

The Squeaky Wheel



Issue 11 – Early September 2013

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MOTAT Society CONTACTS

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Committee: Andre Pointon (Chair and Steam rep), Leyton Chan (Deputy Chair and Tram rep), Bill Rayner (Secretary / Treasurer), Henry Swan (Aviation rep), Pete Cairncross (Rail rep), John Wolf, Bob Jessopp, Ken Pointon,

(NB: Lyndsay Whittle and Nick Taylor resigned their positions from July 2013)

Welcome to Issue 11 of the Squeaky Wheel

I am pleased to announce that cooperation with the museum has reached a new level, with a joint proposal from the Society and the museum CEO to the MOTAT Board gaining support, on 22nd August, for significantly increased funding for the Society. The future of the Driving Wheel magazine and support role by the Society has been assured by an annual grant of \$52,000. This is intended to provide for an increased presence at the museum in the form of a part time Liaison Officer and an editor for the Magazine, both to be employed by the Society.

The museum will take on the costs for printing and distributing the Driving Wheel, which will become a joint publication showcasing more of the museum's collection. We are delighted at the prospects ahead and look forward to supporting the museum further with this funding.

I'd like to welcome 'The Packard and Pioneer Museum' at Maungatapere as our

newest affiliate to the Society. This museum has 285 vehicles in its collection, and included with the mailout of this issue is a brochure for their museum which I can unequivocally recommend a visit to. You won't be disappointed.

Our July visit to the Parnell depot of Mainline Steam was well received – those of you who still have not seen what is akin to a steam buff's playground right in the heart of the Auckland CBD should do so as soon as possible. Word is still uncertain of a move to another premise.

The Society hereby gives formal notice of our Annual General Meeting, to be held on Wednesday 7pm, 25th of September in Cropper House, MOTAT Gt North Road. Now is the time to ensure your nomination if you'd like to join our committee – we are looking for some fresh minds and faces. I'd like to see a good turnout so please put it in your diary.

- Leyton Chan, Acting Chair

The MOTAT SOCIETY - Year in Review

– Sep 2012 to Sep 2013

by Tessa Phillips

In preparation for the AGM, now is a good time to briefly review what the Society has achieved since the 2012 AGM.

- **Magazine:** 2 issues of the Driving Wheel magazine – Issue 4 in Feb 2013, and coming up Issue 5 Sep 2013, (there was also Issue 3 in Sep 2012 just prior to last years AGM).
Organised the move to a joint MOTAT/MOTAT Society publication of the magazine with editorial content sourced and organised by the Society.
- **Regular Communications:** 6 issues of the Squeaky Wheel newsletter - Oct, Dec 2012, Feb, May, June, Sep 2013 - plus website and email notices and reminders.
- **5 Events / outings :** Pumphouse Event Nov 2012, Toroa Tour Jan 2013, Glenbrook Steam and Country Festival Mar 2013, Dam Busters Movie Event May 2013, Mainline Steam outing July 2013.
- **Memberships:** Confirmed the existing membership base, and extended the membership beyond the current/former MOTAT volunteer base. Established affiliations with other enthusiast groups (>20 to date with many more in progress).
- **MOTAT relations:** Established a Society presence and office at MOTAT, and rebuilt a positive relationship with MOTAT including the new funding arrangement.
The Committee has provided feedback on a new volunteer process, strategy and annual plans, as well as advice on a series of collection care workshops currently in planning.
- **MOTAT Board Appointments:** Fulfilled the Society's statutory role of appointing MOTAT Board members (the new Board for the 2013/2014 year is to be jointly announced by the Society and the RFA in September)
- **Other:** FRONZ awards, Lush awards; Newcomen Engine support at Glenbrook.
- **Committee:** Worked well together with the same members for a second year in a row, however some are not planning to continue, and we will need some fresh faces for the committee to take the society into future.

Where to from here?

In order for the Society to fulfil its primary objectives of supporting MOTAT and building affiliations with kindred groups (as per the MOTAT Act and MOTAT Society rules) we plan to continue to develop the following areas:

- **MEMBERSHIPS:** The value of the Society lies in the collective knowledge of its members. We aim to continue to grow the extended membership base to provide a greater pool of knowledge, with membership from many types of enthusiast groups including individuals interested in transport, technical and historical matters.
- **Affiliations:** Continue to build up affiliations and relationships with relevant groups.
- **Support MOTAT through its membership base :** The society aims to support MOTAT's work by helping source contributions of knowledge from its membership base, including support for workshops, exhibits, events, and so on. This year we will look at developing productive mechanisms to tap into this knowledgebase.
- **Magazine:** Planning is in place for Nov 2013 and March 2014 issues. Look to attract more articles and research. The magazine provides a valuable tool to promote the work of MOTAT and related groups. We will look into options for producing an online version as well as a print version to reduce print costs.
- **Events:** Run a series of varied events / outings and hopefully plan out next year's schedule in advance. These offer opportunities to casually meet and network with other members and wider affiliate groups, as well as hopefully learn lots too!
- **Newsletter / communications:** continue to keep members up to date with regular news and notices
- **Society Office:** Establish the Society Office more fully as a base for display of MOTAT's heritage & history, as well as having brochures for our affiliate groups available - thereby promoting the preservation of our transport and technology heritage in general. Aim to have someone available at the office where possible to allow interaction with museum visitors about MOTAT's work & heritage and the work of affiliates.
- **Society Records:** Work with the Museum, Walsh Memorial Library and members to collect and organise the society/museum records into a more formal institutional archive, to maintain the museum's heritage (as per the MOTAT Act). This information can also be used to help with a 'First 50 years of MOTAT' book and acknowledge those who have put in so much over the years.
- **Promotion of Volunteering:** Work with MOTAT to promote volunteering at MOTAT, especially among those with relevant skills and amongst younger people, to facilitate the generational passing on of older technical skills, knowledge and enthusiasm.
- **Misc Society projects:** Pearse Project, Newcomen Engine, look to help re-establish the Auckland section of the Aviation Historical Society and other Aviation groups, re-establish the Small Museums meetings.

Committee members have the opportunity to help with all of the above, with the support of the Society administrator and magazine editor. There is lots to do, so if you have lots of ideas and want to help get stuck in, please consider seeking nomination on the committee. The committee meets the last Tues of the month, with occasional attendace at other events, and subcommittees meetings. It is strongly preferred that committee members have email as this is a common form of communication in between meetings.

Finally a BIG thank you to MOTAT for the new funding arrangement which means the society can really get its teeth into these things, to everyone's benefit!



Notice of the **Annual General Meeting** of the
MOTAT Society

AGM to be held
7pm Wednesday, September 25, 2013.
Cropper House, MOTAT Great North Rd site

Guest Speakers: Chris Chitty will talk on
“The potential use of robotics in MOTAT displays”
(Chris is a robotics expert and lectures at Massey University, is Dr Robotech on the NZ kids program “Let’s get inventing”, and is currently a MOTAT Board member)

Nominations are called for committee members.

MOTAT Society members are requested to attend to assist in the election of the new committee for the year Oct 2013-Sep 2014. Full agenda, nominations process, annual accounts and last year’s minutes will be sent to individual members.

MOTAT Society Administrator
/ MOTAT Liaison Officer

- Tessa Phillips

I am pleased to announce that I have now been contracted by the MOTAT Society to fulfil the above role. As the new liaison between the Society and the Museum I hope to help develop further productive ways for the two groups to benefit from each other to the betterment of all. There are so many great possibilities and I am very excited to be officially on board.

I will primarily be based in the Society office, in the MOTAT 1920s Electrical Shop, during term time weekdays 25 hours/ week, so pop in!

Driving Wheel Editorial Team

We are very pleased to announce that Andre Pointon has agreed to continue as editor for the next 3 issues. Thanks also to the extended Editorial team for their efforts.

Editor: Andre Pointon

Content Management: Tessa Phillips

Art Director: David Coventon (Unitec)

Designers: Unitec Design student team under David's supervision

Editorial Support / Proofreading: Tessa Phillips, Henry Swan, Bruce Grenville, Bill Rayner,

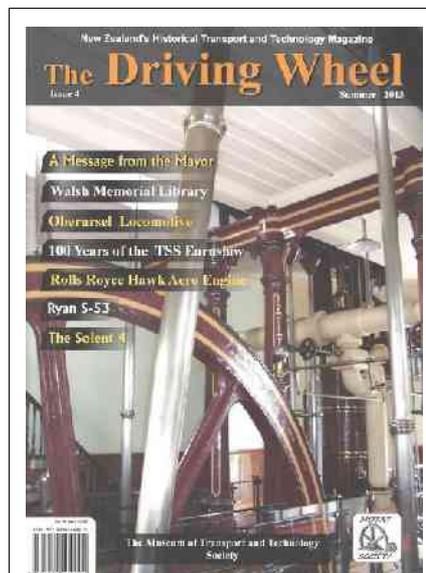
The Driving Wheel Magazine: Issue 5 and beyond - by Tessa Phillips

We are pleased to announce that the next issue of the Driving Wheel magazine, Issue 5, is now in its final stages of production and we hope to have it printed and mailed out to members by the AGM on the 25th September. Hopefully you will all enjoy the upcoming magazine - there is a wide range of fascinating articles including: MOTAT's sectioned engines, 1917 Titan Tractor, South Is Steam tour, Aviation trip, MOTAT's Differential Analyser, and the Puhipuhi mine – to name but a few.

As Issue 5 has been rather delayed we are already pulling together content for Issue 6 at the same time. We hope to have Issue 6 out in late November with Issue 7 to come in March 2014 - giving 3 issues in the Society's subscription and financial years as planned.

If you would like to contribute articles to future issues, please contact Tessa (see contacts page 1) for further information on article and image requirements.

As mentioned, from Issue 6 on the magazine will officially become a joint publication of MOTAT and the MOTAT Society, and we would like to thank MOTAT for cementing the future of the magazine. We feel it has a valuable role to play in showcasing MOTAT's collections, people, and contributions; but also in reaching out to other groups working to similar ends, and generally promoting the need to preserve our transport and technology heritage. We look forward to working more closely with MOTAT on the magazine going forward.



Issue 4 cover

Packard and Pioneer Museum

Text and images by Leyton Chan

The MOTAT Society extends its warmest welcome to our newest affiliate – the Packard and Pioneer Museum of Maungatapere. The museum has only recently opened its doors to the public and is still very much in its developmental phase. Nonetheless it is proving to be a very popular amongst those in the know and based on its collections is probably Northland's best kept secret.

As many of you will know the collections comprise what was to become a museum at Anawhata, set up in trust by the late Graeme Craw. Known to many in museum circles, Graeme passed away in 2007, but not before moving his entire collection north to the old Maungatapere dairy factory, west of Whangarei. The sheer size of the collection meant this move took over three years!



Photo: Leyton Chan April 2012

Housed in the vast factory complex are a mind boggling collection of vehicles large and small, including military vehicles, trucks, buses and commercial vehicles, fire engines, steam traction engines, over 65 restored motorbikes, heavy earthmoving machinery and even the Dubs class A62 steam locomotive once used on the Piha tramway. Add to this a broad range of domestic and items and farm machinery.

What takes the cake however is the prized collection of 52 vehicles built by the Packard Motor Car Company of Detroit. Today this is the largest known collection of Packards to be assembled by one man worldwide. Exceedingly well built, Packards were particularly suitable for New Zealand roads of the day - not dissimilar to those developing at the same time in America. This was the pre-eminent marque to be seen in, though few could afford them, a surprisingly large

number made it to New Zealand. Graeme served his apprenticeship at Dominion Motors in Auckland, which were agents for Packard. The qualities soon rubbed off on Graeme and he began collecting what he considered to be the work of the finest automobile engineers, "Master motor builders" as they were called. The earliest Packard in the collection dates from 1919, and ranges through an impressive mix of straight sixes, eights and V12s, right to the last from 1958. Body styles range from coupes and roadsters, sedans and enclosed limousines, to open tourers and phaetons, hearses and even Packard trucks. A number of vehicles remain stored offsite awaiting restoration (along with a vast collection of spare parts), and additionally there is a small display in the Whangarei town basin of selected examples.

The museum is run by a full time manager, Mr Richard Easton, and aided by a dedicated group of volunteers. The Craw family are still very much a part of the museum also, Graeme's wife Moira, (now 91), and his son Fenton and wife Geraldine are heavily involved. Through their efforts the museum was recently able to participate in the opening of the new Whangarei river bascule bridge "Te Matau o Pohe" by leading in the official first crossing none other than the first Whangarei Heads taxi – a 1921 Packard single six tourer.

To Ask the Man Who Owns Fifty Two, visitors are advised to book ahead either by phone or by arranging at the office in the Whangarei town basin. This issue of Squeaky Wheel includes the museum's brochure as the MOTAT Society's way of showing our support.

For more info please see

www.packardandpioneer.co.nz



Traction engines now under restoration
Photos: Richard Easton, 2013



Photo: Leyton Chan April 2012

After a conversation with one of our Driving Wheel magazine readers, I received the following images and notes from him, about a Packard with a connection to the Packard and Pioneer Museum, which we both thought would be of interest. – Tessa

1923 Packard

by Bruce R. Anderson,
6th August 2013

Here is a precious photo of myself in the 1923 Packard “straight 8” 7 seater touring car outside the service station which was next door to our Motor repair business at 305 Remuera Road (photo to right).

The year was 1955 and after restoration by myself was used extensively on Vintage Car Club events. I had joined the Veteran and Vintage car in 1954 when the club was formed, and had purchased the Packard in a dilapidated state from Graeme Craw, who was a teenage friend. I also knew his wife-to-be in future years, Moira Fenton.



The car passed through several owners before being brought back into the possession of the Craw family. It was wonderful to visit Moira in February this year, have a personal tour of their Maungatapere Packard Museum, and renew our acquaintance with the car. .



Bruce R. Anderson and Moira Craw (aged 91) with the Packard almost 60 years later! Feb 2013. Packard and Pioneer Museum. (Both photos courtesy of Bruce Anderson)



Main collection: Old Dairy Factory, SH14 Maungatapere, Whangarei Ph: 027-4435060 or (09)-9-4380219
Open Saturday 2pm, or tours by arrangement

The Town Basin “History On Wheels” Exhibition
(a revolving sample of items from the main collection)
Opposite Reyburn House, Town Basin, Whangarei Tel: (64) 27-4435060 or (64)-9-438 0219
Open Tues to Sun 10am-4pm



www.packardandpioneer.co.nz

STORYLINES FESTIVAL: Mobile MOTAT

- Sunday 18th August 2013.

by Tessa Phillips, based on Bruce Grenville's images and 19th Aug report on MOTAT's participation in this year's Storylines Annual festival at the Aotea Centre.

The **MOTAT Printing Section**, represented by Nik Smythe, Brendan Laing & Bruce Grenville, participated in this year's Storylines Festival with a very popular and effective stall, teaching small children how to set type, and print their name on bookmarks and posters.

Fortunately we were able to borrow several "Storylines" volunteers to come along and help out, and for most of the day had 5 extras helping, so the whole day was very stress-free, and everything went perfectly.

We had learnt from our past experience participating in this annual event, and avoided a crucial bottleneck by taking the MOTAT Adana 8x5 press, and two chases. This meant that we could have one name

being printed, and as soon as this was finished, the next one was instantly ready, and thus we were able to power through the big queues of eager kids that besieged the stall all day, from start at 10 a.m. till finish at around 3.30.

Much of the day ran in a similar fashion to that reported last year in the Squeaky Wheel issue 6 (Oct 2012), so we won't repeat those details, but a few extras this year are worth noting:

Some other stalls at the Festival had Braille typesetting, and calligraphers, and our colleagues from the **Association of Book Crafts NZ Ltd (ABC)** had a stall too, running bookbinding activities similar to those that they run most Sundays at MOTAT. In addition to the choice of printing onto one of three bookmarks and an



Nik Smythe helps a happy visitor print their poster

A4 "Heidelberg" poster, some children had a small book they had previously sewn up at the Bookbinders' stall, so we let them print their name on the cover or flyleaf.

We had 231 visitors printing on the day (as compared to an average of between 50 & 90 on most Sundays at MOTAT, where the kids get to print 7 items plus get them heat-set in gold and silver which we didn't do here), up from 195 at last year's Storylines.

I heard a lot of positive MOTAT-recognition remarks from kids and parents, such as "I've been there!", and we all urged lots of folk to come along to MOTAT, particularly on Sundays when the Print Shop is operational. We also had a big pile of MOTAT fliers, plus **Association of Handcraft Printers** fliers.

A very successful day, and a great time had by all.



View of our busy stall, and with two MOTAT "sails" touching the roof.



. Our team at the end of the afternoon, minus one guy who was taking the photo. The three MOTAT crew in black MOTAT shirts, and the Storylines volunteers in lime green "Storylines" shirts.

Village Section Update

by Frances Young, 31 Aug 2013

Things are moving forward in the Village. All the new roses and seedlings have been planted out in Willow Cottage garden (cheers Megan for your generous donation!). The brick path is being extended around the other side of the cottage. Willow Cottage has had the first attention as it needed to be done before the spring planting. Rotting skirting boards have been replaced at the front and retaining timber has been attached at ground level, preserving the woodwork for decades to come. It's all looking ship shape at the front. More rotten boards need replacing down the side of the cottage though, and additional retaining boards laid where required. Other buildings needing retaining timber include areas of Quinlan Cottage, Lawler/Sattleday Cottage and the Chapel. Once the buildings have been protected at ground level we can proceed with their exterior restoration – cleaning, sanding, painting.

Dave Pearson, the heritage architect who is working on the restoration of the Engineer's Cottage interior, is also preparing a conservation plan and maintenance manual for each Village building. The Chapel will be the first to get a spruce up as the first wedding is booked for November. With any luck the gardens will be blooming prettily and fruit beginning to grow on the new crabapple and pear trees. In due course, the fruit harvested can be used to demonstrate domestic food preserving techniques like making crabapple jelly and bottling pears. Three feijoa trees have also been planted (commonly used as windbreaks by the colonists), occasioning great interest from the Education team. Black grapes from my dad's heritage vine have been planted on the sunny side of old stone Potter Cottage and are just beginning to bud up. That hot concrete wall will encourage them to fruit prolifically. It's nice to think that people (and birds) will enjoy all the fruit.

Native trees from Black Bridge Nurseries (thanks for the large discount Black Bridge!) have been planted in clusters to provide a bit of screening from busy Great North Road, but it will be a few years before they bush up sufficiently. In the meantime brushstik fencing being attached to the perimeter fence is proving to be a very successful windbreak, countering the fierce southerlies sweeping through the Village. While it's sheerness allows people outside to see in, it also creates a bit of a backdrop for the people inside the Village, screening out that busy intersection to some extent. Finishing the brushstik perimeter fence is our highest priority because it will make the Village a more pleasant space to linger in. People are increasingly taking advantage of the sun and the picnic tables dotted around the Village. A suggestion has been made for picnic hampers and blankets to be made available from the cafe for people who want to enjoy their lunch in



*Work on Willow cottage as seen at 30th Aug 2013: The gardens are all ready for a burst of Spring flowering in the coming weeks; new skirting boards put up around the front porch; To the left of the cottage you can see where work on a new brick path is progressing.
Photos: T. Phillips*

the pleasant garden surroundings of the Village. I think it is a great idea. I see all sorts of activities happening in the Village in the future. It just needs people to bring it alive.

Any volunteers keen to help out will be greatly appreciated. If you are new to volunteering at MOTAT please contact MOTAT HR (hr@motat.org.nz or ph (09) 8155815 saying that you are interested in helping at the Village. There are maintenance chores to be done, and more gardens to plant out. Or there are hosting opportunities – dress up in costume and tell stories of life in old Auckland. For full information you can also see the MOTAT website <http://www.motat.org.nz/about/volunteer/become-motat-volunteer>

Any donations of herb and vegetable seedlings for our pottager garden at Potter Cottage would also be greatly appreciated. Please email Frances at francey@kiwilink.co.nz

2014

WARBIRDS OVER WANAKA

INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW

FRIDAY 18 | SATURDAY 19 | SUNDAY 20

APRIL » EASTER

WANAKA AIRPORT

BOOK TICKETS: TicketDirect www.ticketdirect.co.nz

www.warbirdsoverwanaka.com

Mainline Steam Outing 25th July 2013

- text and images by Tessa Phillips

Last issue the Society advertised to meet at the Mainline Steam Depot, Cheshire St, Parnell for a bit of a look around on a Thursday evening. Despite it being a brisk winters night, about 20 keen members and extras turned out (including 3 train mad boys).

Following a quick safety briefing, our knowledgeable guide Ian Wiley (a Mainline Steam volunteer as well as a MOTAT rail section volunteer) took us through to the well equipped workshops and shed. The cavernous sheds filled to the brim with locos and railcars, in various states of repair and undress, was quite surreal in the dusky lighting, as was the large gantry crane capable of lifting 30 Tonnes towering overhead.

Ian explained about the range of projects currently being undertaken, and the boys were especially interested to see Mainline Steam's 'Thomas the Tank Engine' - they knew it well from its use at Glenbrook.

Unfortunately lighting wasn't available on the night for the gantry in the far shed or some of the outside areas, but with the aid of numerous torches and cell phone lights we managed to get a sense of all the work they have on their hands.

Hopefully we will be able to arrange a fuller daytime visit next year when some of their engines are in steam, prior to one of the excursions they run.

For more information on Mainline Steam see www.mainlinesteam.co.nz



In the top photo, the locomotive to the left is J 1211, undergoing firebox repairs, to the right is a 56ft carriage undergoing restoration,



Lower photo, Mainline Steam's fully operational Ja 1240, with the smoke box door open, undergoing its annual boiler survey. Photos: T.Phillips

MOTAT's Walsh Memorial Library - Temporary Location information

Following the library's move out of the Pioneers of Aviation Building at MOTAT in recent months, while the building is undergoing repairs, Caroline Foster-Atkins would like to pass on the following information to Society members:



The Library's temporary home in McDonald Street, "Global Textiles" building

The staff at the Walsh Memorial Library are settling into our temporary premises at **8 McDonald St, Morningside.**

We have moved around a third of the Library collection to the new site so are still able to help with a range of enquiries. The material that has been moved is still available for consultation – we just request that you call us and make an appointment so we can ensure we have what you may be after. Our contact number is **(09) 815 8198** and email remains library@motat.org.nz.