

The Garden Whistle

AUGUST 2020

G Scale news from around New Zealand

CGRG President's Ramblings

Well, hello from the depths of winter
Not much happening in the garden at present, much to cold out there for that

Have done a bit of travelling in the last month, to Picton in the north and Queenstown in the South

We live in a truly spectacular country, the scenery is breath taking

I spoke of the AGM last Month , I would like to give appreciation to Dave Day, Bill Stanley and Andrew Hamers for coming onboard our committee for the good governance of the group

I also would like to point out some new wording to the members

“Turn Dreams into reality with Garden Railways” this relates to our often commented “I

started with a starter set and now look where it has got me”

“ To communicate with members and the public and children, to share and create the dream”

These are excellent words and thoughts to consider when we apply it to our projects and dealings with others with in their railway environment

We are all different, and some are more different than others (Orson Wells meme)

That said we should appreciate everyone and consider their thoughts and feelings, not an easy thing to do

I hope everyone is keeping toasty

Andrew Wilson

What's he up to Now?

Andrew Wilson, West Melton

I was able to convince my better half that the house needed something special to lift the décor I requested that I be able to set up the U drive to work on it in the warm as against the cold of our garage

In a moment of weakness and my pleading, grovelling voice she relented with much later regret

I have a timeline to complete and remove back to storage of 20th August

Watch this space as I will show how I make the middle disappear and be filled in and decorated.





I have been working on the bridge and river section making some improvements for the U Drive Layout as it will be on show in October

Garden RAILWAYS[®] MAGAZINE

Dear Subscriber.

For more than 35 years, *Garden Railways* has been the leading magazine devoted to the hobby of outdoor model railroading. While we remain committed to serving garden railroaders, we regret to announce that we are discontinuing publication of *Garden Railways* magazine. Fall 2020 will be the final issue.

However, the *Garden Railways* brand will live on in the pages of *Model Railroader* and online, where our dedicated audience of garden railroaders will continue to find seasonal news, tips and advice from the world's greatest model railroading experts.

As a subscriber to *Garden Railways*, you may have one or more issues of your subscription remaining.

You will receive *Model Railroader* magazine for the remainder of your subscription, starting with the November issue. If you're already a *Model Railroader* magazine subscriber, your current *Model Railroader* subscription will be extended for as many issues remaining on your *Garden Railways* subscription.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact customer support at customerservice@Garden-Railways.info, or by phone at 877-246-4898. Outside the U.S. and Canada, call 903-636-1125.

We thank all our subscribers for their support and loyalty over the years, and we look forward to continuing to serve you through the pages of *Model Railroader*.

The *Garden Railways* and *Model Railroader* Teams

Christchurch Garden Railway Group

Mid-Year Luncheon

On Sunday 19 July 2020 members of the Christchurch Garden Railway Group enjoyed a Mid-Year Luncheon at the Woolston Club Inc, Christchurch.

The meal was provided from the comprehensive menu giving a range from toasted sandwiches, burgers, up to roasts and seafoods. All very enjoyable.

Before and after the luncheon members nattered and looked at the representation of Regent Street, Christchurch, modelled by David Day.

David had a special interest in Regent Streets as he was working on restoring the buildings after the first Christchurch earthquake. The second earthquake more severely damaged the buildings and David decided to retire.

Many thanks to David and Pauline Day for organising the event. That is David on the front cover, with his order of Fish & Chips with two eggs.





David's re-creation of a section of Regent Street, Christchurch



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Interior detail of two of the buildings. (The fronts were removed to show detail)





Another of Dennis Lindsay's freight depots



Kabita Whale Making Progress



Kabita, truing up the lattice track base with a plane



Major progress on the layout base construction



Now, that is a real duck under

Letter to the Editor

Sir,

I enjoyed Michael's article on fitting roller bearings.

As an option, he could try deepening the axle hole with an end mill. I use a similar setup when doing 1:34 brass bogies and find it much better, as some brass castings can be quite soft. Likewise, I keep the speed high and the feed slow.

The other thing is his comment on making jigs for other shapes of bogies.

This stuff from Micromark might be worth trying.

https://www.micromark.com/Silicone-Putty-1-lb-_3

Terry Bradley, Tauranga

To All @ NZ Garden Whistle,

Thanks for sending me the Garden Whistle, always most enjoyable and a good read, Well Done. The passage about the 1940s generation resonated greatly with me, my DOB is 07/ 01/42. I look back on my life and see what I have been has been up and down but good overall, I think. For what this worth, in my very early days I was greatly taken by the music of Les Paul and Mary Ford, guitar and vocal geniuses as well as the Country Music of Roy Rogers and many more.

I fell on my feet with the Hawking Brothers Alan and Russel and played bass guitar with them for 17 years. What we did can still be seen on YouTube.

We made many records, TV appearances, toured Australia with Johnny Cash, Buck Owens and supported Charlie Pride, Tom T Hall, and others. I was around to see the end of Steam Locomotion in Victoria, saw old locos lined to be cut up outside the Spencer St Station, what waste.

So now my wife Marjorie and I have been married for over 50 years. We have 2 daughters, 4 grandkids and 1 great grandkid. In the past I have been type 2 diabetic for 25 years, had both knees replaced and underwent open heart surgery. Enough!

Best Wishes from Gary Newton Ballarat Victoria Australia

garynewton42@bigpond.com

Ian,

Wonderful new letter. I will pass it on to our webmaster for posting. I actually loved the one on the last generation that is familiar with a war, and then peace for many years before world unrest started up leading to the mess we have today. At 77, I was only 2 yrs old when dad came back from WWII in 1945. I have pictures and hear stories so I can state I was born in turbulent times, grow up in quiet times and now see turmoil. I think I will use some of this in my next From the Caboose for our BTO magazine.

Regards,

Charles F Bartel Jr. Pennsylvania

Thanks Ian,
and another good one, your contributors do a great job.... :)

Cheers,

**Bob Thornton
Skipton AU**

Thanks again for the WHISTLE my friend. I too am in the Silent Generation, born 1938. I can still dance, prance and pull on my socks.

David Lloyd George

Every day is Saturday!

www.mrdavez.com

Thank you, Ian,!

You think you have a problem with the virus?

Try New Jersey!

13,000 people have died only in this state so far.

Thanks for the newsletter, as always great work!

All the best

Thomas Preisner. New Jersey

Ian,

Some Fan Mail for you from Kansas, USA.

Claudia

From: Philip Woodford <woodphil@cox.net>

Subject: Re: Fwd: July 2020 GW

Date: June 30, 2020 at 9:55:10 PM CDT

To: Claudia Rollstin <car.grrg@att.net>

Claudia,

Thank you very much for sharing The Garden Whistle. Please tell the people down under I very much enjoy what they have done. I look forward to reading each newsletter. I wish them the best - I have seen the wonderful in their work.

Phil Woodford Kansas

Thanks

Sir

There is some good info for bridge and trestle builders and they announced the news about HLW and MTH. It is a small world.

Read the section about the 'Best Generation' They almost sound like Yanks.

John Groot

4 Saslow Court Quarryville, PA 17566

Phone: 717-786-7922

Cell: 908-230-1367

2021 Garden Railway Convention

The 2021 Convention, 12th National Garden Railway Convention will be held in Christchurch over Waitangi weekend, 6-8 February 2021 based at the Russley Golf Club Conference Centre, Stableford Green.

Stableford Green is off Memorial Avenue very close to Christchurch International Airport and close to various types of accommodation

Apart from three previously visited, though greatly upgrades, the other layouts are all new and cover a diverse range of construction, methodology and design.

It is hinted to hold up to five clinics/workshops, with one being hands on.

This year, a cap is proposed as the Convention clothing item featuring the 2021 Convention logo



Auckland Group Meeting July 2020

Robert Graham, President - Auckland Garden Railway Society Inc

Sunday 26 July 2020 was the first Auckland group meeting since going into lock down in March. As it was July with cold and wet conditions outside we had an indoor meeting at the home of Simon Sharp and Carol Bould in the suburb of Torbay.

Simon has an indoor railway built in a basement area with a main line, passing loop and a siding. Being inside, the track uses LGB R1 radius curves so it is more suited to short wheel base loco's such as the LGB Stainz loco. Simon has cleverly been able to incorporate some redundant sections of one of the early Auckland Group display layouts, including a curved trestle section.

A noted feature of Simon's railway and rolling stock is the number of trackside accessories plus rolling

stock which Simon has printed on his home 3D printer. On the layout one could see a raised fuel drum stand and fuel drums which were 3D printed plus a number of the freight wagons both four wheel and bogie, which are all or part 3D printed with the only commercial parts being the steel wheels and cup hooks for couplings.

Just outside the basement model room is a large parking deck, some of which Simon is starting to annex for an outdoor railway. The track laying hasn't commenced yet but Simon has constructed a solid timber base on which to lay the track. Perhaps when we go back again next year we'll have an outdoor track to run on.



Simon beside his Stainz loco and train on the trestle bridge

Photo: Michael Hilliar

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After watching Simon's trains on the indoor track we all retired upstairs where a lovely afternoon tea was ready and waiting for us.

Following the afternoon tea we all sat back and watched a demonstration by Simon on scanning items into 3D and plus a further discussion about 3D printing. Simon showed us the vast range of 3D printing projects that are available on a platform called Thingiverse including a giant 1/15 scale Big Boy loco which after 1000 hours of printing assembles into a six foot long display loco (that's just the length of the loco and the tender increase the length). I want one but I'm not sure if the domestic planning authority would give me a space to display it.

On behalf of the Auckland Society I would like to thank Simon and Carol for their hospitality and the fascinating presentation on 3D scanning and printing.

It was great to catch up with many of our members after the long Covid 19 lock down and I look forward to seeing more of you at future group meetings. Remember we can't have group meetings unless we have members willing to host a visit. We have some future group meetings already organised but we are still short of hosts so please if you can host a group visit either later this year or early next year please contact me on

robert.graham@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

or grahamclannz@xtra.co.nz

See you at the next meeting



Michael Brannigan with a Kitson steam tram model which he built

Photo: Michael Hilliar

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Simon showing a 3D printed caboose interior insert which is designed to go inside a Bachmann 4 wheel

Photo: Michael Hilliar



The outdoor track under construction

Photo: Michael Hilliar

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The outdoor track under construction

Photo: Michael Hilliar



A view of another part of the track

Photo: Michael Hilliar

Dubh Eas Viaduct 4 – Making the Piers

John Boyson – Pokeno



This article has been prepared for joint publication in the Garden Whistle and G1MRA NZ newsletter.

Photos provided by the author.

The viaduct has seven piers of various sizes and two abutments. The prototypes are formed of smooth finished concrete with grooves to disguise the joints between the concrete layers. These grooves occur every 18 inches which represent the amount each pier was raised for each concrete pour made.

The piers were also stepped in at various points with the base being wider than the top for stability. Between the steps, the elements are vertical. The piers are capped with decorative pilasters which sit either side of the spans. The prototype picture below illustrates these features.

The model piers were cast in stages between steps using a sand/cement mix with a ratio of 3 to 1.

Since the stages were uniform in height for the same level across the piers (they did vary from bottom to top gradually decreasing in height), several piers were cast together in batches and in line to save time and keep the alignment between piers uniform.

Stainless steel offcuts from Craigenarden Viaduct as well as aluminium tubing from an old aerial were used as reinforcing.

As each pier reached the height of the span underside, they were set aside for a week to gain some strength before finishing was tackled.

Finishing the piers was more time consuming than the rough finished Craigenarden Viaduct since the surface was smooth concrete. A sand cement mix is too coarse for the desired effect. Instead the faces were plastered one side at a time with a cement/water mix. The surface being plastered was pre-wetted to counter the hygroscopic effects of cement. The plaster was built up over a number of days and

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The prototype piers showing the grooves, steps and pilasters

sanded and filed down between each coat to gradually produce a smooth even surface free of irregularities and air bubbles

The first application was typically a fairly thick layer with little attempt to smooth things over at this point. Each application typically needed less plaster and gradually improved the finish. The last application



Casting the base section for the second of the main span piers. As with Craigenarden Viaduct the mortar was placed in stages and tamped (on the right) to remove air bubbles. The reinforcing was added as soon as the pouring was complete.

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The three tallest piers being batch cast

was simply a matter of tidying up the odd remaining isolated fault.

Prior to plastering, any sections that had excess thicknesses of sand/cement were gently hand ground down to an acceptable line to allow the plaster layer to build up the final finish.

Once the plastering was complete, each pier was again left for a week. However there was always plenty of others to be getting on with!

The next job to be done was the grooves. These were marked out and carefully cut out with hacksaw blades. Having a thickness of plaster aided this job since it cut through easily and left an even line. Occasionally the blades would bite into the sand cement layer which was much harder to cut and created a more irregular finish to the groove.

The pier work was done through the recent Covid 19 lockdown. This kept me well occupied and as such the lock down was not a hardship. Fortunately I had

all the materials I needed for casting and plastering. However I only had four hacksaw blades so had to conserve these carefully. They went blunt fairly quickly but could still deal with the cement plaster easily. The sand/cement mix being much harder was far more challenging for the blades. I just about managed to finish the job with all four blades being write offs by the end!

Once the grooves were cut, the last job was to form the decorative pier pilasters which the spans sit between. These also have ribs at the base and top to make life more challenging. They were cast full width and thickness. Then, after a week of hardening, the section between the ribs was carefully ground down. Plastering followed as previously described. Fortunately there were no grooves to carve for these.

.At the same time that the piers were being built, the two abutments were cast. These were done in one go. They were more complex than the piers having rebate



Pre wetting the ground surface prior to applying the first coat of cement plaster



Spreading the plaster and the finished first coat. Just three more sides to go and then another six piers!



The largest pier being grooved

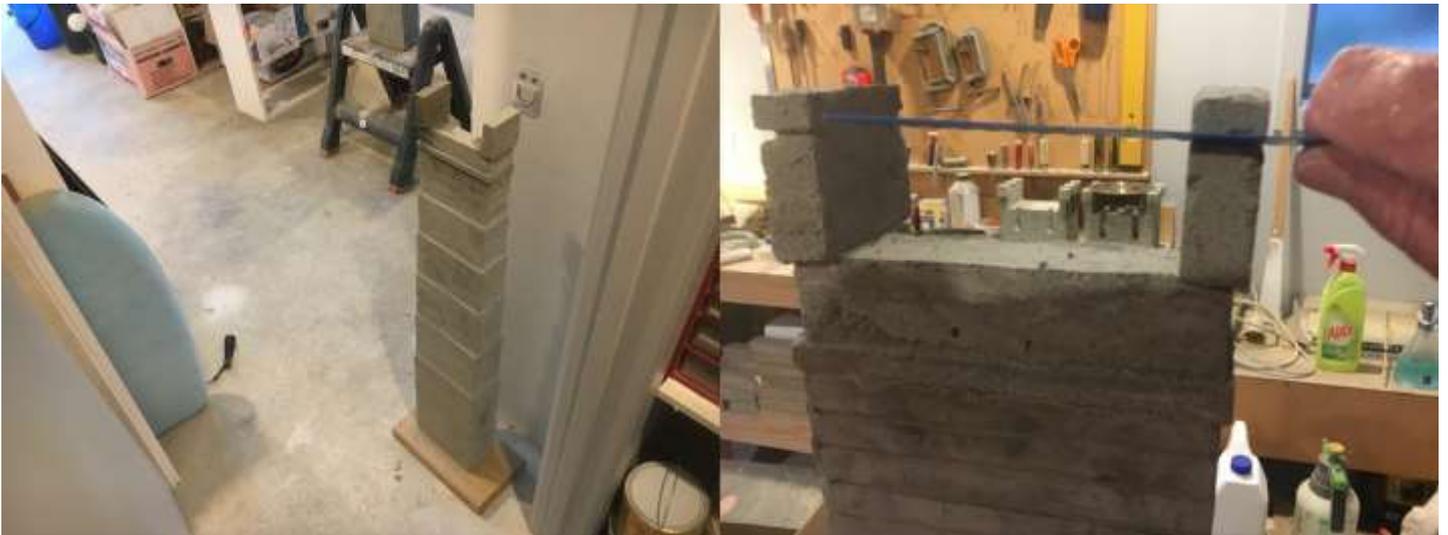


The side span pier pilasters rough cast and ground down to create the ribs and caps prior to plastering

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Casting the lower rib and rebate sections (to take the deeper main span) on one of the main span piers



Pilasters cast on main span pier and cutting out the cap, this is the tallest pier being 960mm from base to top of pilaster.



Using the hacksaw to carve out the pilaster section below the cap. A gentle hand was needed for this! Definitely not a job for a machine tool. Far too aggressive! On the right the finished main piers

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slots for the span beams and a decorative castellated finish on the parapets. The span beam and castellated slots were formed with polystyrene inserts. They were again plastered and grooved in the same manner as the piers.

Once all the piers and abutments were finished and had another week to harden, it was time for the final job: assembly! This will be covered in the concluding article next time.



One abutment cast and the mould prepared again for the second.



Completed piers and abutments awaiting assembly

New Cottage on the Pirfic Railway

Bill Stanley, Lincoln

Liffey Cottage, in Lincoln, now a museum, was one of the original buildings in the district. The model has been scratch-built by Bill Stanley for use on his “Pirfic Railway” This is a new layout which will be on the layout tour at the 2021 Garden Railway Convention



Another Freight Depot

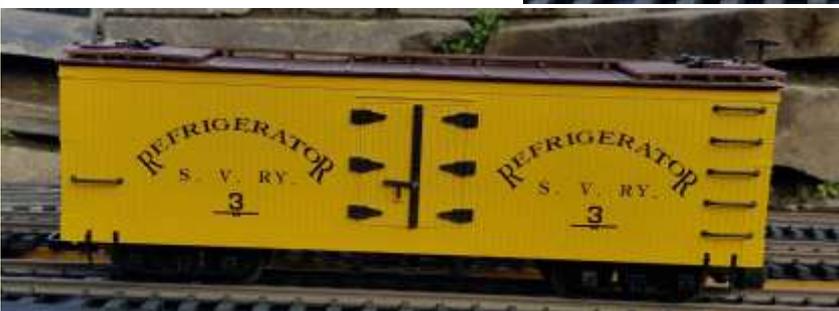
Michael Hilliar, Manurewa

Michael Hilliar is another modeller building a freight depot for his garden railway. Michael has produced and fitted around 1500 individual shingles to the roof. Doors and windows are from Ian Galbraith. There is still more work required to complete the depot.



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Another New Railway Under Construction in Christchurch

Tony Rothschild, Christchurch

Work was started on my 1:32 scale railway during lockdown (photo is of my KM1 Modellbau BR50).

LGB R3 track will be laid (in summer) so any 45mm gear can run.

Many thanks!

Tony Rothschild



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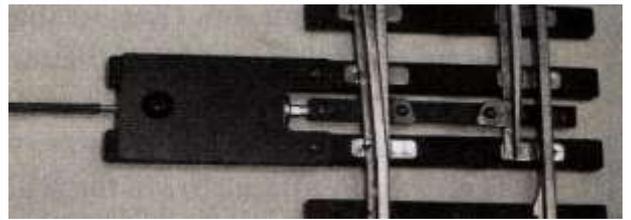
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COMING EVENTS

September 20 2020

October 3-4 2020

February 6-8 2021

May 30- June 5 2021

2022

2023

Model Train Swap & Display, Tinwald

The BIG Model Train Show, Christchurch

12th NZ Garden Railway Convention, Christchurch

36th Garden Railway Convention, Nashville, TN, USA

37th Garden Railway Convention, Denver, CO, USA

38th Garden Railway Convention, Santa Clara CA, USA



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Club Events and Contacts

Andrew Stevens 24 Mason Street, New Lynn. The meeting will be from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday 15 August or Saturday 22 August if wet. Andrews railway does not have track power so battery or live steam only. Please bring some food for the shared afternoon tea.

Club Contact: Auckland Garden Railway Society Inc Email: gardenrailauckland@gmail.com
Philip Sharp, Ph: 09 600 2157

Waikato:

Running Days/Meetings cancelled until further notice

Club Contact: GROW: Garden Railway Operators of Waikato. Email: sandnlipsey@gmail.com
Stefan Lipsey, P O Box 612, Waikato Mail Centre, Hamilton, 3240, Ph: 07 859 3650

Wairarapa:

August 16 2020 We are holding an event at Dalefield Hall, Carterton to test out our new table top railway.

Club Contact: Wairarapa Garden Railway Group. Email: Lloyd.dickens@wise.net.nz
C/- Lloyd Dickens, 55 Titoki Street, Masterton. Ph 06 370 3790.

Wellington:

August 2020: - TBA

Club Contact: Wellington Garden Railway Group. Email: cdrowley@xtra.co.nz
Coordinator: Chris Drowley, 47 Chester Road, Tawa 5028, Ph: 0274 496 907

Christchurch:

August 22 2020: Visit to The Toy Collector, 36 Manchester Street, Christchurch, 1pm to 3pm, Entry \$10.00
Then to Acorn Models, 37 Manchester Street. Open till 4pm Saturday
Those who want to afterwards can pop down to a café for a cup of tea

Club Contact: Christchurch Garden Railway Group: Email: Secy@culcreuchfold.org.nz
Secretary/Treasurer: Ian C Galbraith, 3 Church Street, RANGIORA 7400 Ph 03 5512142
President: Andrew Wilson, 021 273 3047

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

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

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

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Email: GW@culcreuchfold.org.nz