



The Squeaky Wheel



Issue 6 - October 2012

SOCIETY NEWS

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Welcome to the sixth issue of the Squeaky Wheel.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the AGM at the end of September, the meeting went very well and I hope everyone enjoyed the talk made by our guest speakers Dame Cheryl Sotheran and the MOTAT Board chairman James Doughty. I would also like to extend our thanks to them for taking the time to give their talk.

Congratulations to Dave Ronson from the Tram section for receiving this year's Lush Family Award in recognition of many years of valuable service to the MOTAT tram section and MOTAT as a whole.

Issue 3 of the Driving Wheel magazine is now out and everyone should have received their copy by now. With the improvement in size and quality we are looking to find more people who may be interested in assisting in the production of this magazine. If you are interested please contact Tessa Phillips:
admin@motatsociety.co.nz

The Society's next event is coming up on the 10th of November in the Pumphouse at MOTAT, see advert later on in the Squeaky Wheel

Hope to see many of you on November 10th

Andre

Andre Pointon, Chairman

New Zealand's Historical Transport and Technology Magazine
The Driving Wheel
Issue 3 Winter 2012

- Island Pumphouse
- Early Steam Powered Child's Car
- Leyland Tower Wagon
- New Zealand's Oldest Twin-engine Airliner
- Farmers Free Buses
- Pearse Powercycle

The Museum of Transport and Technology Society

We are actively seeking contributors or ideas for articles, photos, interesting stories or experiences for publication in the Driving Wheel magazine & Squeaky Wheel newsletter. In addition we are seeking advertisers and relevant events to promote.

The new extended deadline for issue 4 of the Driving Wheel is the 9th of December. We will be distributing this with Auckland members of the Vintage Car Club as an insert with the Beaded Wheel Magazine. If you have any automotive related stories now is the time to put pen to paper!

Material can be sent to Andre Pointon.
Email: colonial.energy@actrix.co.nz

Or Tessa Phillips:
Email: admin@motatsociety.co.nz

THE STORYLINES FESTIVAL, AOTEA CENTRE, AUCKLAND

MOBILE MOTAT, Sunday 26th August 2012.

- by Bruce Grenville (Photos also courtesy of Bruce)

The MOTAT Printing Section participated in this event with a very popular and effective stall, teaching small children how to set type, and print their name on bookmarks and posters.

The event went perfectly. We had learned from our experience of doing this annual event by avoiding a crucial bottleneck, in that we had 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 p.m.

I had liaised with MOTAT staff, and was supplied with two large MOTAT "sail" banners, which were extremely effective in highlighting our stall, plus a "roller blind" self-standing MOTAT banner. We also had a big pile of MOTAT fliers, including the MOTAT Mates fliers, and some black table cloths.

Some other stalls at the Festival had Braille typesetting, and calligraphers. So we blended in very well.

We had only two of our regular Print Shop team (David Coventon & myself) on the stall for most of the time, as others who we would have counted on were tied up with the other big event the same day running at MOTAT: the final day of the "Journey of a Book" exhibition and steam-roller printing. Fortunately we were able to borrow several "Storylines" volunteers to come along and help out.

We warned each child that **"the ink takes about a day to dry, so be VERY careful going home that you don't smudge them!"** Usually, an understanding parent undertook to safeguard the prints. I deliberately kept the ink level at minimal. Each visitor got to print their choice of one of four different bookmarks (that we had earlier



A happy visitor to the Storylines Festival Display is shown here printing her name on MOTAT's Adana press in the upper photo and displaying the finished product in the lower photo.



printed on the Heidelberg press at MOTAT) plus one of the A4-size "Heidelberg" poster, one of our regular handouts at MOTAT.

I decided on this last-minute addition as during the week preceding the event, I was reviewing with Graham O’Keeffe what items we were running low on to reprint, and we both checked the stocks of the Heidelberg poster and discovered that we have enough for several months ahead. So I thought this would be fun for the visitors in addition to their bookmark. Both items include the MOTAT logo.

Fortunately the advance planning meant we had supplies of everything needed: a 36 point font, cleaning solvent, scrap paper, old newspapers for cleanup, ink, two comp sticks, two chases, quoins, and quoin keys.

The bottleneck was often at the printing stage, and as soon as each child had finished printing their two items, we quickly pulled off the chase and the next one was ready to go. I took an extra quoin key and a glass slab for ink.

We had no complaints from visitors. The queue remained all day, and we were always busy. Storylines provided lunches for us

The Storylines team were very appreciative of our presence. We were very grateful for them

allocating us the extra volunteers, which made our job much easier.

I heard a lot of positive MOTAT - recognition remarks from kids, such as “I’ve been there!” “My family has a MOTAT mates card and we go a lot,” etc. David and I both urged lots of folk to come along, particularly on Sundays when the Print Shop is operational.

One innovation we introduced this year that we had not done on previous “Storylines” Mobile MOTATs was to keep statistics. We took sheets of A3 paper and a pencil, and each child or adult who queued to print their name was first asked to add their name to the list. So by adding up the number of names at the end of the day, we can see how many visitors we processed. We had **195** in total for the day (as compared to an average of between 50 & 70 on most Sundays at MOTAT, where the kids also get to print 7 items plus get them heat-set in gold and silver.)

A very successful day, and a great time had by all. I suggest in future years we take a third composing stick (as this was the only mild bit of bottleneck on our operation), and recommend participating in future year’s festivals.

You can check out another article on Print Section community outreach at Mangere Library through the newsletter page of our website (www.motatsociety.org.nz) or call Tessa (09)8156625 if you’d like a printed copy.



Children (mostly face-painted from another stall) composing their names in metal type.



A view of our busy stall, with typesetting in the foreground.

Congratulations DAVE RONSON 2012 Lush Family Award Recipient

At the Society Annual General Meeting MOTAT volunteer Dave Ronson was awarded the Society's Lush Award for recognition of his efforts for the tramway section. Dave is a regular rostered motorman and conductor and was nominated for the award by fellow volunteer John Wolf.



John praised Dave's dedication to the tramway, mentioning in particular Dave's one-man role as the maintainer of the tramway's points and turnouts – a dirty job but nonetheless very essential to the smooth running of the trams. Dave can be seen regularly every few weeks in overalls carrying a toolkit of cleaning gear for job, which he carries to each point on the tramway by quietly hopping on and off the normal weekend service tram under arrangement with the motorman. Dave ensures that points and mechanisms are kept free of dirt and debris, checked and oiled.

Another one of Dave's specialities is coming in on busy Sundays or live days and volunteering as 'zone loader' – this entails both crowd control and issuing tram tickets to visitors prior to them boarding trams – much appreciated by the tram conductors who would otherwise struggle to issue the

same tickets through a crowded tramcar.

Dave's favourite tram is Melbourne No. 321 (which he is seen here driving in June 2012), for which he was able to assist in restoration by organising the supply of the paint system that the tram is finished in.

The MOTAT Society wishes to congratulate Dave in keeping up this valuable work in presenting him with the Lush Award which is accompanied by a \$200 cheque. MOTAT relies on volunteers like you!

MOTAT Board and Interim Director Appointments

The MOTAT Society is pleased to announce **Mr Grant Kirby** as a new appointment to the MOTAT Board, and the re-appointment of **Mr Nicholas Taylor** for another two year term.

Many members will know Grant Kirby well from his days as interim museum director appointed by the Auckland City Council, and his efforts in gaining MOTAT's current statutory recognition in the form of the MOTAT Act 2000.

The Regional Funding Authority has this year appointed two new Board members – **Mr Kerryn Downey**, and **Mrs Claudette Hauti**. Current Chairman **Mr James Doughty** has been re-appointed by the RFA.

Continuing on the second year of their 2 year terms are Society Appointees Tom O'Connor and Chris Chitty, and RFA Appointees John Syme, Ross Sharp and Howard Small.

We would also like to welcome **Angus Davidson** who started mid October as interim Museum Director.

The Society will be publishing profiles of your Board members and Angus in the next issue of the Squeaky Wheel

A New Cog in the Squeaky Wheel Committee

At the last committee meeting it was agreed that the large MOTAT Military Section needed to be represented at committee meetings. While the five largest Society sections govern the five automatic Section representatives, the Society wishes to welcome a new face 'round the table' in the form of Toby Hutton for military. Welcome aboard!

No new nominations for committee were received, so the committee still comprises:

Andre Pointon (Steam section),
Leyton Chan (Tramways),
Henry Swan (Aviation),
Peter Cairncross (Rail),
Lyndsay Whittle (Road Transport)
as the five section representatives with Toby Hutton attending on behalf of Military.

Elected at the AGM from the general membership we have:

Bill Rayner (Aviation),
Bob Jessopp, (formerly Television & Film)
Ken Pointon (Steam),
Nicholas Taylor (MOTAT Board & Steam),
John Wolf (Tramways)

Also helping the committee is our Administrator: Tessa Phillips. Chair, deputy, secretary, treasurer for the 2012/2013 year will be determined at the upcoming committee meeting on 30th October

WALSH MEMORIAL LIBRARY

- Changes to Opening Hours

Please note that as of October 1st 2012 the Walsh Memorial Library opening hours have changed to **Monday to Friday 1 pm to 5 pm** and by appointment only for any other time. The library remains closed Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays.

For further information or appointments please contact the Library staff:

Ph: Library & research Coordinator:
(09)8155810,
Library Assistant (09)8155811

Postal: PO Box 44-114, Pt Chevalier,
Auckland 1022

Email: library@motat.org.nz

The reduced opening hours are to allow the library staff to help with the upcoming digitisation project which will aid with wider access to the library's collections. This is part of the wider MOTAT project involving comprehensive inventory, accessioning, digitisation and electronic tagging of its extensive collection with funding assistance from the New Zealand Lottery Grants Board Environment and Heritage Committee.

MOTAT Society Affiliates

As part of ongoing work to establish strong relationships with kindred groups, the MOTAT Society would like to announce recently confirmed affiliations with the following groups with many more to come on board soon:

- **Vintage Car Club – North Shore Branch (www.vintagecarclub-northshore.co.nz)**
- **The Kestrel Preservation Society Inc. (www.thekestrel.org.nz)**

The Society looks forward to a fruitful exchange of ideas, knowledge, and enthusiasm, and thanks them all for their support. If your group or club is interested in affiliating with the MOTAT Society please contact Tessa at **admin@motatsociety.org.nz** or ph (09)8156625.

Please note in the last issue there were a few typos in some affiliates' web addresses so please note the following correct addresses

- **Driving Creek Railway & Potteries (www.drivingcreekrailway.co.nz)**
- **Horseless Carriage Club of NZ (www.horseless.org.nz)**
- **NZ ex Firefighters' Association Inc ([link on www.aucklandfirebrigades.org.nz](http://link.on/www.aucklandfirebrigades.org.nz))**
- **NZ Warbirds Association Inc (www.nzwarbirds.org.nz)**



SPECIAL MOTAT SOCIETY EVENT

Saturday 10th November 2012
At the MOTAT Pumphouse
From 4 pm onwards

A fun night for all MOTAT Society Members,
Affiliates, Family and Friends
The Pumphouse Beam Engine
will be running with behind the scene tours.

There will be displays of vintage engines, an
operational steam roller, tram rides into the evening
and a Sausage Sizzle (\$1).

CHECKING EMAIL ADDRESSES

Please note that we'll be sending an email notice about the November 10th event at the same time as this newsletter.

For those with email, if you don't receive the event email please let me know as either we don't have your email address or it is recorded incorrectly. Many thanks for your cooperation in this – Tessa Phillips, admin@motatsociety.org.nz

MOTAT Society CONTACTS

Website: www.motatsociety.org.nz

Email: admin@motatsociety.org.nz

Postal: PO Box 44 430, Pt Chevalier, Auckland 1246

Ph queries: Tessa Phillips (09)8156625 or 021-0479973

Future Events

MOTAT Rail Section –16 December 2012:

The MOTAT Rail section will be celebrating 30 years at the Meola Rd site and an event is planned for 16 December – further details will be put up on our website as they become available.

Section Open Days:

We are considering planning a series of MOTAT Section Open Days next year to allow a behind the scenes, more technical look at what volunteers are doing at various sections, and what projects are in the pipeline. If sections would like to participate, please let Tessa know at admin@motatsociety.org.nz or phone (09)8156625