

The Squeaky Wheel



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Message from the Chair:

Welcome to issue 16 of the Squeaky Wheel. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is fast approaching and will be held on the 24th of September at 7:30pm at Cropper House, MOTAT Great North Road. In view of the meeting I would like to thank the committee's efforts over the past year. Much has been achieved in a time of much change at the museum.

Three excellent Driving Wheel magazines, six Squeaky Wheel newsletters, not to mention some memorable events: The Aviation section Grumman Avenger Launch included presentations to life members and certificates of recognition for this section, with another presentation for the Road Transport section shortly after. This was followed by visits to the Matakoho Kauri Museum and also attendance at the Karaka Vintage Day. We also ran a trial brainstorming sessions with the exhibitions team towards the Get Smart exhibition. Our most recent event, Behind the Scenes with the Tramways Section at MOTAT was very well received. We intend going behind the scenes once again in the near future.

The committee's statutory obligations continue as usual, providing feedback on the MOTAT Draft Annual Plan for 2014-15, and input into the plan for 2015-16. The annual Board appointments process, made jointly with the Auckland Council has been completed for this year, and an announcement will be made shortly. Our most recent collaboration has been the development

of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Museum Board. This formalises our relationship with the Board and will guide future Board and committee members. With this in agreement the relationship between the Society and the Board has never been more favourable.

In MOTAT's 50th year we recognise that it is also a year of significant change for many people involved in team MOTAT. The Society will continue to support and encourage the volunteer effort and provide guidance to the Museum. Our efforts over the coming year will seek to encourage new members so that the museum can best leverage off their enthusiasm. Preserving the past is one definition for a museum, and an important element of this is to preserve the skills and knowledge of the people who we call the Society.

I wish to advise that I am to step down as chairman of the Society at this coming AGM. It has been a pleasurable three years of involvement, and my most enjoyable aspect has been meeting people and discussing their passions. Having a respect for where we have come from is a uniting theme each time.

On a final note, the Society is hosting a gathering at the RSA after the 50th Anniversary Live Day on the 5th of October, and a full scale Reunion is being organised for the 7th of December - please note these in your diaries and see our notices for these in this issue. Hope you can join us!

- **Leyton Chan**, MOTAT Society Committee Chair



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

AGM to be held
7:30pm* Wednesday, 24th September 2014.
Cropper House, MOTAT Great North Rd site

The official AGM business will be followed by a screening of the original **“Museum Makers”** footage compiled by Harold Stone to accompany the iconic book **“The Museum Makers”** which covered the early foundations and first ten or so years of the Museum.

We have asked a number of those originally involved with the museum from the earliest days to provide a light hearted running commentary. A chance to reminisce and learn about those early days, and see how things have changed over 50 years.

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 2014-Sep 2015. Full agenda, nomination process, annual accounts and last year’s minutes will be sent to individual members.

* Please note the later than usual start time of 7:30pm as there is a MOTAT Team function on until 7pm, so we wanted to allow a little breather in between and to avoid issues with parking and access.

Do you want to join the Committee?

With the AGM coming up, it is the time of year to consider nominations for the MOTAT Society Committee. Those that are new to the Society might ask "so what is involved with being on the Committee?" Let's take the opportunity to see what goes on behind the scenes.

Committee Composition: The voluntary committee of 10 is comprised of 5 MOTAT section representatives and 5 elected members from the Society's membership base - these are elected formally at the September AGM with Officer positions (Chair, Deputy etc) decided at the first Committee meeting in October. The committee members aim to keep in contact with other Society members or interested parties so that they collectively represent the broadest views possible of the wider membership they represent.

Committee meetings: MOTAT Society committee meetings are held monthly - at present on the second Tuesday of each month in the Norm McKelvey Crew Room at the MOTAT Meola Road site. The date, time and location can be adjusted by the new committee if needed. We usually have some take-aways from about 6pm (as many come straight from work) followed by the meeting at 6:30 which can last 2 -3 hours depending on what needs to be covered. Society members can also attend - just let us know a couple of days in advance for access/catering.

The committee meetings provide a great forum for committee members to share ideas about the museum, what is happening across the various sections, feedback passed on from other members and externally and what the Society can do, or feedback that needs passing on to the Museum. General Society business like new memberships, accounts, and so forth are of course also covered.

Committee Activities:

As well as providing a forum for sharing information, at the meetings we work towards fulfilling the Society's roles. The contributions of the committee members obviously varies depending on their skills and time available but its great to have a mix of all sorts.

The Society no longer has a formal role in the governance or management of the museum beyond the appointment of 4 of the 10 Board members. However its long standing connection with the museum and its legislated role of supporting organisation (MOTAT Act 2000) means that it is in a unique position to provide a range of different support to the museum.

Annual Plan input and Feedback: With a membership with a huge collective store of relevant knowledge about the museum's collections and history, the Society can provide advice and constructive

feedback which can be offered via the Society Chair directly to the CEO or Board as appropriate, and more generally through the Society's Annual Plan submissions which the committee agree on together.

The committee is also offered opportunities on behalf of the Society to contribute at workshops and meetings when the Museum is seeking advice and input, such as in the last year for the new Strategy, Visioning and Asset Plan.

Of course the Museum must ultimately decide its own path but the Society thanks the Museum for the opportunity to contribute as part of its support to the Museum.

Board appointments: One of the Society's statutory roles (MOTAT Act 2000) is the appointment of 4 of the 10 MOTAT Board members, with usually 2 two year appointments needed each year with the Board Term starting in October. As highlighted in the Act, the Board members must act in the best interest of the Museum and are not representatives as such of the appointing bodies. A Board Appointment Subcommittee undertakes early in the year to begin working alongside the Council (represented by the RFA) to advertise and interview for candidates, and makes recommendations to the committee for discussion and ratification.

Publications: Communications with members and broader afield are vitally important, and in the last 3 years the Squeaky Wheel newsletter and Driving Wheel magazine have been started and become more established. They provide a mechanism to share what is happening at the Museum and Society as well as educational and promotional functions in relation to the collections or related areas. Committee members can choose to help with these.

Events: This is an area we would like to expand, as they are important for education, knowledge sharing, networking and to encourage participation. Committee members have the opportunity to suggest speakers, and possible events, help with these or advise on others that can contribute.

Extra tasks needed this year: Minor revision of Society rules needed:- the section relating to Committee member section representatives were written when all museum volunteers were Society members, which is no longer the case. Also with possible changes to the structuring of sections at MOTAT there may be a need to reword the rules appropriately. We would like to extend membership, so assistance with promoting involvement will be useful.

Several of the current committee are needing to step down for various reasons so if you think you might like to lend a hand please put up your hand! Nominations should be in writing and require the names and signatures of the nominee, proposer and seconder, all of whom should be Society members. □

2013-2014

Admin Report and Thanks

by Tessa Phillips, Society Administrator / Museum Liaison

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Society as a whole for taking me on in an official capacity as the MOTAT Society's Administrator / Museum Liaison Officer, a role originally created as part of the Funding arrangement for the 2013-2014 financial year (which runs 1 July to 30 June).

As you will see from the Financial statements (sent with the AGM notice to society members) a large chunk of the Society's expenditure has gone towards this role, so I thought it prudent to explain to the wider membership how I fit in, the roles that I undertake, and how this benefits the Society and its wider objectives.

The Society membership is made up of MOTAT volunteers/staff, plus others with a keen interest in MOTAT's development or related goals, as well as MOTAT's history. The committee is mainly comprised of active MOTAT volunteers. In recent years the Society has been aiming to better define its roles and build up its positive support activities to the museum. The Museum has also been going through a transitional period in terms of developing its long term strategy and structures.

With so much happening, and the range of roles the Society needs or would like to fulfill, this goes beyond what is manageable for the voluntary committee alone. The Society's greatest resource to support the Museum is the knowledge and enthusiasm of its members. But a certain amount of administrative work also need to occur in support of drawing out that knowledge, and making things happen. These often mundane tasks, can be time consuming and interrelated, and are often best handled through one person. This is where the administrator role fits in, leaving others freer to contribute and utilise their technical and specialised knowledge.

I originally began helping out the society as assistant secretary in March 2012 initially for 5 hours per month on an honorarium, which gradually extended to 30 hours per month honorarium by 2013 (although in practise involved many more hours).

The Society committee and MOTAT could see the benefit that this type of role brought to the capacity of the Society to more successfully fulfill its roles, helping to facilitate in practical terms the plans of the committee on behalf of the Society. This led to the

more formalised role created for the 2013/2014 year and ongoing for now at least.

So how do I help support the Committee in its goals?

- **Meetings:** Coordinating, attending and documenting meetings
- **Communications:** Process general Society communications, PO Box, post and email queries etc. Key contact point for general Society queries and linkage between those working different hours (eg MOTAT staff weekdays, committee usually available evenings/weekends),

Also producing & distributing the Society's newsletter *The Squeaky Wheel*, notices, and other membership communications

- **Documentation / IT:** working to centralise the Society's records both physical and electronically and setting up infrastructure (eg Society laptops, online storage, software, emails etc) to facilitate the ongoing storage and distribution of the Society's records/knowledge rather than this being scattered across individuals homes/computers.

Also working to collect older records to help build up and organise the archive relating to the Museum's Heritage. This is ongoing.

- **Financial:** processing membership and misc payments and receipts.
- **Memberships/affiliations:** maintain membership lists, organise annual renewals, developing relationships with members and affiliates and learning where strengths lie for possible assistance. Also learning about affiliate and member activities which may be of relevance. More work is needed this year on building memberships.
- **Magazine Support:** editorial and administrative support and research for *The Driving Wheel* magazine as needed, along with distribution.
- **Event support:** Assist with organising events, take bookings, do advertising for these etc. Liaising with the Museum in relation to on site activities.
- **Promotion:** Aim to raise awareness and appreciation of the Society and MOTAT and generate enthusiasm and cooperation with MOTAT and its goals.

Of course there is always more that the Society would like to do and I would love to be able to do more but also have a young family and find that my 20-25 hours per week is about all I can manage at present. But we are making progress. If anyone is happy to help with some of the administrative functions, memberships, events etc then please get in touch as there are not enough hours in the day!

I look forward to working with and supporting the new committee which will be confirmed at the September AGM. I really appreciate the opportunity to be able to help the Society and Museum, so thank you again for letting me work with you all in support of MOTAT... 50 years and counting! □



FRONZ Awards

The MOTAT Society has been a cornerstone sponsor of Federation of Rail Organisations of NZ Inc. (FRONZ) for many years, sponsoring three of their awards annually. Providing recognition and promotion of nationwide efforts in preservation and restoration of heritage transport and technology is an integral part of what the Society is about so the awards fit in well with this role. The awards are much coveted and highly respected given they represent peer recognition at the highest level.

The awards were announced at the Annual FRONZ Awards Dinner held during the 2014 FRONZ Conference in Wanganui at Queens Birthday Weekend. The Awards supported by the MOTAT Society, and their recipients for 2014, are as follows:

- **Tramway Restoration Award 2014:** Tramway Historical Society, Ferrymead, for the restoration of Mornington Cablecar Trailer 111.
- **Goods/Service Restoration Award 2014:** Glenbrook Vintage Railway for their restoration of three Ways and Works service vehicles - Lc 44073, Yh 950, E 2101.

- **P S Heighton Award for Excellence 2014:** Canterbury Railway Society for leading the Rail 150 Celebrations at Ferrymead in Oct 2013.

Each award carries \$500 towards a study trip to an Australasian destination. Congratulations to all these groups.

The Federation of Rail Organisations of NZ exists to represent the Heritage & Tourist Rail Industry in New Zealand which is comprised of over 70 organisations. These cover a diverse range of activities from museum type organisations - collecting and conserving historic rail equipment, artefacts and archives - to rail operations primarily targeted at the tourist or leisure market. For more on FRONZ and its activities check out their website www.fronz.org.nz and for more on the 2014 awards check out their June 2014 Journal available online.

Note it seems we missed coverage of the FRONZ awards in last year's newsletters so we would like to also congratulate the 2013 recipients:

- **Tramway Restoration Award 2013:** Tramway Historical Society, Ferrymead, for the restoration of Invercargill Corporation Tramways Birney safety car No. 15
- **Goods/Service Restoration Award 2013:** Silver Stream Railway for the restoration of wooden L wagon L4246
- **P S Heighton Award for Excellence 2013:** Peter Mc Callum - For service as secretary and in technical and engineering roles to FRONZ for many years. Sadly Peter passed away in August 2013. □



Left: The Tramway Historical Society's Mornington Cablecar Trailer 111 for which they received the 2014 Tramway Restoration Award. *Photo: David Maciulaitis*

Behind the Scenes at the MOTAT Tramway

On Sunday 22nd June 2014 the MOTAT Society ran a trial Behind the Scenes event at MOTAT's Western Springs Tramway. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all and went very smoothly from all perspectives. The Museum and Society are keen to run similar events in other areas of the museum in the coming year. For those of you that were unable to attend, here is a bit of a recap of the day.



Tramway Section Head Colin Zeff greets Society guests and gives an introduction while people have some morning tea. We were based in the tram display area next to the tramway's Mechanical workshop, which suited well for the occasion. *Photo: Tessa Phillips*

The idea behind the day was to allow the Tramway to showcase its efforts, to educate and inspire the wider MOTAT family, as well as being a social get together.

The day started at 10am at MOTAT Meola Road, with a guided Double Decker Tram ride to the Great North Road site. We gathered for morning tea and Colin Zeff did some quick introductions about the Tramway, then guests divided into small groups for guided walks around the workshops and trams, followed by a BBQ lunch with salads, fruit and a few extras - the Westmere Butcher's high quality sausages went down a treat!

It was a great chance to hear about current projects, to share stories and see the section's hard work up close. We had almost 40 general

Society Members and guests and at least 25 tramway Section members involved with a few others including MOTAT staff popping in especially around lunch!

One of the Society's key roles is affiliating with likeminded organisations to allow knowledge sharing and we were very pleased to see a good spread of members from other affiliate groups as well as across a wide range of MOTAT sections, and general Society members from as far afield as Matamata and Whangarei who came along especially for the day.

Steam Tram 100 operated and many of the ...



Above left: MOTAT Society Chair and Tramways volunteer Leyton Chan (right) in discussion with Toroa Preservation Society chairman Don Henwood (left). Leyton and several other MOTAT tram section members are also actively involved in the preservation of the Toroa steam ferry. *Photo: Evan James*



Above right: Workshop manager Wayne Smith (front left) explains the overhaul of the Melbourne type 15 trucks to members of the Glenbrook Vintage Railway. From left they are George Ngatai, Ben Jeffcoat, Ron Paddon, Nigel Whitwell, Janet Weir (Obscured) George Trow, Warwick Turner. *Photo: Evan James*



Tram section members look on proudly as Tram 44 gets ready for an outing, plus chef for the day Frances hard at work cleaning the BBQ! *Photo: Tessa Phillips*

heritage trams were taken out with many extra trams running off and on through the day, much to the enjoyment of other Museum visitors. The Sunbeam car club was also visiting the site that day, so there was plenty happening for all to see around the Museum on that day!

A big thank you to everyone from the tramway section and the MOTAT Team that contributed to the success of the day, and to Frances Young for her invaluable assistance as gate keeper in the morning and as salad preparer and BBQ Chef! They all helped me immeasurably in pulling the event together. - Tessa Phillips □

Thanks also to Evan James and "The Controller", the Western Springs Tramway's magazine for giving us a great spread in their Issue 54, July 2014. ("The Controller" magazines are available online on the MOTAT Society website, and we aim to soon extend coverage to include all back issues not just the last few years..)



Many of you on the tours will have seen the restoration work being carried out on Tram No. 906, a SW6 design Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramways tram (where it operated 1945-1997). You may be interested to hear that the work was completed in August and on 2nd September she had her first test run (above), and should be going into service in the not too distant future. *Photo: David Maciulaitis*



Thank you to the 2013-2014 Society Committee for all your efforts this year:

- Chair + Tramways rep: *Leyton Chan*
- Deputy & Aviation rep: *Henry Swan*
- Rail rep: *Roger Curl*
- Road transport rep: *Kim Heppner*
- Steam rep: *John Syme*
- Elected members: *Bill Rayner, Chris Chitty, Frances Young, Peter Cairncross, Philip Heath (to May 2014)*

Thank you to Members: To all of you that have renewed your membership, thank you for your ongoing support of the Society. Thank you also for the many kind donations that have also been given by many of you. Those that renewed in the last few months should receive your card with this mailout. □

Event Helpers wanted

A key activity of the Society is the social networking of its members to facilitate knowledge sharing. In particular we would like to expand the events and activities that the Society organises.

We would like to run a **regular speaker series** but this really needs a dedicated person to arrange speakers, venue and attend on the night - that person can liaise with Tessa who can do promotion though newsletter, website, member emails etc.

We'd like to start out simple with one or two short talks by speakers, followed by discussions, at a small venue or cafe every couple of months. You don't need to be a MOTAT volunteer or on the Society Committee to help the Society with things like this, so have a think if you might be interested. Give Tessa a call on (09)3909160 for more information. □

MOTAT 50th - Magazine Update and Research

- by Tessa Phillips

Many thanks to all of you that have taken the time to write or talk to Francey (Frances Young) or myself about your experiences at and knowledge of MOTAT, to help us with the creation of the MOTAT 50th Anniversary edition of *The Driving Wheel* magazine. It has been an amazing journey for us learning about the Museum's and Society's history, but trying to consolidate the story, to be a worthy celebration of the Museum's 50 years has proved somewhat more of a mammoth task than anticipated!

We want to do justice to the story and really convey the generosity, passion, expertise and enthusiasm that have achieved so much. To this end the Magazine will not be ready until early December (in time for the Reunion 7th December - see back page) rather than late September as originally planned. Note however we have almost enough material for the following issue so this should follow not too long after.

Thanks to Allen Jones who has lent his personal photo album for us to look at during our research and which covers his life at MOTAT. 1976-2014. This has been of great interest while we have learnt the history of the museum, since you can read the changes at the MOTAT Great North Road site through his photos. We have now scanned the album and can return it to Allen, apologies for not getting it back to you sooner Allen! (see inset next page)

Allen is just one example of the many people that have taken the time to speak with us or shared information.

Thanks to Lisa Murdoch who on behalf of the estate of John Hogan (MOTAT's first director, and Society Life member who passed away last year) has arranged delivery of John Hogan's MOTAT related papers for perusal prior to donation to the Walsh Memorial

Library (WML). Gwen Stone, wife of Harold Stone (the first fulltime employee, and compiler of the Museum Makers book) has also given us use of Harold's personal MOTAT related photo albums which will then be donated to the WML. Others have also provided stories, papers, old newsletters and miscellaneous items including the unpublished memoirs of 1970s director Ron Richardson.

The Walsh Memorial Library also has a huge amount of photos and material in boxes of archives which are gradually getting an airing. We would like to thank everyone at the Walsh Memorial Library, both staff and volunteers, that have helped us with finding information.

Of great value are all the various Museum, Society and Sectional newsletters, magazines and annual reports which provide an invaluable source of information. There is so much really useful information gathered within these earlier publications about the collections, and their place in history and at the museum, that the Society is keen to work towards getting these available online for general membership viewing and to aid research into artefacts.

Meeting and AGM Minutes and notes, along with interviews, also flesh out the public story of the Museum for those trying to understand what makes MOTAT generate such passion.

MOTAT's story certainly has been a rollercoaster journey! The pressures to fund the museum and especially new infrastructure have been a constant hurdle, but with enthusiasm and a lot of kiwi ingenuity, a lot was achieved from the very beginning, even when there was very little to work with.

This effort proved to everyone the value of the museum to the region, with the MOTAT Act 2000 being the best recognition of the

Museum as a key cultural and educational asset to the region, worthy of regular funding from the whole region.

This regular funding has in turn allowed the Museum to catch up on some of the background tasks limited through lack of funds previously, such as cataloguing, establishing systems, maintenance and various projects such as the Pumphouse restoration, extending the Tramway, building the Aviation Display Hall, as well as developing its visitor experience and education programs. There is still plenty to do especially in relation to site usage (Visioning in progress!) and collections, and there will always be differences of opinion on what and how things should be done, but that is only to be expected with so many passionate people.

I think it is a really interesting time for the Museum but change can be difficult, especially with the current cycle of change being fairly extensive. People and their enthusiasm is so important and I hope that even if a full connection with MOTAT is not applicable to you at present, as volunteer or staff, that Society membership can provide that longterm ongoing connection with the people and Museum.

That Alumni role, along with the ability to connect more broadly to interested individuals and groups (affiliates) is so important for the Society to fulfill. The membership base is also well placed to support the museum in its statutory role of conserving the heritage of the Museum - of which people are a key component.

Another interesting aspect of the research has been in seeing the changing role of the Society...



The MOTAT Society's fore-runner - the Society of the Museum of Transport and Technology (Inc) was originally formed in 1960 to start and run the museum, before the assets and artefacts entrusted to the Society were transferred to a Trust Board in 1984, with the Museum becoming essentially a separate entity then. From there the Society's role has gradually changed. Originally volunteers still came under the Society umbrella, but gradually practicalities of working on collection items, security etc have meant that first section heads and then

volunteers have moved under the Museum's umbrella. Through the historic record from the mid 80s you see the Society trying to work out its ongoing role.

However the Society survives because it still has valuable roles to play and support it can provide the Museum - through its roles as an Appointing Body, alumni & technical friends of the Museum group and Learned Society, with that shared bond of history and passion for the core of MOTAT. □

MOTAT 50th: Super Live Day 5th October - followed by informal get together at the Point Chevalier RSA

To mark 50 years since the museum opened to the public, MOTAT is holding an extra big Live Day on Sunday 5th October. The latest full event information is available at <http://www.motat.org.nz/experience/events/motat-50th-anniversary-live-day/>

This day is intended as an opportunity for the public to celebrate MOTAT's 50 years - a great chance to get MOTAT in the public eye and celebrate the positives.

To make it a success hopefully large numbers will be involved behind the scenes. For those that aren't too tired after, we thought we would suggest a venue where people can meet up after the day's activities. So if you want somewhere to meet on the 5th October after the Live day, why not meet at the Point Chevalier RSA, 1136 Great North Road (parking off Parr Road North). They have a great bar, restaurant and other facilities.

Society members have been asking about whether there is a function to mark the occasion for those involved behind the scenes over the years. The Museum is intending to mark the occasion at its Team Christmas Function in November but this is primarily for those currently active at the Museum, and already is pretty big!

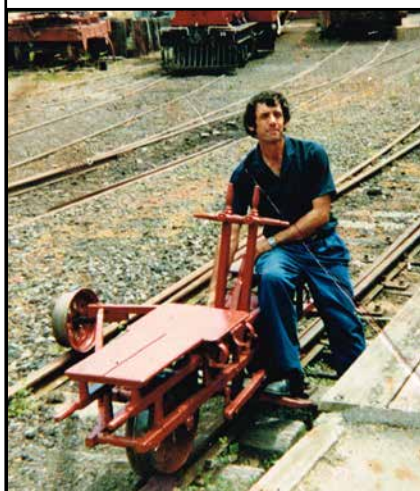
With the large number of people that have been involved over the years, the Society, with the support of the Museum, has decided to set up a "**MOTAT Inc**" Reunion on the **Sunday 7th December 2014**. This will be open to a broader base of members and team, plus their families and others that have contributed over the years - see back page ad. We hope it will be a great chance to catch up with friends made over the years at MOTAT, and thank everyone for their contributions. We plan to hold this at the Pt Chev RSA which has a large function area at the rear and great facilities. (See page 12)

"The MOTAT Story" exhibition is also opening in late September in time for the live day - see pg 10 for more. □



Photos courtesy of Allen Jones : **Above** The original railyard at the MOTAT Great North Road site c1978. The yard was in the area between the Waitakere station, Cropper house (then known as The Colonial Arms) and what is now the Road Transport Workshop - which was originally the red rail shed seen here to the right of photo. The area far left of this photo is now the site of the lawn in front of Cropper House . In 1982 the rail tracks were opened at the MOTAT Meola Road site (then KPM - Keith Park Memorial site) and the rail collection largely moved there, apart from the stationary locos up on the rise behind Waitakere Station.

Volunteer Allen Jones has helped look after these locos for almost 40 years, as well as providing Jigger rides (**below left c1980**) by Waitakere station for many years. In 1994 he was awarded the Lush award for his then almost 20 years service looking after the MOTAT 1 locos at weekends and running jigger rides and in 2001 he became a Society Honorary Life Member. Today another 20 years on, although not as mobile as he once was, he still keeps a watchful eye over the majestic locos, especially K900 (**below right**).



General MOTAT News

There has been quite a lot happening at MOTAT over the last little while so here are a few key points to keep you in the loop..

PIONEERS OF AVIATION BUILDING:

Anyone who has driven past MOTAT's Great North Road site lately will have noticed a lot of scaffolding and building work around the Pioneers of Aviation Building (PoA) next to the intersection with St Lukes Road. The PoA building is having fairly extensive maintenance work undertaken, following consultations over the last year or so. Many of you will remember the library was moved to temporary accomodations in Morningside last year when preliminary engineering assessments were being undertaken of the foundations. The upstairs exhibitions including the Pearse display have since been removed with much care.

The revamped building will be ready early in the New Year, with the library returning to its home in the basement and exhibition space ready again for use.



WELCOME TO THE MACHINE EXHIBITION:

Next door to PoA, the Energiser building (originally the first Aviation Pavillion) has also been getting some TLC ready for installation of the new "Welcome to the Machine" Exhibition. This will be opening to the public on 27th September in time for the school holidays and 50th Live Day. It is the first major exhibition in line with the new Strategy and looks to examine the simple mechanisms from which all complex machines are built. It will use a mix of interactives and static collection items, to demonstrate the basic principles and their use in practise.

MOTAT STORY EXHIBITION:

Another exhibition opening for the public at the end of September is "The MOTAT Story" exhibition - part of the 50th celebrations. This is primarily a pictorial display of MOTAT over the 50 years, with some associated memorabilia and some supporting text. This will be supplemented with information panels at various locations around the Museum such as the Pumhouse, Waitakere

Station etc. These will tell their part in MOTAT's story. "The MOTAT Story" exhibition replaces the "Winning The Peace" exhibition in the entry to building where the "I Am The Last Tram" exhibition is currently found. This building was originally known as the ASB Pavillion and was the Museum's first custom designed exhibition space.

MOTAT WEBSITE AND TV Ad:

MOTAT's updated website has now gone live and is available at www.motat.org.nz with a bright new look. The site also incorporates the functionality to search for collection information online.

Note: Information is still being uploaded to this facility as a part of MOTAT's ongoing digitisation project.

To complement the new Strategic Plan and website the Museum has new television advertisements for which filming was done around MOTAT earlier in the year. For a preview follow the link on the MOTAT website or the ads can also be viewed on YouTube (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xZgtO-7d9aD4>).

MOTAT Organisational Structure Review:

Following the launch of the MOTAT Strategy 2014 - 2019, as mentioned by Michael Frawley (CEO) in the last Squeaky Wheel, the Museum has reviewed its organisation structure to ensure that it is aligned. The confirmed new organisation structure was presented to the MOTAT Team in June and the recruitment of the new roles established commenced in July.

The Museum has now commenced the next stage and is reviewing with the volunteers the current volunteer structure, accountabilities and roles. The objective will be to ensure that MOTAT is in a position to increase the type and number of volunteering opportunities at the Museum and thereby attract a diverse range of people by age, gender, cultural background and skill sets.

The Museum and Society know just how invaluable the contributions of the volunteers has been and will continue to be. In particular the curatorial knowledge held within the various volunteer groups is huge and for 50 years the sections and collections have been intimately connected. The Society is keen to support the Museum in future efforts to promote volunteering, and other support opportunities at MOTAT, to Society members and affiliates.

The Society would like to acknowledge the efforts of all MOTAT Team members during this period. □

MOTAT's Lancaster Re-dedication

MOTAT'S Avro Lancaster has new markings in recognition of 6,000 Kiwi Bomber Command veterans who served in World War 2. The new markings were unveiled at an official ceremony organised by NZ Bomber Command Assoc. and MOTAT at the MOTAT Meola Road site on Sunday 8 June 2014.

In attendance were veterans, members of the crew's families and dignitaries from the Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF), Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), Royal Air Force (RAF), Netherlands Consul and representatives from the Polish Consul, NZRAF Museum and British High Commission.

MOTAT's Lancaster (a Mk VII) was originally presented by the French Government to the people of New Zealand in 1964 in recognition of the 6,000 New Zealanders who served in the RAF Bomber Command during the Second World War. Almost 2,000 Kiwis were killed in action serving with Bomber Command on bombing missions over Germany and France. The aircraft underwent a full restoration at MOTAT by members of the New Zealand Bomber Command Association and was repainted in representative WWII colours.

Few Lancasters survived a hundred operations over enemy territory, but an RAF aircraft flown by No 75 New Zealand Squadron, (Avro Lancaster B Mk III NE181) known as "The Captain's Fancy" did. It was named after a comic strip character and decorated with that caricature on the nose. It was hoped the original 'The Captain's Fancy' would be flown home at the end of the war as a permanent memorial, though this plan never eventuated and the original aircraft was cut up for scrap.

Nearly seventy years on and following a decade of research of official and private records, the wishes of those Kiwi airmen have finally been fulfilled. The port side of New Zealand's only Lancaster Bomber now bears 'The Captain's Fancy' nose art and bomb tally and the appropriate serial number and codes.

So that is the aircraft the MOTAT example now represents. But it must be remembered that this airframe possesses great historical significance in its own right. Lancaster B Mk VII NX665 was produced just as the war ended and so is only a year younger than the one it now portrays.

The B Mk VII's were produced for service with Tiger Force in the Far East. With the war's end it was no longer required. It went initially into store for several years until transferred to Aeronavale, the French Navy air arm, initially on maritime patrol and later search and rescue operations based out of New Caledonia.

It and its two colleagues (both also now in museums) were the last, of well over 7000 Lancasters built, to remain in front line service. This one lasted nearly 20 years in service and is one of the three longest serving operational Lancasters. We are very lucky to have it. □



Left: The 101st mission symbol is painted on NE181 under the supervision of SqN Ldr Jack Bailey (second right, who flew the sortie) by LAC Taylor and LAC Thompson on the ladder. Sgt Grantham is on the left, obscuring LAC Fred Woolterton, with an unnamed ground crew member to the right. Photo: NZ Bomber Command Assoc.



Above: RNZAF chaplain SqN Ldr Stuart Hight conducts the dedication service for the new identity. A reminder of the relative youth of Bomber Command pilots (the average age of a Lancaster skipper was 22) is Cadet Fit Sgt Jake Erson of 3 (Auckland City) Squadron, Air Training Corps, in the pilot's seat to release the parachute and reveal The Captain's Fancy. Research on NE181's nose art was undertaken by Pete West, with the help of Chris Newey, and Keith Ellis did the painting. Photo: Rory Laubscher of FireFly Photography

Article compiled from MOTAT press release, event order of services, emails from Peter Wheeler and article "The Captain's Fancy is unveiled at MOTAT" by Jonathan Pote in NZ Aviation News, New Zealand 1 July 2014 pg 18.

Upcoming Events of interest:

- 24th September** - MOTAT Society AGM & 'Museum Makers' Movie Evening - See Pg 2
5th October - MOTAT 50th LIVE DAY - A supersized live day for the Public to celebrate 50 years of MOTAT. Informal Society get together afterwards at the Pt Chevalier RSA for those interested - See Pg 10
(late November - MOTAT Team Christmas for the current team.)
7th December - "MOTAT (Inc)" 50 Years' Reunion - see below!



"MOTAT (Inc)" Reunion



When: Sunday 7th December 2014, 3pm - late

Where: Point Chevalier RSA, 1136 Great North Road, Pt Chevalier.

Who: MOTAT Society and MOTAT Team members past and present that have contributed to MOTAT over the last 50 years, along with families.

RSVP: Please let Tessa know ASAP if you might come and with how many extras, so we can gauge interest and numbers for planning.

ph (09)3909160 or mob (021)0479973

The MOTAT Society would like to invite all those that have contributed to MOTAT's development over the last 50 years to a bit of a Reunion / Christmas get together. Whether you were there at the beginning as part of the Society of MOTAT (Inc) or later as part of the Museum or the MOTAT Society, everyone has played their part - whether as Volunteer, Staff, Board, Society Member or Donor. Let's celebrate the Museum reaching its 50 year milestone, thank everyone for their contributions and catch up with friends past and present. We plan to provide a light supper, background MOTAT related film footage, pictures, publications etc, some 60s Music, and great company!

More details to follow next newsletter...



The Society of the Museum of Transport and Technology (Inc)