



## Newsletter of THE PALMERSTON NORTH MODEL ENGINEERING CLUB INC

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**November  
2008  
No 340**

# T H E G E N E R A T O R

**PNMEC Home Page** [www.pnmec.org.nz](http://www.pnmec.org.nz)

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### TRACK RUNNING

This is held on the FIRST and THIRD Sunday of each month, from 1 pm to 4 pm Summer and 1 pm to 3 pm during the Winter. All club members are welcome to attend and help out with loco coaling, watering and passenger marshalling - none of the tasks being at all onerous.

Visiting club members are always welcome at the track, at the monthly meeting, or if just visiting and wishing to make contact with members, please phone one of the above office bearers.

Sender:- PNMEC  
22b Haydon St,  
Palmerston North

Place  
stamp  
here

## This Months Featured Model



## Report on the October Meeting.

**Murray Bold** explained the new set up for the PNME club library. Members with internet access can view the list of books available on our website. Non internet members can contact Murray or Doug Chambers for a list or to order a book.

**Cynthia Cooper** explained that after a lot of research the Chinatown restaurant was chosen as the venue for this year's '**End of Year**' function. There were a wide variety of '**Bits and Pieces**' on the table.

**Fred Kent** demonstrated a new speed controller he is making up for his electric garden tractor. He also had a discharging device for multiple battery drill batteries so that all can be charged up together.

**Eddie Bleakley** showed us the axle and wheelsets he is making for passenger trolleys for his home 5" gauge track. He showed a very nicely made PNME traction engine, very nearly completed. Eddie showed us the Namod stationary engine and boiler that his son Scott had restored to pristine condition.

**Robert Edwards** showed us the eccentric straps and rods for the 7 1/4" gauge NZR F he is building. Bruce Manning has bought the two Showmans Traction Engines put out by Midsummer Models in 1:24 scale. Made in China and exquisitely detailed. Both Burrells, but quite different. Bruce also had two Minichamp model cars, A 1930s Bentley, supercharged and featuring the rare tear-drop rear end.

Also a 1960 'Birdcage' Maseratti sports car as raced by Carroll Shelby. The detail in this model was superb.

**Ian McLellan** showed us a lighting device he had bought from Jaycar. He explained that he needed as much light as possible to be able to see the components he is making for an injector he has underway.

**Doug Chambers** explained that the 5" gauge 'Britannia' he is working on is too heavy to bring to the meeting so members would have to be content with a photo showing progress to date. He also had a picture of Stan Compton driving his 'Speedy' on the Hereford raised track, another of John Heald and his Kerr Stuart at the Rotorua track and finally one of Paul Newton standing beside the giant 10 1/4" gauge NZR Ka that he is completing at his home in Rotorua.

**Stan Corlett** showed pictures of the first car Henry Ford built. It was built as a promotion and featured tiller steering, a twin cylinder engine, seating for two. Stan is building a full-size replica; the engine will have 70mm bore and a 6" stroke. It will be 49" between the axles. It will be interesting to watch the progress on this project.

### ❄ *Club End of Year Dinner* ❄

This year's dinner will be at

Chinatown Restaurant  
150 Cuba Street  
Palmerston North

*Thursday 27 November 2008*

Drinks 6pm

Dinner 7pm

The cost for dinner is \$21.90 per person. This covers twenty different main dishes, plus soup, dessert, tea/coffee. The cuisine is diverse, not just ethnic food, so there will be something to suit everyone. They also have a licensed bar for you to purchase innervating liquids.

The restaurant is large and we will have our own reserved section.

Our End of Year Dinner is traditionally an upbeat but at the same time relaxing lead into the summer. In other words, it's a lot of fun. We look forward to seeing you there.

## COMING EVENTS

### Mid Week Run at Marriner Reserve Railway

25<sup>th</sup> November between 10.00 am and 2 pm

Please contact Doug Chambers beforehand.

### Track running at Marriner Reserve Railway

December 7<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm

December 21<sup>st</sup> from 1pm to 4pm

January 4<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm

January 18<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 4pm

### WANTED

Set of plans for a Stuart Turner No 8

Please ring Ian Stephens 06 327 6415

The closing date for the next issue of The Generator is Friday 9th January



## FOR SALE

26" Chesterman Vernier \$150 ,  
Small and old air compressor \$20 ,  
Three sets of rollers for placing under locomotive driving wheels while setting valves or trial steaming , will suit all gauges \$50 ,  
kit for a high speed drilling machine \$50 ,  
two ¾" x ¾" hand pumps \$100 each.  
Moore and Wright micrometers 1" \$30 ,  
1" to 2" \$40 , 3" to 4" \$50 ,  
4" to 5" \$60 , 5" to 6" \$70 .  
Aerografo ES/RV spray painting gun, air consumption 60 cubic litres per minute. Brand new, still in the box.  
A hydraulic engine hoist 1 ton capacity \$100,  
A pipe, rod and bar bending machine \$100,  
A right angle drive for an R8 milling machine \$150.

To view Please Ring Chris Rogers 06 3561759

## THIS MONTH'S FEATURED MODEL.

Since building Dolgoch and Brynglas, my 26th and 27th locos, time has got to me and I have decided to go small, namely 16mm/ft.

I have built a garden layout over the last 9 months and this station is the first of many buildings required. It was all a huge learning curve and believe me small is not easier. The Hokowhitu station is based slightly on a country GWR junction. It is made mostly of yellow cedar a good straight grained timber and water resistant. The frame was tanalised. Thanks to Barry for lending me his table saw to strip down the wood. Jigs were made to assemble all the doors and windows, a very tedious task, for the remainder of the buildings I will use dolls house fittings in polystyrene, they are cheap, well finished and quick. My other big mistake was to use wooden corrugated iron, which stretched and wrinkled in the rain. It is now being replaced with a tin roof, thanks to Bruce.

I'm still into live steam and in the process of building two locos, 1 ozzy 0-4-0 and a pommy 0-6-0 tender. I have purchased a small steam driven Quarry Loco from UK and am very pleased with that. Anyone wishing to while away a few minutes or hours is very welcome to call at any time, just phone first, and if you have one, bring a loco, gauge one or 16mm narrow gauge. They will all run on my 45mm track.

Chris Rogers

## Seen at the Official Opening Of Chris and Pam Rogers Garden Railway



## LETTER FROM ENGLAND

by Stan Compton

We have just returned from a short holiday at Yarmouth on the East Coast and were able to visit two places of mechanical interest. The first was 'Bressingham Gardens' near Diss. I last visited there on a trip to the U.K. in 1976 when the founder of the Steam Museum, Alan Bloom, was still alive and enjoying himself driving the 2 foot gauge Quarry 'Hunslet' named "George Sholto". I fear he got carried away and built up a large collection of mainline locomotives from the York Railway Museum. These were run on a short ½ mile track, now surely such large engines really need a run of some distance to get the cylinders really hot? We ran our portable railway track using the Hereford Club's 'Sweet Pea' at a restored railway that has two or three miles of track. We get paid for this and all the young passengers get free rides on 'Thomas the Tank' weekends. Most of the engines on the standard gauge line are tank engines quite suitable for a short line, yet such groups have found that regular heavy steam oils are unsuitable simply because the engines are not worked hard enough. We benefited with a gift of a 5 gallon drum of heavy steam oil.

This is why I questioned the use of such large engines on a small site.

The previous visit to Bressingham left the impression of a very active group, although late in the summer all the lines (there are several different gauges) had locomotives in steam. This time however, the mainline engines on display looked well cared for. Visitor numbers were poor although admittedly September is the end of the season. There were no locomotives in steam but two men were trying to cope giving rides on the two foot gauge railway using a 'Simplex' loco of W.W. 1 vintage. The addition of a covered box-like structure gave some weather protection to the driver, but it must have been hot and noisy in it.

Both men were still keen and helpful, when the train returned to the station they took us over to the set of "Gallopers" ( the correct name for a Merry-go-Round) to give all the passengers a free ride. This is something I had never been on before and quickly realised how difficult it is to mount those wooden horses when age was not on my side.! I had to find one that was at rest, at the bottom of a six inch crank-throw!!

My neighbour struggled to get on board so I gave up my horse and managed to get up on the next one somehow. The Tidman steam engine was not in use, electric powered instead, but to hear the sound of the traditional organ brought back memories of my youth

when money was scarce and I could only stand and watch.

To examine the construction of the set as we rode round, I read once that at full speed a large set would reach 30mph (50kph) on the outer rim!!!! It was interesting to see how all the motion and 'Olivers', the twisted brass hangars are fitted with no tools to allow quick dismantling and reassembly. In the engine shed were the two GNR 'Atlantics', one with the small boiler and one with the large boiler. The 'London and Tilbury' tank, a LSWR Dock tank plus several others. Two Royal carriages are displayed with external viewing platforms, built in the late fifties and used until recently, the external paint finish was such a dark red that it was almost black.

I talked to a volunteer worker who told me that since Alan Bloom died, his son is only interested in the gardens etc. A Trust was formed to run the steam interests, their biggest problem is a lack of money. The 'Royal Scot' is being rebuilt elsewhere costing millions. I noticed all the parts to rebuild the 'Krupp' built 15" gauge Pacific "Rosen Kavalier" were lying on pallets near the bare chassis, no wheel-sets so maybe they were being turned or re-tired . In a poorly lit display hall were various model locos up to 10 ¼" gauge, but never any names of the builders displayed, this seems the norm these days.

Those of you who watched "Dad's Army" on T.V. will find a familiar display including the Austin 8 tourer built during the last War and used for filming the episode when Pike is out with the pretty A.T.S. girl and they ran out of petrol.

I forgot to mention that a 'Terrier' tank "Martello" painted in brown umber, looked very smart but some of the mainline locos could do with a bit of polish, labour shortage again. "Oliver Cromwell", the Britannia class loco is no longer on site, having been returned to steam and mainline duty.

The picture shows the Hereford Model Engineers' Track last August. Stewart Read can be seen driving





his "Thomas 2" on the ground level track. The station and the raised track in front of it can be seen. Note the grass. Stan says that this summer has been very wet, but quite warm. The grass has grown at a tremendous rate and the Hereford members have been kept very busy trying to keep cut and tidy. By now there will be a water column beside the station.

This photo shows Stan in the Engine House at the Severn Valley Railway. Note how the GWR 4 -6 -0 Hagley Hall in the background, towers over Stan and the 'Halls' were by no means a big engine.



Stan's Hunslet named Sophie being admired by grand-daughter Sophie.



Stan's fire engine named Jordan being closely inspected by grand-daughter Jordan.



Stan has recently had the two models shipped to New Zealand where the two models will be kept by Chris and Jaqui Compton and their two very proud daughters.

## CHRISTMAS BREAK

Your editor notes that the Christmas Holiday break is drawing near. A lot of us will be hoping to spend some time in the workshop on our current projects. Some will be content with a break away from work. Our long suffering wives always seem to have a list of tasks for us to do over the break, but perhaps that jolly old gentleman in the red dressing gown will leave a new tool or the plans for the next project on Christmas Eve.

Perhaps time to spare a thought or two for members and their wives who are not keeping in the best of health. The years are passing by at a quicker rate than we really want.

All the best to all of you, **MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **HAPPY NEW YEAR** to ALL.

## PNMEC Library

There have been some additions to the club library. Namely about 21 VHS Videos and 1 DVD. If you don't have access to the internet then call the Librarian The Video List Follows

[Best of Kiwi Steam Railway \(Set of 3\)](#)

[Dacresfeild Garden Railway](#)

[From Rust to Splendor](#)

[Little Engines of New Zealand](#)

[NZ Rail Scene #13](#)

[NZ Rail Scene #14](#)

[NZ Rail Scene #2](#)

[NZ Rail Scene #3](#)

[NZ Rail Scene #4](#)

[NZ Rail Scene #5](#)

[NZ Rail Scene #6](#)

[NZ Rail Scene #8](#)

[NZ Rail Scene #9](#)

[Railway Adventures across Australia - Pacific](#)

[Railway Adventures across Australia - Riches to the South](#)

[Scenic Railway Journeys - Pyramids to down under](#)

[Scenic Railway Journeys - New Worlds, Old Worlds](#)

[South Island Steam](#)

[Steam on the Midland Line](#)

[The Power and Majesty](#)

[The Pride of Steam](#)



## Labour Weekend - Feilding 100 years of the North Island Main Trunk Line



NZR F163



NZR RM31 - Tokomaru



NZR Ja 1271 & Ka 942



NZR Ew



NZR Ja 1271 & Ka 942



NZR Wab 794



Kiwi Rail DXB 5097



NZR Carriage

AL56043