

“MEG” NAMED AS COUNTRY’S TOP LOCO RESTORATION

MOTAT railway locomotive F180 “Meg Merrilies”, was named the top restored locomotive for 2019 at the annual Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand conference, held at Timaru over Queens Birthday weekend. This resulted in it winning the prestigious MOTAT Society Steam Locomotive Restoration Award trophy.

The trophy was received by restoration team leader, Jim Savage and MOTAT Collections Workshops Manager Graham Anderson, who had also been a member of the restoration team. Society chairman, Henry Swann said that it was a privilege for the Society to sponsor the trophy, and he congratulated the Rail Section restoration team which had carried out the work over a period of 36 years. This was covered in an extensive article in issue 32 of Squeaky Wheel.

The Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand (FRONZ) is the umbrella organisation which covers all restoration and private rail operations - heavy or light rail - in New Zealand.

The MOTAT delegates at the conference included Graham Anderson, Jim Savage, Charles Richards, Alan Curtis and Martyn Radford.

In a report on the conference, Rail Section’s Mr Radford said that the conference covered a wide range of operational and safety issues with talks from KiwiRail, and NZTA representatives.

Topics included the lack of common sense being used in the workplace and the need for training systems to counteract it.

Group discussions included age concern with membership and how to attract younger volunteers, the value of Facebook and the pros and cons of using community workers.

Another important part of the conference was the presentation of suppliers’ lists where specialist railway items and tooling could be obtained, reported Mr Radford. Reporting in the Western Springs Tramway’s “The Controller” magazine, Graham Anderson said that one of the topics specific to tramway operations was the upcoming disposal of parts from Melbourne which would be invaluable for future maintenance and restoration work at MOTAT.

Other winners at the awards were:

The Paul Dillicar Memorial Award for innovation: Sean Heenan of Glenbrook Vintage Railway Volunteers for the inaugural Counties Power Christmas Lights events

The Paul Heighton Award for Excellence: Bryan and Marian Blanchard of the Pleasant Point Railway.

AON Young Achievers Award: Bradley Hill of Dunedin Railways and Ocean Beach.

Z Mini Tankers Award for Motive Power restoration (non-steam): Goldfields Railway for the restoration of Dsa 253.

Pounamu Tourism Group Award for carriage/guards van restoration: Mainline Steam Heritage Trust for the restoration of carriage AO60.



The MOTAT Society Steam Locomotive Restoration Trophy is held by MOTAT’s Graham Anderson at the recent Federation of Rail Organisations of New Zealand awards conference. The award was presented when F.180 Meg Merrilies was named the top restored steam locomotive in New Zealand. With Graham is restoration team leader, Jim Savage (left) and FRONZ president Grant Craig. Graham is MOTAT’s Collection Workshops Manager and was also a member of the F.180 restoration team.

David Maciulaitis photo

Tramway Restoration Award: Dunedin Light Rail Trust for repatriating and displaying restored cable cars to Dunedin.

Rail Heritage Trust of NZ: Fielding and Districts Steam and Rail Society for restoration of Palmerston (south) turntable.

New Zealand Transport Agency Rail Safety Award: Glenbrook Vintage Railway Charitable Trust for modernising its health and safety systems to improve compliance and build a stronger safety culture.

There were no entries in the goods wagon restoration award or the infrastructure improvement awards.

BOILER TICKET TIME

The annual “warrant of fitness” for steam powered machinery will see some of MOTAT’s regular performers out of action for a while. This is the boiler inspection for the important certificates without which no steam boiler can be operated.

Detailed inspections are carried out by a certified boiler inspector after the boilers have been stripped of fittings and washed out.

Rail Section’s Martyn Radford reported that two of its locomotives, F.180 and Y.542 had passed their inspections and were in the process of being reassembled. L.507’s inspection is due later in the year.

With the Tram Section’s Baldwin steam dummy No. 100, the process will be a lot more involved and the locomotive is likely to be out of service for some time.

Tram Section’s Tony Messenger, reporting in “The Controller” magazine, said that the inspection will involve the removal of the “house” superstructure and lagging from the exterior of the boiler.

While 100 is laid up, the opportunity will be taken to work on the suspension, so the drawbar heights will be the same at both ends - essential for when the locomotive will be used to tow trailer 21.

At present there is a 50mm difference in height between the two ends, reported Mr Messenger.



The Squeaky Wheel



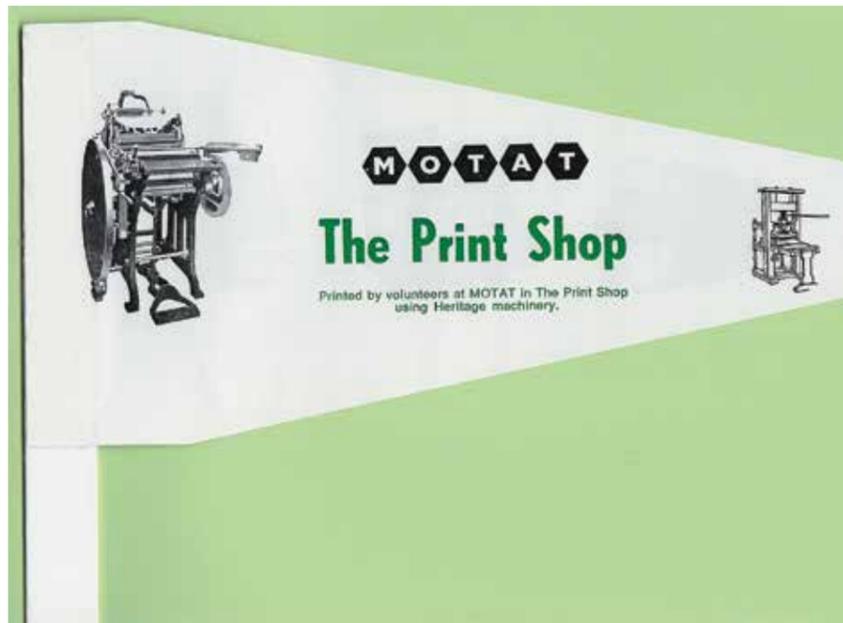
The MOTAT Society Newsletter
ISSN 2350-2940 (Print)
ISSN 2350-2959 (Online)

Issue 34 - 2019



FLAGGING A MILESTONE

A milestone for the MOTAT Print Shop as the 9000th flag is handed over to Lachlan Chisholm by Print Shop head Graham O’Keeffe, watched by Lachlan’s dad Duncan. See more on page 2. Evan James photo



FLAGGING A SUCCESS

A simple idea to give volunteers printers training has reached a milestone, with the 9000th flag being produced at the MOTAT Print Shop. Print Section head Graham O’Keeffe said the section conceived the flags eight years ago, using dotted paper, and since then production has showed no signs of slowing as MOTAT patrons snap up the flags as souvenirs of their visit. They are printed on the Heidelberg platen printing machine, trimmed to shape and assembled by the volunteers.

ALUMNI REUNION FROM SOARING TO SOLENT

The Alumni reunion meeting on the 7th of August was once again well attended with current and retired volunteers, and in some cases their wives, joining us for a catch up. We were also delighted to have some staff members present including the CEO Michael Frawley, who took the time to chat with some of the attendees.

The venue of the social gathering, attended by over thirty, was in the ADH so an entertaining and informative talk was given by two MOTAT Society members, John Pendreigh and Henry Swan. Inevitable, but of course the theme of the “Tech Talks” revolved around aircraft with John Pendreigh revisiting his time as a very young officer in the RNZAF and being responsible as the captain of the huge Sunderland flying boat which we are so fortunate to have in our MOTAT hangar along with the Solent.

John spoke light-heartedly about the lack of water tightness overhead on the crew’s flight deck, requiring the navigator to have an umbrella up while flying through heavy rain to protect his maps. By contrast, the perfectly watertight hull below saved sinking when moored!

It was a privileged insight into the reality of the life of an aircrew during the fifties and sixties when the lives of many a fishing boat crewman, lost or in difficulties well off shore of the Pacific Islands, were saved by the RNZAF Sunderland. One WW2 rescue by a Sunderland is credited with cramming 68 survivors of a torpedo sinking into the aircraft and flying them to safety. Quite a chastening awakening to the cold reality of the Sunderland crews duties. It is no wonder that these crews used humour and flippancy to hide the horrors of some of the things to which they were exposed.

John’s talk was well received, as was Henry’s which took us on the journey of “Soaring to Solent.” This compressed the historical leaps into the future of the earliest recorded glider flight, George Cayley’s coachman’s manned gliding flight in 1804, through to the Wright Brothers powered flight almost one hundred years later in 1903, and then onto the enticing bliss of flying on the Solent around the “Coral Route.” The Teal inspired flight was to destinations unavailable to mere



THE SOLENT AT REST ON THE WAITEMATA

mortals but one which was delighted in by the rich and famous who could afford the luxury of air travel in its earlier post war years.

The opportunity was taken to display some of the photographs taken during the restoration of the Solent by Mike Smith. Mike has taken over four thousand pictures of this and other restorations, all of which are available via the Walsh Library. The comprehensiveness of this restoration, led by Steve Subritzky, is to a standard hitherto impossible to attain.

The new standards are directly due to better restoration controls and much more emphasis being placed on both the correct process and the recording of the work.

The CEO wrapped the reunion up with a most encouraging summary on how the Society can best contribute in the future with their Tech Talks as he is frequently asked by external organisations, such as Rotary, for speakers to talk about “Things MOTAT.” Could we actively now seek out some good interesting talks, brush up on our public speaking skills and make a real contribution for the benefit of the Society and the Museum?

Kayla Hemara, our Volunteer Programme Administrator, and her team are to be thanked hugely for organising the Alumni reunions, we look forward to many more.



MOTAT SOCIETY

2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 22ND OCTOBER 2019. CROPPER HOUSE. MOTAT 1

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

NOMINATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS TO THE RE-INVIGORATED SOCIETY COMMITTEE.

NOMINATIONS MAY COME FROM ANY SOCIETY MEMBER WHO IS NOT AN EMPLOYEE OF AUCKLAND CITY EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THROUGH AN AUCKLAND CITY OWNED COMPANY OR ORGANISATION.

NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA EMAIL OR POST FROM FIRST OF SEPTEMBER UNTIL FIRST OF OCTOBER 2019. NOMINATIONS WILL CLOSE ON 1ST OF OCTOBER 2019, TWENTY ONE DAYS PRIOR TO THE A.G.M. ON 22ND OCTOBER 2019.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

NOTICES OF MOTION FOR PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION AT THE A.G.M. WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA EMAIL OR POST FROM FIRST OF SEPTEMBER UNTIL FIRST OF OCTOBER 2019. NOMINATIONS WILL CLOSE ON 1ST OF OCTOBER 2019, TWENTY ONE DAYS PRIOR TO THE A.G.M. ON 22ND OCTOBER 2019.

NOTICES OF MOTION MAY BE DISCUSSED UNDER GUIDANCE OF CHAIRPERSON AND VIA CORRECT DEBATING RULES.

PLEASE NOTE

OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THIS YEAR WILL TAKE PLACE IN CROPPER HOUSE ON MOTAT 1 SITE

COMMENCING 6.30 pm OCTOBER 22ND

WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE TWO GUEST SPEAKERS THIS YEAR RANDY RAINSFORD.

“BRISTOL FREIGHTER” MICHAEL FRAWLEY.

ON “WHERE THE MONEY GOES”

NOT TO BE MISSED !

PLEASE ENSURE THAT YOU DIARISE THIS DATE AND ATTEND WHAT WILL BE AN INTERESTING MEETING.

NEW SOCIETY ADMINISTRATOR

The MOTAT Society welcomes Jodie Cawthorne, our new Administrator. Jodie’s extensive administration experience spans 30 years of secretarial and administration roles within various industries from Event Management and Local Government to Human Resources and Residential Construction.



Based on a rural lifestyle block in Dairy Flat, home to the family’s 4 pet sheep, 3 horses, 2 cats and 1 dog, Jodie has lived in the Auckland area for almost 40 years and the family are regular visitors to MOTAT. Jodie’s favourite MOTAT experience, other than the ability to get a glimpse into days gone by, was watching the complete bewilderment exhibited by Zoe (13) and Logan (11) when faced with dial telephones in the Communications section.

Jodie’s Dad, Bob, an avid pilot of light aircraft in his day, lives with the family and is even more excited about Jodie’s new role than she is herself.

Should you have any administrative or membership queries please contact Jodie at admin@motatsociety.org.nz or on 021 297 8008.

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