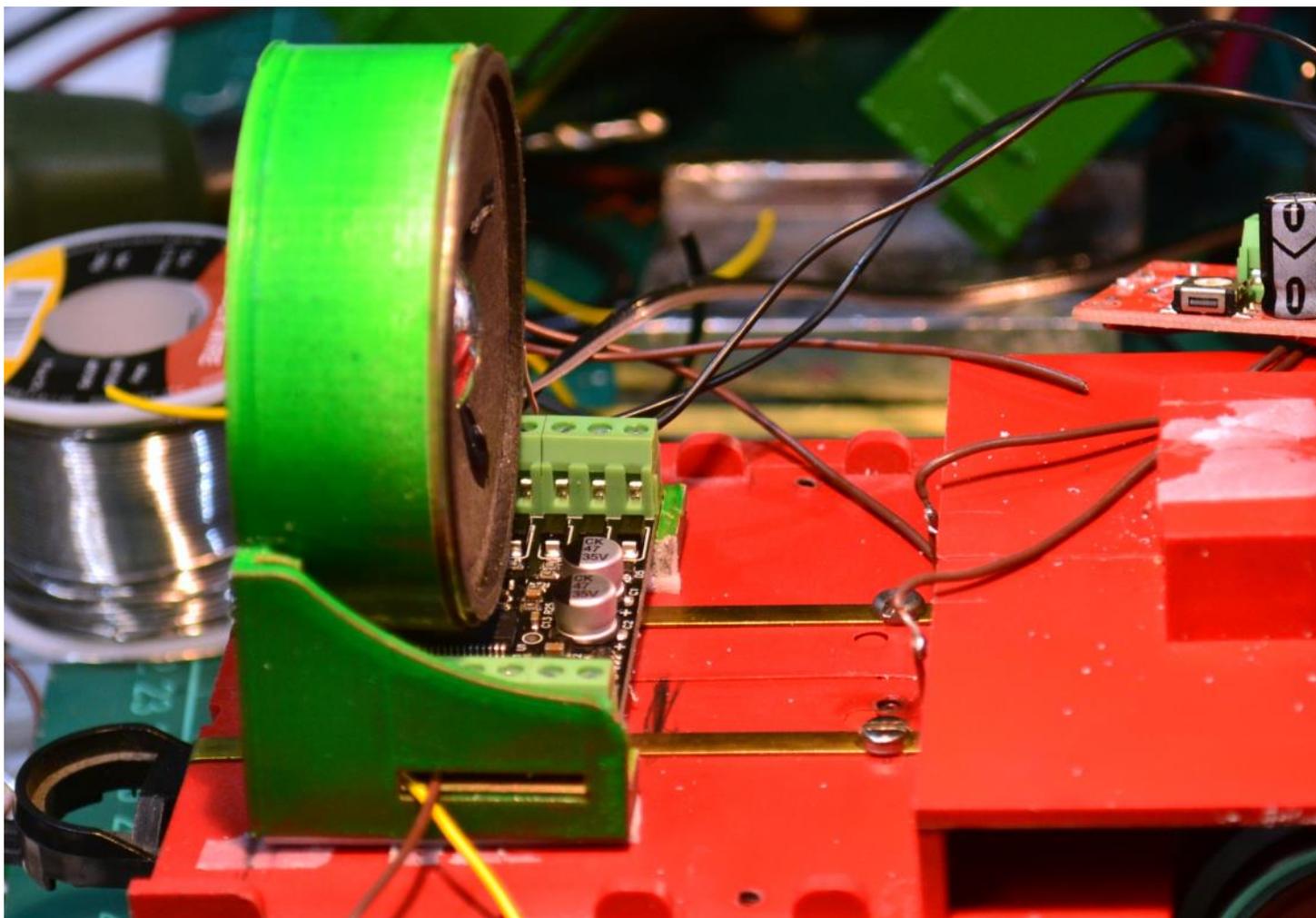


3D printed receiver mount.

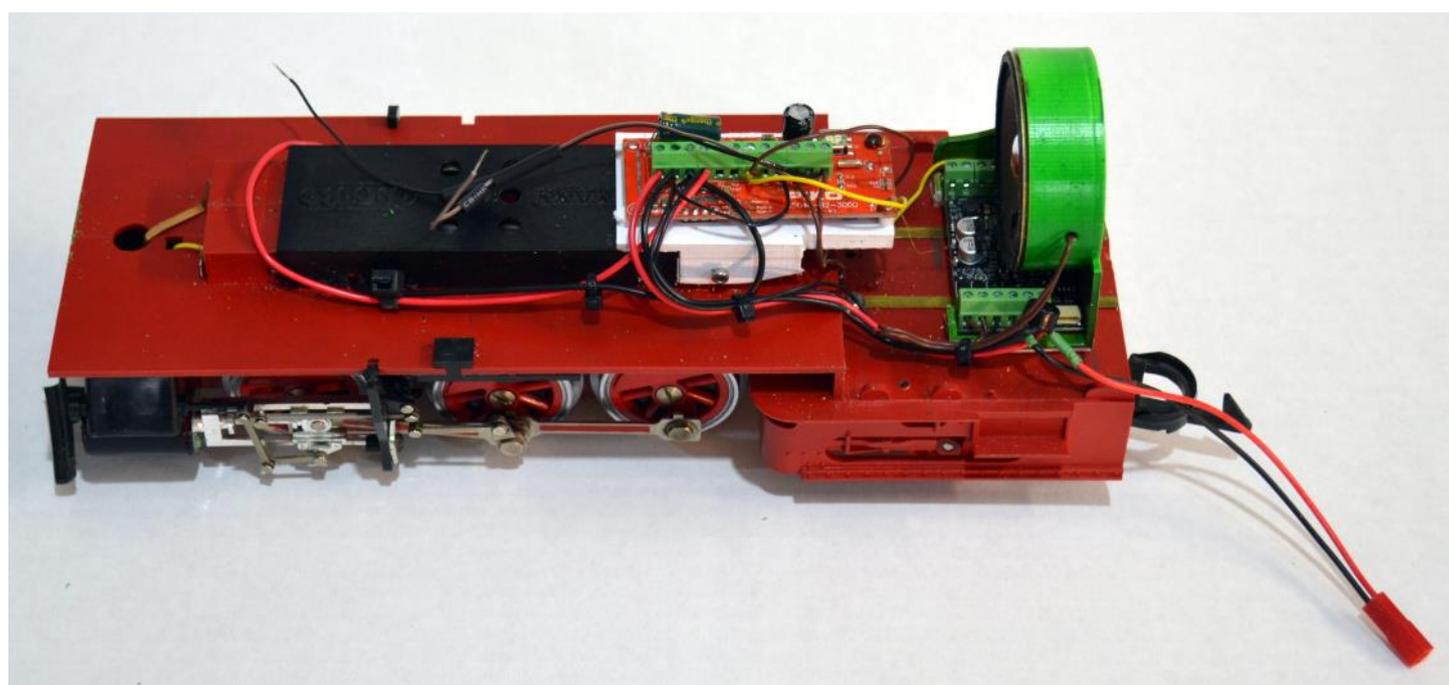


3D printed speaker/Sound card mount.

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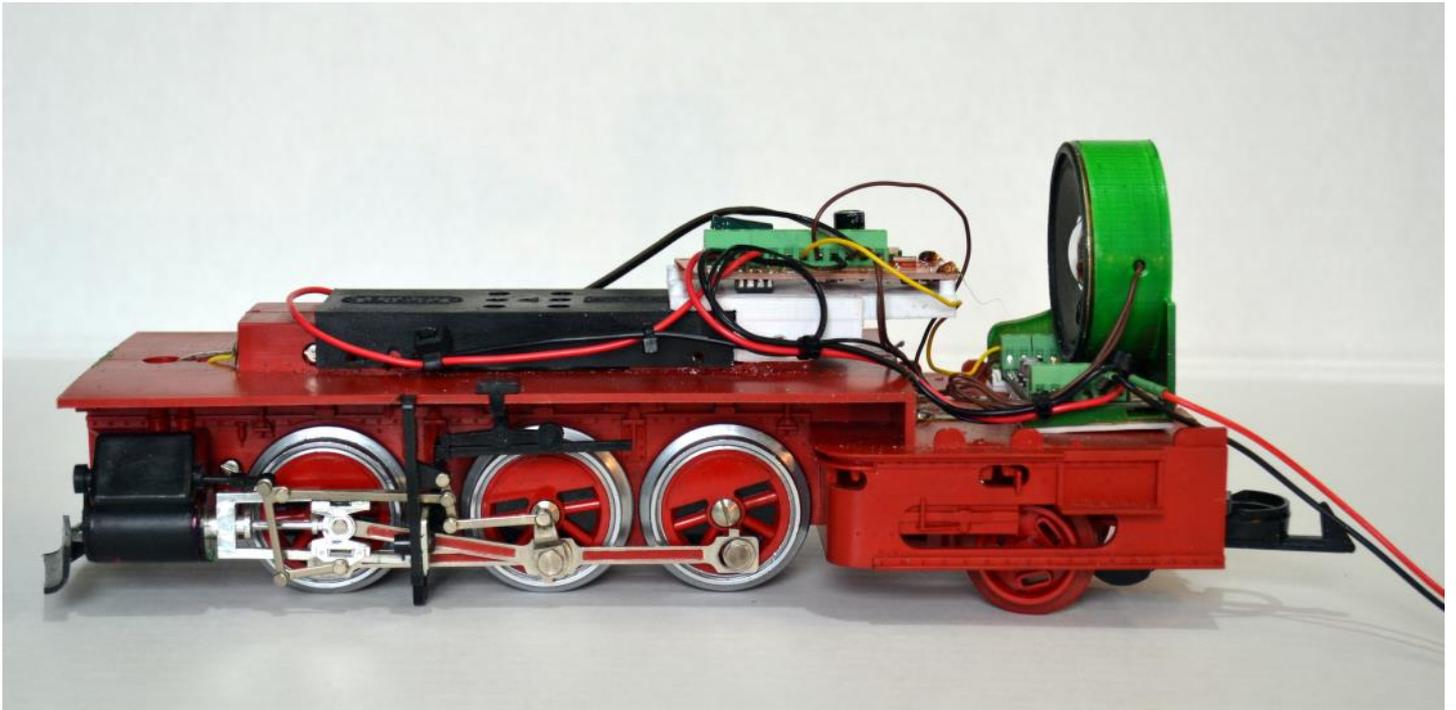


Speaker and sound card mounted in cab area.

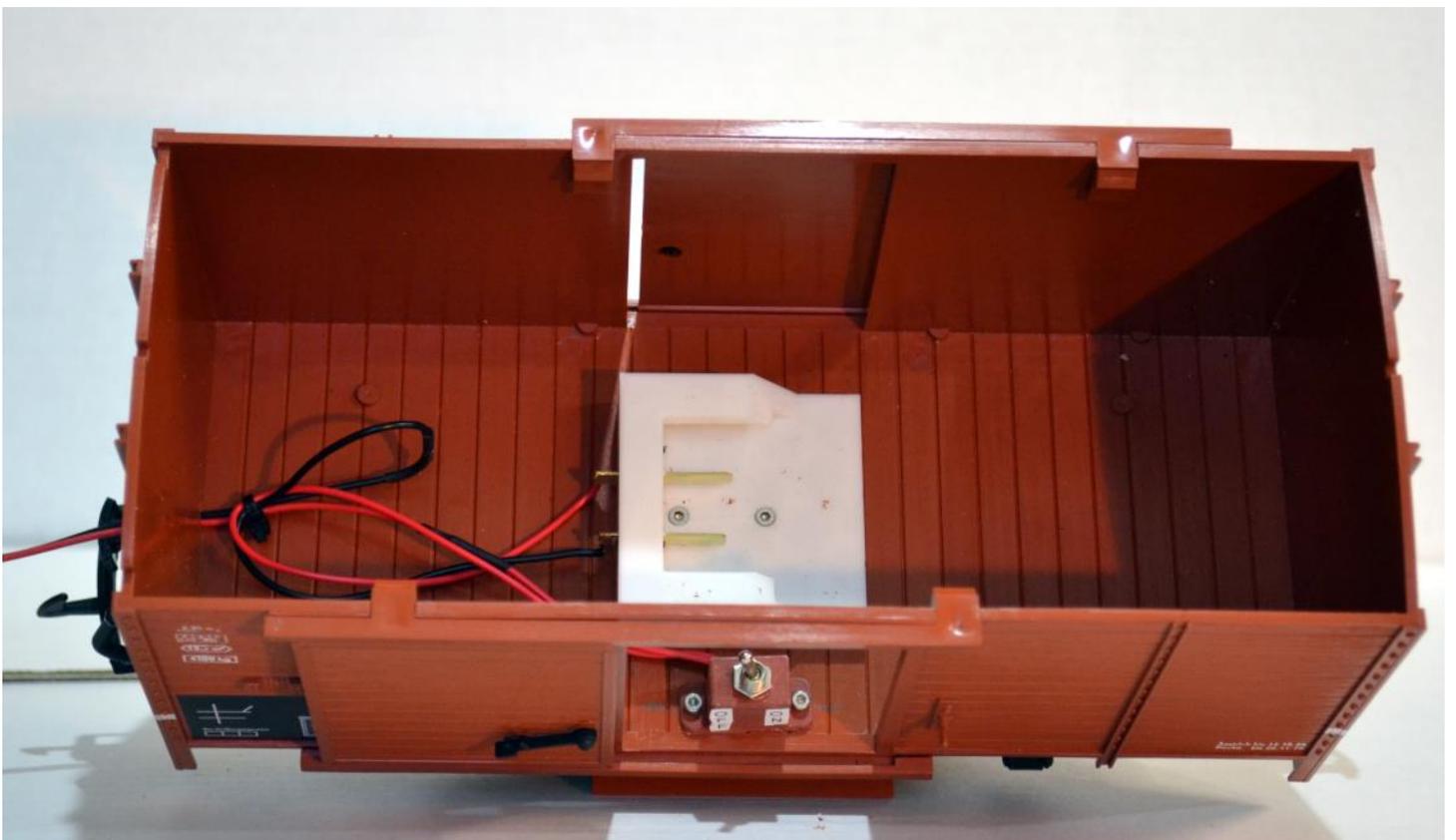


Top view of installation.

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Installation ready for testing.



Showing printed mattery mount and switch.



Battery car with battery fitted ready for testing.



Locomotive and battery car connected.

From the workbench

Photos and Story, Mike Hilliar, Auckland



I have waited along time to take this picture.

Mike's Sandy River Project Part 3

In the November 2021 issue of the Garden Whistle, I mentioned that I was in a should I, or no it's too expensive conundrum (but I am still working) mood. I finally took the plunge and ordered this Roundhouse Sandy River No24 engine only to find out I had a wait of 10 months before its delivery. They build them in batches. While waiting for the locomotive and in another lockdown, I began to build a prototypical train for it to haul and chose Bachmann as the best available product to work with.

There are Laser cut custom wood kits available; I have built a custom wood kitset train for my South African 2ft LGB/Aster Garrett. The train is only suitable for outside use in fine dry weather. It's also very fragile, whereby, us G Scalers tend to take a robust train along to our get togethers.

In the November issue, I covered the building of the passenger and combine cars. In the June 2022 issue of the Garden Whistle, I covered the painting of the carriages and some details about building some of the freight cars.

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I am now going to continue with the construction of the box and flat cars, and I again used Bachmann. I added more Sandy River featured detail to them, like wood side ladders and modified sliding doors etc. I am not going to go into a lot of detail as the pictures are generally worth a thousand words. The box car roofs were first covered with 1mm styrene to hide the tongue and groove boarding and then covered with a textured paper to represent tar paper.



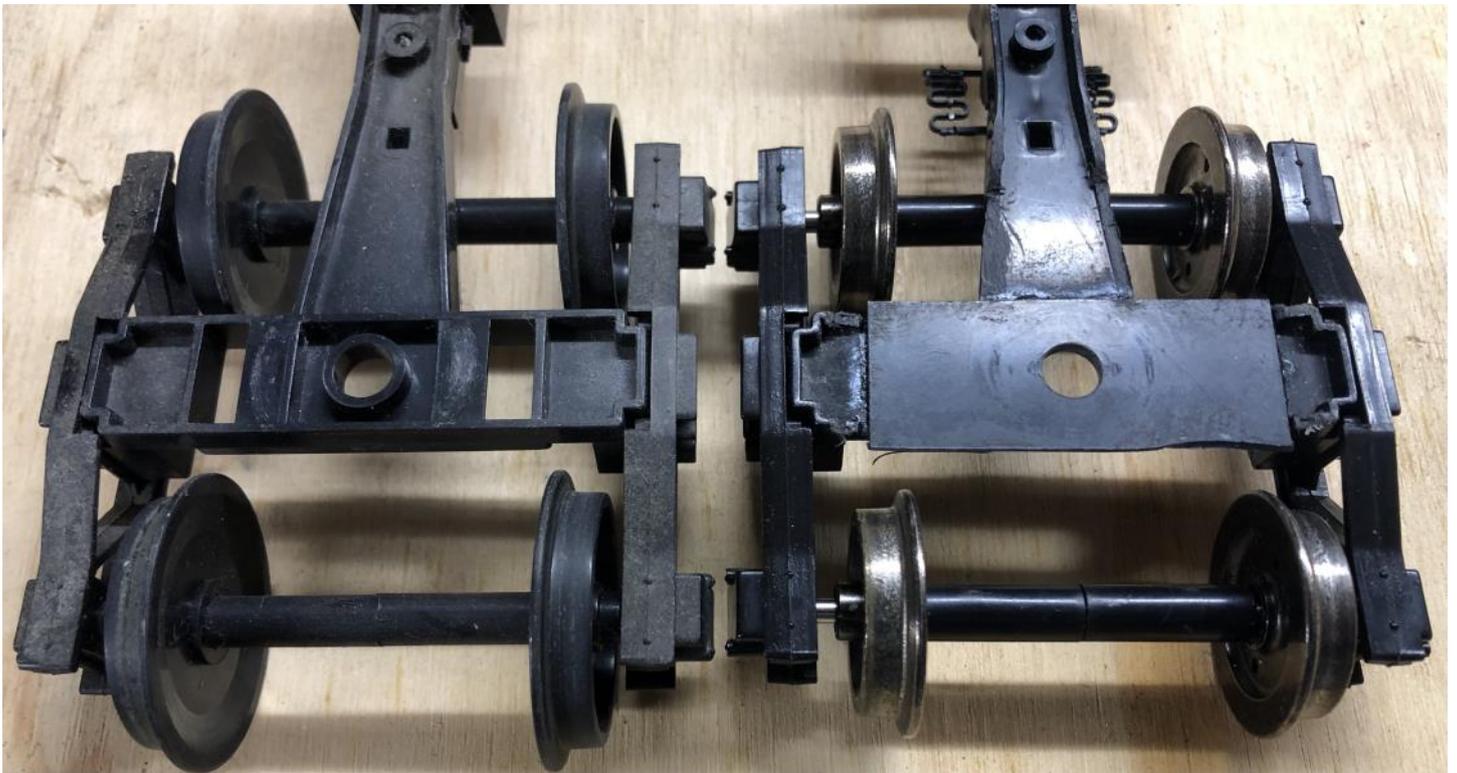
Final two Bachmann box car ongoing modification, shows how little to achieve that Sandy River look.



Bachmann freight chassis, original bottom, flat car with twin truss rod middle and top box cars single truss rods .

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The chassis had more modifications, like the truss rod support beams depth being halved in depth and the inside truss rods moved to the sides as pairs on the flat cars. The box cars have only one set on each side. Like the passenger cars, I was looking for that lower look. The first step was to fit the smaller Bachmann wheel sets, but these will only reduce the height by 3mm. On the passenger cars I chopped out the bolster and reduced it in height then glued it back in. This time I chose to modify the bogies by cutting out the top ribbing. You can only do this with the Bachmann ones, as they use a webbing type construction. LGB are solid so you can't use this method. The top part of webbing was removed and cleaned up and this gave me further 3mm, but the framework was so weakened I had to glue in a strengthening 1mm flat plate. In the end I only gained a reduced height of 5mm; but that fits nicely, as they are now the same height as the Sandy River Locomotive cab roof line.



Original Bachmann freight bogie left and modified on right.

The painting was done with three makes of rattle cans hoping to get three different shades of the red oxide, but you would hardly notice. I had to spray them with gloss paint first to set the decals onto, then over sprayed with a final matt finish. The Decals were supplied by the late Stan Cedarleaf

The train was finished a month or so before and was now waiting for its locomotive.

The locomotive was finally finished, payment made, and it was on its way. A week later I got the customs bill from the shipper and with this you would think it was in the country, so I could have it by the weekend. NO! I found out it was still in Singapore being processed there, and it would be another week of apprehension before I could take it home.

It was well packed and arrived with no damage, unlike my last import from America where there was no supporting packaging and was used as a piledriver. It was an insurance write off. One would think an antique auction house would know how to freight these delicate items?



Completed box car one of four.



Finally, a fine day.

THE GARDEN WHISTLE

This was the second Roundhouse Sandy River engine I have unboxed. The first one was thirty years ago when the poor owner had broken his arm, so I had the privilege of unpacking and putting it on the table for him to dream.

Mine also sat on the table for me to dream. A few days later it had its first steam up just beating the rain. Ray and I did have a rare fine day a few days later, so we gave it a good run and took some pictures.

What's next? Well, I still have many projects in the cupboard of dreams to finish off.

Michael Hilliar Auckland



Steaming through Rockwood gorge.

Wairarapa Garden Live Steam Weekend

Article and Photos Lloyd Dickens



Castletown on a still Sunday morning.

Live Steam Weekend at Castletown

From Lloyd Dickens

Castletown's much delayed Live Steam went off great in good weather but cool enough to create some great steam effects.

The railway worked nearly perfect with just a point not operating correctly. It turned out to be an air hose crimped so once I found that it was an easy fix.

I have asked the participants to tell us about their Trains so here goes.

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John Swards NA Locomotive 2.



John Swards NA Locomotive.



John Swards NA locomotive and wagons.

John Seward

I was running my Argyle (Accucraft) Victoria NA with recently installed slo-mo unit from Terry Robinson. The rolling stock comprised two Puffing Billy NQR open bogie wagons and one Puffing Billy NT refrigerator car.

Chris Drowley

Loco's - Lady Denise (Roundhouse 0-6-0 Lady Anne) and Chester (Roundhouse 0-4-0 Billy) fitted with RCS R/C control, RCS Lyn Whistle & 2 months ago Slow-Mo inertia units from Australia. The inertia units have completely transformed both locos, vastly improving the control and effective power/traction capability, enabling over double the length trains previously able to run. Another bonus have found they have also extended the running time by at least an additional 5 mins so consistently over 30min running with this full rake of wagons. Wagons are all scratch built over the last few years from cheap Chinese Trainz copies of LGB 4 wheeler German box and tank wagons, all seriously cut down and modified to make English looking 4 wheelers. All wagons running on Roll-Ez bearing wheelsets. Just recently many of the wagons have been airbrush repainted and all new custom decals fitted made using my Cricut vinyl cutter.

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Above -
*Chris Drowleys Train
at Santon Station*

Right -
Chris Drowley



THE GARDEN WHISTLE



Chris Drowleys train on new uncompleted bridge.



Chris Drowleys Locomotive wagons approaching Douglas Stations new Station building.

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Lloyd Dickens Harlech Castle recovering Russell and load just.

Lloyd Dickens

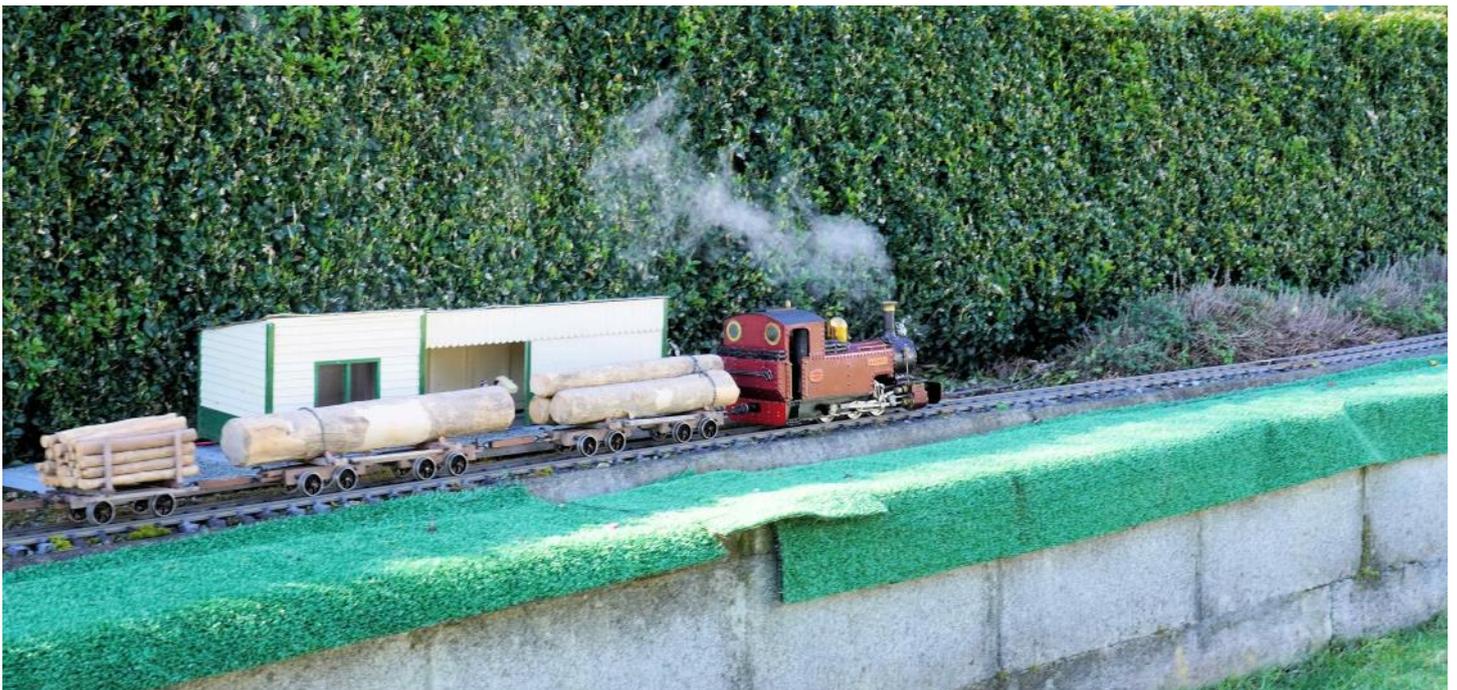
I ran my new Roundhouse Russell pulling iEngineering Welsh Highland Railways wagons. I had some problems with this Locomotive but John Seward and Chris Drowley sorted it out for me. It ran just great after their help. With pony wheels at both ends I am surprised how well it sticks to the track.

Philip Smith

My loco is an Accucraft Plantation which I was using to pull a short rake of Wayne Haste Lc (NZR) wagons.



Phillip Smiths Locomotive at Colby.



Ian Webbs Vulcan train.

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Ian Webb

I ran a Roundhouse kit set Lady Ann (Vulcan) and an Accucraft 3 cylinder Shay. The logging trucks were my first foray into 16mm. They are scratch built from Totara with wheels from Brandbright. They are fully detailed from Canadian logging truck plans and were built about 45 years ago. They have withstood the passage of time better than me!



Ian Webb and his Shay.



Ian Webbs Accucraft Shay.



Ian Webbs Accucraft Shay at St Johns on a frosty Sunday morning.

Wairarapa Garden Railway Group Meeting

Article and Photos Lloyd Dickens

Wayne Haste's Indoor outdoor August running day

In August the Wairarapa Group visited Wayne Haste's indoor layout and had an opportunity to run trains on his outside track.

The indoor layout is in a recently built room on Wayne's new house. The layout is roughly based on the area of Wernigerode to Nordhausen in the Hartz area of East Germany in the 1960's, Building this layout started two 2 years ago. The trees, shrubs and grasses are mainly sourced from the likes of Uncle Bill's and Dollar shops, most of the shrubbery comes in mat form and then pulled apart to represent single plants etc. The rock cutting is made from expanding foam and the block retaining walls is made from scribed foam board. A lot of the old product pinex wall board for the base and road formations. Most of the buildings are pola kits that had to be rebuild and parts replaced to restore. The result is fantastic. There is still a little left to finish so Wayne can still keep himself busy.

The control of the locomotives is by DCC and the turnouts and signals are directly switched by batteries of switches. You have to have your wits about you running this railway. Wayne and Dean assembled a train using a shunter before running the train around the railway.

Mean while on the outside track Peter Milburn ran his Rio Grande NW2 Shunting Diesel Locomotive on DCC. The weather was better than we might have hoped given all the rain everyone else was getting.

From Lloyd Dickens



Wayne Haste Hartz Layout - Afternoon tea for the family.

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Wayne Haste Hartz Layout - Dean and Wayne assembling a train.



Wayne Haste Hartz Layout - a couple of the switch units for Signals and points.

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Wayne Haste Hartz Layout - Train going though town.



Wayne Haste Hartz Layout - Lucus and Brendon Clarke.



Wayne Haste Hartz Layout - Signals the orange disk flips horizontal.



Wayne Haste Hartz Layout - the two Peters Milburn and Murray.

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Wayne Haste Hartz Layout -The farm recently completed section of layout.



Wayne Haste Hartz Layout - Train doing the rounds.

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Wayne Haste Hartz Layout -The Wedding.



Peter Millburn's NW 2 on Wayne's outdoor layout.

Auckland Garden Railway Society Meeting

Report and Photos - Robert Graham

Auckland Garden Railway Society August 2022 meeting

Our August meeting was at Michael and Donald Brannigan's house in Beach Haven. Michael's railway is an outdoor track powered railway so after all the rain we have had this month I was relieved when Saturday turned out fine allowing the meeting to go ahead.

There was a modest turn out of members for the meeting and Michael entertained us by running his trains. Other members also ran trains but at times we had problems with an intermittent power fault where parts of the track had power but other parts didn't. Michael had tested the track in the morning and it had worked perfectly and is often the way the track power problems only popped up once the meeting had started. Never-the-less we did get some train running in and it was a pleasant afternoon watching the trains run around.

Michael's railway has a main loop with a mountain at one end and a tunnel at the other end. In the middle he has a village with some sidings and a collection of kit and home made buildings. Due to the slope of the section the railway is dug in at the tunnel end and built up at the other end

Michael and Donald put on a nice afternoon tea for the members who turned up after which we returned to watching the trains run. On behalf of the Auckland society I would like to thank Michael and Donald for hosting this meeting.

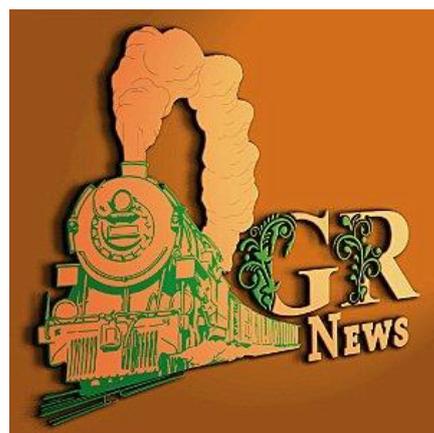
Our September meeting will be on Saturday 24 September at Andrew Stevens railway 24 Mason Street New Lynn and then for October we will head down to the Hamilton Model Railroaders annual model train show at the Hamilton Gardens Pavilion on Labour weekend.

I am always looking for meeting hosts so if you can host a group meeting please let me know. 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

Take care and keep on steaming

Robert Graham

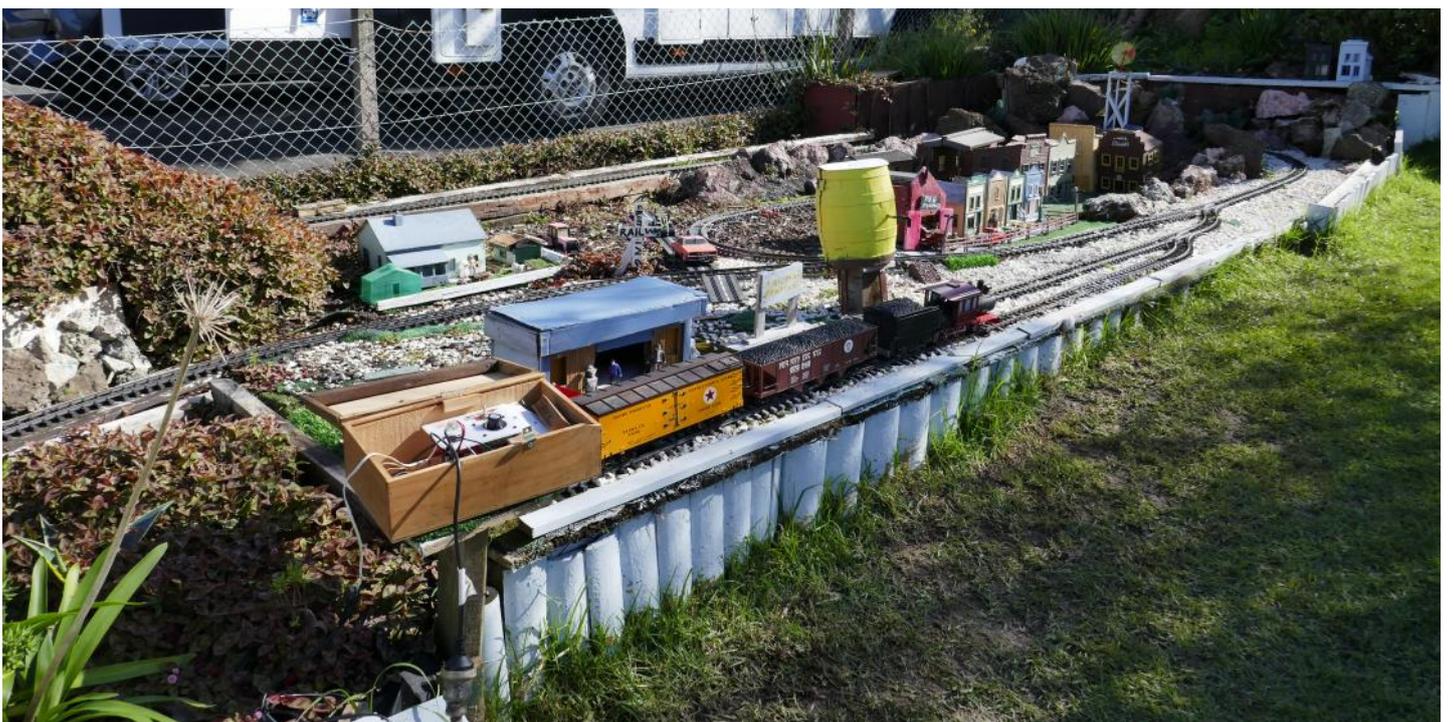
The July / August Garden Railroading News is available to read online, this can be found at www.GRNews.org or [Click here to view the current issue.](#)



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Michael Hilliar's Galloping Goose passing the station building.



Overall view of Michaels railway in Beach Haven.

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Amtrak loco runs past the village.



Robert Graham's railbus running along the main line.



Michael uses a track cleaning block to clean part of the track. You can see that he has mounted the block on a handle so that he can clean the track without having to bend down.

13th New Zealand Garden Railway Convention

Auckland 2023 Convention August update

The planning for our next convention over Waitangi Weekend 2023 is proceeding well and now we have a venue we are working on organising the catering. As you know the convention will be based at the New Lynn RSA, 2 Veronica Street, New Lynn. I have heard that some people are using Airbnb to find accommodation but if anyone is looking for accommodation out west you may wish to consider one of the options below:-

Quality Hotel Lincoln Green Hotel, 159 Lincoln Road, Henderson. Their website is <https://www.choicehotels.com/new-zealand/auckland/quality-inn-hotels/nz152>

Another local accommodation provider is the Quest Apartment Hotel. 12 Wadier Place, Henderson. Their website is <https://www.questapartments.co.nz/properties/north-island/henderson/quest-henderson/overview>

We look forward to seeing you at the convention 4, 5 and 6 February 2023.

Christchurch Garden Railway Group Meeting

Report - Editor, Photos as credited

Prebbleton Hall August 2022 meeting

Our August meeting was held at the Prebbleton Hall, this was chosen due to the unpredictable weather we seem to be having lately but more importantly to give the large portable layout a test run. The layout was put together and with some minor repairs the layout was running within a couple of hours, Many members ran trains as you can see by the pictures. After many hours of running trains the layout was packed away ready for the big model train show in October.



Andrew Hamers Mallet locomotive at the station - Photo Bill Stanley.



Lew Henry's 0-4-0 hauling freight - Photo Bill Stanley.

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Benjamin Hamers in full concentration dropping passengers off at the station - Editor.



Noel Collingwood's newly converted loco with PIKO R/C and MyLocoSound - Photo editor.

THE GARDEN WHISTLE



Oliver Hamers running the Mallet locomotive - Photo Editor.



Iain Collingwood's Forney and billboard reefers - Photo Bill Stanley.

THE GARDEN WHISTLE



Another Locomotive of Noel's converted to battery - Photo Bill Stanley.



Kabita Whale's D&RGW T12 pulling a passenger train - Photo Editor.

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Douglas Wall's Mogul passing the overbridge that Lew Henry is building - Photo Bill Stanley.



Bruce Verey's RS3 mixed freight passing the township - Photo Editor.



Chris Greer's Mack pulling a sightseeing train - Photo Bill Stanley.



Andrew Wilson's passenger train passing the wildlife - Photo Bill Stanley.



Iain Collingwood's reefer train - Photo Bill Stanley.

On the workbench

Article - Dennis Lindsay, Photo - Editor

D&RGW T12 4-6-0 Locomotive

About 12 months ago Kabita Whale imported a secondhand Bachmann 4-6-0 which needed some refurbishment, it had been painted poorly and parts were missing.

I decided to repaint and detail it to represent a D&RGW T12 4-6-0 locomotive, so a dive into the parts box where a new smoke stack and spark arrestor were found and to improve the head light I added a headlight shade. Iain Collingwood came up with a steam generator, after fitting these a coal load using real coal was added. It was painted using rust-oleum flat black, San Juan decals were attached then oversprayed with clear stain to protect the decals. It is now ready to do sterling service on Dave and Kabita Whale's Collins Creek Railway.

Dennis Lindsay.



NEXT ISSUE PREVIEW

Refurbishing a West Highland Class 27

By John Boyson, Pokeno



Readers Pictures



Murray Stephens newly built Moose Rail Co Garrett locomotive.

COMING EVENTS

September 10-11 2022 **(New Venue)**
 October 1-2 2022 **(New Venue)**
 October 1-2 2022
 October 7-10 2022
 October 22-23 2022
 October 22-24 2022
 November 5-6 2022 **(New Date)**
 November 19-20 2022
 November 19-20 2022
 January 21-22 2023
 February 4-6 2023
 March 18-19 2023
 May 6-7 2023
 July 2023
 July 3-9 2023

Nelson Model Railway Show
 The BIG Model Train Show , Christchurch
 Wanganui Model Railway Expo
 NZAMRC Convention, Christchurch
 Great Little Train Show, Invercargill
 Model Railway Exhibition, Hamilton
 Hastings Model Railway Club's Train Show (Havelock North)
 Hawea Model Trains & Hobby Show
 Rail X 2022, Lower Hutt
 The Tauranga Model Railway Club Show
 13th New Zealand Garden Railway Convention, Auckland
 Cromwell Train Show
 Dunedin Model Train Show
 Alpine Model Railway Expo, Timaru
 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

www.trainshow.co.nz

The BIG Model Train Show
Cowles Stadium
 Cowles Stadium 210 Pages Road Wainoni
Saturday & Sunday 1st & 2nd October
Open 9.30am-5pm

New Layouts New Technology New ideas	Family \$25.00
	Adults: \$15.00
	Children \$5.00 <small>12 and under</small>
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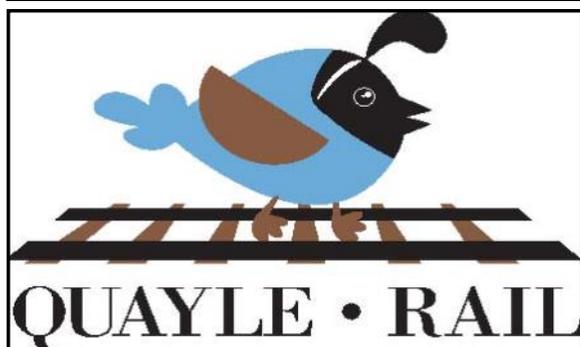
National Model Railway Convention
BACK ON TRACK
2022
 St Andrew's College
 Christchurch

Friday 7th - Monday 10th October 2022

NZAMRC Convention 2022
 St Andrews College, 347 Papanui Rd, Christchurch

For more information and to get regular updates visit...
modelrailcon.nz

ADVERTISERS



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The track sets are supplied with two rails, sleepers and rail joiners

N Z Agent for Sunset Valley Railroad

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Club Meeting	Club Contact
<p>September 24th (Saturday)</p> <p>Andrew Stevens Railway 24 Mason Street, New Lynn</p>	<p>Auckland</p> <p>Auckland Garden Railway Society Inc Club Contact: 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. Club Contact: Email: sandnlipsey@gmail.com Stefan Lipsey, PO Box 612, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton, 3240, Ph: 07 859 3650</p>
<p>September 18th (Sunday) 8.30am</p> <p>ANZAC Hall, Corner Bell and Birdwood Streets, Featherston</p> <p>Start setup at 8:30 am</p> <p>Shared food</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>September 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>September 18th (Sunday) 1pm</p> <p>Ian & Ann Galbraith Culcreuch Fold Railway 3 Church Street, Rangiora</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: Bill Stanley, Ph: 027 282 4244</p>