



Picton Rail & Sail¹
on the Picton Foreshore
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NEWSLETTER September 2021

Brian Morris, Editor 0211922936

Midwinter "Christmas" dinner – before lockdown!!!

What a warm, wonderful and cheerful event over twenty of us enjoyed at the Picton RSA on Saturday 14 August. It was especially good to share the



evening with three visitors from the Christchurch Society of Model Engineers (more of this below), and to see member **Joyce McClelland** come along – very welcome evidence of her ongoing recovery from a recent episode of ill-health. We wish *everyone* good health during these (hopefully) last few weeks of winter weather, which, along with the most recent lockdown, have certainly played havoc with our regular school holiday and Sunday schedules, not to mention Committee meetings

But back to cheering themes: we're thinking of having a similar get-together in the spring (Covid willing!) Perhaps a BBQ at the station for members and their families to celebrate our "birthday" at Labour Weekend? Do share your thoughts with the Editor



And save this date and time – *Sunday 21 November, 4 – 7pm – for our AGM*, when all positions on the Committee (President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Editor, Secretary and so on) will be open for nomination, voting and election

¹ Picton Society of Model Engineers Incorporated



for the 2021/22 year. After we have accomplished our necessary (and worthy) democratic duty, and paid our \$5 per person membership fee for next year, we can reward ourselves with a bit of social time – again, Covid willing!



Visitors from the Christchurch Society of Model Engineers



It was a great pleasure (and a very fruitful exchange of news, views and information) to welcome **Ben, Bryan** and **Glen** from Christchurch, not only to our dinner, but a couple of hours before that, to the station to view our set-up – both the “big” locos Charlotte and Endeavour, and the model trains. They admired **Graham Ashford's** beautifully “spruced-up” model train layout, and **Paul Van Der Werff's** smart-looking model yachts. Paul does his best with the pool, but a few persistent equipment deficits, winter weather and the

relentless bombardment from our feathered “friends” – ducks and seagulls – all combine to do their best to wreck his trenchant efforts. Closer to summer, he will be putting out a call for volunteers to join a working bee to help with draining, cleaning, repainting and refilling the pool in preparation for our traditionally busiest season. Thanks to sharp-eyed members who contact Paul to let him know if the pool is looking “unwell”

Ben, Bryan and Glen then visited **President Bob's** home workshop to see the work-in-progress that is our steam engine Resolution. They run steam locos, so it was useful to listen to their experiences with steam; we all agreed that while steam locomotion is wonderful, it's also a handful to keep happy

Editor's pick

Around the time that you'll be reading this newsletter, the world's strangest cricket match will commence on the other side of the world. To be precise, at 6am on Thursday, 9 September 2021 at the Bramble Bank - a sandbank in the middle of the Solent, halfway between Southampton and the Isle of Wight. Just imagine such an event taking place on a sandbar in the middle of Cook Strait, preferably, the shallower western end, and of



course, on one of those rare placid, wind-free days! But back to the Solent ...



Members of the Island Sailing Club (Cowes) and the Royal Southern Yacht Club (Southampton) – neither famous for their cricketing reputations – form “scratch” teams, roll up their trouser legs, swing themselves out of their boats, and in front of enthusiastic boat-bound spectators, play their annual, exactly one hour-long cricket match on the Bramble Bank

Why only one hour? Because by 7am, the incoming tide will cover the pitch, and cricketers will then jump back into their boats to head for this year’s host’s clubhouse for a celebration breakfast. The cricket game is merely an excuse for both clubs to socialise and to renew old friendships (and presumably to rehash their traditional sailing rivalry). Regular visitors to the

Picton foreshore, and readers of this newsletter, may note a bit of a similarity - our Society’s members highly value and enjoy social times together, as well as loving their volunteer work providing 20-cent train rides and mini-yachting adventures to young and old. Why not join us? You don’t have to be as eccentric as the Bramble Bank cricketers, and *we* can guarantee a dry, sand-free and (sometimes) non-windy environment!

Speaking of winds, both Cook Strait and Wellington are rightly (in)famous for theirs, and while most of us casually toss around words like “breeze” and “gale”, these actually have technical descriptions. By the **Beaufort Wind Force Scale**, they are:

Number	Descriptor	Knots ²	KMs per hours	Number	Descriptor	Knots	KMs per hours
0	Calm	0	0	1	Light air	1-3	1-5
2	Light breeze	4-6	6-11	3	Gentle breeze	7-10	12-19
4	Moderate breeze	11-16	20-28	5	Fresh breeze	17-21	29-38
6	Strong breeze	22-27	39-49	7	Light gale	28-33	50-61
8	Gale	34-40	62-74	9	Strong gale	41-47	75-88
10	Storm	48-55	89-102	11	Violent storm	56-63	103-117
12	Hurricane	64+	118+				

² A knot is 1.852km per hour = 1 nautical mile per hour. A vessel travelling at 1 knot along a geographic meridian travels one minute of latitude in one hour. The speed of a sailing ship moving at sea was measured by tossing a wooden ‘chip log’ off the stern, which was attached by a light rope with a knot every 47feet3inches. A sailor counted the knots passing through his hands in exactly 30 seconds. The number of ‘knots’ was recorded in the master’s logbook

But wait, there's more! A **typhoon** is a hurricane at sea; a **tornado** is a hurricane-strength whirlwind on land; a **cyclone** is a circular-motion wind storm; a **tempest** is a violent wind storm; a **blizzard** is a strong wind driving snow which obscures vision. Luckily we don't often experience any of these in Picton!

President's call

By the time you are reading this newsletter, I will have **officially** retired after 57 years of employment. My **real** (and a bit premature!) retirement actually began with our most recent nation-wide Level 4 lockdown

I know that everyone will have been sending warm thoughts to those who are *not* in a position to enjoy the enforced leisure time – the unwell, the isolated, job-seekers, the under-employed, and those who have had to wind down, or even close down, their businesses. If you know of any members who are not having an easy time of it, or perhaps just really miss their regular social contact, please let us know – we're volunteers, and what we do best is work for, and reach out, to others

We will also have been sending grateful thoughts to essential workers who are soldiering on – they are out there every day, doing essential work to support **us**. We think, with sympathy, of those who are obliged to turn their homes into their workplaces - never an easy transition, and often disruptive to normal family life. Obviously, our Society's usual operations are suspended until Level 1, and while I – and hopefully many of you – are lucky enough to be able to make good use of this “holiday” to catch up on outstanding projects, or just relax – let's be extra mindful of, and considerate towards, those who are not so fortunate



It'll be great to see you all, and our loyal customers, back at the station again sometime in the near future. Until then, please continue to take care of yourselves, and look after each other

Society contacts

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