

# The Generator

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**Palmerston Model Engineering Club**  
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Managers of the Marriner Reserve Railway - Marriner Street - Palmerston North  
PO Box 4132 - Manawatu Mail Centre - Palmerston North 4442

## The Palmerston North Model Engineering Club Upcoming Club Nights

28 May 2020

Meeting Cancelled

25 June 2020

Maybe postponed depending on what allowable Covid-19 meeting numbers are in place and possibly other factors

This is the club **AGM**. It will be held at the  
Hearing Association Hall in Church Street  
+ Bits and Pieces

**Note** Robert will be standing down as club President.  
**Also** Think of the most deserving Club Member for the  
**Compton Shield**

23 July 2020

Richard will tell us about his bike tour  
+ Bits and Pieces

Stay Safe and 2m apart.

## Current Club Update from the Committee

On Thursday 14 May, the committee had a meeting at Marriner Reserve to decide what the club does going forward and how we are going to achieve this. We now have a tentative plan to see us through the next few months..

1. An interim committee is in place to continue running the club until the AGM can be arranged.
2. We won't meet at the Hearing Association Hall until further notice.
3. The track will not be open to the public until further notice.
4. The Thursday track gatherings have restarted. A special thanks to Doug who has kept the grass trimmed over the last few months.
5. We have pencilled in the AGM for June 25 subject to size of gatherings being increased from the current limit of 10 persons.

### Presidents Report

By Robert Edwards

From the President's workshop. I hope everyone's had a break from everyone else. The committee had a meeting the other day and decided that we still can't hold the Thursday evening Club Nights or how soon this will be possible. Whether we still want to or not is still another story as there is a worry about the health of our membership. We're all in the spectrum that seems to be the one that is the most dangerous.

Our AGM has been put on hold indefinitely, but will take place at the next Club Night, whenever that happens. In the short term, as President I am standing down at the next AGM. Well that was my plan, but I shall be resigning from the committee now so that David Bell can take over this position until he is officially elected. This will leave a position on the committee. I wish the new committee all the best. We will definitely need a new editor.

So, after that, I would like to thank the members of the committee for all the support and friendship. I would also like to thank Doug for his help and friendship and all the hours he does for the club. To the members of the club, it has been an honour to serve you all. Keep well.

Lockdown has been good for me as I have built a woodshed and filled it with wood. I have been steaming up the Heisler, which has a problem with worn out linkage bearings, so that is a job to do soon. I have some other projects like a beam engine. I have been learning how to use Fusion 360 and then to cam for my CNC mill. This has been a good way to learn. My mill has been busy doing jobs for other people so it is the most used tool in the workshop these days.

One other thing I have done. We had an old hand-crank phone which was just on show inside. Now there is a second one in the workshop and working. I can now hear very well when called for dinner.

That is all, for now, keep safe and I hope to see everyone soon.

Robert

## Lockdown Blues

Richard Lockett

The month long level-4 lockdown was for me a bit like an extended Christmas holiday shutdown. It gave me the opportunity for some quality workshop time with no interruptions. However, there was also no access to suppliers if I ran out of material for the work being undertaken or which I would like to undertake.

At least during a holiday shut down you can go round to a mate's workshop and raid their material stocks! Access to trade suppliers for maintenance requirements is of course restricted. You can bet that something will break during these periods which will stop you making full use of the time you have available to you.

On two occasions I've had the start capacitor on my Emco super 11 lathe smoke itself over a Christmas break and stopping progress. But with a single-phase motor you can at least flick the chuck over by hand to start the motor to get out of trouble.



During the Covid-19 lockdown the motor on my milling machine dropped a phase. This being a 3-phase machine it stopped the desired course of action with my project. With the coolant motor still operating this indicated to me that the problem was in the machine.

I phoned Bruce Geange and he suggested that it was a possible contactor issue and to check them out.

I had the help of a friend who was able to expand his bubble to include the inside of my workshop on a couple of occasions. After much soul searching we found that the phase was only dropping out under load, ie the 3hp motor on start up.

We came to the conclusion that there was nothing wrong with my mill and that the problem lay outside my property boundary. A call to Genesis on the last day of level-4 saw a fault-man up my driveway within half an hour indicating to me that I must be an essential industry, not.

The fault-man couldn't find a problem until I put the load back onto the phase (large 240v lights) which did the trick, the fault being in the underneath of the fuse box across the road. First thing next morning, day-1 of level-3 saw a crew digging around the fuse box to fix the problem.



## Kinner K5 – Part 2

After inspection of the cylinder heads I decided to make 5 new heads, mainly due to miss-alignment of valve guides, valve seats and spark plug hole location.

A length of 65mm aluminium bar was obtained and a steel mounting plate and jig were constructed and machining started on the cylinder heads.

A change in head mounting bolt pattern from 4 to 6 bolts and moving intake and exhaust ports, made by previous builder from plan drawings, were retained as it allows more clearance between intake port and push rods.

A long 1/2" diameter stainless bolt (ex-scrap yard) was utilised to make inlet and exhaust valves.

10 new steel valve rockers were made - a very tedious job, 1 week spare time, with case hardened end and bronze bush for pivot pin.



Rocker pivot brackets, pins and valve spring retainers made.

Suitable stock springs, shortened to suit for valve springs, completed the cylinder head build.

To be continued.

by Graeme Hall



# History of the Compton Shield

By Chris Morton

It has occurred to me that there may be newer members in our club who might appreciate knowing more about one of the things that they will be asked to do at the Annual General Meeting - voting for the clubman of the year. The winner is awarded the Compton Shield.

The background to the Compton Shield and how it came to exist is as follows. Stan Compton was one of the foundation members of the Palmerston North Model Engineering Club. He put much time and effort into club projects as well as personal models and engineering tasks. A lot of the welding on the first track at Marriner Reserve was done by Stan on his knees, which even then did not bend as well as they used to!!

Anne, Stan`s wife still had relatives in England where they had both started life in this world and she persuaded Stan that returning to live in England was the way to go. The club put on the farewell evening function on the 27<sup>th</sup> July 1989. Stan did not find it easy to say "goodbye" to the club members.

At this time the track at Marriner Reserve was being extended, and it was after the Compton`s had gone that the concrete overbridge was built. The lettering "Compton`s Crossing 1989" was cast in when the concrete facings were poured. All the club members were sworn to silence, so the first Stan knew about the matter was when he got to view a video sent to him showing a lap of the track with the extension complete. The camera clearly showed the name on the over bridge!! I gather the video was stopped and rewound a little so that he could have a second look to check on what he thought he had just seen. The video was very proudly shown at the English club (Hereford) that Stan had joined after settling back in England.

Now this is where the story becomes a bit hazy - I cannot find my copies of the Generator for early 1994, nor can I remember exactly how the Compton Shield reached the club. I think Stan and Anne visited New Zealand for their son Chris` university graduation in the beginning of 1994 and brought the shield out with them to present to the club. I stand open to correction by who-ever feels so inclined. So, there you have what is known by this writer.

*Edit: The Compton Shield was first awarded in 1994 to Clem Parker.*

## *The holders of the shield to date.*

1994	Clem Parker	1995	Doug Chambers
1996	Richard Lockett	1997	Chris Morton
1998	Murray Bold	1999	Bill Morris
2000	Cynthia Cooper	2001	Ron Walker
2002	Bruce Geange	2003	Ian McLennan
2004	Chris Rogers	2005	Jim Curtis
2006	Richard Lockett	2007	Doug Chambers
2008	Stan Compton, Stuart Anderson	2009	Murray Bold, Dave Newstead
2010	Richard Lockett	2011	Doug Chambers, Stan Compton
2012	John Tweedie	2013	Robert Edwards
2014	Graeme Hall	2015	Richard Lockett
2016	Bruce Geange	2017	Doug Chambers
2018	Graeme Hall, Liam Puklowski	2019	Janice Hall
2020	<b><i>The Members Choice</i></b>		

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