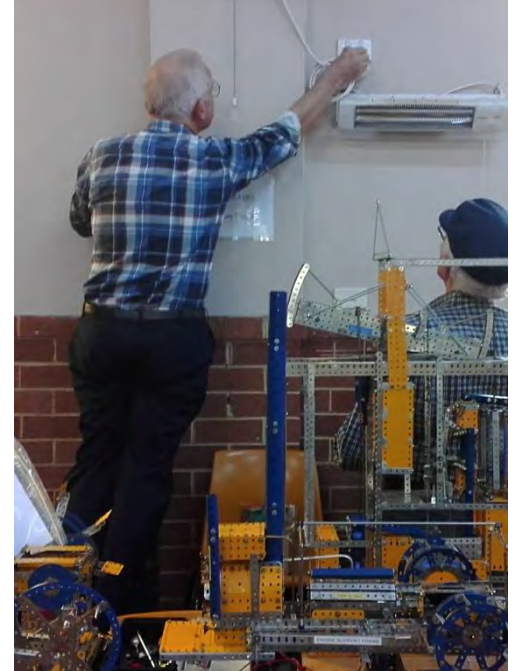


Sydney Expo

28 April 2018

By John Burke

Photos by John Burke
and Graham Jost



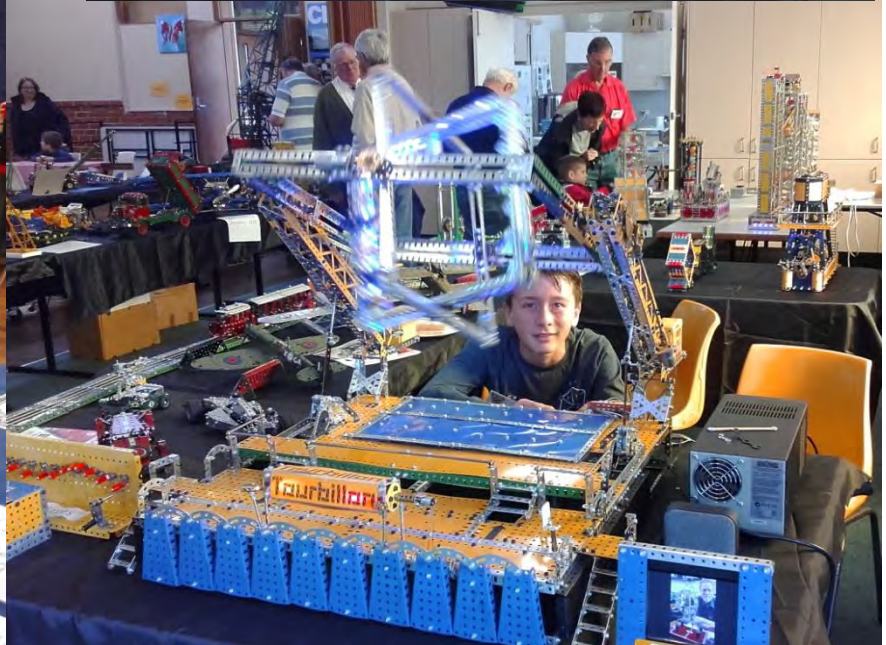
Get ready boys...

Graham Jost sent an email to the exhibitors asking for interest in the Sydney Expo and mentioned a cheap hotel near the venue for \$95. The price of the accommodation sealed the deal and so we made our booking and in the wee small hours of Friday morning we set off for the new and unknown horizons of Sydney. Johnny's eyes lit up when he saw the hustle and bustle of the big city and my eyes lit up when I saw the cost of parking! Never mind, we'll check out the city later and so we arrived at our humble lodgings at 2pm. After checking in at the Parkway Hotel in Forestville we headed off to Manly in search of cheaper parking, but it wasn't much better than the CBD, so we reluctantly parked and caught the ferry across the harbour to the city, cruising past the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge. Lovely! After visiting Hobbyco we journeyed back to the hotel and met Doug Trounce, Mario Moszczynski and of course Graham and Mary Jost for dinner. Saturday morning we arrived at the hall to set up at 8am and there was the usual fuss of finding power points that worked and figuring out why that model was working perfectly just last night but now was stubbornly resisting all efforts to operate in the cold hard light of day with all these people looking on. And indeed there were lots of Meccanoboy as well as the lovely church people who had struck up a deal with the Sydney Meccano club, MMASI, to host the exhibition in return for the gate takings and the opportunity to sell food and drinks. Win Win. Brilliant!



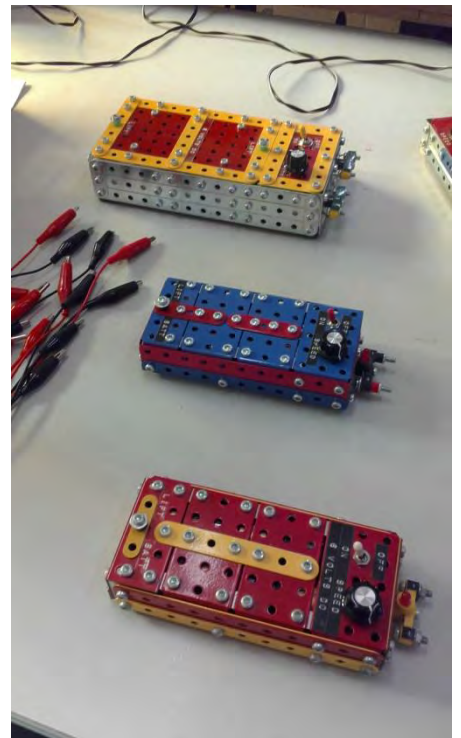


The rain continued to drizzle down until the very moment the doors opened to the public then at precisely 10am the sun came out and the excited crowd poured in. There were smiling faces all around as the Meccanoboy stood proudly beside their models and the children shrieked with glee at the entertaining novelty of the mysterious Meccano which is quite foreign to children these days. Our Sydney hosts were outstanding with their organisational skills as well as the quality of their models and their joyful interaction with the crowd. Some of the Sydney members even sat down at the piano to provide additional entertainment! The Tourbillon had some teething problems after its rebuild but they were easily fixed. John Shirvington was struggling with his clock as it didn't want to move the date mechanism but it was still ticking away and the time was working, so we had a bit of fun trouble shooting it to no avail.

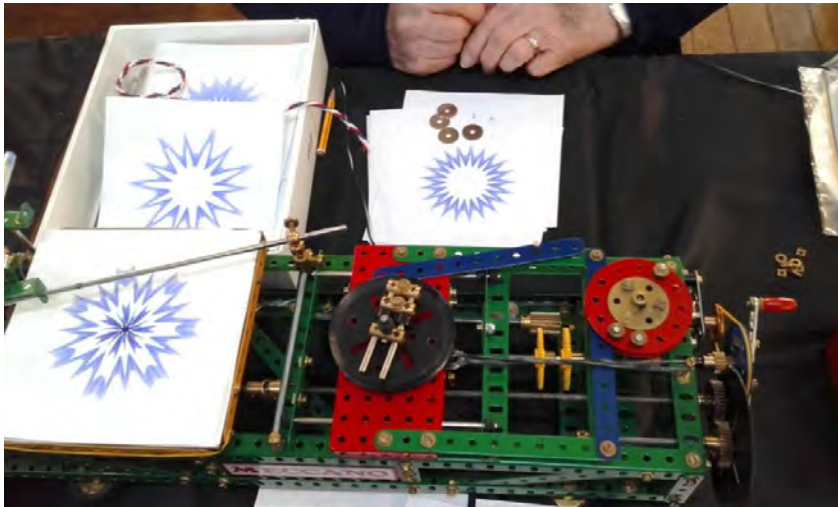




Murray Tulett Blocksetter Crane



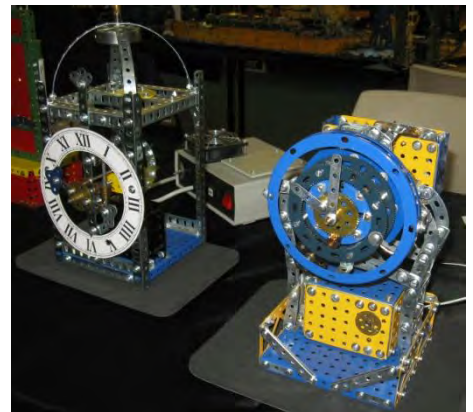
Doug Trounce Battery Boxes



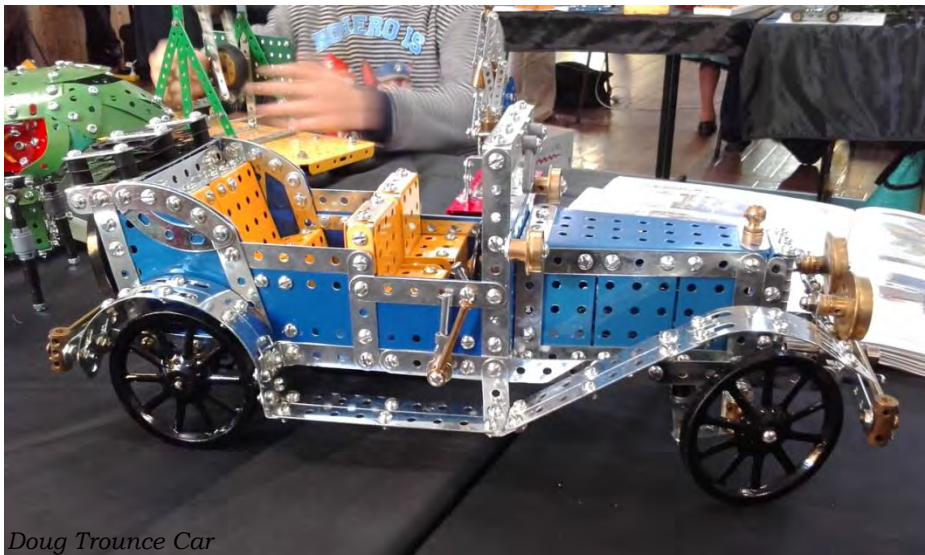
Graham and Mary Jost had an unusual problem with the Meccanograph. It was running as smooth as a Swiss watch but then it started getting jerky. The whole mechanism was stuttering and the pen was tipping over. While I was looking at the mechanical aspects Graham saw the bigger picture and quickly determined that the pen was continually passing over the centre and had gradually drilled a hole through the paper. Now every time the pen passed over the centre it got stuck in the hole! This was quickly fixed by changing the length of the driving arm so that all future drawings had a blank circle in the centre. The drawing with the hole was put aside and the perfect drawings were laid out for the public to take home as souvenirs. One little girl however insisted that the damaged drawing was the one for her. After much animated discussion, the pattern was finally carried off by a very determined 3-year-old, for whom NO other pattern would do!



Doug Trounce Beam Engine



Mario Moszczynski Clocks



Doug Trounce Car



Graham Jost Braider



After all the fun and excitement of the 10 'till 4 expo, the camaraderie continued at the Forestville RSL Club. Jim Osborne was there, having moved up from Melbourne, and Bill Hassett made the long drive from Adelong to attend the expo so the MMCI was well represented. We returned to our hotel to discover that they have a disco once a month and tonight was the Jimmy Barnes tribute so it was fortunate that we were so tired we drifted off to sleep despite the doof doof from the disco and the people sitting outside our door smoking, drinking and talking. Then we were woken at 4am by the tumultuous cacophony of trucks unloading for the Sunday morning market. There were even tables surrounding our car. I guess that's to be expected in \$95 Sydney pub accommodation, so through bleary but satisfied eyes, we headed home with sweet dreams of the wonderful Sydney club and their awesome models. Although there was no first prize, I'll go out on a limb here and say that Doug Trounce's ball roller is still firmly etched in my mind as one of the most intriguing models I have ever seen. As the ball rises up, the carrying mechanism changes its angle and tips them out onto the next level. They step their way up to the top where they're released to roll across to the other side where they begin to step their way up again. The crossover requires precise timing. You can see a short video of it by following the youtube link below the photo.



John White Funicular Railway

Doug Trounce Ball Roller
<https://youtu.be/pqtcvvpAgBk>