



The MOTAT Society Newsletter
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Issue 19 - March 2015

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29 Jan 2015. Institution of Mechanical Engineers' president Mark Hunt presents its 101st Engineering Heritage Award, which has been awarded to the MOTAT Beam Engine. Here we see the plaque being accepted, on behalf of MOTAT, by some of the members of the MOTAT Steam section who undertook the major restoration of the Engine, completed in 2008, who all remain MOTAT Society members.

Back row: Andre Pointon, Murray Hollis, Andy Freer

Middle row: Bruce Lawson, John Olson, Mike Austin

Front row: Dr Paul Eaton, Graeme Quayle, Ken Pointon, Mark Hunt (iMechE President), Bruce Johnson, Murray Lane, Graham Bell

... For more on the Award and presentation ceremony see Page 4

Chair's Report

Happy new year to all and it is good to see activities getting underway again after the summer break, with planning for the next magazine, events, and various other initiatives underway. Sadly however I must report that Tessa Phillips, our Society administrator has recently (26 Feb) needed to hand in her resignation (see right) effective from 9 March. She has been our back bone in many ways over the last few years and will be sadly missed. There may be some interruption to communications and some activities while we find a replacement.

A major achievement for the Society recently, in conjunction with MOTAT, was the production of the 50th Anniversary edition of *The Driving Wheel*, with special thanks to Frances Young and Tessa Phillips for a magnificent effort. Thanks also to those people who contributed articles. Also a plea for more stories and input to the magazine – producing it requires a constant flow of interesting material under deadline pressure. If you can help please do so.

Events marking the MOTAT 50th Anniversary, including the Society's MOTAT Inc Reunion towards the end of last year, were a great chance to catch up with many old friends, even if the occasions were quite low key.

An exciting event at MOTAT in January was the award by the international Institution of Mechanical Engineering of their 101st Engineering Heritage Award, which has been awarded to MOTAT's Beam Engine in the Pumphouse. It was great to see the steam section members able to accept the plaque on behalf of MOTAT, in recognition of their efforts in restoring the Beam Engine - for more details see pages 1, 4 and 5.

Congratulations to Life member Norm McKelvey, ex MOTAT Aviation Section head, who was recognised in December for his outstanding services to heritage aviation, the community, and MOTAT, by receiving a Local Hero Award in the New Zealander of the Year 2015 Awards.

The Society also laid some flowers on the memorial to the New Zealand pilots who lost their lives in the Green Island incident in the Pacific war, in a small ceremony at the MOTAT Meola Road site to mark the 70th anniversary of the January 1945 tragedy.

The major recent activity for the Society committee was preparing the Society's written submission on the Draft 2015-2016 MOTAT Annual Plan, which was delivered to MOTAT on 28th Jan 2015. Henry and myself spoke to the submission at the 12th Feb 2015 Board's Annual Plan subcommittee hearing, with much of the committee also attending.

As a key stakeholder, the Annual Plan public submission process is the Society's main opportunity to compile and offer for consideration the feedback we have received from members, in relation to the Museum's future plans. We look forward to the final Annual Plan with great interest.

Remember to keep up the good work and interest in MOTAT, and to have a go at writing down your stories for *The Driving Wheel*.

Kia kaha,

Bill Rayner, Acting MOTAT Society Committee Chair

Administrator's Resignation

by Tessa Phillips

It is with a very heavy heart that I must announce my resignation from my role as Museum Liaison and Society Administrator due to personal pressures. I have truly valued the opportunity to meet and work with so many of you in the Society and at the Museum who care so passionately about MOTAT, all it could be, and who have that shared passion for our transport and technology heritage. I wish you all the very best in your ongoing endeavours.

I hope that the Society can continue to pursue the worthy activities it has undertaken these last few years, and that MOTAT will listen to and value the ideas that those in the wider MOTAT family can offer. The Society's value is the knowledge of its members and affiliates, with their depth of knowledge about the Museum and its collections. I have enjoyed working for the Society to help better realize its potential, and am sorry I am not able to continue at this time.

Since I undertake much of the day to day work and communications of the Society there may be some interruptions until a replacement can be arranged. If you think you might be interested to help with this role or parts of it please get in touch with the committee via the admin contacts on page 1 or one of the committee members. This is my last newsletter and I am working to tidy up what I can in other areas before I finish on the 9th March. I do plan to remain as a member of our wonderful Society, just as I will remain a regular MOTAT visitor watching it's development with interest.

The Society's originally planned March event has unfortunately fallen through but there is plenty happening around Auckland and affiliate groups to keep everyone busy (page 8). I look forward to seeing you all in the future.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS for the 2015-2016 year:

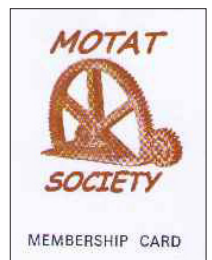
Members should receive a Membership Renewal letter along with this newsletter. **The Membership subscription year ends 31st March 2015, so please take the time to read this and renew / confirm details.** Note that the current Society membership cards only enable free individual entry up to this date.

As well as the usual Society benefits of the magazine, newsletter, events and so forth, the Museum has kindly agreed to continue free individual entry for Society members, as well as a new arrangement of 10% discount at the MOTAT shop on presentation of the Society membership card by the named member. The 10% discount doesn't apply at the cafe as this is an independent business.

Membership fees remain at a very reasonable \$35 pa for general members and free for MOTAT volunteers/staff/life members. Many thanks for your assistance in this.

- Tessa Phillips, Administrator.

(NB for those of you that are also MOTAT volunteers, remember that Society membership is separate to this volunteering. MOTAT has recently sent new volunteer agreements and packs and any queries on these should be directed to MOTAT HR)



MOTAT Board Profiles

The MOTAT Board is the governing body for the Museum, and is made up of 10 Board members. Each year five Board member positions come up for appointment (2 year term), with three appointments made by the RFA (Regional Facilities Auckland) on behalf of Auckland Council, and two by the MOTAT Society each year. For details refer to the MOTAT Act 2000.

As noted in previous newsletters the appointment process was ongoing through the middle of last year, with the new Board confirmed in October 2014. During this appointment round, existing Board members were mostly re-appointed, with only one change on the Board, new Board member Graeme Osborne, as noted in the December newsletter. For clarity, the current 2014-2015 MOTAT Board is made up (alphabetically) of

- Lindsay Corban
- James Douglas
- Bruce Howat
- Richard Jeffery
- John McElhinney
- Dr Lesley McTurk - Chair
- Graeme Osborne
- Mike Spraggon - Deputy Chair
- Hon Judith Tizard
- Vern Walsh

As an appointing body it is useful for Society members to have awareness of who the Board members are. We have previously given Board members the opportunity to offer short profiles to the newsletter with Lindsay, James, Bruce, Richard, Lesley, Judith and Vern's profiles in the Nov 2013 and Feb 2014 newsletters. These are available for reference on the Society website. This newsletter we cover two of the remaining Board members.

Graeme Osborne

Ngaruawahia Boys' High, Hamilton Boys' High School and Massey University educated, Graeme is presently the Associate Dean – Faculty of Business & Information Technology at the Manukau Institute of Technology, with direct responsibility for the Faculty's Business Enterprise Unit, information and communication technology, tourism and travel, and business services.

Graeme is a Massey University graduate in Pure Mathematics and Economics and holds a Diploma in Teaching from the Auckland School of Education.

Graeme's background offers a distinctive blend of governance, strategy development and implementation, change management, business recovery, business concept and feasibility development, business development across a range of sectors that include: local government, crown entities, local government, 'not for profit' and the private sector, and based on a principled approach to business that accords priority to perpetuating and sharing our stories and to the inter-generational preservation of our historical, cultural and natural heritage.

Since 1986 Graeme has accumulated an extensive leadership and governance background that includes: developing, leading and recovering some of New Zealand's



icon tourism businesses. Chief Executive roles have included: Rainbow's End, Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World, the crown entity 'The NZ Maori Arts & Crafts Institute' (Te Puia) – which was a business recovery task, the Waitomo Glow-worm Caves and Hotel, and Tourism Auckland. Graeme was also the client representative in the development and commissioning of a USD 25m joint venture public aquarium in Beijing, and the development and commissioning of the \$20m development of the Antarctic Encounter at Kelly Tarlton's Underwater World. Both The New Zealand Maori Arts & Crafts Institute and the Waitomo Glowworm Caves roles in particular had a strong focus on perpetuating and sharing our stories and on the inter-generational preservation of historical, cultural and natural heritage.

In his recent past, Graeme has also contributed to the visitor sector by way of such roles as: participation in a UNWTO indigenous tourism project in Xishuangbanna, Foundation Chair of the Hauraki Rail Trail, a member of the Foundation for Research in Science and Technology Tourism Advisory Group, foundation Chair of the Regional Tourism Organisations of New Zealand.

He is a past Director of: Te Puia (The New Zealand Maori Arts & Crafts Institute), Manukau Leisure Services Ltd, The Visitor Information Network Ltd, The Tourism Industry Association of New Zealand, The Northern Mystics (Trans Tasman Netball franchise), and Chairman of the Auckland Visitor Marketing Workstream for the Rugby World Cup 2011. He is currently a Director of Destination Coromandel, Chairman of Hamilton & Waikato Tourism, is an advisor to the Mangere Mountain Education Trust and sits on the University of Waikato's Tourism Advisory Board.

Mike Spraggon

Mike has extensive experience working as a senior manager and consultant in New Zealand, the Asia and Pacific regions and in southern Africa. He has advised Boards in commercial and 'not for profit' sectors.

Mike has worked in the Pacific region, Asia and New Zealand as a senior consultant for Price Waterhouse Management Consulting Services and then as Chief Executive of Mitre 10 New Zealand. As Director of the Chief Executive's Office at ACC, Mike worked with the Board of that organisation prior to spending 5 years in Namibia where he has worked at senior management and Board levels with the Motor Vehicle Accident Fund. Mike is currently Chief Executive of Baldwins Intellectual Property Attorneys.

As a past Board member and Chair of the Mental Health Foundation, Mike brings practical governance experience to add value to strategic and performance management.

His areas of expertise include:

- Facilitating strategic planning and guiding implementation of final plans
- Developing practical board reporting and measures to link strategy to organisational performance
- Governance training through public courses and for individual clients
- Organisation structure and productivity review

Mike combines proven financial and marketing expertise to ensure practical implementation of sound strategic plans with proactive Board governance.

Mike has been a recreational private pilot and continues his strong interest in aviation.

At MOTAT, Mike is Deputy Chair and Chairs the Risk and Audit Committee.

MOTAT's Beam Engine Receives IMechE Award

The Woolf Double Beam Compound Engine in the MOTAT Pumphouse has just received the 101st Engineering Heritage Award from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE). The Society wishes to offer many congratulations to MOTAT and all those who have worked to preserve this historically significant engine for future generations. This latest international honour was awarded at a special ceremony on 29th January.

The major restoration of this historically important engine, to its former glory operating under steam, was completed in 2008 primarily through the efforts of the dedicated MOTAT Steam section members, most of whom remain Society members, and who are understandably proud of the award.

To help understand the significance of this award it helps to know a bit of background, and to remember that aspects of mechanical engineering underly many of the collections and themes at MOTAT.

IMechE - Institution of Mechanical Engineers

IMechE is a 160 year old international body and one of the fastest growing professional engineering institutions. Although it is headquartered in London, it has operations around the world, with over 110,000 members in more than 140 countries. As its website says, "By working with leading companies, universities and think tanks, we create and share knowledge to provide government, businesses and the public with fresh thinking and authoritative guidance on all aspects of mechanical engineering". As an organisation it focuses on five principal themes which affect and are affected by its engineering members: Energy, Environment, Transport, Manufacturing and Education.

As well as its campaigning and support roles, including for new and existing engineers, it looks to inspire and also recognise efforts through its Awards programs.

IMechE - Engineering Heritage Awards

"From hovercraft to sewage works, from railway lines to bombers, mechanical engineering plays a vital role. The Engineering Heritage Awards celebrate and promote this by recognising artefacts, locations, collections and landmarks of significant mechanical engineering importance. Established in 1984 by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, they increase public awareness of engineering, past and present." (IMechE Website)

MOTAT's Beam Engine is the 101st Award. *"The IMechE Engineering Heritage Award is our way of formally recognising the dedication and ingenuity shown by MOTAT to restore the double beam engine," said President of IMechE, Mark Hunt. "It is wonderful to see modern engineering expertise being applied to such a historically significant piece of infrastructure."*

"This award highlights both the passion and world-class talent of our volunteers and staff" said MOTAT CEO, Michael Frawley. "The Pumphouse is an iconic part of MOTAT and Auckland's history." (MOTAT Press release)

The IMechE website includes more about the Awards and



The Award plaque presented reads "ENGINEERING HERITAGE AWARD Woolf Double Beam Compound Engine Designed by William Errington and manufactured by John Key & Sons in Kirkcaldy, Scotland. This magnificent engine was commissioned in 1877 and provided Auckland with clean water for the next fifty years.

It was restored to working order in 2008. 29 January 2015"

a link to the PDF of their fascinating 2012 Handbook which details many previous awards, showcasing the remarkable collection that the Beam Engine now joins.

MOTAT Pumphouse Short History and Significance

"Prior to 1877, the citizens of Auckland had very inadequate water supplies and suffered huge losses from major fires in the city. In 1874 William Errington (1832 - 1894), an engineer trained in United Kingdom, was commissioned by Auckland City Council to design the Western Springs Pumping Station with associated pipelines and reservoirs.

Coal fired boilers operated a steam engine driving a 16.3tonne, 6.25m diameter flywheel and 7.3m beam operated twin pumps raising up to 13,600m³ water per day, 71.6 m to the Ponsonby Reservoir.

This system brought huge health benefits to the city when first commissioned in March 1877. The pumps served Auckland almost continually until 1910 when adequate water from the Waitakere Ranges became available.

From 1920, when the springs showed significant signs of pollution, they were used in emergency only and heavily chlorinated. By 1936 it was recommended the machinery be scrapped and the original boilers were removed in the following year.

The Beam Engine, housed in its attractive mid-Victorian brick Pumphouse, is now the centre piece of Auckland's Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT)." - MOTAT

Award Ceremony

On 29th January 2015, Win Miskelly, New Zealand's IMechE country representative, and MOTAT organised a special Award presentation ceremony, with invited guests including those from MOTAT, MOTAT Board, IMechE, Mechanical Engineering Group (MEG), Steam section members involved in the restoration and representatives of the MOTAT Society and RFA.

Situated outside the Pumphouse, about 40 people gathered for the occasion. Win Miskelly welcomed everyone



Mark Hunt and Win Miskelly



Left: Mark Hunt speaks to steam section members.

Above: Set up for the presentation shortly after speeches

Below: Michael Frawley and Mark Hunt

and introduced IMechE President Mark Hunt who gave background on IMechE and the Award. Mark also expressed his admiration for the work completed in restoring this splendid and significant engine to working order.

MOTAT CEO Michael Frawley, spoke briefly and explained that rather than him accepting the Award he would ask for those who undertook the restoration to accept on MOTAT's behalf. Ken Pointon (then Steam Section Head) and Steam section volunteers from that time, accepted the plaque (*photo above and page 1*) which will be mounted inside the pumphouse, alongside the UNESCO and Colin Crisp Award plaques.

After this attendees mixed and mingled, and special guests had the opportunity for a tour of exhibits. An excellent opportunity to recognise and reflect on the magnificent efforts of all those involved in preserving the Beam Engine and Pumphouse.

Text and photos by Tessa Phillips. Additional information sourced from the MOTAT, MEG and IMechE websites and press releases, Win Miskelly and Society members from the Steam section. Plaque image provided by MOTAT.

Quick Links / More information

- IMechE - www.imeche.org
- About the IMechE Heritage Awards - www.imeche.org/About-Us/scholarships-and-awards/engineering-heritage-awards
- MOTAT Press release: <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/AK1501/S00246/international-award-for-pumphouse-restoration.htm>
- Full information on the Beam Engine and restoration: see the book "The Beam Engine & Western Springs Pumping Station" compiled/edited by Murray Lane/Ken Pointon, published by MOTAT 2008
- Steam section history: *The Driving Wheel* - Issue 8



MECHANICAL ENGINEERING GROUP (MEG)

The Mechanical Engineering Group (MEG) is a technical group of IPENZ, the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand, and is particularly active in Auckland and Wellington.

With their particularly close linkage with IMechE London, several MEG members attended the IMechE 101st Heritage Award presentation, and it was great to meet them.

The Mechanical Engineering Group brings together engineers in the general mechanical field and holds regular meetings and public talks during the year. Many of their talks may also be of interest to Society members. If you would like to learn more you can visit their site at

<http://www.mechanical-engineering-group.org.nz/>

New Pumphouse Operator

Recently appointed at MOTAT as a "Steam Operator", John Broadwell is gradually settling down into his newly created appointment. Based mainly in the historic Pump House, John sees his role as Interpreting steam operations at the Museum for the benefit of the general public. The engines John will eventually be working with, include



all of those located in the Pump House, the wonderful and historic Beam Engine, as well as traction engines and the steam tram (once all necessary operating certifications are complete of course!)

Photo © MOTAT

John gained his love of steam by spotting or "gricing" trains in the UK in his youth. On moving to Auckland he developed his passion for all things steam by volunteering as a fireman at the Glenbrook Vintage Railway for five years. He also served for several years on the committee of the Railway Enthusiasts Society, which is of course a Society affiliate. John comes from a Secondary College Social Sciences teaching background and has also spent a lifetime involved in teaching and practising rock climbing. A recent passion includes the collecting of model and toy steam engines. He now has a collection of fourteen engines and a zero bank balance!

John has also keenly joined the MOTAT Society as our newest member and last year also joined the Steam Engine Society, both of which should help to keep him connected with other like-minded individuals. Thanks for the information John and a warm welcome!

Driving Wheel Magazine

Hopefully you have all enjoyed the 50th Anniversary edition of the Driving Wheel magazine. We are now well into the process for Issue 9 which will be coming out towards the middle of the year. As noted previously we will only be managing to put out two magazines over this financial year given the larger efforts required for Issue 8. We hope for your understanding in this.



Future Development

The magazine is now getting itself established more firmly, and we have been looking at ways to improve the magazine going forward. We are keen to make sure the magazine is interesting, informative and engaging to those with an interest in transport and technology stories, while hopefully also sparking an interest in other readers. We will aim to maintain the magazine's distinct flavour and continue to encourage knowledge sharing from members, affiliates and wider afield.

Please feel free to offer any feedback on past magazines which will help the Society and Museum with planning for the magazine's future. On the membership renewal form sent at the same time as this newsletter, there is a section for feedback. When returning your renewal form, why not write down a few thoughts at the same time.

As well as the more in-depth articles, following feedback we are looking to incorporate a few more shorter, regular features, like those you see in most magazines.

We have come up with a few ideas for regular sections and look to our members for help with some of these.

Even if you can't contribute a full article, if you have thoughts for one of these or ideas for others, please get in touch.

- Book review
- Small artefact highlight
- Oral History snippet
- Mystery Object
- Library item (eg book, archive, image)
- Then and now (compare a scene or artefact)
- Tech progress (an example showing links from old to new technology)
- In Storage (share a story of an interesting item not currently on display.)

A couple of books have been suggested as good for reviewing:

1) **"Coal: The Rise and Fall of King Coal in New Zealand"** by Matthew Wright. Published by David Bateman Ltd 2014 and 2) **"New Zealand by design : a history of New Zealand product design"** by Michael Smythe. Published by Godwit 2011

Would anyone be prepared to write reviews or does anyone have other books they can recommend and do reviews for?

- Tessa and Frances

ANZAC Day weekend - The Sounds of Silents

Society Member, Tram Volunteer and Wurlitzer enthusiast James Duncan, thought the following might be of interest to other members, especially those with Aviation interests.

THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST
of AUCKLAND PRESENTS
AN ANZAC WEEKEND TRIBUTE
COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS
SINCE THE START OF WW1



On **SATURDAY APRIL 25 (ANZAC Day)**, at 2pm at the Avondale Hollywood Cinema, there is a special screening of the Academy Award winning 1927 silent movie 'Wings' accompanied by their historic Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ
TICKETS: \$25.00 on sale at the door from 1.15pm, organ play-in from 1.30pm

On **SUNDAY APRIL 26 - at 2pm**, a Wurlitzer Concert "The Music that got us through the War Years" from 1914-1960s.
TICKETS: \$25.00 on sale on the day from 1:15pm

The Organist is JOHN ATWELL from Melbourne. The Wurlitzer pipe organ, that has for the last 32 years been regularly entertaining visitors at Avondale's Hollywood Cinema, once accompanied silent movies at Auckland's original Regent Theatre in Queen St. At one stage it almost found a home a MOTAT. It is now owned by the Wurlitzer Organ Trust of Auckland.

FOR MORE INFO PH: 525-7067

www.eventfinder.co.nz/2015/the-sounds-of-silents-wurlitzer-organ-silent-movie/auckland/avondale

About the Movie 'Wings' (rated R13)

'Wings' is a 1927 American silent war film set during the First World War. It was produced by Lucien Hubbard, directed by William A. Wellman and released by Paramount Pictures. It stars Clara Bow, Charles "Buddy" Rogers, and Richard Arlen, and Gary Cooper appears in a role which helped launch his career in Hollywood.

The film, a romantic action-war picture, was rewritten by scriptwriters Hope Loring and Louis D. Lighton from a story by John Monk Saunders to accommodate Bow, Paramount's biggest star at the time.

The film was shot on location on a budget of \$2 million at Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas between September 7, 1926 and April 7, 1927. Hundreds of extras and some 300 pilots were involved in the filming, including pilots and planes of the United States Army Air Corps which were brought in for the filming and to provide assistance and supervision. Wellman extensively rehearsed the scenes for the Battle of Saint-Mihiel over ten days with some 3500 infantrymen on a battlefield made for the production on location.

Acclaimed for its technical prowess and realism, upon release the film became the yardstick against which future aviation films were measured, mainly because of its realistic air-combat sequences. It went on to win the first Academy Award for Best Picture at the first annual Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences award ceremony in 1929, the only silent film to do so. It also won the Academy Award for Best Engineering Effects (Roy Pomeroy). - Wikipedia, Feb 2015

LIBRARY UPDATE

The Walsh Memorial Library is on the move. With work on the Pioneers of Aviation building nearing completion, the Library is packing up its temporary home in Morningside ready to return to its normal home at MOTAT. Next newsletter the new Library and Research Manager Lucy McClenaghan will report on the move and the official re-opening of the Library, which should occur by early April.

Welcome back soon! It will be great to have the library's facilities back on site both for the MOTAT team and for the public and researchers.

www.motat.org.nz/collection/walsh-memorial-library/



NEW TRAMBARN ARTWORK

Those of you who have visited the northern end of MOTAT 1 recently, will probably have noted the bright new mural on the Trambarn doors (**above** as of 31/10/2014, **right** as of 08/02/2015. Photos Tessa Phillips).

This vibrant artwork was commissioned by MOTAT from artist Dan Mills as part of on-going works to upgrade the site and the Museum experience. The much loved old mural, had been in place since the Trambarn opening in 1986 (annual report 1986-87), but had unfortunately become rather faded and in need of repair.

AVENGER BOMBER NOW ON DISPLAY AT MOTAT

We are very pleased to pass on news from MOTAT that MOTAT's Grumman Avenger has been moved from the Aviation workshop to MOTAT's Aviation Display Hall (ADH) for public viewing, after much anticipation.

MOTAT's Avenger is one of New Zealand's last remaining Avenger torpedo bombers. The aircraft has been painstakingly restored over a number of years, largely by dedicated aviation volunteers, and now takes its place amongst the most comprehensive collection of civil and military aircraft in the country.



Aviation Volunteer Peter Kelly tows the Grumman TBF-1c Avenger NZ2527 into the ADH, using MOTAT's Harlan ex Air New Zealand tug, generously gifted by Air New Zealand. Photo: MOTAT

The Avenger was a World War II torpedo bomber which could be operated either from a rough finished land base or from aircraft carriers. It has an extremely strong and robust construction and folding wings to reduce storage space when below decks. The hydraulic system of this WWII carrier aircraft, driven by an internal hydraulic compressor, is being repaired and will be operational at MOTAT to allow the demonstration of the bomb doors and folding wings.

These aircraft originally operated in a dive-bombing role. In the post-war period they functioned as drogue-towers and were also used in top-dressing trials. The Avenger on display at MOTAT enjoyed a colourful history, including as a playground toy in Kuirau Park in Rotorua from where it was removed in a derelict condition during the 1970's. Although held by the Museum, it was on display with the Confederate Air Force (CAF) at the North Shore aerodrome for many years.

For more on the Avenger see articles in Squeaky Wheel issue 13 pg 2 and Driving Wheel issue 2, page 29. These are available online at www.motatsociety.org.nz



SOCIETY EVENTS

Unfortunately our planned March Event has fallen through just as we were preparing this newsletter, although we hope to run it later in the year. However there is quite a lot happening around the Auckland region these next few months of related interest, so we have gathered together some of these on this page, as well as the enclosed flier re the Vintage Harvest Festival 2015 at Glenbrook.

We are in the process of trying to organise another Behind the Scenes function for Society members and affiliates similar to last years tramway occasion. This time the hope is to highlight activities at Rail and/or Military later in Autumn sometime. Details are still to be confirmed and will be notified as soon as possible.

HELP NEEDED: With Tessa's resignation and Frances now magazine editor, there is an urgent need for assistance with Event planning. If you would like to help suggest, plan or organise some interesting or casual events for the Society this year, please get in touch.

External Events coming up

March is a busy month with many kindred groups holding activities. Some members have pointed out a few occasions that may be of interest to other members

Sat/Sun 14/15 March - Pasifika on at Hayman Park (no longer being held at Western Springs due to Fruit Flies. MOTAT will be Open), **Kumeu Show 2015**

Wed 18 March - Creative Commons Roadtrip – GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives, Museums) workshop 6–7:30pm: Auckland University of Technology. An opportunity for those working in the culture and heritage sector to learn about the practical applications of copyright and Creative Commons copyright licensing.
www.creativecommons.org.nz/glamroadtrip/ for more

Wed 18 March - Ad Astra Association Luncheon - see box to right for more details

Sat/Sun 21/22 March - 2015 Vintage Harvest Festival at the Glenbrook Vintage Railway (GVR), organised by the Franklin Vintage Machinery Club in conjunction with GVR. Although this year MOTAT and the Society will not be having a presence, since the Railway Enthusiasts Society / GVR are our affiliates we have offered to enclose a flier/poster on their behalf. Thanks go to GVR's Ross Crook for supplying these. Please feel free to put these up if you wish - it should be a great day!

Sat/Sun 28/29 March: Informal vintage engine rally weekend at the Victoria Battery Museum (www.vbts.org.nz) in the Karangahake Gorge - contact Bill Clow (09)2383456 for more.

25/26 April - Anzac Weekend THE WURLITZER ORGAN TRUST of AUCKLAND PRESENT AN ANZAC WEEKEND TRIBUTE COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS SINCE THE START OF WW1 - See page 6 for more information

COMING UP AT MOTAT



See www.motat.org.nz for the latest details

Sun 22 March - MOTAT Live Day

Sun 29 March - MOTAT Science Street Fair

Easter weekend 3-6 April

- Auckland Lego® Users Group display on at MOTAT

School Holidays 3-19 April - "We built this city".

MOTAT Holiday Experience

13,14,15 April - Bubble Dome Holiday Minecraft workshops at MOTAT (bookings essential)

Sun 19 April - MOTAT Live Day

2-3 and 9-10 May - The Super Science Shows are at MOTAT

Sun 17 May - MOTAT Live Day

Sun 24 May - MOTAT Steam Fair

Ad Astra Luncheon 18th March

Stewart Boys would like to notify people of the next Luncheon Meeting of the Ad Astra* Association.

Details: Wed 18th March meet upstairs in the Boeing Room of **Classic Flyers Museum, Tauranga**

- from 1100 hrs – bar open.
- 1200 hrs – Buffet Luncheon (cost \$30.00 per head**) - Roast Sirloin of Beef with Gravy, Roast Seasonal Vegetables, Steamed Seasonal Vegetables with a Cheese Sauce, Fresh Baked Bread Rolls, Small Salad, Peach Crumble / Ice Cream, Coffee and Tea
- 1300 hrs (approx) – Keith Skilling*** will speak on his experience in flying the Corsair.
- Depart from about 1400 –1500.

RSVP before 16th March: Please contact Stewart Boys Tel (07) 544 1416 or Email s.boys@kinect.co.nz for more information and to book in for the occasion.

* The Ad Astra Association is an informal association which grew out of the former Bay of Plenty branch of the Bomber Command association. It is now combined with the local branch of the NZ Fighter Pilots Association and (importantly) anybody who has an interest in flying and supporting those veterans who remain from WWII. This occasion is particularly focussed on having as many of the descendants of those who flew the Corsair in the Pacific during WWII come along and hear what that experience was like for their fathers/grandfathers.

** There is no annual subscription to Ad Astra and our luncheons are based on individuals funding themselves with partners, widows, descendants, friends, anybody with an interest, welcome to attend.

*** Keith Skilling is the son of Sqn Ldr Hugh Skilling who flew the Lancaster during WWII. After flying with the RNZAF, Keith went on to become an airline pilot and in latter times, a well known display pilot both in NZ and overseas. With his wealth of experience in flying WWII (and now WWI) types we are fortunate in being able to hear him speak on flying the Corsair.