



THE CENTURION SMOKEBOX

“Providing smoking news and steaming interests to members and friends”

Centurion Society of Model Engineers

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No responsibility is taken by the CSME for any subject matter in this newsletter other than official Society notices.

CSME NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2021

COMMITTEE

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Vice chair. - John O'Mahony
Treasurer - Ballot Marx
Secretary - Imogene Groothuijzen
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Membership Fees for 2021 are unchanged from 2019/20

2021 SUBS R400 FOR ORDINARY MEMBERS R200 FOR SENIORS & STUDENTS

Bank details for any payments to CSME.

For any payments, please email details of payment to Ballot Marx at csmetrains@gmail.com or ballotmarx@gmail.com

Bank Details are as follows:

Bank: First National
Branch: Centurion, code 26-15-50
Account Name: Centurion Society of Model Engineers
Account No: **62060752906**
Reference: **Your Full Name/ subs 2021 (or what payment is for).**

Note the account number change in red

Official correspondence and newsletter

If you are not receiving mail from the CSME you should contact the secretary or editor to update your details. Please ensure we are notified of any change of email address.

Those members without email can collect a copy of the newsletter from the clubhouse on track day.

Next Club Meetings

This month the **16th & 17th of October we will be our member's weekend**

Arrangements for the holiday period are: - 16th December is the club party, 19th December we are open to the public for the last time this year, then the premises are closed until we reopen on Sunday 9th January for public running again.

Obituary

Sadly, Nic Popich passed away at 5.30 am at the age of 91. Nic was one of the founder members of the then Pretoria Live Steam Club Later to become CSME. I first met Him at the Pretoria Hobbies fair at the City Hall in 1975 and after talking to him he invited me to join the PLSC.

Since then, he became one of my closest friends in RSA, and was a very patient mentor to me, always willing to help and give advice, and in many cases showing me how to do something.

He was a very accomplished and prolific loco builder and a medal winner for his locos. Editor.

The legacy Nic Popich left in the field of model engineering, home workshop, model steam locomotives, and model and machine club activities, will be with us forever. The outstanding examples he set in the quality of modelling and machining and as a person, all with great passion, will be very difficult to follow, but will inspire us. – Rudy Du Preez.

So sad to hear of Nic Popich's passing. My late father, Robbie Robertson always spoke highly of Nic Popich. My condolences to the family. He was a great man. RIP, from Marlene Robertson Human.

Chairman's comments.

We had a very good September long weekend. We did not arrange the September fair as we had to limit numbers as per Covid regulations. It was well attended on the Friday and Sunday.

We are running multiple locomotives every Sunday, drawing more public. Thanks to our regular team of drivers, they truly make the experience wonderful for our passengers. It is an opportunity for all members to come and participate.

The grounds are suddenly green after the good rains, we will have much more grass cutting to do in the next few months. The dams got some water, amazing how fast it disappears without regular inflow.

The last part of the activities to raise the old storage is making rapid progress, and we hope to finish before any flooding occurs.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Nick Popich, a truly remarkable model engineer and person. Our thoughts are with his family.

Secretary's Bit



It is with a heavy heart that I am writing this piece. I was planning something else, but with Nick Popich's passing it did not seem appropriate. The CSME has lost the last of its founder members – and what a great loss! I am sure

that all that have had the pleasure of knowing Nick will surely feel the loss of his not being here anymore. His dedication to the club and his excellent work is a testament all on its own and very hard to equal.

Sally and family, our hearts go out to you, and we know that you will find the strength to carry this load.

Imogene Groothuijzen

Track and grounds.

The track is in good order being set in concrete and the grounds were looking very dry and thirsty, but the recent rain has started everything to turn green. We have lost a few trees due to lack of rain and grass fires but most trees are now in leaf so we can see what we have and have not lost. Our Keiapple barrier may now have a few gaps if the smaller plants do not recover from the fire, but we shall soon see which ones survive. As we have a couple of mature keiapples we can generate we can generate more saplings from the fruit later in the year.

The area in front of the old tunnels is less of a mess now as track raising work continues.





Tuesday and Saturday Gangs

The Tuesday gang is kept busy as usual with maintenance of lawnmowers blowers etc. as well as Lizzie the club steam loco. Maintenance of the old riding cars is high on the list. The electric locos are being upgraded with attention to the motor gearing, fitting of accessories such as roof walking boards, headlamps etc. Gate motors and control settings have been receiving attention and fencing adjacent to the Mini Truckers has been erected.

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Congratulations to Carel Janse Van Rensburg on his driving licence for the big stuff! Last Sunday he obtained his driving licence for 7¼" electric locos.



